

**There is a need not to die but live for the country:**  
**Amit Shah**

**FM WRAPS**  
UP CONSULTATIONS, BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED ON 23RD

**'Music is integral part of Darling's STORYTELLING'**

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
**The pioneer**  
**I made Hyderabad city a centre of the knowledge economy when I was Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh. The Congress and the BRS continued what I started. I congratulate both the parties regarding this. Now, Revanth Reddy is continuing this.**  
**- N. Chandrababu Naidu, AP Chief Minister**

**DON'T MISS...**

**NIMS doc ends life by...**

A 46-year-old doctor working in the state-run Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences allegedly ended her life at her house here, police said. The deceased, also a professor in the Anaesthesia department of the hospital, is suspected to have administered an anaesthesia injection to herself on June 5, they said. After attending duty at the hospital she went to the flat on June 5, but as she was not responding to phone calls her husband, who is also a doctor rushed to the house and found the door locked from inside. He broke open the door...

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**73% Indians read nutritional value...**

As many as 73 per cent Indians prefer to read ingredient lists and nutritional value before purchasing any snack, reveals a new survey, highlighting the majority of Indians' growing inclination towards healthy snacking. Based on a survey of over 6,000 people across India, the Healthy Snacking Report 2024, released on Sunday, aims to examine the ever evolving consumption trends in India. "Seventy three per cent of those surveyed prefer to read labels for ingredient lists and nutritional value before making..."

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**Hindenburg shared Adani report with...**

US short-seller Hindenburg Research had shared an advance copy of its damning report against Adani group with New York-based hedge fund manager Mark Kingdon about two months before publishing it and profited from a deal to share spoils from share price movement, according to market regulator Sebi. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in its 46-page show cause notice to Hindenburg, detailed how the US short seller, the New York hedge fund and a broker tied to...

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**Expecting India to win both CT and...**

T20 World Cup-winning skipper Rohit Sharma will continue to lead India in the ODI and Test formats BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Sunday, exuding confidence that the country will win next year's Champions Trophy and World Test Championship under his captaincy. The 37-year-old Rohit, who became the third Indian captain after legendary Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni to win a global trophy, has announced his retirement from the T20 format. "The next stage is the WTC final and the Champions..."

-SPORTS

**TG's big push to irrigation**

- CM sets deadline for six irrigation projects
- Wants them to be completed in 9 months

NAVEENA GHANATE  
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has decided to speed up the execution of irrigation projects in the next nine months.

As part of this initiative, the Nilwai Project, the Pimpri Project, Palem Vagu, Mathadi Vagu, SRSP Stage 2 and Sadar Matt projects in the Godavari Basin have been prioritised for speedy execution.

The Irrigation Department estimates that approximately Rs 241 crore will be required to complete these projects which will provide water to about 48,000 acres.

The Chief Minister has set a target to complete these projects by March 2025 and has directed officials to create a comprehensive plan to ensure water delivery to Ayacut lands. These projects which were neglected by the BRS government have already had significant funds allocated to them but remain unfinished. The Chief Minister emphasized projects that can deliver irrigation to large areas at low cost.

He gathered detailed information from irrigation engineers regarding the stalled projects in both the Godavari and Krishna basins. The



**The Irrigation Department estimates that approximately Rs 241 crore will be required to complete these projects which will provide water to about 48,000 acres.**

Chief Minister directed officials to focus on distribution systems that deliver water to ayacut lands.

During the last decade, many projects launched by the BRS government were limited to the construction of barrages and pump houses and neglected the main canals and distributaries necessary for supplying water

to farmlands.

The Chief Minister concluded that completing projects with lower costs that can quickly provide water will significantly help farmers. He has instructed officials to prepare estimates for these projects.

This includes the Nilwai Project in Mancherial district, the Pimpri Lift Irrigation Scheme in Nirmal district, the Palem Vagu Project in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, the Mathadi Vagu project in Adilabad district, the SRSP Stage 2 in Warangal, Mahbubabad, Khammam, Jangaon, Suryapet districts and the Sadar Matt Project in Nirmal district.

These projects are expected to substantially improve water availability for farming in these regions.



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is going to Vijayawada on Monday. The CM would attend the 75th birth anniversary celebrations of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Dr YS Rajashekar Reddy.

Revanth is going to Vijayawada as per the invitation of APCC President YS Sharmila. All arrangements have been made for Revanth Reddy's Vijayawada trip.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and others are also



File Photo

going to Vijayawada to attend YSR's birth anniversary celebrations.

The Congress high command had planned to send Revanth to Andhra Pradesh during Lok Sabha elections, however, he did not go to AP due to his tight schedule in Telangana.

The Chief Minister went to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh with his family recently. Now the Chief Minister is going to Vijayawada for party work.

TO VISIT MAHBUBNAGAR ON JULY 9

The date of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's tour to districts has been decided.

The Chief Minister will start his district tours from his district Mahbubnagar on July 9, it is learnt. During his tour, the CM will conduct review meetings on Mahbubnagar district's development with officials. The Chief Minister will focus on irrigation projects, education and healthcare.

**Three unforgettable moments in life happened in the last 3 years: CM**  
**Completes his tenure as TPCC chief**

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said on Sunday that he had three unforgettable moments in his life in the last three years. He said that these moments were taking over as the TPCC president, conducting the Vijaya Bheri Sabha under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and assuming office as the Chief Minister of Telangana. The Chief Minister revealed this through his X account on Sunday on the occasion of completing his tenure as the TPCC

President on July 7. "With today the Telangana Pradesh Congress President... Taking charge... Three years completed. With a lot of faith in me... These responsibilities have been assigned to me... Thanks to Sonia Gandhi and all Congress leaders... Taking over as PCC president... Conducting Vijaya Bheri Sabha... Under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi... With the blessings of the four crores people of Telangana..."

Continued on Page 2

**TDP will regain its lost glory in TG, asserts CBN**

**Says Cong & BRS continued our initiatives**



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that he is confident that the TDP will regain its lost sheen in Telangana where it was born, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu who is also the TDP's President said that he will inject young blood into the Telangana TDP to revive the party. He said that AP and Telangana are like his two eyes for him.

Addressing TTDP cadres and leaders at the NTR Trust Bhavan on Sunday in Hyderabad, Chandrababu said that TDP activists did not leave the party although the TDP was not in power and that only the leaders quit.

**'Telangana tops in per capita income'**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu showered praises on Telangana on Sunday while addressing TDP activists at the NTR Trust Bhavan. He said that Telangana stood first in per capita income and that it has beaten big states like Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. He said that Telangana's per capita income is Rs 3,08,732 while that of Andhra Pradesh is Rs 2,19,518. Chandrababu said that Telangana leaders have a chance to take Telangana to the next level.

**Anger spills onto streets in SI's native village**



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**26 BRS MLAs in touch with BJP but they have to resign: Sanjay**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Twenty-six BRS MLAs are in touch with the BJP but they have to resign their MLA posts to join the BJP and due to this they are hesitating to join the BJP, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said.

He reiterated that there is no possibility of the BJP admitting politicians facing ED and CBI cases.

"Investigations by the ED and the CBI have nothing to do with the BJP. The Modi government has no intention of saving the corrupt. People with ED cases and politicians facing ED and CBI investigations have no

**Congress govt neglecting education system: Harish**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government is neglecting the education system of the state, BRS MLA T. Harish Rao said. He sent an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Sunday regarding this. In his letter, Harish said that problems like shortage of teachers, books, clothes and the delay in pay-

ment of salaries are plaguing the education system. He asked why the Chief Minister is not focusing on the problems of the education department. He expressed concern regarding Congress rule and said that it has become a 'curse' on teachers and students.

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**One more BRS MLA, MLC from Mahbubnagar joining Congress?**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Another BRS MLA and an MLC from the former Mahbubnagar district are getting ready to join the Congress, it is learnt.

Alampur MLA Vijayudu and MLC Challa Venkatrami Reddy are going to quit the BRS soon to join the Congress. They may join the Congress at any moment in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, it is learnt.

It may be recalled that Gadwala MLA Banda Krishna Mohan Reddy joined the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday.

The remaining two leaders - Vijayudu and Challa Venkatrami Reddy - are also following the footsteps of Krishna Mohan Reddy.

**TGPSC releases Group I preliminary results**



P3

He said that there is a proposal to include Illandakunta and Kondagattu temples in the Ramayana Circuit and made it clear that they will include the Venulawada Temple in the Prasadam scheme.

Continued on Page 2

**Tense moments in Old City over TGSPDCL inspection**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mild tension prevailed at Guntalashah Dargah area, Vattepally, in the old city when officials of the TGSPDCL went to conduct inspection on Saturday. According to the officials, a team of TGSPDCL team went to conduct inspection for power theft at Vattepally.

While the officials were performing their duty, locals, along with their leaders gathered there and prevented the officials. At that time an argument occurred between the locals and power department officials. Later, the officials left the area.

"Consumers should use meters and pay bills on time or else we will take action on them. If consumers have any problems, we would solve them. But, it is not correct to attack employees of the electricity department," the official said.

Charminar divisional engineer T Lingaiah said that on Saturday, when the TGSPDCL officials went for an inspection in the Charminar division, Miralam section, Guntalashah Dargah, local residents attacked them.

"Consumers should use meters and pay bills on time or else we will take action on them. If consumers have any problems, we would solve them. But, it is not correct to attack employees of the electricity department," the official said.

The official said that if anyone attacks government employees while they are on duty, a case would be registered against them under Section 221, 132, 121/1 of BNS. "So please do not interrupt the employees while they are performing their duties."

The official said. "If anyone is found to have committed power theft or tampered with the meter, we would file cases against them. So, the consumers should use the proper way and pay bills on time."

However, the official confirmed that they are not linked to Adani group. "They are not linked to the Adani group. They are all employees of the electricity department", Lingaiah added.

**Rath yatra taken out with pomp and grandeur**



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Devotees were seen chanting Jai Jagannath during the deities' divine journey on the chariots on the occasion of Rath Yatra on Sunday. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temples in

**My government is for every one, says Revanth**



the city geared up with a grand procession at their respective temples. The grand chariot of Lord Jagannath, along with Balaram and Subhadra were taken out from several locations, that includes Secunderabad Iskon Temple till Clock Tower, NTR grounds till Jal Vihar amidst the

chanting of Vedic hymns by the priests at the 130-year-old Sri Jagannath temple at Ramgopalpet. The lanes where the yatra went were beautifully decorated with rangoli. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inaugurated the rath yatra.

CM Revanth Reddy said, "Telangana government respects every religion and accorded freedom and opportunities to all religions. The State is flourishing with the prayers of Iskon and the State will prosper. The State government is striving hard to spread the message that human service is ultimate service. Through Iskon prayers, I pray to God to bless the State with peace and harmony and all support would be extended to such good programmes." "Thousands of devotees participated in the celebrations and offered prayers to the deities at the Sri Jagannath temple. Coconuts were broken and special arati was offered to the deities to mark the commencement of the chariot procession.

# Monday Mirchi

## BUREAUCRATS UNDER FIRE AT GHMC MEETING

Kata Amrapali Reddy, the new GHMC Commissioner, may have chosen to break stereotypes by wearing jeans and shirt during her field inspections. But she waded into protocol issues during the proceedings of the recent Greater Hyderabad Municipal Council meeting. Noticing that she was seated while giving her reply to a query, several corporators demanded that she must stand up and respond. Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi then came to her rescue, saying: "She is new to her role and learning". Later, it was made known that Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director Ashok Reddy was 'sick' and hence could not attend the meeting. Taking it with a pinch of salt, the Mayor remarked that for several years water board MDs had not been coming to GHMC meetings, but deputing small-time officials who were unable to resolve various issues. Although Amrapali said that he indeed had viral fever and was not feeling well, the Mayor initially demanded that Ashok Reddy call and apologise to the Council. Later, she relented, and said he need not. Attendance of MD apart, almost everybody has issues with the water board and hopefully Ashok Reddy will get well soon and in his new role take the board's functioning to the next level.

## SHORTCHANGING IPS OFFICERS IN SHORT SUPPLY

It is one thing to talk about shortage of IPS officers and quite another to short-change the ones available. The Telangana government has highlighted at the Central level that there is shortage of IPS officers allocated to the state. However, some of the available officials have been given administrative positions. For instance, N Prakash Reddy is MD of TG Tourism. Prior to him, Ramesh Naidu, also IPS, held it, having been given the post in January transfers. A V Ranganath has been posted as Commissioner of Enforcement Vigilance and Disaster Management. For newbies, recently Chief Minister Revanth Reddy broached to Union Home Minister Amit Shah the necessity of reviewing the IPS cadre every five years and urged the Minister to conduct a review specifically for Telangana, as the last such exercise was done in 2016. At the time of state bifurcation, Telangana was allocated 61 IPS posts, which are now insufficient given the new state's growing requirements. The Chief Minister has requested an additional 29 IPS posts for Telangana.

## THE LORD'S WILL OR POLITICAL CHOICE?

The position of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Executive Officer comes wrapped with a lot of sentiments for aspirants as well as those who reach a step closer to the threshold of the Lord. No wonder, KS Sreenivas Raju, despite his concrete ele-

vation as Advisor to TG government, is apparently unhappy over not becoming TTD EO. Exactly five years ago, he was removed as TTD JEO - a post in which he had served for almost eight years. He then took blessings of the Lord on the premises of the temple and publicly expressed his dissatisfaction at not becoming EO. Reflectively he expressed his gut feeling that it was not in his control and apologised to his followers. That was in 2019, when Sreenivas Raju wielded political clout under the TDP regime. However, he thanked Telangana Chief Minister for giving him Advisor post. For starters, AP cadre retired IAS officer KS Sreenivas Raju has been appointed as Advisor to Government of Telangana (Infrastructure & Projects). He will advise and facilitate the conception and execution of key infrastructure projects and crucial CSR Projects. As for his wistful look at TTD EO position, the whispers in the corridors of power are that perhaps his appointment comes in the wake of invisible political intervention from Andhra Pradesh.

## AP CS GETS EXTENSION FOR SIX MONTHS

"Annam udikindani cheppataani ki oka methuku chaalu," goes a Telugu proverb. In administration, a month is more than enough for a seasoned politician to assess the competence of a babu who steps in as a quick replacement. Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad (1987 batch) has got extension of service for another six months, effective from July 1, at the behest of AP Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

Neerabh Kumar Prasad took over as the Chief Secretary of the state on June 8, 2024, replacing KS Jawahar Reddy (1990 batch IAS) who proceeded on leave after meeting the victorious TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu. A little bird said that CS Prasad, apart from being the senior-most officer, was in the good books of Chandrababu Naidu as an honest administrator.

## NEW FACES OVERSHADOW OLD HANDS

At the July 6th meeting of Telugu States' Chief Ministers, called specifically to help resolve bifurcation-related issues, what stood out was the fact that from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh news faces overshadowed old hands at bifurcation issues. New officials were in the front, while old hands were relegated, going by studied observations in official circles. Over the past 10 years, whenever bifurcation-related meetings were held, officials deemed to be 'experts' on contentious issues were on the forefront. But these officials were not seen at the meeting of the two CMs on July 6th. The only consolation the old hands had was that the newcomers had to rely on documents prepared by them to nail cases before the respective CMs.

--Yours truly

# Bifurcation issues can be solved only by Telugu CMs

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

The meeting of Telugu Chief Ministers ended after deciding to constitute two committees to resolve bifurcation issues.

The Centre and both the Telugu states had constituted many committees to resolve bifurcation issues between the Telugu states. But no committee could resolve the problems as in some cases the Telangana government did not accept suggestions and in some other cases the solutions were not accepted by the Andhra Pradesh government.

The Union Home Ministry also appointed some committees to look into this issue, but it was of no use. However, some issues were resolved when both states came to a consensus.



The meeting of the Telugu Chief Ministers has decided to constitute two committees. One will have officials of both the states and the other ministers of both states. But the issue is in the hands of the two Telugu Chief Ministers as rightly pointed out by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti

as a final step both Chief Ministers will take a decision.

The Centre, officials of the Centre and both state governments and even ministers cannot solve bifurcation issues going by past experience. This issue can be resolved only by the Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Except for these two nobody can solve this problem.

It is not easy for the two Chief Ministers also because these issues are very sensitive and linked to the sentiments of the people of both states.

Unless both Chief Ministers adopt a give-and-take policy without hurting the sentiments of the people of both states they will not be able to solve bifurcation issues. Otherwise, the issue of bifurcation will remain unsolved not only for years but for decades.

## Did Makthal MLA Srihari comment against his party?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A message has been doing the rounds on social media in the name of Makthal MLA Vakitri Srihari who is seen saying, "Is it people's rule or Reddy rule? Telangana has gone to whose hands?"

According to the message, Vakitri Srihari lashed out at the Congress for giving preferring only Reddys. Vakitri Srihari said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had announced before the Lok Sabha elections that he would give a Minister post to him as he belonged to the Mudiraj community and that the CM did not fulfil his promise.

It is learnt that Vakitri Srihari levelled these allegations after coming to know that he may not get a Minister post.

# Niranjan encroached Krishna River: Jupally

## Says will take action against Niranjan's corrupt acts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lashing out at former BRS Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy for sending a letter to the opposition leader in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said that Niranjan had encroached into the Krishna River.

He said that the Congress government will investigate and take action against the corruption and irregularities committed by Niranjan. Jupally said that Niranjan has no status to send a letter to Rahul. Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Hall on Sunday, Jupally said that Niranjan should have sent a letter to BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao saying that they lost their posts due to KCR's policies.

He said that KCR engineered defections using money earned through corruption and that KCR made Telangana debt-riddled.



Jupally said that Sonia and Rahul gave up the Prime Minister's post twice although it came to them. Does BJP and BRS leaders have a moral right to speak about Rahul, he said and added that the two parties are sabotaging the objectives of Ambedkar.

Stating that MLAs from other political parties are joining the Congress as the Congress government is implementing its six-guarantees and providing people's rule, Jupally asked whether the BRS had inducted 12 Congress MLAs in 2019 or

not. He said that the leaders of the BRS and the BJP have no right to speak about moral values.

Jupally asked why BRS leaders ridiculed the Constitution if the BJP and BRS leaders respected Ambedkar and the Constitution. BRS and BJP leaders said that the Congress government will fall within two months.

He said the BRS is trying to topple the Congress government by entering into a secret deal with the BJP and that the Congress is trying to protect the Constitution.

# Pharma products fifth largest in exports: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pharmaceutical products are the fifth largest commodity in India's exports and account for around five per cent of exports. Last year India exported pharmaceutical products worth Rs 1.83 lakh crore, Union Minister Kishan Reddy said.

He was addressing the 73rd meeting of the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress held at the Hitec here on Sunday.

He said that 35 per cent of pharma exports, that is, Rs 67,000 crore worth of pharma products were exported to the US. This proves that Indian pharmaceutical products are the best, he said.

During the Corona pandemic, India developed a vaccine and gave it to the world. India supplied around 75 million doses of coronavirus vaccine to 94 countries and two entities of the United Nations, he said.

The 73rd conference will highlight the importance of

the Indian pharma sector to the world. The support of the pharma industry is essential for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat, Kishan said.

"We are currently the fifth largest economy in the world. Our goal is to grow into a 5 trillion dollar economy. Prime Minister Modi aims to make India the third largest economy in the world by 2027 and India is building excellent infrastructure through the PM Gati Shakti project," he said.

Currently, there are 74 operational airports in our country. Budget allocations for transport and highways have increased by 500 per cent after 2014. Our NH network has increased from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1 lakh km, Kishan said.

The Railways is planning to construct nearly 3,000 km of dedicated freight corridors. Our country's electricity demand was 136 GW in 2013-14, and it jumped to 244 GW in 2023, Kishan said.

## 'Integration of POK into India could have been feasible if NDA won 400 plus seats'

PNS ■ AKOLA

Integrating the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) into India and reclaiming the land captured by China in 1962 would have become feasible had the NDA won 400 plus seats in Lok Sabha elections, Union minister and Shiv Sena MP Prataprao Jadhav claimed on Sunday.

organised by the Mahayuti alliance in Akola.

"Despite PoK being an integral part of India, it remains under Pakistan's control. India also aims to reclaim the land captured by China during the 1962 war. Had more than 400 seats been won (by NDA in recent Lok Sabha polls), a two-thirds majority would have been achieved, making these aspirations feasible," the MoS for AYUSH and Public Health and Family Welfare said. The Buldhana MP alleged a false propaganda was spread that the Constitution would be changed if Modi returned to power.

He said the Constitution could not be altered and recalled the 1975 emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi as the real instance of constitutional subversion.

## Three unforgettable...

Continued from page 1

Taking over as Chief Minister...In three years...These three moments...Unforgettable moments of my life. In this state... senior party leaders helped me...For the party to come to power...with the lakhs of workers who have worked hard...Congress won...People's rule was ushered in...Four crore people of Telangana... thank you#Telangana," the CM posted on X

## 26 BRS MLAs...

Continued from page 1

He said that the gathering of opinions of Telangana BJP leaders has not been done so far and that the high command will take care of selecting a new state president and national president

"There is no rule that a new leader cannot be given the presidency. Each state has different conditions. The party leadership will decide on who should be made the president depending on circumstances," Sanjay said.

## KHARGE TO GOVT

# Take nation into confidence on border situation at LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday reiterated his party's demand that the government must take the nation into confidence on the situation at the border with China.

Kharge shared a media report on X which cited satellite images to claim that China's military is digging in for the long haul in the area around Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh, having constructed underground bunkers to store weapons and fuel and hardened shelters for armoured vehicles at a key base in the region.

"How can China build a military base near Pangong Tso on land which was under

Indian occupation until May 2020," Kharge said.

While there was no immediate reaction from the BJP or the Centre on Kharge's post, the ruling party and government have in the past rejected all allegations on the issue by the Congress. India has asserted with China the importance of achieving "complete disengagement" from the remaining areas in eastern Ladakh for restoring peace and tranquillity. In his post, Kharge said, "Even as we enter the fifth year of the 'CLEAN CHIT' given by PM Narendra Modi on Galwan, where our brave soldiers sacrificed their lives, China continues to impinge upon our territorial integrity!"

## STAMPEDE AT HATHRAS 'SATSANG'

# 'Some people opened cans of poisonous substance in crowd'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Self-styled godman Bhole Baba's lawyer AP Singh alleged on Sunday that witnesses told him some people opened cans containing a poisonous substance in the crowd during the July 2 Hathras 'satsang', triggering the stampede.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Singh also alleged a conspiracy, which he attributed to Bhole Baba's "rising popularity", behind the stampede.

The stampede after the 'satsang' of self-styled godman Surajpal alias Narayan Sakar Hari alias Bhole Baba in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras left 121 people, mostly women, dead.

"Witnesses have reached out to me and said there were 15-



speaking about it." Singh claimed the witnesses who witnessed the stampede reached out to him requested anonymity. "We will demand security for them."

So far, nine people, including key accused Devprakash Madhukar, have been arrested in connection with the stampede.

On Saturday, Hathras police said it was also probing into the suspected funding of the congregation by a political party and warned of the "strictest possible" action against it.

Madhukar was the main organiser and fundraiser of the 'satsang' where more than 2.5 lakh people had gathered, much beyond the permitted limit of 80,000, officials had said.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Tritiya: Jul 08 04:59 AM to Jul 09 06:09 AM

Nakshatram: Pushya: Jul 07 04:48 AM to Jul 08 06:02 AM

Ashlesha: Jul 08 06:02 AM to Jul 09 07:52 AM

Rahukalam: 7:29 AM to 9:06 AM

Yamagandam: 10:43 AM to 12:21 PM

Variyam: 07:49 PM to 09:32 PM

Gulika: 1:58 PM to 3:36 PM

Amritakalam: NONE

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:47 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Temp: 29°

Humidity: 76%

Sunrise: 5:48 AM

Sunset: 6:55 PM

Updated: July 7, 2024 5:00 PM

## Congress govt neglecting...

Continued from page 1

He complained that the Revanth government is neglecting the 'Mana Ooru Mana Badi' programme.

He demanded immediate payment of seven months' pending wages to 54,201 cooks and helpers working for the mid-day meal scheme.

He demanded the immediate release of bills for meals, chicken and eggs

which have been pending for seven months.

Harish demanded that around 9,000 teacher vacancies in primary schools that arose due to the transfer of SGTs should be filled immediately. He asked the admin to keep the promise of supplying free electricity to government schools.

Staff responsible for ensuring sanitation in schools should be appointed immediately, he demand-

ed. Two pairs of clothes should be provided to students instead of just one pair of clothes, he said.

Harish demanded that the government should resume the 'CM's Breakfast' programme to satisfy the hunger of students and that the government must pay the four months pending wages of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Inclusive Education Resource Persons.

## TDP will regain its lost glory...

Continued from page 1

Chandrababu said that he transformed Hyderabad into a centre of the knowledge economy when he was the Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh. He said the Congress and the BRS continued what he had started and that both parties should be congratulated for that.

He said that he took the initiative to solve division issues and that Telangana

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy welcomed it.

"I thank Revanth once again. There is a need for unity among Telugu states. We have to protect the interests of the Telugu language and Telugu. The TDP's only objective is the development of AP and Telangana. Losses will be more if there are disputes between the two states. Problems can be solved if there is an attitude of give and take. There is a Congress

government in Telangana and an NDA government in AP. We will work together for the sake of Telugu although our ideologies are different," he said.

He said that a destructive government came to power in AP in 2019. The loss to AP is more due to YSRCP rule than the state's division, he said, adding that Telangana TDP cadres worked indirectly for the party's victory in AP.

He said the TDP flag will

fly high till Telugus exist and that the TDP came to power by transforming a crisis into an opportunity.

"The protests launched by the TDP activists of Telangana when the YSRCP government kept me in jail are unforgettable. I will not forget the meeting that was conducted at Gachibowli at that time. I felt proud seeing the protests on TV supporting me in Hyderabad," he said.

# Improvement works at 54 junctions in progress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In order to avoid traffic congestion in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, the corporation took up improvement works of 107 junctions. Out of them, 31 works were completed while 54 works are under various stages of execution.

When Seethaphalmandi Corporator Samala Hema asked the GHMC officials about junction improvement works, the corporation officials replied that the land acquisition approvals from Town planning wing of the GHMC and feasibility study are under progress in the junction improvement works.

When Rahmath Nagar Corporator CN Reddy asked about the junction improvement works in his division, the GHMC officials replied that the requisition proposals for acquisition of 61 properties affected under the proposed junction improvement plan at Rahmath Nagar, PJR Statue



Junction have already been filed before the Land Acquisition office.

Later, it was proposed that 11 individual properties which are getting affected in Splay Portion of junction improvement with heavy traffic congestion shall be taken up priority out of 61 properties.

As soon as the award enquiry is conducted, the award will be passed based on the documents filed by the affected owners by awarding

compensation.

Meanwhile, the GHMC is experiencing a shortage of sanitation labour. While replying to Champapet corporator Vanga Madhusudhan, the GHMC officials said that the insufficient labour is due to retirement, long absence and death of sanitation workers.

The GHMC sent a proposal to fill the posts of permanent sanitation workers. To fill the permanent vacancies

of sweepers after retirement, the GHMC should follow a GO, which states that after retirement, the post should be replaced on compassionate grounds.

The GHMC officials replied, "With regards to the recruitment mechanism to fill the permanent vacancies of sweepers after retirement, as per the Andhra Pradesh (Regulation of Appointment to Public Services and Rationalisation of staff pattern and pay structure) Act, 1994, under Act 2 of 1994, there is a ban on recruitment of permanent vacancies which effects from November 25, 1993. According to the government orders, the GHMC is filling the vacancies on compassionate grounds only."

The corporation officials said that proposals were submitted to the government with a permission to fill the posts of 1,050 workers due to gaps of retired class IV employees with the outsourcing sanitation workers.

## Owaisi reacts to scribes booked under BNS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaaddin Owaisi on Sunday reiterated his opposition to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) after five journalists were booked under the new criminal law for reporting a lynching incident from Uttar Pradesh.

It is to be noted that the incident took place a few days ago in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli. A Muslim vendor identified as Firoz Qureshi was lynched by a mob. The Shamli police booked the scribes under Sections 196 and 353 of the BNS 2023.

Reacting to the FIR, Owaisi took to X and said, "This is why I had opposed the new criminal laws in Lok Sabha. They are meant to be 'misused' against those who speak the truth."

# Golconda Bonalu celebrations begin with great splendour

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad witnessed the Bonalu festival with great splendour on Sunday at Golconda fort. Bonalu celebrations began during the Ashadam month and will continue till August 4.

The celebrations began in the early hours on Sunday, where the procession featuring the 'Thottelu', 'Phalaram bandi' and 'Bonam', commenced from Langar Houz and proceeded towards Golconda fort. Once the procession reached Sri Jagadamba Mahankali temple which is located within the fort, the statue was installed, where it will remain till the end of 'Ashadam'.

The inaugural ceremony was led by Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad, Endowments Minister Konda Sureka, Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Collector Anudeep Durishetty, and other officials. Following the inauguration, they presented a 'silk saree' to Goddess Mahankali.

Devoites draped in colorful saris with tumeric bonam pots on their heads, along with the dance of potherajulu



made the festival colourful. Potharaju is considered as the brother of the Hindu Goddess Mahakali and takes on the role of protecting women carrying bonam.

The Telangana government along with Hyderabad Bonalu Utsav Committee members made all kinds of arrangements for the devotees. Following the rituals, goats and chicken were sacrificed.

Srinivas, a member of Bonalu Utsav Committee, said, "Bonalu is one of the important festivals in Telangana. During this celebration, women offer rice made with jaggery, neem sticks, moong dal and other ingredients in a pot and offer

it to Goddess Mahankali. Moreover, the festival spreads a message of healthy style of cooking in a pot to the people. Earlier, during the combined Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Bonalu was not given much importance, but with the separation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh, the festival gained much significance."

Sarswati, a devotee from Malakpet said, "This is the third time that I took part in Golconda Bonalu celebrations. This year, the arrangements made by the government and Utsav members such as drinking water facilities, toilets, health checkups and medical facilities are good."

## Cyber Bureau books YouTubers over child abuse video

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Bureau on Sunday booked a group of YouTubers for their reaction on a video depicting child abuse.

The accused were booked after actor Sai Dharam Tej raised concerns over leud remarks being passed on a minor girl who was being abused by a man.

The YouTubers, from Andhra Pradesh resorted to distasteful comments on the girl while reacting to the video.

Responding to the actor, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy assured strict action against the accused.

The Telangana Women's Safety Wing took to X and said, "A case has already been registered @TGCyberBureau & we're actively investigating it. We're also constantly in contact with our counterparts in @APPOLICE100 for their cooperation in the matter.

Strict action will be taken against the accused. @revanth\_anumula @TelanganaDGP."

"This is beyond gruesome, disgusting and scary. Monsters like these go unnoticed on the very much utilised social platform doing child abuse in the disguise of so-called Fun & Dank. Child Safety is the need of the hour. I sincerely request Chief Minister of Telangana @revanth\_anumula & Deputy CM @Bhatti\_Malluu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh @ncbn & Deputy CM @PawanKalyan & @naralokesh to take necessary action to curb horrific acts like this in the future."

Responding to the post, Revanth Reddy said, "Thank you for bringing to our notice this issue @IamSaiDharamTej. Child safety is utmost priority for our government. Will look into this incident and take appropriate action."

## Hyderabad man loses Rs 12 lakh in FedEx fraud

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In yet another incident of Fedex fraud, a man from Hyderabad was duped of Rs 12 lakh after sharing Aadhaar card details with cyber fraudsters.

The victim received a call from a person impersonating an executive agent of FedEx. The victim was told that his Aadhaar card was used to courier diabetic pills and 50 gms of MDMA from Mumbai to Saudi Arabia.

The victim received another call; the scammer pretended to be an officer of the Mumbai Cyber crime branch and threatened the latter. In a video call via Skype, the impersonator forced the victim to transfer Rs 12 lakh in order to 'verify his Aadhaar details'.

A case has been registered with the Hyderabad Cyber Crime cell and further investigation is underway.

## Traffic curbs ahead of Balkampet Yellamma fete

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad traffic police announced restrictions at Balkampet ahead of the Balkampet Yellamma Kalyanam at Yellamma Pochamma Devasthanam. The traffic restrictions will be in force from Monday to Wednesday.

Traffic from Greenlands, Satyam Theatre and going towards Fatehnagar will be diverted at SR Nagar T-Junction towards SR Nagar Community Hall - Abilasha

Towers - BK Guda X Road - towards Sriram Nagar X road - Sanath Nagar /Fateh Nagar Road.

Commuters moving from Fatehnagar flyover and proceeding towards Balkampet will not be allowed and diverted at New Bridge towards Katta Mysamma temple, Begumpet. Similarly, traffic coming from Greenlands - Bakul Apartments - Food World will not be allowed towards Balkampet and will be diverted at Food World X roads towards Sonabai temple

- Satyam Theatre - Maithrivanam / SR Nagar T Junction.

Traffic from Begumpet, Katta Mysamma temple and going towards Balkampet will be diverted towards Greenlands - Matha temple - Satyam Theatre - SR Nagar T Junction left turn to SR Nagar Community Hall.

All the bylanes and link roads from SR Nagar T-Junction to Fateh Nagar will remain closed. The traffic police requested the citizens to cooperate.

## NIMS doc ends life by administering anaesthesia

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 46-year-old doctor working in the state-run Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences allegedly ended her life at her house here, police said.

The deceased, also a professor in the Anaesthesia department of the hospital, is suspected to have administered anaesthesia injection to herself on June 5, they said.

After attending duty at the hospital she went to the flat on June 5, but as she was not responding to phone calls her husband, who is also a doctor rushed to the house and found the door locked from inside. He broke open the door with help from neighbours and found his wife in an uncon-

**The deceased, also a professor in the Anaesthesia department of the hospital, is suspected to have administered anaesthesia injection to herself on June 5**

scious state, a police official at Begumpet police station said on Sunday.

She was rushed to a hospital where she was declared

brought dead, the official added. The reason for her resorting to the extreme step is under investigation, the official said. A case was registered

## TGPSC releases Group I preliminary results

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on Sunday released the preliminary results for the Group I exam, which was conducted on June 9. On the basis of the Preliminary Test, 31,382 candidates have been selected for the mains examination for 563 vacancies.

Out of a total of 4.03 lakh candidates who have applied for Group-I services, only 3.02 lakh candidates have appeared for the preliminary exam. The TGPSC said that the number of candidates to be admitted to the main examination would be 50 times the total number of vacancies (1:50) available in each Multi-Zone.

The personalised Scanned Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) answer sheets of the candidates were made avail-

able in the candidates individual logins from June 24. After receiving objections online on the provisional key, the final key has been prepared by the subject experts committee and the final key has been placed in the login of the candidates on July 7.

The TGPSC said that the preliminary key along with the master question paper was made available in the candidate's login on June 13 and objections if any on the preliminary key were invited from the candidates online from June 13 to 17. The Group - I Main Examination will be held from October 21 to 27. Candidates can download their hall tickets one week before the exams. After the results were declared, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy took to social media platform X and congratulated the selected candidates.

## Drunk & drive: 168 offenders arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) apprehended 168 people for drunk driving on Saturday. The police enforced a campaign against drunk driving, across several areas of Cyberabad.

On Sunday, the Cyberabad Police mentioned that a total of 134 two-wheelers, 14 three-wheelers, 19 four-wheelers, and one heavy vehicle driver were caught. Police said that 26 offenders were caught with blood alcohol con-

centrations (BAC) ranging between 200 mg/100 ml and 550 mg/100 ml. All those caught will be produced before the court.

The police warned that if anybody indulges in driving under the influence of alcohol and cause accidents killing people, such persons will be arrested and sent to jail under Section 105 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) for which maximum punishment is 10 years of jail and with fine.

# Annual Run for Rocks conducted in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Society to Save Rocks and Hyderabad Runners conducted the annual Run for Rocks on Sunday, starting from the scenic rockscape of Ghaar-e-Mubarak. About 125 runners participated enthusiastically, preparing for the upcoming NMDC Hyderabad Marathon. They ran distances of 5 km, 10 km, 20 km and 28 km.

According to the society, the run is aimed at highlighting the unique rocky outcrops of Telangana and their importance for both physical fitness and ecological balance.

The Run for Rocks was flagged off by 12-year-old Avani Yerragunta, an eager and upcoming rock climber. A student of class eight at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Jubilee Hills, Avani has made significant strides in bouldering. Last year, she represented the South Zone and



Society to Save Rocks and Hyderabad Runners conducted the annual Run for Rocks on Sunday

secured the 6th position among the top 18 athletes in the country.

As per the Society to Save Rocks Committee, the rock sites around the twin cities offer opportunities for cross-training and are used by sports trainers and defence personnel. A simple walk on the rocks provides essential physical exercise and a healthy dose of VitaminD. The only

NGO dedicated to rock conservation, has been working for over two decades. Regular rock walks are held every third Sunday of the month to help citizens appreciate the role of rocks in maintaining a healthy environment and providing vital green spaces in the fast-expanding city. The society also conducts awareness programmes for educational institutions and corporations.

## Seethakka inaugurates Vanamahotsavam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising the need to care for every sapling planted, Minister of Women and Child Welfare Seethakka inaugurated the Vanamahotsavam programme on Sunday at Jakaram Social Welfare Gurukula School in Mulugu district.

Seethakka, along with District Collector Divakara, Additional Collector Dr P Srijia, and DFO Jadhav Rahul Kishan, planted saplings to mark the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Seethakka highlighted the importance of making chil-

dren aware of environmental balance and greenery from a young age. She stressed the need for accountability in all government programmes and the importance of proper implementation to achieve desired results.

Meanwhile, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) set a target to plant 30 lakh saplings in all its zones as part of the 'Vana Mahotsavam' programme. In the past, because of the plantation in the city, Hyderabad won the 'Tree City Award' at the international level.

## Meal in pills cannot replace traditional food: Nutritionists

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY ■ HYDERABAD

Have you ever come across meal in pills where meals can be taken in pills or tablets form? Ever since health practitioners or medical professionals prescribed patients or common people to consume pills for the proper supply of certain nutrients or vitamins, this unknowingly led to the development and popularity of meal in pills. Nowadays, some people completely shifted from the intake of traditional meals to meal in pills. The demand for meal replacement pills in India appears to be growing, driven by increasing health consciousness and busy lifestyles. Also, food technology took a big leap by innovating 3D meal replacement pills or meal-in-pills to cater to personalised nutrient-rich pills. No matter how far innovation goes, meal-in-pills or meal-replacement pills cannot replace traditional foods fully especially in India.

Mayuri Aavula, a nutritionist and Founder of TruDiet, Hyderabad, said, "Honestly, meal in pills is like our latest AI tool chat GPT. The idea that certain vitamins or nutrients can be effectively delivered through pills or tablets rather



than meals or cooked food has contributed to the development and popularity of meal-in-pills or meal replacement pills. As a nutritionist considering current trends and advancements in food technology, it's unlikely that meal-in-pills will completely replace traditional food meals within the next 10 years, especially in a diverse and culturally rich country like India. Many Indians have strong emotional and social connections to traditional meals, which may not easily be replaced by meal-in-pills. While meal-in-pills can be nutritionally formulated, there may be concerns about long-term health impacts, digestion, and absorption of nutrients compared to whole foods."

She also said that despite having some advantages like nutrient precision, portion control, specialised diets etc, meal in pills have huge side effects or disadvantages, especially when consumed regularly. Regular consumption could lead to nutrient imbalances or deficiencies if essential nutrients are not properly balanced.

Sujatha Stephen, a nutritionist said, "Meal-in-a-pill is not a substitute for a healthy diet and should be used under medical supervision. Moreover, 3D meal replacement pills are a newer concept that uses 3D printing technology to create personalised, nutrient-rich pills. However, the disadvantages of meal in pills are an unnatural eating experience, limited calorie intake, nutrient deficiencies, potential health risks and high cost."

# Office leasing in Hyd increased by 27% YoY

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Office leasing in Hyderabad increased by 27% year-over-year (YoY) in January to June 2024, reaching 4.4 million sq. ft. compared to 3.4 million sq. ft. in the same period last year, according to a report by CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

In April-June 2024, office leasing was dominated by life sciences, research, consulting, and analytics firms. The quarterly absorption stood at 2.3

million sq. ft., while supply was 2.5 million sq. ft. Key sectors driving absorption included life sciences, which are of 27%, research, consulting & analytics absorb 27%, and technology firms absorb 17%.

Notable transactions in the city for the month of April-June 2024 included, Sanofi leasing 300,000 sq. ft. in The Spire - Tower 110, Vishwa Samudra leasing 111,100 sq. ft. in Jyothi Valencia, and Bristol Myers Squibb leasing 110,600

sq. ft. in International Tech Park, Hyderabad (ITPH) - Block A. Most deals were for spaces less than 50,000 sq. ft.

On a pan-India basis, gross office leasing reached 32.8 million sq. ft. in Jan-Jun 2024, a 14% increase YoY. Total supply was 22.1 million sq. ft. during this period. Bengaluru led office space absorption, followed by Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Pune, and Hyderabad.

Key sectors included technology which is of 28%, flexi-

space operators absorbed 16%, BFSI 15%, engineering & manufacturing 9%, and research, consulting & analytics stood at 8%.

Domestic firms led absorption, making up 43% of the market in Jan-Jun 2024.

Quarterly office leasing in April-June 2024 was 18.0 million sq. ft., a 27% increase YoY.

Development completions in April-June 2024 were about 13.2 million sq. ft., with 90% in the non-SEZ segment and over

three-fourths green-certified.

Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, Anshuman Magazine said, Amidst a dynamic landscape, the first half of 2024 witnessed a surge in office space absorption driven by life sciences, tech and research, consulting & analytics firms. Towards the later part of 2024, the demand for quality office spaces is assured to remain strong as portfolios expand and utilisation rates rise.

SUB INSPECTOR'S SUICIDE

# Anger spills onto streets in SI's native village

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A Sub Inspector of Police working in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, who attempted suicide a week ago due to alleged harassment by his colleagues, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Hyderabad in the early hours of Sunday, police said.

Sriramulu Srinu, a Sub Inspector at Aswaraopet Police Station, attempted to end his life in Mahabubabad district on June 30 by consuming herbicide and was shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad where he died while undergoing treatment today, they said.

He belonged to Scheduled Caste and was from Narakkapeta village of Warangal district. A purported video in which the Sub Inspector accused four constables and a Circle Inspector (CI) of Aswaraopet Police Station of harassment was widely circulated on social media on Sunday.



Villagers staging a protest demanding action against those responsible for suicide of Sub Inspector Sriramulu Srinu, at Narakkapet in Warangal district on Sunday

A case was registered earlier against the four constables and the CI based on the complaint lodged by the SI's wife, who had accused them of harassing her husband.

The video seems to have been shot when the SI was undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Meanwhile, a protest was held in Warangal district by some villagers and members of different organisations who raised slogans seeking justice

for the SI and demanded stern action against the accused.

The Sub Inspector's native village, Narakkapet, came under tight security when his body was taken to his residence in the village. The police did not let the leaders to visit the village and pay tributes to him.

The youth in the village staged protest demanding that stern action be taken against those responsible for the Sub Inspector's suicide.

# Komatireddy to lay foundation for trauma centre Korlapahad Toll Plaza

PNS ■ NALGONDA

In an effort to enhance public safety and provide immediate medical assistance to accident victims, Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy will lay a foundation stone for a state-of-the-art trauma care centre at Korlapahad Toll Plaza in the district. The centre is intended to provide emergency medical aid to the critically injured.

The ADP, one of the world's largest provider of business outsourcing and human capital management technology and solutions, proposed the trauma centre. This facility will serve as the first emergency hospital, ensuring that critically injured individuals receive the urgent care they need. The primary purpose of this trauma care center is to

provide immediate and effective medical treatment to accident victims, significantly reducing the time between injury and care. This rapid response can be crucial in saving lives and minimizing the severity of injuries.

Korlapahad toll plaza, strategically located in Nalgonda district, serves as an ideal location for the trauma care center. The area is a critical junction with high traffic flow, making it a vital point for emergency medical services. It will be equipped with the latest medical technology and equipment to handle severe trauma cases.

The establishment of a trauma care center at the Korlapahad toll plaza is a crucial step towards improving emergency medical services in Nalgonda Suryapet highway. About ADP



'PSYCHEDELIC PARTY'

# Cyberabad police, TGANB raid pub, arrest 24 'drug users'

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Twenty-four people, including employees of multinational companies and two DJ operators were apprehended for alleged drug consumption after a pub was raided here, officials said on Sunday.

The arrested persons were identified as Abdulla Ayub, R Shekar Kumar, Mohammed Adnan Bari, Mohammed Ali, Sai Kiran Bagani, Giridhar Manish, Chintham Poojith, Mahesh Chandra, Mohammed Yaseen, Mohammed Rafi Nizami, Sai Pranth, Kandiregula Kiran, Neredumalli Sandeep, Pothuri Vamshi Krishna, Mohammed, Arbaaz, Mirza Asad Ahmed, Mohammed Syed Raza, Pulapally Shiva, Md. Nawazuddin, Ayalomasayajula Sai Gaurang, M. Hari Krishna, K. Madusidam, Anis Mushraf, and Sandeep Sharma. A manhunt has been launched for the club owners Rajesh, Abhinav, Sai Krishna, and Sunny, who are currently absconding.

On credible information, Cyberabad Police, Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau, Prohibition and Excise (State Task Force) teams in a joint operation conducted a raid on the pub on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, and 24 people who tested positive for narcotics drugs were



apprehended, an official release said.

On receiving credible inputs that the pub owners were organising an event by the name "Psychedelic party" which mainly encourages consumers of narcotics and psychotropic drugs, the teams raided the pub, it said. The pub owners are found absconding. On further enquiry, it came to light that the managers of the pub, organiser along with partners intentionally encouraged and allowed the drug consumers to celebrate the "Psychedelic party", it said.

The consumers voluntarily admitted to drug intake, the release said, adding they have collected information about all the nodes in the entire chain.

Utilising newly acquired technical equipment, the TGANB and SOT Cyberabad teams conducted a raid on the pub under the jurisdiction of

Raidurgam Police Station. During the raid, 26 individuals tested positive for narcotic drugs. Among those arrested were DJ operators Sandeep Sharma, who tested positive for ganja and cocaine, and Sai Gaurang, who tested positive for ganja and methamphetamine. Some of the consumers were employees of multinational companies.

New information has surfaced that DJ Gaurav, who played music exceeding 80 decibels, was in contact with the arrested individuals for two days before the event. The police found that drugs were imported from Goa and sold at the party. Customers communicated with DJ Gaurav using code language to procure drugs.

DJ Gaurav is also under investigation for his connections with celebrities in Hyderabad. The arrested reportedly confessed to having taken drugs.

# CPM welcomes two Chief Ministers' meeting

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Former MLAs and CPI-M State secretariat members Julakanti Ranga Reddy on Sunday welcomed the meeting between Chief Ministers of two Telugu States.

Speaking at a press conference at Halia, he urged the government to take a proper decision on Krishna-Godavari water issue, transfer of employees, transfer of power dues to Telangana State, villages merged with AP, expansion of main roads, bridges over rivers and others. He said the two chief ministers should put pressure on the Central government to implement the promis-



CPI-M leader Julakanti Ranga Reddy speaking at a media conference in Nalgonda on Sunday

es incorporated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. He urged the Central government to help the two States resolve the differences and foster friendship between people of two States.

District Secretary Koon Reddy Nagireddy, Chinapaka

Lakshminarayana, District Committee members Kondeti Srinu, Nidamanur Mandal Secretary Kandukuri Kotes, Khammampati Shankar, G o v a r d h a n a m m a , Shankaraiah, Ravi Naik, Dorepalli Malliah, Saidulu and others were present. .

# Bhatti assures govt support to bereaved farmer's family

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday visited the house of farmer Prabhakar, who recently committed suicide, in Prodduturu under Chintakani mandal in Khammam district and consoled the family member.

He assured the farmer's father Veerabhadraiah that the government would support the education of the children. Also, he assured the family members that he would resolve the land dispute as early as possible.

The police beefed up the security on account of the visit of the Deputy Chief Minister to the village.

Collector Muzameel Khan, RDO of Khammam Ganesh, district Congress president P Durga Prasad, Wyra ACP Rehman and others accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister. It may be recalled that farmer Prabhakar, alleging official inaction to punish



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka visiting the bereaved family of farmer Prabhakar, who committed suicide, at Prodduturu in Khammam district

encroachers of his land, allegedly committed suicide by consuming pesticide and recorded the suicide note through a selfie of his mobile phone. The video went viral on the Internet.

The Opposition leaders got ammunition in the form of the video to attack the state government and its farmers' welfare schemes.

His dying declaration went

like this, "In the Congress government, which claimed to be pro-farmer, injustice was done to me. The CM and Deputy CM should render justice to my family." A farmer poured out his agony and committed suicide.

A group of the BRS delegates urged city Police Commissioner to take action against those responsible for the farmer's suicide.

# Public asked to pay electricity bills through TGSPDCL app/portal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The officials of Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) on Sunday stated that consumers should pay their electricity bills through the TGSPDCL portal or app only.

They also stated that from July 1, 2024, payments of electricity bills through UPI third-party apps like PhonePe, GooglePe, and Paytm have been stopped as per the norms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). TGSPDCL has also stopped payments through third-party apps.

Users have to download the TSSPDCL mobile app. Service registration is

required. Enter your unique service code number. (It will be on the electricity bill and enter the mobile number). Enter the OTP and click on the register button. After completing the registration, the bill has to be paid in the app. Click on the pay bill option and complete your details there. Then click on any one of the payment options - Pay with T-Wallet, Billedesk Payment etc. Then pay the bill. Following the payment of the bill, a notification that the payment is complete will be received.

The app also have consumer grievances such as voltage fluctuations, supply grievances, meter burnt, power outage, billing issues etc to tackle issues related to electricity supply.

# Empty liquor bottle, gutka packets found in Yadadri temple washroom

PNS ■ YADADRI

Devotees thronging the Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Yadagirigutta wonder whether some of the temple employees have been coming to the temple after getting tipsy and reporting for work chewing gutka.

Apparently, with the objectionable behaviour of some of the employees, the piousness of the temple is stated to be at stake. In fact, consuming liquor and chewing gutta have been banned in the temple surroundings.

In a latest development, an empty liquor bottle and some empty gutka sachets were found in the washroom atop the temple hill in the queue complex. The devotees have

been alleging that some of the temple staff before joining the duty consumed alcohol and chewed gutka in the bathroom and called them "shameless".

The devotees have been accusing the SPF police personnel of not being vigilant blamed it all on the deficiency of supervision on the part of the temple authorities.

The devotees have been stating they could not evince the response of the temple authorities as the phone call made to temple authorities to lodge a complaint returned the message "switched off." When they tried to seek clarification of the employee concerned, the official remained inaccessible, they lamented.

The devotees have been

demanding the temple authorities to take steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents at least in future. It was atrocious to do such objectionable things atop the Yadadri Hill. Such mean activities would affect the piousness of the temple.

It is pertinent to note here that Yadagirigutta temple is the second most famous pilgrimage center in Telugu states after Tirupati. After rebuilding of the temple by the previous BRS regime, thousands of devotees have been thronging the temple daily. The Yadadri temple authorities have been providing amenities to the devotees on the lines of the Tirumala temple. But the misconduct of the temple employees has been vitiating the pious atmosphere there.

# TGSRTC fails to provide proper transport in RR, Vikarabad dists

PNS RANGAREDDY

A larger number of villages in Ranga Reddy and Vikarabad districts are grappling with lack of public transport, compelling students to walk several kilometers to reach their schools. This situation has raised serious concerns among parents regarding the safety and well-being of their children.

In Ranga Reddy district, many habitations are devoid of RTC bus services. The RTC services serve people only municipalities, mandals, and major panchayats. Consequently, students have no choice but to undertake long walks to attend school. Despite repeated pleas and protests by the villagers, the RTC officials have failed to provide bus services during school

hours. Some students have resorted to using private vehicles like auto-rickshaws. The auto-rickshaws collect around Rs 1000 per student and it has become a financial burden on poor families. Even in villages with bus services, overcrowding forces students to travel by footboard, further endangering their safety.

In Vikarabad district, the situation is equally dire, with 96 villages, including Barkatpally, Rukkumpally, Yabajiguda, Narayanapur, Lakshmi devipally, Rupkhanpet, and many others, lacking RTC bus facilities. Students from these villages are forced to walk 5-6 kilometers to reach their schools. In some cases, autos are used, but this is not a viable solution for all. Despite holding bus passes, students often find them use-



less as buses are not available during school hours. Reduced bus services to remote areas have exacerbated the issue, leaving students and their parents in a state of constant worry until the children return home safely.

In the Parigi segment of Vikarabad district, villages such as Barkatpally, Rukkumpally, Yabajiguda, Narayanapur, and

Lakshmidivipally are particularly affected. In the Vikarabad segment, Erravalli, Pulmaddi, Kamareddiguda, and others face similar challenges. Students from these areas regularly walk long distances or depend on private vehicles, creating a financial strain on families.

In Ranga Reddy district, specific villages like Kummarguda, Venkammaguda, and

Lakshmarauguda in Shabad Mandal are severely affected by the lack of bus services. Students from these villages regularly walk to schools and colleges in Shabad. In Moinabad mandal, Bakaram village, located about 10 km from the Mandal center, faces similar issues, with students either walking or using private vehicles. Shadnagar RTC depot, despite having 86 buses, struggles to meet the demand, particularly on routes to Amanagal, Nawabupeta, and Shabad.

In Ibrahimpatnam RTC depot's jurisdiction, students from Yacharam Mandal's Nanaknagar, Malkeezguda, and Pallochekatanda face delays and walk long distances to Medipalli Zilla Parishad High School. Students from Kurmidda,

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

# 2 killed, 20 hurt as boiler explodes in cement plant

■ CM seeks detailed report of incident

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic industrial accident, two workers lost their lives and 20 others were injured when a boiler exploded at the Ultratech cement factory in Budawada village, Jaggayyapet mandal, NTR district on Sunday.

The explosion occurred suddenly while workers were on duty, resulting in injuries to 20 individuals. Tragically, two of the injured workers, Paritala Arjun and Avula Venkatesh (37), succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

Four of the injured workers are reported to be in critical condition.



The injured were transported to Manipal and Andhra hospitals in Vijayawada, as well as the Government

General Hospital in Jaggayyapet. Some of the injured workers hail from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. NTR District Collector G. Srijana visited the injured in the hospital and consulted with the medical staff, instructing them to provide the best possible treatment.

Minister for Labour Vashamshetti Subash stated that the explosion was due to a technical malfunction in the pre-heater.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was briefed on the incident by officials. He directed that immediate steps be taken to ensure the injured workers receive the best medical care.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

# Pawan calls for special initiatives

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has raised concerns over the worsening environmental and health issues in villages due to increasing solid and liquid wastes. He emphasised the need for special initiatives on waste management, advocating for a scientific approach to tackle the problem.

In a directive issued on Sunday, Pawan Kalyan instructed officers from Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and the Swachh Andhra Corporation to develop an initiative that involves collaboration between voluntary organisations, local communities, and governmental bodies. This initiative is to be



implemented specifically in the Pithapuram and Bhimavaram constituencies with a detailed plan. He stressed the importance of raising public awareness about maintaining cleanliness in villages and educating residents on effective recycling methods

for household waste.

Additionally, he proposed the selection of environmentally conscious individuals as Eco Warriors to actively participate in this programme.

Pawan Kalyan highlighted that the issue of dumping yards is prevalent not only in cities

and towns but also in major panchayats. He recounted his observations of the severe dumping yard problem in Bhimavaram town and noted the adverse effects on neighbouring villages due to unsanitary conditions. He called for the Panchayat Raj and Municipal departments to coordinate closely on waste management and address the issues related to dumping yards. He emphasised the need to cease the practice of dumping garbage along riverbanks, canals, and ponds.

SLRM Project Director C. Srinivasan presented a report on village waste management and proposed organizing public awareness programs to address the issue.

INDIA CORNER

### Kerala culls 310 pigs to contain African Swine Fever outbreak

The Centre on Sunday said around 310 pigs have been culled in Kerala's Thrissur district after an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF). The outbreak was detected in Madakkatharan Panchayath, prompting swift action from the state's Animal Husbandry Department. Rapid Response Teams were deployed to cull and dispose of pigs within a 1 km radius of the epicentre on July 5, the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said in a statement.

This marks the latest incident in the country's ongoing battle with ASF, which first appeared in the northeastern states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in May 2020. Since then, the disease has spread to approximately 24 states and union territories across the country. Further surveillance as per the action plan is to be carried out within a 10 km radius of the epicentre, the ministry said. Despite the outbreak's severity, the government was quick to reassure the public.



### India carries out initial trials of indigenous light tank 'Zorawar'

India has carried out initial trials of an indigenous light tank named 'Zorawar' being developed primarily to enhance the Army's overall combat capabilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, people familiar with the matter said on Saturday. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and L&T Defence are developing the air-transportable 25-tonne tank that has been designed for rapid deployment largely along the frontier with China, they said. The initial internal trials of the tank took place at a facility in Hazira, Gujarat, less than two years after the ambitious project was sanctioned, the people in the know of the matter said. The Indian Army is looking at deploying over 350 light tanks, mostly in the mountainous border areas, they said. The development of 'Zorawar' is being seen to be aimed at countering China's deployment of tanks of the same categories.



### Coastal parts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu warned of sea swells

The coastal areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are likely to experience the 'kallakkadal' phenomenon -- the sudden swell of the seas causing rough waves -- and high tides till 11.30 pm on Monday, according to the weather agency. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on Sunday sounded an alert to fishermen and coastal residents in the area about the possible sea surge. INCOIS, the central agency that issues weather warnings for fishermen in the country, advised people to safely moor their fishing vessels in the harbour. It advised coastal people, living in accident-prone areas, to relocate to safer places in view of possible danger. It also suggested people completely avoid travelling to beaches and venturing into the sea considering the warning, a statement added.



# Expecting a 'very important' visit by PM Narendra Modi

## WEST WATCHING IT WITH 'JEALOUSY': KREMLIN

PNS ■ MOSCOW

Russia is expecting a "very important and full-fledged visit" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Moscow for summit-level talks with President Vladimir Putin, with the Kremlin saying the West was watching the trip with "jealousy".

Prime Minister Modi will be in Moscow from July 8 to 9 at the invitation of President Putin for the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit. It will be Modi's first visit to Russia since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

The two leaders will review the entire range of multifaceted relations between the two countries and exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External



Affairs said in New Delhi on Thursday while announcing the high-level visit starting on Monday.

The programme of Prime Minister Modi in Moscow will be extensive and the two leaders will be able to have informal talks, Peskov said in an interview with Russia's state-run VGTRK television channel on Saturday. "Obviously, the

agenda will be extensive, if not to say overbusy. It will be an official visit, and we hope that the heads will be able to talk in an informal way as well," he said.

Peskov said that Russian-Indian relations are at the level of strategic partnership. He said that there would be both one-on-one talks in the Kremlin and those involving

delegations. "We are expecting a very important and full-fledged visit, which is so crucial for Russian-Indian relations," he was quoted as saying by the official Tass news agency.

Peskov also emphasised that the West is closely and jealously watching Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Russia.

"They are jealous — that means they are closely monitoring it. Their close monitoring means they attach great importance to it. And they are not mistaken, there is something to attach great importance to," Peskov said in response to a question about the jealous attitude of Western politicians towards Modi's visit to Russia, the Tass report said.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022,



### 'Law Commission should draft crucial bills'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar lashed out at him over his 'part-timers' remark on the new criminal laws, Congress leader P Chidambaram on Sunday said drafting of such crucial bills should have been entrusted to the Law Commission and not to a committee whose members served part time.

Chidambaram said in a post on X that the Union home ministry constituted a committee in May 2020 for reforms of criminal laws that had a chairman, convenor and members.

Its composition was changed from time to time but, in the end,

### JAGANNATH RATH YATRA

## Chariot pulling begins in Puri

PNS ■ PURI (ODISHA)

Thousands of people pulled forward giant chariots from the 12th century Jagannath temple in Puri towards Gundicha temple, around 2.5 km away, on Sunday afternoon.

The chariot pulling started around 5.20 pm after Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati visited the chariots of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra with his disciples and the Puri's titular king completed the 'Chhera Pahanra' (chariot sweeping) ritual.

The wooden horses were fitted to the chariots and the servitor pilots guided the devotees to pull the chariots in the right direction.

President Droupadi Murmu performed a 'purkrama' of the three chariots and bowed down before the deities.

The President, Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan symbolically started the mammoth exercise by pulling the ropes connecting the principal Jagannath chariot. Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik also had a 'darshan' of the sibling deities.

Thousands of people



pulled the nearly 45-foot tall wooden chariot of Lord Balabhadra. It will be followed by pulling of chariots of Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath.

Rhythmically beating brass cymbals and hand drums, priests surrounded the gods on the canopied chariots as the procession made its slow way through the main street of the temple town.

The air rentured with 'Jai Jagannath' and 'Haribol' as frenzied devotees tried to get a glimpse of the holy occasion.

Different artist groups performed 'kirtans' (religious songs) and Odissi dance in front of the chariots before the procession started.

Around a million devotees are estimated to have converged on this town for the annual car festival. While

most of the devotees were from Odisha and the neighbouring states, many from abroad also joined in what is considered one of the largest religious processions globally.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi reached in Puri and met Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati.

Majhi said he got the opportunity to meet the Puri seer, who advised him to provide service and justice to the poor and destitute of the state. The Shankaracharya has also advised the CM to take steps for the renovation of the Srikhetra Puri and Govardhan peeth.

Earlier in the day, Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra ascended their respective chariots after the completion of the three-hour-long 'Pahandi' ritual at 2.15 pm.

## INDIA bloc will raise voice in Parl to improve working conditions of loco pilots: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday flagged the plight of loco pilots and asserted that the INDIA bloc will raise its voice in Parliament to improve their rights and working conditions.

Gandhi's remarks on X came as he posted a video of his recent interaction with loco pilots at the New Delhi Railway Station. "In Narendra Modi's government, the train of the life of loco pilots has been completely derailed," the former Congress chief said.

He said loco pilots are forced to work 16 hours a day sitting in cabins boiling with heat. "The people on whom millions of lives depend have no confidence in their own lives. Deprived of even basic facilities like urinals, loco pilots have no limit on working hours and neither do they get leaves. Due to which they are getting physically and mentally broken and are falling ill." Gandhi said in his post in Hindi. In such a situation, making loco pilots drive trains is putting their lives and

that of the passengers at risk, he said.

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will raise its voice in Parliament to improve the rights and working conditions of loco pilots, Gandhi asserted.

"By watching this small discussion, you can also feel their pain," Gandhi said as he shared the video of the interaction.

In the video, the loco pilots complain to Gandhi about lack of rest, no leaves and "inhuman working conditions".

All India Loco Running Staff Association's South Zone president on Saturday had loco drivers handed a memorandum to Gandhi, blaming poor working conditions for recent train accidents.

R Kumaresan, who played a crucial role in organising the interaction between the former Congress president and the loco pilots at the New Delhi Railway Station on Friday, told PTI that they wanted to bring to Gandhi's attention "serious safety issues" faced by drivers and passengers in the Railways.



## There is a need not to die but live for the country: Amit Shah

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said there is a need not to die but live for the country as he lauded the Kadva Patidar community for their role in the development of Gujarat.

He was speaking at an event after inaugurating a hostel complex for students in Ahmedabad in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Shah also inaugurated a hospital in the city during the day. The hostel - Amin PJKP Vidyarthi Bhavan - has been built by the Kadva Patidar community and will accommodate students from all social



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groups, said its officials.

Shah said today there is a need not to die for the country but to live for her. "You may be a good IAS, IPS, CA, doctor, good citizen or housewife,

but you need to work for the country," he said.

The senior BJP leader said the Kadva Patidar community has contributed a lot to the development of Gujarat.

## Stress on increasing green cover to tackle soaring summer heat

PNS ■ INDORE

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Sunday stressed the need to increase green cover to deal with soaring temperatures during summer.

The union environment minister joined the ongoing campaign to plant 51 lakh saplings in Indore.

Speaking on the occasion, Yadav said humans built concrete cities on the earth but destroyed greenery in the race for development.

"This year, we have experienced temperatures soaring to 45 to 50 degrees Celsius in many parts of the country. In the race for develop-

ment, humans have built concrete cities on earth but destroyed the greenery," he said.

The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Environment Day on June 5 is about respecting Mother Earth.

According to officials, the plantation drive in Indore will end on July 14. Yadav planted a sapling at a programme organised at the Border Security Force (BSF) campus in the Bijasan area under the campaign "Apne Indore Ke Liye, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Cabinet Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya.



## Cong govt in K'taka "unnecessarily quarrelling" with Centre: Kumaraswamy

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy has accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in Karnataka of "unnecessarily quarrelling" with the Centre and said that it won't help.

The JD(S) leader, whose party is part of the ruling NDA at the Centre, also said Prime Minister Narendra and the BJP leadership have confidence in him, and that he wants to fulfill their expectations.

"I know this government (in Karnataka is) unnecessarily quarrelling with the Central government. First of all, I request the Karnataka government that -- quarrelling will



not help. Or throwing mud against the Central government will not help. Whatever is the issue, come, discuss with us," Kumaraswamy said.

Speaking to PTI videos, he said, "mutually with good confidence, we can do the work successfully. (Instead) every day (they are) criticising in public, daily they are making statements (against the

Centre)...Unnecessarily criticising the Central government without any fault on part of the Central government. The fault is in your (state govt) court only."

Noting that there are several issues concerning the state and his top priority remains Karnataka, Kumaraswamy, however said that he is not a "selfish man", as he pointed out that, as a Central Minister, the entire country will also need his attention.

"To generate employment for the younger generation is the PM's vision and I have to see about that. Ultimately I want to get some name for the country and the PM. I pray to God to give me the strength to fulfill the PM's vision."

# 73% Indians read nutritional value of snacks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 73 per cent Indians prefer to read ingredient lists and nutritional value before purchasing any snack, reveals a new survey, highlighting the majority of Indians' growing inclination towards healthy snacking.

Based on a survey of over 6,000 people across India, the Healthy Snacking Report 2024, released on Sunday, aims to examine the ever evolving consumption trends in India.

"Seventy three per cent of those surveyed prefer to read labels for ingredient lists and nutritional value before making a purchase. Of this, 93 per cent expressed a desire to transition to healthier options, highlighting a correlation between label reading and con-



Based on a survey of over 6,000 people across India, the Healthy Snacking Report 2024, released on Sunday, aims to examine the ever evolving consumption trends in India

scious choices while pushing for transparency," read the

report.

The report was released against the backdrop of an increasing number of cases regarding food adulteration that have come to the fore, be it in spices, confectionaries or fast-moving goods.

This, according to the report, has triggered a wave of conscious consumption, with shoppers checking food packets for potentially harmful substances.

So, with 9 out of 10 respondents looking to find healthier alternatives to traditional snacks, the report records how nearly 60 per cent of Indians are now opting for "natural, additive-free products with wholesome ingredients like nuts, seeds and whole grains".

Makhanas (foxnuts) and dry fruits have emerged as stars in

the healthy snacking segment, with 67 per cent of Indians reaching out for a bowl of these nutrient powerhouses.

"In a true testament to the growing popularity of makhanas in India, 59 per cent millennials called it their trusted snack, followed by Gen Z (49 per cent) and Gen X (47 per cent), indicating its popularity across people of all ages. Additionally, over 70 per cent revealed that their favourite time to snack was with their evening cup of tea/coffee," it added.

That said, the shift towards healthy snacking comes at a cost, which is why over 58 per cent of those surveyed highlighted "high retail costs" as a barrier to making the switch.

The consumer insights study was conducted by snacking brand Farmley.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Liberals a the helm

With the Labour Party's victory in the UK, India can anticipate a more favourable stance and pro-India policies

After remaining out of power for more than a decade, the Labour Party led by Keir Starmer is back with a landslide victory in the recently held elections in the UK. Prime Minister Modi was among the first to congratulate Prime Minister Keir and both leaders agreed to work towards more vigour for FTA and strengthening the ties between the two countries. Indeed, it is a big shift in UK politics and many policies and initiatives would be at a stark departure from the previous dispensation. This shift holds great significance, given the Labour Party's decisive victory over the Conservatives in the recent general elections. This change in governance marks a new chapter in the UK's domestic and international policy. For countries like India, with deep historical, economic, and diplomatic ties to the UK, this transition could bring about notable changes. The evolving dynamics of UK-India relations under the new Liberal government could influence various sectors, including trade, education, technology, and immigration. The Labour Party's victory signifies a substantial shift in British politics. The Labour Party is known to be liberal, traditionally more progressive, inclusive and believes in sustainability and international cooperation. Their policies are expected to diverge from the Conservative approach, particularly in areas such as climate change, social justice, and economic reform.



Though Conservatives did not touch upon the UK's ties with India there can be a marked shift in the UK's policies in the months to come. The biggest change may come in the form of immigration laws. India has a sizable population in the UK and getting a Visa and residency status is always on the top agenda of the Indian community in the UK and back home. The next area where substantial change could be witnessed is the economic ties between the two countries. The Liberal Party's commitment to free trade and economic partnerships could enhance bilateral trade, potentially leading to a comprehensive UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). It was the first thing that came up when Prime Minister Modi congratulated the new Prime Minister of the UK Keir Starmer. Indeed, for long, The UK and India have had robust trade relationship, with the UK being one of India's significant trading partners. Under the Conservative government, there were ongoing discussions about a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Labour Govt's more enthusiastic approach to global trade could accelerate these negotiations. A more collaborative and open approach to foreign policy may lead to deeper strategic ties, particularly in areas like defence, cybersecurity, and counter-terrorism. Greater involvement in global platforms like the Commonwealth, the United Nations, and climate forums, facilitating joint efforts on issues of mutual interest. Besides, India can look forward to the UK's support for India's aspirations for a greater role in international organisations, including a potential permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

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# Hinduism and the perception of violence



PRAFULL GORADIA

Each religion's cultural and ethical framework is distinct. Dietary habits and historical contexts have influenced perceptions of violence across different religions



To specifically associate violence—as was done on the floor of the Lok Sabha on July 1, 2024—with Hinduism, showed that not all our leaders have had time to intimately know and understand the Indian ethos. This is understandable if one remembers that Indians can be Hindu, Muslim, Christian (duly baptized) and others. An argument between the honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the leader of the opposition reflected the differences, albeit in a rather acrimonious manner. As the Speaker explained, the Hindu goes to the extent of touching an elder's feet and not merely bending. On the other hand, Islam does not permit bending to anyone, except Allah the Merciful. A Christian is different and shakes hands to convey the warmth of his feelings. The scale of violence indulged in also varies from ethos to ethos. Christians are habituated to meat-eating, except on Fridays, when they do not go beyond a piece of fish. The Muslim also likes his meat without restrictions even on Fridays. This dietary preference might have been forced upon these communities because their origins began in the deserts of West Asia, where vegetation was (and continues to be) sparse. Even Europe, where Christianity flourished, could not easily grow crops during the winter. In the process, the world's consumption of animals is an estimated 100 million

killed a year, according to a database prepared by Poore and Nemecek in 2018. The Hindu, for the information of our leadership, largely grew up where vegetation has been plentiful. He could, therefore, choose to be anything from a strict vegetarian or an omnivore. However, he owes his vegetarianism to his belief in the transmigration of the soul, unlike the Christian who believes in a single life until Doomsday when God would send him to either heaven or hell depending on his performance on earth or even in the grave. The Hindu on the other hand believes that when his father, mother, relations, and near and dear ones depart from the world, it is only their bodies that perish; the soul is imperishable and enters new bodies to carry on with its respective new lives gained after rebirth. The Hindu would, therefore, be afraid that if he or she eats meat, it could be the product of the killing of some deceased relation, who might have been reborn as that particular animal or bird that was killed for his culinary pleasure. I too hesitate to eat meat whenever I imagine how I would feel if my progeny were to be killed for the pleasure of someone else's food. Pray, tell me, who is perpetrating more violence, the meat eater or the vegetarian?



THE HINDU WOULD, THEREFORE, BE AFRAID THAT IF HE OR SHE EATS MEAT, IT COULD BE THE PRODUCT OF THE KILLING OF SOME DECEASED RELATION, WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN REBORN AS THAT PARTICULAR ANIMAL OR BIRD THAT WAS KILLED FOR HIS CULINARY PLEASURE

Incidentally, I am a Hindu. The diet or food habits of an individual, if given to the consumption of meat, may also transfer to his social as well as professional conduct and behaviour. This question is well answered by the history of Europe. This continent, throughout its history, has fought 896 recorded wars. Europeans were fighting and killing each other as tribes, much before the Greek and Roman Empires came into existence. The Athens-Sparta wars, the Peloponnesian War, the expansionist wars of the Roman Empire, etc., are part of Europe's history and need not be retold here. But it is Europe's obsession with war and killing from Achilles to Putin (or Zelensky) that needs to be emphasized and reiterated. From sticks to stone hammers, bronze and later iron and steel, armour and edged weapons like the dagger sword and spear, Europe kept developing and improving the tools of killing. The 19th and 20th centuries saw the explosion of technological development and innovations. The age of iron, steel, coal and steam came to the world. Railways steamships, the telegraph and then the radio, automobiles, machine guns, tanks, airplanes and the submarine came into being. All this enabled European

nation-states to muster, equip, arm, transport and command more men than ever before in their history, with deadlier firepower and killing capacity. In the past 75 years alone, the invention of the atomic bomb, guided missile, the internet and cyber warfare have changed war and its dimensions like nothing else has. Our contention that Europe has been the land of war, war and more war is easily proved by the sheer number of human beings who have perished because of European wars. Even if we were to leave aside all its ancient and medieval wars, the two World Wars (together) alone consumed 130 million lives. Even a relatively small power like Italy under its dictator Benito Mussolini was ready to jump into wars of aggrandizement owing to delusions about its armed might. Those delusions occurred as a result of the phenomenon of "armed suasion": for quite some time Italy was believed to be the most formidable air power in Europe. Be that as it may, there is no denying that Europe, a meat-eating continent has been the land of war. To accuse Hindus of violence, therefore, is nothing but a moral travesty. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

### PICTALK



Locals cross a flooded area on a boat, in Balimuk village of Morigaon district

PTI

## The art of listening in a fast-paced world

Prejudices create barriers and divide people; our lives are so frenetic that we lack the time to observe and listen to other voices

We had organised a literature festival a few months back. Almost all the writers spoke about the stories all around us waiting to be put on paper. This set me thinking. If the life of each of us is a palette of stories of different hues, why is it that we do not hear more of these experiences? Does it have something to do with a life that is increasingly running at such a frantic pace that we have no time to observe and listen? Or is it the divides that we carry within us – social, class, caste, age, gender, religion, ideologies, and many more? I have met many people in my life. If I was asked to place them in two distinct categories, I would not hesitate to categorise them as extroverts and introverts. The outspoken are the ones who attract attention. It is the ones shy in expressing sentiments in public, who are a revelation to me. It only needs a nudge for their unexpressed and hence unheard stories to come out. Their life experiences are a myriad of emotions. I remember my first holidays in the mountains.



The adjoining room was occupied by an old couple, who at that time may have been our grandparents' age. One morning, as we sat outside, my parents sipping their tea, the couple also came out. My father asked us to fetch the chairs placed nearby, respecting their old age, and slightly bent backs. Our efforts were brushed aside. "We can still carry our own chairs." Habits inculcated at a young age are difficult to break. I still get up to offer my seat to an older person. My paternal grandfather was hard of hearing. We children had to shout to make him understand. I did not realise that I had started screaming at anybody old, till the time I was told by my maternal

grandmother, "Why do you shout at us. Our hearing is perfectly normal." I now make a conscious effort not to speak loudly to an older person unless asked. My maternal grandfather was paralyzed on one side when he may have been 50. He was extremely slow, but insisted on wearing his clothes without anyone's help, also brushing aside my grandmother's efforts to do so, even if there was a time constraint when going out for a movie show. It is not that only the old want the young to respect their wish to be heard and treated with dignity and respect. I remember a cab driver who only needed a gentle query to tell me that he chose to drive a cab after he retired

to keep himself active and for the opportunity to talk to willing passengers, overriding the objections of his children who were now much better placed than he ever was. Or yet another cab driver, who was bursting to proudly tell anyone willing to listen to him that his daughter had cleared her CA examinations in the first attempt and had been offered a job with one of the Big 4. There are many more who only need a gentle prod to express their unheard stories if only there is someone around to give them time without being judgemental. Their silence is a plea to be encouraged to narrate a life story that many might deem to be common but is no less extraordinary than that of the most successful celebrity. It is also important to be a story-listener! In Bryant H McGill's words, "One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### A STUDY IN CONTRAST

Madam — The recent election results have highlighted a stark contrast between our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the outgoing Prime Minister of the UK, Rishi Sunak. Modi's victory, despite being well-funded and supported by the media, felt hollow as his party, the BJP, suffered a significant setback, losing 63 seats compared to the last Lok Sabha elections. Despite this, Modi remained publicly unshaken and did not express any remorse or responsibility for the disappointing outcome. The BJP's third consecutive term was celebrated as if it were a gold medal, despite being more akin to a silver. In contrast, Rishi Sunak demonstrated remarkable candor and humility following his party's defeat to Labour. He openly acknowledged his responsibility for the loss, saying, "I take responsibility for the loss... I am sorry." This display of accountability and character stands in stark contrast to Modi's approach. As Bill Courtney wisely noted, "The measure of a man's character is not determined by how he handles his wins, but how he handles his failures." By this standard, Rishi Sunak has demonstrated commendable character, and Modi could benefit from following his example by acknowledging the conditional nature of his victory. Avinash Godbole | Dewas

#### SPECULATION OVER GOVT'S STABILITY

Madam — In a significant and serious assertion, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav on Friday predicted the fall of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre by August, anticipating a split among its coalition partners and hinting that elections could be imminent. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP secured 240 seats, falling short of the 272 needed for a majority. Nevertheless, it formed the government with the support of allies such as the Bihar-based Janata Dal (U) and the Andhra Pradesh-based Telugu Desam Party, allowing Narendra Modi to begin his third consecutive term as Prime Minister. Notably, since the inception of

#### Give substantial compensation to victims



The victims of the Hathras tragedy, predominantly from impoverished backgrounds, have lost their loved ones, leaving them in profound grief and despair. They are in dire need of substantial compensation. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, visited their homes and promised generous compensation, which has brought comfort to the bereaved families and gained the goodwill of the community. Such tragic incidents at religious gatherings have repeatedly occurred in the country, causing not only the loss of lives

but also devastating many families. The magnitude of their grief is immeasurable, and the aftermath ripples through entire communities, leaving them to grapple with both emotional and financial burdens. To prevent future occurrences, these gatherings require essential improvements, including the deployment of security forces, police, ambulances, and the installation of CCTV cameras, to manage the situation effectively before any problems arise. The government must take proactive steps to implement stringent safety protocols and infrastructure enhancements to prevent such incidents from happening again. This is not merely a matter of compensation but of ensuring that the lives and well-being of our citizens are protected and that no family has to endure such unimaginable loss in the future. Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Modi's third term, several Opposition leaders have voiced concerns that the government may not endure beyond a few months. Lalu's recent statements have intensified such speculation, suggesting a potential political upheaval. Amidst this, there is a possibility that a strategic maneuver might be underway by Nitish Kumar and N. Chandrababu Naidu to destabilize the Modi government if their demands are not met. Both leaders, known for their political agility, may take drastic steps for their political survival, which could potentially lead to the government's collapse. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### JAILED MPS TAKE OATH

Madam — Jailed MPs Amritpal Singh and Engineer Rashid took their oaths as Lok Sabha members amidst stringent security measures by concerned authorities. Both MPs secured significant victories in their respective constituencies of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, marking a triumph of democracy in regions historically marred by unrest.

Under Article 101(4) of the Constitution, MPs must inform the Speaker in writing if unable to attend House proceedings post-oath, subject to scrutiny by the House Committee on Absence of Members. However, a Supreme Court ruling mandates immediate disqualification if an MP receives a prison sentence of two years or more, overturning prior provisions. The impact of Engineer Rashid's victory is pivotal in Kashmir's upcoming assembly elections, necessitating careful handling by the central government to maintain current peace, especially amidst ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Similarly, Amritpal Singh's electoral success in Punjab underscores the need for sensitive management amid recent incidents potentially affecting communal harmony. It is crucial for the central government to approach Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir with utmost delicacy and maturity in light of these developments. Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN PASSION IS THE CATALYST FOR A FULFILLING LIFE

By prioritising passion, individuals can infuse their lives with purpose and excitement



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

Passion is the powerful force that propels individuals towards their desired objectives, igniting ambition and providing unwavering determination in the face of life's challenges and uncertainties. When someone discovers a pursuit they are truly passionate about, they experience a distinct and unstoppable energy that drives them towards it and motivates them to achieve success. Many individuals find themselves trapped in monotonous routines that weigh them down.

Rise and shine, head to the office, wrap up your tasks, and return to the comfort of your home, only to repeat the routine the following day. Engaging in the same routine day after day can lead to feelings of sadness and discontentment when there is a lack of enthusiasm for one's daily activities. Why bother doing something if it doesn't ignite your passion? I understand that not everyone has the opportunity to pursue their dream career.

Many individuals work tirelessly to establish stability in their lives, with some solely focused on providing for their basic needs. Even in such cases, it is important to prioritise and make time for activities that bring joy and fulfilment. Passion evokes a sense of joy, happiness, and deep satisfaction that emanates from within. Consider my acquaintance, for example. She's immersed in the corporate world, tackling one of those challenging jobs that will provide financial stability but won't ignite her passion. After a long day of work



and on weekends, she dedicates her time to what truly brings her joy: baking.

She radiates enthusiasm as she describes the new recipes she's experimenting with or the joy she feels when she witnesses someone savouring the results of her hard work. It gives her a unique sense of thrill and personal fulfilment that her corporate job fails to deliver. Her unwavering passion keeps her spirits high and provides her with a daily source of motivation, even during the most challenging moments at work.

There's no need to leave your job and venture into uncharted territory abruptly. It's something so small that it can fit into your current routine. Perhaps dedicating a few hours each week to your hobby, taking learning classes, or developing a side hustle could be beneficial. Even though these endeavours may seem modest, they can have a significant impact on your overall health and happiness.

Passion is essential for everyone to lead a fulfilling life, not just a select few. The sense of purpose and the excitement it brings are necessary for keeping our minds and hearts youthful and vibrant. So, if you have a strong passion for something, prioritise and dedicate time to it. You will achieve success by wholeheartedly embracing your pursuits. Indeed, the lengthy voyage can be quite exhausting. The rewards, however, of living a life fueled by passion are immeasurable. Ultimately, it all boils down to passion. Develop it, nourish it, and believe that it will guide you to a happy and prosperous life.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

# Kenyan uproar against IMF-backed Ruto tax bill



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Amid calls for his resignation, Kenyan President Ruto faces mounting pressure to address the root causes of economic instability and social unrest

Kenya's President William Ruto has finally withdrawn the Finance Bill 2024 following widespread protests triggered by 'Bloody Tuesday', when police fatally shot numerous austerity protesters in Nairobi this week. According to media reports, the bill, influenced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), proposed significant tax increases amidst soaring food and fuel prices, high unemployment, and perceived governmental corruption and extravagance. The World Bank and IMF are sending conflicting messages to Kenya regarding taxation. While the World Bank cautions that Kenya's unpredictable tax policies are deterring Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the IMF has praised the government's proposed tax increases in the Finance Bill 2024, suggesting they will significantly expand the tax base.

Last year, the IMF and the World Bank convened their annual joint meeting in Marrakech, marking their return to African soil after nearly five decades. The last occasion these two Bretton Woods institutions convened on African soil was in 1973, during the IMF-World Bank meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. At that time, Kenya's President Jomo Kenyatta (1897-1978) implored the attendees to swiftly address the 'monetary sickness of inflation and instability that has plagued the world.' In recent years, the tragic and grim situation has worsened significantly, with an increase in conflicts reported across the continent. Long-time exploiters like France, along with their alliances, are now confronting significant and formidable challenges. Amid critiques from organisations like Oxfam, who denounced these neo-liberal financial institutions' persistent austerity measures and debt policies, the meeting accentuated the enduring economic challenges facing developing countries. Despite promises of social spending safeguards, exemplified in recent IMF agreements with countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka, critics argue that these measures perpetuate cycles of dependency and inequality. Amidst global protests demanding alternatives to neoliberal orthodoxy, as Vijay Prashad asserted, the meeting in Morocco underscored a deepening disillusionment with the IMF and World Bank's capacity to address the fundamental economic disparities they perpetuate. It is crucial to remember that these financial institutions are neither charitable nor humanitarian; they operate with the primary goal of profit and the consolidation of their political agendas. Kenya serves as yet another glaring example.

During my conversation with Tom Jallo, a journalist working for The Star, a daily newspaper in Kenya, he said, "President Ruto inherited a highly indebted country, and his attempts to curb borrowing with internal solutions have been seen as overly aggressive. Using his parliamentary majority to push through contentious tax bills for two consecutive years, President Ruto now faces mounting public opposition. Despite heavy security measures, the public outcry against these policies erupted in what President Ruto labelled as treasonous acts—a response that fails to acknowledge the genuine patriotism underlying the protests. As Kenyan literature might suggest, when the detachment of President Ruto affects an entire nation, dismissing dissent as criminality falls



short of addressing the root concerns."

However, protests initially aimed at the Finance Bill have evolved into a broader uprising challenging not just Ruto's administration but the entire 60-year-old post-independence establishment supported by US and NATO powers. Millions nationwide, spanning 37 counties and crossing tribal lines, participated in demonstrations led largely by youth demanding rejection of the bill and Ruto's resignation. The protests culminated tragically with reports of 53 deaths and hundreds injured, with 30 fatalities occurring in Githurai and 23 more across Nairobi and other regions, all due to police use of live ammunition as documented by the Police Reforms Working Group.



RECENT EVENTS IN KENYA HAVE WITNESSED SEVERE REPRESSION REMINISCENT OF HISTORICAL ATROCITIES. TUESDAY'S VIOLENCE, WHERE SECURITY FORCES UNDER PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO'S COMMAND FIRED ON PROTESTERS, ECHOES THE BRUTAL 1969 KISUMU MASSACRE

Recent events in Kenya have witnessed severe repression reminiscent of historical atrocities. Tuesday's violence, where security forces under President William Ruto's command fired on protesters, echoes the brutal 1969 Kisumu massacre ordered by President Jomo Kenyatta, highlighting a pattern of state violence against dissent. Ruto's swift shift from threatening violence against protesters to withdrawing the Finance Bill 2024 reflects intense public outcry and tragic losses during demonstrations, initially labelled as treasonous. Despite withdrawing the bill, economic pressures persist.

The proposed austerity measures, influenced by the IMF, aim to tackle fiscal challenges but face widespread opposition due to potential impacts on healthcare, education, and social services. Ruto's manoeuvres to navigate these challenges, including dialogue with youth and stakeholders, stress Kenya's complex political and economic terrain. Opposition led by figures like Raila Odinga, supported by

unions, engages in political manoeuvring amid broader socioeconomic tensions, reflecting ongoing struggles over economic policies and governance.

According to Onyango K'Onyango, a journalist working for one of Kenya's top newspapers, The Nation, he told this writer, "Our Constitution allows for the right to picket and assemble. As one of the most progressive Constitutions in Africa and perhaps the world at large, freedom of expression and association is guaranteed. It was an ill-advised move for the police to use live bullets on peaceful protesters. Whatever happened is unfortunate, but I blame the police for using excessive force and the government for failing to listen to issues raised by our Gen-Z." A chest-thumping government and Parliament is dangerous to a progressive democracy like ours. Arrogance exhibited by pro-government lawmakers and those who surround the president is the cause of all this mayhem. This is the time to embrace a reconciliatory tone, and the president should firmly deal with corruption in his administration. He should order a lifestyle audit and lead by example. The controversial bill should be returned to Parliament accompanied by a memorandum. This is what Kenyans want to hear, not rushing to term their peaceful protest as treasonous and deploying the military."

In Nairobi, escalating tensions between the youth and the government, exacerbated by recent violent incidents, reflect deep-seated bitterness. In my conversation with a freelance journalist, Andrew Mutungwa highlights key grievances: outrage over fatal shootings during protests, President Ruto's divisive portrayal of protesters as criminals undermining their right to assemble peacefully, and a perceived arro-

gance from leadership intensifying feelings of neglect among youth. Mutungwa urges the president to address these issues promptly, calling for action against corruption, criticising wasteful governance practices, and highlighting economic hardships as drivers of widespread discontent and ongoing protests. He warns of potential political instability if grievances are not addressed and acknowledges external influences supporting youth activism, advocating for dialogue and reforms to resolve Kenya's underlying issues. Meanwhile, Erick Gangu, a human rights activist, provides a nuanced perspective on the unfolding events in Kenya. He asserts that the current unrest is primarily an internal affair without external financial or other support, contrary to speculations about foreign influence.

Gangu criticises President Ruto's recent statement as emotionally charged and inappropriate for a figure expected to embody national unity, emphasising that declarations of treason fall under the jurisdiction of the judiciary, not the executive branch. He highlights concerns about pre-demonstration arrests, including doctors and journalists, and condemns these actions as unconstitutional. Despite early attempts in 1993 to establish a dedicated anti-corruption squad within the police, its impact was short-lived as the unit disbanded. The milestone formation of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) in 1997 was cut short by a 2000 High Court ruling deeming its statutory framework unconstitutional, leading to dissolution. Kenya's ongoing struggle against corruption necessitates sustained institutional reforms and public vigilance for effective resolution.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views are personal)

# Gold ETFs: The modern, convenient safe haven for young investors

Gold Exchange-Traded Funds provide gold's stability without the hassles of physical ownership, while offering the flexibility of stocks

Gold has always been a traditional safe haven particularly in uncertain situations of geo-political tensions, financial and economic turmoil. Many generations have taken advantage of investing in the security of gold. However, even this traditional investment has witnessed considerable changes with the advent of financial innovation.

The newer generation can now take benefit of security provided by gold which is more convenient, cost effective and eliminates the hassles of physical ownership by investing in Gold Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs). An ETF is an exchange traded passive fund that tracks any index, or a commodity. In this case, a Gold ETF invests in gold bul-



HIMA BINDU KOTA

lion and tracks the physical gold price. One Gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold and is backed by physical gold of highest purity, making it a dematerialised form of physical gold.

This gives Gold ETFs twin advantage of security of gold investment in combination with flexibility of the stock market, as they are traded on stock exchanges like stocks of any listed companies and can

be traded continuously at market prices. Upon redemption of a Gold ETF, investors receive cash equivalent instead of possession of physical gold.

To take maximum advantage of flexibility and security that a Gold ETF has to offer, it is advisable to take some safeguards to achieve maximum returns. The first lookout for an investor is to choose a Gold ETF with lower expense ratio. Expense ratio is the yearly management fee charged by the fund houses, which is usually a percentage of the fund's assets under management (AUM) and is used by the fund house to cover their administrative, advertising and various other operational costs. A lower expense ratio is significant as it would eat less into the

investors' returns and result in higher net returns for them, maintaining the cost-advantage of Gold ETFs when compared to storage costs and making charges of physical gold. The second precaution for investors is to examine the tracking error.

Tracking error measures how closely the fund mirrors the underlying index or the commodity and how different is its performance from that of the benchmark. A low tracking error signifies how effectively the fund reflects the performance of the underlying asset and a high tracking error indicates a higher deviation. Tracking error is an extremely critical performance metric for investors due to a number of reasons. Firstly, it displays consistency of performance. A



lower tracking error guarantees reliable tracking of the actual price changes of physical gold. Secondly, low tracking error resonates the efficiency of the fund management. This metric can be used by investors to identify the Gold ETFs that have better performance and provide higher returns. Thirdly, lower tracking errors indicate lower costs incurred by the fund managers, thereby leaving higher returns for investors to enjoy.

Having many benefits, one cannot stress enough on the importance of tracking error. It is known that higher expense ratio and management fees can lead to deviation of the performance of Gold ETFs from the underlying assets, i.e., physical gold. In addition, investors should also be aware of the cash holdings of a Gold ETF. Higher cash holdings again lead to deviation in their performances.

Since ETFs are similar to stocks, liquidity is an important metric. Higher the liquidity of a Gold ETF, lower is the performance deviation. Regular rebalancing the portfolios is an important aspect of any fund, and in doing so Gold ETFs incur costs associated with sales/purchase of physical gold. This again contributes

to tracking error. Thirdly, like stocks and commodities, Gold ETFs are subject to market volatility. Since the underlying asset – physical gold – can be volatile due to geo-political conditions, economic and financial factors. Finally, while buying Gold ETFs, one should not forget to factor in the capital gains tax. Long-term capital gains, if held for more than 3 years, are taxed at 20 percent.

The investors, however can take the benefit of indexation. Short-term capital gains as usual are added to income and taxed at applicable tax slab rate. So, it would be prudent to understand the implications of taxation before investing in Gold ETFs. For young and modern investors, investing in Gold ETFs is a modern and

efficient way to invest in gold. For them, Gold ETFs provide a winning combination of traditional security of gold with the benefits of stock market investing. Using an approach of regular and disciplined investing through systematic investment plans (SIPs), young investors can take the advantage of rupee cost averaging and alleviate the impact of market volatility. With varied benefits and much needed flexibility, Gold ETFs can definitely substitute physical gold investment in one's portfolio. Young generation should take advantage of this modern approach to gold investing with a long-term perspective.

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

### DoT invites proposals on 'Quantum Standardisation, Testing Labs'

The Department of Telecom has invited research proposals on 'Quantum Standardisation and Testing Labs' from Indian academic institutions or research and development institutions, an official release said on Sunday. The goal is to drive research and development in quantum technologies, ensuring the interoperability, reliability, and security of quantum communication systems. These labs will serve as innovation hubs, uniting quantum technology developers, testing equipment manufacturers, and academic researchers to explore and harness the full potential of quantum technologies for the benefit of all citizens. "The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for 'Jai Anushandhan', aiming to support research and development in telecom products and technologies that directly enhance the lives of Indian citizens," the release said. It underlines efforts towards making India self-reliant in quantum technologies and setting global benchmarks in this cutting-edge field.



### India's coal import rises 5% to 52 MT in Apr-May

India's coal import rose 5.3 per cent to 52.29 million tonnes (MT) in the first two months of the ongoing fiscal as against the year-ago period. The country's coal import was 49.62 MT in April and May in FY24, according to data compiled by mjunction services ltd -- a B2B e-commerce platform from a joint venture between Tata Steel and SAIL. However, coal import in May dropped marginally to 26.19 MT, from 26.57 MT a year earlier. "Coal imports... were down 1.43 per cent as against 26.57 MT imported in May 2023," it said. According to mjunction MD and CEO Vinaya Varma, the demand for imports is likely to remain subdued in the coming weeks due to the onset of monsoon while the production growth should stay healthy in the domestic market. Also, coking coal prices are expected to move up in the seaborne market due to supply tightness and this may impact buyers' interest in the country.



### Indian Overseas Bank launches upgradation facility on Savings Scheme

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has unveiled a slew of upgradation facilities on savings scheme that offer enhanced features to its customers, a top official has said. The city-headquartered bank said the initiative was in the backdrop of simplifying banking processes by leveraging digital technology providing convenience. To be availed through the bank's website, the higher variants of savings account like 'SB Max' and 'SB HNI' offer a host of enhanced facilities and features, including concessions and waiver of various charges providing more value and flexibility solutions to customers. "We are committed to offering a comprehensive self-service model that enhances our customers' banking experience. By leveraging the latest technology, we aim to simplify banking processes and introduce innovative solutions to enhance banking convenience," the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said in a statement on Sunday.



## India, UK to hold next round of talks on trade agreement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the new government taking charge in Britain, senior officials of India and the UK will hold the next round of talks this month for the proposed free trade agreement to resolve the pending issues and close the negotiations, an official said. The India-UK talks for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) began in January 2022. The 14th round of talks stalled as the two nations stepped into their general election cycles. The official said the two sides are in touch, and the next round would start this month only. Britain's newly-elected Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and said he stood ready to conclude an FTA that worked for both sides. The two leaders agreed to work towards the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial



The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty

India-UK FTA. There are pending issues in both the goods and services sectors. The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT and healthcare in the UK market, besides

market access for several goods at nil customs duty. On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as scotch whiskey, electric vehicles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary

items. Britain is also looking for more opportunities for UK services in Indian markets in segments like telecommunications, legal and financial services (banking and insurance). The two countries are also negotiating a bilateral investment treaty (BIT). There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which include goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights. The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to US\$ 21.34 billion in 2023-24 from 20.36 billion in 2022-23. The Labour Party's election manifesto for the recent polls also committed to clinching the deal. The new Starmer-led government's new Foreign Secretary David Lammy is also on the record saying that he wants to finish the job on the FTA and plans to visit India within the first month of being elected.

### Punjab & Sind Bank plans to open 100 branches

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank plans to open 100 branches across the country in the current financial year as part of the strategy to expand its reach. During the year, the bank also plans to add 100 new ATMs to its network. "With the addition of 100 branches, the total number of branches would reach 1,665 by the end of 2024-25, and similarly, the number of ATMs would touch 1,135," Punjab & Sind Bank Managing Director Swarup Kumar Saha said. The bank will continue to focus on branch expansion, and new branches would come up in areas other than the northern region, he said. Besides, he said, the bank also proposes to expand its reach through the Banking Correspondent (BC) channel.

## FM wraps up consultations, budget to be presented on 23<sup>rd</sup>

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has concluded consultations with various stakeholders, including representatives of industry and social sectors, as part of the budget preparation exercise. Sitharaman will present her seventh Budget on July 23. This would be the first full budget of Modi 3.0 which is going to set the path for Vikshit Bharat (developed India) by 2047. Last month, President Droupadi Murmu, while delivering her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, had said that many historic steps and major economic decisions will be taken in the upcoming budget session. In her first address to the joint sitting of Parliament since the constitution of the 18th Lok Sabha, the President said, "This budget will be an effective document of the government's far-reaching policies and futuristic vision". "Along with major economic and social decisions, many his-



toric steps will also be seen in this budget," she said. The Finance Ministry in a statement said the pre-budget consultations for Union Budget 2024-25 that started from June 19 onward concluded on July 5, 2024. In the course of in-person consultations, more than 120 invitees across 10 stakeholder groups, including experts and representatives from farmer associations and agriculture economists; trade unions; education & health sector; employment & skilling; MSME; trade & services; industry; economists; financial sector & cap-

ital markets; as well as, infrastructure, energy and urban sector, participated in the meetings, it said. These meetings chaired by the Finance Minister witnessed the participation of Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary; Finance Secretary and Secretary Expenditure, T V Somanathan; Economic Affairs Secretary, Ajay Seth, DIPAM Secretary, Tuhin K Pandey, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi and Revenue Secretary, Sanjay Malhotra among others.

## FPIs inject Rs 7,900 cr in equities ; investment surpasses Rs 1 L cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors infused over Rs 7,900 crore in Indian equities in the first week of the month amid a healthy economic and earnings growth momentum. With this, total FPI investment in equities reached Rs 1.16 lakh crore so far this year, data with the depositories showed. Going forward, the Union Budget and Q1 FY25 earnings could determine the sustainability of FPI flows, experts said. According to the data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net inflow of Rs

7,962 crore in equities so far this month (till July 5). This came following an inflow of Rs 26,565 crore in equities in June, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in markets. Before that, FPIs withdrew Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields. Some funds were probably waiting on the sidelines for the election event to be over, Milind Muchhala, Executive Director, Julius Baer India, said.

## FMCG makers expect single-digit revenue growth, margin improvements

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fast-moving consumer goods companies expect single-digit volume growth along with expansion in margins during the April-June quarter of this fiscal, helped by a revival in rural demand and a stable urban market. Listed FMCG companies such as Dabur, Marico and Adani Wilmar in their latest quarterly updates have reported a "gradual improvement" in demand trends in the April-June quarter, which was on the expected lines. Home-grown FMCG maker Dabur expects to register mid to high single-digit growth in its consolidated revenue, support-



ed by mid-single-digit volume growth in the domestic market. Marico said its consolidated revenue grew in high single digits in the June quarter, while the domestic business posted a "modest uptick in underlying volume growth" on a sequen-

tial basis. Adani Wilmar, which sells edible oils and has some play in the food products under Fortune brands, has also reported an overall 13 per cent volume growth in the June quarter.

Its food and FMCG business volumes grew by 23 per cent year-on-year, said Adani Wilmar. About margins, the makers expect expansion on a year-on-year basis helped by factors such as benign commodity prices and cost-saving initiatives. "Commodity prices were stable during the quarter," said Dabur, adding, "Gross margins are likely to witness some expansion on account of rollover price increases and cost-saving initiatives." Marico, which owns brands such as Saffola, Parachute, Hair & Care, Nihar and Livon, among others, also expects gross margin to expand on a year-on-year basis.

## YEIDA withdraws plea at NCLAT against Ace Infracity bid for Three C Homes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has withdrawn its appeal before the appellate insolvency tribunal NCLAT against an NCLT order which approved Ace Infracity's bid for Three C Homes. The development comes after YEIDA accepted the proposal by Ace Infracity Developers to pay for compensation to farmers and requested the NCLAT to withdraw its appeal. Both YEIDA and Ace Infracity were in talks for settlement, while the matter was pending before the National Company Law Appellate

Tribunal (NCLAT). On July 4, 2024, YEIDA gave a proposal to pay for compensation for farmers which Ace Infracity accepted during the hearing before NCLAT. "In view of the acceptance of the proposal by the SRA (Ace Infracity), the appellant (YEIDA) is not to proceed with its appeal subject to compliance of the conditions as indicated in the communication dated July 4, 2024, which has been given to counsel for the SRA," NCLAT said. It further noted: "Recording the aforesaid, we are of the view that no useful purpose shall be served in continuing with the appeals.

## 'Global trends, earnings from TCS, HCLTech to guide markets this week'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets will take cues from global trends and trading activity of foreign investors, while in the latter part of the week the first quarter earnings from IT majors TCS and HCL Technologies would guide investor sentiments, analysts said. Markets may consolidate after the record rally last week, experts added. "On the domestic front, the Q1 earnings season begins this week. Key companies such as TCS and HCL Technologies



will release their earnings on July 11 and 12, 2024, respectively. Additionally, India's Union budget in July is a key event, with hopes pinned on growth-oriented policies and development of

monsoon season, which will also be significant points of interest for investors and traders," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investment Ltd. The US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's testimony is scheduled for July 9, 2024, he added. "Furthermore, the activities of both foreign and domestic institutional investors (FII & DII) will be tracked, along with crude oil prices, to gauge overall market sentiment, Gour said.

## NexGen Energia plans to invest Rs 15,000 cr over 10 yrs To open 5,000 green diesel, CBG pumps

PNS ■ NOIDA

Green energy solutions company NexGen Energia plans a Rs 15,000 crore investment to open 5,000 green diesel and compressed biogas (CBG) pumps in the country over the next 10 years. The Noida-based company recently inaugurated its first CBG pump in Mau district in Uttar Pradesh, marking its entry to execute engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) services in the

clean energy sector. "The company's commitment to clean energy goes far beyond this single pump. Plans are afoot to open a total of 5,000 green diesel and CBG pumps across the country in multiple phases over the next 10 years, with each pump costing around Rs 3 crore. In this manner, we are set to invest Rs 15,000 crore in the green energy sector," NexGen Energia Chairman Piyush Dwivedi said.

## Efforts on to raise MP budget to Rs 7 L cr in 5 years: CM Yadav

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that efforts are being made to take the state's annual budget to Rs 7 lakh crore in the next five years. The state government on July 3 presented its budget for FY 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 3.65 lakh crore, marking substantial allocations for infrastructure development and initiatives for women and tribals. This time, the state budget



is 16 per cent more than last year's budget and is development-oriented, Yadav said at a

function of the Central India Chamber of Commerce in Ujjain on Saturday night.

## Hindenburg shared Adani report with client two months before publishing it: Sebi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US short-seller Hindenburg Research had shared an advance copy of its damning report against Adani group with New York-based hedge fund manager Mark Kingdon about two months before publishing it and profited from a deal to share spoils from share price movement, according to market regulator Sebi. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in its 46-

page show cause notice to Hindenburg, detailed how the US short seller, the New York hedge fund and a broker tied to Kotak Mahindra Bank benefited from the over US\$ 150 billion routs in the market value of Adani group's 10 listed firms post-publication of the report. Sebi charged Hindenburg of making "unfair" profits from "collusion" to use "non-public" and "misleading" information and induce "panic selling" in Adani Group stocks.



Hindenburg, which made public the Sebi notice, in its

response, has described the show cause as an attempt to

"silence and intimidate those who expose corruption and fraud perpetrated by the most powerful individuals in India" and revealed that the vehicle used to beat against Adani's flagship firm Adani Enterprises Ltd belonged to Kotak Mahindra (International) Ltd, a Mauritius-based subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. KML's fund placed bets on Adani Enterprises Ltd for its client Kingdon's Kingdon Capital Management.

## Accord infra status, don't treat hotels as luxury

Say hospitality players ahead of Budget

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hospitality players want the government to accord infrastructure status to hotels to make investments on new properties more attractive rather than categorising them as luxury or even 'sin goods' in the upcoming Union Budget considering the sector's potential to play a key

role in India's growth. They also want the government to consider incentives in the form of tax breaks or subsidies for adopting sustainable and eco-friendly practices, while asserting that the upcoming budget must accelerate the tourism agenda saying it is an opportunity to make Indian hospitality the emerging engine for GDP

growth and employment generation. The sector is burdened with high taxation, expensive and multifarious licences, approvals and compliances. Hotels are capital intensive with a long gestation period. Cost of operating hotels is high and largely fixed. This makes investments in hotels risky.



Actor Karanvir Bohra often loved for his portrayal of negative characters on-screen, interacts with *The Pioneer* over a quick fun chat sharing his kick for these characters, his dream projects and bringing his real side out through reality shows



IT'S A DREAM ROLE FOR ME TO PLAY AN ANTI-VILLAIN IN THE *DON* FRANCHISE.

## 'Negative characters bring in a lot of meat. I really enjoy playing them'

TEJAL SINHA

It's no easy feat to portray negative characters, especially in Television shows, demanding the actor to delve much deeper into the dark and twisted psyche of the character. It's important to strike a balance between portraying the persona convincingly and getting associated with their villainous emotions too. Talking of villainous characters, one such actor that certainly strikes our minds is none other than Karanvir Bohra. To date remembered for his portrayal of Viraj Dobriyal in *Dil Se Di Dua... Saubhagyaavati Bhava*, there's a different perspective he has, when it comes to these characters.

Be it Prem Yudi in *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*, Kabir from *Just Mohabbat*, Dhruv from *Sharanat*, Rocky of *Naagin* and Bhavar Patil of *Ghum Hai Kisike Pyaar Main*, there's always an impact that he makes sure to bring on-screen. "I've done a lot of diverse characters," begins the *Kismat Konnection* star in a quick telepathic chat with *The Pioneer*. "I choose characters that are character-driven because that brings meat to any kind of role. If there's substance in my role then I can add my nuances and bites."

Always on the verge of bringing his character to life, he's been one of those actors who gives it all to the character.

Throughout his journey, for him it's never been about struggles rather excitement. "I have given so many auditions for ads, tv, movies and every audition I have

been excited, the next audition I have been even more excited and give my best. It's always been like what next can I do. Even to date, I am as excited as taking a boy to a toy shop that's how excited I am to get my roles."

Not long ago, he was seen playing the character of a police inspector Bhanwar Patil and to him, it was a 'dream come true' role to play a cop on-screen.

"Donning the role of an inspector was really special for me, because it was the first time that I played a cop. I've been wanting to play a police officer. I've always been a true Amitabh Bachchan fan. Watching him in *Zanjeer*, as he walks in as a police officer that really inspired me. When I got this opportunity, I was all in. He's a Marathi cop so I had to really work on the nuances, the look and everything. By God's grace, it worked out really well so I was really happy that the first role as a cop, for me it was successful," shares the *Sharanat* actor, who is thrilled with how the show has fared. "All of us had put in our hard-work and the best of efforts to make the show number one. I really want to thank the producers, cast and crew for being with me and believing in me. I'm certainly going to miss the show but I had a really amazing time."

A negative character, yet again in the show, there's a different perception that he has when it comes to playing characters with gray shades. And the *Qubool hai* actor couldn't agree much as he shares, "I am known for the characters I play and most of the times, I have plumped for gray shaded

characters. There's a reason I do that; you get to play layered emotions with these kind of characters. I believe that all of us have a gray shaded character in us. We just keep it under wraps. But what if these characters and gray shaded characters you could just bring that out in the open. I really enjoy them as it gives a lot of meat. In TV, you don't get to play these kind of roles and men, especially don't have these kind of roles. Web has a lot of these kind of roles and shades. Gone are the days when you just had hero, heroine and a villain. Even the protagonist has gray shaded characters so I'm lucky to be in that space."

When we talk of negative characters and his desire to showcase the best of his prowess, he also recalls of the time when he approached Deepika Padukone for the anti-hero character opposite Ranveer Singh in *Don 3*. He believes that there is no shame for an actor to approach people for work. "It's a dream for me to be known as the best anti-hero, the best villain this country has ever seen and what better than being an anti-hero or the villain in this iconic movie *Don*. There's no shame in the game. I will always approach people, producers from our industry or from any other industry for that matter. It is our job as an actor, we should approach them and not just expect that people will come up to you."

The *Bigg Boss 11* fame also believes that we all as a human being, good or bad have a devil and angel within us and we all fight with it every day life on who should win. Characters like Viraj, and with that of

Ranbir Kapoor in *Animal*, the creator made the devil within you really stronger so that came out and that's what people connected.

However, on the contrary, though the image of his negative characters haven't really bothered him, but he shares, "The reason I did *Lock Upp* or *Bigg Boss* was not for my career. My career was and is going good by god's grace. The reason I did these shows was that I wanted a change of my image. My image after *Saubhagyaavati Bhava* was of Viraj Dobriyal. 'Karan' was AKA Viraj Dobriyal. I wanted to shed that image and *Bigg Boss* really helped me, *Khatron Ke Khiladi* and *Jhalak* for that matter helped people see me of who is Karanvir Bohra in real-life; my human side, my family side and loving side."

On the concluding note, also a father of three beautiful daughters, he opens up saying, "Days are over when people wanted boys first to take their lineage forward. Now if you see women don't drop their second name, they don't take their husband's second name or if they take it, they keep there's also. It's not about having a boy anymore but having a child firstly, secondly having a healthy child and thirdly bringing love and harmony in the house with the family. I'm so happy with my three daughters. I was never keen or had kids because we had another boy and that's what people think. We just wanted to have children and we are happy parents of three beautiful daughters. For me they are holy trinity; 'Durga', 'Lakshmi' and 'Saraswati'. What more can I ask for?"

## ROLE OF DIET AND EXERCISE IN MAINTAINING TUMMY TUCK

Talking of tummy tuck also known as abdominoplasty, there have been many countless patients undergoing the same. This popular cosmetic procedure aims to improve the appearance of the abdomen by removing excess fat and skin and tightening the abdominal muscles. It is a highly effective solution for individuals who struggle with loose abdominal skin due to aging, weight fluctuations, or pregnancy.

However, many people need to realise that the success of a tummy tuck depends not just on the surgery itself, but also on the aftercare. Today, let's emphasise the vital role of diet and exercise in maintaining tummy tuck results.

Let's start by stating the obvious – a tummy tuck is not a substitute for a healthy lifestyle. It is essential to remember that this surgery is not a shortcut to achieving a flat and toned tummy. It is merely a tool to help you achieve your desired results. And it is up to you to maintain those results through proper diet and exercise.

**The Role of a Good diet**  
 The food we put into our bodies has a direct impact on our physical appearance. A balanced and nutritious diet is crucial for maintaining a healthy weight and ensuring long-term results after a tummy tuck. It is essential to follow a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains while avoiding processed and high-fat foods.

Moreover, staying hydrated is vital. Drinking plenty of water helps keep your skin healthy and prevents bloating, which can affect the appearance of your abdomen. So make sure to drink at least 8 glasses of water every day.

**Role of Exercise**  
 As we age, our muscles naturally become weaker, and our skin loses its elasticity. This is why exercising is crucial for maintaining the toned appearance achieved through a tummy tuck. Regular exercise will help keep your abdominal muscles strong and prevent excess fat from accumulating in the area.

But it is not just about targeting the abdominal area. A well-rounded exercise routine that includes cardiovascular activities, strength training, and core exercises will help you maintain a healthy weight and overall appearance.

Finally, it is essential to mention that diet and exercise also play a significant role in preventing the need for a revision tummy tuck. Several factors, such as weight gain or pregnancy, can affect the long-term results of a tummy tuck. Following a healthy lifestyle reduces the chances of needing additional surgery to maintain your desired appearance.

In conclusion, a tummy tuck can provide life-changing results, but it requires effort on your part to maintain those results.

(The author, Dr. Anmol Chugh, is a Consultant, Plastics & Aesthetics Centre, at CK Birla Hospital and Director at Imperio Clinics, Gurgaon.)



## HYDERABADI STAND-UP COMEDIAN HRIDAY RANJAN, IN AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH THE PIONEER, DISCUSSES HIS ART OF CREATING LAUGHS



## Transmogrifying triggers into rib-tickling laughs

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY

Everyone in today's times are preoccupied with their jobs and have lost sight of the joy in life. However, we do have people around us who lift our spirits. Well, one amongst them is Hriday Ranjan, who simply just uses his comedy to transform the sufferings into little joys. Hriday initially began his career as a journalist, post his graduation from the University of Hyderabad. He has also worked with media organisations including *The New Indian Express* and *Film Companion* before pursuing his love as a stand-up comedian.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, also a writer, Hriday began, "My inspiration drives from the freedom of the profession. In stand-up comedy, it's just you, a mic and your thoughts. There is no blame game here and no team to work with. To put it short, no other field offers rich individuality to you than this." Like many others, his parents wanted him to succeed in the UPSC or get an MBA. But he's never let advice from others influence his judgments; this is especially true in his career. He discovered and accepted his genuine love when he began sharing his

standup videos on YouTube and other social media sites.

Hauling himself through the videos of his motivational stand-up heroes, Eddie Murphy, Bill Burr and Louis CK, Hriday has polished his stand-up comedy. He honed his abilities by observation as well. "I read somewhere that things that anger you make for great comedy," affirms the talented comedian. "I have always tried to notice things that trigger me and tried converting it to standup sets. Interestingly, my favourite shows are those with very few people in the audience. There are shows where the audience comes in disappointed. I take great pleasure in converting them into smiling, laughing faces by the end of the show. Among my shows, my favourite show is where I performed for senior citizens, who were laughing loudly and wiping away tears by the end."

But in his opinion, comedy has certain limitations, particularly in terms of content when it comes to a country like India. Here, we have a concept called 'Clean comedy' - which is comedy without religion, politics, and sex. Ironically, "Those are the topics that I love touching in my standup. For instance, making comedy on politics is like you are testing out the waters. I like asking my audience if they are okay with political humour and performing my jokes anyway. The trick is to make them understand the difference between a joke and a political opinion in a newspaper. We deal in the former."

Standup comedy, according to him is mostly a game

of endurance. "You need to hit an open mic every day, irrespective of where your career is headed. There are days when you question your life choices, but you need to return to the mics the next day, to keep trying out jokes which is the toughest challenge one needs to endure to stay alive in this profession."

Moreover, as a standup comedian one needs to handle negative remarks from the audience. In fact, there was a time when he was backlashed by Pawan Kalyan's fans too. But the negativity didn't let him go down. Initially, "I would get angry. But now I try to understand what is tickling them off. Sometimes, they are trying to seek attention. Most times, they are simply trying to participate in the show. I used to be a teacher, and that taught me how to deal with the troublemakers in class. I use the same skills on stage."

The gagster doesn't consider himself a popular artist at the moment. "It depends! Comedians in the US often perform for decades before making it big. In India, it depends on one video going viral, and you can begin selling tickets."

To all the budding comedians out there, here's some advice from the Hyderabad Farceur. "One has to look for open mics in the city and register for them. Make a plan to hit 10 open mics. Keep repeating your material across the 10 mics. By the end, you will have about three minutes of tight content with you. Continue the process throughout your life. There is no other way to pursue this career."





# 'Music is integral part of Darling's storytelling'

K. RAMYA SREE

As the curtains prepare to rise on the much-anticipated romantic comedy *Darling*, producer Chaitanya Reddy offers a peek into the behind the scenes of this heartwarming tale, set to hit theatres on July 19. With stars Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh leading the charge under the direction of Ashwin Ram, *Darling* promises to blend humour and emotion in a way that resonates with audiences across generations.

Reflecting on the journey from their previous success with *Hanuman*, Chaitanya shares, "After the immense love for *Hanuman*, we wanted to delve into a narrative that captures the essence of everyday relationships. Life after years of marriage can become routine and we felt this story could reconnect families and youth alike through its humour and relatable moments."

When asked about casting Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh in pivotal roles, Chaitanya explains, "We needed characters with contrasting yet complementary traits. Priyadarshi brings a genuine simplicity, while Nabha embodies a vibrant and socially active persona. Their chemistry and dedication during rehearsals truly brought the characters to life."

Discussing the film's title, Chaitanya reveals, "*Darling* emerged after careful consideration. Initially, we explored several options, including *Vaidis Kolavari*, but *Darling* captured the universal appeal we sought.

The tagline 'Why This Kolavari' adds a touch of nostalgia, making it a complete family entertainer."

Addressing challenges, such as Nabha Natesh's recent accident, Chaitanya assures, "Nabha's recovery was our priority, and we proceeded with production once she was back on her feet. Her resilience and positive spirit enriched her character, adding depth to the story's narrative."

While *Darling* initially releases in Telugu, Chaitanya hints at broader horizons, stating, "We aim to gauge audience response before considering a pan-India release or potential remakes. The support and success of *Hanuman* have inspired us to explore new avenues."

Commenting on the film's music, Chaitanya praises composer Vivek, saying, "Vivek has crafted exceptional songs and background scores that enhance the film's emotional core. Music is integral to our storytelling."

When asked about his dual role in cinema and business, Chaitanya reflects, "Cinema is both an art and a business. While I cherish creating meaningful stories, I find fulfillment in the strategic aspects of film production. It's a blend that complements my background in business administration."

Looking ahead, Chaitanya shares, "We have an exciting lineup of films in various stages of production. Our goal is to release ten films over the next three years, each offering unique narratives and experiences." In closing, Chaitanya expresses gratitude to his team, family, and the audience, emphasising, "Success is a collective effort, and I attribute ours to the support of our team and the unwavering love of our viewers. We're excited to share *Darling* with everyone."

As *Darling* gears up for its theatrical debut, Chaitanya Reddy's passion for storytelling and commitment to quality promise an unforgettable cinematic experience for audiences eager to laugh, love, and cherish every moment on screen.



## VISHWAK SEN UNVEILS DARLING TEASER

Vishwak Sen unveiled the theatrical trailer of *Darling*, starring Priyadarshi, Nabha Natesh, and directed by debutant Aswin Raam, under the banner of PrimeShow Entertainment, produced by K Niranjana Reddy and Chaitanya. This unique rom-com has sparked considerable excitement following its hilarious teaser and two super hit songs. Scheduled for release on July 19, the film's trailer was launched today by Vishwak Sen.

The story revolves around a young couple with contrasting personalities. The protagonist, a simple and innocent young man, dreams of marrying a lovely girl and honeymooning in Paris. However, his dreams are shattered when Anandi enters his life as his wife. She torments him daily, crushing his aspirations and turning his life into a nightmare. Initially believed to be possessed, it is later revealed that she suffers from split personality disorder. While the trailer reveals some aspects of the storyline, it hints at surprising twists in the tale. Director Aswin Raam's narrative presents robust

characterisations, with Priyadarshi delivering a standout performance as a youth with romantic aspirations, and Nabha's character exhibiting depth, enriched by her portrayal of split personality disorder. Ananya Nagalla makes a brief appearance, while Brahmanandam leaves his mark in a single sequence. The trailer suggests a promising narrative, promising *Darling* to be a rollercoaster ride of marital antics.

The film benefits from solid technical finesse, with Naresh Ramadurai's cinematography capturing vibrant visuals and Vivek Sagar's score setting the mood. The production standards of PrimeShow Entertainment shine through, complemented by witty dialogues penned by Hemant and sharp editing by Pradeep E Ragav of *Love Today*. Gandhi serves as the production designer. With the teaser sparking curiosity and the trailer elevating expectations, *Darling* promises to be a delightful blend of comedy and drama, showcasing a marriage like never before.

**AS THE PRIYADARSHI AND NABHA NATESH-STARRER *DARLING* IS NEARING ITS RELEASE, PRODUCER CHAITANYA REDDY SHARES SOME BEHIND THE SCENES AND TIDBITS ABOUT THE FILM**

## Allari Naresh's *Bacchala Malli* dubbing commences

Actor Allari Naresh is set to appear in an intense role in his upcoming movie *Bacchala Malli*. Subbu Mangadevi, known for her stellar performances, takes on the directorial reins. Under the banner of Hasya Movies, renowned for blockbusters like *Samajavaragamana* and *Uru Peera Bhairavakona*, Rajesh Danda and Balaji Gutta are producing this film. Allari Naresh's recent mass-appealing birthday glimpse received tremendous response. The makers have announced the release of *Bacchala Malli* this September. Dubbing for this latest film has already begun.

In this movie, Allari Naresh portrays a character unlike any he has done before. Director Subbu Mangadevi presents him in an avatar audiences

have never seen before, creating a buzz among viewers for this intriguing project.

Rohini, Rao Ramesh, Achyuth Kumar, Balagan Jayaram, Hari Teja, Praveen, Vaiva Harsha and others play other key roles in this film.

Top technicians are involved in the making of this film: Vishal Chandrasekhar, who provided music for *Seetha Ramam*, is composing the music, while Richard M. Nathan, known for films like *Manaadu*, *Rangam* and *Matti Kushti*, handles the cinematography. Chota K Prasad is the editor, and Brahma Kadali serves as the production designer. Subbu himself has penned the story and dialogues.

Vipparthi Madhu is the screen playwright, and additional screenplay is provided by Vishwanath.



## FIRST SINGLE FROM

## MR. BACHCHAN TO RELEASE TODAY

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja has teamed up once again with mass director Harish Shankar for another high-octane entertainer *Mr. Bachchan*. This combination promises an exceptional experience, given their previous successful collaborations. The recent release teaser video garnered tremendous response. The makers are now kickstarting

the music promotions for *Mr. Bachchan*. The first single is going to release today. Star composer Mickey J Meyer has composed an album that is expected to be a chartbuster. In this film, Bhagyashree plays the heroine alongside Ravi Teja, while Jagapathi Babu and Sachin Khedekar essay pivotal roles.

People Media Factory, under the banner of TG Vishwa Prasad, is producing this project grandly. Vivek Kuchibhotla is co-producing.

Top technicians are involved in this film, including Bosco and Brahma Kadali as the art director, and Ujwal Kulkarni as the editor. Ravi Teja, Harish Shankar, and an incredible production team are gearing up for a successful combination in *Mr. Bachchan*, and audiences are eagerly anticipating the film's release.

## Adore the innocent cop Charulatha from *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram*

The Pan India adrenaline-filled action-adventure *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* stars Priyanka Mohan playing the heroine opposite Natural Star Nani. This is her second movie with Nani, after *Gang Leader*. On Sunday, the makers unleashed the first look of Priyanka Mohan.

The first look poster presents Priyanka Mohan as an innocent cop named Charulatha. She looks fit in the character and is seen flashing a beautiful smile on her face. Dressed in a khaki outfit, Priyanka walks on the road with a bag on her shoulder. Priyanka's character is going to be very significant in the movie.

Vivek Athreya is directing, while DVV Danayya and Kalyan Dasari are bankrolling the movie on a high budget with rich production and technical standards under the banner of DVV Entertainment. The movie has SJ Suryah in a pivotal role.

Murali G is the director of photography, wherein Jakes Bejoy composes the music. Karthika Srinivas is the editor of this Pan India film that will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages on August 29, 2024.

*Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* is in the last leg of shooting.



## Nag Ashwin unveils Prince and Naresh Agastya's *Kali* teaser

The teaser for the movie *Kali*, starring young heroes Prince and Naresh Agastya, has been released by blockbuster director Nag Ashwin. Produced by Rudra Creations under the guidance of renowned story writer K. Raghavendra Reddy and directed by Siva Seshu, *Kali* is a psychological thriller whose shooting has been completed. The film is currently undergoing post-production and is set for a grand theatrical release soon. Nag Ashwin praised the teaser, describing it as interesting and impressive, and highlighted director Siva Seshu's introduction of a new concept to Telugu audiences. He extended his best wishes to the entire team of *Kali*.

K. Raghavendra Reddy, the presenter of the film, expressed his happiness in releasing the teaser, emphasising that *Kali* is an intriguing psychological thriller centered around the character of Kali. He mentioned that post-production work is in progress and promised to bring the movie to the audience soon. Producer Leela Gautham Varma thanked Nag Ashwin for taking the time to launch the teaser despite his busy schedule. Writer and director Siva Seshu described *Kali* as a film with a fresh storyline combining elements of mythology and psychological thriller genres. He expressed hopes that *Kali* will provide a unique experience to viewers and announced plans for a grand theatrical release.



The teaser launch event for *Kali* was attended by creative producers Radhakrishna Tathineni, Dharam Kumar TR, Executive Producer Phanindra, and others.

In the teaser, Shivaram (played by Prince) contemplates suicide due to disillusionment with the selfish world. However, just as he prepares to hang himself, a stranger (Naresh Agastya) arrives at his doorstep and reveals intimate details about Shivaram's life. Shivaram is left puzzled about how the stranger knows so much about him, especially concerning incidents only known to him and his wife. The teaser concludes with intriguing questions: Why did Shivaram, previously happily married, contemplate suicide? Who is this stranger, and how does he seem to know everything about Shivaram? Moreover, why does he appear to have a dead body that resembles Shivaram?

## Vijay Antony's *Toofan* trailer out now

Vijay Antony's poetic action film *Toofan* trailer introduction event was celebrated grandly in Hyderabad, heralding its upcoming grand theatrical release on July 26.

*Toofan* marks the collaboration of director Vijay Milton with Vijay Antony once again, following their successful ventures *Paghavan* and *Hathya*. Produced by Kamal Bora, D. Lalitha, B. Pradeep and Pankaj Bora under Infinity Film Ventures, the film promises a compelling blend of action and emotion. At the event, key figures shared their excitement. Lyricist Bhagyashree welcomed the attendees, praising the lead actors Megha Akash and Vijay Antony. *Toofan* holds promise akin to Vijay Antony's acclaimed *Bicchagadu*, promising a similar impact. Director Vijay Milton thanked the producers and cast for their trust, lauding Megha Akash's stellar performance and Bhagyashree's eloquent Telugu lyrics, confident that *Toofan* will resonate strongly with the audience.



Megha Akash, thrilled by the support, described *Toofan* as a significant project filled with love, romance, action, and stirring music, eagerly anticipating its theatrical release. Vijay Antony, appreciative of the overwhelming response, eagerly anticipated the Hyderabad live concert and emphasized the film's visual allure and fresh narrative. He praised director Vijay Milton's dual talent as a director and cinematographer and anticipated that audiences would relish *Toofan*.

## ANJALI'S NEXT IS A GRIPPING MYSTERY THRILLER

Anjali's captivating web series *Bahishkarana* has unveiled its stunning teaser, promising an enthralling narrative that will stream on ZEE5 starting July 19. Directed by Mukesh Prajapati and produced by Prashanti Maliseti under Pixel Pictures Pvt Ltd, *Bahishkarana* marks ZEE5's latest original Telugu series, poised to captivate audiences with its exploration of transformation and destiny interwoven into a rich tapestry of storytelling. The series features a stellar ensemble cast led by the extraordinary Anjali, alongside Ravindra Vijay, Ananya Nagalla, Shritej, Shanmukh, Mahboob Basha, and Chaitanya Sagiraju. *Bahishkarana* delves into the profound journey of a courtesan in search of true happiness, navigating personal growth amidst the complex web of societal expectations. Renowned director Harish Shankar unveiled the teaser, which opens with a haunting statement: "This world surrenders to two things... one to money... two to infection." This sets the stage for Anjali's character, whose outward innocence masks a darker past thrusting her into the world of prostitution. The teaser hints at a gripping backstory, shrouded in mystery, inviting viewers to peel back the layers of Anjali's character. Anjali's portrayal in the teaser showcases her exceptional acting prowess,



setting the stage for her character's transformative journey throughout the series. She embodies a character of profound duality—both a source of solace and an omen of doom—a juxtaposition promising compelling character dynamics.

Ananya Nagalla adds depth to the series with her talent, playing a pivotal role that complements Anjali's character arc. Together, they lead an ensemble cast delivering powerful performances, enriching the narrative with emotional depth and dramatic tension.

*Bahishkarana* unfolds across six episodes, immersing viewers in a village embroiled in a high-stakes revenge drama. The narrative centers on a forbidden love affair that challenges societal norms and prejudices. The couple's relationship, scorned and disgraced, becomes a catalyst for a story rich in emotional depth and gripping twists.

As anticipation mounts for the series' release, viewers eagerly await unraveling the mysteries surrounding Anjali's character and the motivations driving her actions. *Bahishkarana* promises more than mere entertainment; it offers a profound exploration of human emotions, societal norms, and the transformative power of love and revenge.

# EXPECTING INDIA TO WIN BOTH CT AND WTC FINAL UNDER ROHIT'S CAPTAINCY: BCCI SECRETARY SHAH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 20 World Cup-winning skipper Rohit Sharma will continue to lead India in the ODI and Test formats BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Sunday, exuding confidence that the country will win next year's Champions Trophy and World Test Championship under his captaincy. The 37-year-old Rohit, who became the third Indian captain after legendary Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni to win a global trophy, has announced his retirement from the T20 format. "The next stage is the WTC final and the Champions Trophy. I have full faith in Rohit Sharma's captaincy, that we will be the champions in both these tournaments," secretary Shah said in a video message. The Champions Trophy, scheduled in Pakistan next

year, will be held after eight years (since 2017 in UK), and even though the draft schedule has been submitted to the ICC, the BCCI hasn't yet given its green light to it. It is understood BCCI will again push for the 'Hybrid Model' like 2023 ODI Asia Cup where India played all its matches, including the ones against Pakistan, in Sri Lanka. Shah's message, in a way, has put to rest speculations about whether Rohit would quit leadership role in other formats. Till Rohit calls it quits, India will once again have split captaincy with Rohit leading in ODIs and Tests while Hardik Pandya is expected to take charge of the T20 outfit. Rohit had also led India to the finals of the WTC and ODI World Cup last year, where India lost the summit clash after winning 10 straight games. Shah dedicated India's T20



World Cup triumph to the three cricketers, who quit the format after the title victory and outgoing coach Rahul Dravid. "I want to dedicate this victory to coach Rahul Dravid, captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja. "This was our third final in the last year. We lost the WTC final in June, 2023. In November, 2023 we won hearts after 10 wins but couldn't win the Cup. I had said in Rajkot that we will win the heart and also the Cup on June 24 and install our national flag, and our captain installed the Indian flag," the secretary said. Rohit, Kohli and Jadeja are expected to come back for the ODI series against Sri Lanka slated for August. India will play six ODIs - three against Sri Lanka in an away series and three at home against England in early February before the Champions Trophy.



## Zimbabwe will look to exploit home conditions against India: Spinner Masakadza

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having hurt the Shubman Gill-led India hard in the opening T20I in Harare, Zimbabwe spinner Wellington Masakadza said the tourists should take the home side lightly at their own risk, and added that they will exploit the home conditions to the maximum to win the five-match series. A new-look India team suffered a 13-run loss to an inexperienced yet spirited Zimbabwe side in an upset of massive proportion. India, who were recently crowned champions in the T20 World Cup albeit with a different set of players, were expected to blow away the Zimbabwean challenge when they restricted the home side to 115 for nine.

(Riyan) Parag and some of the other guys in the side. "It will be a very good challenge. They're (Ravi Bishnoi and Washington Sundar) very good spinners. Bishnoi has just had a very good tournament in the IPL and also Sundar. So it's always a very good challenge to have Asian spinners." With Harare enjoying a winter season as it is in the Southern Hemisphere, the left-arm spinner said the home team pacers, due to their familiarity with the pitch, will likely trouble the Indian batters. "It's winter here and at times it's a bit difficult for batters as the pitch is slowish, with a bit of turn. The seam is always a very big challenge in Harare during winter. So, I think the ball will move a bit and it will spin also," said Masakadza, a veteran of 90 T20Is.

But Zimbabwe wrote their own script, reducing India to 28 for four in the Powerplay and then eventually bowling them out for 102 in 19.5 overs. It was India's first loss in T20Is in 2024 and first against Zimbabwe in eight years. Masakadza, who finished with figures of 1/15 in three overs, said: "We are trying to use our own conditions as much as we can against this Indian side. It's a second-string Indian side, but there are a lot of good players in there. So, we are looking forward to this series," Masakadza said in an interview with PTI Videos facilitated by broadcasters Sony Sports Network. "We've had a few plans in place. We needed them to work and obviously, we are trying to use our own conditions as much as we can against this Indian side." Masakadza, who dismissed tail-ender Avesh Khan on Saturday, said he was eyeing captain Shubman Gill's wicket now. "I'll be looking to take Shubman Gill's big wicket and some of the right-handers,

He added that a series win will be a shot in the arm for Zimbabwe cricket, which has been on the decline for several years. "This series will mean a lot to us. If we manage to win the series, it will be a very big thing in our future." "We're starting a new chapter, we have had our ups and downs in the past. We've just had a new coaching staff. So I just think from now on, this is a big thing for us and we'll be looking forward to making a few plans to get ourselves across the line," said the 30-year-old, who, like his skipper Sikandar Raza, wants to play in the IPL. Pakistan-born Raza played for Punjab Kings this IPL season, scoring 43 runs in two games. On Saturday, he was adjudged 'Player of the Match' for taking three wickets and scoring 17 runs. "Definitely, it's always a good thing to go out there and play in those leagues. I will look to take some wickets in this series. That can be good for me to get a gig (IPL contract)."

# Uruguay beats Brazil 4-2 on penalties after scoreless draw, advances to Copa America semifinals

AP ■ LAS VEGAS

Marcelo Bielsa knew what the world's reaction would be after Uruguay and Brazil ground, scrapped and shoved their way through a Copa America quarterfinal match with 41 fouls, four shots on target and no goals in open play. Bielsa knows the beautiful game wasn't so attractive Saturday night, but the famously inventive coach now running Uruguay's bench only cared about the celebrations back home and in the Vegas stands when La Celeste picked up a landmark win. Manuel Ugarte scored the decisive goal in the fifth round of the shootout and Uruguay advanced to the Copa America semifinals with a 4-2 penalty kick victory after the teams played to a scoreless draw. Uruguay and Brazil played a bruising, choppy match with plenty of rough stuff, but little of the impressive soccer for which both South American powerhouses are known. Uruguay's Nahitan Nandez was sent off after a red card in the 74th minute for a dangerous tackle on Rodrigo, but Brazil still couldn't break through its 10-man opponent in the ensuing 21 minutes. "I (prefer) offensive football, but in this match, we created more

opportunities and we defended well," Bielsa said through an interpreter. "We did the things necessary to succeed at this level." Uruguay led 3-1 after three rounds of the shootout when goalkeeper Sergio Rochet stopped Eder Militao and Douglas Luiz hit the post. Alisson Becker saved Jose Maria Gimenez's shot in the fourth round to keep Brazil alive, but Ugarte banged home the clincher. "If you ask me if I'm happy that we only created three goal-scoring opportunities, then no," Bielsa said. "But our opponent only had two goal-scoring opportunities. We had to work hard to create our opportunities... But that was satisfactory to us." After the third penalty shootout in four Copa America quarterfinal matches, Uruguay advanced to face Colombia in the semifinals on Wednesday night in Charlotte, North Carolina. Colombia routed Panama 5-0 earlier Saturday, extending its unbeaten streak to 27 consecutive matches. "We believe we're in good shape to play against any opponent," Bielsa said. Defending champion Argentina faces Canada in the other semifinal Tuesday in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The final is July 14 in Miami



Gardens. Brazil played without Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior, who watched from the stands under suspension after accumulating two yellow cards. The Selecao already are without Neymar, who hasn't played since tearing a knee ligament last fall during Brazil's loss to Uruguay in a World Cup qualifier. "That victory was Uruguay's first over Brazil in 13 meetings since 2001, but Bielsa's group has now beaten Brazil in back-to-back matches for the first time since 1992. Endrick made his first career start in

place of Vinicius Junior, but the 17-year-old phenomenon headed to Real Madrid later this month couldn't shake Brazil from its offensive funk. Except for a 4-1 win over overmatched Paraguay, Brazil scored one combined goal and earned just one victory in its other three Copa America matches - and the Selecao is headed home despite never trailing in the tournament. "There were positives in every match," coach Dorival Junior said through an interpreter. "It's only natural after a match like this one that something wed consider positive is ruled out. I'm

aware of that. We didn't perform at a high technical level, but I don't throw out any of the matches. There was dedication, fighting spirit. It was always a courageous team. I believe we had more positives than negatives. The fact we didn't seize (the opportunity) despite outnumbering (Uruguay) will be analyzed." Uruguay advanced to the Copa America semifinals for the first time since winning the tournament in 2011, and it knocked Brazil out for the first time in four tries since 1995. Both teams played cautiously and contentiously from the start. During a stoppage in the 17th minute, Ronald Araujo shoulder-checked Endrick to the ground from behind while the teenager complained about an earlier non-call. Raphinha responded by knocking down Araujo, but order was restored. Araujo, the oft-injured Barcelona defender, left the game with an apparent injury to his right leg in the 31st minute. Bielsa later called it a muscle injury. After 35 minutes with few scoring opportunities, the teams traded their best chances 35 seconds apart. Right after Darwin Nunez botched an unobstructed header deep in Brazil's box, Raphinha was stopped at close range by Rochet.

## Akanji enduring 'deep emptiness' after penalty failure consigns Swiss to painful loss at Euro 2024



AP ■ DUSSELDORF

That was the instruction on England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford's water bottle as he prepared to face Manuel Akanji for Switzerland's first kick in the penalty shootout at the European Championship. Pickford dived left. And he saved the penalty. Cue jubilation for England and agony for Akanji, with his being the only failure in the shootout as Switzerland missed another chance to advance to the semifinals of a major tournament for the first time. After Switzerland's 5-3 loss in the shootout, a disconsolate Akanji was embraced by his Manchester City teammates John Stones and Phil Foden. "No words of solace can help him," Switzerland coach Murat Yakin said. "Deep emptiness, deep sadness." Switzerland midfielder Remo Freuler was in tears. So was goalkeeper Yann Sommer. History had been in the grasp of the most talented Switzerland squad in a generation, perhaps ever. Leading 1-0 after Brel Embolo's 75th-minute tap-in, the Swiss moved to within 10 minutes of beating England in

Munich. With Schar a regular with Newcastle and with Embolo such a danger up front after regaining his fitness. "It's hard to accept because I think we deserved to go to the semifinal with this team," Switzerland forward Dan Ndoye. "We had the quality to go further. It hurts, it hurts to lose on penalties like that. It's cruel." Switzerland, a country better associated with winter sports, had no place competing with England deep in a major tournament, Yakin said. "Even in this game, some said we were the favorites but we will never be the favorites," he said. "It can be in certain moments that we look like one, but the market value of other teams compared to us is massive." Yet, Switzerland's defense, marshalled superbly by Akanji, was surprisingly comfortable against an England strike force containing superstars like Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham, Bukayo Saka and Foden, and Yakin's team had the better of both the second half and extra time. That was the case even though Khaka, Switzerland's midfield general, was held back by a leg injury that almost ruled him out of the game. "It was a miracle he could even play," Yakin said. Yakin wouldn't be drawn on his future, having been linked to jobs in Saudi Arabia. He has been in charge of the Swiss since August 2021 and proved himself to be a fine tactician, bouncing back well from the humiliation of losing 6-1 to Portugal in the last 16 of the 2022 World Cup. "Unfortunately now my contract has come to an end, but that doesn't mean that there won't be a continuation," Yakin said. "My priority is the national team.

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# Netherlands into Euro 2024 semifinal against England after beating Turkey

AP ■ BERLIN

The Netherlands dug deep to come from behind and beat Turkey 2-1 on Saturday and book its place in the European Championship semifinals. An own goal from Mert Muldur in the 76th minute, only six after Stefan De Vrij canceled Samet Akaydin's first-half header for Turkey, was enough for the Dutch in the last of the quarterfinals. "It was really a battle today," De Vrij said. "The Turkish team they have a big heart, a lot of quality. In the end we did well and we deserved the win." The Netherlands turned the game around after after 1.97-meter-tall (6-foot-5) striker Wout Weghorst made his entrance for the second half. "He's always fighting up front, helping the team. And we started to keep the ball, create chances," De Vrij said. "Then we scored two goals and the whole team fought until the end." The Netherlands will face England in the second semifinal in Dortmund on Wednesday. Spain faces France in the first on Tuesday. "The players showed tonight a big heart," Dutch coach Ronald Koeman said. "We had to suffer but finally it's a great success." Turkey was without defender Merih Demiral, who was suspended for two matches by UEFA for making a nationalistic hand gesture after scoring in Tuesday's 2-1 win over Austria. The gesture is used by Turkish nationalists and associated with an ultra-nationalist group. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was at the



game after he changed his plans because of the diplomatic row with Germany over Demiral's gesture. German interior minister Nancy Faeser had said Demiral used his celebration "as a platform for racism" and federal minister Cem Ozdemir, a German politician of Turkish descent, said the gesture "stands for terror, fascism." Many Turkish fans made the gesture on their way to Berlin's Olympiastadion, and again during Turkey's national anthem before the game. The Dutch made a better start, but Turkey's defenders dug in to limit the impact of Cody Gakpo, Xavi Simons and Memphis Depay. Turkey lined up with five at the back without the ball, as it had in the win against Austria, and gradually improved. Akaydin rewarded a period of

Turkish pressure by scoring in the 35th. Arda Guler delivered a butter-soft cross for the defender to head in off the underside of the crossbar. It set off wild celebrations among Turkey's coaching staff and fans. Guler was swamped in the coaching area with hugs, while fans in the west end of the stadium set off flares. Most stayed standing after the goal. Turkish supporters greatly outnumbered their orange-clad counterparts in a city that's home to a large community of people with Turkish roots. Most are descendants of Turkish "guest workers" who arrived in what was West Germany to help rebuild the post-war economy. Germany is home to some 3 million Turks or people with Turkish roots, making them the country's largest ethnic minority, and the team has enjoyed fevered

support at Euro 2024. Koeman, who won Euro '88 as a player with the Netherlands, reacted to his team's half time deficit by sending on big forward Weghorst, whose presence gave the Dutch wingers a target. Guler hit the post with a free kick, but it was an isolated effort during a period of intense Dutch pressure that finally paid off in the 70th when De Vrij was left free to head in Depay's cross. Suddenly the Dutch supporters could be heard again, and they were cheering again shortly afterward when Gakpo forced the own goal from Muldur by getting in front of the defender to Denzel Dumfries' low cross. "We didn't start the second half very well and fell behind," Turkey captain Hakan Calhanoglu said. "After their second goal, we turned to



## Rajawat loses in semifinals of Canada Open

PTI ■ CALGARY

India's campaign at the Canada Open Super 500 badminton tournament ended after Priyanshu Rajawat suffered a straight-game loss to France's Alex Lanier in the men's singles semifinals here. World No. 39 Rajawat went down 17-21 10-21 to Lanier, ranked 37th, in 45 minutes at the Markin MacPhail Centre. The Indian had defeated Lanier at the Madrid Spain Masters qualification round last year in their only meeting. Rajawat, who had stunned Anders Antonsen of Denmark in the quarterfinals, made a positive start, opening up a 3-0 early lead but Lanier was quick to establish a 7-4 lead. The two fought hard and Rajawat did grab the lead a few times but he couldn't sustain the pressure on his opponent, who reeled off five straight points at 15-16 to eventually close out the opening game. Rajawat's game completely fell apart after the change of sides as Lanier zoomed to 8-2 and then 14-3, which proved decisive as the French shut the door on the Indian.