



# sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**The pioneer**

BRS MLC Kavitha who is now in Tihar Jail is going to turn approver. Her close relatives T. Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao are trying to convince Kavitha regarding this. KCR is trying to put on a brave face. No one is going to his farmhouse even though he is inviting many people. All BRS MLAs are now going to New Delhi.

- Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Congress MLA



**Constitutional morality a restraining factor on state: CJI**



Confident of over US\$ 800 bn goods, services this fiscal: Goyal'



Baddie on screen, BUDDY elsewhere



**DON'T MISS...**

**Trial runs begin for...**

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) started trial run Fateh Nagar and Khaja Kunta Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) on Saturday. HMWSSB MD K Ashok Reddy directed officials to prepare Fateh Nagar and Khajakunta STPs for opening. On Saturday, he visited Fateh Nagar and Khajakunta STPs which are being constructed in Package-3 as part of the STP projects. First, he went to Fateh Nagar STP, where he inspected the wet well, sequencing batch...

-PAGE: 3

**Experts outline priorities for...**

Echoing the urgency of healthcare reforms ranging from restructuring of Ayushman Bharat Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to accelerating the digital health mission, experts and industry leaders have outlined key priorities for the Modi government in its third consecutive term. Their statements highlight the importance of prioritising preventive healthcare measures, strengthening infrastructure, and increasing healthcare spending. Healthcare experts have expressed concerns about whether the government in its new term will make any difference...

-PAGE: 5

**Egypt, EU hold an investment...**

Egypt and the European Union on Saturday opened a two-day investment conference to advance the implementation of their strategic partnership agreement that includes a 7.4 billion-euro (US\$ 8 billion) aid package for the cash-strapped Middle Eastern nation. The March aid package includes both grants and loans over the next three years for the Arab world's most populous country. Most of the funds — 5 billion euros (US\$ 5.4 billion) — are macro-financial assistance to help Egypt shore up its economy, which is hit by...

-PAGE: 6

**Why Earth has only one moon...**

Connecticut, On Earth, you can look up at night and see the Moon shining brightly from hundreds of thousands of miles away. But if you went to Venus, that wouldn't be the case. Not every planet has a moon — so why do some planets have several moons, while others have none? I'm a physics instructor who has followed the current theories describing why some planets have moons and others don't. First, a moon is called a natural satellite. Astronomers refer to satellites as objects in space that orbit larger bodies. Since a moon isn't human-made, it's a natural satellite. Currently, there are two main theories for why some planets have moons. Moons are either gravitationally captured if they are within...

-PAGE: 10

## CM: Need to develop Warangal like Hyd

Asks officials to prepare 'Master Plan 2050'



CM Revanth Reddy addressing a meeting on Saturday in Warangal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stressed the need to develop Warangal like Hyderabad and directed officials to prepare 'Master Plan 2050' for Warangal's development.

The CM also directed officials to develop Warangal as a Heritage City and to complete land acquisition for the Inner and Outer Ring Roads. He asked them to provide details of the funds required for land acquisition and to ensure that the Outer Ring Road connects the National Highway.

He also called for the establish-

ment of road connectivity from the Outer Ring Road to the Textile Park.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of developing an underground drainage system under the Smart City Mission and installing drinking water supply lines. He directed officials to prevent encroachments on drains and the in-charge minister to conduct a review meeting every 20 days on the development of Warangal city.

Revanth expressed readiness to support the city's development and called for action to find a permanent solution to the waste dumping problem in Warangal.

Continued on Page 2

## Digital health profile cards for citizens soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth inaugurated the Medcover Hospital in Warangal on Saturday and announced a plan to issue a 'digital health profile card' to all citizens.

This initiative is aimed at providing free medical care to all residents in the state, as per the government's goal to improve medical facilities. "Every resident of Telangana will be given a health card soon. Many are using ration cards for Arogyasri. I want to delink it. The health card will have full medical data from blood group to complete medical profile," the CM said.

He said sometimes CMRF funds are being misused as people with no medical problems are claiming them. Such things can be prevented by using the health card, he added.

During his speech, the Chief Minister expressed happiness in opening a new hospital that supports the government's vision. He emphasised that providing educa-



tion, medical care and power supply are the keys to developing a global city.

Revanth highlighted the development of Hyderabad into a global city, particularly its prominence in the pharma sector and attributed it to the vision of Indira Gandhi. He noted that the IT sector of Telangana progressed due to the initiatives of Rajiv Gandhi. The Chief Minister announced

the government's plans to promote Telangana as a medical tourism hub and said that pharma villages would be established to support the state's pharma industry.

The government is planning to create a medical tourism hub on 1,000 acres at Shamshabad which will offer comprehensive medical services. He said the government is seeking technical assistance from the medical community regarding this.

The objective is to enable people to leave hospitals with a smile, focusing on the quality of care rather than the number of patients.

Declaring healthcare as a social responsibility, the Chief Minister urged the medical fraternity to extend their services with a service-oriented mind. He also announced that Warangal would soon have an airport and that a textile park is already being developed. The government has also plans to develop eco-tourism in Warangal, the CM said.

## Kaleshwaram probe panel's term extended



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has extended the deadline of the Kaleshwaram Project Inquiry Commission by another two months. The government took the decision as the Commission's term is ending on Sunday.

Due to the inability of the Commission to complete the inquiry within the stipulated 100 days due to Parliament elections, the Telangana Government has granted it time till August 31.

The extension was necessitated as the Commission could not function fully by holding hearings due to the Lok Sabha polls. Justice Ghose began work in May and started hearings in June. About 50 officials submitted their affidavits to the Commission on June 26.

Meanwhile, the Justice Narasimha Reddy Commission began its job on April 7 and started calling officials and retired officials in June.

## Changes sought in Jagdalpur-Vijayawada highway: Tummala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao said that he had requested the Centre to make some changes in the Vijayawada-Jagdalpur Highway.

Speaking to the media at Khammam on Saturday, Tummala said that he had placed some proposals before the Centre regarding the construction of roads.

He said that he had appealed to the Centre to construct a by-pass road as the Vijayawada-Jagdalpur

Highway is going through some villages in Khammam district.

"We have already proposed a Ring Road around Khammam city. However, the BRS government kept the Ring Road aside as it failed to allocate Rs 180 crore. Approval was given for widening roads in Bhadrachalam town. Proposals were sent to the Centre for a 4-lane highway from Bhadrachalam to Eturunagar

and from Jaggaiahpet to Kothagudem via Waira and Tallada," Tummala said.

He said that a 32 km road constructed between Kodad and Khammam for Rs 1,039 crore will be ready for use by August 30. The Minister said that permission was given earlier for the construction of a 37 km road costing Rs 445 crore between Khammam and Korivi and that it will take two years.



## Veteran Congress leader DS no more

Leaders pay last respects by draping his body with party scarf, flag



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former United APCC President and Minister Dharmapuri Srinivas (76) aka DS died on Saturday. He has been suffering from medical problems for the last two years.

Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, senior Congress leaders V. Hanumanth Rao, P. Sudarshan Reddy, Madhu Yashki Goud, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and others paid floral tributes to DS.

The TG government said that his last rites would be held with state honours.

Congress leaders honoured DS by covering his body with a party scarf and flag as per the party's tradition fulfilling DS's last wish.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu and TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan placed the Congress flag on DS's body along with flowers.

## Kejriwal to be in Judicial custody till July 12



## No consensus yet on new TPCC president

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Chief Minister stayed in New Delhi for five days, however, it is learnt that there is no consensus regarding the new TPCC President. However, hopefuls are confident that they are going to get the post. One BC leader has been telling his close aides that he is going to get the post.

However, the Congress high command has asked Telangana Congress leaders to come to New Delhi to discuss the matter. Sources said Telangana Congress leaders may go to New Delhi on Monday. The high command may announce the name of the new TPCC President in July's first week.

There is also no consensus on new Ministers. The high command is moving forward carefully to ensure that there will not be any controversy after cabinet expansion.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had said that Minister posts would not be given to MLAs who had joined from other parties. MLAs elected on Congress B-forms are happy after the Chief Minister's announcement. One Congress MLA told The Pioneer that it is a good sign for party MLAs as they will not lose out.

However, things will become clear only after the next round of talks in New Delhi regarding the new TPCC President as well as Cabinet expansion.

## India clinches T20 World Cup title

Defeats SA by seven runs



PNS ■ BRIDGETOWN

T20 World Cup here. It was India's second T20 World Cup victory after they had won it in 2007 under the legendary MS Dhoni in South Africa, and first since winning the Champions Trophy in 2013.

Continued on Page 2

## Andhra Dy CM Pawan offers prayers at Hanuman temple



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan offered prayers at the famous Lord Hanuman temple at Kondagattu in Jagtial district of Telangana on Saturday.

Kalyan, who arrived at the temple by road from Hyderabad, was accorded a traditional welcome by officials at the temple and the priests blessed him.

This was Kalyan's first visit to the temple after the runaway success of his party Jana Sena and the NDA in the recent Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh.

Kalyan, an ardent devotee of Lord Hanuman at Kondagattu, had performed special puja at the Kondagattu Hanuman temple before embarking on his 'Varahi Yatra' in Andhra ahead of the Assembly polls.

## Centre clears merger of Cantonment Board's civil areas with GHMC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre has approved the merger of civil areas under the Cantonment Board with the GHMC, fulfilling a long standing demand of Secunderabad Cantonment residents. Clear directives regarding this have been issued.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy played a pivotal role in this development by consistently bringing up the matter with the Defence Ministry during his visits to New Delhi. He also made a personal request to the Prime Minister during his March 5 visit.

The Centre has decided to abolish all Cantonment Boards, which have existed since the British era and to merge them with municipalities.



In line with this decision, Telangana Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari recently

According to these guidelines, all facilities in the Cantonment's civil areas will be transferred to the GHMC at no cost. The Cantonment Board's assets and liabilities will also be transferred to the municipality along with leases already granted. The GHMC's jurisdiction will extend to residential areas within the Cantonment but excludes the military station. The GHMC can impose taxes in areas within its jurisdiction, while lands and properties under the Centre will remain with the Central authority. The Centre emphasized that during the division of these areas, priority must be given to the security of the armed forces.

State government officials and Cantonment Board authorities have been advised to address any doubts according to the Centre's guidelines.

**OBTUSE ANGLE**









Constitutional morality a restraining factor on state: CJI

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Maintaining that "constitutional morality" is a restraining factor on the state, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said it allows for conditions that respect diversity, promote inclusion, and pursue tolerance.

and pursue tolerance", he said, delivering the keynote address at the two-day East Zone II regional conference of the National Judicial Academy. The CJI said it also imposes a duty on the state to facilitate the achievement of the kind of society that the Constitution envisages. "The Constitution uses the expression morality, but it does not use the expression constitutional morality," he said.



ues which the Constitution's Preamble sets out, he said. "Constitutional morality is an overarching principle which is derived from, but is not confined to, specific rights or values which are enshrined in the Constitution," CJI Chandrachud said. According to him, it gives a unifying constitutional ethic so that every Indian citizen can

the court is a temple of justice, he said. The CJI said he would rather recast the role of the judge as server of the people, thus bringing in the notion of compassion and empathy. He said that these concepts of constitutional morality are key for not just the judges of the higher judiciary, but also for the district judiciary as engagement of common citizens begins at this level. It is being increasingly found that judges write about their own ideologies in judgments, CJI Chandrachud noted. He said personal perceptions of a judge as to what is right or wrong must not override constitutional morality. "Please remember that we are servants of the Constitution, we are not masters of the Constitution," the CJI said.

JD(U) seeks special category status or package for Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal (United) on Saturday appointed Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha as its working president and urged the Centre to consider either special category status or special package for Bihar, underlining the party's important role in the formation of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.



The JD(U)'s decision to include a special package as an alternative to its historical push for special category status for Bihar marked a pragmatic climbdown as the Modi government had cited the 14th Finance Commission's report to rule out special category status for any more states.

Seen as competent, likeable and low-key, the Mithilanchal leader has long been a trusted aide of his ageing mentor who has burnt his fingers in the past due to shifting loyalties of his ostensibly reliable colleagues, including former JD(U) president RCP Singh, now in the BJP. Party sources said Kumar would expect Jha to maintain smooth relations with the BJP while working to get a positive response to his party's demands, including aid to Bihar. The JD(U)'s decision to include a special package as an alternative to its historical push for special category status for Bihar marked a pragmatic climbdown as the Modi government had cited the 14th Finance Commission's report to rule out special category status for any more states.



IMD warns of heavy rainfall in northwest and northeast for next 5 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall in northwest and northeast India over the next four to five days. A low-pressure area is currently situated over the north-west Bay of Bengal, adjoining the north Odisha-Gangetic West Bengal coasts, the weather office said. Cyclonic circulations have formed over northeast Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh bordering Bihar, and northwest Uttar Pradesh at lower tropospheric levels, it added. An east-west trough extends from northwest Uttar Pradesh to the low-pressure area. Due to these weather systems, isolated heavy rainfall is expected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan from June 29 to July 3, the IMD said.

Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha will likely receive heavy rainfall on June 29-30, and Bihar from June 30 to July 2. The IMD has also predicted very heavy rainfall in isolated areas in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, and west Madhya Pradesh during this period. In the northeast, a cyclonic circulation over northeast Assam will bring light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning, and isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall to Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura over the next five days. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall is expected in Arunachal Pradesh on June 29-30 and in Assam and Meghalaya on June 29.

Modi gov committed to ensure safe, smooth Amarnath Yatra: Amit Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi government is committed to ensuring a safe, smooth and pleasant pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath and is making all possible arrangements to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday. The annual Amarnath Yatra

began on Saturday as the first batch of pilgrims left the twin base camps in Baltal and Nunwan to start their journey to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas. "Shri Amarnath Yatra is an eternal symbol of the traditionalism and continuity of Indian culture. This divine yatra is starting today. I wish all the devotees good luck for the darshan,"

Shah wrote on X in Hindi. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, our government is committed to the safe, smooth and pleasant journey of the devotees and the government has made every possible arrangement to ensure that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. Har Har Mahadev," he added.

SHIVAKUMAR URGES CONG LEADERS

Refrain from comments on leadership issue in public

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Amid raging debate over the possibility of change in Chief Minister and demand for three more Deputy Chief Ministers in Karnataka, state Congress President D K Shivakumar on Saturday asked partymen and leaders to refrain from issuing public statements on the issue and warned of disciplinary action. Shivakumar, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister urged partymen to "shut their mouth" in the interest of the party, as he also requested seers not to interfere in political matters. Minister K N Rajanna, who is at the forefront of the issue of three Deputy Chief Ministers, wondered what was wrong in asking for it, and said he won't heed the warnings. There is growing demand within the state cabinet to have three more Deputy Chief Ministers -- from Veerashaiva-Lingayat, SC/ST and minority



communities. Currently, Shivakumar from the dominant Vokkaliga community is only the Deputy Chief Minister in the Siddaramaiah cabinet. A Vokkaliga seer Kumara Chandrashekaranaath Swamiji of Vishwa Vokkaliga Mahasamastana Math on Thursday had publicly urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to step down and make way for his deputy Shivakumar. Following this a Veerashaiva-Lingayat seer -- Srisailla Jagadguru Channa Siddharama Panditaradhya

Swamiji on Friday said ministers from his community should be considered for the CM's post in case there is a leadership change, while also pitching for them to be given priority in the event of creation of additional Deputy CM posts. "There is no discussion on any Deputy Chief Minister nor there is any question about the Chief Minister. Swamiji (Vokkaliga seer) out of affection towards me might have spoken about me. That's all. I request -- I don't need anyone's recommendation. For the work we have done our party high command will decide," Shivakumar said in response to a question whether he had taken up with the party high command the demand for more Deputy CMs during the Delhi visit. Addressing reporters here, he said, "Kharge (AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and I, in the interest of the party, have decided how to function. So there is no need for any MLA or Minister or Swamiji to speak. If they (seers) bless us it's enough..."

INDIA CORNER

Woman poisons 9-month-old son, dies by suicide



A 27-year-old woman poisoned her 9-month-old son, who survived, before hanging herself in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, an official said on Saturday. The police have registered a case against the woman's husband and in-laws after her mother accused them of harassing her daughter. Pallavi Vinod Dhoke fed some insecticide to her baby and hanged herself at her matrimonial home in Shegaon (Bk) village, about 60 km from the district headquarters, on Friday evening when other family members were away. After returning home, her family members called the police who rushed Pallavi and the baby to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead, the official said. The baby was then shifted to a private hospital in Chandrapur and he is said to be in a stable condition. However, Pallavi's mother accused her in-laws of torturing her daughter over money. On her complaint, police registered a case against Pallavi's husband and his parents, the official said.

India presents its priorities under Colombo Process



India has presented an action plan focusing on several of its priority areas for regional cooperation under the Colombo Process, a regional consultative forum comprising 12 Asian nations. India rolled out the plan while chairing a meeting of the grouping in Geneva on Friday. In the meeting, India listed a range of its priorities that included reviewing the financial sustainability of the Colombo Process and broadening the grouping's membership by including new nations as members and observers. Muktesh Pardeshi, Secretary (consular-passport-visa division) in the Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the special address at the meeting. "He emphasised India's commitment to advancing the objectives of the Colombo Process and enhancing collaboration among member states," the ministry said. "India presented an outline of an action plan for the next two years, focusing on key priorities and initiatives to further strengthen the Colombo Process," it said. In May, India assumed the chair of the Colombo Process for the first time since its inception. "The Process continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing regional cooperation on migration issues, and with India's leading role, there is a renewed commitment to engaging all member states actively, improving migration governance, and fostering safe, orderly, and regular migration for organised overseas employment," the ministry said in a statement.

Court remands Revanna in judicial custody till July 8



A court here on Saturday remanded former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse of several women, to judicial custody till July 8. He was produced before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court judge after his four-day Special Investigation Team (SIT) custody ended today. On Monday, Prajwal Revanna was remanded to judicial custody till July 8. But, he was later sent to SIT custody till June 29 by the Magistrate court judge, after the police sought a body warrant through the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP). Four separate cases have been registered against the 33-year-old grandson of the former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, all of which are being investigated

Poll results moral defeat for Modi: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday said the Lok Sabha poll verdict has signalled a "personal, political and moral defeat" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi but "he is continuing as if nothing has changed". In a newspaper article, she claimed there is "not the slightest evidence that he (Modi) has come to terms with the electoral outcome or understand the verdict". She said that when the prime minister's "emissaries sought unanimity for the post of Speaker", the opposition INDIA bloc agreed to support the government. "But in keeping with convention and tradition, it was only



fair and to be expected that the post of deputy speaker would be given to a member from the ranks of the opposition," Gandhi said. But this "perfectly reasonable request" was found unacceptable by the government, she

said, adding the opposition alliance is committed to restoring balance and productivity in Parliament. "On June 4, 2024, the verdict of our country's electorate was delivered clearly and resoundingly. It signalled a personal, political, and moral defeat for a prime minister who had awarded himself a divine status during the campaign," the Congress leader said. "Yet, the prime minister continues as if nothing has changed. He preaches the value of consensus but continues to value confrontation," she said. She also described the mention of Emergency by the prime minister, the Lok Sabha Speaker and BJP leaders as an attempt to divert attention from the "assault on the Constitution". "It is a fact of history that in March 1977 the people of our country gave a categorical verdict on the Emergency, which was accepted unhesitatingly and unequivocally," Gandhi said.

ED attaches land, bank deposits of CPI(M) in Kerala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate alleged Saturday that the CPI(M) in Kerala was holding proceeds of money laundering, as it attached a land parcel and bank deposits worth Rs 73 lakh of the political party in a probe linked to the Karuvannur Service Cooperative Bank "scam". Assets worth Rs 28.65 crore of various individuals and entities linked to the case have also been attached by the federal agency after a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was issued. Official sources said the party may be named as an accused in the next supplementary

chargesheet to be filed in this case. If so, it will be the second political party to be arraigned as accused in a money laundering investigation after the Aam Aadmi Party. AAP has recently been named by the ED in the Delhi excise policy case. The CPI(M) vehemently denied the charges of wrongdoing and money laundering. The attached assets include 18 immovable properties, valued at Rs 28.65 crore, consisting of lands and buildings in Kerala of the beneficiaries of the "scam", including an immovable property worth Rs 10 lakh registered in the name of a district secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for a party office, the ED said in a statement.

RESTRUCTURING AB-PMJAY TO ELEVATING HEALTH BUDGET

Experts outline priorities for Modi government

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Echoing the urgency of healthcare reforms ranging from restructuring of Ayushman Bharat Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to accelerating the digital health mission, experts and industry leaders have outlined key priorities for the Modi government in its third consecutive term. Their statements highlight the importance of prioritising preventive healthcare measures, strengthening infrastructure,

and increasing healthcare spending. Healthcare experts have expressed concerns about whether the government in its new term will make any difference by increasing public expenditure on healthcare to the desired level in India. Notably, the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017, which promises to increase public health spending to 2.5 percent of the GDP, remains overdue even as Indians rely heavily on private services.



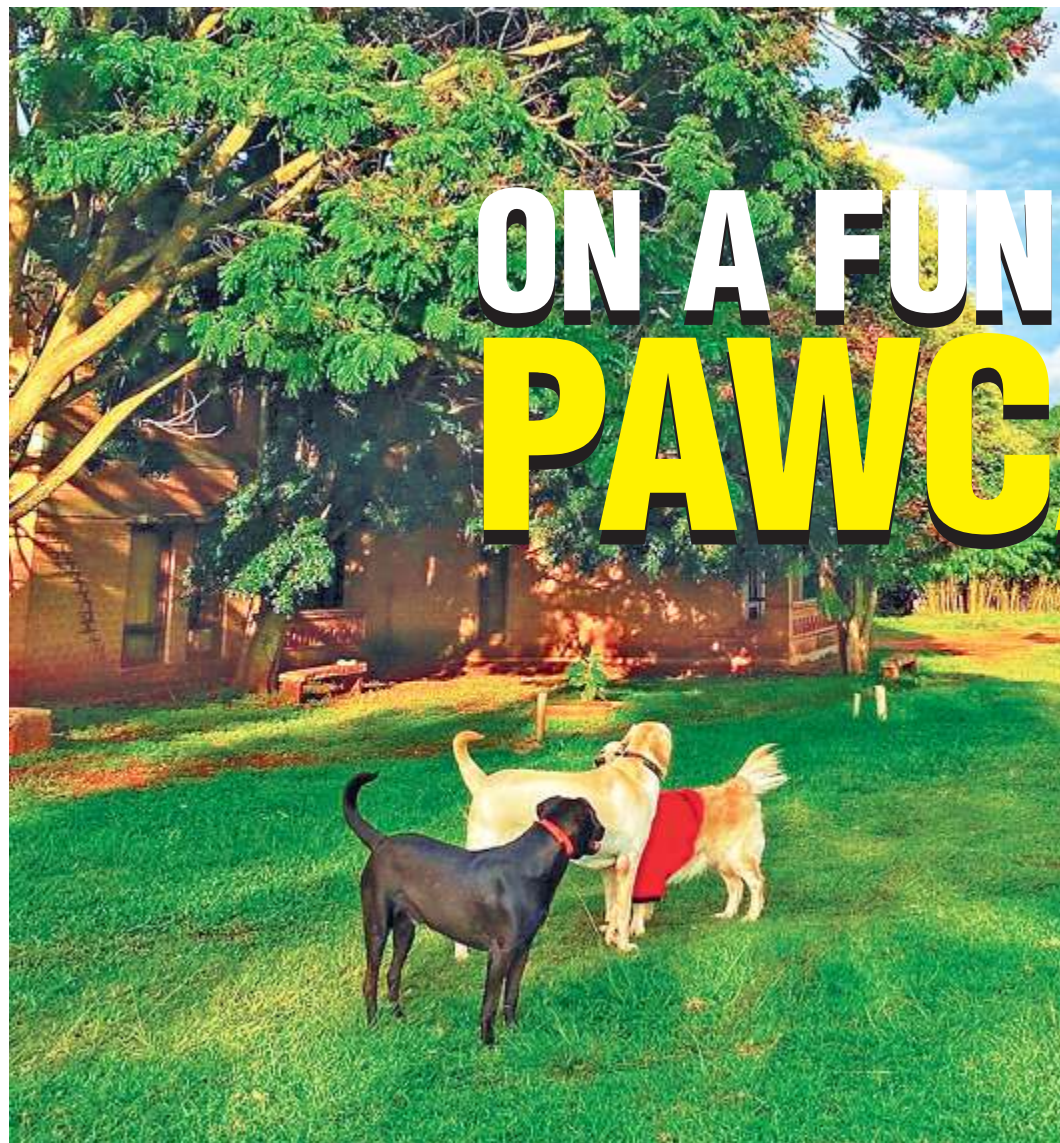
Dr Girdhar Gyani, Director General, AHPI (Association of Healthcare Providers, India) said, "In the upcoming term, we

urge the government to prioritise a comprehensive approach to fostering a 'Healthy India'. This entails promoting preventive health measures focusing on sanitation, clean drinking water, and nutrition, alongside the rapid implementation of health and wellness Centres for preventive health education and screening." Intensifying the 'Fit India Movement', strengthening occupational health schemes, and restructuring the Ayushman Bharat Yojana to

reach all SECC-2011 beneficiaries are also crucial steps, Dr Gyani said. He also highlighted the importance of incentivising the private sector to establish tertiary care facilities in tier-III cities, promoting the indigenisation of medical equipment, and accelerating the National Digital Health Mission to address healthcare infrastructure gaps and achieve universal health coverage through increased government spending.



"Disease is an experience of a so-called mortal mind. It is fear made manifest on the body"  
— Mary Baker Eddy



## ON A FUN FILLED PAWCATION!

Indulge in exciting activities with your pets and make a holiday with them truly special, writes SHARMILA CHAND

Whether indulging in gourmet cuisine for your pets, celebrating their birthdays, pampering them with grooming sessions or participating in fun activities, there's something to enrich every experience during a vacation with furry members. There are a range of pet-friendly hotels and resorts that are more than happy to welcome you and your loyal companion. From luxury resorts to cozy retreats, these properties ensure complete comfort and are a haven both for you and your four-legged buddy.

### COMFORT MEETS LUXURY AT PRESIDENT, MUMBAI - IHCL SELEQIONS

Looking to celebrate your pet's birthday? Go for a Pawcation at President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQions. "We have curated a well thought out pet-friendly vacation concept known as Pawcations," says Afzal Khan, General Manager. "We understand that pets are cherished members of the family, and we strive to create a comfortable and enriching environment for them during their stay. Hence we provide pet-friendly amenities like plush pet beds and bedding, engaging toys, and a gourmet pet menu crafted by our culinary experts." Embracing a pet-friendly policy, the hotel team makes sure the guests' comfort is enhanced by offering the services of on-call pet caretakers, as per specific requirements. Moreover, if there is any health related issue, there is a specialist veterinarian on call. Not to forget pet grooming services with prior appointments, exclusive pet toiletries, and designated pet-friendly zones. "We not only organize elaborate party with delightful high tea and fun outdoor activities for furry birthday boys and girls but also make sure the service is professional with warmth and care. Our team undergoes regular comprehensive training programs to understand animal behavior, hygiene protocols, and proper handling procedures. We also invite external pet trainers and behaviorists to train our staff regularly, ensuring they are well-equipped to interact with pets and provide top-notch service. Hence, we take great pride in being a pet-friendly destination," concludes Khan with a smile.



### PAMPERING PETS AT 'OUR NATIVE VILLAGE ECO RESORT', BENGALURU

At 'Our Native Village Eco Resort', nestled in the serene village of Hesaraghatta, guests can indulge in a memorable vacay with the joy of bonding with their beloved pets amidst nature's embrace. "Whether exploring our sprawling grounds or immersing yourself in our cultural experiences, every moment promises a harmonious blend of luxury, responsible tourism and eco-conscious living, adhering to our pet-friendly policy," tells Antharaj A, The Operations Manager. He adds, "We get repeat guests who have enjoyed their staycation in seamless harmony with their furry companions. As a proud pet-friendly establishment, the retreat provides essential amenities, including a variety of dog foods, water bowls, leashes, floor mats, and cozy blankets. The sprawling grounds offer ample space for pets to roam freely amidst lush lawns and village paths, perfect for leisurely strolls and bonding moments." Designed with meticulous care, the dedicated pet bathing area combines comfort with rustic charm, ensuring a refreshing bath experience for furry companions. Specially prepared food ensures pets receive nutritious meals, supporting the commitment to sustainability by minimizing environmental impact. "Complete with all necessary amenities, the resort's natural charm

reflects our dedication to pampering pets just as we do for our human guests. While the guests rediscover childhood joys playing village games like gilli danda and kite flying, their pets act as best cheerleaders!" Antharaj says with a smile.

### DISCOVER PET-FRIENDLY RETREAT AT MYSA ZINC JOURNEY BY THE FERN

Pet parents looking to take a break and hit the road with their fur babies, look no further than MYSA Zinc Journey by The Fern, a premier resort located in Nani Devati, Gujarat. Renowned for its serene ambiance and top-notch amenities, this resort stands out as a haven for pet lovers, offering an exceptional blend of comfort, luxury, and pet-friendly hospitality. Naveen Vaishnav, Squad Champion at the Resort says, "Committed to pampering four legged guests, at MYSA Zinc Journey by The Fern, pets are warmly welcomed and cherished. Furthermore, the property offers a range of facilities, making this resort the ideal choice for travellers with pets. The resort offers 24 elegantly designed rooms and villas, each providing ample space for you and your pets to relax." Spread across 9 acres within the scenic Glade One Golf Resort, the resort features beautifully landscaped gardens and open spaces perfect for the four legged to explore and enjoy. For a leisurely stroll or a brisk walk, the serene pathways and green expanses offer a perfect retreat for pets and their owners.

"At the resort we offer dedicated services and facilities that include comfortable bedding and special dietary options for your furry friends. Our chefs cook as per pets' liking and specifications, we don't have printed menus as we believe in curating for them. While your pets enjoy the outdoors, you can indulge in a variety of resort activities. From the challenging 9-hole Gary Player-designed golf course to rejuvenating spa treatments and a sparkling swimming pool, here is the unique blend of luxury and pet-friendly hospitality. Located just a short drive from Ahmedabad, this resort provides a tranquil retreat where you and your pets can relax and rejuvenate," adds Vaishnav.

### BONDING IN A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

Nestled amidst the serene landscapes of Taj Fort Aguada Resort & Spa, Taj Holiday Village Resort & Spa and The Yellow House, lies a haven not just for humans but also for their beloved furry companions. Embracing the bond between pets and their owners, we proudly declare ourselves a pet-friendly resort, where wagging tails and happy barks are as much a part of the atmosphere as the rustling of leaves and gentle lapping of waves. "As the pet's comfort is paramount, we provide cozy & comfortable beddings to ensure their good night's sleep. Offering a range of soothing amenities such as gentle shampoo, conditioner, and nourishing paw and nose butter - these products are carefully chosen to keep your pet looking and feeling their best throughout their stay. Beyond physical comfort, we cultivate a nurturing environment where every aspect of your pet's experience is thoughtfully considered. Our dedicated staff is trained to provide attentive care and ensure that all pets receive personalized attention and affection," says Sanchita Banerjee Rodrigues, MarCom for North Goa Resorts. Fitness is of utmost importance. Whether it's a leisurely morning walk or an evening romp under the setting sun, the scenic surroundings provide the perfect backdrop for the pets to stay active and happy. "Understanding that pets thrive when they can engage in physical activities, we offer a variety of opportunities for them to stay active and happy amidst our scenic

surroundings. Whether it's a leisurely morning walk along our lush trails or an energetic romp during the enchanting sunset hours, every moment outdoors is tailored to keep pets healthy and stimulated. Providing designated areas where they can engage in interactive play and socialize with other furry companions under the watchful eye of our attentive staff. These supervised activities not only keep pets physically fit but also mentally stimulated, ensuring a well-rounded experience during their stay." When it comes to pets' dining, Chef Nishant Diwakar Executive Sous Chef of Taj Fort Aguada being a pet parent himself takes keen interest in designing and planning of the pet menus of Taj North Goa Resorts. He firmly believes as important a balanced diet is to us humans, our furry friends require the same amount of attention. We provide specially curated menu for them to get the perfect amount of nutrient & a tasty treat. From dishes made with bacon & chicken bones to drool over to waffles made of yoghurt, banana & pumpkin. The team goes beyond basic sustenance to provide culinary experiences that enhance their stay and contribute to their overall enjoyment.

### A PERFECT GETAWAY WITH PETS!

At Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield, there are special pet fiestas and brunches that create memorable moments for pets and owners alike. For long-staying guests, there is a unique touch of companionship - a small fish in a pot to keep them company. "At our hotel, we pride ourselves on providing an immersive experience with cozy beds, engaging toys, and meticulously sanitized play areas, creating a haven for our four-legged guests," tells Anjali Naik, Director of Sales and Marketing. She adds, "Pets have access to our dining outlets and lush lawns, where they can relax and play freely. Our exclusive pet menu offers health-centric, salt-free options for their dining pleasure. Our commitment to creating a pet-friendly environment goes beyond mere accommodation, offering a truly immersive and delightful experience for both you and your beloved companion." —Sharmila Chand is an author and independent journalist who writes on Travel, Food and Lifestyle



# TANGRA TALES

Kolkata, Bengalis the world over, and Tangra, share a very special culinary heritage and culture, going far back in history. **SHOBORI GANGULI** got to relive the bond at the Westin Gurgaon recently



Most people familiar with the trademark Chinese cuisine of Kolkata would know about Tangra. An erstwhile tannery on the eastern outskirts of then British Calcutta, soon to become famous as the city's Chinatown, this tiny colony was populated by Hakka origin Chinese folk who came to India to work in the tanneries, their craft and art soon to become synonymous with the finest leather accessories in the subcontinent. The womenfolk worked home kitchens to supplement meager household incomes. Today, the tanneries are all gone but Tangra has left its signature on a cuisine now globally known as Hakka Chinese. Recently, I had the fortune to relive some childhood memories of anniversaries and birthdays most often spent at some restaurant or the other in Tangra, wolfing down Golden Fried Prawns, Chicken dimsums, Hakka noodles, prawns sauted in garlic and red chillies, the list goes on. The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi, hosted a



CHEF HO CHI MING

nine day culinary pop up aptly called Tales of Tangra which promised an "explosion of flavours" from Kolkata's Chinatown. The event featured a specially curated menu by Guest Chef Ho Chi Ming from The Westin Pune Koregaon Park. By sheer geography, one can easily identify the unique Kolkata-Chinese culinary bond, the two regions in such close physical proximity, underlining the very special nature of the food not to be found anywhere else in the world despite Tangra's journey as an Oriental cuisine beyond the frontiers of Bengal. The menu at Westin was indeed meticulously planned by the Chef to capture the essence of this legendary fusion cuisine, tracing its roots back to an era long ago when Chinese immigrants in then Calcutta, blending their traditions with Indian culture to script and create Chinatown's culinary

proffess. Unfortunately, none of that history now remains, except in the hands of home and professional chefs, who still keep the history of Chinatown resonating with contemporary approaches, and of course, special twists given to recipes long lost. While Chef Ho did put up a great show with his Scallion Crepes, Homestyle Taro Cakes, Kari Fish Dumplings, Sweet and Sour Prawns, Four Season Green Beans, Crispy Chilli Garlic Potatoes, Tangra style authentic Hakka noodles, the menu had a huge vegetarian accent. With the world turning to vegetarianism each passing day, this is only understandable. But one fervently hopes that Hakka Chinese seafood will always have its patrons surviving in some corner or the other in the world. Chef Ho's passion for Asian cuisine was apparent in the innovations he brought to each dish. His approach, affability and commitment to authenticity were truly welcome. Chef Amit Dash, Multi Property Executive Chef for The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi said, "We are excited to host Chef Ho Chi Ming and present Tales of Tangra to our



patrons. This pop-up is a tribute to the rich cultural tapestry and culinary excellence of Tangra and a testament to our commitment to continue offering our guests diverse and exceptional dining experiences." The soups ranged from Manchow, Assorted Vegetables, Ginger, Cilantro Broth, Hot and Sour soup, non vegetarian bits like prawns and chickens were only add-ons. Personally, I feel a soup or broth must stew in its original juices and not be relegated to add-ons for a vegetable broth. It makes a critical culinary difference in terms of taste, texture and aromas. All in all, it felt good to taste a bit of Tangra far away from its original shores of Kolkata right in the heart of Delhi. Long live Tangra's signature Hakka cuisine.

## Disappointing Service Mars Fine Dining Experiences



**PAWAN SONI** ventures to The China Kitchen at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi, famed for its Peking Duck. While the star dish impressed, but the experience is marred by inattentive services

I recently visited The China Kitchen at Hyatt Regency New Delhi, renowned for its exquisite Peking Duck, which I consider among the best in the National Capital Region. Some might argue that Hakkasan in Mumbai outshines it, but my personal experiences at Hakkasan in Abu Dhabi and a pop-up at Shangri-La Delhi didn't include the duck, so I can't compare. Nonetheless, my recent dining experience at The China Kitchen, despite the superb duck, left me dissatisfied, primarily due to subpar service. The evening began on a sour note with a lackluster welcome. We received no warm greetings or guidance to our table, and no one offered us menus or water, despite the sweltering Delhi summer. The absence of hospitality was in stark contrast to the standards one expects at a 5-star property. When we ordered our first dish, a gomai salad, I specifically requested extra sesame dressing on the side, a preference I had made clear to the server. However, the salad arrived without the extra dressing and was neither cold nor flavorful, lacking the acidity and vibrant tastes I anticipated. The China Kitchen could learn a thing or two from China Garden, which excels at this dish in the city. Fortunately, the other dishes like chicken shao mai dumplings, edamame dim sum, and honey chilli lotus roots were much better. Yet, the service remained mechanical and impersonal. There were no smiles, no proactive plate changes, and no clearing of the



table. Even the chef who came to carve the duck remained silent, possibly due to a language barrier, but a smile would have gone a long way. The hostess who prepared the pancake rolls also wore a stony expression while she stood near our table for some time preparing the pancakes. Despite enjoying most of our meal, we quickly finished and left, paying over Rs18,000 (including a 10% service charge) without any drinks. I contemplated asking for the service charge to be waived but refrained, considering how dependent the staff might be on these tips. I was particularly disappointed when my request for duck salt and pepper was denied because we had ordered only half a duck, a decision that seemed unnecessarily rigid. A little more flexibility and hospitality could have made all the difference, especially when very few order it. Attentive and friendly

service could have transformed our dining experience. Even though the food was largely enjoyable, the lack of warmth and attention overshadowed it. Similar was our experience just a day prior at Pullman hotel where a friend hosted his daughter's

birthday party at their all-day dining restaurant Pluck. Orders were mixed up, a sparkling wine cork flew in the air missing the patrons without any apology from the server, prawns vanished from the buffet spread, and orders either took a lot of time or were

completely missed. Something has happened to that smiley and polite star hotel service, especially after COVID. Fresh batches are seeing fewer takers, most experienced staff have either left the industry or are moving abroad for better wages and work

conditions. What remains is the new service levels. Either we will get used to it or start paying them the wages they truly deserve to retain deserving candidates. — Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com







# FROM THE PEN OF A GROUNDED POET

It is important to note that Neerada is as much a Nature poet as she is a people's poet, says SWATI PAL

How many of us have had to be admonished for things not being aligned? The books in our book case in the days when books were bought and read? The clothes in our cupboard? The shoes in the closet? How many of us were ticked off at school perhaps for the tie being askew or the pair of socks not climbing up at the same place on each leg? Or the writing in our notebooks being asymmetrical? For the better part of my childhood and those of my friends, there was a constant, relentless push and shove towards alignment and well, we certainly rebelled at it as young people! A part of me still does and thus when I chance upon a poppy flower for example, in a neat bed of chrysanthemums in the college gardens, I cannot deny that my heart lights up with joy at this break in the order of things!

So when I was invited to read and speak on this utterly delightful collection of poems called 'Alignment' by Neerada Suresh, I cannot deny that my interest was instantly piqued by the title and I immediately read the title poem. Rohan Kaul's home and his partner, Promilla simply came alive by the word picture painted by Neerada Suresh in her rib tickling comparisons between the state of the house in the absence and presence of Rohan. There is a certain glee in the air when Rohan is away as things lie unaligned and unfettered; the same things, to quote, *But when Rohan Kaul is in, Newspapers stand stacked, Compressed, breathing in. Shoes align themselves Awed, open mouthed. Paintings, curtains, Cushions, sofas All tell a tamed tale.*

The fact is that while alignment is not only, politically speaking an important credo that nations strive for and while it may have its merits, alignment can often come at great cost. It may be the cost of freedom, it may be about being 'tamed' as Neerada put it; it may leave us in gaping fear and thus 'open mouthed'. The hope perhaps lies in Promilla who, as the poem ends with *defies*

*A certain kind of alignment.* Don't let the light and bubbling language deceive you, this poem has far greater implications if we read it closely and it is this deceptive mirth that the

poem has which makes the poem, like many others by her, such a joy to read. Neerada is a grounded soul. Her poems reflect that and she makes poetry out of the ordinary quirky eccentricities and foibles that fill all of our lives. A poem that really clicked with me is *Of Lists*. It has that elegant humour that seems to be a characteristic trait of Neerada's, the wonderful ability to laugh at one's self. It begins with the declaration *I am one*

*For lists.*

And then, with great good humour she narrates how fishing out her list from her bag full of things makes the list redundant as she involuntarily lists from memory and then she swears, *Under my breath*

*Now to list down*

*A set of instructions*

*How not to forget*

*Getting across*

*The list you make.*

I cannot recall the uncountable times that I have had to strip my entire bag to find a list and then found it much later. It is such a relatable experience and that is what endears the reader to Neerada's poetry, the sheer relatability of the experiences.

Life and the times as we live them are the focus of Neerada's poetry. We talk for example about how communication between people now is held ransom by the cell phone. Neerada converts our trite conversations into a poem which she entitles, *The New Normal*.

*New normal is*

*Sitting side by side*

*On a sofa*

*With no eye contact*

*Chatting of this and that*

These are the first few lines and the poem ends with the sad fact that the new normal is:

*And at all times*

*Not facing each other*

*But thumb twitching*

*On the mobile through*

*Inane vicarious clips*

*Of far and near ones*

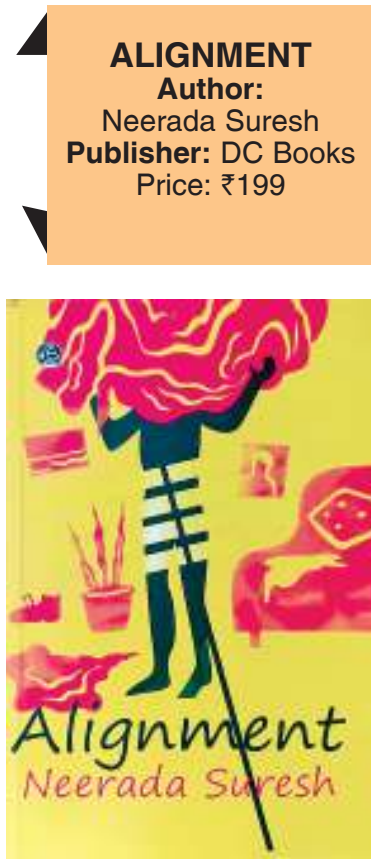
*And total strangers*

*Never once glancing*

*Directly or even sideways*

*Smiling at each other.*

Modes of communication or rather the language of communication comes up again in another poem called *Version 3.0* where the poet talks about her journey from the deep south up north 'travelling light with nothing/more than



a bilingual tongue'. Subtly yet strongly commenting upon the Rashtrabhasha issue, she says, *At the workplace, monolingual, mute Biding time mastering a language National though notional, Opening floodgates of ecstasy mouthing My own tongue, my mother tongue, At regional gatherings.*

This is such a striking comment upon the way in which so much in our relationships with people, so much of our identity, so many of our needs, are determined by the fluency with which we speak different languages. But are we accepted because we speak the required language or do we remain strangers divided by our regional differences, not explicitly stated but always there? Do we, in turn, become one with the region of our profession or adoption or do we still dream of lands we associate most with the tongue that comes easiest and naturally to us, our mother tongue? These are questions to think about. Neerada makes you think.

She makes you laugh and cry as well, sometimes together. One such poem is *When my brother fell sick* in which the poet describes her brother who was bedridden after a botched eye surgery. She writes about his courage, *He still smiles as always.*

*Not once did he*

*Lament this plight, foul mouth*

*The surgeon or contemplate*

*Suing. Resigned at once*

*To a possible, partial vision*

*In his bad eye, pacified*

*His wife, my raging sisier in law.*

*His expressive eyes*

*Now inscrutable*

*Behind the dark glasses.*

*But his smile had the same texture and tinge*

*Of the smile he sported*

*When Mother died*

*And he lingered by her one last time.*

The poem is such a beautiful reminder that warriors are not found only on the battlefield; there are many who soldier on heroically confronted by the vicissitudes of life. The brother you read about will surely capture your heart and become your hero.

One of the characteristics of Neerada's poems in 'Alignment' is that there is a lot said through implication which is sometimes sensuous and can get your heart beating a bit faster. For example, in the poem *Delete*, the poet writes about

*Your unsolicited*

*Picture on FB*

*And she goes on to say,*

*The familiar contours*

*Of your face*

*Traced out a trillion times*

*Through summer and winter*

*Stood out embossed*

*On my finger tips.*

*The best option now*

*For the photo shopped version,*

*Press delete*

*To wipe out that sting*

*Of dormant memories*

*Off my fingertips.*

This is a brilliant use of synesthetic imagery and one can literally feel the tingling in the tips of one's fingers. A poem that ends with a delightful twist is *Chrysnathemums* where the unnamed 'he' always came when the chrysanthemums bloomed and he always asked if they were dahlias or marigolds, and the poet says *Too polite to correct*

*She'd smile- a wide smile*

*Her lashes lowered and*

*The chrysnathemums paled*

*Into insignificance.*

*The evening*

*Stretched to its elastic limits*

*Catapulted into night.*

*What she didn't know was*

*That he had always known*

*They were chrysnathemums.*

There is the sweetness of romance in these lines that is unmistakable and so appealing; one can almost imagine the whole scene played out in one's head. Tea 1 carries the same fragrance of romance very delicately framed, implied through such lines as *While I made tea*

*On a rusty stove*

*He stood watching*

*Leaning by the door*

*And then said,*

*I like the cut of your dress*

*As though it were a cue*

*To turn the stove on to sim*

*And let the simmering within*

*Come to a boil.*

Coming back to the pictorial quality of the poems, a reason why many of the poems in fact can be almost dramatically played out in the imagination is the kind of detailing that Neerada works into her poems. Take the poem *Of Haystacks*. This entire poem is literally painted with an eye for the minutest of details and it reads

*The cotton tree stood*

*In its slender trunk*

*With its bursting pods*

*Of parachuting blobs*

*As the turbaned, earth hued*

*Cart man, cushioned*

*On bales and bales*

*Of golden yellow straw*

*Came swaying, swinging*

*Whistling to the orchestra of*

*The hoof clicking clap dance*

*Of the ambling bullocks.*

Colour, sound, movement all seemed fused almost like a motion picture being played out on the printed page. And of course the symbolism, the personification is discernible, as is the use of alliteration in the swaying swinging, cart cushioned, clicking clap. This lends a wonderful rhythmic motion to the scene and has been really cleverly used.

Again, in *The Breadfruit Tree*, the poet describes the tree,

*We didn't make much*

*Of the breadfruit tree*

*That stood sentry like*

*By the boundary wall*

*Spilling its bickering spread*

*Over the neighbour's roof*

*Dropping yellow leaves*

*Plopping crow eaten messy fruits*

Like I said, the tree, pretty much like the haystacks in the previous poem, comes to life in the mind's eye.

If brevity is the soul of wit, Neerada really acers it in her short poems, two of which are *Absence* and *Sorrows*.

*Absence,*

*Distance*

*Were surefire*

*Terminators*

*Of whatever was*

*Between us*

*I thought,*

*But they*

*Like rings in trees*

*Add girth, depth*

*Linking the past*

*With the present,*

*Casting shadows*

*Of decay*

*Into the future*

Direct and simple, the simile is so apt and new- the rings on the trees and the passage of time. It's important to note that Neerada is as much a Nature poet as she is a people's poet. In *Sorrows* she says,

*Sorrows*

*Like a newborn*

*Arranged itself*

*In my arms*

*Purring in content*

*As if to say*

*Never let me go*

*For the reward*

*Of great truths*

*To be reaped*

*And revealed*

*In the future.*

Those who carry their sorrows with them will feel that the poem is made for them. But that's the magic of Neerada's pen, she will make her readers feel that the people, places, thoughts and experiences are theirs that she writes about.

Read her, you will feel at home.

— Swati Pal, Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, has been a Charles Wallace; John McGrath Theatre Studies and Fulbright Nehru fellowship scholar. She has published on theatre, creative and academic writing, education and translates from Hindi to English. In *Absentia* is a collection of her poems

# Journey to an expanded self awareness

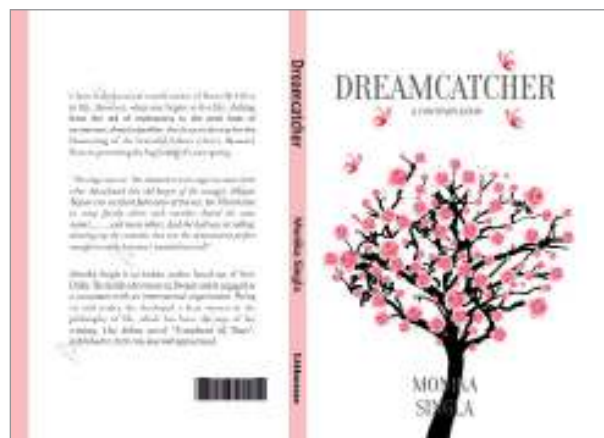
The book opens in the present-day scenario, where a rather unsure Loveena of mid-thirties is boarding a train to Pathankot.

Her already raw senses are over burdened by the onslaught of experience of a train station environment.

Yet her insecurities are deep seated in her psyche and are result of the generational trauma she endured during her growing up years by the hands of her equally tormented mother Neena, reviews DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

The ("Dreamcatcher") is the story of Loveena, the protagonist of the book who is a sensitive soul. It beautifully narrates the journey through her trials and tribulations, her realisations, her pains and her metamorphosis and an ultimate 'coming of age' which leaves her in a state of expanded awareness of self as well as her surroundings and people there in. Author Monika has orchestrated her sound knowledge of literature, language and the subject & object to bring on paper the story of a child Loveena, till she finds solace passing through life's labyrinth, unfortunately all nurtured in close walls of her family. The just published book revolves around Loveena's mother Neena who attained motherhood through Loveena after a long wait of ten years. Neena's intensity

thus shifted to being extra protective about her daughter from the negativities of the world. Having brought up in a rather affluent and rich family, she desires nothing less for her daughter. And even though Loveena had both her parents-Neena and her father Dev, it was her mother and mother's stories which were to carve her life and make her the person that she would become. And the story's trajectory thus turns to Loveena's mother Neena's life. Neena's husband Dev was a victim of his own sense of helplessness for his lack of understanding the business of Neena's father and inability to take it up for posterity, even though he was the sole son-in-law the family had. His job as an assistant professor of history in the university projected him as most suitable boy for Neena, when a friend of Neena's



father told him about Dev and his docile nature. Quite obviously Neena's father believed it to be the significant trait suitable for her pampered daughter. As Neena entered Dev's life and his house after her wedding, it was bustling with Dev's family. Neena was immediately overwhelmed by the sheer number



of people and was unable to adjust to this new environment which was totally unlike her solitary and exclusive upbringing in an affluent household. Sensing Neena's hesitation and reservations, Dev's family too accepted her into their family but without completely absorbing her into their lives. So, even though

Neena was married into Dev's family she could never truly become a part of it. Dev's detachment or lack of desire to correct this situation further acerbated the relationships. Troubled relations with in-laws, Dev's indifference clubbed with an anguishing wait of ten years to attain motherhood further fed Neena's sense of mistrust and suspicions and her belief that the world was a dangerously bad place. Loveena who was born as a happy child with a calm, pleasing, innocent disposition was always eager to embrace everybody, never earned approval for her behaviour from her mother. Neena always dismissed these traits as incompatible with the ways of world. Thus, growing up, Loveena's world protected by her mother, remained confined within the four walls of the palatial house with the house help Babli as a constant companion who

too gets married leaving behind a void in Loveena's life. Finally, Loveena finds her suitor in Sanand and her engagement to him was greeted as the most welcome news by everyone later on which did not worked due to triggers of Neena's fears. For Loveena this incident proved to be the one which augmented her belief in Neena's words that world is a bad place. Her father Dev too gone followed by passing of Neena. Loveena finally married, not to start a family but only to drown the haunting hollowness of her soul into joys and laughter. Vikram was a colleague of Loveena and the only thing she knew about him was that he was a divorcee with two grown up kids. Soon this too developed a marital conflict. Unable to handle this situation any longer Loveena decides that she needs to get

respite from her choppy life that and decides to leave the house and Vikram. She goes looking for solitude in a place away from the chaos of the city, away from the prodding eyes of the society. Her life's journey takes a new turn as she arrives at Pathankot where she embarks upon a spiritualistic journey. Armed with the strength of her soul and her renewed faith in life and self and the world in general, Loveena finally finds herself ready to go back to place from where she herself had once run away from all her life challenges a long time back. Her tumultuous relationship with Vikram's place was when she had shunned everything to cross over into next phase of her life. She was now ready to go meet Vikram as a new person. But this time she isn't running away. This time she is running towards meeting life head-on.



## Only 17% of targets to improve life around world are likely to be reached by 2030, UN reports

The United Nations warned Friday that only 17% of its 169 targets to improve life for the world's more than 7 billion people are on track to be reached by the 2030 deadline.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched the annual report saying, "It shows the world is getting a failing grade." World leaders adopted the 17 wide-ranging development goals from ending global poverty to achieving gender equality in 2015, and set 169 specific targets to be reached by the end of the decade.

According to the report, nearly half the targets show minimal or moderate progress and over one-third are stalled or regressing — with just 17% are on track to be achieved.

"The takeaway is simple," Guterres said. "Our failure to secure peace, to confront climate change, and to boost international finance is undermining development."

The report also cited the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and said an additional 23 million people were pushed into extreme poverty and over 100 million more were suffering from hunger in 2022 compared to 2019.

"In a world of unprecedented wealth, knowledge and technologies, the denial of basic needs for so many is outrageous and unacceptable," Guterres said.

On the downside, the U.N. reported that for the first time this century, per-capita GDP growth in half of the world's most vulnerable nations is slower than that of advanced economies, threatening improvements in equality. And in 2022, it said, nearly 60% of countries faced moderate to abnormally high food prices.

The goal of quality education is far off track. Only 58% of students worldwide achieved minimum proficiency in reading by the end of primary school, and "recent assessments reveal a significant decline in math and reading scores in many countries," the report said.

As for gender equality, it said the world continues to lag: One in five girls still marry before age 18, violence against women persists, far too many women don't have the right to decide on their sexual and reproductive health — and at current rates it will take 176 years for women to reach parity with men in management positions. Guterres said the report

also has "some glimmers of hope." Mobile broadband is accessible to 95% of the world's population, up from 78% in 2015. Global capacity to generate electricity from renewable has been expanding at an unprecedented 8.1% annually for past five years, the report said. Increased access to treatment has averted 20.8 million AIDS-related deaths in the past three decades. New malaria vaccines being rolled out could save millions of lives.

## 'Children pacified with digital devices could have anger issues in future'

Pacifying children by handing them digital devices when they are throwing tantrums can disable them in managing emotions later in life, which can grow into anger management issues, a research has found.

Conversely, parents of children, who already had poor emotional control, were found to be overly relying on electronic devices to silence them, worsening the pre-existing conditions.

It is known that a child learns much about self-control, including how to choose a deliberate response over an automatic one, during the first few years of their life.

However, a team of researchers from Hungary and Canada found that the recent trend of distracting children by showing them content on tablets and smartphones to control their unpleasant emotional responses can cripple their ability to effectively recognise and manage emotions later in life.

"Tantrums cannot be cured by digital devices. Children have to learn how to manage their negative emotions for themselves. They need the help of their



parents during this learning process, not the help of a digital device," Veronika Konok, a researcher at Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary, and first author of the study published in the journal *Frontiers in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, said.

Following 300 parents of children -- aged two to five years old over a period of one year -- the researchers found that children, who were pacified using digital devices,



## Federal funding for major science agencies is at a 25-year low

Government funding for science is usually immune from political gridlock and polarization in Congress. But, federal funding for science is slated to drop for 2025.

Science research dollars are considered to be discretionary, which means the funding has to be approved by Congress every year. But it's in a budget category with larger entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security that are generally considered untouchable by politicians of both parties.

Federal investment in scientific research encompasses everything from large telescopes supported by the National Science Foundation to NASA satellites studying climate change, programs studying the use and governance of artificial intelligence at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and research on Alzheimer's disease funded by the National Institutes of Health. Studies show that increasing federal research spending benefits productivity and economic competitiveness.

I'm an astronomer and also a senior university administrator. As an administrator, I've been involved in lobbying for research funding as associate dean of the College of Science at the University of Arizona, and in encour-

**At the National Science Foundation, only 1 in 4 proposals are accepted. Success rates for funding through the National Institutes of Health are even lower, with 1 in 5 proposals getting accepted. This low success rate means that the agencies have to reject many proposals that are rated excellent by the merit review process.**



aging government investment in astronomy as a vice president of the American Astronomical Society. I've seen the importance of this kind of funding as a researcher who has had federal grants for 30 years, and as a senior academic who helps my colleagues write grants to support their valuable work.

**Bipartisan support**  
Federal funding for many programs is characterized by political

polarization, meaning that partisanship and ideological divisions between the two main political parties can lead to gridlock. Science is usually a rare exception to this problem.

The public shows strong bipartisan support for federal investment in scientific research, and Congress has generally followed suit, passing bills in 2024 with bipartisan backing in April and June.

The House passed these bills, and after reconciliation with language

from the Senate, they resulted in final bills to direct US\$460 billion in government spending. However, policy documents produced by Congress reveal a partisan split in how Democratic and Republican lawmakers reference scientific research.

Congressional committees for both sides are citing more scientific papers, but there is only a 5% overlap in the papers they cite. That means that the two parties are using different evidence to make their funding decisions, rather than working from a scientific consensus. Committees under Democratic control were almost twice as likely to cite technical papers as panels led by Republicans, and they were more likely to cite papers that other scientists considered important.

Ideally, all the best ideas for scientific research would receive federal funds. But limited support for scientific research in the United States means that for individual scientists, getting funding is a highly competitive process.

At the National Science Foundation, only 1 in 4 proposals are accepted. Success rates for funding through the National Institutes of Health are even lower, with 1 in 5 proposals getting accepted. This low

success rate means that the agencies have to reject many proposals that are rated excellent by the merit review process. Scientists are often reluctant to publicly advocate for their programs, in part because they feel disconnected from the policymaking and appropriations process. Their academic training doesn't equip them to communicate effectively to legislators and policy experts.

**Budgets are down**  
Research received steady funding for the past few decades, but this year Congress reduced appropriations for science at many top government agencies. The National Science Foundation budget is down 8%, which led agency leaders to warn Congress that the country may lose its ability to attract and train a scientific workforce.

## Indian Navy participates in RIMPAC naval exercise

The Indian Navy has joined the world's largest naval military wargame Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) in Hawaii. Twenty-nine nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel are going to train and operate in and around the Hawaiian Islands during the exercise, according to the US Navy. The Indian Navy has deployed frontline warship INS Shivalik for the RIMPAC.

"Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, mission deployed in South China Sea and North



Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the RIMPAC exercise," Indian Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal

said on Saturday. The harbour phase of the exercise is taking place from June 27 to July 7.

The sea phase of RIMPAC is divided into three sub-phases which will witness ships undertaking various exercises. The exercise will witness the participation of an aircraft carrier battle group, submarines, maritime reconnaissance aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, remotely piloted surface ships and also an amphibious force landing operations.

## WHY EARTH HAS ONLY ONE MOON WHILE OTHER PLANETS HAVE HUNDREDS?

Connecticut, On Earth, you can look up at night and see the Moon shining brightly from hundreds of thousands of miles away. But if you went to Venus, that wouldn't be the case.

Not every planet has a moon — so why do some planets have several moons, while others have none?

I'm a physics instructor who has followed the current theories describing why some planets have moons and others don't.

First, a moon is called a natural satellite. Astronomers refer to satellites as objects in space that orbit larger bodies. Since a moon isn't human-made, it's a natural satellite.

Currently, there are two main theories for why some planets have moons. Moons are either gravitationally captured if they are within what's called a planet's Hill sphere radius, or they're formed along with a solar system.

The Hill sphere radius Objects exert a gravitational force of attraction on other nearby objects. The larger the object is, the greater

**First, a moon is called a natural satellite. Astronomers refer to satellites as objects in space that orbit larger bodies. Since a moon isn't human-made, it's a natural satellite**

the force of attraction. This gravitational force is why we all stay grounded to Earth instead of floating away.

The solar system is dominated by the Sun's large gravitational force, which keeps all planets in orbit. The Sun is the most massive object in our solar system, which means it has the most gravitational influence on objects such as planets.

For a satellite to orbit a planet, it has to be close enough for the planet to exert

enough force to keep it in orbit. The minimum distance for a planet to keep a satellite in orbit is called the Hill sphere radius.

The Hill sphere radius is based on the mass of both the larger object and the smaller object.

The Moon orbiting Earth is a good example of how the Earth's gravitational pull captures it. The moon orbits around the Earth, rather than



but the Moon is close enough to Earth that Earth's gravitational pull captures it. The moon orbits around the Earth, rather than

the Sun, because it is within Earth's Hill sphere radius.

Small planets like Mercury and Venus have a tiny Hill sphere radius, since they can't exert a large gravitational pull. Any potential moons would likely get pulled in by the Sun instead.

Many scientists are still looking to see whether these planets may have had small moons in the past. Back during the formation of the solar system, they may have had moons that got knocked away by collisions with other space objects.

Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos. Scientists still debate whether these came from asteroids that passed close to Mars' Hill sphere radius and got captured by the planet, or if they were formed at the same time as the solar system. More evidence supports the first theory, because Mars is close to the asteroid belt. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune have larger Hill sphere radii, because they are much larger than Earth, Mars, Mercury and Venus and they're farther from the Sun.

## UK's landmark postwar elections: When Labour ended 13 years of Conservative rule in 1964

Britain's upcoming general election is widely expected to lead to a change of government for the first time in 14 years. Many analysts believe it will be one of the country's most consequential elections since the end of World War II. Ahead of the July 4 vote, The Associated Press takes a look back at other landmark U.K. elections since the war. In 1964, the Conservative Party had been in power for 13 years

and was on its fourth prime minister, Alec Douglas-Home. That has echoes of the current Conservative government, which has been in power for 14 years and is now on its fifth prime minister of the period. Rishi Sunak, Douglas-Home had only become prime minister the year before, when his predecessor Harold Macmillan stepped down following a huge reversal in fortune. The buoyant economy had faltered, and Macmillan had

been snubbed by French President Charles de Gaulle in his application for Britain to join the recently formed European Economic Community. A sex scandal rocked his government and the British establishment, adding to the general feeling that the Conservatives had lost touch. Macmillan, known as "Supernac," stepped down soon after his minister for war, John Profumo, resigned for lying to Parliament over his affair with model and showgirl Christine Keeler. So the 1964 election was a race between the aristocratic Douglas-Home and Labour leader Harold Wilson, who was buzzing with ideas such as harnessing the "white heat of technology" to modernize the ailing British economy. Wilson also had the common touch, particularly important in the new world of television and with Britain showing signs of a cultural renaissance in the "Swinging Sixties."



## Children get stroke; lack of awareness endangers their lives: Experts

The lack of awareness when it comes to paediatric stroke is so low and people are often stunned to hear that children can get stroke. Actors like Amitabh Bachchan need to talk about it to create awareness, said Dr Nirmal Surya, president of Indian Stroke Association (ISA) on Saturday. Speaking at a press conference after the inauguration of the second national paediatric stroke conclave, he said, "Stroke is preventable, but globally paediatric stroke is the sixth leading cause of death in children."

The two-day conclave, organised by ISA, was inaugurated by Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, chairman and founder of Narayana Health. According to Dr Surya, lack of awareness is the biggest challenge that paediatric neurologists world over have to overcome. "In India, the situation is even worse. When people are not made aware of the possibility of stroke in children, time is lost on misdiagnosis. Time is of essence because stroke can often be treated with injection if the patient is brought within four and half hours," he added.

Stroke can occur even on the day one of the birth, reiterated Dr Minal V Kekatpure, paediatric neurologist at Narayana Health, Bengaluru and organising secretary of the conclave.

According to her, in fact, paediatric stroke is more common among neonates than older children. "In one lakh, there are about 25 neonates' cases as against 12 involving older children," added Kekatpure. Dr Pratibha Singhi, president of International Child Neurology Association, said often parents do not realise that the child is suffering from a stroke.

"We have had instances where parents brought their child seeking remedy for 'not very good at writing' and on checking we found that the child actually had suffered a stroke and is unable to move the hand properly," added Singhi. According to Dr K P Vinayan, Paediatric Neurology Sub Section Chair of Indian Academy of Neurology, even adults suffering from stroke often are missing the window of opportunity to treat and face the increased chances of disability, if not death, in India. "There is such a lack of awareness when it comes to stroke. This needs to be set right first," he added. Visiting expert from Bern, Dr Maja Steinlin, vice-president of International Paediatric Stroke Organisation, also agreed with the Indian doctors about the absolute lack of awareness among the public. "Even in western countries, awareness is a big problem," she said, adding that India is not lagging behind because it does not have qualified people to treat stroke, but because people are not availing treatment on time. One of the biggest reasons for organising the conclave is to bring about this awareness, said Dr Arvind Sharma, secretary of ISA.

"We try to get more people on board, tell paediatricians and even general practitioners to refer patients to stroke ready hospitals if they show certain symptoms," added Dr Sharma. He also said there are about accredited 13 primary centres in India that are equipped to deal with stroke and about 30 stroke ready but not accredited facilities. "We need about 1,000 accredited hospitals at least to deal with this disorder in India," added Sharma.

