

Thousands of farmers are calling the BJP helpline saying that their loans have not been waived. We appointed a person to receive the calls of farmers who did not get their loans waived thinking that only a few will call. But the helpline is getting thousands of calls from farmers. Farmers are now worried as their loans are not getting waived. They say that they don't understand on what basis the crop loan waiver scheme is being implemented.

- G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister

P2

www.dailypioneer.com  
 Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

**Prez Murmu receives Fiji's highest civilian award**



**'HANDLING WEAPONS AND PERFORMING STUNTS ON SET POSED ITS OWN RISKS'**



**'Aasa Kooda opened new career OPPORTUNITIES'**



**DON'T MISS...**

**State to allocate land for...**

The first anniversary of the martyrdom of Gaddar was commemorated at Ravindra Bharati. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the enduring influence of Gaddar's ideology on the State's policies and initiatives. He stated that the ideals of Gaddar are being implemented in Indiramma Rajyam's people's government. To honour Gaddar's memory, the State government is allotting one acre of land on Necklace Road in Hyderabad for the establishment of Gaddar's memorial...

-PAGE: 3

**Over 84% dists prone to extreme...**

More than 84 per cent of the districts in India are prone to extreme heat waves and 70 per cent are experiencing a rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events, according to a new analysis. The report, "Managing Monsoons in a Warming Climate" by the independent development organisation IPE Global Limited and Esri India Technologies, said the country was experiencing extended summer-like conditions during the June-September monsoon. Abinash Mohanty, head of Climate Change...

-PAGE: 5

**Veg thali price rises 11% due to high...**

Vegetable thali's price increased 11 per cent in July compared to June this year due to higher prices of tomatoes on a monthly basis, according to a report. Non-veg thali also turned costlier by 6 per cent in July compared to June 2024, the Crisil Market Intelligence and Analysis' monthly 'Roti Rice Rate' report stated. The cost of veg thali, which comprises roti, vegetables (onions, tomatoes and potatoes), rice, dal, curd and salad was at Rs 32.6 per plate in July 2024 against Rs 29.4 per plate in June 2024, according...

-PAGE: 8

**India Batters in focus against...**

The onus will be on Indian batters, particularly the talismanic Virat Kohli, to follow the path laid down by skipper Rohit Sharma and tactfully counter the spin challenge in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday to avoid their first series defeat to Sri Lanka in 27 years. It's certainly not the start Gautam Gambhir, a stickler for victories, would want in his first ODI assignment as the team's head coach. India's previous bilateral ODI series defeat against the Islanders came in 1997. The Arjuna Ranatunga-led...

-SPORTS

**UK baulks to provide refuge to Hasina**

She may remain in India for a couple of days

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's plan to travel to London has hit a roadblock following the UK's hesitation to provide her refuge and she is unlikely to move out of India for the next couple of days, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. Hasina, who landed at the Hindon airbase on Monday in a C-130J military transport aircraft hours after resigning as the prime minister, has been shifted to an unspecified location in Delhi under tight security, they said.



**Hasina in shock, govt giving her time: EAM**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told an all-party meeting on Tuesday that Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Hasina, who has arrived in India after quitting as prime minister following extraordinary protests in the neighbouring country against her rule, was in shock at the turn of events, sources said. The government is giving her time to recover, before enquiring about her future plans, Jaishankar said, briefing political leaders in the Parliament House. The minister said India has spoken to the Bangladesh Army chief to ensure the safety of more than 10,000 Indian students in that country and also taken up the issue of attacks on Hindu minorities, according to a couple of leaders who attended the meeting.



**B'desh Prez dissolves Parliament, paves way for fresh polls**

**PNS ■ DHAKA**  
 Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament on Tuesday paving the way for fresh elections and an interim government was taking shape, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina abruptly resigned and fled the country following weeks of violent anti-government protests. President Shahabuddin met the key coordinators of the student movement at Bangabhaban (presidential palace) in the evening to discuss the current situation and the shape of the interim government, media reports said.



**Gold plunges Rs 1,100 to Rs 71,700 per 10g**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Gold prices plunged by Rs 1,100 to Rs 71,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to weak demand from jewellers. The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,800 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver also continued its slide for the fourth session, plummeting by Rs 2,200 to Rs 82,000 per kg on Tuesday from Rs 84,200 per kg in the previous trade, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Silver prices have fallen by Rs 4,200 per kg in the four sessions since August 2 when it traded at Rs 86,000 per kg. In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity dived Rs 1,100 to Rs 71,350 per 10 grams from Monday's closing at Rs 72,450 per 10 grams.



**'Will make all farmers in TG debt-free'**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Stating that farmers should not get tensed even if their loans are not waived, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would launch the final phase of the loan waiver scheme, that is, waiving loans from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh, media at the Secretariat here on Tuesday, Tummala said the loan waiver amount was not deposited in the bank accounts of 30,000 farmers due to technical reasons. He said the government will make all farmers debt-free by correcting mistakes. "The Congress government has been implementing the loan waiver scheme as announced in the Warangal Declaration. We are moving forward facing a lot of troubles. Opposition leaders are making baseless allegations. We are waiving the loans farmers took in the last five years. The process is being implemented in three phases. We are waiving loans even if farmers are not having passbooks based on white ration cards. There is no need for farmers to get tensed even if they do not get their loans waived," Tummala said.



**Warrior Vinesh becomes first Indian woman grappler to enter Olympic finals**

**PNS ■ PARIS**  
 She grappled on the streets with an "unjust system" without a care in the world and on Tuesday Vinesh Phogat brought a lot of that panache to the mat as well, taking down one big name after another to become India's first woman wrestler to enter the finals of the Olympic Games. The 29-year-old from Haryana defeated Yusneylis Guzman Lopez of Cuba 5-0 in the semifinals where she used brain and brawn in equal measure to be assured of a at least a silver in her third Olympic outing. Continued on Page 2



**TG business ready**

TG is missing jigsaw piece in America Inc's search for China Plus One: CM

- Future City is like second round of gold rush: CM
- CM showcases Musi River Front Development, Future City, 3-Ring structure of Telangana and Master Plan 2050



**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke to top CEOs at an official roundtable hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York over a working luncheon late Monday in New York, emphasising the business-readiness of Telangana to fit in as the missing jigsaw puzzle piece in America Inc's search for a China Plus One strategy. Organised by the NY Indian Consulate over 20 Chairpersons, CEOs representing well-known companies from pharma, IT, technology, EV, GCC, biotech and shipping attended the event. After a brief presentation on the history and future plans for the development of industrial clusters in Telangana and Hyderabad, Chief Minister Revanth brought the house down when he began his talk saying, "I am here to speak from my heart and to share my state's dreams and my people's hopes. Since this is my first visit to the US as the Chief Minister of Telangana, I hope to take back home as many dollars from all of you as possible."

heart and to share my state's dreams and my people's hopes. Since this is my first visit to the US as the Chief Minister of Telangana, I hope to take back home as many dollars from all of you as possible."

**Trigyn, Arcesium, Swachh Bio to invest in TG**  
 During Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to the US, Telangana is witnessing a wave of investments and expansions by leading global companies which would boost job creation and technological advancements. Trigyn Technologies, a global digital and intelligence solutions provider, has announced the establishment of an AI innovation delivery centre in Hyderabad. This centre will hire, train and expand to around 1,000 people in the next three years. Trigyn, with a total revenue of over USD 160 million, currently employs around 100 people in Hyderabad out of its global workforce of over 2,500. Continued on Page 2

**HCA Healthcare to open Centre in Hyd**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A case has been registered against BRS Working President KT Rama Rao and former MLAs Balka Suman and Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy. The police registered the case under Section 223(b) of the BNS at the Mahadevpur PS. The case was filed for flying a drone without permission at the Medigadda Barrage. An FIR was registered following a complaint by an irrigation department official. On July 26, KTR, along with BRS MLAs and party activists, visited the Medigadda Barrage. During KTR's visit, BRS cadres flew a drone without obtaining permissions and it was taken seriously by Irrigation Department officials.

**KTR booked for flying drone over Medigadda**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 The brief facts of the case are that the event occurred on 26.07.2024 between at 12:30 hours and 14:00 hours at the Medigadda (Laxmi) Barrage in Ambatpally Village and was reported on 29.07.2024 at 22:00 hours by the complainant Vali Shaik, 38, a resident of Warangal, and son of Dowlath, in which he stated that, he has been working as Asst.



**Decline IT exports, job creation sparks debate**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Telangana's IT sector, a critical growth engine, has shown a decline. According to the latest government statistics, the growth in IT exports has sharply decreased from Rs 57,706 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 26,948 crore in 2023-24. New IT job creation growth has also fallen drastically, from 1,27,594 jobs in 2022-23 to just 40,285 in 2023-24. KTR expressed serious concern over these figures, highlighting the importance of the IT sector in fuelling Hyderabad and Telangana's growth. He emphasised the success during BRS rule due to innovative policies and the TSiPASS initiative. Continued on Page 2

<b>IT EXPORTS GROWTH:</b>
▶ 2022-23: Rs 57,706 Crores
▶ 2023-24: Rs 26,948 Crores
<b>IT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH:</b>
▶ 2022-23: 1,27,594 New Jobs
▶ 2023-24: 40,285 New Jobs

**50 WEEKS OF PRAJAVANI Resounding success of Prajavani**

5.2 lakh complaints received, 4.31 lakh addressed

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 The Prajavani programme in 50 Weeks has received 5,23,940 complaints. Of these, 4,31,348 have been resolved while 92,592 is pending. More than half of the applications received through Prajavani are requests for ration cards, Indiramma houses and jobs. Even those who did not apply for the six guarantee schemes announced by the government are coming to Prajavani and submitting applications. Apart from government policy decisions and issues under the jurisdiction of courts, applications from the public are being immediately reviewed by all departments. The Prajavani programme is held every Tuesday and Friday at the Mahatma Jyotibha Phule Bhavan. Arrangements have been made for those who do not know how to write applications, with staff assisting applicants in understanding their issues and writing their applications. Officials also help determine which department should handle each application. Special desks have been set up by Prajavani officials to receive applications from various departments. Revenue department officials, including Tehsildar, Deputy Tehsildar, and CCLA officers as well as police officials such as CI, DIG and DCPs and additional directors of all welfare departments are available at Prajavani desks.



**'No need to maintain minimum balance in basic savings accounts'**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said there is no need to maintain minimum balance in Jan Dhan as well as basic savings accounts, and banks impose penalties only in cases where customers fail to maintain a requisite amount in their accounts. The minister was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha during Question Hour regarding public sector banks collecting about Rs 8,500 crore in penalty from customers for non-maintenance of minimum balance in accounts in five years.

**Kavitha withdraws default bail petition**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC Kavitha has taken an unexpected decision in the Delhi liquor scam case as she has withdrawn her default bail petition filed in the CBI court. BRS MLAs KTR and Harish Rao met Kavitha at the Tihar Jail on Tuesday. Although the petition was filed, arguments were not heard as there were many requests for adjournments. On Monday, the Delhi Rouse Avenue Court held a hearing on the petition. However, Kavitha's lawyers requested another adjournment as senior advocates could not appear, leading to the judge expressing dissatisfaction and stating that arguments must be presented on Wednesday without fail. Subsequently, Kavitha's lawyers informed the court on Tuesday that they would withdraw the petition, which the court accepted. This sudden withdrawal of the default bail petition by Kavitha has created interest. Kavitha initially filed the default bail petition citing flaws in the CBI charge sheet. However, the CBI charge sheet was recently taken into consideration by the court. Kavitha's lawyers believed that the petition might be dismissed as the court had already taken the charge sheet into account. They felt it prudent to withdraw the petition to avoid influencing arguments on the actual bail plea.



# The functioning of oppn in AP must reflect real democracy!

The spirit of true democracy can be felt by people only when opposition parties work with commitment, irrespective of their individual strength in the legislature. Electors determine the ruling and opposition parties, depending on their performances against the backdrop of promises made in the manifestoes released ahead of the polls. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the parties to discharge their respective functions.



elections, is the only major 'opposition' party in the House. As per rules followed by Legislatures across the country, a political party that secures 10% of the seats in the House shall be given the status of 'principal' opposition party. However, YSRCP has just 6% (11) of the total 175 seats in the House. In the previous House under the YSRCP rule, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) hardly got the required numbers to secure the status of principal opposition. Former chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has sought the status of principal opposition in the House by writing a letter to Speaker Ch. Ayyannapratrudu in this regard. The plea was rejected by the presiding officer. After tasting a humiliating

**Presently, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, a clear picture with regard to a robust Opposition is yet to emerge, going by the functioning of opposition and ruling parties. The Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP), which had secured only 11 seats in the recent Assembly elections, is the only major 'opposition' party in the House.**



**M D RATNA KUMAR**  
Senior Journalist

with BJP in the backdrop of the Kargil War that evoked sympathy for then prime minister AB Vajpayee. The then Congress emerged as the biggest ever opposition party in the AP Legislative Assembly since its formation, securing 91 seats (30% of the total 294 seats). Working effectively as Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy could snap the winning spree of Chandrababu in the 2004 elections. However, Jagan has drawn flak from political circles as well as the general public over his persistent demand for LOP status to YSRCP.

In fact, Jana Sena Party (JSP) has secured enough seats (21) to get the status of principal opposition. The JSP in Andhra Pradesh and the Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP) in Bihar are the only two political parties

which registered 100% strike rate in the 2024 General Elections. But JSP, headed by film actor Pawan Kalyan, chose to be in the ruling dispensation. He would have got more political mileage had he chosen to be LOP. That would have created room for JSP to emerge as an alternative political force in the state in the future.

In the 12th House in the erstwhile combined AP, more than 10 parties had representation in the House. Most of those parties had highlighted well burning issues from time to time for proper redressal. In Tenth House (1994-99) of APLA, Left parties (CPI- 19, CPI-M- 15) had done well even without numbers. After a split in TDP following dethronement of NTR by Chandrababu Naidu, in the group of MLAs that formed

NTR-TDP, consisting 29 members at one point of time, NTR's widow Lakshmi Parvati, as its chief, tried to convince them by saying that their group would get the status of principal opposition if only they remained united. But Chandrababu tactfully saw to it that most of them rallied behind him.

Presently in Andhra Pradesh, there is uncertainty about the emergence of an effective opposition party with real fighting spirit. Jagan has to put his party's defeat behind him and protect his flock, considering that half of the legislators belonging to his party are from the reserved categories. Concentrating on effective functioning on the floor of the House is the need of the hour for Jagan in the interests of his political future. It is advantage democracy as well.

## BJP plans huge meeting of farmers in Warangal or Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress government deceived farmers by not implementing the farm loan waiver scheme properly, the BJP decided to organise a huge meeting of farmers in Warangal or Hyderabad soon.

The party has chalked out an action plan to see that BJP candidates win local body elections. The party has also decided to conduct preparatory programmes at the district, constituency and mandal levels.

Addressing the media after the state office bearers' meeting held at the BJP office here under the leadership of Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday, Telangana BJP General Secretary Kasam Venkateswarlu said the BJP is going to conduct the Rachabanda programme across the state in every village on the farm loan waiver

scheme on August 7 and 8. BJP MLAs abstained from the meeting.

Venkateswarlu said the party decided to strengthen itself where it is weak leaving Lok Sabha constituencies where the party had won. The party also decided to conduct a membership drive.

He said the party has decided to get ready for the Adilabad-Nizamabad-Karimnagar-Medak graduate and teacher MLCs elections. The party also took a decision to prepare for the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam Teacher MLC election.

Responding to a question, Venkateswarlu said that they had sent invitations to all Padadikars.



## Thousands of farmers calling us saying their loans not waived: Kishan

S tating that thousands of farmers are calling the BJP helpline saying that their loans have not been waived, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said that farmers are worried as their loans are not getting waived. He said that farmers have been saying that they did not understand on what basis the Congress government is implementing its farm loan waiver scheme. Kishan said that they had appointed only a single person to receive the phone calls of farmers who did not get their

loans waived thinking that there might be only a few farmers. However, the helpline is getting thousands of calls from farmers, he said. Addressing the Telangana BJP's office bearers here on Tuesday, Kishan said the Congress government is not implementing its assurances. He called upon party leaders to work hard in the next four years and that 36 per cent of people had voted for the BJP in Telangana. "We have to take the people's verdict as a challenge and work with dedication. Prime Minister Modi is going to hoist the national flag at the Red Fort for the 11th time on August 15. BJP activists must ensure that the tricolour flies on every house in the state," he said.

## Rs 5,560 cr okayed for drinking water supply project, Musi river cleanup

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government sanctioned Rs 5,560 crore to the 'Godavari Drinking Water Supply Project Phase-II and Rejuvenation of Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar Reservoirs for Musi River Cleanup'. The government released a GO on Tuesday, where it mentioned that this project would be taken up under Hybrid Annuity Mode mode (HAM) contract with 40 per cent project cost to be borne by State government and 60 per cent cost to be invested by the agency.

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) will avail the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) loan for the 40 per cent government share amount with repayment of loan through government budgetary support to HMWSSB.



## Congressmen turn off pumps switched on by BRS MLA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alampur BRS MLA Vijayudu switched on the pumps of the Tumilla Lift Irrigation Scheme in Rajoli mandal to release water. The pump house motors were turned on and he went to the RDS Canal.

But even three hours after switching on the pumps, no water got released. The reason is that shortly after Vijayudu left Tumilla former Congress MLA Sampath and his associates switched off the pumps. Finding that water supply

to the RDS canal had been stopped Vijayudu angrily said that due to inadequate rainfall in the constituency crops were withering.

He criticized the Congress leaders for stopping the release of water which is crucial for farmers. Vijayudu, along with farmers, reached the Tumilla Lift Irrigation Project and sat on the road in protest. Later, the police arrested and took him in their vehicles.

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao lashed out in the manner in which government officials treated

Alampur BRS MLA Vijayudu. He asked whether it was acceptable for public representatives to face daily humiliations.

KTR criticized the Gadwal district administration for their inappropriate treatment of MLA Vijayudu and demanded an explanation from the Chief Secretary on why Congress leaders who were rejected by the people are being invited to official functions.

He asked whether the government had changed protocol to insult elected representatives of the people.

## Give push to real estate market: Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP state executive committee member Gudur Narayana Reddy urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take immediate steps to lift the nose diving real estate market in and around Hyderabad and in rural Telangana.



In a statement released on Tuesday, he said the market has been facing a severe slump in the last few months and that builders are worried. Customers were not coming forward to purchase flats, lands and plots apprehensive of the market's present condition. He said that Hyderabad recorded the most

significant decline in new residential project launches among major cities in the April-June quarter of 2024.

According to a report the city experienced an overwhelming 58 per cent drop in new housing units, making it the biggest loser among the top eight cities.

Gudur said that new launches plummeted from 15,095 residential units in the first quarter of 2024 to just 6,365 units in the second quarter in the city.

"In the stretch between Uppal and Alair, on the Warangal Highway, developers could not sell even a single acre in the last eight months.

## TG business...

Continued from page 1

Showing the strengths of Hyderabad and Telangana as a top investment destination he said, "We are now a powerhouse in software, life-sciences and pharma with a strong base in aerospace, defence, electronics and other sectors. We helped the world overcome Covid-19 by making millions of doses of vaccines for many countries."

"We have good infrastructure, wonderful talent and offer the best policy support for investors. Hyderabad, an over 425-year old city built by the Nizams, is interestingly almost the same age as the United States of America," he said.

Speaking about the ambitious projects which offer opportunities for investment and promise growth, the

Chief Minister said, "We are building a fourth city - the Future City. It will be India's answer to the future. It will be India's first Net Zero Carbon city. Future City will become a hub for AI, medical tourism, sports, software and pharma. It is like a second round of gold rush. We are creating a New Industrial Policy to match our dreams. We will make it very easy to start new business and expand your existing business in Telangana. I keep saying Telangana means business. I mean it."

"As top global business leaders, you understand the power of dreams well. You understand the passion needed to build great things. Telangana today has both passion and vision. Please come and visit my city, my state and let us discuss oppor-

tunities. Together, we can make a great future," he added.

IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu made an elaborate pitch on the current strengths of Hyderabad and Telangana and detailed the policies that would enable the Chief Minister's vision to make Telangana a viable alternative to China for manufacturing and to develop Hyderabad into one of the top 10 cities in the world.

Industry leaders spoke of their experiences of investing worldwide, and doing business in India and their expectations from Telangana and Hyderabad. They also explained the current plans for investments in the coming days. Several major announcements are expected in the near future after the successful Roundtable.

**TODAY ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Tritiya: Aug 06 07:52 PM to Aug 07 10:06 PM  
Chaturthi: Aug 07 10:06 PM to Aug 09 12:37 AM

**Nakshatram:**  
Purva Phalguni: Aug 06 05:44 PM to Aug 07 08:30 PM  
Uttara Phalguni: Aug 07 08:30 PM to Aug 08 11:34 PM

**Rahukalam:** 12:21 PM to 1:57 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 7:36 AM to 9:11 AM  
**Varjyam:** 04:37 AM to 06:25 AM  
**Gulika:** 10:46 AM to 12:21 PM  
**Amritakalam:** 01:22 PM to 03:09 PM  
**Ahijit Muhurtham:** Nil

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Rain  
Temp: 82°  
Humidity: 81%  
Sunrise: 5:57 AM  
Sunset: 6:46 AM  
Updated: August 6, 2024 5:00 PM

## Warrior...

Continued from page 1

This was after she was stretched over on her debut in Rio 2016 and had a forgettable outing in Tokyo four years later.

"Tomorrow is an important day, will talk then," she told the waiting media before vanishing from the sight to prepare for her summit battle against American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt.

On the day, she beat world No. 1 and reigning Olympic champion Yui Sasaki during the dying moments of their pre-quarterfinal but, handing the legendary Japanese her first defeat in 83 bouts.

## Resounding...

Continued from page 1

An Aarogyasri desk operates under the supervision of the Aarogyasri General Manager. Emergency services, including a medical help desk and ambulance, are also available. The Sakhi vehicle is available to assist women victims and child protection ambulances are also present. A special desk has been set up for receiving applications from the disabled. Meals are provided for Rs 5 to people coming from various areas to file their grievances. Prajavani Nodal Officer Divya and State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Chinnareddy oversee the programme closely.

The government is taking extra care to promptly resolve applications submitted by applicants. Every application given through Prajavani is

scanned on the spot. A reference ID number is registered and sent to the relevant department and the reference ID number is sent via SMS to the applicant's phone.

Earlier, it was common for the same applicant to come two or three times. Now, such situations have come down, according to Prajavani Nodal Officer Divya. Issues are being resolved quickly. If the same applicant comes two or three times with the same request, the online system alerts authorities.

When the applicant's mobile number is registered, a scanned copy of his petition appears indicating the status of the request. Applicants can also check the status of their petitions through a website. The government developed a special portal through CJI to facilitate this.

## B'desh Prez...

Continued from page 1

"A group of 13 members of the anti-discrimination student movement is holding a meeting with the President and the three armed forces chiefs at Bangabhaban regarding the current situation and the shape of the interim government," Bengali language daily Prothom Alo reported, citing one of the coordinators.

The President's move to dissolve Parliament has cleared the way for fresh elections, just months after the January polls which brought Hasina to power again for the fourth consecutive term. The opposition had then boycotted the polls. "The President dissolved the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) under an executive order," a Bangabhaban spokesman said.

## UK baulks to...

Continued from page 1

The former Bangladesh prime minister, accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana, planned to leave for London from India to take temporary refuge but the option is not being pursued now. This is after the UK government indicated that she may not get legal protection against any possible probe into the massive violent protests in her country, they said.

Hasina is now known to be considering several options including the United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Finland, said a source. The Awami League leader planned to travel to London through India and her aides informed Indian authorities about it before she landed in

Hindon on Monday, the people cited above said.

Hasina decided to travel to London as Rehana's daughter Tulip Siddiq is a member of the British Parliament.

## Hasina in...

Continued from page 1

Replying to questions from various leaders, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Jaishankar did not outright rule out the role of foreign countries in the unrest in Bangladesh, but emphasised that the situation is too fluid and that the government has been keeping a watch on the evolving scenario, they said.

## Decline IT...

Continued from page 1

He urged the current Congress government to prioritize the IT sector, support existing investors, attract new investments and assist young entrepreneurs and start-ups.

He stressed the need for continuous infrastructure upgrades and strict law and order maintenance to sustain IT growth. Reacting to KTR's remarks, TGMDC chairman Anil Eravarthi pointed out that global economic conditions, particularly the US market, significantly influence Indian and Telangana's IT exports. He cited geopolitical tensions, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and rising US Fed rates as key factors affecting the global IT market. Eravarthi noted that despite these challenges, Telangana's IT exports increased by 11.2%, surpassing the national average of 3.3%.



National Handloom Day celebration-2024

Handlooms and Textiles Department to organise Handloom Exhibition from August 7 to 16. Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to inaugurate. Union Minister Kishan Reddy, State Ministers Ponnabrahma and Konda Surekha to be chief guests on Wednesday.

Venue: People's Plaza, Necklace Road, Hyderabad

16th Edition of ELE-CRAMA 2025

Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association to organise road show.

Venue: Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel, Nanakramguda Rd, Financial District, Gachibowli, Hyderabad August 7, 2024 (Wednesday) TIME: 01:00 pm

Nizam College authorities clarify

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Responding to the protest staged by students of Nizam College, the college authorities gave a clarification by stating that they are actively exploring solutions to tackle over-capacity in hostels and improve living conditions.

According to the officials, in the ladies hostel, the building has a G+3 structure, consisting of a total of 74 rooms. On the ground floor, there are eight rooms along with four rooms which are specifically allocated for PHC candidates and four rooms for PG students.

In the first floor, 22 rooms are allocated for PG students while in second and third floor, 44 rooms (second floor and third floor together) are allocated for UG students. Currently, the hostel accommodates a total of 443 students out of whom 293 are UG students and 150 are PG students.

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 7, 2024

03

'REFINE SKILLS TO MEET INDUSTRY'S EVOLVING DEMANDS'

## Importance of PR in digital age stressed



Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with other dignitaries at the National PR Education Day celebrations organized in Hyderabad on Tuesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National PR Education Day, celebrating the birth anniversary of PR pioneer Dr CV Narasimha Reddy, highlighted the increasing role of public relations (PR) in today's digital landscape. Held in Hyderabad, the event saw Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Telangana's Minister for Irrigation, Food & Civil Supplies, as the chief guest. Capt Reddy emphasised the transformative nature of information dissemination, noting that PR professionals are now more crucial than ever in navigating the flood of

"The world of information is changing beyond imagination," Capt. Reddy remarked. "In this sea of content, including fake news, PR professionals must continuously refine their skills to meet the industry's evolving demands."

both genuine and misleading information.

"The world of information is changing beyond imagination," Capt. Reddy remarked. "In this sea of content, including fake news, PR professionals must continuously refine their skills to meet the industry's evolving demands."

The event was presided over

by K Sreenivas Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Media Academy, who reiterated the State's commitment to addressing PR challenges.

Prof. Jagat Bhushan Nadda, Director of the Consortium of Educational Communication, Government of India, echoed this sentiment by stressing the pivotal role of quality in PR. He

said, "PR practitioners are integral across corporates, PSUs, governments and NGOs. An enriched PR curriculum and further research in the field are essential."

He also highlighted PR's significant role in international diplomacy and its contributions to raising awareness on critical issues like climate change.

Dr Ajit Pathak, national president of the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), emphasized the organisation's focus on enhancing professional standards and acknowledged the enduring influence of Dr CV

PR practitioners are integral across corporates, PSUs, governments and NGOs. An enriched PR curriculum and further research in the field are essential

PR's significant role in international diplomacy and its contributions to raising awareness on critical issues like climate change was highlighted

Narasimha Reddy in guiding future PR practices.

The event also witnessed the presentation of prestigious awards. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Dy General Manager (Corporate Communications) at NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, received the "Dr CVN-PRSI Best PR Manager of the Year - 2024" award. Dr T Ravi, Chief Public Relations Officer at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), was honoured with a "Jury Commendation" for his significant contribution.

Javvadi Lakshmana Rao, Bureau Chief of The Pioneer in Vizag, was conferred the PR Voice Literary Excellence Award.

Sixteen outstanding students from diverse educational institutions were given merit certificates, and three esteemed teachers along with three dedicated counsellors were recognised for their exceptional efforts in advancing public relations.

A book, "Ramaneeya Gnapakalu," authored by C Rama Devi, Chairperson of the CVN Public Relations Foundation, was released during the celebrations.



### 3 students stuck in Skywalk lift rescued

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Three students were struck in the Skywalk lift at Uppal Ring Road due to technical issues on Tuesday. The skywalk is connected to the Metro rail station.

The students were scared because the lift did not open for a long time. When they tried calling the toll free number in the lift, there was no response. However, when they called dial 100, the firemen and traffic police came and rescued them. Earlier, many such incidents happened. Despite the public voicing out this issue, the officials did not act upon it.

### HYDRA begins razing encroachments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydra) has taken its first action in demolishing encroachments. They have demolished 52 unlawfully constructed structures at the full tank level in Devender Nagar on Tuesday.

The videos were shared widely where heavy vehicles were seen demolishing the structures at the site.

Meanwhile, Commissioner of Hydrda AV Ranganath has been visiting many lakes in the city to understand the local issues and permits.

### Collector's call to protect Waqf lands

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad District Collector Anudeep Durishetti has ordered the officials to take proper measures to protect the Waqf lands in Hyderabad district. He participated in a meeting on Waqf lands at the Collectorate on Tuesday.

The Collector ordered Waqf Board Inspectors to enter the details of the lands related to the board in the Prohibited Order Book (POB) register. To protect the lands, Waqf Board inspectors, officials of revenue, police and GHMC should take strong measures, he said.

"The lands related to the Waqf Board should be identified mandal, division and circle wise and the data should be submitted to me", the Collector directed officials.

He said that the encroachers should be removed from the alienated lands and the details of the lands should be updated. Waqf Board officials told the Collector that there is 1,785 acres of land in the name of the Waqf Board.

Additional Collector (Revenue) Venkatchari, District Minority Welfare Officer Ilyas Ahmed, GHMC City Planner Shyam Kumar, Survey and Land Records Officer ADV Sriram and Joint Sub-Register Srinivas participated in the meeting.



PHONE-TAPPING CASE

### It is not about politics but abusing official duty: Govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government on Tuesday told the court that phone-tapping case is not linked with political leaders and businessmen. It is totally about abusing official duty and destroying sensitive data and illegal snooping.

During the bail petitions of Praneeth Rao and Radhakishan Rao, the counsel for the accused said that the

chargesheet mentioned the politicians and other private persons. According to the chargesheet, the accused coerced businessmen to purchase the electoral bonds. But why none of them have been mentioned in the FIR as witnesses

chargesheet mentioned the politicians and other private persons. According to the chargesheet, the accused coerced businessmen to purchase the electoral bonds. But why none of them have been mentioned in the FIR as witnesses? he asked.

In reply, the public prosecutor who appeared for the State, said this case is not about threatening and forcing someone to benefit some political party, it is about abusing official

duty. It might be important to mention here that when the case was registered and in the initial stages of investigation, there were many rumours were aired. One of them was former CM KCR, former minister KTR and other BRS leaders were linked to this case and they would be jailed.

Meanwhile, as the two of six accused are in the USA, the court is likely to split the case between arrested and those absconding. As of now, police have arrested former DSP Praneeth Rao, former additional superintendents of police Bhujaanga Rao, Thirupathanna, and former DCP (Task Force) Radhakishan Rao. Two of the accused are absconding who are former SIB chief T Prabhakar Rao and a vernacular media channel owner Arevula Sravan Rao.

However, the police are trying to bring back the absconding accused as they seek red corner notice from the Interpol organisation through the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). During the bail petitions of Praneeth Rao and Radhakishan Rao, the public prosecutor told the court that two accused are in the USA. To bring them back to India, police are going to get a red corner against the absconding.

### Cops' response helps woman in distress deliver baby safely

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Police officials on Monday aided an unidentified pregnant woman from Karnataka, who was in an emergency situation at Madgula Rythu Vedika without her family members at night, by protecting her and sending her to the hospital after she delivered a baby.

Madgula police personnel were patrolling the village on Monday when a person called dial 100. When the staff called the caller again,

the caller informed them that an unknown pregnant woman with two children was near Madgula Rythu Vedika and did not answer any questions. The patrol police immediately reached there and interrogated her and found out that her name is Kumi Bhai and she came from Polepalli, Chencholu mandal in Karnataka. She came to Hyderabad a week ago.

The officials also dialled the number she had and found out that she left home

on July 29 and a complaint was filed at Chencholu station. A copy of the FIR was sent. The woman's younger brother Rahul resides in Hyderabad, to whom the police passed information about her.

When the woman suffered labour pains, the officials called local women and helped the woman deliver. Later, the mother and the newborn baby were shifted to Koti maternity hospital. At present both the mother and baby are safe.

### Eco-tourism policy to be finalised

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of Forests and Environment Konda Surekha directed the officials of the Forestry department to finalise the eco-tourism policy so that there is no harm to the environment, employment is provided to the locals, and it would benefit the forest department.

As part of designing the eco-tourism policy, Minister Konda Surekha held a review meeting in the conference hall of the office of the Ministry of Forests, Telangana State Secretariat on Tuesday.

The Minister said, "In today's adverse conditions, we are committed to protecting the environment and bringing an effective eco-



tourism policy towards providing a better environment for the coming generations. Water tourism has been given priority as a part of eco-tourism, just as temple tourism has been given priority." While the officials explained to the Minister that 30 to 40 sites have been identified in this direction, she instructed them to give priority to environmental-friendly sites under the forest department.

The officials explained the eco-tourism policies implemented in Karnataka and Odisha to Minister Surekha. She directed them to formulate a policy suitable for the conditions of the Telangana region as a medium to the policies implemented in these two states.

### RS 3 CR FUND TO GADDAR FOUNDATION: DY CM

### State to allocate land for Gaddar memorial at Necklace Road

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The first anniversary of the martyrdom of Gaddar was commemorated at Ravindra Bharati. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the enduring influence of Gaddar's ideology on the State's policies and initiatives.

He stated that the ideals of Gaddar are being implemented in Indiramma Rajyam's people's government. To honour Gaddar's memory, the State government is allotting one acre of land on Necklace Road in Hyderabad for the establishment of Gaddar's memorial garden. Additionally, the State government is sanctioning Rs 3 crore to the Gaddar Foundation. This fund is intended to facilitate research on Gaddar's thoughts and organise programmes in his name across the State.

Bhatti emphasised that Gaddar's ideas are reflected in the policy decisions taken by the State government, including the decision to build houses for the poor without homes, costing Rs 5 lakh each, which aligns with Gaddar's vision. Bhatti recalled that Gaddar named his padayatra from Adilabad to Khammam as the People's March. During his final days, Gaddar walked with Bhatti from Adilabad to Khammam under the scorching sun, singing and energizing the people, which played a crucial role in the success of the padayatra.

PRAJAVANI

### Women say their grievances not being heard properly

SAMUEL JOSHUA ■ HYDERABAD

Many women cried out that their grievances are not being heard and solved properly, saying that the previous government did some good by coming out into the public, and at least a few got the 2BHK houses and many were satisfied back then. Women also questioned how many months it will take for the promised 6 schemes to be fulfilled, which are assured to be done in 100 days. In all, 465 people submitted their grievances at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Tuesday



When asked, Syed Shenaz from Balanagar, who came to submit her grievance about the Indiramma housing scheme, said she has been without a house for 16 years and applied for the scheme. Whenever she asks officials for an update, she

gets the same answer, "We will look into it." Shenaz also expressed frustration, questioning how long they have to wait and why no scheme is properly implemented for women. She mentioned that even the promised Rs 500 gas cylinder scheme is not being provided correctly.

Shenaz pointed out that the pension is not being sanctioned properly, leading to loss of hope for the elderly in her household. Shenaz also noted the lack of a single Xerox machine for women inside the Praja Bhavan, forcing them to walk 3 km to get a copy of a ration card.

### IVF mothers can breastfeed, say experts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Experts created awareness on debunking myths for IVF mothers who mostly face confusion to choose breast feeding, to mark the World Breastfeeding Week celebrations to be concluded on August 7.

To start with, a large number of IVF mothers believe have issues with conception that they cannot breast feed naturally or breast feed milk will not suffice, which is not true. They think that they will need additional breastfeeding milk. The IVF mothers need to be supported emotionally and health wise.

"Breastfeeding is a result of hormonal interplay. As long as the mother has given birth to a child, the body undergoes hormonal changes for breastfeeding naturally. What happens in IVF mothers is because of pre-consistent notions of conception associated with levels of anxiety and stress, but they can go ahead confidentially," Dr Parinaaz Parhar, Regional Medical Head and Fertility Specialist, said.

Another myth is not drinking plenty of water thinking it will affect the quality of milk and make it thinner. But it is important for IVF mothers to be hydrated and they must drink more water, says Dr Parinaaz.

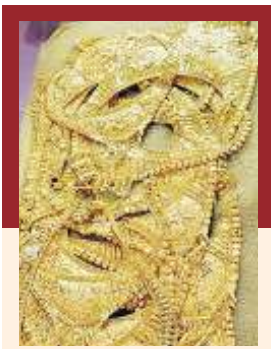
In terms of study, the western countries have found out that IVF mothers can breastfeed but there is drop out and discontinuation in most cases.

Regarding precautions, the expert suggested that IVF mothers should discuss with their doctors initially and be prepared in regard to what to expect.

They can also visit Lactation Consultants who are experienced in helping, especially IVF mothers with steps for breastfeeding. The doctors suggested that awareness about breastfeeding post IVF must start from the workplace to grow an environment.







Gold ornaments sized from a passenger in Sangareddy dist

## Police seize 4.8 kg of gold ornaments from passenger

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The police seized 4.8 kg of gold ornaments from a passenger in a private vehicle which was on its way to Hyderabad from Mumbai on Tuesday.

The passenger was identified as Chadresh was found possessing the gold ornaments. He did not have any documents relating to the gold ornaments.

The Task Police personnel, who were checking the vehicles at toll plaza in Municipally mandal, stumbled on the gold ornaments being taken to Hyderabad from Mumbai.

The police registered a case and investigation is underway.

## 'Congress govt will provide houses to all eligible persons'

PNS ■ HUZURNAGAR

Minister for Civil Supplies and Irrigation N Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the Congress government is committed to providing houses to all deserving beneficiaries in the State over the next five years under the Indiramma Housing scheme.

Speaking to media persons after inspecting a housing colony at Ramaswamy Gutta in Huzurnagar town on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy criticised the previous BRS regime for completely neglecting the housing sector for 10 years. He said the hype was created around the 2BHK housing scheme, which in reality proved to be a 'jumla' and a hollow promise. He accused the previous government, headed by K Chandrashekar Rao, of cheating homeless people and not delivering anything. Instead, the KCR government stalled housing projects for weaker sections initiated during Congress rule.

Citing an example, he mentioned that the Indiramma housing project in Huzurnagar town, with 2,160 units, was started in 2013-14 when he was the housing minister in the Congress government.

"The BRS government kept the project in abeyance for 10 years, possibly due to the belief that the credit would come to me. Immediately after coming to power in December 2023, I revived the projects and expedited the works, which are now in an advanced stage of construction. We are likely to hand over 2,160 units to homeless people in the next three months," he said.



Minister for Irrigation N Uttam Kumar Reddy visiting housing colony at Ramaswamy Gutta in Huzurnagar on Tuesday

Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the Congress government was prioritising Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and Minorities in the Indiramma housing scheme. Under the scheme, the plan is to construct a total of 4.5 lakh houses at a cost of Rs 22,000 crore, with at least 3,500 houses in each constituency. These houses will be 400

sqare feet with RCC roofing, a kitchen, and a toilet. This financial year, an amount of Rs 7,740 crores has been allocated for the housing scheme. Further, eligible people owning land will be provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs for the construction of a house, with people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities receiving Rs 6 lakhs.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also criticised the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre for completely neglect-

ing Telangana in Central housing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). He said that unlike the BRS and BJP, the Congress has a different approach to resolving the problems faced by the people. While the BRS and BJP focus only on publicity, the Congress believes in delivering on the promises made to the people. For this reason, he said, sufficient budget allocations were made to fulfill each promise, along with setting a clear deadline for the accomplishment of targets.



Minister for Health Damodara Raja Narasimha interacting with students at KGBV at Andole in Medak district on Tuesday

## Officials told to provide digital learning tools to KGBV

PNS ■ MEDAK

Minister for Damodara Raja Narasimha on Tuesday visited Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Andole in the district.

The Minister went round the school and inspected the facilities being offered to the students in the school. He interacted with the students and enquired about the quality of food being served to them daily.

Speaking on the occasion, Raja Narasimha warned the KGBV staff of severe action against laxity in ensuring the safety of students. He directed the KGBV principal and staff to ensure that the seasonal diseases do not break out. He asked the

staff to provide nutritious food to students as per the menu. He directed the Municipal Commissioner to ensure that garbage in the school is cleared daily. The Minister directed the officials to provide a modern kitchen to the school and also computers, and digital learning tools. All the work should be completed within 60 days, he said.

The Minister planted a sapling on the premises of TSWRS College here. Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the need to increase the greenery.

The Minister was accompanied by Revenue Divisional Officer Pandu, College principal BL Sadguna Marry and officials.

## Appearance of Maoist banner creates disquiet

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The appearance of a Maoist banner at Peddampuram village under Konijerla mandal in Khammam district on Tuesday created disquiet among people.

The banner surfaced in agriculture fields at the village. The village is just 20 km away from Khammam.

The banner purported to have been put up by put up by CPI- Maoist Bhadradi Kothagudem-Alluri Sitarama Raju division committee appealed to the people to observe Maoist Martyrs Week from July 28 to August 3. It also urged the people to



oppose the 'fascist BJP government'. The police did not rule out the possibility of some anti-social elements putting up the banner.

## Tummala calls for speedy completion of national highway works

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to immediately initiate works on the proposed flyover to be built at the entry of Suryapet from Khammam district on Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway.

He was reviewing the progress of work of national highways with Roads and Buildings special secretary Dasari Hari Chandana here on Tuesday.

The Minister reviewed the progress of worker related to Devarapalli Green field highway, land acquisition for entry and exit of Khammam-Devarapalli-Dhamslapuram. He said that the State government would provide funds for



Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao holding a review meeting in Khammam on Tuesday

the acquisition of land asked the official to address a letter to the National Highway Authority of India in this regard. He asked Special Secretary to take measures to launch works as early as possible.

Building of service roads from exit and entry points from Dhamslapuram along the green field highway would help regulate the traffic in Khammam city. Therefore, he asked the official to sanction

service roads immediately. He also reviewed the progress of development of Khammam-Kuravi road, Khammam-Kodada road.

Dasari Hari Chandana told the Minister that Nehru Nagar-Kothagudem national highway is at the stage of inviting tenders, once the bidding process is through, the development of service roads would begin.

He told the Minister that proposals have been submitted to the Centre for development of a national highway from Chhillakallu on Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway X roads to Kothagudem via Bonakallu, Wyra and Tallada. She told the minister that the project would be sanctioned soon.

## DC asks officials to complete road repair works by Aug 9

PNS ■ RAMAGUNDAM

District Collector Koya Sri Harsha on Tuesday inspected the works related to filling potholes on roads in various colonies of the Ramagundam Municipal Corporation and asked the officials to take steps to complete the works by August 9.

He inspected the Salapalli road, road in Godavarikhani bus stand area and Kalyani Nagar roads and asked the officials to take steps to fill the potholes. As part of the second day of the state government's Swachhadanam - Pachhadanam programme, he wanted the officials to ensure supply of pure drinking water. The water tankers in the city



Peddapalli Collector Koyad Sri Harshad inspecting road repair works in Ramagundam on Tuesday

should be cleaned thoroughly. The drinking water supplied daily should be chlorinated. He

directed the officials to test the quality of potable water being supplied to people. Water sam-

ples should be tested at the source, at mid-point and at the end-point, he said, asking the officials to ensure supply of drinking water to slums and SC and ST colonies. He directed the civic officials to find out the buildings constructed on sites with site area measuring more than 300 square yards and ensure that these structures have rain-water-harvesting pits.

The drinking water tanks and ponds should be safeguarded and plans should be prepared for their revival, he said, asking the district officials to find out suitable site for construction of a new library building. Ramagundam municipal commissioner Srikanth and other officials also accompanied the collector.

## 13 municipal workers take ill due to suspected food poisoning

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

As many as 13 municipal workers took ill due to suspected food poisoning at Shadnagar in the district on Tuesday. The workers fell ill after eating midday meal prepared at the Municipal office here. The Municipal authorities have been providing midday meals to workers in view of ongoing works during cleanliness and greenery programme.

The workers were immediately shifted to Government Community Hospital for treatment. The meal, provided by local Naganna catering



Municipal workers from Shad Nagar being treated for food poisoning at Government Community Hospital in Shadnagar on Tuesday.

was suspected to have led to the workers taking ill. They developed symptoms such as abdominal pain and vomiting.

caused the workers to suffer from vomiting and diarrhoea. In response, local CPM and CITU leaders, including Raju and Srinu Naik, rushed to the scene and facilitated the workers' admission to the hospital. They also suffered from diarrhoea.

Municipal Commissioner Cheema Venkanna stated that the afternoon lunch was procured from Naganna's catering as usual.

## Rich tributes paid to Prof Jayashankar

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Rich tributes were paid to Telangana ideologue Prof Jayashankar on the occasion of his birth anniversary across Telangana on Tuesday.

Government whip Aadi Srinivas offered floral tributes at the portrait of Jayashankar at the celebrations held at the Vemulawada Raja Rajeshwara Swamy temple guest house.

He said that the Congress would strive to fulfil Prof Jayashankar's ideals. He said Jayashankar brought sheen in the lives of many students as an academician.

Revanth Reddy, who subscribed to Jayashankar's ideals, has put Telangana state on high road to development, the Government whip said. The Congress government

in Telangana will remember the services of those who had sacrificed their lives for Telangana and strive to achieve their objectives. The state government has been extended the same protocol that is being extended to MLAs during the government programmes.

At the birth anniversary celebrations held at police commissionerate in Warangal, Additional DCP Ravi paid floral tributes to Prof Jayashankar.

At the celebrations held at the BRS office in Medak, Municipal vice-chairman Mallikarjun Goud and Market Committee chairman Jagapati paid tributes to Prof Jayashankar and described him as a great leader who dedicated his life to spread the

Telangana ideology. The inspiration that Prof Jayashankar provided to achieve the statehood of Telangana was unforgettable. He said that the Movement for Telangana marched in the footsteps of Prof Jayashankar to achieve statehood.

At Bhongir Collectorate, Additional Collector praised the role played by Prof Jayashankar in achieving statehood of Telangana. He was the guiding spirit behind the movement for statehood of Telangana till the last phase.

At the celebrations held at Adilabad Collectorate, Collector Rajarshi Shah paid floral tributes to Prof Jayashankar. Additional Collector Syamala

Devi, trainee assistant collector Abhimanyu Malwiya and others were present.

At Khammam Collectorate, Collector Muzammil Khan who garlanded the portrait of the Telangana ideologue called upon the people saying, "Let us work united to achieve ideals of Prof Jayashankar." He called how Jayashankar took active part even in 1969 agitation. He described Prof Jayashankar as the backbone to the Movement for Telangana. Calling him a polyglot, Muzammil Khan said that Jayashankar dedicated his life to achieve statehood of Telangana and even prepared plans for development of the new state.

## Collector calls for sensitising people against use of plastic

PNS ■ WARANGAL

District Collector Satya Sarada on Tuesday planted saplings at ZP High School premises in Yellanda village under Wardhannapeta mandal as part of the five-day Swachhadanam-Poachha danam programme of the state government and appealed to the officials and people at large to make the cleanliness and greenery development drive a grand success.

She addressed the students on the adverse impact of plastics. She called for sensitising people on the adverse impact in the use of plastics.

She advised the people to keep their surroundings hygienic to pre-



vent spread of epidemics. She suggested planting more saplings to improve greenery and nurse them carefully to promote green cover.

Later, she took part in the shramdan rendered by villagers.

Earlier, she paid floral tributes to Prof K Jayashankar in connection with the latter's birth anniversary at a celebration held at the ZP High school in the village along with the students.

ZP CEO Ramireddy, RWS SE Venkatrama Reddy, district panchayat Raj engineer Ijjagiri, MPDO Venkata Ramana, teachers and students took part in the event.

Warangal Collector Satya Sarada planting a sapling at Yellanda village in Warangal district on Tuesday

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
SHORT TENDER NOTICE FOR WORKS  
NIT No. 09/SE-M/LBNZ/GHMC/23/2024-25 Date: 03.08.2024  
Name of the Work: 1 No - CC Road, 1 No - Graveyard 3 Nos - Community Hall LB Nagar Zone, GHMC. Amount: Rs.275.00 Lakhs. Download Start Date: 05/08/2024 @ 3:00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date: 12/08/2024 @ 3:15 PM, Technical Bid Opening Date: 12/08/2024 @ 3:30 PM, Price Bid Opening Date: 12/08/2024 @ 3:45 PM. Name & Address: Office Ph. No.: SE-M LBNZ GHMC Zonal Office, Gaddannaram, Hyderabad. Ashokreddy@gov.in, Cell: 9701362708. Further details can be seen at: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Sd/- Superintending Engineer-M, L.B. Nagar Zone, GHMC. R.O.No.: 2988-PP/CL/ADVT/12024-25, Dt: 06-08-2024

**Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority**  
4th Floor Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Amrampet, Hyderabad  
Public Notice/Inv. No. 15 (I) of HMDA Act, 2008  
(Government Order, No. 1734/Pg.11/2023, dt.07.10.2023)  
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft sanction to the land use envisaged in the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 approved by the Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 33 MA & UD, dt. 24.01.2013. The site is in Sy.No. 129, 129A, 130/P & 130/P situated at Indresham(V) Patancheru(M), Sanga Reddy(D) to an extent of Ac.23.34(after leaving buffer zone), which is presently earmarked as Water body as per the notified Master Plan MDP-2031 approved by the Government vide G.O. Ms. No. 33 MA&UD, dt. 24.01.2013. It is now proposed to be designated as Residential use zone, based on the NOCs issued by Irrigation/Waterways Departments, subject to compliance of G.O.Ms.No.106, dt.06.07.2020. The details of the above are available in Website: <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to the Principal Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice. Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner HMDA. DPR R.O. No. : 207-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25



ACROSS THE STATES



UP girls board train to escape stalkers, travel 140 km

A freight train guard emerged as saviour for two girls who boarded a train at Hathras station to escape from some stalkers and reached Etawah, about 140 km away from their city in Uttar Pradesh. A railway official said that the guard (also known as train manager), Ravineet Arya, was on his way to sign on for his duty at Etawah station at around 11 pm on August 3 when he spotted the two girls sitting at one end of the platform bench in a distressed condition. "Arya asked them if they needed any help. They told him that they were the residents of Hathras and were returning from a tuition centre when some anti-social elements started stalking them," the official said. He added, "They got very scared and finding Hathras station nearby they hurriedly entered the station and got into a train to hide themselves. The train departed within a few minutes." According to railway sources, the girls contacted their families through their mobile phones from the moving train but the family members were also clueless how to handle the situation and where to ask them to get off.



577 jawans died due to heart attack, illness: Govt

A total of 577 CAPF personnel have died due to heart attack and illness in Naxal-affected states over the last five years, with the maximum being from the Central Reserve Police Force, the government told Parliament on Tuesday. The data was provided by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai as part of a written reply in the Lok Sabha. Through year-wise data for five years between 2019-23, the minister stated that 297 CRPF personnel died due to heart attack and illness followed by 108 from the Border Security Force (BSF). The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) lost 76 personnel due to these medical conditions, 74 from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and 22 from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the data revealed. "No specific unusual causes of heart attack and illness in Naxal-affected areas have been observed," the minister said.



IIT Madras receives donation of Rs 228 cr from alumni

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, here has received a funding of Rs 228 crore from US-based industrialist and entrepreneur Dr Krishna Chivukula, officials said on Tuesday. It is considered to be one of the single largest donations received by IIT Madras, which would utilise the funds for taking up various initiatives, the institute's Director V Kamakoti said here. "Nearly after 53 years, our alumni Dr Krishna Chivukula, has come to give Rs 228 crore as an endowment to IIT-Madras. He had studied M Tech in aerospace engineering during the 1970s and has established companies which are engaged in manufacture of components for aeroplanes," Kamakoti told reporters. "This is one among the single largest endowments that has been received by IIT Madras in its history," he said on the fund received from Chivukula. IIT Madras officials said the institute raised funding of Rs 513 crore during 2023-24 which is a 135 per cent increase received from the previous financial year. The total amount raised through alumni alone during 2023-24 was Rs 367 crore which is also an increase of 282 per cent over the previous year.

BORDER FORCES ON ALERT: EAM IN PARLIAMENT

India monitoring minorities' situation in Bangladesh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is monitoring the situation of minorities in Bangladesh and is in "close and continuous" touch with the Indian community there through its diplomatic missions, the government said on Tuesday. Reading out a statement both in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar further said India naturally remains deeply concerned till law and order is visibly restored in the neighbouring country and that

it has instructed its border guarding forces to be exceptionally alert in view of the complex and still evolving situation there.

Jaishankar briefed the MPs on former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's "very short notice" request to come to India "for the moment".

Hasina arrived in India Monday evening in a Bangladesh Air Force aircraft, presumably on her way to London or some other European destination, after she had to quit as prime minister with the country plunging



**'India naturally remains deeply concerned till law and order is visibly restored in the neighbouring country and that it has instructed its border guarding forces to be exceptionally alert in view of the complex and still evolving situation there'**

standing is that after a meeting with leaders of the security establishment, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina apparently made the decision to resign. At very short notice, she requested approval to come for the moment to India," Jaishankar said. "We simultaneously received a request for flight clearance from Bangladesh authorities. She arrived yesterday evening in Delhi. The situation in Bangladesh is still evolving," he said. Jaishankar pointed out that Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman addressed the nation on August

into uncertainty in the wake of violent street protests over job quota.

"On August 5, demonstrators converged in Dhaka despite the curfew. Our under-



Priyanka Gandhi didn't attend Ambani wedding: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra did not attend the Ambani wedding and was not even in India at that time, party leaders said on Tuesday, dismissing claims made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey in this regard.

While Congress leaders took to X to rubbish Dubey's claim, party leader K C Venugopal also raised the issue in the Lok Sabha. He was backed by Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MP Supriya Sule, who said there was nothing wrong with attending the wedding. In a post on X, Congress's Supriya Shrinete accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP of lying.

"Nishikant Dubey told a blatant lie in the Lok Sabha that Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi attended Ambani's wedding," she said. "This is absolutely wrong, she did not go there at all. She was not even in the country, your home minister must know this -- he has an old and bad habit of keeping track of everyone," the Congress leader added.

Miscreants vandalise Hindu temples, households

PNS ■ DHAKA

A number of Hindu temples, households and businesses were vandalised, women assaulted and at least two Hindu leaders affiliated with the Awami League party killed in violence in Bangladesh following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, community leaders claimed on Tuesday. "We have compiled some incidents of the vandalisms in different parts of the country exposing the Hindu and other minority communities to anxiety,"

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council leader Kajol Debnath told PTI on the margins of a meeting of the group here. According to the available information, two Hindu leaders, who were incidentally leaders of Hasina's Awami League (AL) party, were killed in north-western Sirajganj and Rangpur, Debnath said, adding that the Council was still gathering more information. Debnath said the attackers "plundered shops, temples and houses and assaulted Hindu women" while many were injured

during the assaults amid the fast-paced political developments following the fall of Hasina's government. A day after Hasina resigned and fled the country following massive protests against her government over quota in government jobs, violence that had started afresh over the weekend, continued overnight and led to a total of over 400 being killed since mid-July. "The situation is grave and Hindus are being attacked across Bangladesh," the Unity Council's general secretary Rana Dasgupta said.

INDIA bloc protests against GST on health, life insurance premiums



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc parties staged a protest in Parliament premises on Tuesday to press for the roll-back of 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and health insurance premiums. MPs from various parties such as TMC, Congress, AAP and NCP (SC), among others, participated in the protest on the steps leading to the Makar Dwar of Parliament.

Carrying placards reading "Tax terrorism", the protesting MPs raised slogans demanding that the GST on life and health insurance premiums be rolled back.

Later, in a post in Hindi on X, Congress president

Malikarjun Kharge said, "Today in the Parliament premises, INDIA parties demanded immediate removal of 18% GST on health and life insurance premiums as this extortion is a severe blow to our people, especially the middle class."

"The middle class is already struggling under the burden of the Modi government's tax collection policies. India's medical inflation rate is the highest in Asia in 2024 - at 14%! On top of that, this 'Gabbar Singh Tax' on life insurance and health insurance is inhuman, and another condemnable example of BJP's policy of plundering from 'opportunity in disaster'," Kharge said.

SC to consider hearing Punjab's plea for release of rural devp funds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to consider listing an interim plea of the AAP-led Punjab government seeking release of over Rs 1,000 crore urgently from the Centre on account of alleged dues pertaining to the Rural Development Fund.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was urged by lawyer Shadan Farasat, appearing for the state government, that an interlocutory application (IA), in a pending lawsuit against the Centre, has been filed seeking urgent release of over Rs 1,000 crore as an interim measure.

"We are only requesting that the IA be listed next week...if possible. There is an urgent need for funds," he said. The CJJ agreed to list the plea for an early hearing.

The Bhagwant Mann government, in 2023, had moved the top court alleging non-release of the Rural Development Fund (RDF) and withholding a portion of the market fee by the Centre.

Prez Murmu receives Fiji's highest civilian award

PNS ■ SUVA (FIJI)

President Droupadi Murmu was on Tuesday conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the country's highest civilian award, as she hailed the ties between the two countries and said India stands ready to partner with Fiji to build a stronger, resilient, and more prosperous nation.

"President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere of Fiji conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji upon President Droupadi Murmu. This is the highest civilian award of Fiji," the President's Office said in a post on X. Murmu, who is on a two-

day visit to Fiji, described the honour as "a reflection of the deep ties of friendship" between India and Fiji. This is the first visit by an Indian head of state to the archipelago nation.

President Murmu also addressed the Fijian Parliament.

"As India emerges strongly on the global stage, we stand ready to partner with Fiji, according to your priorities, to build a stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous nation. Let us come together to unlock the full potential in our partnership for the mutual benefit of people of both our beloved countries," she said while



Amit Shah congratulates Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday congratulated President Droupadi Murmu on being conferred with Fiji's highest civilian honour, saying it not only enhanced India's prestige on the world stage but also strengthened diplomatic ties between the two countries. "The honour not only enhances Bharat's prestige on the world stage but also strengthens the cultural, historical and diplomatic ties between both nations, reaffirming our partnership for the greater good of humanity," Shah wrote on X.

addressing the Parliament. She said that despite the vast difference in size, India and Fiji have much in common, including vibrant democracies. She recalled that almost 10 years ago, speaking in this same Hall, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had underlined some basic values that unite India and Fiji.

Indian mission in UK issues safety advisory amid violent clashes

PNS ■ LONDON

The High Commission of India in London on Tuesday issued a safety advisory for Indian nationals to "stay vigilant and exercise due caution" amid ongoing violent clashes which have targeted immigrants and asylum-seekers in parts of the UK since last week. The advisory posted on the social media

channels of the Indian mission also provides emergency contact information for anyone in need of urgent assistance.

It comes a week after the fatal stabbing of three young girls in Southport, north-west England, and incorrect social media claims over the UK-born suspect's asylum-seeker status. "Indian travellers would be

aware of recent disturbances in some parts of the United Kingdom. The High Commission of India in London is closely monitoring the situation," reads the message entitled "Advisory for Indian Citizens Visiting the UK." "Visitors from India are advised to stay vigilant and exercise due caution while travelling in the UK.

Dumping of plastic causing degradation in river banks: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said dumping of plastic is causing serious environment degradation and also impacting aquatic life in the river banks and water bodies in the country.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S V N Bhatti said collective effort is required to be made by the responsible authorities with the cooperation of people.

"The dumping of plastic is causing serious environment degradation and also impacting aquatic life in the river banks and the water bodies in the country. Unless concerted effort is made by the responsible authorities with people's cooperation, irrespective of the efforts to target illegal/unauthorized constructions, the desired improvement of the quality of the water in river Ganga/all other rivers and water bodies in the country will remain illusory," the bench said.

The top court directed Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to file an affidavit within four weeks on the issue.

Over 84 pc dists prone to extreme heat waves, says report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 84 per cent of the districts in India are prone to extreme heat waves and 70 per cent are experiencing a rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events, according to a new analysis.

The report, "Managing Monsoons in a Warming Climate" by the independent developmental organisation IPE Global Limited and Esri India Technologies, said the country was experiencing extended summer-like conditions during the June-September monsoon.

Abinash Mohanty, head of Climate Change and Sustainability Practice at IPE Global Limited and the author of the study, said, "Our analysis suggests that eight out of 10 Indians will be highly exposed to extreme events by 2036."

"Embracing hyper-granular risk assessments and establishing climate-risk observatories should become a national imperative to safeguard Indian agriculture, industry and large-scale infrastruc-

al projects from the vagaries of climate change," he said.

The report said Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tripura were the top five heatwave hotspot states in the 2013-22 decade.

It said 74 per cent of districts in the coastal regions, 71 per cent in the plains, and 65 per cent in the hills had 'high to very high' exposure to extreme heat waves.

Districts in the plains and hills experienced a 36 per cent increase in heatwave days during the 2013-22 decade while coastal districts recorded a 30 per cent rise, it added.

"Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tripura were the top five heatwave hotspot states in this decade," the report stated.

It also noted that the decade recorded fewer cumulative heatwave days compared to the previous two decades.

The decade's most impactful extreme heatwave event occurred in 2015, the second deadliest after the 1998 event.

SC TO IMA PRESIDENT

Was apology published in newspapers where item carried?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Indian Medical Association (IMA) president R V Asokan whether his unconditional apology to the apex court over his "damaging" statements in an interview to PTI was published in all those newspapers which carried his interview.

In the interview to PTI, where he had answered queries about Patanjali Ayurved Ltd's misleading advertisements case, Asokan had said it was "unfortunate" that the Supreme Court criticised the association and also

some of the practices of private doctors.

The court also observed that the apology needs to be published in the newspapers by Asokan personally and not from the funds of the IMA.

The top court is hearing a plea filed in 2022 by the IMA alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine.

On July 9, Asokan had told the apex court that his unconditional apology to the court was published in various publica-

The IMA's counsel had said that Asokan's unconditional apology was published in the association's monthly publication, on the IMA website, as also by PTI. During the hearing on Tuesday, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta told the IMA's counsel that the apology should have been published in all those newspapers where Asokan's interview was carried.

"Was it published in all those newspapers where your inter-



view was published," the bench asked, adding that the IMA president was inviting trouble. Senior advocate P S Patwalia, appearing for the IMA, told the

bench that Asokan would take appropriate steps to purge himself of the contempt.

The bench has posted the matter for further hearing on August 27.





www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

### Ignominious exit

Sheikh Hasina resigns as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and flies to India leaving New Delhi in a quandary

It was writing on the wall which Sheikh Hasina the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh could not read. The people had turned against her. No wonder she had no choice but to resign and leave for the friendly country, India. The protests over the past few months paralysed Bangladesh. The initial spark was the students' demand for doing away with the reservation for the relatives of freedom fighters which evolved into a broader demand for political reforms and the resignation of Hasina Government. The unrest reached a crescendo, with more than 100 deaths in violent clashes between protesters and security forces. Protesters eventually stormed her official residence. Sheikh Hasina's political career has been a roller coaster ride. She is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding leader and first President of Bangladesh. Hasina's political journey began in earnest after the assassination of her father and most of her family members in 1975. Exiled in India during the subsequent military regimes in Bangladesh, Hasina was elected as the President of the Awami League in 1981. She returned to Bangladesh in 1981. She was instrumental in reviving the Awami League and making it a formidable political force.



Sheikh Hasina first became Prime Minister in 1996 after the Awami League won the general elections. Allegations of corruption and political instability led to her party's defeat in the 2001 elections. But she returned to power in 2009 after the Awami League's landslide victory in the 2008 elections. Her subsequent terms as Prime Minister (2009-2024) have been marked by significant economic growth but also highhandedness which ultimately led to her downfall. Her tenure has

been marked by efforts to consolidate power, leading to accusations of authoritarianism and suppression of dissent. But the fact remains that under her leadership, Bangladesh has made significant strides in poverty reduction, women's empowerment, and achieving key development milestones. After a long rule of 15-years she was out of sync with the ground realities; calling people traitors and clamping curfew and issuing shooting orders were grave mistakes which she had to pay for. Her ouster has put New Delhi in fix. India will now have to navigate the uncharted choppy waters of diplomacy in the Bay of Bengal. The alternatives to Hasina's government include the right-wing Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the Jatiya Party, and the army, all of which perceive India as a dominant influence and would like to keep her at bay. The volatility in Bangladesh raises security concerns for India, particularly in the border regions. Sheikh Hasina's departure has significantly altered the political dynamics. No matter who replaces Hasina it would adversely affect Indo-Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh may now move closer to China. New Delhi will have to deal with the interim government and make friends with the BNP and Jatiya party not to mention the army Generals who would be calling the shots for a while till new elections take place.

### PICTALK



People walk to their work as torrential rains lash Shimla

# Why a national security strategy is vital for India



ASHOK K MEHTA

The military has always codified its practices and procedures for institutional memory. So why is the Government shy of it and using the CDS to justify it?

It is official now. After a decade of speculation over not whether and when a National Security Strategy (NSS) will be prepared and released, we were told that a written NSS is not needed. India's second CDS, Gen Anil Chauhan, recently said at India International Centre New Delhi while releasing the book Indian Craft of War, that a National Security Policy, using the term as an alternative to NSS, was not needed in writing. He added: "we have practices and processes in place...otherwise how did we do Article 370; handle COVID; Balakot air strikes...". A cerebral retired General noted, "it is in the head".

That we have gone on for 75 years without NSS does not mean we don't need one. The strategic ambiguity over not naming adversaries, missions, risks and opportunities is not worth a naya paisa in the contemporary geopolitical context. The contradiction is this: in the cradle of strategic thinking, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, its Commandant, Lt Gen Verinder Vats, regularly underlines the virtues of NSS to his triservice students. There is no merit in explaining why a written document is necessary, indeed essential.

All democracies, even authoritarian regimes have an NSS or White Paper on defence and security. For starters you can open former COAS Gen MM Naravane's latest unreleased book, Four Stars of Destiny, to learn of his unenviable predicament in waiting for orders during a grave and critical operational situation on LAC post-Galwan. Tragically, the Indian military has shied away from demanding a White Paper, Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) or any political guidance from the ruling political class. At a recent seminar on national security at New Delhi's IIC, former NSA Shiv Shankar Menon disclosed categorically that during the UPA regime, a draft NSS was prepared thrice but it never saw the light of day. For Menon's presentation, the discussion was former defence secretary NN Vohra, former Governor J&K, and Principal Secretary to



the Prime Minister.

He endorsed Menon's claim and if further confirmation was needed it came from former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran who was chairing the event. All three stated that the absence of political will let the NSS drafts collect dust. This raises the issue of the role and responsibility of not only civil servants but also more importantly of Service Chiefs who fail to persuade or even gently coerce the PM/RM on the issuance of written directives. In their single-service operational mission papers, they guesstimate their likely missions from the speeches of the Prime Minister during the Combined Commanders' Conferences or elsewhere. The BJP/NDA government has fared no better than the UPA in providing political guidance to the armed forces. Its stellar achievement though was the creation of CDS, which for lack of consensus both among the armed forces and the political class, remained missing for decades.

Then, in a burst of zeal, the BJP announced the appointment of CDS in December 2019 without consulting anyone. It is now stuck in the old groove of securing consensus among the military over theorisation. It has taken a full five and a half years for RM Rajnath Singh to state, that too, in response to



TRAGICALLY, THE INDIAN MILITARY HAS SHIED AWAY FROM DEMANDING A WHITE PAPER, STRATEGIC DEFENCE AND SECURITY REVIEW (SDSR) OR ANY POLITICAL GUIDANCE FROM THE RULING POLITICAL CLASS

a question during an interview with PTI in May that consensus is growing among the services. Also in May, Gen Chauhan stated during a lecture at USI New Delhi that theorisation was "imminent" though "there were differences over reforms". As CDS has become synonymous with theatrisation the government needs to be as decisive in setting a deadline for its blueprint and implementation as it was in appointing the CDS.

But the IAF, especially has been saying that an NSS is a prerequisite to theatrisation. In 2018 when the Defence Planning Committee was created under NSA Ajit Doval, it was widely expected that an NSS would be prepared by it. It is no secret that two drafts of NSS are lying with Doval - one prepared by Integrated Defence Staff and another by NSC Secretariat in 2021-22. But Gen Chauhan has closed the door to a scripted NSS though he did release last month a written tri-service cyber-space doctrine. Earlier, a tri-service Training Doctrine was also released which attracted severe criticism for its loopholes. One can ask how these documents can be written when there is no NSS and National Defence Strategy. India is the only emerging power with the fifth largest economy and fourth largest armed forces that does not

have an NSS/NSP though it has fought four short wars, - lost one, won one with the remaining two ending in stalemate - and one casualty-ridden successful border skirmish.

There is hardly any mention or recognition of India's first out-of-area 32-month IPKF CIS mission in Sri Lanka where coercive diplomacy failed even as 1171 Bravehearts sacrificed their lives. The CDS recently called IPKF a minor operation. High time an NSS was written after a strategic defence review. I can vouch for it as a member of the Defence Planning Staff, the forerunner of IDS, which produced the country's first Defence Plan 2000 in 1988 after conducting a Security and Technology Environment Review that was lauded in Parliament. It was possible due to the political guidance from RRM Arun Singh and three dynamic service chiefs. The military has always codified its practices, processes, and procedures to be good for institutional memory. So why is the government shy of doing it and using CDS to justify it

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### BURDEN OF OVER TOURISM

Madam — Apropos the article, "The global crisis of over-tourism", published on August 5, this is my response. With tourism expanding globally all the time, the term 'overtourism' is becoming a concern, which highlights the spiralling number of visitors taking a toll on cities, landmarks and landscapes. As tourist numbers worldwide returned towards pre-pandemic levels, the debate around what constitutes 'too many' visitors continues. Dealing with overtourism, therefore, has become a priority. But despite the mounting howls of protest, tourism promotion endures and unsustainable hordes of tourists continue to descend on cities, beaches and other natural wonders. In an effort to manage the flow of tourists, some cities have taken drastic measures to limit the effects of overtourism, including the introduction of new revised taxation arrangements and fines linked to new local laws. But it's a fine line to tread.

If tourist arrivals see a dramatic decline, it would likely have considerable economic repercussions for those who rely on them. Tourism should be part of the wider destination management system, which must also consider transport and mobility, the preservation of public spaces, the local economy and housing, among other aspects of daily life. Therefore, research, planning and a close dialogue among city administrators, the tourism industry, civil society groups and local residents are essential.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

#### DEATH OF SANITATION WORKERS

Madam — In the span of last six months, 43 sanitation workers lost their lives while cleaning sewers and septic tanks. These deaths took place despite manual scavenging has been banned and several policy measures have subsequently been put in place to prevent it. The fact is that despite recognising the dehumanising nature of their occupation and understanding how their caste status further

### Djokovic wins gold medal



Djokovic carved out a break point in the second game of the opener and three more in the

fourth, all saved by the Spaniard but the vintaged tennis won the first gold medal for the veteran tennis player. Then it was Serbia's turn to demonstrate his famed powers of resilience off three break points in the fifth game and another five in a marathon ninth game.

In a roller-coaster duel, Alcaraz served a set point in the 12th game but his senior opponent dominated the tie break to claim the opener after 93 minutes on court Philippe Chatrier. There was no let up in the second set and the serve volley game saw veteran Djokovic having greater control in the tie-break to win the game, set, match and the gold medal in a scintillating display of tennis.

Jayanthy CK Maniam | Mumbai

#### SHEIKH HASINA RESIGNS

Madam — Now that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh has resigned, a new chapter begins in the country's history. This could be a positive sign for a brighter future. On Sunday, fierce clashes in Bangladesh resulted in the deaths of 91 people, and last month, around 150 demonstrated against the government's failure to address conflicts. This illustrates that the government has been too arrogant and stubborn to describe.

The Bangladeshi Government lost the touch with ground reality and ignored the concerns of its people. It is not rocket science to implement a few amendments in the quota system, but the government's behavior had been arrogant to say the least. It only confined itself to the welfare of its supporters. There is hope for a prompt restoration of stability in the neighboring country.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Suppressing scientific studies is injurious to nation's health

Limiting scientific inquiry not only jeopardises public safety but also undermines trust in the authorities responsible for managing such crises

The recent instance of the Kerala government's contentious gag order banning scientific institutions from studying the land slide-affected areas of Wayand has been met with resistance from the scientific community and civil society. Hours later, the order was withdrawn at the behest of the state's Chief Minister. But what is still worrying is how a government or a bureaucrat drafts such an insane order restricting the scientific community from undertaking any studies at Meppadi Panchayat, Wayand, where the multiple landslides occurred on the morning of July 30 and airing their views to the media. Whatever has happened in Wayand in the Western Ghats region or the Uttarakhand or Himachal Pradesh in the Himalayan belt is due to the hiding of scientific information from the public.



These occurrences have emphasised the urgent requirement for thorough catastrophe planning and response methods, encompassing catastrophic earthquakes and tsunamis, industrial mishaps, and pandemics. An essential component in formulating these strategies is the implementation of scientific research carried out at disaster sites. Research conducted at catastrophe sites can improve preparedness and response techniques, ultimately preserving lives and mitigating economic losses in future occurrences. Imposing restrictions on scientific study threatens the general population's safety and erodes people's confidence in the authorities and organisations responsible for managing disasters. Freedom of scientific expression is crucial for all types of scientific research. To

foster the continuous acquisition of knowledge, it is essential to create an atmosphere where scientists can openly communicate their ideas, exchange discoveries, and provide constructive criticism to one another without any concerns about being censored or facing negative consequences. Impeding scientific studies and suppressing the freedom of expression within the scientific community presents a severe danger to the advancement and credibility of Science. Science and scientific facts reveal the truth because researchers conduct systematic studies. In that case, why should one hide it from the media or the public? Unfortunately, every scientist in the country needs approval from their higher-ups to publish a paper or even a popular science article.

A committee of few who don't have any work except criticising others oversees the author's creativity. It's a pathetic situation. It's like making things more complicated so that no one dares to venture into new things. Over the past few years, there has been a concerning

increase in the occurrence and severity of catastrophes, including those caused by nature and human activities. These occurrences have emphasised the crucial requirement for thorough catastrophe planning and response methods. During the Joshimath sinking incident, there were reports of ISRO satellite images that showed that many parts of the Himalayas, including the famous Shimla ridge, were sinking. Unfortunately, that report soon vanished from the public domain. Had the information been available, people would be prepared to move from these regions instead of clinging to it. Restricting scientific investigation and hiding the information can lead to misinterpretation by unscrupulous historians, who may distort the true scientific explanations of natural disasters for their interest. This could harm future generations' comprehension of the scientific causes underlying these calamities.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN





## FIRST COLUMN

### ACCEPTANCE - THE KEY TO REDUCING SUFFERING

When we accept reality, our anger tends to decrease and the pain subsides considerably



BY RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

If you ask anyone what is suffering? they would simply say that it is something that's caused by or is a result of negative events that happen in our life. However, this is not so, because in an actual sense, suffering is never what happens, it is how you feel about what happens in your life. We must understand that suffering is a feeling and our strongest feelings are nothing but our emotions, and when emotions get negative, they give pain. So, in simple words, suffering is our resistance to our negative emotions and our pain. It's a pain about our pain. Hence, we must understand the fact that suffering is the result of OUR emotions and not the events of our Lives.

We all experience pain in our day-to-day lives because it's inevitable and it is a part of being human. However, how many of us have pondered over this philosophical question of life - "What Causes Us PAIN?" or "What is the Cause of Our Negative Emotions?". Our pain might stem from losing a dear one, losing our job, a bad breakup, a fatal accident or undergoing any other kind of trauma or situation. However, when we hide from facing or accepting reality, we create suffering. Therefore, it should be clearly understood that we are the sole creator of good and bad in our lives and hence it's futile to blame others by saying things like - "It's not fair, why Me? this shouldn't have happened with me at least or I can't bear this anymore! etc..."



There is a deep instinct in most of us to fight the pain we experience deep within, however, in most cases it backfires and we end up experiencing double the pain. The reason behind this is our tendency to avoid and, in some cases, hide our pain or pretend that it isn't present. Deep within we might ruminate about our suffering, without doing anything about it because of our stubbornness to accept it openly.

A wise person would instead accept the reality and become light instead of getting heavy on the mind because accepting simply means that you stop trying to deny your reality and you acknowledge it because sometimes accepting the painful emotions can reduce our suffering because we are no longer running from them or pushing them away. It however does not mean that you approve of a situation or that you don't want it to change, it's all about reducing our suffering, so if you have been hurt by someone, it's best to accept that YES you were hurt and then move on with your life rather than pondering over why, how, what... Remember! To forgive or not is each one's prerogative, but acceptance is necessary for moving forward in life or else we would get stuck in a quagmire of wasted thoughts.

Once we accept reality, our anger tends to decrease and the painful situation loses the power it has over us. There is no denying the fact that emotional pain is an intrinsic part of all our lives, however, we create needless suffering when we don't accept reality. When we practice acceptance, we let ourselves move on, we open the door to freedom and we take steps to improve our lives. Most of us may find it hard to accept reality and still prefer to wait for time and situations to change, however in doing so, we forget that time does not heal everything, but acceptance will heal everything.

*(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist views are personal)*

# Need for rationalising taxes on fertilisers



UTTAM GUPTA

The GST Council, responsible for tax rate decisions has yet to resolve the tax discrepancies despite multiple discussions and recommendations

For over five years now, the fertilizer industry has been facing an 'inverted duty structure'. Inverted duty structure refers to a situation in which raw materials (RMs) are taxed at a higher rate than finished products in whose manufacture these are used. But, there was little that the Budget presented by the Union Finance Minister (UFM) Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024, could do to address it.

Fertilizers and RMs used in their making are mostly taxed under the GST (Goods and Services Tax) regime. The GST Council - headed by the UFM that includes finance ministers from all States and UTs - has the mandate to fix tax rates besides deciding the procedures for registration, payment of taxes, GST return filing, and other related matters. So, the responsibility for fixing any anomalies in their taxation also lies with the GST Council.

The issue was discussed in the 45th (September 2021) and 47th (June 2022) meetings of the GST Council; but no decision could be taken.

Meanwhile, on August 9, 2023, the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers recommended that the Union Government propose to the GST Council to reduce tax rates on fertilizers as well as RMs used in their making. In its 53rd meeting held on June 22, 2024, the Council referred the matter to the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalization to take holistic view.

At the outset, let us look at the present structure of taxing fertilizers. To make fertilizers affordable to farmers, the government controls their maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution, and reimburses the excess of the cost over MRP as a subsidy to the manufacturers. In the case of urea, the MRP is about one-tenth of the cost, whereas for all other fertilizers, the price is nearly one-third.

When the government spends heavily from its budget to make fertilizers available to farmers at a fraction of their cost, it makes no sense to impose a tax on them. This increases the cost, only to be reimbursed as an additional subsidy, to the manufacturers. It is a typical case of taking from one hand and giving back from the other.

Two major components of the fertilizer supply chain are taxed under two different regimes: one under GST and the other under the pre-GST regime. All finished fertilizers such as Urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), ammonium sulphate etc are taxed under GST at 5 per cent. Most RMs such as sulfuric acid, ammonia, phosphoric acid etc (these are used for making DAP and other complex fertilizers) are also covered under GST. While sulfuric acid and ammonia are levied 18 per cent GST, phosphoric acid attracts 12 per cent tax.

However, natural gas (NG), used for the manufacture of all domestic urea, is taxed under the pre-GST regime. Electricity, a utility intrinsic to the fertilizer-making process, is also kept outside GST.

GST is a single nationwide tax with a provision for set-off tax paid on inputs. It subsumes within it more than a dozen taxes from the pre-GST era, namely cen-



WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS HEAVILY FROM ITS BUDGET TO MAKE FERTILISERS AVAILABLE TO FARMERS AT A FRACTION OF THEIR COST, IT MAKES NO SENSE TO IMPOSE A TAX ON THEM. THIS INCREASES THE COST, ONLY TO BE REIMBURSED AS AN ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY, TO THE MANUFACTURERS

tral excise duty (CED), service tax, and sales tax/value-added tax (VAT). The Constitutional Amendment Act of 2016 on GST, while providing for the inclusion of NG (besides other petroleum products such as petrol, diesel, ATF etc) under its ambit, kept it 'zero-rated' meaning it continues to be under the pre-GST regime. The GST Council has put fixing the rate for NG (besides ATF) on its agenda umpteen times only to defer it.

Taxing under pre-GST results in a cascading effect on the cost of NG and electricity. Gas companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are outside the GST ambit and can't claim credit for the taxes paid on their purchases of inputs, consumables, and equipment, leading to a higher price. Even as NG attracts nil CED on supplies to fertilizer plants, its delivered cost is boosted by VAT, which can be as high as 24.5 per cent in Andhra Pradesh (AP).

Other local taxes, for instance, Gujarat's "purchase tax" on that portion of inputs consumed for making urea that is sold outside the state, also add to the cost. In the case of electricity, power companies don't get any credit for taxes paid on inputs viz., equipment, stores, and so on, used in its generation and distribution, leading to higher costs.

Further, under the Constitution, entry 53 in the State List of the Seventh Schedule empowers states to impose tax (or electricity duty) on the sale and consumption of electricity, except

when it is consumed by the Union Government or the Railways. For electricity duty, too, electricity companies don't get any offset. This further exacerbates the cost of power supplied to fertilizer plants.

Even in areas where the materials are covered under GST hence, no cost cascading effect, the inverted tax structure plays a spoiler. The higher GST levied on ammonia/sulfuric acid/phosphoric acid as against much lower GST on finished fertilizers results in an 'unabsorbed' input tax credit (ITC), as the output tax falls far short of the input tax. The situation gets exacerbated because of the government's control over the MRP of fertilizers at a low level.

Considering that the cost of making fertilizer available to farmers (sans taxes) by itself is substantially higher than the price the Union Government wants them to pay, ideally, it shouldn't levy any tax as the proceeds from such levy will have to be paid back as an additional subsidy. Even if it wants to levy, ideally, all components in the supply chain have to be brought under GST and fertilizers, and all inputs and RMs should be in the lowest tax slab of 5 per cent.

While the tax rate on fertilizers is already 5 per cent, this will require lowering the tax rate on all RMs viz. ammonia/sulfuric acid/phosphoric acid from the current 18/12 per cent to 5 per cent. The tax on micronutrients such as zinc (Zn), boron (B), manganese (Mn), iron (Fe) etc should also be lowered from the

existing 12-18 per cent to 5 per cent in line with the recommendation of the Standing Committee as their importance for plant growth and ensuring balanced nutrient use. NG and power should be brought under GST and taxed at @5 per cent.

Lowering tax on RMs by itself won't address the problem of unabsorbed ITC. This is because the MRP of finished fertilizers is substantially lower than the cost, even with the same GST, tax paid on RMs/inputs would still be higher than output tax liability. This can be resolved only when the government gives subsidies to farmers under direct benefit transfer (DBT) and lets manufacturers charge full price from the farmers.

Lowering tax on ammonia/sulfuric acid/phosphoric acid on supplies to fertilizer manufacturers to accommodate their special needs but leaving GST on supplies to other industries such as detergents, paints, dyes, plastics, etc unchanged can lead to large-scale diversion and misuse as it is impossible to track every grain of supply and ensure that it is used for the intended purpose. We have seen this happening in the case of urea where setting its MRP at a low level prompts diversion.

Diversion/misuse is inevitable in any regime of differential taxation/pricing based on the end use of the product. The only way to prevent it and yet meet the intended objective is DBT. Well, this is shaping up!

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

## India's abolition of Angel tax: A major boost for startups and investment

The removal of this tax, combined with procedural simplifications, promises to create a more dynamic and supportive environment for startups

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her seventh Budget, has proposed to abolish the Angel Tax, a significant move aimed at bolstering the Indian startup ecosystem. This tax had long been a contentious issue between startups and the Income Tax Department, acting as a major hindrance to growth and investment. The abolition of this tax, if coupled with procedural simplifications, could indeed be a game-changer, fostering a more vibrant and dynamic startup ecosystem that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. The Angel Tax, essentially a tax on capital raised by unlisted companies through the issue of



B K JHA

shares, was introduced under Section 56(2)(viii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. It taxed investments above the fair market value of a company as 'Income from other sources', primarily affecting angel investors. The excess realization was considered income and taxed accordingly. This provision, while well-intentioned to curb money laundering, ended up stifling

genuine investments and became a nightmare for startups. The abolition of this tax removes a significant barrier that has long hindered the growth of startups and discouraged investment. Startups can now raise capital without the looming fear of being taxed on perceived excess valuations, which often did not account for the future growth prospects and potential of these young companies.

This move aligns with the government's broader agenda of promoting innovation, employment, education, skilling, and research. The abolition of the Angel Tax is expected to boost the entire startup ecosystem by making it easier for startups to attract investments.

This, in turn, will stimulate economic growth and job creation. For instance, the comprehensive digitalization of taxpayer services and the simplification of the GST tax structure are indicative of the government's commitment to digitalization, which will benefit tech startups across various fields such as education, healthcare, and taxation. India has been a global leader in creating successful entrepreneurship opportunities in recent years.

The investor community, including high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), foreign funds, venture capitalists, and angel investors, has remained bullish on the growth potential of the Indian startup ecosystem.



However, the Angel Tax had cast a shadow over this optimism, causing significant distress among startups and investors alike. While the government's initiatives such as Startup India, Stand-up India, and Digital India have provided a favourable environment for startups, the Angel Tax was a significant pain point. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had even

shaken the startup ecosystem by directly deducting income tax under Section 68 from the bank accounts of certain startups on unexplained cash credits. The abolition of the Angel Tax, coupled with the recent notification simplifying compliance procedures, reflects the government's responsiveness to the concerns of the startup community. Startups no longer need to procure a fair market value certificate issued by a merchant banker or seek approval from an inter-ministerial board. Instead, they can request angel tax exemption from the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) with the necessary supporting documents.

The CBDT is mandated to respond to such applications within 45 days, providing much-needed clarity and certainty to startups. While the abolition of the Angel Tax is a significant step forward, its impact will depend on the implementation and further simplifications of procedures. The focus should be on creating a startup-friendly regulatory environment that encourages investment and innovation. The government's emphasis on digital public infrastructure and the digitalization of the economy will also play a crucial role in supporting tech startups and fostering a culture of innovation. Overall, the abolition of the Angel Tax is a welcome move that promis-

es to remove a significant barrier to startup growth and investment. However, for this initiative to truly be a game-changer, it must be accompanied by procedural simplifications and a supportive regulatory environment. The government's continued focus on innovation, digitalization, and economic growth will be crucial in realizing the full potential of this policy change. This could very well mark the beginning of a new era for the Indian startup ecosystem, driving innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in the years to come.

*(The author is a senior journalist and the views expressed are personal)*



## IN BRIEF



### Space start up EtherealX raises US\$ 5 million in seed funding

Space start-up EtherealX on Tuesday announced raising five million dollars in seed funding to develop engines for the world's first fully reusable medium-lift satellite launch vehicle. Founded in 2022 by former ISRO engineer Manu Nair and aerospace engineer Prashant Sharma, EtherealX hopes its rocket would offer absolute reusability to help reduce transportation costs and cut launch timeframes. The funding round was led by YourNest and saw participation from BIG Global Investments JSC, BlueHill Capital, Campus Fund, and Golden Sparrow Ventures, Karan Bhagat and Yatin Shah from IIFL Wealth, Kiran Shetty and Akhilesh Agarwal, a statement from EtherealX said. Unlike SpaceX's Falcon 9, which brings its booster back to Earth after a successful launch, EtherealX launch vehicle Razor Crest Mk-1 will bring back both the upper stage and booster after placing payloads in orbit.



### Electric vehicle sales rose 55.2 pc to 1.79 lakh units

Electric vehicle sales registered a 55.2 per cent on-year growth at 1,79,038 units in July driven by a massive 96 per cent jump in e-two-wheeler sales, automobile dealers' body FADA said on Tuesday. The total electric vehicles sales for July 2023 were at 1,16,221 units, according to the monthly sales data from Federation of Automobile Dealers' Association (FADA). The electric two-wheelers sales during the previous month stood at 1,07,016 units, up 95.94 per cent, from 54,616 units sold in July last year, while the electric three-wheeler sales grew 18.18 per cent at 63,667 units, from 58,873 units year earlier, as per FADA. The commercial vehicle sales during the reporting month was also on an upward trajectory, growing two-fold on a year-on-year basis to 816 units, from 364 commercial vehicles sold in July 2023, it stated. Passenger vehicles, however, declined 2.92 per cent at 7,541 units in July, as against 7,768 units in the same month of last year, as per data.



### Tata Power net profit up 31% to Rs 1,189 cr in Jun qtr

Tata Power on Tuesday said it has logged 31 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,189 crore, compared to the year-ago period, on back of operational efficiency. "At Rs 1,189 crore, growing 31 per cent YoY (year-on-year), the company reported its highest ever and 19th consecutive quarter of PAT growth on the back of strong operational performance and execution excellence across all its businesses of generation, transmission & distribution, and renewables," Tata Power said in a statement. According to the statement, these businesses contributed 84 per cent of the PAT (net profit) in Q1FY25, compared to 72 per cent in the same period in FY24. The statement showed that the consolidated net profit before exceptional items was Rs 906 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2023. The company's revenue rose 12% YoY to a record high of Rs 16,810 cr (from Rs 15,003 cr in Q1 FY24), and EBITDA grew 11% to Rs 3,350 cr in the reported quarter (from Rs 3,005 cr in Q1 FY24).

### Banks write off loans worth Rs 9.90 L cr in last 5 years

As per the RBI guidelines and policy approved by banks' boards, NPAs, including those in respect of which provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance-sheet of the bank concerned by way of write-off, he said. "Banks evaluate/consider the impact of write-offs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance-sheet, avail tax benefit and optimise capital, in accordance with the said guidelines and policies of the respective boards," he said in a reply to a question asked by Congress member Randeep Singh Surjewala. Banks have written off loans worth Rs 9.90 lakh crore in the last five financial years, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. During 2023-24, banks loan write off was at Rs 1.70 lakh crore, as against Rs 2.08 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. Write-off was highest at Rs 2.34 lakh crore during 2019-20, which came down to Rs 2.02 lakh crore in the following year and to Rs 1.74 lakh crore in 2021-22.



The decision of the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on Thursday

### MONETARY POLICY

## Will it be a status quo on interest rate?

### RBI starts three-day deliberations

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel started its three-day deliberations for the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectations of no change in benchmark interest rate in view of concerns on inflation and economic growth remaining steady.

The decision of the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on Thursday.

The MPC may also refrain from rate cut as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated interest rate of 6.5 per cent (repo rate), said experts.

Retail inflation based on consumer price index (CPI) increased to a four-month high of 5.08 per cent in June as food items, including vegetables became dearer. The government

will release the data for July later this month.

"RBI is likely to pause as food price movements currently is imparting a positive bias to RBI 4.5 per cent projection...likely prospects of an excess rainfall in August and September could also have a debilitating impact on

**"We expect the RBI MPC to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at the Aug 8 meeting at 6.50 per cent, with a 4:2 vote in favour, retain the monetary policy stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation', sound relatively optimistic on growth, and continue to reiterate the commitment to the 4 per cent headline inflation target," it said**

food prices," said a SBI research report

It also expects the Reserve Bank to continue with its monetary stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

According to a report of Goldman Sachs, the MPC is likely to keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent on August 8.

"We expect the RBI MPC to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at the Aug 8 meeting at 6.50 per cent, with a 4:2 vote

inflation target," it said.

The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has held the rate at same level in its last seven bi-monthly monetary policy reviews. Commenting on the RBI's monetary policy, Radhika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist, DBS Bank, said that in light of the firm domestic growth-inflation mix, the RBI MPC is likely to reiterate its cautious view and retain its 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance.

"Policymakers will monitor developments in the US Fed policy as markets price in a near-certain rate cut in September and US yields having corrected sharply amidst signs of cooling economic activity," Rao added.

## Stock markets stumble after early gains

### Sensex loses 166 pts, Nifty ends below 24,000 mark

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Stock markets surrendered early gains and settled lower in volatile trade on Tuesday with Sensex losing 166 points and Nifty ending below the 24,000 level due to fag-end selling in banking and telecom stocks.

Falling for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled at 78,593.07, down 166.33 points or 0.21 per cent, as 17 of its constituents declined and 13 gained.

The index opened

sharply higher and rallied further 1,092.68 points or 1.38 per cent to a high of 79,852.08 on value-buying by investors driven by a rebound in Japanese and other Asian

stocks.

However, the barometer faltered later and hit a low of 78,496.57 as banking shares came under selling pressure ahead of the RBI policy decision on Thursday. Similarly, the NSE Nifty declined 63.05 points or 0.26 per cent to settle below the 24,000 level at 23,992.55.

## D-Street investors' wealth erodes by Rs 22 L cr in three days of market crash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth eroded by a whopping Rs 22 lakh crore in three days of market slump with the BSE benchmark Sensex tanking 4 per cent.

In three days, the Sensex tumbled 3,274.48 points or 3.99 per cent. The massive correction came after the benchmark index hit its all-time high of 82,129.49 on August 1.

Market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled Rs 22,02,996.27 crore to reach Rs 4,39,59,953.56 crore (US\$

5.24 trillion) in three trading days.

On Monday, the Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at 78,759.40. During the day, it tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86.

The benchmark ended 166.33 points or 0.21 per cent lower at 78,593.07 on Tuesday even after surging 1,092.68 points or 1.38 per cent in intra-day trade.

"Negative sentiment continued to prevail in the US and European equities which

weighed on local markets as indices fell sharply towards the close on profit-taking in banking, telecom and auto shares. After surging over 1,000 points in early trade, markets steadily erased gains and slipped into the red," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

A sharp plunge in Japanese and other global markets on Monday played havoc at the Dalal Street. Also, weak jobs data caused panic among investors of a possible recession in the US market.

## Xiaomi pips Samsung to lead India smartphone market :CMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi has pipped Samsung to lead the India smartphone market with 19.3 per cent volume share in the second quarter of 2024, a report said on Tuesday.

According to CyberMedia Research's India Mobile Handset Market Review Report for April-June, the India smartphone market declined 4 per cent and the overall mobile phone shipment decreased 3 per cent year-on-year.

"Xiaomi (19.3 per cent), Samsung (18.5 per cent) and Vivo (17 per cent)



captured the top three spots in the smartphone leaderboard in the second quarter of 2024, followed by Realme (13 per cent) and OPPO (9 per cent)," the report said.

The CyberMedia Research (CMR) report said Apple captured 5 per cent

share in the smartphone market with Apple iPhone 15 series constituting 58 per cent of its total shipments during the quarter.

In the feature phone segment, Chinese company itel Mobile continued to lead the market with 35



per cent share. Homegrown mobile phone company Lava pipped Nokia to occupy the second spot in the feature segment with 30 per cent share.

Nokia's market share in the feature phone segment declined to 11 per cent from 17 per cent a year ago. According to the report, 5G smartphone shipments' share in the country increased to 79 per cent, marking a notable 56 per cent YoY growth. Vivo led the 5G smartphone market with 21 per cent market share, followed by Samsung at 20 per cent. 5G smartphones in the price band of Rs 10,000-13,000 grew by over 200 per cent YoY.

## ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NORMS Competition Commission seeks Apple's reply

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fair trade watchdog CCI has sought a reply from Apple on the investigation report which has found that the technology major allegedly violated competition norms with respect to its App Store, according to sources.

The sources said the supplementary investigation report

by the regulator's Director General (DG) has concluded that Apple allegedly abused its market dominance in the relevant market, violating various provisions of Section 4 of the competition law.

In December 2021, Competition Commission of India (CCI) ordered a detailed probe against Apple after

prima facie finding that the company abused its market dominance.

The sources said the regulator was not satisfied with the initial report submitted by the DG and sought another probe on specific aspects. The supplementary investigation report was submitted to the CCI in June, they added.

## Bangladesh unrest not likely to impact India's overall trade balance: S&P

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is a well diversified exporter and a blip in its exports to Bangladesh is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on India's overall trade position for the full year, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

Bangladesh is facing its

worst political crisis since independence in 1971, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning amid massive anti-government protests.

Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman on Monday announced that an interim government would be taking over the responsibilities, S&P Global Ratings,

Director, Sovereign and International Public Finance Ratings (Asia-Pacific), Andrew Wood said that S&P expects domestic demand conditions in Bangladesh in this period of time to be weak and probably going to entail less support for exports from other countries, including India, into Bangladesh.

## Banks write off loans worth Rs 9.90 L cr in last 5 years

As per the RBI guidelines and policy approved by banks' boards, NPAs, including those in respect of which provisioning has been made on completion of four years, are removed from the balance-sheet of the bank concerned by way of write-off, he said. "Banks evaluate/consider the impact of write-offs as part of their regular exercise to clean up their balance-sheet, avail tax benefit and optimise capital, in accordance with the said guidelines and policies of the respective boards," he said in a reply to a question asked by Congress member Randeep Singh Surjewala. Banks have written off loans worth Rs 9.90 lakh crore in the last five financial years, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. During 2023-24, banks loan write off was at Rs 1.70 lakh crore, as against Rs 2.08 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. Write-off was highest at Rs 2.34 lakh crore during 2019-20, which came down to Rs 2.02 lakh crore in the following year and to Rs 1.74 lakh crore in 2021-22.



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Vegetable thali's price increased 11 per cent in July compared to June this year due to higher prices of tomatoes on a monthly basis, according to a report.

Non-veg thali also turned costlier by 6 per cent in July compared to June 2024, the Crisil Market Intelligence and Analysis' monthly 'Roti Rice

## Veg thali price rises 11% due to high tomato prices

Rate' report stated.

The cost of veg thali, which comprises roti, vegetables (onions, tomatoes and potatoes), rice, dal, curd and salad was at Rs 32.6 per plate in July 2024 against Rs 29.4 per plate in June 2024, according to the report.

"Compared to the previous month of June, the prices of vegetable thali increased 11 per cent in July, mainly due to a surge in tomato prices, which accounted for 7 per cent of the rise," the report said.

Prices of non-veg thali, which comprises the same ingredients but dal gets replaced by chick-

en, rose by 6 per cent to Rs 61.4 per plate in July 2024 compared to Rs 58 per plate in June this year.

However, on a year-over-year basis, prices of veg thali eased by 4 per cent mainly due to a high base impact of tomato prices. Veg thali prices were Rs 34.1 per plate in July 2023.

In July 2024, tomatoes were priced at Rs 66 per kg, which is lower than the Rs 110 per kg in July 2023. The higher price in 2023 was due to flash floods



in the northern states and pest infestations in Karnataka.

The July 2024 price is higher than June 2024's Rs 42 per kg, due to high temperatures affecting the summer crop in

key states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the report explained.

The report, however, said that onion prices increased by

65 per cent and potato prices by 55 per cent compared to the same period last year, which limited the overall decrease in thali costs to just 4 per cent.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
 NIT No. 16/EE-28/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25 Date: 05-08-2024  
 Name of the Work: Maintenance Works Others -01, Estimate Amount: Rs. 19.80 lakhs. Bid Submission Start date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & Time: 06-08-2024 @ 04.00 PM / 09-08-2024 @ 04.00 PM, Name & Address of Bidder: Executive Engineer, 9154796465. For further details can be sent at e-procurement@http://www.tender.telanganagov.in  
 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No. 28, GHMC.

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
 TENDER NOTICE NO.02/2024-25  
 Sealed tenders are invited from various contractors having experience for the work of (1) Maintenance of Landscaping of Secbad Circle O/c (2) Const for toilet/FOC, sump at Lal CBD ofc (3) Engng spl gngs of 3 nos skilled labour day time & 7 nos skilled labour night time in CBD/Paradise from 5th May to 19th May (4) Providing of Open access metering sys SEC 631 of CMD 510 kVA to GM at W.B.Division-II Picket, Secbad in Paradise sec (5) Shifting of HT n/w at Zinkalwada in Balgr Sec of BWP Div. The details can be viewed from the website of www.tpsouthernpower.org  
 Sd/- Superintending Engineer Operation, Secunderabad Circle



## 'Handling weapons and performing stunts on set posed its own risks'

AARTI SREENATH

**K**irti Kulhari's journey in the film industry has been marked by her fearless approach to selecting roles and her ability to bring depth to her characters. Her portrayal of strong, independent women has earned her critical acclaim and a dedicated fan base.

Known for her diverse performances and bold character portrayals, Kirti has captivated audiences with roles ranging from Anjana in *Four More Shots Please!*, Parminder in *Khichdi: The Movie*, Tanya Sharma in *Shaitaan*, Falak Ali in *Pink*, Flight Lieutenant Seerat Kaur in *Uri: The Surgical Strike*, to Dr. Saira Sabharwal in *Human*.

The skilled actress will be taking up a new challenge by starring in the highly anticipated series *Shekhar Home*, which is currently generating quite a buzz. In the show, she will play the role of Mumtaz, a character that is both intricate and engaging. Reflecting on this new role over a quick chat with *The Pioneer*, Kirti shared, "Playing Mumtaz was a unique experience. The character has its own set of challenges. However, it was quite fun to explore this new dimension. It's different from anything I've done before."

With *Shekhar Home*, she is all set to add another memorable character to her repertoire. As fans eagerly await the release, Kirti's portrayal of Mumtaz is expected to be a highlight, showcasing her versatility and ability to adapt to different genres and roles.

Kulhari describes Mumtaz as a character enveloped in layers of mystery and depth. "Mumtaz is a figure of profound complexity," she explains. "The more I explore her, the more elusive and intricate she becomes. What you initially see is only the surface; there's a rich, multifaceted personality beneath that gradually reveals itself."

When discussing Mumtaz's character, one of the biggest challenges she faced was the demanding physical nature of the role. "The action sequences required precise choreography and a convincing portrayal of intense moments. Handling weapons and performing stunts on set

to embrace a more relaxed approach, which was refreshing." On set, the actress found joy in the little things, particularly in her physical transformation for the role. Through her character, she believes that it has added a layer of mystery. "It was both enjoyable and challenging to embody this trait. Additionally, my short hair, which is my own, received a lot of positive feedback. It was gratifying to see how these elements contributed to the character's look and feel." Working alongside esteemed actors like Kay Kay Menon and Ranvir Shorey also left a significant impression on the *Four More Shots Please!* actor. "Kay Kay's effortless performance and his dedication to his craft were truly inspiring. Meanwhile, Ranvir's ability to improvise and bring intelligence to his role was impressive. I learned a great deal from both of them and thoroughly enjoyed the dynamic and collaborative environment on set."

When choosing projects, Kulhari emphasises the importance of fresh and challenging roles. "I'm always on the lookout for characters that offer something new and different," she explains. "Whether it's a small or large role, the script and the opportunity for creative exploration are key factors for me. Working with a strong director and a talented team is crucial. While financial considerations are important, they're secondary to the creative satisfaction of the role."

In the future, she is enthusiastic about her upcoming projects, including *Hisaab Baraabar*, where she will star alongside Madhavan. As this chat comes to a close, she happily logs off, expressing her excitement: "I'm looking forward to exploring new roles and continuing to challenge myself as an actor. The future holds a lot of promise and I'm eager to see where these new opportunities will lead."

to embrace a more relaxed approach, which was refreshing."

On set, the actress found joy in the little things, particularly in her physical transformation for the role. Through her character, she believes that it has added a layer of mystery. "It was both enjoyable and challenging to embody this trait. Additionally, my short hair, which is my own, received a lot of positive feedback. It was gratifying to see how these elements contributed to the character's look and feel." Working alongside esteemed actors like Kay Kay Menon and Ranvir Shorey also left a significant impression on the *Four More Shots Please!* actor. "Kay Kay's effortless performance and his dedication to his craft were truly inspiring. Meanwhile, Ranvir's ability to improvise and bring intelligence to his role was impressive. I learned a great deal from both of them and thoroughly enjoyed the dynamic and collaborative environment on set."

When choosing projects, Kulhari emphasises the importance of fresh and challenging roles. "I'm always on the lookout for characters that offer something new and different," she explains. "Whether it's a small or large role, the script and the opportunity for creative exploration are key factors for me. Working with a strong director and a talented team is crucial. While financial considerations are important, they're secondary to the creative satisfaction of the role."

In the future, she is enthusiastic about her upcoming projects, including *Hisaab Baraabar*, where she will star alongside Madhavan. As this chat comes to a close, she happily logs off, expressing her excitement: "I'm looking forward to exploring new roles and continuing to challenge myself as an actor. The future holds a lot of promise and I'm eager to see where these new opportunities will lead."



## Navigating path of pharmaceutical science careers

**P**harmaceutical science is a thriving, dynamic sector that includes the study, creation and regulation of pharmaceuticals and healthcare treatments. There is a wide range of job opportunities in pharmaceutical science for those committed to improving healthcare and promoting advances in medical treatment. Let us have a look at different career pathways in pharmaceutical science, what these career pathways entail, and the potential for growth with each.

### Pharma Research and Development (R&D)

**Role and responsibilities:** All things are possible through R&D activities, which are crucial to the creation and progress of new medications. From investigations and data interpretation to the development of new drugs, research and development scientists are at the forefront of new drug development and use cutting-edge techniques to develop high-quality new pharmaceuticals, often in collaboration with other researchers or scientists.

### Potential careers:

- **Medicinal Chemist:** highly involved in the process of designing and synthesizing novel pharmaceutical compounds.
  - **Pharmacologist:** interested in studying how drugs have an impact on biological systems.
  - **Clinical Research Scientist:** works on clinical trials to study the safety and effectiveness of new medications.
- Growth potential:** The requirements for new and creative treatment options ensure that R&D routes will remain interested in hiring (they will always be on the lookout for people with that kind of orientation to hiring practices). Career progression can lead to similar situations, like moving from a R&D Staff Scientist to Research and Development Manager, or it could mean moving from a Research and Development Scientist to a Research and Development Scientist, or even just stopping progress, too.

### Regulatory affairs

**Role and responsibilities:** Regulatory affairs specialists must also make certain that they meet all the requirements laid down by the regulatory authorities. They deal with the paperwork such as preparing and submitting the regulatory papers, approval of the products and manage the compliance issues concerning the products during their lifecycle.

### Potential careers:

- **Regulatory Affairs Specialist:** Has overall responsibility for preparing regulatory documents, and the coordination of regulatory affairs with the various agencies.
  - **Compliance Officer:** It oversees that all the company practices are in line with the stipulated laws.
  - **Quality Assurance Manager:** Supervise quality assurance programs in order to enhance the quality of products that are manufactured in the market.
- Growth Potential:** It is stated that due to the complexity of regulations expertise in regulatory affairs is needed. One can further their career to managerial positions, where one is promoted to Regulatory affairs director or vice president of compliance positions.

### Pharma sales and marketing

**Role and responsibilities:** Pharma products are marketed by sales and marketing practitioners to healthcare practitioners, pharmacists and the end-users/consumers. They define an organization's marketing goals, conduct research into markets and consumers, and coordinate the workers responsible for selling products.

### Potential careers:

- **Pharmaceutical Sales Representative:** Advertising in this platform targets the health care providers and the information given on drug indicates the benefits as well as the usage.
- **Marketing Manager:** Formulates and manages the marketing strategies for the drugs and other related products.
- **Product Manager:** Ensures the management of the entire process of creation of a certain product right from

conceptualisation up to its advertisement. **Growth Potential:** Career advancement in sales and marketing can open higher positions for the employees as Sales Director or Marketing Director, Chief Commercial Officer and so on.

**Manufacturing and production**  
**Role and responsibilities:** People in the manufacturing and production sector have the task of producing large quantities of pharma products. They make certain that some important processes in the organization are effective and safe for use and meet the legal requirements.

### Potential careers:

- **Production Supervisor:** Oversees day to day running of the business in the production of pharmaceutical products.
  - **Process Engineer:** Implements change to manufacturing efforts and refines and improves it.
  - **Quality Control Analyst:** Is an assurance that the pharmaceutical products are adequate in quality.
- Growth Potential:** With increasing expansion of multinational and local pharmaceutical company, there is increasing demand for professional manufacturing personnel. Career promotions are possible in the form of a Production Manager or Plant Manager.

### Academia and education

**Role and Responsibilities:** Those employees who work in the field of academic pharmacy execute researches, give classes and supervise learners. All its members are involved in the creation of new pharmaceutical knowledge through research relevant to the production of papers.

### Potential careers:

- **University Professor:** Proponents of pharmaceutical science courses and is involved in research.
  - **Research Scientist:** Engages in academic research in the department of pharmaceutical science.
  - **Educational Coordinator:** Establishes teaching and learning resources for children, college students, graduates, and other people.
- Growth Potential:** There exist chances of getting tenure and other top administrative positions in learning institutions like the Department Chair or the Dean.

### Pharmacovigilance and drug safety

**Role and Responsibilities:** Pharmacovigilance professionals observe and assess the safety of any manageable product that has a pharmaceutical aspect. They gather information on side effects and measures taken to eliminate them and incorporate it into practice.

### Potential Careers:

- **Drug Safety Associate:** Adverse Drug Reaction Monitors and Reports.
  - **Pharmacovigilance Specialist:** Responsible for evaluation, review and monitoring of data concerning safety of drugs and safety regulation compliances.
  - **Risk Management Specialist:** Manages risk including the formulation of strategies for putting into practice risk management measures for pharmaceutical products.
- Growth Potential:** Paying attention to the drug safety serves the purpose that there is active requirement of pharmacovigilance professionals. Promotion can see one become a Pharmacovigilance Manager or Director of Drug Safety.

Pharmaceutical science has a variety of job vacancies for professionals who want to promote the welfare of other people and develop the sphere of medicine. From the aspects of research and development, regulatory, sale and marketing, manufacturing, academic, pharmacovigilance, these professions are essential to deliver new treatment to the market and guarantee the security and efficacy of the treatment. The prospects for beginning a career within pharmaceutical science are bright since the medicinal sector is constantly developing with the newest technology and methodologies.

(The author, Govind Narayan Singh, is the secretary at Gopal Narayan Singh University.)



## REVIEW

# Gyaarah Gyaarah: Mysterious blend of murders, science and thrills

TEJAL SINHA

**K**aran Johar and Guneet Monga have teamed up for *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, a fantasy thriller that aims to blend different genres. The series presents a stimulating question: with the past as a memory, the future as a dream, and the present as a trap, where does that leave us? To find the answer, head towards Zee5 and watch the series. Well, but before that, let's take a glimpse into the world of *Gyaarah Gyaarah* (11:11).

### PLOT

The plot centers on a strange occurrence linking two cops from different time periods via a walkie-talkie that turns on at 11:11 p.m. each night. By aiding one another in solving cases, their lives are changed forever.

While investigating a case from 15 years ago, Yug Arya (played by Raghav Juyal) and Vamika Rawat (Kritika Kamra) uncover a puzzling link to events in the 1990s, heightening the suspense and mystery.

Working collaboratively on resolving every unsolved case, Shaurya Anhtwal (played by Dhairya Karwa) and Yug unknowingly alter the trajectory of history. Vamika is increasingly puzzled by her subordinate's unique perspectives, despite being oblivious to the special connection between Shaurya and Yug. Solving every puzzle brings this odd team closer to the surprising discovery of the officer's vanishing and the core of their unlikely connection. Will they uncover the truth about their mysterious connection as they hurry against time and deal with the outcomes of their decisions, or will the risk of altering their destiny prove too overwhelming?

### HIGHLIGHTS

*Gyaarah Gyaarah* flawlessly combines crime thriller, sci-fi and psychological drama genres, leaving viewers curious about its true nature. It is accurate to state that Raghav Juyal is here to go beyond being simply a funny individual by breaking the ice. His portrayal of Yug in the series has undoubtedly stood out as a notable highlight. Transitioning from a goon in *Kill* to a cop in *Gyaarah Gyaarah*, he has convincingly shown through his character that he



**Written by:** Puja Banerji and Sunjoy Shekhar  
**Directed by:** Umesh Bist  
**Produced by:** Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain  
**Starring:** Raghav Juyal, Kritika Kamra, Dhairya Karwa, Gautami Kapoor, Harsh Chhaya, Purnendu Bhattacharya, Mukti Mohan and Gaurav Sharma, among others  
**Streaming on:** ZEE5  
**Rating:** 3.5/5

is definitely not a *jootae chaatne wala inspector* just as he's seen saying in one of the scenes.

Kritika Kamra, playing the role of Vamika Rawat, is one of those police officers who goes to great lengths to uncover the essential truth that everyone should know. In contrast to her previous roles, she showcases exceptional skill in portraying her character, making her actions and emotions high-

ly relatable. How she copes with her past, which has been brought up repeatedly, or her mother's concerns about her marriage, can evoke the emotions experienced by all women. Without a doubt, Kritika brings her own unique touch to the thriller. Her character defines how women hold key strategic roles in the series, driven by her own reasons and past experiences, guiding her paths within the plot.

Dhairya Karwa, on the other hand, as Shaurya Atwal, has given a fabulous performance, making him remembered for *Gyaarah Gyaarah* now after *Gehraiyaan*. His bond with Raghav on-screen has been so evitable without even sharing a face-to-face screen presence. Talking of Dhairya back, well, one can just not ignore the charm he brings on-screen, hehe!

With each mystery they solve, this unexpected trio gets closer to revealing a shocking truth about the officer's disappearance and the unique bond they share.

The rest of the cast members, who played a significant role in the series, delivered an amazing performance that elevated the characters with their impressive skills.

Well, thanks to the idea of the timeline and walkie-talkie, it keeps you hooked throughout, making it different from your regular crime series. The walkie-talkie certainly plays a major role and gets activated at 11:11 every day for a brief 60 seconds, highlighting the twists of the series.

### DRAWBACKS

The series might appear confusing to those who are not fans of thrillers and crime shows. Certain moments might seem easy to anticipate for audience members skilled at connecting hints, but these are small twines in an overall captivating show.

### TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Every frame is carefully constructed, with the lighting beautifully enhancing the show's mood. The camera work immerses viewers in the essence of Hyderabad, capturing naturalistic shots that enhance the authentic and deep feel. The visual narrative enhances the tension, causing each turn to be tangible. The beginning and ending scenes stand out, surrounding the plot with a visual flair that intensifies the emotional impact and tension of the story.

The heartwarming music at the end beautifully sums up the emotional journey of not just the character but the entire series.

### VERDICT

This thrilling enigma will make audiences question their core beliefs regarding the essence of reality, space and time. Undeniably, *Gyaarah Gyaarah* has created a niche in the entertainment world with its concept and genre, making it a must-watch.



# what's brewing?



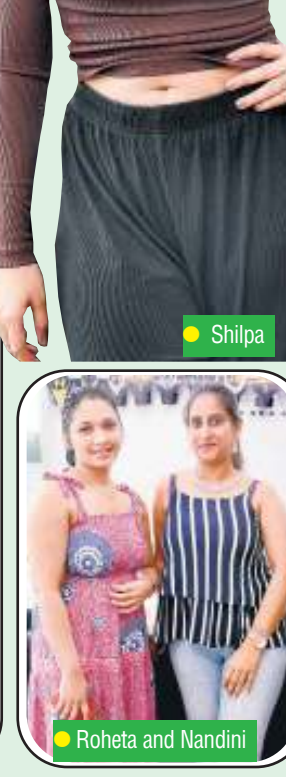
Actresses Malvika Sharma and Preetie Sundar, together with Miss Teen Charm India - 2024 Bipasha Kanksha Grover and Miss India - Telangana - 2023 Urmila Chauhan, registered their presence at the launch of Hilife Exhibition at HICC - Novotel in Hitech City.



Charshima



Hema



Roheta and Nandini



Thakur Veena



Malvika Sharma



The Association of 41 Clubs of India to equip 300 Schools with Digital Smart Class rooms and will benefit over 1.50 lakh students. Srinvasu Saraswatula, President of the association in an interaction with the press said that the "Freedom Through Digital Education" (FIDE) is their long term project to provide students from under privileged backgrounds and rural areas with digital smart class education tools offering the same learning opportunities as students in metro cities.



The Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA), in collaboration with the University of Hyderabad(UoH) under the aegis of the Institute of Eminence (IoE), announced the FABA Innovation Summit, a series of events designed to drive innovation and collaboration in the biotechnology sector, with a special emphasis on fostering partnerships between industry and academia. Prof.P. Reddanna, Executive President of the association, along with Chakravarthi AVPS, Chairman, of the Federation of Pharma Entrepreneurs(FOPE), TG & AP, Advisor International Affairs FABA and other members had attended the event.



## SANDUK

The Ruby Red Silk Georgette Jangla Dupatta from Sanduk Sarees is more than just a garment; it's a statement of grace and tradition. Its luxurious fabric, vibrant colour and intricate detailing make it a perfect choice for celebrating National Handloom Day in style.

**O**n National Handloom Day, let us give a colourful tribute to the rich tapestry of Indian tradition, culture and handicrafts. This day serves as a reminder of the artwork that unites our diverse country, in addition to being a special day for the talented weavers who work with threads to create enchantment. These are some picks for appreciating the fine craftsmanship of handwoven textiles!



## RANGITA

This National Handloom Day, why not celebrate with a touch of ethnic elegance? Rangita, the go-to brand for affordable and stylish Indian wear, offers the perfect ensemble. From stunning sarees to chic kurtis, its diverse collection has something for every taste.

## PARTY



## COLOUR COORDINATE WITH FABINDIA OUTFITS

This National Handloom Day, celebrate with Fabindia's exquisite range of colour-coordinated outfits. It offers a diverse selection that blends traditional craftsmanship with contemporary flair. From vibrant saris and elegant kurtas to intricately embroidered dresses, each piece is meticulously designed to reflect the essence of this occasion.



## NISSHK MAKES WAVES WITH 'LEHER'

Celebrated designer Neeta Lula, whose creations have adorned Bollywood royalty and graced the red carpet on countless occasions, unveils her latest concept saree collection, "Leher"—a love letter to the saree, reimagined for the modern woman.



Photos by- SV Charly

## LABEL ASHA GAUTAM

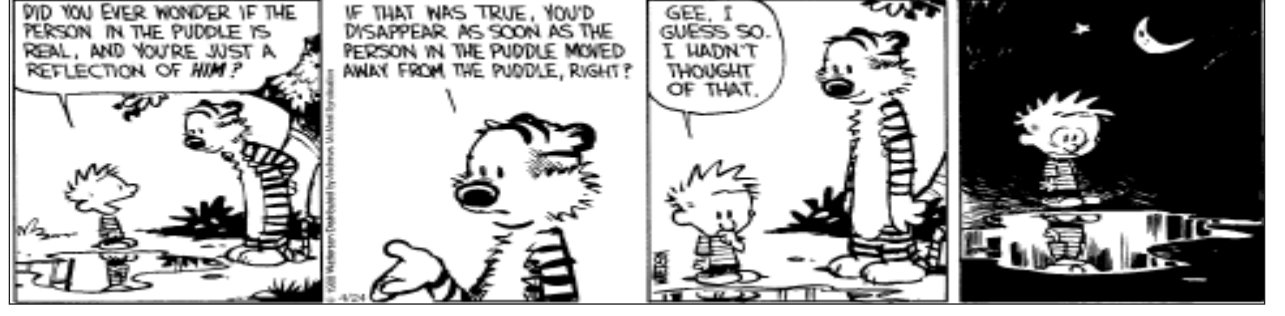
Handloom weaving is not merely a craft; it is a tradition that captures the heart and soul of Indian culture. With their latest collection, Asha Gautam is consistently redefining traditional Indian craftsmanship, blending heritage with innovation to create timeless masterpieces.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



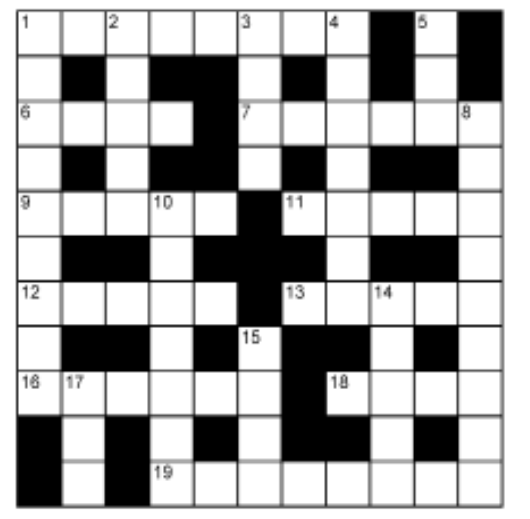
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



## SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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 spring flower
- 2 You might hear this on the radio every hour
- 3 Actors with small parts to play in a film
- 4 A green salad vegetable
- 5 A hot drink
- 6 A way to cook eggs
- 7 Sweeten food with this
- 8 Someone who prepares a sports team for a match
- 9 The planet we live on
- 10 These grow on fingers
- 11 Part of the foot
- 12 A large sea
- 13 A snake's poison
- 14 These grow on fingers
- 15 Part of the foot
- 16 A light, soft type of cake
- 17 A tame animal
- 18 A small round piece of medicine
- 19 Freed from captivity

## DOWN

- 1 Very unsafe
- 2 Not as many
- 3 A sword fight





The *Aasa Kooda* fame Preity Mukhundhan made her breakthrough in the indie music scene with this current trending song. She speaks to *The Pioneer*, discussing her thoughts on the film's success and also speaking of her new big project, *Kannappa*.

## 'Aasa Kooda opened new career opportunities'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Preity Mukhundhan made her breakthrough in the indie music scene with the fantastic song *Aasa Kooda*, which quickly went viral. For those of us watching the Telugu actresses shake a leg, there was only a lighthearted, amorous mood when we listened to the foot-stomping party hit. The song's entire spirit was flawlessly encapsulated in the music video. You guys will agree to this, we're positive!

Here's our latest exclusive interview with the danseuse from the highly visible viral music video. "The contagious energy and memorable beats of *Aasa Kooda* truly resonated with everyone," Preity hints. "I think the music video's attention to detail attracted viewers and helped it become a viral hit. I saw an opportunity to demonstrate my dancing abilities because I've studied both classical and western dance forms." When asked about her initial thoughts upon witnessing the song's success, she clarified, saying, "I was contacted by the *Aasa Kooda* team and was captivated by their concept and illustration for the song right away. Witnessing its triumph was incredibly gratifying and a tribute to the diligent efforts of all those engaged." Yes, indeed, it is undoubtedly sweeping the internet as we speak.

You could question, what more? Yes, folks, her Instagram following is skyrocketing! She said of her newfound fame, "Watching my Instagram following grow has been an exciting journey. It has

given me the opportunity to network with well-wishers and open new career opportunities, both of which have been immensely fulfilling. I will always be appreciative of the affection that I have received from *Aasa Kooda*." Not only that, but she had an amazing time working with Sai Abhyankar, who sang the song and the whole crew. The *Star* fame felt that they put their love and imagination into every part of *Aasa Kooda*, which is why it became such a success.

But now for the stunning announcement: Preity will now feature in the eagerly awaited movie *Kannappa*, which features a cast of stars from across India. She shared anecdotes, like "It's truly a privilege to share screen space with such accomplished actors," to understand what it was like to work with industry titans like Prabhas, Akshay Kumar, Mohan Lal, Kajal Aggarwal and Vishnu Manchu. "Every day spent on set is educational and full of inspirational tales and camaraderie that enhance my experience working on *Kannappa*. Character portrayal in mythological stories necessitates a deep comprehension of the cultural setting. I was intrigued by the intricate storytelling and was thrilled to have the chance to play such a complex character." While filming in a variety of New Zealand settings was incredibly difficult for the actress, it was also an amazing experience. The challenging weather and intricate action scenes put her to the test on a mental and physical level. All in all, *Kannappa* has been an adventure as well as a test of her perseverance and resolve.

## Siddu Jonnalagadda's *Telusu Kada* regular shoot begins

Star Boy Siddu Jonnalagadda, who is basking in the glory of the blockbuster success of *Tillu Square*, embarks on his next project, *Telusu Kada*. This film marks the directorial debut of renowned stylist Neeraja Kona, who has crafted a script tailored to Siddu's newfound stardom. Produced by People Media Factory, known for its high production standards, *Telusu Kada*'s regular shoot commenced on Tuesday.

The initial schedule is a crucial 30-day stretch, featuring both talkie-talk sequences and musical numbers. Raashi Khanna joined the shoot on day one, alongside Siddu. The film also features Srinidhi Shetty as the other leading lady, with Viva Harsha playing a significant role. The meticulous pre-production hints at the film's grand production standards, with Siddu Jonnalagadda undergoing a stylish transformation for his role.

TG Vishwa Prasad is producing the film on a substantial budget. The project boasts a team of well-regarded technicians: Thaman S is composing the music, Gnana Shekar Baba is handling cinematography, National Award-winning editor Naveen Nooli is on board and Avinash Kolla, a prominent production designer, is contributing to the film. Costume design is managed by Sheetal Sharma.



### SREE VISHNU ONBOARDS HERO HEEROINE

In a highly anticipated announcement, it has been revealed that Sree Vishnu will star opposite Divya Khosla in the upcoming Telugu film *Hero Heeroine*. The film, which is set to begin filming in early October, promises to bring a fresh and engaging narrative to the Telugu film industry. Prema Arora, known for her impactful work in cinema, is producing this ambitious project. Her involvement adds significant buzz to the film, suggesting that *Hero Heeroine* will be a noteworthy addition to the industry.

The film boasts a remarkable ensemble cast that includes acclaimed actors such as Esha Deol, Soni Razdan, Paresh Rawal, Ishita Chauhan, Tusshar Kapoor and Priyanka Chahar Chaudhary. With such a diverse and talented lineup, the film is expected to offer a rich and dynamic cinematic experience. As the filming is set to commence in early October, anticipation is building among fans and industry watchers alike. The combination of a strong cast and experienced production team indicates that *Hero Heeroine* could become a significant hit, generating considerable excitement in the Telugu film community.



### Niharika Konidela expresses pride in launching 15 new artists!

The pre-release event of Niharika Konidela's production, *Committee Kurrollu*, was a vibrant affair filled with anticipation and the promise of a fun-filled movie experience. The event saw the presence of Mega Prince Varun Tej, Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej, Adivi Sesh and Venky Atluri, who all expressed their excitement for the film. The *Committee Kurrollu* theatrical release is set to be a grand spectacle, meticulously planned by popular distributor Vamsi Nandipati, ensuring a memorable cinematic experience for audiences.

In a video message, Megastar Chiranjeevi praised Niharika's commitment to producing quality films and expressed confidence in the movie's success. He highlighted the fresh concept, the charming setting of Godavari, and the strong performance of the newcomers. He also lauded the director's talent and Anudeep's melodious music.

Varun Tej, meanwhile, shared his experience watching the film, reminis-

cing about his own close friendships and how the movie resonated with him on a personal level. He praised the film's heartwarming story, Anudeep's memorable songs, and the impeccable work of the entire crew. He also emphasised the importance of hard work and discipline for aspiring artists.

Niharika Konidela, the producer, expressed her gratitude to the guests for their support and highlighted the collaborative spirit of the entire team. She stressed the importance of providing opportunities to fresh talent and expressed her pride in launching the careers of 15 new artists.

With its engaging story, talented cast and experienced crew, *Committee Kurrollu* promises to be a refreshing and entertaining experience. The pre-release event generated immense excitement and ensured that the film is on everyone's radar. With a release date set for August 9th, audiences are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to enjoy this fun-filled and promising film.



### Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen's #VS13 announced

Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen, known for his exciting filmography, has announced his 13th project. The film, tentatively titled *#VS13*, will be produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri of SLV Cinemas, renowned for delivering the massive blockbuster *Dasara*. This film, marked *Production No. 8* on the banner, will be made on a high budget with impressive production standards. Written and directed by debutant Sreedhar Ganta, *#VS13* promises to be a distinctive political action drama set against a village backdrop. In a bent system, Vishwak Sen, as an IPS officer, refuses to break and instead marches to straighten the path. The makers have released a pre-look poster showcasing Vishwak in a tense scene as he makes his entrance as a typical IPS officer. This poster has already generated considerable interest in the film.

With a compelling tagline, *Every Action Fires a Reaction*, *#VS13* will feature a blend of well-known actors and top-class technicians. The cinematography will be handled by Kishore Kumar of Thangalane fame, while the music will be composed by Ajaneesh Loknath, known for his work on *Kantara*. Further details about this eagerly anticipated project will be unveiled in due course.

### Mr Bachchan's trailer to bring in more in-depth look



The much-anticipated film *Mr Bachchan* offers a rich blend of all facets of commercial filmmaking. As the film's shoot concludes and the August 15th release date approaches, the promotional effort has been pushed up to increase excitement and expectation. A new romance poster with Ravi Teja and Bhagyashri Borse is an important part of the promotional plan. The poster depicts an intimate scene between the leads, with Bhagyashri sitting on Ravi Teja's lap and Ravi Teja's face veiled while kissing her. This love poster is designed to attract the viewer and generate excitement ahead of the trailer's release.

The trailer, which will be released on August 7th, is designed to provide viewers with a better understanding of the film's plot, which combines love and action components. While the trailer hinted at these characteristics, the trailer is expected to provide a more in-depth look at the tale, highlighting the film's rich period setting and the relationship between the characters.

TG Vishwa Prasad is producing the film on a huge scale under the People Media Factory banner. Ayanka Bose oversaw the cinematography and Mickey J Meyer scored the music.

Brahma Kadali created the production design and Ujwal Kulkarni handled the editing.

### Dhanush to enter the Avengers world

Dhanush is marking the enormous triumph of his film *Raayan*, which is his second directorial venture. It has set numerous new records in terms of box office performance. Following that, he will appear in the *Ilayaraja* biopic, with additional projects such as *Kubera* lined up.

According to the latest updates, it is possible that Dhanush could have a part in the highly anticipated *Avengers: Doomsday* film directed by the Russo Brothers. Even though Indian fans are excited, the news has not been confirmed yet. If there is a brief appearance by him, the likelihood of the information leaking before the release is lower, but there is a good possibility that he will have a significant role.

Being featured in an *Avengers* movie could serve as a significant milestone in his professional journey. Before this, Farhan Akhtar worked with Marvel on *Ms. Marvel* and portrayed the character of Waleed. However, no Indian actor has been cast in any *Avengers* film to date. Dhanush has previously starred in the action thriller *The Gray Man* that was also helmed by the Russo Brothers. He gained global acclaim through the film and was referred to as 'sexy Tamil buddy' by Ryan Gosling. It seems like now is the time to introduce the star in *Avengers: Doomsday*.



# INDIA BATTERS IN FOCUS AGAINST LANKA

## To avoid 1st series loss to SL in 27 years

AP ■ COLOMBO

The onus will be on Indian batters, particularly the talismanic Virat Kohli, to follow the path laid down by skipper Rohit Sharma and tactfully counter the spin challenge in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday to avoid their first series defeat to Sri Lanka in 27 years.

It's certainly not the start Gautam Gambhir, a stickler for victories, would want in his first ODI assignment as the team's head coach.

India's previous bilateral ODI series defeat against the Islanders came in 1997. The Arjuna Ranatunga-led Lankans then inflicted a 0-3 hammering on Sachin Tendulkar and his men.

Since then, India and Sri Lanka have played 11 bilateral ODI rubbers home and away, with the 'Men in Blue' emerging on the right side of the result in all of them.

India will not be able to win the current three-match series after succumbing to the hosts by 32 runs in the second ODI, and conceding a tie in the first game.

This position of discomfort is brought upon the team by the batsmen, who seemed to have been plagued by indecisiveness on a RPSC pitch that offered plenty of



turn to the spinners. Curiously, none reflected that brittleness more than star batter Kohli. He has made 38 runs in two matches, but more than the volume of runs, the manner of his dismissals evoked

greater concern. Kohli looked subdued in the first match and of six-wicket man Jeffrey Vandersay in the next, before eventually getting consumed by them. He looked a far cry from the

dominant batsman who once cracked four hundreds at this very same venue. Perhaps, Kohli should direct his mind to happier times than allowing it to be fettered by the demons of the present.

A flowing Kohli is imperative for India's healthy run in the middle overs, be it while chasing or setting a target. But then his turmoil is a true reflection of the struggle that has gripped the Indian

batting unit. In Shivam Dube, India have a designated spin-basher, but the left-hander could not even pick a regulation leg-break by Vandersay in the second one-dayer, getting trapped in front of the wicket.

Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul too have lorded over spinners in the past, but here their feet and wrists have been unresponsive against the Lankan slow bowlers. They seemed to be going through a temporary memory loss as to how to rotate strike, the most effective weapon to keep spinners in check on tracks such as the ones at the Premadasa.

They just need to watch the batting of Rohit to find a remedy - not so much in his approach but more in the confidence and planning behind his knocks.

There is no need to gild the lily while describing Rohit's batting, still his taming of the Lankan bowlers - pace and spin alike - has been exceptional.

Often a 44-ball 64 would contain a few chancy shots, but Rohit's strokes were so well-calculated that they hardly appeared risky. Can his colleagues take a cue?

management might look at the position of Dube, despite a 24-ball 25 in the first match.

Under the existing conditions, Riyan Parag's spin, either off-spin or leg-spin, might come handier than the honest medium pace of Dube, and the former is an equally good hard-hitter.

From their part, the Indian bowlers too should improve their effort in the business end as they failed to apply finishing touches to Lanka after reducing them to 142 for six and 136 for six.

**TEAMS (FROM)**  
**INDIA:** Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.  
**SRI LANKA:** Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Akila Dananjaya, Mohamed Shiraz, Maheesh Theekshana, Asitha Fernando, Eshan Malinga, Jeffrey Vandersay.

## Allman wins second straight Olympic title in discus throw

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

Sam Kendrick appreciates the Olympics again. Valarie Allman never stopped.

It's just the healing power that medals have to mend and reinforce feelings.

In a short span Monday night, Allman won her second straight Olympic title in the discus throw, while Kendrick captured silver in a pole vault competition that featured Sweden's Armand "Mondo" Duplantis breaking his own world record.

The medals from Allman and Kendrick, 31, gave the U.S. 11 so far in the meet, including three golds.

Three years ago in Tokyo, Kendrick didn't get the chance to compete. He was placed in isolation because of a positive COVID-19 test and didn't feel supported by Olympic officials.

It led to some pretty hard feelings - feelings that had the Mississippi native wondering if he even wanted to compete in Paris. His love-loathe relationship is back on path to love after he earned a silver medal.

It pairs with the bronze he captured at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

"I was definitely bitter," Kendrick said. "I wasn't going to come to Paris until it was proven to me that it was going to be great and shining into the future."

"It's tough, being turned away from. All of a sudden you're sick, and every doctor throws you to the wolves, and all of a sudden you're stuck in isolation when Team USA is supposed to love you."



discus training. It had become her sole focus in and out of the global pandemic.

"I think I might be the only person in the world that probably had too much discus in their life," Allman joked. "When you want to be as good as you can at something, you slowly start making sacrifices, and you don't realize that it's happening."

To scale back, she bought a house and hung out with friends.

"Such basic things," Allman said. "When I went out to perform, I said that no matter how it played out, I'm so grateful that I get to do what I love. No matter if I get a medal, whatever color it is, if I don't get a medal, this is going to be a night that I'm proud of the fight that I showed. I think there was something freeing in that."

Early on, Allman showed some jitters by fouling on her first attempt.

"I felt the weight of like, Holy crap, this is the Olympics," Allman explained. "It took me a minute to find my groove."

She went 68.74 meters (225-6) on her second throw and 69.50 (228-0) on her fourth. It was enough to beat Feng Bin of China and Sandra Elkasevic of Croatia.

"Pressure is becoming my friend," Allman said. "I think it's one of those things I've learned can bring out the best in you if you embrace it."

"To walk into the ring having one attempt left and knowing I'd already won, it was hard fighting back tears."

It took some soul-searching for him to arrive in Paris for another Olympics.

"Rather than run away from it like I really wanted to, you've got to come back," Kendrick said. "You've got to face that lion."

Kendrick went up against a pole-vaulting beast in Duplantis, the 24-year-old from Louisiana who competes for his mother's native Sweden. Kendrick watched the journey up close of Duplantis blossoming into the world's best. It culminated Monday with Duplantis clearing 6.25 meters (20 feet, 6 inches) to defend his gold medal.

"His story is written in the stars, for sure," said Kendrick, who cleared 5.95 meters (19-6 1/4) to hold off Emmanouil Karalis of Greece. "But I think mine will have a tapestry hanging on my wall one day worthy of reading."

Same with Allman's tale. After winning in Tokyo, the 29-year-old who competed for Stanford realized she needed to dial back on the

## American entries cut in half in Paris Olympic beach volleyball tournament

AP ■ PARIS

On the Champ de Mars, where the first mayor of Paris was sent to the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, the American beach volleyball squad got cut in half.

Two U.S. Teams fell on the sand at Eiffel Tower Stadium on Monday, with Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss losing to Canada in the women's round of 16 a few hours after Chase Budinger and Miles Evans lost to Norway in the men's.

Only Miles Partain and Andy Benesh advanced on the day, joining Kelly Cheng and Sara Hughes in the elite eight.

"Definitely a little heartbroken," said Nuss, who along with her former LSU teammate formed the No. 2 team in the world rankings.

"We came in wanting to bring home gold back to the United States. That's been our goal for the past four years. So to go out in the round of 16 is obviously an earlier exit than we would have liked."

Brandie Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes beat Nuss and Kloth 21-19, 21-18, leaving the country that has won four of the last five women's gold medals with just one team in the bracket.

Wilkerson isn't just a giant killer in Olympic beach volleyball: She's an American giant killer. She also eliminated the U.S. Pair of Cheng and Sarah Sponcil in the first round of the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games.

"That's what she's good at doing," Humana-Paredes said with a laugh.

"But honestly," Wilkerson



said, "they're an amazing team. And it's a whole new tournament. It's a whole new Games, whole new atmosphere. We're all different skill levels from what I was even, four years ago."

"We knew we were going to play this team at some point. They're one of the best teams in the world. We thought it would be later in the tournament, because we both deserve to have a shot at those medals. But when we're put in this situation, we were ready to respond."

In other men's matches on Monday, Qatar beat Chile in straight sets, setting up a quarterfinal matchup with Partain and Benesh. Spain beat Poland, keeping six-time Olympian Pablo Herrera alive in his quest for his first medal since he won silver in Athens, 20 years ago.

On the women's side, Latvia beat Germany, Spain beat the Netherlands and Brazil beat Japan.

Budinger, a former NBA player, and Evans lost in straight sets to Norway, the defending Olympic champions, on Monday afternoon. To start off the night session, first-time Olympians Benesh and Partain knocked out four-time Olympian Paolo Nicolai and his partner, Samuele Cottafava, 21-19, 21-18.

"I am very in awe of how long they've been playing at such a high level. It's definitely difficult to keep pushing your body after you're at such a level of excellence. So I'm really inspired by those guys," said Partain, who at 22 is the youngest person ever to represent the United States in Olympic beach volleyball.

"It's cool that beach volleyball is a lifelong sport that you can play at a really high level till how old they are - and even past," he said. "So I'm really glad to be a part of the sport that can do that encourages that and it's part of its, kind of aura."

Already at Paris, five-time Olympian and Rio de Janeiro gold medalist Laura Ludwig of Germany has been eliminated, and the 42-year-old Herrera has said he will retire.

The defending men's gold medalists from Norway are 27 and 28 and the top-ranked team from Sweden features a pair of 22-year-olds.

Nicolai said he hasn't made a decision on whether to go for a fifth Olympics. He would be 40 for Los Angeles in 2028.

"I'm 36, and I have to be sure that if I started a new Olympic journey, that I'm ready to do it," he said. "Because I know how difficult it is to be focused for four more years."

So, is it a young person's sport?

"I hope so, because that means that we have a great future," Nicolai said. "The Norwegians, Swedish, they are the top two in the rankings. And they are really young. So that's great because they are full of energy. And so maybe after this tournament we can do something more for our sport because we deserve it."

"In all the two weeks, the crowd was always full and always crazy for the beach volleyball," he said. "That's the moment for us, for our sport to grow."

## Karthik joins Paarl Royals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik was on Tuesday signed by Paarl Royals for the third season of the SA20, making him the first Indian cricketer to participate in the South African league, starting on January 9.

Karthik, 39, retired from all forms of cricket in June this year and since then he has been roped in as a mentor-coach by IPL side Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

"I have so many fond memories of playing in and visiting South Africa, and when this opportunity came about, I couldn't say no because of how special it would be to come back to playing competitive cricket and win this incredible competition with the Royals," said Karthik, who has played 180 matches for India across all three formats.

His last competitive T20 outing was for RCB in the IPL 2024, for whom he made 326 runs in 14 matches at a strike-rate of 187.36.

Karthik's last match in India colours was against Bangladesh during the T20 World Cup in Australia in 2022.

"I am delighted to be joining the Paarl Royals team which oozes a lot of experience, quality and potential. I am certainly looking forward to joining the group and contributing to what should be an exciting season," Karthik, who was roped in as the league ambassador a day earlier, said.

## Spain beat Morocco to reach its second straight Olympics final in men's soccer

AP ■ MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

Juanlu Sanchez came off the bench to fire Spain to a record-equaling fifth Olympic men's soccer final.

Sanchez struck in the 85th minute at Stade de Marseille to seal a 2-1 win over Morocco and set up a final against France at the Paris Games.

"The moment passed so fast that I didn't even realize it, but then when you realized that you scored the goal that puts your team in the final, well, I'm really happy," Sanchez said.

Morocco led 1-0 at halftime after the tournament's leading scorer, Soufiane Rahimi, converted a penalty in the 37th.

Spain evened the score in the 65th when Fermin Lopez showed quick feet in the box and hit a left-footed shot low in the bottom corner. The Barcelona midfielder then provided the assist that set up

Sanchez to sweep his winning goal into the far corner.

"I think that my goal changed a bit the match, and I think it was a great match for the whole team and we deserved it," Lopez said. "And here we are."

Spain, which won gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, lost to Brazil in the final at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

It will get the chance to make up for that and add to what has already been a successful year after the men's senior team won the European Championship last month.

"It's basically a World Cup for the under 23s," Spain coach Santi Denia said about playing for the gold medal on Friday at Parc des Princes in Paris.

For Morocco, it was another painful run at a semifinal of a major tournament. It will face Egypt for the bronze medal on Thursday in Nantes. Egypt lost to



France 3-1 hours after Morocco's defeat.

Morocco became the first Arab and African nation to advance to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2022 - eventually taking fourth place.

"We were really motivated today to play in the final. What has happened has happened," Morocco coach Tarik Sektioui said. "And now we must be focused on the next game. There is a medal to be won."

That's not nothing for us. It's very important for us that we return to Morocco from this tournament with a medal. Playing in front of a fervent crowd, largely comprised of Morocco supporters, it threatened another upset at these Games after already beating Argentina in the group stage.

Rahimi had scored five goals going into the game and took his total to six when he coolly fired down the middle to beat Spain

goalkeeper Arnau Tenas from the spot.

Spain came close to leveling in first-half stoppage time when Alex Baena's 25-yard effort was deflected onto the outside of the post.

The equalizer came through Lopez' clinical finish - his fourth goal of the tournament - and his over-exuberant celebrations earned him a yellow card after kicking the corner flag and breaking it in two.

Morocco had come close to a potential late winner before Sanchez sealed the victory for Spain, which has taken silver on three occasions, with its only gold coming in '92.

Brazil is the only other men's team to have played in five finals at the Olympics, including the past three.

Spain's women's team is also into the semifinals - it faces Brazil on Tuesday, also in Marseille.