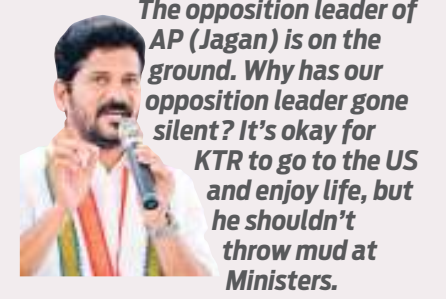


KCR, KTR and Harish Rao should donate Rs 1,000 crore or Rs 2,000 crore for flood relief from the Rs 1 lakh crore they looted. The Opposition Leader should go to the people first and then tell the government about their problems.



- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

www.dailypioneer.com

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

Contribution of cooperative sector in development incomparable:
Murmu

INDIA-SINGAPORE
 RELATIONS POISED FOR BIGGER TAKE-OFF

I would like to act with Balayya for faction film:
CHIRANJEEVI

Rains leave trail of destruction

16 lives lost in devastating floods • Damage estimated at Rs 5,438 crore
 • Declare Telangana floods as national calamity, CM asks PM

DON'T MISS...

Fire dept rescues 1,639 from...

As heavy rains battered the State, many houses were inundated. Though there was heavy rain day and night, The Telangana Disaster Response and Fire Services Department (TGDRFS) has rescued 1,639 people from floods in the State in the last three days in Telangana. The TGDRFS on Tuesday mentioned that the department rescued 878 people on Sunday and 761 people on Monday. A total of three bodies were retrieved from the floods. An official said that only in the Khammam range, the department rescued 1,662 people...

-PAGE: 3

Accelerate safety measures to...

The World Health Organization on Monday called on countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region to accelerate measures to reduce road traffic deaths, a leading cause of mortality among young people aged 15-29. "Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and two or three-wheelers constitute 66 per cent of all reported road traffic deaths in our region," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, in her address at the 15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and...

-PAGE: 5

'54% of IPO shares allotted to...

A study by markets regulator Sebi highlighted flipping behaviour among investors in the initial share-sale market with investors (excluding anchor) selling 54 per cent of IPO shares allotted to them by value within a week. The study found a strong disposition effect (tendency to prematurely sell assets that have made financial gains) with investors showing a greater propensity to sell IPO shares that posted positive listing gains, compared to those that listed at a loss. In light of the increasing...

-PAGE: 8

Saina Nehwal reveals struggles...

Ace Indian shuttler and former Olympic bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal has revealed that she is battling arthritis and will have to decide on her future in badminton by the end of this year as the ailment has made it impossible for her to train the usual hours. The 34-year-old former world No.1, who was the first Indian shuttler to win an Olympic medal with her bronze in London 2012, participated in three editions of the Games before being hampered by injuries. The 2010 and 2018 Commonwealth...

-SPORTS

- Ex-gratia increased from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for families of the deceased
- Compensation for lost livestock hiked from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 per animal
- Compensation for lost sheep/goat increased from Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 per animal
- Rs 10,000 per acre for farmers whose crops were damaged
- Rs 10,000 for each damaged house



resulted in the loss of 16 lives and caused extensive damage to crops, property and infrastructure valued at around Rs 5,438 crore. On Monday, Revanth Reddy held a high-level review meeting at the Central Command Control office in Hyderabad, where he assessed the situation with senior officials. After the meeting, the Chief Minister left for Khammam, one of the worst-hit districts, where he conducted an on-ground assessment of the flood damage.

After the meeting, the Chief Minister left for Khammam, one of the worst-hit districts, where he conducted an on-ground assessment of the flood damage.

TOTAL LOSS APPROX RS. 5438 CR

1. Roads (R&B dept.) Rs 2362 crs
2. Energy department (damage to electrical installation) Rs 175 crs
3. Crop loss (in 415000 acres) Rs 415 crs
4. Irrigation (repair to minor tanks) Rs 629 crs

5. Panchayati Raj & Rural Development (incl. RWS) Rs 170 crs
6. Medical and Health dept. Rs 12 crs
7. Animal Husbandary dept. Rs 25 crs
8. Municipal Administration dept. Rs 1150 crs
9. Damages in other dept. / public properties Rs 500 crs

500 km of rural roads damaged



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Heavy rains have caused extensive damage to approximately 500 km of rural roads, according to a preliminary assessment.

The restoration of these roads would cost around Rs 363 crore. Officials have been providing regular updates to Minister Seethakka regarding the condition of these roads.

The Minister asked officials to prepare a comprehensive plan for repairing the roads. "The government is working tirelessly to address the public's difficulties during this crisis," she stated.

Heavy rain alert for 11 districts

• CS orders precautionary measures

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari has put the collectors of 11 districts on high alert as the meteorological department has forecast heavy rains in these areas on September 3. In a teleconference held with the Collectors and Superintendents of Police (SPs) of the districts of



Adilabad, Jagtiala, Kamareddy, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Medak, Medchal Malkajgiri, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Peddapelli, Sangareddy and Siddipet, the CS emphasised the need for advance planning and robust precautions to mitigate any potential damage.

Continued on Page 5

2,417 power supply poles damaged

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The heavy rains lashing the state have damaged 2,417 electricity poles impacting the electricity distribution network, said Musharruf Faruqi, IAS, the Chairman and Managing Director of the South Telangana Power Distribution Company.

Faruqi, who held a teleconference with district and circle chief engineers and superintending engineers, emphasised the urgent need



to restore power supply despite the challenging weather.

5

Special medical teams to Khammam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health, Medical and Family Welfare department has announced to deploy ten special medical teams with adequate equipment and essential drugs to floods-affected Khammam.

The announcement has said that due to unprecedented widespread rainfall for the past couple of days in

Khammam and surrounding areas, it is essential to supplement the existing medical services in Khammam, with special health camps.



The Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare is the Special Officer who shall finalise the deployment of medical teams after interaction with District Collector and district officials.

Continued on Page 5

'TG govt striving hard to tackle crisis'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said that the Telangana government is trying hard to tackle the flood crisis and start reconstruction.



Posting on X regarding this on Monday, Rahul Gandhi said, "My thoughts are with the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as they face devastating floods.

Continued on Page 5

Helicopters not deployed due to bad weather: Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Responding to the criticism of BRS leaders that Khammam district has three Ministers but they could not bring helicopters to save flood victims, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that BRS leaders should help if they can but it is not proper to engage in 'mud' politics.

He said the Navy, the IAF and the Defence Department had said that it was not possible to send helicopters due to the heavy rains and clouds and that the government has official documents to prove this.



Speaking to the media on Monday, Ponguleti said that helicopters will not be dispatched as per the orders of Ministers like Tummala Nageswara Rao,

Continued on Page 5

Political slugfest amid flood relief ops

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As Telangana grapples with floods, a fierce political slugfest has broken out between the Congress government and BRS leaders. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka took jabs at their opponents by criticising their approach.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy lashed out BRS leaders stating, "While people are facing a serious crisis, KCR and KTR are nowhere to be seen on the ground. One is tweeting from the US and the other is in his farmhouse. People are watching. This is not the time for

political mudslinging." Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka echoed similar sentiments, dismissing the opposition's

criticisms as baseless. "We haven't stayed in our chambers like BRS leaders.

Continued on Page 5

BRS demands Rs 25 lakh ex-gratia to flood victims' kin

BRS MLA Harish Rao urged the government to announce an ex-gratia of Rs 25 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives in the floods. "If Rani garu and her three children are trapped in the flood from morning to evening, the government will not respond. Their relatives from Madhira should bring swimmers and save their lives. A JCB driver's brother had to risk his life to save nine people while the government was sleeping.

Continued on Page 5

Appoint safety panels in govt hospitals: HM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha ordered the appointment of a safety committee according to Supreme Court rules in all government hospitals for safety of women doctors, nursing staff among others and submit the report of forming committee by September 14.



In a review meeting held on the safety protocols for women doctors in all government hospitals on Monday, the Minister directed the officials to register cases as per Act 11 of 2008 (Prohibit violence against Medicare service persons and damage to property in medicare service institutions) against those who attack doctors, medical staff.

5

7 new schemes to boost farmers' income

Centre okays Rs 14,000-cr outlay for agriculture and allied sectors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday announced seven big programmes for the holistic growth of agriculture and allied sectors with a total outlay of nearly Rs 14,000 crore, as it aims to improve farmers' income.

The Union Cabinet approved seven big-ticket programmes related to the farm sector, including a Rs 2,817-crore digital agriculture mission and a Rs 3,979-crore scheme for crop science.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of Rs 13,966 crore," an official statement said. Briefing reporters here, Union



Minister Ashwini Vaishnav highlighted that these comprehensive programmes are aimed at enhancing farmers' income.

The focus of these programmes would be on research & education, climate resilience, natural resource management and digitisation in the

agriculture sector along with emphasis on growth of horticulture and livestock sectors.

The Cabinet has approved crop science for food and nutritional security programmes with a total outlay Rs 3,979 crore. In this programme, six pillars have been included in the programme with a focus on preparing the farmers for climate resilient crop sciences and food security by 2047. These six pillars are -- Research and Education; Plant Genetic Resource Management; Genetic improvement for food and fodder crop; Pulse and oilseed crop improvement; Improvement of commercial crops; and Research on insects, microbes, pollinators.

5

No complaints from public

Noise only from BRS: TPCC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president B Mahesh Kumar Goud found fault with BRS working president KT Rama Rao for retweeting the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) Rahul Gandhi's tweet in regard to floods in Telangana. Mahesh Kumar Goud made it clear that despite the heavy rains this time, there have been no significant complaints from the public - only noise from BRS's social media accounts.

Mahesh Kumar retweeted KTR saying "During the BRS term, even a small amount of rain would turn roads into rivers, causing massive traffic jams and chaos. Yet, despite the heavy rains this time, there have been no significant complaints from



the public - only noise from BRS's social media accounts. Meanwhile, KTR, who claims to be a responsible leader, hasn't been seen on the ground during this crisis, and his father has been missing in action since the election results were announced.

5

KCR family should donate Rs 1k crore or Rs 2k cr: CM

Revnath lashes out at KCR's inaction

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy strongly criticised KCR and his family for their inaction amid the flood crisis in Telangana during a review meeting in Khammam.

The CM accused the Kalvakuntla family of failing to help flood-affected people despite the devastating heavy rains across the state.

"Our people have lost everything due to the floods, but the Kalvakuntla family won't give even a single penny to help the victims," Revanth said during the meeting.

Appreciating former VP Venkaiah Naidu for donating to the CMRF, he highlighted the corruption of the Kalvakuntla family saying, "Out of the Rs 1 lakh crore looted by the Kalvakuntla family, can't they spare Rs 1,000 or



Rs 2,000 crore to help flood victims?"

Revnath announced several relief measures including a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the families of those who lost their lives and immediate assistance of Rs 10,000 for every house damaged by the floods. He also allocated Rs 5 crore to the Collectors as an immediate relief.

The Chief Minister said that while opposition leaders in

AP (Jagan Mohan Reddy) are actively helping their people, the TG opposition has remained silent.

"Opposition leaders should go to people first in such situations and report facts to the government. If needed they should question the government. The main opposition leader of AP (Jagan) is also on the ground. Why is our opposition leader silent?" Revanth said.

He also criticised KTR, accusing him of enjoying himself in the US while the state faces a severe crisis.

"It's okay for KTR to go to the US and enjoy life, but he shouldn't throw mud on Ministers Bhatti Vikramarka, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy who are on the ground," the CM said. "Why don't you ask the Centre for funds or declare it as a national calamity," the CM said.

He emphasised that it is the government's duty to protect the people and criticised some media outlets for biased reporting. He called on businesses and voluntary organisations to assist the flood victims and commended Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and other Ministers for their proactive involvement in relief operations.

TG HC dismisses PIL against Smitha Sabarwal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Chief Justice of Telangana High Court Alok Aradhe and Justice J Sreenivas Rao Bench on Monday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), which was filed against Smitha Sabarwal (IAS). Social activist Vasundhara Koppula had filed a petition before the High Court. The petitioner mentioned Union of India, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Civil Servant Smita Sabharwal. The court observed that Smitha Sabharwal has not deprived the differently abled persons of their reservations.

REMOVAL OF AMIT SHAH, KISHAN FROM FIR

Niranjan files protest petition

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Senior Vice President G. Niranjan filed a protest petition in the court of the VIII Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Hyderabad on Monday against the deletion of the names of the Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy from the charge sheet by police in Cr. No. 77/2024, registered at the Moghalpura Police Station.

The court posted the case on October 14. Advocate Sama Sunil Reddy represented G. Niranjan.

An FIR was registered against Amit Shah, Kishan Reddy, Raja Singh, Kompelli

Madhavi and Yaman Singh at the Moghalpura PS on May 3 for allowing children to take part in an election rally held at the Sudha Talkies in Shalibanda violating EC directions.



Leaders must stay away from Youth Congress elections: Mahesh

TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud appealed to Congress leaders to keep away from the Youth Congress election process and asked Congress leaders to stick to AICC suggestions without fail. The Youth Congress's membership enrolment campaign will start on September 14 and elections will be held after the enrolment drive. He said the YC has decided to strengthen the Congress in Telangana as local body elections are approaching, and added that the party has prepared a plan to conduct elections to its mandal, district and constituency committees immediately after the Youth Congress elections.

RS 2000 NOTES Rs 7,261 cr worth notes still with public

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said 97.96 per cent of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only Rs 7,261 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public.

On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 7,261 crore at the close of business on August 30, 2024, the RBI said.

"Thus, 97.96 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," it said in a statement.

CBN deployed boats & choppers while Revanth did nothing: BRS

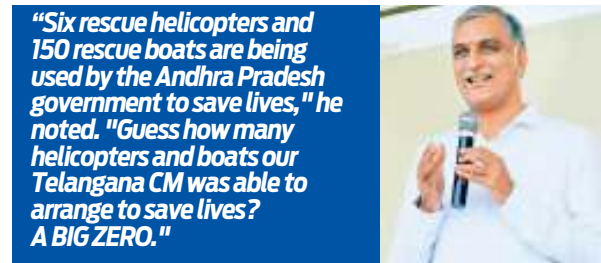
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over his handling of the flood crisis.

In a post on X, he said that Revanth Reddy's behaviour is akin to someone who has no shame and accused the Chief Minister of lowering the dignity of his office by politicising the disaster instead of reassuring the public.

"At a time when people are suffering, the Chief Minister should offer help and not engage in empty rhetoric," Harish said, adding that the public is disillusioned by Revanth Reddy's approach.

He criticised the Chief Minister, saying that Revanth has once again proven to be a "Cheap Minister" rather than a "Chief Minister" by shifting the blame on to the opposition, thereby admitting the government's failures.



"Six rescue helicopters and 150 rescue boats are being used by the Andhra Pradesh government to save lives," he noted. "Guess how many helicopters and boats our Telangana CM was able to arrange to save lives? A BIG ZERO."

Adding fuel to the fire, BRS MLA KT Rama Rao also joined by highlighting the proactive measures taken by Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu.

"Six rescue helicopters and 150 rescue boats are being used by the Andhra Pradesh government to save lives," he noted. "Guess how many helicopters and boats our Telangana CM was able to arrange to save lives? A BIG ZERO."

Comparing AP Chief Minister who despite heavy rains is on the ground among

the people, Harish pointed out that Revanth, in contrast, has been playing "fiddle in Hyderabad."

Harish expressed disappointment saying that as people were getting killed in the floods, the Chief Minister woke up late and, instead of offering reassurance, chose to blame the opposition.

He concluded by advising Revanth Reddy to set aside politics during such a crisis and speak in a manner that provides confidence to the people and urged him to launch relief measures and stand by the people.

Pay Rs 50 lakh ex-gratia to bereaved families: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, asked the state government to pay an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh to the families of persons who died in the floods. He also appealed to the government to reconstruct the roads and bridges that were washed away.

In a statement issued on Monday, Eatala asked the government to provide all facilities for evacuees at flood relief centres and to provide essential items to people living in flood-



ed areas. He thanked the revenue, municipal, electricity and police personnel involved in providing flood relief. Eatala said that as soon as

the flood recedes, the damage to crops should be assessed and compensation provided. Farms that were completely damaged by the flood should be assessed. The government should provide financial assistance to set right damaged fields. The loss of cattle, sheep and fisheries should be assessed and compensation should be paid, he said.

As infections are likely to spread, arrangements should be made to ensure availability of medical personnel and medicines, he said.

Some elements trying to create tension in Tripura: CM

PNS ■ AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Monday alleged that some elements were trying to create tension in the state.

The chief minister's assertion came after back-to-back attacks on temples, and arson on eight houses of a particular community. To a specific question regarding the attacks on temples in the state, the chief minister told reporters, "Whenever I was informed that something like that occurred, I asked the police to take legal action. Accordingly, the police took steps and we will continue to foil such attempts

both socially and politically." Claiming that the state has been peaceful and has been witnessing development, he said certain elements that are against peace and prosperity of the state were trying to create tension. Eight houses were set on fire by unknown miscreants at Ranirbazar in West Tripura district after an idol of Goddess Kali was found defaced at a temple on August 26. Based on a report that a Shivaling in Sepahijala district had gone missing, police went to the spot on Saturday and initiated an investigation.

TODAY ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Amavasya: Sep 02 05:22 AM to Sep 03 07:25 AM
Sukla Paksha Pratipada: Sep 03 07:25 AM to Sep 04 09:47 AM
Nakshatram: Purva Phalguni: Sep 03 12:20 AM to Sep 04 03:10 AM
Uttara Phalguni: Sep 04 03:10 AM to Sep 05 06:14 AM
Rahukalam: 3:19 PM to 4:52 PM
Yamagandam: 9:10 AM to 10:43 AM
Varjyam: 11:17 AM to 01:06 PM
Gulika: 12:15 PM to 1:47 PM
Amritakalam: 08:01 PM to 09:48 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:50 AM to 12:39 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Rain
Temp: 28°
Humidity: 79%
Sunrise: 6:03 AM
Sunset: 6:28 PM
Updated: September 2, 2024 5:00 PM

SC grants bail to Kejriwal aide Bibhav Kumar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the Swati Maliwal assault case noting that he has been in custody for over 100 days.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also took into account that the prosecution has proposed to examine more than 51 witnesses and said the trial will take time to conclude. It also noted that since the charge sheet in the case has already been filed, Kumar's release will not cause any prejudice to the investiga-

tion. "Allegations are that the petitioner, who is personal secretary to Delhi chief minister, assaulted the complainant-victim who is a Rajya Sabha MP... Investigation in the case is complete. Charge sheet has been filed. We are not inclined to hear on the point as to where prima facie offense is made out. It's exclusive domain of trial court.

"While we appreciate the concern to keep witnesses free from influence for conclusion of a fair and free trial, we are satisfied that desired protection can be afforded through other measures.

Governor's post should be abolished: Singhvi

Asserts persons of stature be appointed by consensus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid growing instances of run-ins between governors and opposition-ruled state governments, senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi on Monday said the governor's post should either be abolished or a person of stature who is not into petty politics be appointed by consensus.

Singhvi, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha unopposed from Telangana last week, also weighed in on the repeated standoffs between the Chair and the opposition in both Houses of Parliament and called for reforms to ensure the



Chair is not partisan. In an interview, the four-time MP said a very big failing of this government is that it "demeaned, devalued and diminished" every institution. Several governors acted as a second chief executive or a "second sword in the same scabbard." Either the governor's post be abolished or by

consensus, a person of stature who is not into petty politics be appointed," Singhvi asserted. "Will a person like Gopalkrishna Gandhi do such a thing? I am taking his name, though our party nominated him for the vice president's post, but such people who do not cross the limit and do wrong, (either appoint them) or abolish the governor's post," the Congress Working Committee member said.

If the governor becomes a challenge or threat to the chief minister then the governor has to go because elections are held for a CM, not a governor, Singhvi said.

15 die in rain-related incidents in AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 15 people died in Andhra Pradesh due to rain-related incidents in the past three days, following unprecedented rainfall caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, the government said on Monday.

According to an official release, five persons died at Mogalrajapuram in Vijayawada due to landslides and one person each at Vijayawada Rural, G Kondru mandal and Reddygudem mandal. They all belong to NTR district. "Five deaths in Guntur district. One teacher and two students travelling from Uppalpadu to Namburu were washed away in a local



stream and an 80-year-old woman died when boulders fell on her in the first ward of Mangalagiri town," the release said. Further, it said that another person was washed away in Kondaveedu stream at Ponnekallu village in Guntur district. Besides rain-related deaths, three children drowned in Prakasam district's Markapuram division when they went swimming, the release said.

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

ACROSS THE STATES



Jilted lover kills college girl, ends life in Tripura

A Tripura college student died by suicide on Monday after fatally stabbing a class 9 girl who had rejected his proposal for a romantic relationship, a senior police officer said. The victim, Tania Baruah, was on her way to private tuition at Kanchanpur in North Tripura district around 8.30 am when the incident occurred, police said. According to North Tripura SP Bhanupada Chakraborty, Kartik Nath (21) blocked her path near Post Office Road and stabbed her in the neck and chest. "She fell to the ground, bleeding profusely. Shortly afterward, Nath slit his own throat," Chakraborty said. Both were taken to Kanchanpur sub-divisional hospital, where Tania Baruah was pronounced dead. Kartik Nath was referred to Dharmnagar for further treatment but also succumbed to his injuries, the SP added. Chakraborty said preliminary investigations suggest Nath, a second-year student at Kanchanpur Government Degree College, had proposed to Baruah. Her rejection may have prompted him to commit the violent act, he added.



Heavy rains in Gujarat; Bharuch gets 120 mm in two hours

Several parts of Gujarat received heavy rain on Monday, with Bharuch city getting 120 millimetres between 4pm and 6pm, officials said. The India Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rain in the state this week. Monday's rain came after a two-day pause. The state had seen extremely heavy rains last week, which caused widespread flooding. During the day, south Gujarat districts such as Bharuch, Tapi, Dangs and Navsari received heavy rain, with Songadh and Vyara talukas of Tapi district and Vaghai in Dangs getting more than 200mm in a 12-hour period ending at 6pm, data from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) showed. "Bharuch city got 120 mm between 4pm and 6pm.

2,417 power supply poles..

as the rains continue. Faruqi highlighted the courageous efforts of the staff, who are working tirelessly to restore power in the midst of rains and floods. In Suryapet district, approximately 1,200 power poles and four substations have been damaged. The damages include 21 DTR structures and 18 substations across various districts. In Greater Hyderabad alone, 412 power poles and 13 DTR structures have been affected with more damage expected

Political slugfest amid..

but helping people during difficult times is more important."KTR also weighed in, targeting Rahul Gandhi and the Congress government stating, "Rahul ji, your government and the CM have failed the people of Telangana. The people are losing faith in your leadership with each passing day. If you truly care about Telangana, such gross negligence wouldn't be happening. The onus of this systematic failure is on the Congress." The exchange of barbs amidst relief operations has highlighted the intense political rivalry as the state battles the natural disaster.

7 new schemes to..

The Cabinet also approved an outlay of Rs 2,291 crore for strengthening agricultural education, management and social sciences. This programme will be under Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The aim is to modernise agri-research and education in line with New Education Policy 2020. The use of latest technology like Digital DPI, AI, big data, remote, etc will be promoted and the programme includes natural farming and climate resilience. The Cabinet also approved the Digital Agriculture Mission with a total investment of Rs 2,817 crore. There are two foundation pillars in the project -- Agri Stack and Krishi Decision Support System.

Appoint safety panels ..

He directed officials to accredit private security agencies under PSAR (Private Security Agency - Regulations) Act - 2015 in State hospitals. Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha said, "The authorities must tighten the security in government hospitals and make provisions for the protection of hospital staff, especially women doctors and nursing staff. The CCTV cameras of all government

TG govt striving hard to tackle..

Government is working tirelessly to manage the crisis and initiate the rebuilding process. I strongly urge both the Centre and the Andhra Pradesh Government to swiftly provide rehabilitation packages for all those affected by this disaster."



Contribution of cooperative sector in development incomparable: Murmu

PNS ■ PUNE

The contribution of the cooperative sector in India's development is incomparable, President Droupadi Murmu said at a function in Maharashtra's Kolhapur on Monday. Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of Shri Warna Women Cooperative Group in Warnanagar in the west Maharashtra city, the President said, "Trade and entrepreneurship have played

The President said cooperation was the best medium to make good use of the strength inherent in society

a crucial role in economic development, but the role of cooperative sector in the development of the country is incomparable." The President said cooperation was the best medium to make good use of the strength inherent in society. "Principles of cooperation follow the spirit of justice, unity, and fraternity envisaged in the Constitution. When people of different classes and ideologies unite for cooperation, they get the ben-

efit of social diversity," she said. Cooperatives have played an important role in the economic development of the country and household brands like Amul and Lijjat Papad are the examples of such cooperatives, Murmu added. She said cooperative groups have made a significant contribution in making India the world's largest milk producer, adding that such cooperatives produce and distribute milk and milk products in almost all states.

'BJP's membership drive to relaunch Bharat Vijay, Bhajapa Vijay campaign'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on Monday that the BJP's membership drive will again launch the campaign of "Bharat Vijay" and "Bhajapa Vijay". Speaking at the launch of the party's membership drive, he said the programme will reinvigorate the organisation. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended the credibility crisis in politics and the BJP is seen as the most credible party. The party has consistently followed its ideology and works to build society, he said. Party president J P Nadda said the BJP is the only polit-



ical organisation which is run democratically and follows its constitution. Taking a swipe at the rivals, he said the BJP does not work from home in a clandestine way but follows a transparent process. With the party set to renew membership of its existing members and enrol new mem-

bers in line with its constitutional requirement, Shah echoed Nadda, saying no other party follows its membership process in a truthful and democratic manner like the BJP. The BJP is nourished by its members, Shah said, asserting that the party's lively organisation spawns its brimming enthusiasm. Both Nadda and Shah expressed confidence that the party will cross the milestone of 10 crore members in the drive as it did for the first time in 2014. During a similar membership drive in 2014 and afterwards, the BJP went on to form governments in several states, including in some for the first time.

Karnataka CM post not vacant, Siddaramaiah will continue: DK

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said that the CM's post was not vacant and the incumbent Siddaramaiah will continue in it. He was reacting to senior Congress MLA and Administrative Reforms Commission Chairperson R V Deshpande's comments on Sunday expressing his wish to become the next Chief Minister. "The Chief Minister's post is not vacant. Our government is office under the leadership of Siddaramaiah. We could have spoken on this if the Chief Minister's post was vacant. The current Chief Minister will continue," Shivakumar said.



Addressing reporters here, the Karnataka Congress President said, "There is nothing wrong in him (Deshpande) desiring for the post, but such desires should not be expressed before the media. He is a senior leader, we respect him." Asked about the party's move if there is an adverse judgment in the MUDA case,

the Deputy CM said, "no adverse nothing, the Chief Minister will continue and work." Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is facing allegations of corruption in connection with the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allotment 'scam'. Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on August 16 accorded sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions of Pradeep Kumar S P, T J Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna, in connection with the MUDA case.

Rains leave trail of..

Continued from page 1

administration has been fully mobilized to handle the crisis, with collectors, police and other officials on high alert. Rs 5 crore has been allocated to the flood-hit districts of Khammam, Mahabubabad, Suryapet and Bhadradi Kothagudem as immediate relief. The CM also directed health officials to take precautions to prevent the outbreak of diseases in flood-affected areas, stressing the importance of ensuring access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Responding to the warning issued by the India Meteorological Department of heavy rains, the Chief Minister ordered one-third of the personnel of the state's young police battalions must be trained on par with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

- Indiramma houses to be provided for those who lost houses
- Rs 5 crore allotted for immediate relief in Khammam, Mahabubabad, Suryapet and Bhadradi Kothagudem
- NDRF-type training for one-third of young police battalions

This initiative is aimed at enhancing the state's capacity to respond swiftly to disasters in future. Revanth and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy praised the efforts of ministers and local officials in Khammam and their active participation in relief operations. He also urged Congress workers across the state to assist relief operations, emphasizing that it is the government's responsibility to stand by the people during difficult times.

Special medical teams..

Continued from page 1

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha said, "It is an urgency that officials will set up medical camps in the flood-affected areas and rehabilitation centres of the State. It is advised to conduct tests and provide medicine to all those who need it. Ten medical teams have been ordered to be formed in Khammam district where the intensity of floods is high." Steps should be taken to ensure that every team has specialist doctors, staff, necessary equipment and medicine for conducting tests. Health and Family Welfare Commissioner RV Karnan has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up and managing the Khammam medical camps. The Minister suggested that doctors and staff across the state should be vigilant as diseases like fever and diarrhoea are likely to prevail after floods. He directed to carry out fever survey in the flood affected areas and to go to the victims and provide medical services.

Helicopters not..

Continued from page 1

Bhatti Vikramarka and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. The IAF could not send helicopters due to extremely bad weather. He said that some people are engaging in mean politics by criticising the state government and that the government is leaving it to their wisdom. He said that some officials were guilty of negligence and that action would be taken against them. Many people became homeless due to the floods. Rehabilitation centres would be started for them, he said and added that the government will protect them.

BRS demands..

Continued from page 1

The ministers who had to be courageous gave up. She demanded a compensation of Rs 25 lakh while in the opposition. Now, will you give 5 lakh and throw up your hands? Shame on you Chief Minister," he said. Harish expressed profound sorrow over the loss of lives and the widespread destruction caused by the calamity calling the floods a disaster which ruined the state. In a heartfelt message, he extended his deepest sympathies to the bereaved families, acknowledging the immense grief they are enduring. "The loss of so many lives is a tragedy beyond words," he stated. "We stand in solidarity with the families who are mourning the loss of their loved ones and offer our heartfelt condolences," he added. He highlighted the extensive impact of the floods, noting that while many families are grieving the loss of their dear ones, others have been rendered homeless and are forced to live on the streets.

Heavy rain alert for..

Continued from page 1

Senior officials, including Director General of Police Jitender, Disaster Management Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, Fire Services Director General Nagi Reddy and Irrigation Special Secretary Prashanth Jeevan Patil, participated in the conference. Santhi Kumari instructed the collectors to prepare meticulously, as the ongoing heavy rains over the past four to five days could exacerbate the situation. The CS stressed the importance of coordinated efforts between the police and other departments. She also advised that district collectors should decide on declaring holidays for educational insti-

tutions based on local conditions. In particular, Santhi Kumari directed the Nirmal district collector to ensure the safe relocation of residents from low-lying areas after opening the gates of Swarna and Kadem projects. A 31-member National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team, equipped with four boats, is being dispatched to Nirmal for potential rescue operations. Meanwhile, 20,000 cusecs of water are currently being released from the SRSF project. The CS urged officials to be vigilant and take preemptive actions if water release increases, emphasising the need for constant coordination with Maharashtra authorities to

monitor water inflows from their catchment areas. To prevent flooding, joint teams comprising officials from various departments are being formed to monitor culverts and rivulets. Collectors were advised to maintain contact with State officials in Hyderabad for any necessary assistance. Additionally, control rooms set up at the district collectorates are to operate round-the-clock to handle any emergencies. DGP Jitender assured that SPs have been instructed to collaborate closely with the district collectors in areas anticipating heavy rainfall. He also mentioned that cranes should be kept on standby to address any emergencies.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

India's special China problem

S Jaishankar has highlighted India's 'Special China problem,' one that is deeply rooted in the unresolved border disputes

India-China relations have long been fraught with challenges, but recent remarks by India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar have brought the depth of these issues into sharper focus. Jaishankar has said that India has a "special China problem," which he emphasized is distinct from the more general concerns that the rest of the world, including Europe and the United States, has with China. Jaishankar's comments come at a time when countries globally are grappling with what he termed the "general China problem." This problem, characterised by economic and national security debates, is not unique to India. Across Europe and the United States, policymakers are increasingly preoccupied with China's growing influence and the challenges it poses. From trade imbalances to concerns about Chinese technology in critical infrastructure, these issues have sparked widespread scrutiny of China's global role. However, India's situation is further complicated



by its unique geopolitical and economic circumstances. India shares a long and contested border with China, which has been the site of several military standoffs over the years, the most recent and severe of which began in May 2020 in eastern Ladakh.

India's "special China problem" goes beyond the broader concerns of the international community. It is rooted in the unresolved border dispute between the two nations, which has led to a prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The ongoing border tensions have necessitated the deployment of approximately

50,000-60,000 troops by both sides, creating a volatile situation that has yet to see a lasting resolution. Diplomatic efforts to resolve these issues continue, with the 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) taking place on August 29 in Beijing. However what is interesting is that despite tensions and border skirmishes India China trade has flourished and many importer in India make regular rounds to source stuff from China to sell in the Indian market. But Jaishankar's remark could mean a shift in the official policy vis a vis China. If Govt changes its policy, Chinese goods and investments may have to face more barriers dissuading the Chinese investors. Jaishankar also highlighted the economic dimensions of India's relationship with China, pointing out that the trade deficit and the nature of Chinese investments are areas of significant concern. Indeed security is non negotiable and must be implemented in letter and spirit. But at the same time the commerce should not be thought of as an impediment. If one thing that can improve the relations between two countries, it is trade. However, India could restrict Chinese investment in security-sensitive areas such as telecommunications and digital cyber space.

PICTALK



Clouds hover over the Delhi as vehicles pass by the Vikas Minar, in New Delhi

Orwell's vision remains as relevant as ever



SANTHOSH MATHEW

In an era where "post-truth" and "Big Brother" have transcended fiction to become disturbing reality, Orwell's vision stands as relevant as ever

In his seminal work "1984", George Orwell posits that "those who control the present control the past; those who control the past control the future." This powerful assertion underscores the terrifying consequences of manipulating history and truth. In the dystopian world of "1984", the ruling Party wields absolute power by constantly rewriting history to align with its agenda, erasing inconvenient truths, and ensuring that its version of reality is the only one that exists. This manipulation of truth is key to maintaining the Party's unchallenged dominance, as it keeps the population ignorant and complacent.

As we examine contemporary international politics, it is impossible to ignore the striking parallels between Orwell's dystopian vision and our current reality. Concepts such as "Big Brother," "doublethink," and "post-truth" have transcended Orwell's novel and become disturbingly relevant in today's world. The manipulation of truth, pervasive surveillance, and the rise of populist authoritarianism are phenomena that closely mirror the dangers Orwell warned against.

The term "post-truth" has become a defining characteristic of modern political discourse, echoing Orwell's portrayal of a world where objective truth is malleable. In "1984", the Ministry of Truth constantly altered historical records to match the Party's shifting narrative, keeping the populace in a state of ignorance and making it impossible for them to challenge the Party's authority. Today, the concept of post-truth is equally relevant. In 2016, the Oxford Dictionary even named "post-truth" the Word of the Year, highlighting its prevalence in contemporary discourse. In this post-truth era, emotional appeals and personal beliefs often overshadow objective facts, making it easier for those in power to manipulate public opinion. Politicians and media outlets selectively present information, distort facts, or even fabricate narratives to support their agendas. This erosion of truth creates a divided society, much like the world Orwell depicted, where



consensus on basic facts becomes increasingly elusive. Orwell's concept of "Big Brother" — the omnipresent surveillance state that monitors every aspect of citizens' lives — is also frighteningly relevant today. In "1984", the Party uses telescreens and hidden microphones to ensure that no dissenting thought or action goes unnoticed, fostering a climate of fear and paranoia that effectively silences opposition. In our contemporary world, mass surveillance has become a reality on a global scale, with governments implementing extensive surveillance programs under the guise of national security.

The revelations by Edward Snowden in 2013 exposed the extent to which governments were spying on their citizens, collecting vast amounts of data on phone calls, emails, and internet activity. The boundaries between state and corporate surveillance are increasingly blurred as tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon collect vast amounts of data on users' online behavior, often with minimal transparency. Today's populist leaders have mastered the art of doublethink, often making contradictory promises or statements that their followers accept without question. They may decry the "elite" while simultaneously benefiting from elite



THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN STATE AND CORPORATE SURVEILLANCE ARE INCREASINGLY BLURRED AS TECH GIANTS LIKE GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, AND AMAZON COLLECT VAST AMOUNTS OF DATA ON USERS' ONLINE BEHAVIOR, OFTEN WITH MINIMAL TRANSPARENCY

status themselves or champion "freedom" while implementing policies that curtail personal liberties. This ability to manipulate and distort reality is a hallmark of populist rhetoric, much like it was for Orwell's Party.

The rise of populism in the 21st century has also brought a resurgence of authoritarian tendencies. Leaders who once espoused democratic values increasingly resort to autocratic measures to consolidate power. Whether it's the undermining of judicial independence, the suppression of the free press, or the erosion of checks and balances, these actions mirror the totalitarian regime depicted in "1984". Orwell's "Animal Farm", while serving as an allegory for the Russian Revolution and the subsequent rise of the Soviet Union, offers themes that are universally applicable. The story of the farm animals' rebellion against their human oppressors, only to find themselves under the tyranny of their fellow animals, is a powerful commentary on the cyclical nature of power and corruption. In contemporary politics, the concept of "Snoogate" — a term used to describe politically motivated surveillance scandals — is reminiscent of the betrayal and manipulation seen in "Animal Farm". Orwell's dystopian novels were

products of their time, reflecting the anxieties and political realities of the 20th century. However, their relevance has only grown with time, as the themes they explore have become increasingly pertinent today. The rise of surveillance states, the erosion of truth, the manipulation of language, and the rise of authoritarianism are all issues that transcend national borders.

In China, for example, the government's use of technology to monitor its citizens has created a digital dystopia reminiscent of Orwell's vision. The implementation of a social credit system, where citizens are scored based on their behavior and loyalty to the state, is a chilling example of how technology can be used to enforce conformity and suppress dissent. Similarly, in Russia, the government's control over the media and its use of propaganda to shape public opinion is a textbook case of Orwellian doublethink. The global reach of Orwell's ideas is a testament to the universality of his concerns. Whether in the context of a liberal democracy or an authoritarian regime, the themes of "1984" and "Animal Farm" resonate deeply with those who value freedom and truth. (The writer is an associate professor, views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP THE DEMOLITION DRIVE

Madam — This refers to 'Demolition notices leave the poor along Boin Lake dazed' (Sept 1). The news of HYDRAA demolition drive operations in and around Hyderabad came like a bolt from the blue. Demolition drive operations is creating havoc all over the Telangana. The Telangana state government is hell-bent on demolishing houses, buildings in the name of illegal structures by HYDRAA. Demolition drive operations and the orders issued by the Revenue Department of Medchal-Malkajgiri district to vacate their houses in a couple of days dazed the residents is extreme tyranny and sheer inhumane. People living near Boin Lake in Hasmathpet, are panic-stricken. They are at their wit's end what to do? whom to approach? They are being displaced and being rendered homeless without prior eviction notice is quite unconstitutional, unjustified, undemocratic and unwarranted. Despite possessing and retaining the relevant registered documents their houses are being pulled down and demolished is most distressing and unfortunate. The demolition drive operations are in full swing all over Telangana. The Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy must stop this demolition drive operations on the humanitarian grounds. People have been living and residing for many years as some of their properties belong to ancestors they got their properties registered in their names. Demolition drive operations started all over Telangana. Mahabubnagar demolition drive operations is shocking and heart-rending sparked outrage and widespread condemnation where the houses belonging to the poor, physical challenged and visual impaired individuals pulled down and demolished. The government must ponder over the poignant plight of the physical challenged, visually impaired individuals and the poor and desist and refrain from demolishing their houses near nalas or lakes areas without providing alternative on the humanitarian grounds.

Zubair Khan | Hyderabad

Prioritising security over trade



In reference to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement regarding India's unique challenges with China, it is evident that security concerns in regions such as the Northeast,

Ladakh, the Indian Ocean, and neighboring countries like Pakistan and the Maldives far outweigh trade considerations. China's aggressive posturing with the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and its dominant trade practices with European countries and Australia do little to alleviate our issues with them. The Indian Ocean has become a battleground for global superpowers, largely due to Chinese threats and aspirations for supremacy. It is clear that security and trade issues with China cannot be addressed simultaneously.

Reducing our reliance on China for semiconductors, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, and the operation and maintenance of Chinese-imported machinery is far more crucial than foreign direct investment from China. While the EAM is undoubtedly well-equipped to handle these multiple concerns, it is imperative to set clear priorities to effectively address them.

Vinod Johri | New Delhi

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Madam—This is not the first time MP Kangana Ranaut has indulged in controversy. Earlier too, a couple of months ago, after a CISF officer allegedly slapped Ranaut at Chandigarh airport, the officer was reportedly heard saying that her mother participated in the farm agitation and had defamed the women who joined the protests by alleging they were paid to do so. This time again she used the irresponsible and malicious statements like "dead bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place during the 2020-21 farmers' agitation". In a recent interview with a Hindi daily, the actress turned BJP MP described the farmers' movement as an anti-national force engaged in destabilizing India with the help of "external forces". Kangana's remarks are unacceptable as the farmers during their agitation lost more than 700 of their comrades. She needs to tender an unconditional apology from the farmers for her utterances.

S.K. Khosla | Chandigarh

A G NOORANI IS NO MORE

Madam — In the passing of Abdul Ghafoor Noorani, the country has lost a towering legal luminary, a scholar, a political analyst, and a public intellect. His passing at the age of 93 marks the end of an era—one defined by a relentless pursuit of justice, profound intellectual rigour, and a commitment to the principles that fortified modern India's democratic framework. The prolific author made indelible contributions to legal scholarship and political discourse in India for over six decades. As a relentless defender of justice and the Constitution, Noorani will always be remembered most by the marginalised and those who seek to challenge the structures of power and exclusion. Unlike many others in his profession who would have sought high positions or rewards in the later years of life, Noorani never did.

Ganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A journey from corporate grind to personal fulfillment

There are countless opportunities for personal growth and creative fulfillment that we often set aside in our pursuit of material success

I was having dinner with a friend on a recent visit to Mumbai. He quit a high-profile corporate job a few years back. As he settled into a new unknown routine, he started experimenting. He wrote articles on the relevance of festivals in the modern world, moderates a talk show, has started learning Sanskrit to read the scriptures in original, participates in marathons, and loves to cook.



SANJAY CHANDRA

Not surprisingly, his life mirrors mine. We got around to discussing another mutual ex-colleague, who was recently in the hospital due to a medical scare which could be attributed to a life spent on a stress-inducing work schedule. He has recently crossed the age of retirement but has accepted an extension. I told him rather bluntly that he should stop working, a sentiment that his wife reciprocated. The response was on expected lines, "What will I do if I take retirement?" I immediately listed the number of things that he could do, the chief among them being to take care of his health, and

could earn. Even those limited means were better than what most had, and which helped us to dream and create a list of things that we wanted to do. We pursued a few of these with a single-minded devotion particularly the ones related to materialistic possessions, ignoring others that were mostly related to our creative side that we tried to suppress. Many of us have now reached a level of comfort that enables us to have a relook at the ones that we missed.

A friend has started learning the keyboard. Another friend started taking flying lessons and was looking forward to completing the hours necessary to earn a license. Now in the reverse count of my life, I realise that I wish to travel, I want to write, I have the urge to make friends, and I want to help others to dream. Many like me wish to alleviate the drudgery of the majority so that at least the coming generations can look forward to creating their bucket list. We have seen many initiatives taken by the government over the past few

decades to create an ecosystem to help the less fortunate. Corporations also earmark part of profits in a separate fund as social responsibility. There are individuals from certain communities who donate a percentage of their annual earnings for the purpose. There are faiths actively involved in the betterment of many. I have often wondered about the miracles that we can achieve if all these agencies and individuals come together to ensure that future generations have an option. There is always an answer to the query, "What will I do?" We need to look within and then look around. There is so much to do, and so little time. Mark Twain summed it up well, "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones that you did do."

(The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant and conducts workshops on creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN REVITALIZING THE WORKPLACE

Yoga and meditation can light up the dull and often tense atmosphere at workplaces



SAKSHI SETHI

In today's fast-paced, high-stress work environments, organizations are increasingly seeking ways to support the well-being of their employees. Among the most effective and holistic approaches are the practices of yoga and meditation. These ancient techniques, rooted in mindfulness and physical wellness, have transcended their spiritual origins to become powerful tools for enhancing mental and physical health in modern workplaces. Incorporating yoga and meditation into the daily routine of employees not only benefits individual well-being but also significantly impacts organizational productivity and culture.

The modern workplace is often characterized by high levels of stress, tight deadlines, and the pressure to constantly perform. A study published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology found that employees who participated in the workplace yoga program experienced significant reductions in perceived stress levels. Participants even reported reductions in musculoskeletal pain, particularly in the lower back, neck and shoulders, areas commonly affected by prolonged sitting. The study found that employees who practised yoga reported higher levels of emotional well-being and lower levels of psychological distress. Another study published in the Journal of Managerial Psychology examined the effects of workplace yoga on organizational culture. It found that yoga contributed to a more positive and supportive work environment by fostering better communication, teamwork and a sense of community among employees. Many office workers spend long hours sitting at desks, which can lead to a range of physical issues, includ-



ing poor posture, back pain and repetitive strain injuries. Over time, these physical ailments can decrease productivity and increase absenteeism. Yoga addresses these issues by improving flexibility, strength, and posture. The various poses and stretches in yoga help to relieve tension in the neck, shoulders and lower back, common problem areas for office workers. Additionally, the emphasis on breathing exercises improves circulation and oxygenation, leading to increased energy levels and overall vitality. This can strengthen workplace relationships, improve communication, and foster a sense of community and mutual support.

A positive work environment, where employees feel valued and connected, leads to higher morale, reduced turnover and a more cohesive and productive team. The benefits of meditation in the workplace are well-documented. Regular meditation practice has been shown to reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, lower blood pressure and improve sleep quality. Employees who meditate regularly are more likely to exhibit improved focus, emotional intelligence, and the ability to manage stress. This not only enhances individual performance but also contributes to a more harmonious and collaborative work environment. Mentally, yoga promotes relaxation and reduces stress by regulating the autonomic nervous system, which governs the body's stress response. The mindful breathing techniques and meditative aspects of yoga help calm the mind, reduce anxiety and enhance mental clarity.

For employees, this means better focus, improved decision-making and greater resilience in the face of workplace challenges. The cumulative effect of these benefits is a more productive, engaged, and satisfied workforce. The modern workplace is often characterized by high levels of stress, tight deadlines, and the pressure to constantly perform. Moreover, prolonged stress can have severe consequences on employees' mental and physical health, leading to issues such as anxiety, depression and chronic illnesses. Therefore, investing in employee well-being through practices like yoga and meditation is not just a trend but a strategic move that can yield substantial returns.

(The writer is an educator, views expressed are personal)

E-commerce giants versus mom-and-pop stores



UTTAM GUPTA

Amazon's aggressive pricing strategies could lead to a massive e-commerce expansion, capturing half of India's retail market within the next decade



At the launch of the Pahle India Foundation's report 'Net Impact of E-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India' on August 21, 2024, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal took pot shot at the world's biggest e-tailer Amazon, for selling products directly to consumers and indulging in "predatory pricing" that could lead to massive growth of e-commerce capturing half of Indian retail market ten years from now. This would adversely impact an estimated 100 million small retailers across the country and in turn, lead to "social disruption".

E-commerce, put simply, is the practice of buying and selling goods or services using the Internet. Predatory pricing involves setting prices for a product at an unrealistically low level to undercut the competition and gain market share. Generally practised by a new player in the market, predatory pricing violates antitrust laws even as it seeks to create a monopoly. Goyal opines that Amazon is selling products on its e-commerce platform at unrealistically low prices which results in heavy losses estimated to be about a billion dollars annually. To fund these losses, it brings the money from its parent but camouflages it as foreign direct investment (FDI). Any FDI in the country is normally welcome given its contribution to capital formation, accelerating economic growth and adding to the foreign exchange kitty. But, the dollars brought by Amazon don't serve this purpose.

In 2020 also, he had taunted the Amazon boss for the latter's claim to bring a few billion dollars into India. Then, he had charged that Jeff Bezos was bringing money to make up for the huge loss the company was incurring in its operations in the country. He also voiced concern over the harm it was causing to millions of small retailers. Amazon essentially operates the "market-place" model of e-commerce - a special dispensation carved out by the Narendra Modi Government under which 100 per cent FDI is permitted.

The "market-place" is a platform where vendors sell their products to consumers even as its owner (say, Amazon) merely

E-COMMERCE, PUT SIMPLY, IS THE PRACTICE OF BUYING AND SELLING GOODS OR SERVICES USING THE INTERNET. PREDATORY PRICING INVOLVES SETTING PRICES FOR A PRODUCT AT AN UNREALISTICALLY LOW LEVEL TO UNDERCUT THE COMPETITION AND GAIN MARKET SHARE

acts as a facilitator. The marketplace owner books orders, raises invoices, arranges deliveries, accepts payments, handles rejections, warehousing and so on but can't undertake "direct selling." Considering that the operator is only expected to provide services instead of a fee, there is no question of any loss.

Yet, Amazon is incurring huge losses. The losses incurred by Amazon are due to huge discounts on the products sold on the platform as well as expenses on promoting exclusive brands. But the discount is normally given by the seller; this is also true of money spent on promotion. The service provider can't do it unless he is also masquerading as the seller. Do the rules permit direct selling? Under the 2016 guidelines (Press Note PN issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade or DPIIT in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries), the permission for 100 per cent FDI in the "market-place" is subject to two main riders viz, "The entity cannot permit more than 25 per cent of total sales on its platform from one vendor or its group companies. Further, it can't directly or indirectly influence the sale price." Sans any specification as to "who the vendor is", a firm connected with the "market-place" (either its subsidiary or a joint venture (JV) with an Indian company) is eligible. In other words, each such entity could control up to 25 per cent of sales on the platform. So, you have companies like Cloudtail - an Amazon venture in partnership with a firm owned by Narayan Murthy - operating as lead sellers on the platform. Thus, contrary to the real intent of the policy which disallowed the e-commerce platform owners from direct selling to individual consumers, the fine print permitted them to do so, albeit through a subsidiary or JV. This is precisely what the e-commerce

merchants have been doing. They were operating as direct sellers, controlling inventory, giving discounts and so on. A clarification issued by the DPIIT on December 26, 2018, said that "the owner of the marketplace or its subsidiary or its joint venture (JV) with an Indian company can't have ownership of the seller." Further, "a seller on the platform can't source more than 25 per cent of its inventory from a firm connected with the latter." Foreign investors can circumvent the first rider by having less than 50 per cent shareholding in the seller firm and arguing that they have no control (majority) over the latter. The marketplace owner can also sell his "own" product through its wholesale arm on the platform. All that the wholesale arm needs to ensure is to restrict supplies to the seller within the 25 per cent threshold. Thus, the clarification hasn't helped much in diluting their role as dominant sellers. No wonder, small traders, whom the e-commerce platform was intended to help have suffered heavily.

This is because the business that should have gone to the former was appropriated by the latter i.e. the dominant seller owned by itself. The small retailers haven't got relief from the court. In 2019, Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM) complained to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) alleging anti-competitive behaviour by Amazon Seller Services (ASS) and Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL).

It argued that ASS and FIPL had entered into exclusive sales agreements with smartphone makers to sell certain phones through a small number of preferred sellers and offering to pay for part of the discount that such sellers would offer during key sales periods such as Flipkart's big bullion day and Amazon's Prime Day. Prima facie, the CCI agreed with DVM's contention and ordered a probe by the

Director General (DG) - Investigation. ASS and FIPL went up to the Supreme Court (SC) to get the order quashed. In August 2021, dismissing their appeal, the SC ordered "the CCI - DG will complete the probe. In its recent findings, the CCI-DG has charged ASS and FIPL with indulging in 'predatory pricing' and violation of antitrust laws. The latter will appeal against this starting a fresh round of never-ending litigation. In the end (if at all the result comes), Amazon et al will get away with paying some penalty. How can the government get out of this mess? It could further tighten the rules to say that platform owners can't hold even one per cent equity in the seller. Further, the former's wholesale arm must not supply even one per cent of stocks of the latter. This is an abhorrent idea. It can't be implemented. Besides, it will be a retrospective change of policy and send a wrong signal. The way forward is to make obvious and straightforward what the bureaucrats had already done in a 'subtle' way. The government should say that '100 per cent FDI is allowed in retail in all forms, single brand or multi-brand retail (MBR), online or offline (currently, while FDI in MBR online is completely barred, in MBR offline, 51 per cent foreign investment is allowed subject to riders which tantamount to completely barring it. All these distinctions should go). With this, even as Amazon et al can continue with direct selling to consumers alongside running a marketplace model, Indian retailers including the millions of mom-and-pop stores will also have 'unrestrained' access to foreign capital thereby ensuring a level playing field.

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

Envisioning a feminist world: Building a just and inclusive future

The 4th Asia Pacific Feminist Forum seeks to challenge the patriarchal systems that dominate the world today, writes SHOBHA SHUKLA

The 4th Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) is set to take place next month in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the theme "Feminist world-building: Creative energies, collective journeys." This theme highlights the importance of uniting people of all genders who are dedicated to defending human rights and promoting gender equality. The forum aims to collectively resist the patriarchal, militarized, and greed-driven world we currently inhabit, envisioning instead a feminist world order. What is a Feminist World Order?

A feminist world order envisions a different kind of development model, one rooted in sharing and caring rather than power and violence. Unlike the

patriarchal systems that dominate today, where power is concentrated in the hands of a few through violence and exploitation, a feminist system emphasizes care, solidarity, and the equitable redistribution of power. This system aspires to be socially just and ecologically sustainable, ensuring justice and sustainability for everyone, everywhere. At its core, this vision is grounded in the principles of development justice.

Abia Akram, founder and CEO of the National Forum of Women with Disabilities in Pakistan, describes a feminist world as a place where women and all diverse genders can fully realize their strength and contribute meaningfully at the grassroots level. In her view, such a world would bring

about systematic changes through transformative laws and legal practices that are aligned with human rights. Migrant rights activist Eni Lestari, Chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, shares her perspective on the feminist world order based on her decades of experience in feminist movements. She observes that neoliberal globalization has exacerbated structural exploitation, with each new crisis worsening poverty, displacement, and unemployment. Having migrated from Indonesia during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Eni highlights that migration has become an integral part of the economic development strategy for many capitalist countries, with nearly 300 million people now liv-

ing as migrants worldwide. Eni envisions a feminist world as one where economic and political environments treat everyone with fairness and equality, eliminating the need for migration or displacement as a means of survival. In such a world, women would lead and ensure that justice and equality are upheld for all members of society. Feminist World: A Joyous and Inclusive World

Ivy Josiah, a women's rights activist and former President and Executive Director of Malaysia's Women's Aid Organisation, describes a feminist world as a joyous and inclusive one, where no one is left behind-not just as a tagline, but in reality. She believes that if feminists lead the world, it would be a peaceful one, as



war is a choice, and so is peace. Feminist World: Anti-Capitalism

A feminist world would stand in stark opposition to capitalism, which prioritizes profit maximization for a tiny elite while subjecting the majority of people and the planet to unbridled exploitation. Ivy argues that a feminist world would not serve the interests of the wealthy few but would instead be characterized by equitable resource distribu-

tion. Shrinking Spaces for Civil Society: Abia Akram raises concerns about the shrinking spaces for civil society organizations under the current political systems. She argues that creating an enabling environment where everyone has equal rights and opportunities is missing from the agendas of many countries. Budgetary allocations often fail to include a gender perspective, resulting in inadequate resources and opportunities for women and girls with disabilities, transgender individuals, and LGBTQI-AP+ communities. Abia asserts that meaningful engagement and equitable representation from feminist movements are essential for ensuring justice for all.

The Present World Order:

The present world order, driven by patriarchy, fundamentalism, militarism, and corporate capitalism, stands as the anti-thesis of a feminist world order. This model has transferred wealth, power, and resources from the working people to the rich, and from developing countries to wealthy ones. The resulting financial, environmental, food, and energy crises have devastated the lives of women, particularly in the Global South. Transformative Shifts of the Development Justice Model

The current world order urgently needs to be replaced with a development justice model that addresses the inequalities of wealth, power, and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women

and gender-diverse communities. This model is grounded in five transformative shifts: redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice, and accountability to the people.

The Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) plays a crucial role in advancing the vision of a feminist world order. Organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), this tri-annual event brings together feminists and women's rights activists of all genders from across Asia and the Pacific.

(Shobha Shukla is the founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of CNS. Views are personal)

Shruti Seth: Being an actor carries extra burden of beauty

Actress Shruti Seth, who to date has been remembered for the show that's created a legacy, *Shararat*, speaks to *The Pioneer* in an exclusive telephonic chat as she discusses her latest project, *36 Days*, age-shaming and also about *Shararat* making a comeback



I WON'T SAY SHARARAT 'MAKING A COMEBACK' IS RUMOUR BUT RATHER 'DREAM'

TEJAL SINHA

As magical as her show *Shararat* was for years, so has been Shruti Seth's journey. Well, every 90s kid would remember binge-watching this fantasy sitcom on television. She has since then undoubtedly created a niche in the world of comedy by being the anchor of shows like *Comedy Circus*, *Comedy Circus 20-20*, *Kahani Comedy Circus Ki*, *The Suite Life of Karan and Kabir*, *Comedy Circus Ke Ajoobe* and many more. "Laughter has been something that I enjoy the most about comedy," begins the talented actress in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*.

For her, life is just not about taking life too seriously but rather finding humour in every little thing, which makes life more enjoyable. "There's no greater gift than being able to make people laugh because we all know that life can get very hard. It's probably one of the best things that an artist can offer to the world."

Going quite in the opposite direction this time, her latest project, *36 Days*, has seen her in a different picture and has also received a tremendous response from the audience. Much in talks for the project, the *Fanaa* actress enthuses, "I was put together as a part of such a fantastic ensemble cast. Every single performer in the show has just been stupendous. Then, of course, the director, Vishal, is very good in this genre. BBC and Applause kind of envisioned something very interesting while designing the world of *36 Days*. They sort of contextualise it to the culture really well. It's an official remake of one of BBC's original formats called *35 Days*. They took the theme from the show and turned it for the Indian context really well. Also setting it in Goa, I think, made it an interesting backdrop."

It was a no-brainer for her to get on board for this project, having worked with BBC and Applause previously in *Bloody Brothers*. But again, the story always is front and center of all decisions.

Glad to have been playing the character of Radhika Jaykar in *36 Days*, she further speaks of the thriller genre, which is very different from that of the comedy genre. "*Bloody Brothers* was somewhere in the same space; this was obviously a lot more interesting for me. My character does something that I had never done. Without revealing spoilers, I think for me to play a layered character like Radhika Jaykar was just something I've never had an opportunity to sort of see myself doing."

But guess what? Shruti was initially much keen to play the character of Lalita Shinde, which has been essayed by the extremely talented Amrita Khanvilkar. Telling us more, she shares, "I remember when I read the script, I had really liked her character. But Amrita did a remarkable job. However, I was very excited when I read her character. BBC was very keen that I played Radhika, who was also an interesting character too. There were just too many boxes being ticked for me to say no."

Over the years, just like many more actors from the industry, Shruti has also been vocal about what's been termed 'age shaming'. "All the time," she says as we speak of whether she's been one of those targets. "I have people who watched me in *Shararat* 20 years ago telling me, 'Oh my god. You're aging.' I'm like what were you expecting to happen in 20 years? But you know, I'm the least affected, to be honest. Ageism has gone into every single aspect of every kind of woman's life. It doesn't matter what you do. Being an actor carries that additional burden of beauty because you're supposed to look a certain way for your entire life, which I don't understand. When women feel compelled to go out there and sadly do things to their faces to preserve their youth or delay they get flaked for that as well. So there's no winning this argument. The fact that you're a woman means you've already lost the battle."

Well, as we shift towards a much-buzz-around talk, '*Shararat* is making a comeback', while the fans are awaiting for it, so is she because, "I won't say it's a rumour; I would just say it's a dream. We're all dreaming it together. I'm not saying yes or no. I'm just saying it's a dream. No matter what I do, no matter what heights I reach or lows I go, *Shararat* is like my armour. I'm just grateful. I cannot thank my lucky stars enough for putting me in that place at that time. It's timeless and not many people get an opportunity to be a part of such a legacy. I'm just glad that we all got thrown in together by Zarina Mehta, who is really the mother of it because she's the one who made it happen."

But why not a movie just like *Khichdi*? "We've been sort of over the years; all of us realised this way before the last 5-7 years, when the noise has been a lot more. But we did try to see the thing is that, you know, because it's owned by Disney. We need sign-off from them. They need to see it as something worth building on. We did think it would have made a really fun film, to be honest. I don't know how well *Khichdi* did. I don't know how well *Sarabhai versus Sarabhai* did. Because clearly, they were used as the options to check if there is still some steam. I don't know if they gave promising results, which is why till now we've all been waiting for our turn. I'm sure if all fans were to get together and pressurise them, I wish they would do something. We manage the best we can do. I feel even if it's in this original form, I feel it'll still work like magic because there's just so much nostalgia attached to the show."

As an actor in India, she feels that one always has their fingers crossed for the right kind of project landing their way. "I don't think you can really exercise any control over it unless you decide to become a producer or a director. Actors are always at the mercy of casting directors. So if I say, Oh, I would love to be a part of so and so show, unless I'm producing it, there is no way for me to influence that decision."

Amit Agarwal weaves tomorrow, blending myth & modernity

PNS|HYDERABAD

At the India Couture Week, designer Amit Agarwal launched his latest collection, *Antevorta*, a name inspired by the Roman goddess of the future. He describes the line as a narrative woven with threads of time, where mythology meets modernity in a way that is both unique and profound. The collection, he explains, delves deep into the concept of time itself, intertwining ancient tales with contemporary design.

"We've used intricate craftsmanship alongside avant-garde techniques to create pieces that are both contemporary and timeless," he says, his passion evident. "Every garment tells its own story, capturing moments that are both fleeting and eternal, making this collection a true celebration of the past, present and future."

When asked about the revival of traditional weaves, Amit's response is both thoughtful and fervent. He sees it not as a trend but as a cultural and artistic renaissance. By infusing these ancient techniques into modern fashion, he believes they are not only honouring heritage but also the artisans who have kept these crafts alive through generations. "This isn't just about preservation; it's about introducing these traditional skills to a global audience, creating a dialogue between what is old and what is new," explains the celebrated designer.

He has observed a significant shift towards localisation in fashion, a movement he embraces wholeheartedly. He notes how fashion is becoming deeply rooted in indigenous craftsmanship and materials, with designers now delving into regional techniques and histories to craft pieces that are not only authentic but also globally appealing. "This movement supports our local artisans while also reducing the environmental impact of production. It's a beautiful blend of local heritage and global vision, ensuring that every creation carries with it a piece of our cultural history," he reflects.

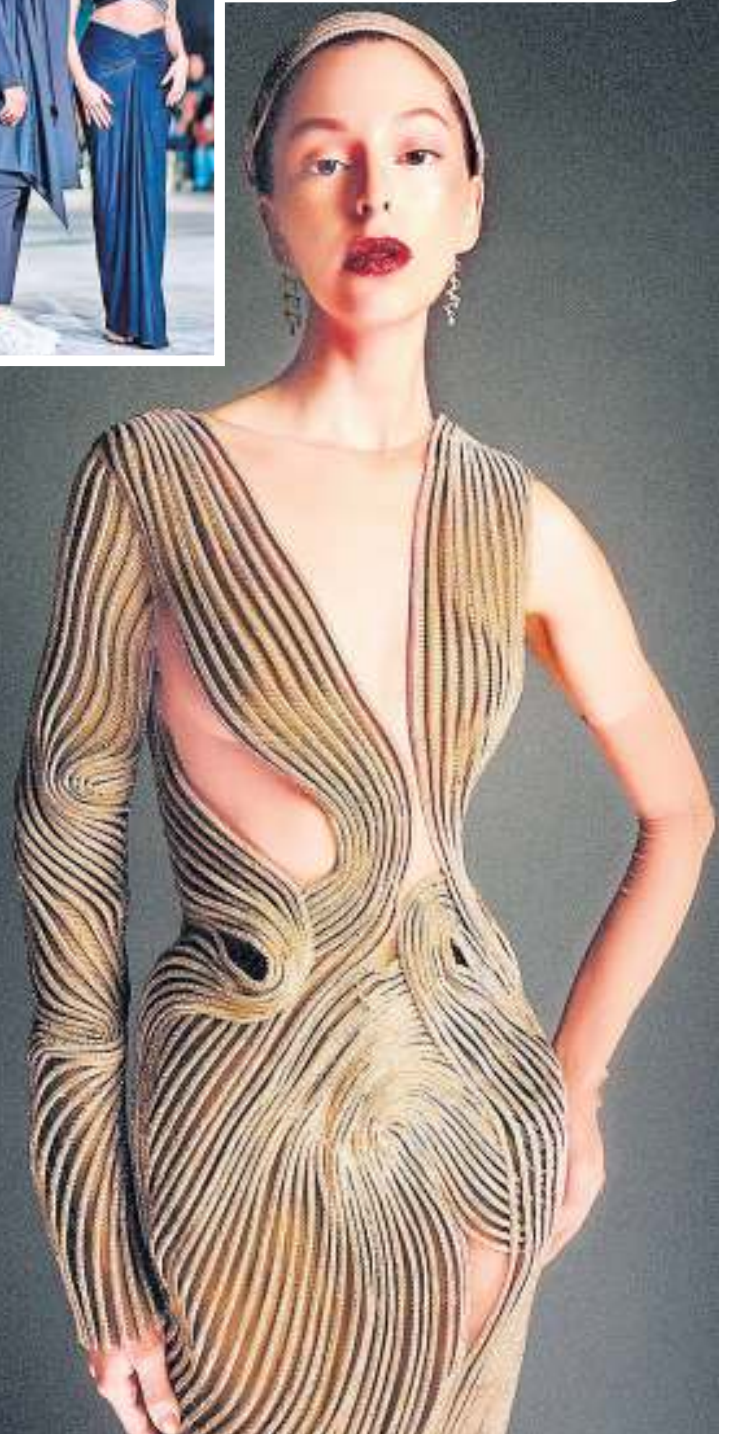
Reflecting on how the fashion industry has evolved in recent years, particularly after the pandemic, he acknowledges a profound transformation. He points out the shift towards sustainability and conscious consumerism, noting how today's shoppers are more discerning, valuing quality and authenticity over mere quantity. He observes, "This change has been beneficial for brands that prioritise ethical practices and craftsmanship. Moreover, the digital revolution has accelerated, making online platforms indispensable for reaching a wider audience. The future of fashion is steering towards sustainability and innovation, where creativity meets commercial success in a balanced way."

In the ever-present debate of fashion versus style, his preference is clear. "Style is paramount," he states with conviction. While fashion is constantly evolving, style, for him, is personal and enduring. "Fashion reflects trends, but style is about individual expression and authenticity. Our designs aim to blend these concepts, offering pieces that are trend-forward yet timeless, allowing wearers to showcase their unique style while staying fashionable."

Amit Agarwal's couture narrative is one of blending time-honoured traditions with the cutting edge of modern fashion, creating a collection that is as thoughtful as it is innovative. As he continues to champion local craftsmanship while embracing a global vision, his work not only honours the past but also looks confidently toward the future.



Amit Agarwal, who has launched his latest collection *Antevorta*, speaks to *The Pioneer* about behind the making of the collection and more insights around it



Transform your thighs with smoother, sleeker contours

Are you tired of feeling self-conscious about your thighs? Do you struggle with stubborn fat and loose skin that refuses to budge, despite your best efforts with diet and exercise? In this article, we will share expert insights on the most effective ways to transform your thighs and unlock a more confident you.

Anatomy of thigh fat

Thigh fat is a complex issue, influenced by genetics, hormones, and lifestyle factors. Understanding the different types of thigh fat – including excess fat, loose skin, and cellulite – is

crucial to developing an effective treatment plan.

Non-surgical solutions

Before considering surgery, explore these non-invasive options:

1. **Radiofrequency treatments:** Stimulate collagen production and tighten skin with advanced RF technologies.

2. **Fat-reducing injections:** Dissolve excess fat with targeted injectables.



3. **Customised exercise programs:** Tone and strengthen your thigh muscles with personalized workouts.

Surgical solutions

For more pronounced thigh fat and loose skin, consider these surgical options:

1. **Thigh lift:** Tighten and contour your thighs with a surgical lift.

2. **Liposuction:** Remove excess fat and sculpt your

thighs with precision.

3. **Cellulite reduction:** Minimize the appearance of cellulite with advanced surgical techniques.

Maintenance and aftercare

To ensure long-lasting results, prioritize:

1. **Healthy lifestyle habits:** Maintain a balanced diet and regular exercise routine.
2. **Sun protection:** Shield your skin from harmful UV rays.
3. **Follow-up appointments:** Schedule

regular check-ins with your plastic surgeon.

By combining these expert-recommended solutions, you can achieve the smoother, sleeker thighs you deserve. You should always consult with a board-certified plastic surgeon to create a personalised treatment plan tailored to your unique needs and goals.

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

what's brewing?



Actress Anya Nagalla inaugurated the Rida Radiance Skin and Hair Clinic in Gachibowli. Rida Radiance offers treatments at affordable prices, making them accessible to everyone—from celebrities, businesspeople and politicians to the common person.



MAA Research Foundation, in collaboration with MAA E.N.T Hospitals, organised its 68th workshop on Live head and neck surgical workshop, at MAA E.N.T Hospitals. The workshop offered an exceptional opportunity for participants to engage in live surgical demonstrations and interactive sessions. The workshop was organised under the mentorship of Dr. K.R. Meghnath, Director. Dr. Nagarjun Reddy Head and Neck Surgeon and Professor Prathamesh Pai Surgeon HNCII, among the others had participated in the workshop.



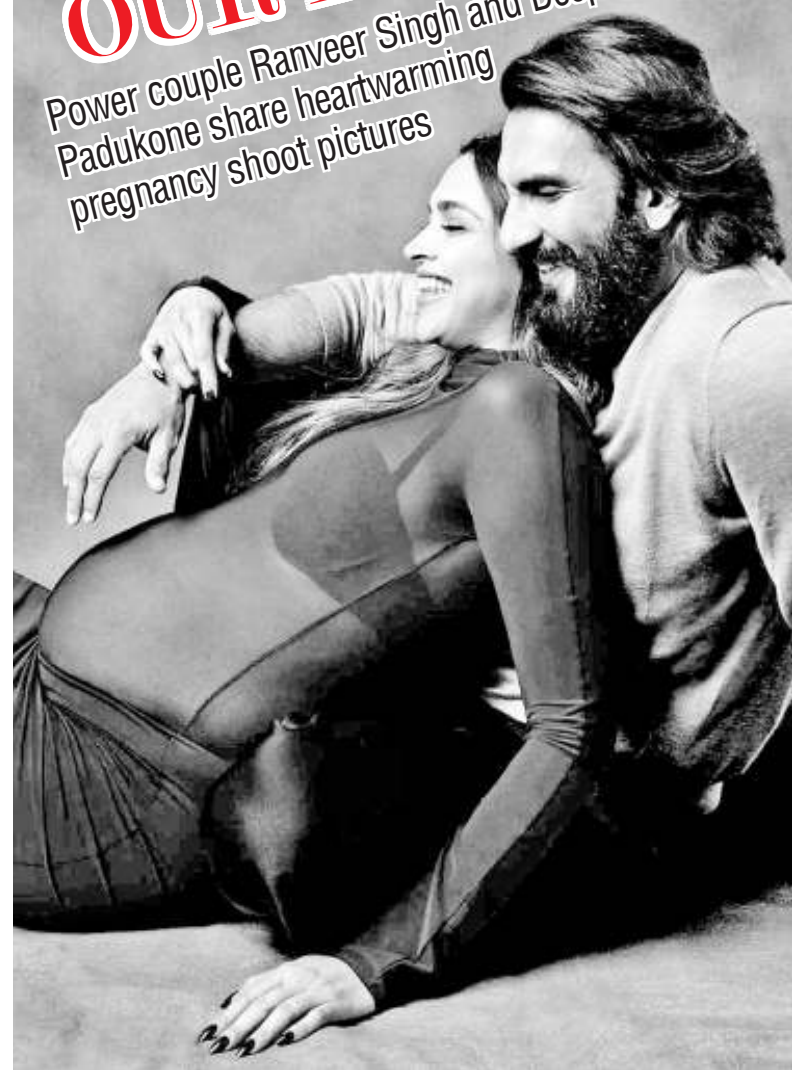
Jayesh Ranjan, the IT Department's Principal Secretary, has commended the collaboration between Mata and TASK to provide free online AI training to Telangana's youth. The agreement between Mata Founder Srinivas and TASK CEO Shrikant Sinha was signed at the TASK office in Masab Tank, Hyderabad, showing interest in Telangana's new government initiatives.

PARTY

Bollywood's power couple and parents-to-be Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone have captivated fans as they prepare to welcome their first-born. Now, the couple has dropped the stunning pregnancy photoshoot for us, blessing our feeds with these adorable photo shoots! With their beautiful chemistry at display, Deepika, blooming with the radiant glow of pregnancy, looks stunning as ever, her natural beauty only enhanced by this special phase of her life wearing a sheer dress with her bump showing in a few images, a loose cardigan in a few, blazer in a few and a sweater in few. She embodied elegance and grace, setting a new standard for maternity fashion, while Ranveer Singh, is proudly seen beside her, he exudes the energy of a soon-to-be father who can't wait to embrace his new role. His affectionate gaze and supportive presence reflect the couple's deep bond as they embark on this exciting journey together. The images, which have already sent a wave of excitement through fans and followers, mark one of the most anticipated moments in Bollywood history—the arrival of Ranveer and Deepika's child. As the couple basks in the joy of impending parenthood, their post has sparked a frenzy of love and well-wishes across social media. The uncontained excitement surrounding their growing family adds a new chapter to the power couple's already iconic love story, making this moment a milestone not just for them, but for all who have followed their journey with admiration and affection. The couple have already given us glimpses of how good they would be as parents, several sightings, videos and pictures are proof of that which has created a frenzy amongst fans as they eagerly wait for a picture with their baby to be.

MELTING OUR HEARTS

Power couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone share heartwarming pregnancy shoot pictures



Photos by - SV Chary

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



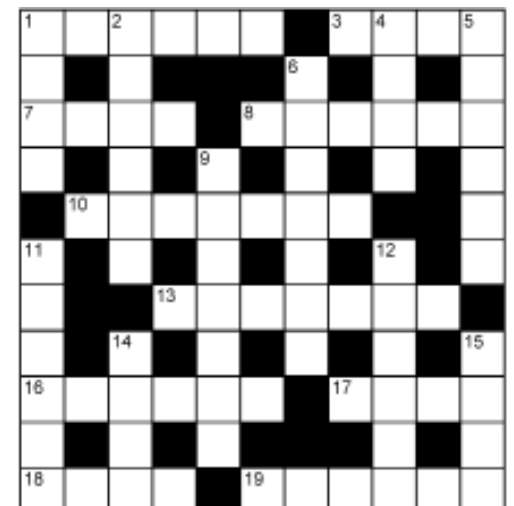
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Tired and yawning
- Opposite of fast
- Imitate
- A team game with stick and ball
- Very old
- A bird with a huge fan tail
- Queen's residence
- Let fall
- Italy's largest city
- Picked
- Exit door (3,3)
- Join together
- Complete quiet
- Assistant
- Frightens
- A fruit with a stone
- Unlock

DOWN

- Unwell
- Stretch outwards
- A large area of water surrounded by land



GINGER MEGGS





SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Nandamuri Balakrishna completed 50 years and the Telugu Film Industry organised an event in Hyderabad on Sunday evening. Many celebrities from all the film industries, political and other had attended the event. During the event, Chiranjeevi's speech was the major highlight!

The Telugu Film Industry (TFI) had honoured actor Nandamuri Balakrishna's 50-year acting career. The golden jubilee celebration, which was held in Hyderabad, was organised by TFI. Balakrishna's wife, daughter, younger son-in-law, and sisters had also attended the event.

On this occasion, Mega Star Chiranjeevi shared his message to all the fans saying, "It's not just the celebration of Balakrishna, but of the entire Telugu cinema. Balakrishna achieved a rare record and just like his father,

Balakrishna has also played diverse roles and has enthralled the audience with his performance," said Mega Star.

He went on to highlight that this kind of function needs to be held regularly to show the audience that the actors are united. "Sometimes fans get into heated arguments and these functions would make them understand that we all share a good relationship," further explained Mega Star, adding that thus the fans also need to be united.

As he went ahead to speak at the event, he further spoke about his relationship with Balayya. "For any of our functions, Balakrishna is the first person to attend it and all of us enjoy it together. We are all like a family and fans should understand this and stay together," he said.

Going ahead, Mega Star expressed his desire to do a film with Balakrishna. "I took inspiration from Balakrishna's *Samarasimha Reddy* for my *Indra* film. Now, I wanted to do a faction film with Balayya and now I challenge both

Boyapati Srinu and YVS Chaudhary to make a film with us," said Chiranjeevi. He went on to wish Balakrishna a long life and also lauded his service to the people as a politician and also through his cancer hospital. "Love Live Balayya," said Mega Star.

Speaking at the event, Nandamuri Balakrishna thanked everyone who had worked with him throughout his journey. The actor said that not only did he learn acting but also a lot of things from his father. "It's not just acting I learned from my father; I learned discipline, punctuality and culture. I learned all the above qualities from Akkineni Nageswara Rao," said Balakrishna. The actor said that they are all competing in the film industry, but all of it is healthy competition. "I have been in multiple fields, including cinema, politics and medical services, so I am indebted to everyone who is supporting me throughout. My special thanks to my wife Vasundhara, who has supported me in everything I do," said Balakrishna.

I WOULD LIKE TO ACT WITH BALAYYA FOR FACTION FILM: CHIRANJEEVI

SIDELIGHTS

- Many of the young actors including Rana Daggubati, Nani, Adivi Sesh, Siddhu Jonnalagadda, Manchu Manoj, Allari Naresh and others clicked selfies with Balakrishna.
- Late Krishnam Raju's wife Shyamala Devi felicitated Balakrishna with a shawl.
- Actor Venkatesh surprised everyone with a popular dialogue from Balakrishna's film *Legend*.
- Senior director Raghavendra Rao danced for Balakrishna's song *Jai Balayya* from the film *Veera Simha Reddy* and entertained all. Generally, a calm person like Raghavendra Rao first time does this kind of entertainment.
- Mega Star Chiranjeevi fondly called MLA Raghurama Krishnaraju as *RRR* in his own style.
- The entire auditorium was under tight security due to the news of the Chief Ministers attending the event. They refused entry, causing many celebrities to be stuck outside. Most media personnel were also prohibited from covering the event, leading many to leave.
- Many criticised the Shreyas Media for not organising this event properly. They should be more organised when many celebrities from film and politics attend.
- Due to heavy rains and floods, the AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu couldn't attend. However, on behalf of him, AP Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh attended.
- Shiv Raj Kumar and Sumalatha from the Kannada film industry attended and both have worked with Balakrishna.
- Though many celebrities attended this event, everyone wondered why Nagarjuna gave a miss. There are reports that there are some differences between Balayya and Nagarjuna; that's why Nagarjuna missed.
- Another person who missed this event was Allu Arjun. Though the TFI specially invited Allu Arjun and he is close to Balakrishna, he still didn't come for the event. There are rumours that Allu Arjun did not wish to encounter Chiranjeevi at this event.
- Kamal Haasan sent his wishes through a video.
- There was a lot of confusion regarding the live video of this function. Some people were going through Gemini TV and suddenly ETV telecast this event live. There are reports that both the Telugu CMs were attending, so I&PR has given a live video link. Even the organisers had no clue about it and later they found and stopped the live link. Producers, directors, actors, writers and many other people from Tollywood attended this function.



Bigg Boss Eighth season of Bigg Boss kicks off with new rules

The Telugu Bigg Boss season 8 kicked off on Sunday evening with host Nagarjuna introducing all the housemates. This time, he has announced new rules and this time, the housemates were sent as pairs. The Bigg Boss show is known for its entertainment, drama, and, of course, a lot of twists.

Nagarjuna also stated that there will be no distribution of rations or prize money this time. "You have to earn them through tasks only," said Nagarjuna while hosting the show on a private television channel. He also mentioned that there will be no captain this season. This prevents one from witnessing the well-known and ridiculous debates

during nominations and also provides immunity from them.

In contrast to previous seasons, the current season lacks major celebrity figures, with the majority of housemates being well-known YouTubers, influencers, small-scale actors and radio jockeys.

Nagarjuna paired up all 14 contestants and escorted them inside the house. Yashmi Gowda and Nikhil (TV Artists), Abhay (Film Actor) and Prerna Kamtham (TV Artist), Aditya Om and Soniya Akula, Bejawada Bebakka and Sekhar Basha, Kirrak Seetha and Naga Manikanta, Prithviraj and Vishnu Priya, Nainanika and Nabeel Afridi are the pairs.

'Sentiment of mother is biggest commercial element to bank on'

The movie *35 Chinna Katha Kaadu* will be releasing in cinemas on September 6 and has been produced by Srujan Yarabolu. Despite being a seasoned producer, he never openly discusses his films.

"This is my tenth film as producer," said Srujan. He mentioned that he began his professional journey as a movie distribu-



tor abroad with the movie *Kanche* in 2015 and has continued to distribute nearly 70 films since then. "The first film I produced was *Manu*, followed by *Suryakantham*, *Thimmarusu* and *Panchatantram*. I also produced Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi films," said Srujan.

Discussing the *35-Chinna Katha Kadu*, he mentioned encountering director Nanda Kishore Emani in a peculiar manner. "I had waited at a production house to meet the producer, while director Nanda Kishore and Vishwadev were also waiting to see the same producer. We were waiting in the same room and Nanda Kishore narrated the story. Later, he accompanied me to my office, where he shared the entire story, which I found very appealing,

leading me to decide to produce the film. I became curious and briefly asked Kishore about the movie," he said about how he started this film.

Srujan mentioned that the majority of his movies are centered on concepts. "I have nearly heard 400 stories and I liked only five of them. I wanted to make a classic like *Mahanti*, *Sita Ramam*, *Journey*, and then I got this story. I am confident that people will talk about this one," said Srujan. He added that with this film, people will be able to relate to a few characters. "I feel that the sentiment of a mother is the biggest commercial element. Apart from this, you will also be able to see many relationships, sentiments and a lot of drama," he said. The film has a Tirupathi backdrop. "The story needed a devotional backdrop, thus we chose Tirupathi. Coming to the accent, all the actors had learned the Chittoor accent for this film," said Srujan. "After watching my film, definitely you put this film too on the lines of K Viswanath and Babu films," he said.

Anushka Shetty wants the committee report to be published!



Actress Samantha had a while back expressed her support for the Hema Committee report released by the Kerala Government. She commends the women in the movie business and bravely speaks out about the exploitation of women in the industry. Samantha implored the Telangana government to establish a replica in Tollywood and asked for its publication similar to the Hema Committee Report.

Now, yet another top actress, Anushka Shetty, has also openly requested the government to release the subcommittee report established in 2019. She commends the Kerala women who paved the way to this point.

"We, the women of the Telugu film industry, welcome the Hema Committee report and applaud the persistent efforts of the WCC in Kerala, which has laid the path to this moment," posted Anushka on her Instagram.

She added that taking cue from the WCC, The Voice of Women, a women's support group in the TFI, was established in 2019. She desired for the subcommittee report on sexual harassment to be made public so that the government and TFI could establish guidelines for a safe work environment for women.

"We hereby urge the Telangana government to publish the submitted sub-committee report on sexual harassment, which can help frame the government and industry policies to establish a safe working environment for women in the TFI," (sic), said Anushka in her social media page. With growing demand from Tollywood actresses, now it's on the government to publish the subcommittee report.

PARUCHURI'S GRANDSON SUDARSHAN DEBUTS AS AN ACTOR

The Paruchuri Brothers are famous for their successful scripts and have collaborated on numerous films featuring major celebrities. Their grandson, Paruchuri Sudarshan, is ready to start his acting career with the movie *Mr. Celebrity*. Chandina Ravi Kishore is in charge of directing it.

Talking about the film, Sudarshan said that he initially worked as a junior artiste to get experience. "People don't know that I was Paruchuri's grandson when I worked as a junior artiste, so I got to know the work experience on the sets. I also did many theater plays before I decided to enter as an actor," said Sudarshan. "When I worked as a junior



artiste, people were unaware that I was Paruchuri's grandson, which allowed me to learn about the work experience on sets. I had participated in numerous theater plays before choosing to pursue a career as an actor," said Sudarshan.

The shooting of the movie has finished as well, and the teaser of the film was released on Sudarshan's birthday. The teaser was officially launched by Sudarshan's grandfather, Paruchuri Venkateswara Rao. In this teaser, they gave a

glimpse of the plot. "Since the time of *Ramayan* until today, numerous individuals have been affected by rumours and false information. Many Tollywood actors, including celebrities, have also experienced significant difficulties as a result of rumours and gossip. The film's title includes all the celebrity names for that very reason," said director Ravi Kishore.

The teaser also reveals that *Mr. Celebrity* will be a gripping crime thriller with captivating elements in the story. The story appears to have unexpected developments with a fierce clash between the main character and the enemy. Varalaxmi Sarathkumar has a crucial part in the movie.

STANDALONE

Keerthy Suresh becomes the co-owner of the Adani Trivandrum Royals cricket team, which is a prominent team in the Kerala Cricket League run by the Kerala Cricket Association (KCA).



AAY team's noble gesture through JSP win hearts

NTR's brother-in-law, Narne Nithin, who captivated the Telugu audience with the film *Mad*, has recently brought the fun entertainer *AAY* to the audience. With good occupancy and decent collections, the film is performing well. Now, the team's noble gesture has become the talk of the town! Producer Bunny Vas and Geetha Arts has announced that 25% of producer's share from *AAY* collections from today till weekend will be donated to flood victims through Janasena Party. It is known that heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh have led to widespread flooding, creating challenging conditions across the region. In light of this, the team has announced this decision. By supporting the flood victims, Bunny Vas and team *AAY* emphasise their solidarity with the affected communities.



Saina Nehwal reveals struggles with arthritis, to decide on retirement by end of year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ace Indian shuttler and former Olympic bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal has revealed that she is battling arthritis and will have to decide on her future in badminton by the end of this year as the ailment has made it impossible for her to train the usual hours.

The 34-year-old former world No.1, who was the first Indian shuttler to win an Olympic medal with her bronze in London 2012, participated in three editions of the Games before being hampered by injuries.

The 2010 and 2018 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist said she can no longer overlook the fact that her career is in its final leg. "The knee is not very good. I have arthritis. My cartilage has gone to a bad state. It is very difficult to push for eight-nine hours," Nehwal said on the House of Glory podcast hosted by shooting great Gagan Narang, who was India's chef-de-mission in the recent Paris Olympics.

"How will you challenge the best players in the world in such a state? I think I will have to accept it somewhere. Because two hours of training is not good enough to play with the highest level of players and get the desired results," she added.

Nehwal said she is still considering the impact retirement will have on her but admitted that she would eventually have to take a call. The trailblazing star, who is also a BJP member now, was last seen in action more than a year ago in the Singapore Open where she lost in the opening round.

"I am also thinking about it (retirement). It will be sad



because it is like a job that a normal person does. Obviously, a sports person's career is always a short one. I started at the age of 9. I will be 35 next year," she said. "I have also had a long career and I am very proud of that. I have broken my body to a great extent. I am happy with what I have done and given it all. (I) will assess how I feel by the end of this year," she added. "The Padma Shri awardee said competing at the Olympics was

her childhood dream and missing the showpiece for two consecutive editions has been hurtful. "Competing at the Olympics is a childhood dream for all. You prepare to reach that level for years. Hence, at times, when you realise you will not be able to make it, it hurts a lot," she expressed. "Because it is not like you do not want to play, but your body is telling that you are not doing well and you have injuries."

Nehwal, however, said she would look back at her run in the Games with pride. "But I have done a lot of hard work. I competed in three Olympics. I gave my 100 per cent in all of them. I can take pride in that and be happy about it," she said. Nehwal also spoke about the pressure of expectations and said as a top athlete, she has faced it not just from observers of the game but also from near and dear ones.

"When you become a big player, your friends, family, coaches, sponsors, everyone wants you to perform. There are a lot of stakeholders involved," she said. "With already a short career span, athletes cannot afford to take a four-year break and have to keep performing continuously. If you wish to become an international champion, you have to be strong to make tough decisions," she added.

Nagal pulls out of Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal on Monday pulled out of the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to a back injury.

Nagal recently lost his first round singles contest to Tallon Griekspoor at the US Open. The indoor hard-court contest in Stockholm will be played on September 14-15. Reserve player Aryan Shah has been drafted into the main team after Nagal's withdrawal while Manas Dhame has been put on standby.

"I was really looking forward to representing in the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden," Nagal wrote on social media. "However, due to a back issue that's been bothering me for the past few weeks, doctors have advised me to rest for the next two weeks, leaving me without enough time to



prepare and compete in Sweden. This same issue also led to my withdrawal from the US Open doubles.

"I'm deeply disappointed to be missing this tie, but I have to listen to my body to prevent the back from worsening, so that I can finish the season strong and healthy. Good luck to the Indian team - I'll be cheering for you all from home!" he added.

Nagal reached a career-high ranking of 68 in July but has dropped to 82 in the latest rankings. India's highest-ranked singles player not being part of the Davis Cup tie is a big blow to the team.

Former national champion Ashutosh Singh has been named as new coach of the national team.

Bopanna-Ebden ousted from US Open

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India challenge in the mens doubles event of the US Open ended with the defeat of Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden in the third round, here.

The second seeded Bopanna-Ebden pair lost 1-6 5-7 to the 16th seed Argentine combo of Maximiliano Gonzalez and Andres Molteni in 66 minutes on Sunday night.

Bopanna and Ebden had won the Australian Open early this year.

The 44-year-old Bopanna has already announced retirement from Davis Cup and it will be interesting to see if he will return to defend his Australian Open crown in January 2025.

Sumit Nagal had exited the mens singles with an opening round defeat while Yuki Bhambhani and N Srinam Balaji earlier lost in mens doubles at different stages of the tournament.



Bopanna's challenge is still alive in the mixed doubles event with Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi and interestingly, he and Ebden will now be up against each other.

Ebden and Czech Republics Barбора Krecjkova are seeded fourth in the mixed doubles.

Juventus remains unbeaten following a 0-0 draw with visiting Roma in Serie A

AP ■ ROME

For Thiago Motta's Juventus, it was a well-earned point that kept the Bianconeri unbeaten.

For Daniele De Rossi's Roma, it was a step in the right direction after a difficult start to the season. Juventus was held to a 0-0 draw at home by Roma in Serie A on Sunday with each side producing only one shot on goal.

Roma dominated the possession early on before Juventus grew more dangerous through Dusan Vlahovic.

De Rossi kept former Juventus forward Paulo Dybala on the bench at the start then sent the Argentine international, who recently turned down an offer from Saudi Arabia, on midway through the second half.

But Dybala produced little with both sides slowing down by then on a warm evening in Turin.

Juventus moved level on seven points with defending champion Inter Milan, Torino and Udinese in Motta's first season since coming over from Bologna.

Winless Roma, which was coming off a dispiriting defeat at home to Empoli, has two points in De Rossi's second campaign after replacing Jose Mourinho in January.

Having grown more offensive under De Rossi last season, Roma has produced only one goal in three matches this season.



Udinese beat promoted Como 1-0 with a first-half volley from Brenner. Como forward Patrick Cutrone missed a late penalty.

MALDINI FROM DISTANCE: Robin Gosens scored a late equalizer on debut for Fiorentina, which came back from two goals down for a 2-2 draw with

Alessandro Nesta's Monza. Gosens, who was signed on loan from Union Berlin on deadline day, redirected in a corner with a looping header in stoppage time.

Monza went ahead with early goals from Milan Djuric and Daniel Maldini before Moise Kean pulled one back for Fiorentina before the break. It was a third consecutive draw in Serie A for Fiorentina under new manager Raffaele Palladino, who previously coached Monza.

Fiorentina was coming off a penalty-shootout win over Puskas Akademia in the Conference League. Fiorentina also drew the first leg with Puskas, and the second leg was locked at 1-1 before the shootout.

Maldini's long-distance effort was his third goal from outside the box in 2024, tied for the joint lead in Serie A over that span with Dusan Vlahovic, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Alexis Saelemaekers and Michael Folorunsho.

Hellas Verona beat Genoa 2-0 with goals from Jackson Tchatchoua and Casper Tengstedt for its second win in three matches after defeating Napoli 3-0 in its opener.

Kylian Mbappé ends scoring drought in Spanish league and scores 2 in Real Madrids win over Betis

AP ■ MADRID

With two goals in less than 10 minutes, Kylian Mbappé ended his scoring drought in the Spanish league, leading Real Madrid to a 2-0 win over Real Betis.

Madrid's biggest signing in years, Mbappé had scored once in the teams win over Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup final last month, but he had yet to find the net in his previous three Spanish league matches.

"I was looking forward to scoring in this legendary stadium, the best in the world," Mbappé said. "But the most important thing was the victory."

He opened the scoring at the Santiago Bernabeu with a low left-footed shot from inside the area after a neat backheel pass by Federico Valverde in the 67th minute. Mbappé then added to the lead by converting a 75th-minute penalty kick after a foul on Vinicius Junior.

Madrid had drawn two of its first three games, with its lone victory coming against

Valladolid two rounds ago, also at the Bernabeu. This win moved the defending champion four points behind leader Barcelona, the only team to win all four matches to start the season.

"After the game against Las Palmas we knew that we had to win and we did it," Mbappé said. "It was a tough match, but we are Real Madrid and in the end we won it."

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said there was never any pressure on Mbappé to end his drought in the league.

"For him it was important to score, but we evaluate the work of the team as a whole, which was better than in the previous match. It was a step forward."

The result kept Betis winless after three matches. Manuel Pellegrini's team had drawn its first two games.

Vitor Roque, a young Brazilian forward, was a second-half substitute for the Sevilla club where he is playing on loan from Madrid rival Barcelona.

Madrid has not conceded in its last five league games at



Bernabeu, going back to last season, a first for the club in the competition since 1996.

Madrid is unbeaten in 26 home games in the league, with 22 wins and four draws, the best run under Ancelotti.

The five points from three matches until now had meant Madrid's worst start in the league since 2019-20, when it won the competition.

SEVILLA CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE: Sevilla lost 2-0 at home to Girona to remain winless after four matches.

Ivan Martin and Abel Ruiz scored a goal in each half for Girona, which has now won two in a row. It will play the Catalan derby against Barcelona in the next round.

Sevilla had drawn two of its first three matches, both on the road, with a loss to Villarreal at home.

OTHER RESULTS: Getafe, another team without a victory, drew 0-0 with Real Sociedad at home, while Las Palmas - also winless - lost 2-0 at Alaves. Osasuna won 3-2 against Celta Vigo, which had opened with two straight wins but now has lost two in a row.

Coco Gauff loses at the US Open to Emma Navarro

AP ■ NEW YORK

This is pretty much all anyone needs to know about defending champion Coco Gauff's 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 loss to Emma Navarro in the U.S. Opens fourth round: Gauff wound up with more double-faults, 19, than winners, 14.

It was the latest in a series of early-for-her exits in recent weeks, including bowing out in the third round at the Paris Olympics, then going 1-2 at hard-court tuneup events before arriving in New York. "I feel like there's 70 other players in the draw that would love to have the summer that I had, even though it's (the) least, probably, (I've) done well during this time of the year," said the No. 3-seeded Gauff, who went 18-1 during the North American swing on hard courts 12 months ago, including the run to her first Grand Slam title. "So many people want to be in the fourth round. So many people want to make the Olympics. So many people want to be flag bearer. It's perspective."

The 20-year-old from Florida did fight her way back into the match with a four-game run in which she

claimed 14 of 17 points and grabbed the second set. "Had a little bit of a lull there," said the 13th-seeded Navarro, an American who was 0-2 at the U.S. Open until this year, "but I was able to regroup."

After each of her past two contests in New York, Gauff headed back out onto the practice courts to work on her serve. That didn't help much on Sunday, when she tied her career high for double-faults: She also had 19 in a loss at the 2020 French Open. Against Navarro, Gauff delivered a trio of double-faults in four different games. Eleven of the double-faults came in the final set alone.

Gauff attributed her problems to a mix of issues with her mechanics - "I go down on my left side a lot on my serve, and it's something I'm aware of, but it's tough in the moment to, I guess, try not to do it," she explained - and in her mind.

"It's sometimes more of an emotional, mental thing, because if I go out on the practice court right now, I would make, like, 30 serves in a row. I've done it before," Gauff said. "I think it's also just kind of a mental hurdle that I have to get over

Ending her title defense with 19 double faults



when it comes. ... But I definitely want to look at other things, because I don't want to lose matches like this anymore."

She finished with a total of 60 unforced errors - a whopping 29 on her forehand side.

The 23-year-old Navarro, who also eliminated Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon in July, was far steadier on Sunday, although she still did have 35 unforced errors. "It was a little bit of a battle of will there for a bit. But proud of just my effort today," said Navarro, a U.S. Teammate of Gauff's at the Paris Games. "I was able to stick in there through some tough moments."

This result follows a third-round loss by defending mens champion Novak Djokovic on Friday, meaning the lengthy droughts without anyone winning consecutive titles in New York will continue. The last woman to win at least two in a row was Serena Williams with three from 2012-14; the last man to do so was Roger Federer with five from 2004-08.

Frances Tiafoe eliminated No. 28 seed Alexei Popyrin, the player who

stunned Djokovic, with a 6-4, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3 victory on Sunday night. The No. 20 seed advanced to his third straight U.S. Open quarterfinal and will play No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov, who held off Andrey Rublev 6-3, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 3-6, 6-3 with 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams watching and offering a thumbs-up at matches end.

Also moving on Sunday was No. 12 Taylor Fritz, who beat three-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. Fritz's quarterfinal opponent will be 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev, who got past Brandon Nakashima 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

"I'm at the point now where I'm still happy to make quarterfinals, but I wouldn't be happy with it ending here," said Fritz, who has yet to reach a Grand Slam semifinal. "I definitely am at the point where I really want more than that."

The Wimbledon win over Gauff earned Navarro, the 2021 NCAA singles champion for the University of Virginia, her first appearance in a major quarterfinal. Her second will come Tuesday in New York against

No. 26 Paula Badosa, a 6-1, 6-2 winner against Wang Yafan. The other women's match that day will be between No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka - she was last year's runner-up - Gauff and beat Elise Mertens 6-2, 6-4 on Sunday - and either No. 7 Zheng Qinwen or No. 24 Donna Vekic.

The quarterfinals will give Navarro another chance to play at Arthur Ashe Stadium in front of a big crowd. She'd never hit a ball in the place until Sunday - and felt rather at ease, anyway.

"I've been out on big courts before, where I just felt totally overwhelmed and almost like it's an out-of-body experience. But I didn't feel like that today," Navarro said. "I felt comfortable from the time I stepped out onto the court, which I was a little bit surprised about. I kind of had prepared myself for the worst, just in terms of feeling overwhelmed and nervous."

Sure didn't perform that way. Gauff was the one who was unable to bring her best.

"I expect better, but at the end of the day it happened," Gauff said, and I know I can turn it around."