

Chaitanya Rao's *Dear Nanna* wins Remy Award at Houston International Film Festival

"Raju sent his police complaint through mail one month ago and after taking legal opinion, I registered a case at 7 pm on Thursday against the former CM and others," the official told PTI. Raju, a former MP, also alleged that he was subjected to "custodial torture," the official added. Police booked the five accused persons under IPC Sections 120 B, 166, 167, 197, 307, 326, 465 and 506 read with 34.

Time to turn the page on employment

What is the true purpose of government hiring or recruitment? Is it to fulfil the poll promises of the party that comes to power? Is it to leak question papers of recruitment examinations to make money? Is it to fill long-tenured government posts with supporters so that politicians currently in power can control governance even after losing power? Is it to give solace to at least some of the unemployed youth?

Those observing the attitude of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government from 2014 to 2023 or the Congress government since December 2023 in Telangana are bound to believe that governments hire employees for one or more of the above reasons. It would be hard for them to conceive that governments recruit employees to build machinery -- popularly called the bureaucracy -- to deliver on its essential responsibility: governance. If it were indeed so, wouldn't governments recruit as and

when vacancies arise, just like the private sector? Or periodically, like once a year, if the process is too cumbersome?

Noticeably, the BRS government did not notify and complete the recruitment of a single Group I officer vacancy in almost 10 years of its rule. Many recruitment notifications it released were designed so poorly that they were mired in litigation in the courts and never resulted in any recruitment. Of the remaining, a majority had to be cancelled due to question paper leaks.

The Congress, which came to power promising to fill two lakh vacancies within a year if voted to power, has yet to release a new notification for a single job seven months after coming to power.

For the past few weeks, youth organisations affiliated

The unemployed youth's demands reflect their scepticism. Based on experience since Telangana's formation, the youth of Telangana has come to believe that neither the BRS nor the Congress government cares about governance and, if left to themselves, would not fill a single vacancy.

with almost every political party in the state and many unemployed youth have been agitating. Their demands include lowering the Group I Preliminary examination marks cutoff to ensure at least 100 candidates qualify to write the Mains examination for every post notified. They also urge the government to add thousands more posts to the already notified Group II and III recruitment drives. Similarly, they demand the

government modify the current teacher recruitment notification for hiring 11,062 teachers and conduct a mega-drive to fill all of the more than 25,000 vacant positions in state government schools. Finally, they are demanding a rescheduling of some of the above exams so that they get enough time to prepare for multiple types of jobs.

The unemployed youth's demands reflect their scepticism of the current govern-

ment's intentions. Based on experience since Telangana's formation, the youth of Telangana has come to believe that neither the BRS nor the Congress government cares about governance and, if left to themselves, would not fill a single vacancy. The agitations

reflect their angst that if they let go of this one opportunity, which came about because of the notifications released by the earlier BRS government just before the elections to gain their votes, they might not get another chance.

Right now, the state Congress leadership, especially the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, are focused more on poaching BRS MLAs than on governance, fulfilling their poll promises, or even solving people's problems. If the Congress government wants to earn the trust of the unemployed youth and the citizens of Telangana, it must show that governance is a priority.

The Congress can show its sincerity towards governance by announcing comprehensive reforms in government recruitment, including, at minimum, an annual job calendar

and sticking to it religiously year after year. The job calendar should specify approximate dates, with a 2-3 week window by which it would release notifications and conduct various stages of selections - like prelims, mains, interviews, etc. Incidentally, Congress made a poll promise to announce a job calendar by June 2nd - Telangana Formation Day but reneged on it.

Next, it should make a law that makes it mandatory for all departments to announce vacancies by a specific date every year. Third, after considering the government's capacity and the needs of governance, it should mandatorily announce the number of vacancies it would fill that year by a particular date. Finally, it should delegate all recruitment to one or more independent agencies like the Public

Service Commission. These changes would enhance governance by insulating recruitment from politicians and helping unemployed youth better plan, prepare and compete for government jobs.

Introducing and implementing these reforms would reduce the intensity of the agitation by the unemployed, which we see now. It would spare the agony of long waits and provide multiple chances for every youth at a government job, reducing their anxiety and allowing them to plan their career options better.

The unemployed youth of Telangana propelled the separate statehood agitation to its peak through their sacrifices--some even of life, demanding 'water, funds, and jobs'. The least any government could do is to implement reforms that provide certainty at the chance of a government job, if not a job itself.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

‘Party worker will become CM if BJP comes to power’

1,500-day plan to make BJP number one party in TG: Pradhan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that there are chances of a common party worker becoming the Chief Minister in Telangana if the BJP comes to power, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the BJP has a 1,500-day action plan to make the party the number one political organisation in Telangana.

However, the Union Minister added that the BJP government's mission in Telangana will not be providing posts to leaders but developing the state.

Addressing the Telangana BJP's Executive Committee meeting held on Friday at Shamshabad, Pradhan said the

party will become strong in villages only if BJP activists solve public problems.

He said the BJP will prove its strength in local body polls and added that he is confident that the BJP will come to power in TG in the next Assembly elections.

Criticising opposition leaders for saying that the BJP is a north Indian party, Pradhan said the Lok Sabha elections proved that the BJP exists across the nation. The BJP is becoming strong in south India and it opened its account in Kerala and improved its vote percentage in Tamil Nadu.

Pradhan ridiculed Congress leaders saying that the Congress could not cross 100 seats for the third time.



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressing the Telangana BJP state executive committee meeting at Shamshabad on Friday

Moreover, the Congress could not open its account in 13 states but still its leaders are speaking arrogantly, he pointed out.

Stating that the Centre is committed to Telangana's

development, he said that there is a need to strengthen the BJP at the booth level in Telangana. The BJP can occupy the number one slot only if BJP activists make the leaders of the Congress and the BRS sleepless, he said.

"BJP activists should aim to make the BJP number one in Telangana while exposing the corruption that took place during the rule of the BRS and Congress governments," Pradhan said.

Pointing out that there is no difference between old and new leaders Pradhan said that all leaders who joined the BJP are old leaders. Malkajigiri MP Eatala Rajender is not a new leader and he is now an old leader, he added.

KTR urges govt to open Gopanpally flyover

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K Tarakarama Rao on Friday took a dig at the Congress government over Gopanpally flyover in the city.

He took social media platform X and posted that the Gopanpally flyover, initiated by the BRS government to bring relief to residents around Nallagandla, Gopanpally, Tellapur and Chandanagar, was completed a few months ago. "But even today, it is awaiting inauguration because CM is busy shuttling between bosses in Delhi and the houses of BRS legislators," he mentioned.

"This is what happens when we have an inept government and clueless leadership," he added.

He said that the Congress government seems to think their personal PR is more important than the convenience of the people.

Venkat ask R&B Dept employees to work an extra hour daily

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister for Roads & Buildings, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, assured that he would bring the problems facing R&B employees due to their service rules to the CM's attention.

Speaking at a meeting held on Friday at the R&B ENC office in Erramanzil in Hyderabad with R&B department employee associations, he promised sincere efforts to solve their problems.

Expressing anger over the BRS government ignoring employees' problems he said that it led to favouritism in promotions and transfers.

He criticised the unscientific policies which created problems in the R&B department and said that creating unions for recruitment in a department is distressing.

He assured the employees that despite taking some time



if they can reach a consensus their problems can be easily resolved.

He suggested bringing clarity on zonal issues, seniority problems and service rule amendments so that decisions can be taken about promotions and transfers. He admitted that a blanket decision might inconvenience a few but would be appropriate for the majority. He emphasised that the R&B department in Telangana had seen no progress in the last decade and urged employees to

work hard to create a positive image among the public.

He spoke about the government's projects like the construction of hospitals, collectorates, residences for MLAs and ministers and the RRR (Regional Ring Road) and urged employees to work an extra hour every day.

Highlighting current staffing issues he said that some mandalams have only one AE and that increasing recruitment would improve work quality at the ground level.

Kurian panel completes probe; local leaders say Cong's friendship with AIMIM helped BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Kurian Committee completed its three-day enquiry tour to TG in two days. The Kurian Committee came to Hyderabad to find out why the Congress could not win the expected number of LS seats in Telangana.

The Kurian Committee met MPs, LS candidates, MLAs, Assembly constituency in-charges, DCC presidents and enquired about developments that took place during elections.

The leaders who appeared before the Kurian Committee gave their opinions to the Committee. The Committee took the opinions of 16 LS candidates on Thursday and on Friday it took the opinion of several leaders. Kurian Committee member Riqabul Hasan said they will submit a

report on July 21 to the AICC.

After meeting the Committee, Kodada MLA Padmavathi said that she told the Committee that the Congress got a huge majority in her constituency because of public opposition to the BRS.

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy said that he had explained about political developments in Bhongir. Raj Gopal said that one of his objectives was fulfilled and the other one left is sending KCR to jail. He said that no one will remain in the BRS and that Harish Rao will finally join the BJP. Raj Gopal made it clear that they will not allow former BRS Minister G. Jagdish Reddy to join the Congress.

Congress leader Shabbir Ali said that he explained to the Committee what happened in Nizamabad.

BRS will merge with Congress within 15 days: Danam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS will merge with the Congress in the next 15 days and only four MLAs will remain in the BRS, Khairathabad MLA Danam Nagender said.

He said that six more BRS MLAs will join the Congress in the next two days and that the BRS will shut shop soon. Everyone has freedom and is respected in the Congress, he said.

Speaking to the media after distributing Kalyana Laxmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques on Friday at the Adarsh Nagar MLA quarters, Danam said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao ran the BRS office like a corporate office and used to treat BRS MLAs like aphids.

"KTR's proxies looted thousands of crores in the last 10 years. I will expose these robberies with evidence soon. KTR's friends Gundu Sridhar, Sathyan Ramalingaraju's son Rajesh Raju and many others pocketed hundreds of crores. I will make all those issues public," Danam Nagender said.



Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy had a introductory meeting with the officials on Friday at Parishram Bhavan

Cong: What is PM...

Continued from page 1

"As proposed by Brazil -- which now holds the annual rotational G20 Presidency -- and endorsed by France, Spain, South Africa, and Germany, the world is moving towards a 2 per cent wealth tax on these billionaires," he said in a post on X. "India has 167 dollar billionaires. A 2 per cent wealth tax would raise 1.5 lakh crores

each year - almost 0.5 per cent of our GDP. This could pay for schools, hospitals, renewable energy, and many more essential investments in the future of our country," Ramesh said.

"What is the non-biological PM's position on a 'billionaire tax'? What will be India's position when it will be discussed at the G20 meet in Rio de Janeiro later this month?" the Congress leader said.

Bhatti meets Odisha CM...

Continued from page 1

This includes the Stage-2 forest clearance and the wildlife conservation plan which are essential for the project's launch.

The proactive approach taken by Bhatti marks a first in the past decade, with no previous ministers or officials having shown such an initiative for the Naini project.

His efforts have been met with widespread appreciation

from SCCL workers and stakeholders who are optimistic about the project's future.

With the Odisha government's positive response and the issue of clear directives, it is anticipated that the Naini Block will begin production in the next three months.

This development is expected to significantly boost SCCL's operations and contribute to meeting the energy demands of South India.

SC grants interim bail to Kejriwal...

Continued from page 1

The plea challenging his arrest by the CBI is pending before the Delhi High Court. The matter relates to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which has now been scrapped.

The top court said since it is referring the matter to a larger bench despite its findings on 'reasons to believe' under section 19(1) of PMLA, which deals with ED's power to arrest, it deemed it necessary to grant interim bail to Kejriwal.

"Given the fact that right to life and liberty is sacrosanct, and Arvind Kejriwal has suffered incarceration of over 90 days, and that the questions referred to above require in-depth consideration by a larger bench, we direct that Arvind Kejriwal may be released on interim bail ..., on the same terms as imposed vide the order dated May 10, 2024," the bench said in its 64-page verdict.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Saptami: Jul 12 12:33 PM to Jul 13 03:05 PM

Ashtami: Jul 13 03:05 PM to Jul 14 05:26 PM

Nakshatram: Jul 12 04:08 PM to Jul 13 07:14 PM

Hasta: Jul 13 07:14 PM to Jul 14 10:06 PM

Chitra: Jul 14 10:06 PM to Jul 15 01:06 PM

Rahukalam: 9:07 AM to 10:44 AM

Yamagandam: 1:59 PM to 3:36 PM

Varjyam: 04:12 AM to 05:59 AM

Gulika: 5:53 AM to 7:30 AM

Amritakalam: 12:28 PM to 02:16 PM

Ahijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Temp: 28°

Humidity: 75%

Sunrise: 5:49 AM

Sunset: 6:54 PM

Updated: Jul 12, 2024 5:00 PM

Revamped...

Continued from page 1

and the CM's Special Secretary, Ajith Reddy, attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister said that besides disaster management, HYDRA would be responsible for protecting government properties, curbing the encroachment of ponds and canals, removing encroachments and illegal buildings, managing traffic and ensuring the supply of drinking water and electricity.

The responsibility for removing unauthorised hoardings and flexies in the GHMC area and collecting penalties would be given to HYDRA.

Home dept...

Continued from page 1

On Friday, the Nampally court gave the Primary Register Case (PRC) number to the chargesheet number.

Meanwhile, the court had refused to give default bail to Praneeth Rao (A2), Bhujanga Rao (A3), Thirupathanna (A4) and P Radha Kishan Rao (A5).

As the court had returned the chargesheet to the Police, the accused have filed default bail. During the court arguments over the default bail, counsel for the State and accused had cited various cases of superior courts.

RFP out for Raidurgam...

Continued from page 1

At a meeting held on February 23, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had proposed to bring in a video billboard like the one at the New York Times Square. The project aims to create a comfortable, engaging environment for the local community.

T-Square is designed to fill the gap in public spaces and facilities in the Raidurgam area. Despite excellent accessibility due to TGRTC and Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd, the area's public spaces have not developed at the same

pace.

T-Square is envisioned as a hub for communication and relaxation serving as a vital green space for the neighbourhood. The plaza will host events from spontaneous concerts to organised gatherings thereby turning into a vibrant and dynamic community space.

The project will also prioritise sustainability by incorporating green areas to improve the urban environment.

TGIIC has detailed the consultancy services needed for the project focusing on key objectives like identifying the

need for a major tourist destination with lively urban spaces, entertainment hubs, collaboration zones and commercial intersections in Raidurgam; developing a concept plan for the site; proposing optimal project structures and assisting TGIIC in finalising a suitable structure for development; aiding TGIIC in managing the bid process to select private builders for the project; and facilitating the issue of the Letter of Award (LoA) to the selected builder, overseeing agreement signing and monitoring progress until the project's financial closure.

Prakash Goud joins...

Continued from page 1

Many GHMC councillors and BRS leaders joined the Congress along with Arikapudi Gandhi. Sources said that this will be followed by the remaining GHMC leaders including LB Nagar MLA Sudheer Reddy, Uppal MLA Bandaru Lakshma Reddy, Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao.

However, there is uncertainty about Qutubullapur BRS MLA KP Vivekananda joining the Congress.

TO MAKE CITY A HUB OF PRODUCT INNOVATION

T-Works, L&T Metro Rail organise ‘Make it @ Metro’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Works, a prototyping centre, in collaboration with L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited, launched a two-day ‘Make it @ Metro’ event at the MGBS Metro station on Friday. Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C), was the chief guest, while actor Tanikella Bharani and Bhavesh Mishra, Deputy Secretary of ITE&C, were guests of honour.

The event aimed at immersing the citizens of Hyderabad in the ‘make it’ culture, encouraging creativity, innovation, and hands-on making. The initiative underscores the vision of transforming Hyderabad into a hub of product innovation. It features various workshops and demonstrations, offering attendees a hands-on experience in diverse fields of making and prototyping.

Jayesh Ranjan, said, “Anyone can become a maker. There is no need to go elsewhere; dream



big and build a culture right here. Let us make India a leader in product innovation. Also, many people have the perception that people with big degrees or coming from top institutions in India like IITs or IIMs can work or visit big innovative and entrepreneurial hubs like We Hub, T-Hub, T-Work etc, but not for others who are pursuing their education from tier two or tier three colleges. To eliminate this perception, we have launched this event where all people can be involved in creating new products or talent

with their ideas, thereby increasing the entrepreneurial spirit or innovation and creativity among people.”

Bhavesh Mishra emphasised the importance of bringing the ‘make it’ culture to everyone and how it leads to product innovation. He said, “Fostering a ‘make it’ culture is crucial as it empowers individuals and drives the innovation necessary for creating ground-breaking products.”

Tanikella Bharani, renowned actor, screenwriter, poet, playwright, and director, expressed

his delight at witnessing such a unique collaboration. He said, “It is very special to see this initiative at MGBS Metro station. It allowed me to experience both the Metro and the making culture firsthand.”

The event was also attended by KVB Reddy, Managing Director and CEO of L&TMRHL, Murali Varada rajan, Chief Strategy Officer of L&TMRHL, Rishi Kumar Verma, Chief Marketing Officer of L&TMRHL, and Joginder Tanikella, CEO of T-Works.

PROMOTING HYD AS AN AFFORDABLE PLACE

CREDAI plans 3 property shows

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Promoting Hyderabad as an affordable place, Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) announced three property shows across the city. The CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show, themed #CREDAIbility, will showcase three editions focusing on different areas of Hyderabad.

This initiative offers home buyers a comprehensive view of the city's real estate, featuring properties from renowned developers.

With over 25 years of experience in urban development, CREDAI Hyderabad ensures high standards of reliability, innovation, and sustainability in every property. The event will be the largest gathering of builders and developers, presenting a wide range of residential and commercial properties.

Addressing the media at ITC Kakatiya, CREDAI Hyderabad President V Rajashekhar Reddy said Hyderabad is a global city of opportunities, with futuristic infrastructure, a conducive business environment and a talented workforce. Recognised as the 4th Fastest Growing City in the World by Knight Frank India-CII Report (2024) and a prime destination for econom-



ic opportunities, Hyderabad is also rated the 1 Best City to Live in India by Mercer's Quality of Living Survey (2023).

General Secretary of CREDAI Hyderabad, B Jagannath Rao, emphasised that Hyderabad's water is special and once tasted, no one wants to leave, making it the best and affordable palace to live. The CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show 2024, Hyderabad's premier real estate event, provides prospective buyers the chance to find their dream homes. It is informed, attendees can interact directly with leading developers, explore exclusive deals, and view RERA-registered projects, ensuring transparency and credibility. The show features apartment complexes, villas, plots, and commercial spaces.

The city's real estate market is robust, with a 12.5% increase in property registrations within

the Hyderabad metropolitan limits between December 2023 and June 2024. Hyderabad is among the top three markets for luxury homes in India, and open plot registrations have seen a rise of 7%.

President-elect N Jaideep Reddy emphasised Hyderabad's commitment to sustainability, with over 884 green-certified development projects. Recognised as the No 1 Indian City in the City Nature Challenge (2024), Hyderabad leads in green building adoption. The upcoming CREDAI Property Show features green-certified projects, reflecting CREDAI Hyderabad's dedication to sustainable living, he added.

The property show is scheduled from August 2 to 4 at Hitec Exhibition Centre, August 9-11 at Shree Conventions, Kompally, August 23 to 25 at Nagole Metro station.

Admission open for PhD in Law

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University has announced on Friday that applications are invited from the candidates who have been awarded the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) through UGC/CSIR/ICAR/ICMR/DB T/DST-INSPIRE/NFSC under Category-1 for admission to PhD programme in the Faculty of Law, OU, 2024.

The eligible candidates are informed to obtain application forms for admission to PhD programme from the University Press or download the application form from Osmania University website: <http://www.osmania.ac.in>.

The duly filled in application form, along with the Demand Draft (DD) for Rs 1500, drawn on any nationalised bank in favour of the Dean, Faculty of Law, OU, Hyderabad, three copies of synopsis of research topic, two copies of eligibility certificate, two copies of UG and PG memorandum of marks and other certificates from SSC to PG, two copies of caste certificate, two copies of Aadhaar card and two recent passport size colour photographs enclosed, should reach the Dean office, Faculty of Law, OU, on or before July 22 by 5 pm.

Cyber Crime Police successfully combat three cyber frauds in July

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime Police of Hyderabad city on Friday announced an achievement in their constant and continuous combat against cyber frauds.

According to the police officials, on July 9, at 3 pm, a male medical professional from Hyderabad approached the Cybercrime police station. National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) Officer Md Javed immediately registered an online complaint in the portal and escalated the issue with the victim bank. The bank responded promptly, blocking the multiple transactions of the whole amount Rs 17, 45,041.3 and freed it in 22 minutes.

In another instance, on July 11, at 6:55 pm, a male private employee from Hyderabad approached the Cybercrime police station. NCRP Portal

Officer Srikanth Naik immediately registered an online complaint in the NCRP portal and escalated the issue with the victim bank. The bank responded promptly and blocked the transaction of Rs 3, 79,000 and freed it in 21 minutes.

In another case, on July 11, a male private employee from Hyderabad approached the Cybercrime police station. Night duty police officer B Sandeep responded immediately, sent notice to the Merchant Locon Solution (Housing.com) and blocked the transaction of Rs 97,312,000. The firm gave a reply that they have initiated the refund and will be credited in 7-10 working days to the source account of the victim without any court order.

They also stated that the first hour after a cyber incident, known as the ‘Golden Hour’ is a critical effective response.

Reporting during this time greatly increases the chances of recovering money. Act quickly to protect your hard-earned money. Fraudsters approach victims through various online social media platforms i.e. Telegram, WhatsApp, X, Instagram, and Facebook by advertising fake trading apps/websites. Such schemes are fraudulent and do not have SEBI's endorsement.

Beware of FedEx, BSNL and TRAI fraud calls. Don't reveal the OTP, debit and credit card details and personal information to the unknown persons. Also, beware of fake messages / APK files in the name of banks. Please don't open / download such messages, they may be harmful. No bank will send messages with an individual mobile number. Bank communication will be always be from their authenticated SMS Gateway.

Cyient sets up subsidiary for semiconductor biz

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyient Ltd, a global Intelligent Engineering company delivering solutions for a digital, autonomous and sustainable future, on Friday announced the strategic expansion of its semiconductor business with the establishment of a fully-owned subsidiary.

This decision marks a significant leap forward in its commitment to innovation and excellence across the global semiconductor landscape.

Krishna Bodanapu, Executive Vice-Chairman & Managing Director of Cyient Limited, said, “We are excited to announce this strategic initiative that enhances our capabilities in Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) turnkey design and manufacturing.

As the global semiconduc-

tor market is expected to hit a \$ trillion by 2030 and the Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) forecasting the industry's growth to \$100 billion by 2030, we are well-positioned to capitalise on the vast opportunities for growth and influence in this evolving market.”

“Cyient's credentials in the semiconductor electronics sector through Cyient DET and Cyient DLM have enabled us to set up this subsidiary to drive a dedicated focus on turnkey ASIC design and chip sales through a fab-less model for analog mixed-signal chips.

This subsidiary ushers a new avenue of possibilities for Cyient to enhance value to our stakeholders and we are grateful for their continued support in this journey,” he added.



‘LET’S GIVE IT A TRY TO NEW ADMINISTRATION’

People submit fresh grievances at Prajavani

SAMUEL JOSHUA ■ HYDERABAD

Many people submitted fresh grievances at Prajavani, stating, “Let's give it a try to the new administration. Over 546 people submitted their applications at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Prajabhavan on Friday, where most of the people came from villages and faraway places to hand over their grievances.

Srikanth, who came from Medak, said he submitted an application in which a small canal beside his agricultural land is registered as nala, which is actually a rainwater canal. He said that he has given the application to get permission to use the canal for agricultural use. He also said that he has requested the officials and they have said the application will be processed.



Special Officer D Divya seen receiving applications at the Prajavani

Upon asking his response towards the answer he will get, he said, “We will see how the new administration will respond and how they will handle the issue.”

Meanwhile, Rajeswari from Bhongir came to submit a grievance about a land issue. She said her land, registered in a village in her name by her late husband, was occupied by a rich family with political influence, and a car wash centre is now operating there. She

has been requesting that the land, which is hers, be vacated so she can sell it.

Rajeswari said they are asking her to sell the land to the car wash owners, but she doesn't want to, as her relatives want to buy the land. Despite her requests, no action has been taken. Meanwhile, 2BHK applicants attended the Prajavani regularly with little hope. Vinod from Siddipet said he has been coming regularly to Prajavani, hoping for the promised 200 sq yards to be issued.

According to officials, 115 applications were related to revenue issues, 79 to the civil supplies department, 50 to the electricity department, 64 to housing, 41 to the minority welfare department, and 197 to other departments have been received.

Crack down on vehicles with tinted glasses, black films

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Traffic Police intensified the special drive against vehicles sporting black tinted glasses since July 8. During the last four days, 1,007 cases have been booked under CMV Rule 100 & Section 177 and 179 (1) Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and fined the motorists up to Rs 1000. As per the officials, these offences are observed to be contributors of, not only of accidents and traffic violations, but also criminal activities.

As per the judgment of the Supreme Court of India and the Central Motor Vehicle Rule 100, vehicle manufacturers should provide 70 per cent visual transmission of light for the front windscreen and the rear window and not less than 50 per cent visual transmission of light for the

side windows. The black films are completely prohibited and a fine of Rs 1,000 being imposed for the violation besides peeling-off the film from the glasses.

Further, tinted glasses usually block the side and rear views which can lead to accidents. Some car owners are also using sunshades and curtains and some high-end cars are having the facility to draw up black screens.

There is a lack of awareness among the people against using black films on windows. The car decors and accessory shop owners are illegally fixing black films.

The officials requested vigilant citizens to report the traffic violations to Hyderabad Traffic Police through Hyderabad Traffic Police Facebook, X (Twitter) and Traffic Help Line (9010203626).

Concerted efforts to prevent dengue: GHMC chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered the officials to coordinate with each department to prevent the dengue cases in the city. On Friday, the Commissioner held a teleconference with the officers of the departments concerned and the zonal commissioners on the immediate steps to be taken to control dengue in the city.

Commissioner Amrapali Kata ordered the officials to identify the dengue hotspots and awareness programmes should be conducted in schools and hostels to educate people about dengue symptoms, prevention of dengue and precautions.

She said that the details of the registered dengue cases and the addresses of the concerned persons should be taken from the officials of the District Medical and Health department. Concerned department should send the proposals for the construction of water sumps at water stagnation points.

Take appropriate measures to prevent the spreading of dengue around the house where dengue is registered. Zonal commissioners should take necessary measures to control dengue in their respective jurisdictions, she added.

Meanwhile, the GHMC conducted a dry day across the city on Friday. Officials in all circles of the city have told the people to observe every Friday as a dry day, to

remove useless mosquito habitats from the house, to empty and clean the stored water in drums and troughs, to always keep the house and its surroundings clean, to cover the pit with soil to prevent water storage.

Officials of the respective departments conducted awareness programmes on prevention of seasonal diseases and precautions to be taken to control mosquitoes. The zonal commissioners made surprise inspections of Basti Davakhanas and enquired about dengue and malaria cases.

Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Medical Health Officers (AMHO), Entomology Officers and corporators participated in the awareness programmes in their respective circles.

Mayor orders officials to solve problems at Safilguda lake

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

City Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi ordered the officials to resolve every problem at Safilguda lake. On Friday, along with Vijayalakshmi, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata and other officials visited the lake.

Malkajgiri corporator Sravan and the residents of the colony and walkers explained many problems to the Mayor. They told the problems of water hyacinth and sewage water in the lake.

The Commissioner and Mayor explained to them that they would talk to the HMWSSB officials and take steps to for diversion works to prevent sewage water from coming into the lake. Also, after removing water hyacinth,



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi and GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata inspecting Safilguda lake on Friday

they would take steps to make it a tourism spot, and if necessary, they would take steps to set up a boat. Officials ordered to clean up the bund of the lake.

Walkers have requested the officials to repair the open gym equipment. The officials were also ordered to repair the

open gym in 15 days, which is muddy when it rains.

They want to look clean on top of the pond embankment. Subsequently, nala was examined at Deen Dayal Colony, Secunderabad. Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran and other officials accompanied the Mayor.

Not a single TG-origin teacher selected for Ekalavya schools

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the recent recruitment of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), not even one Telangana-origin teacher was selected. The ministry has recruited 707 Junior Secretariat Assistants (JSAs) and 7,702 teaching/ non-teaching staff across the nation. Out of 46 JSAs appointed for Telangana, 44 belong to Haryana, and none from Telangana.

In regards to this issue, Shashi Tharoor, Member of Lok Sabha, said, “A very important, well reasoned and carefully argued issue.”

Nayini Anurag Reddy, an entrepreneur, made a Twitter post stating that in Telangana, there are 23 functional EMRS. A month ago, 46 JSAs & 478 teaching/non-teaching staff were recruited. Out of the 46, 44 are from Haryana, with none from Telangana. Out of the 478, excluding Telugu teachers, there are hardly any from Telangana. The situation is similar in other southern states. “You'll hardly find anyone from South India in the whole staff list. The problem is much bigger than you might imagine,” he added.

He said, “The primary reason why, despite applying in thousands, South Indians failed to get

selected is qualifying the Hindi language test is mandatory to become a teacher at EMRS for all subjects. Can anyone explain the logic behind why a candidate from a non-Hindi speaking State aspiring to be a Physics teacher must qualify for the Hindi language test? Aren't we losing the most potential Physics, Biology, Maths, Chemistry, History and Geography teachers from South India just because they do not know Hindi?”

The entrepreneur also pointed out that the whole point of these schools is to ensure tribal students get a quality education in remote tribal areas. “Now, when Hindi-speaking staff (usu-

ally not well-versed in English) end up in a large number of EMRS in Telangana, how do you think the purpose will be solved? Isn't it very simple that staff who understand the essence of local tribals and can connect with them will be the only ones able to fulfill the very ‘Mission & Vision’ of EMRS?”, he added.

Furthermore, Anurag Reddy stated that most of the roll numbers selected across the nation are very close to each other.

There are many selected candidates from the same family with the same father's name. Should we ignorantly call it a ‘coincidence’ and leave it?

TOMCOM to hold interviews for nurses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM), in partnership with the Federal Employment Agency of Government of Germany, will be conducting interviews of nurses for enrollment into German language training and placement in Germany under “Triple Win Project” at Hotel The Plaza, Begumpet, from July 13 to 17 (in weekdays).

GNM/B.Sc. Nursing from recognised colleges of Telangana within the age group of 21-38 years with professional/clinical work experience of minimum 1-3 year preferably in ICU, geriatrics/orthopedics/psychiatry/cardiology/neonatal/surgical ward etc. and candidates with German language skills are encouraged to apply. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to work in Germany as nursing assistant after successful completion of their B1 language training in India and will be promoted as registered nurse after



clearing B2 and recognition exam in Germany.

The minimum salary offered is 2300-2800 Euros. (excluding overtime allowances). German language training is free of cost; stipend will be paid to selected candidates upon successful completion of the German language exam (euros 250 after clearing A2 exam and Euros 250 after clearing B1 exam). All Visa, Immigration process and one-way flight tickets will be facilitated free of cost by TOMCOM & German partnership under this programme.

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact 9908830438/8919047600/703 2379066/8499990304/630229 2450 for registration.

Lifer for two Tamil Nadu convicts in murder case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The LB Nagar IV Additional District Judge (ADJ) Court on Friday awarded life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5000 each to two Tamil Nadu convicts, Vella Swamy Naidu Rajkumar (30) and Muthu Ramu (32) for committing a murder in 2016.

According to the police officials, the accused hanged a married woman to death for jewellery and money within the Vanasthalipuram police station limits.



‘Many BRS MLAs ready to join BJP, but they will have to face by-polls’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Many BRS MLAs are ready to join the BJP but the BJP told them that they will be inducted into the BJP only if they are ready to resign their MLA post and face by-elections, the BJP's Medak MP, M. Raghunandan Rao, said. He made it clear that the BJP will induct BRS MLAs only if they are ready to resign their MLA posts. Raghunandan said that pink changed to tricolour in the last seven months but there is no change in governance quality. He warned that the BJP will teach a lesson to the Congress and the BRS for engaging in 'political prostitution'. Asking Revanth Reddy's government to explain why it is afraid to arrest KCR in connection with the phone tapping case, the Medak MP said the Revanth Reddy government is wasting time by not arresting former ministers who engaged in corruption. He criticised the Congress government saying that R-Tax, B-Tax and U-Tax have been



squeezing the state in the last seven months and demanded that the government should issue new ration cards to the poor as per the assurance given during elections. He said the BJP executive committee meeting decided to launch a stir demanding

immediate implementation of the farm loan waiver and Rythu Bharosa schemes. Stating that the BJP will stand by the unemployed, Raghunandan said the Congress spoke one thing when it was in the opposition and is speaking differently when in power. He said the Congress government is postponing elections to local bodies due to fear of defeat and demanded that the government should conduct local elections within a month. He said the Revanth admin is not in a position to give Rs 4,116 as unemployment allowance but the CM is taking Rs 4 lakh as salary per month. He said that Chief Minister Revanth draws the highest salary across the country among CMs.



KCR sending BRS MLAs to Congress: Bandi Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS chief K. Chandrasekhara Rao is behind the defections of BRS MLAs to the Congress and is aimed at avoiding corruption cases, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said. He said that KCR is supporting the Congress government and is sending his MLAs to the Congress. Addressing the Telangana BJP's Executive Committee meeting held at Shamshabad on Friday, Sanjay said the Congress came to power using falsehood. The Congress government is now facing opposition from the people as it has failed to implement its assurances given during elections. The Lok Sabha election results prove this, he said. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been suppressing the unemployed using the police. He said that confidence has increased among BJP activists in Telangana and that people now strongly believe that Modi is the real guarantee.

Harish calls for restoration of Brahmin welfare initiative

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister and MLA T Harish Rao has penned an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging the restoration of the Telangana Brahmin Samkshema Parishad. In his letter, Harish Rao expressed deep concern over the current state of Brahmin welfare schemes which have come to a halt under the Congress-led government. The Telangana Brahmin Samkshema Parishad, established during the administration of former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, aimed to uplift poor Brahmins in the State. Under the KCR's leadership, an annual allocation of Rs 100 crore was consistently provided for the Brahmin Parishad. Initiatives like the "Vivekananda Overseas Education Scheme" for students, the "Sri Ramanuja Fee Reimbursement Scheme," and financial aid for Vedic schools and scholars through "Vedahita" were significant in promoting education and self-employment among the Brahmin community. Harish Rao highlighted the achievements of the BRS government, which supported 780 underprivileged Brahmin students with Rs 20 lakh each for foreign education, benefiting 436 students through post-



The Telangana Brahmin Samkshema Parishad, established during the administration of former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, aimed to uplift poor Brahmins in the State. Under the KCR's leadership, an annual allocation of Rs 100 crore was consistently provided for the Brahmin Parishad.

Brahmin welfare, resulting in the suspension of essential Brahmin Parishad schemes. He urged immediate action to address the following issues to restore these vital programs: allocate Rs 100 crore annually to the Brahmin Parishad and form a governing body immediately; release Rs 30 crore for 300 students currently studying abroad who are suffering due to unpaid fees, and complete the selection process for 344 applicants for the 2023-24 academic year under the Overseas Education Scheme; release Rs. 16 crore for the 497 selected candidates and initiate interviews for the 1869 applicants for the 2023-24 term under the Brahmin Entrepreneur Scheme of Telangana (BEST); disburse pending wages of employees working in the Brahmin Parishad, which have been pending for seven months; disburse the pending honorarium of Rs. 5000 to Vedic pandits in schools, and provide Rs. 5000 to Vedic pandits above 75 years to support their financial needs; and resume and expedite the construction of Brahmin Sadans in Suryapet, Khammam, and Madhira without further delay. Harish Rao emphasized that addressing these issues promptly would greatly benefit the Brahmin community and restore their welfare.

Malkajgiri excise police seizes 3.8 kg marijuana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ghatkesar Excise Police station and District Task Force team seized more than 3.8 kgs of marijuana on Thursday. The police said that on the tip-off that the marijuana was kept and sold at a house at Ghatkesar, police raided and seized 2.745 kg of dry marijuana and arrested a peddler, identified as Solomonu Raj alias Sunny. In another case, while searching the vehicles at Rampur village in Malkajgiri district police found 1.120 kgs of marijuana from Chilagani Vishnu Vardhan. The accused were arrested and sent to judicial remand.

Srinivas Goud slams defectors, upholds BRS strength and legacy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister V Srinivas Goud held a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, where he criticised those switching parties and making derogatory comments about BRS leadership. He emphasised that it is unfair for those who once hailed KCR and BRS to now claim the party is on the decline. Srinivas Goud asserted that it is not within anyone's capability to eliminate BRS and that it is the people who should decide the fate of the party, not a few MLAs or leaders. He questioned how the BJP, with just two MP seats, has now gained prominence, and how the Congress, despite not having a large number of MLAs, still managed to come to power. Highlighting the rich history of BRS, Goud reminded that the party was born out of sacrifices and has a strong move-



Former minister V Srinivas Goud addressing a media conference in Hyderabad on Friday

ment background. He recalled that BRS leaders have a history of resigning for Telangana's cause and that those leaving the party now are acting hastily. He pointed out that in the recent Parliamentary elections, not only BRS but 14 other parties also did not win seats. He mentioned that the elections were fought on the basis of whether Modi should stay in power or not, and those with political awareness would understand this. Local elections are approaching, and he assured that the results would not mirror the Parliamentary election outcomes. He expressed confidence that the people of Telangana are wise and will make a right decision in the upcoming elections. He emphasised that BRS has a membership of 65 lakh people and cannot be easily wiped out. The people of Telangana will protect BRS as it stands for the state's identity and development. Former MLA Methuku Anand supported Goud's statements, adding that only thieves are leaving BRS and that those who left are inconsequential. He affirmed that KCR has the capability to groom new leaders and that people would not trust those who enjoyed benefits within the party but now criticize it. He assured that BRS would return to power even if some leaders leave.

Collector directs officials to be on high alert in view of rains

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Collector C. Narayana Reddy directed the engineering officials to take stringent measures to prevent breaches in tanks and ponds due to rain. On Friday, he held a review meeting with Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs) and irrigation officials at the Collectorate. He said that in view of the rainy season, the ponds are likely to suffer breaches. He asked the officials

to be vigilant and repair the breaches, if any, without delay. Steps should be taken to prevent illegal transportation of alluvial soil and sand. He said that the government lands and forest lands should be fenced. Reviewing the land acquisition under various projects in the district, he said that the problems of land acquisition should be resolved according to priority and steps should be taken to ensure progress in the works.



Union Minister G Kishan Reddy addressing the BJP constituency-wise meeting at Shashabad on Friday. Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay and BJP MP DK Aruna are seen

Cong, BRS are cut from same cloth: Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday expressed the view that the Congress and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) are cut from the same cloth. He asserted that only the BJP can fulfil the aspirations of Telangana's martyrs. Kishan Reddy was speaking at Telangana State BJP constituency-wise meeting at Shamshabad. The event was also attended by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, BJP MPs, MLAs, and key party leaders. During his speech, Kishan Reddy expressed his happiness over the party workers ensured that the party secured a good number of seat both in

Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. He highlighted the BJP's strong performance, particularly in the Malkajgiri MP segment, previously represented by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He specifically pointed out that the BJP managed to wrest Mahabubnagar constituency in the Chief Minister's home district. He said the BRS faced significant setbacks in the recent Lok Sabha elections, failing to secure even a single seat. He also criticised the Congress government for losing the trust of the people shortly after coming to power, noting that promises made during the campaign have yet to be fulfilled even after eight months.

Revanth to conduct high-level officials meeting on July 16

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is set to conduct a high-level review meeting on the 16 July at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad. The meeting will be attended by all District Collectors, Police Commissioners, and SPs. During the

meeting, various issues related to governance, Dharani, agriculture, health (seasonal diseases), Van Mahotsav, women's empowerment schemes, education, law and order, and drugs will be discussed. This information was disclosed by Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari.

BJP in no mood to entertain BRS?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP high command is reportedly in no mood to entertain BRS. BRS MLAs K T Rama Rao and Harish Rao were in Delhi for about 4 days. Sources said that there were reportedly attempts made to contact BJP leadership, but not fruitful. Sources said that the BJP high command is not focussed on Telangana now and priorities are different

states. With BRS MLC Kavitha languishing in jail for over 120 days, her father K Chandrashekar Rao reportedly wants to get her out immediately at the earliest. Normally Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan are seen as potential lobbyists. Sources said that attempts were reportedly made from the BRS end to reach out to BJP. Speculations are rife over BRS wanting to merge the 4 Rajya Sabha MPs. However

within BRS Sources are hopeful that Kavitha will be given bail in August. Meanwhile, Her default bail petition in the Delhi liquor scam case was adjourned to July 22 by a special CBI court at Delhi on Friday. Kavitha had filed the petition stating that she should be granted default bail as the investigation agency had filed an incomplete charge sheet. CBI said the charge sheet had no issues.

90% TGSPDCL 11 KV feeders surveyed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The comprehensive survey of 11 KV feeders in the cities and towns under the jurisdiction of the Southern Telangana Power Distribution Company is progressing successfully. Since June 24, the survey has been conducted across 44 towns/cities within the Greater Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medak, erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts, covering a total of 3,380 feeders. About 90% of the feeders have already been surveyed.



Through the TGAIMS (TGSPDCL GIS ASSET INSPECTION MAINTENANCE SYSTEM) app developed by the organisation, GIS mapping of substations, pole locations, distribution transformer structures, ring main units, auto reclosers, and line AB switches is being conducted. The app also records the condition of poles (cement/iron/railway track poles), DTR structures, electrical wire conditions, and the gaps between poles, along with their geographic coordinates (GIS). This comprehensive survey helps in depositing the complete information of the infrastructure assets of the organization into the app. Based on this information, precise estimates for developmental works to be carried out in different sections are recorded. This facilitates easier repairs and maintenance. According to the organisation's Chairman

and Managing Director Musharraf Faruqui, this transparency in field operations will contribute to providing high-quality power supply to consumers and aid in the organisation's development. As part of this programme, Musharraf Faruqui participated in the comprehensive survey conducted in Charminar, Gulzar House, Pathar Gatti in the Hyderabad South Circle, and Cable Bridge, Ambedkar University in the Cyber City Circle, and reviewed the TGAIMS app's working.

Sudarshan Reddy assumes charge as Telangana CEO

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sudarshan Reddy, an officer of the Indian Administrative Service from the 2002 batch, took charge as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana on Friday, succeeding Vikas Raj. Reddy is currently serving as the Principal Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD). He was previously transferred as the Managing Director of HMWSSB immediately after the Revanth Reddy government came to power in December but was later moved to GAD in June. Reddy has had a distinguished career, starting as a sub-collector in Paderu and later serving as the Municipal



Commissioner of Rajamahendravaram. He worked as the Joint Collector of East Godavari District and was subsequently posted as Deputy Commissioner in the Commercial Tax Department. Reddy also served as the Joint Collector

of Ranga Reddy District before being appointed as the Collector of Kurnool District from 2012 to 2014. In his tenure, he has also held the position of Secretary to the Commissioner of the Commercial Tax Department. His Central services experience includes working as Director in the Union Ministry of Labor and Employment from March 2015 to September 2017 and as Director in the Defense Department from September 2017 to December 2019. From January 2020 to December 17, 2023, he served as the Secretary of the Municipal and Urban Development Department in Telangana State.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

FAKE JOB OFFERS BY AGENTS

10 AP youths trapped in Gulf countries ● Parents seek govt intervention to repatriate their wards

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

In a disheartening turn of events, 10 young men from Bhimavaram in West Godavari district find themselves trapped in Gulf countries after being deceived by fraudulent job offers. These ten youths, seeking better opportunities, were sent to Dubai by unscrupulous agents who provided them with visiting and tourist visas under false pretences. The agents enticed the youths with promises of lucrative jobs and substantial salaries. Following the agents' instructions, the youths presented the initial visa when boarding their flights and the second upon arrival. However, immigration officials



quickly identified the discrepancies in their visas. Reports indicate that the agents charged each youth between Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.50 lakh for their illicit services. The mastermind behind this Gulf job scam is believed to be

based in Mumbai, directing agents to lure and deceive youths into travelling to Gulf countries on fraudulent visas. The affected individuals include Gaddam Pravin from Fathepuram, Raghava Chiranjeevi from

Palakoderu, Jayaram Thokalapali from Nidamaru, Ghantasala Venkata Raju from Thokalapalli, Veera Swamy from Pithapuram, Chalamalla Ravi, Ajay Arjunudu, Dharmaraju, and Mahesh, all of whom were sent by an agent named Jhansi. In a particularly distressing incident, Mahesh had his passport and mobile phone stolen by miscreants in Dubai. Distraught, he disappeared to an unknown location. His worried parents are fervently hoping for his safe return to India. The families of the stranded youths are deeply concerned for their loved ones' safety and are urgently appealing to the government to take swift action to bring them back home safely.

INDIA CORNER

Plea claims MP minister acquired fake caste certificate to contest state polls

A petition has been filed in the Madhya Pradesh High Court seeking a probe regarding the caste certificate of state Minister Gautam Tetwal, who contested the 2023 legislative assembly elections from a Scheduled Caste reserved seat. The petitioner has contended that Tetwal, minister of state (independent charge) for Skill Development and Employment, contested the assembly election last year from the Sarangpur seat in Rajgarh district with a fraudulently acquired caste certificate. Tetwal defeated Congress candidate Kala Mahesh Malviya by 23,054 votes.

The petitioner, Jitendra Kumar Malviya, stated that the minister was from the Jingar community, part of the Other Backward Classes (OBC). The petition might come up for hearing next week, the petitioner's lawyer, Dharmendra Chelawat, told reporters here on Friday.



Three arrested for forcing minor to drink urine in UP's Shravasti

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly making a minor consume urine in Uttar Pradesh's Shravasti district, police said on Friday. The accused, identified as Bhure Tiwari alias Kishan, Dilip Mishra and Satyam Tiwari, are residents of Rampur Tribhauna village of the district's Gilaula area, the police said. According to Gilaula Station House Officer (SHO) Mahima Nath Upadhyay, the victim's elder brother on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Shravasti Superintendent of Police saying that the three accused 'tried to forcibly make his 15-year-old brother drink urine by filling it in a liquor bottle'. Following the complaint, a case was registered at the local police and the accused were arrested on Wednesday, the SHO said. The victim's brother said in his complaint that on July 1, Kishan had asked his brother to put a disc jockey (DJ) on a vehicle and later demanded that a generator be also loaded on it, SHO Upadhyay said.



Ch'garh CM flags off 15 interceptors; says mishap prevention top priority

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Friday flagged off 15 hi-tech interceptors and said preventing road accidents was among his government's top priorities. The aim was to make people aware of traffic rules and regulations rather than just collecting fines from offenders, Sai added. These interceptors have radar gun to detect speeding, breathalysers to check drunken driving, surveillance cameras for 360 degree monitoring, light intensity measuring instrument for headlight beam, glass transparency instrument and decibel meter to check noise pollution, a government official said. "Preventing road accidents is among our top priorities and we are working in this direction by making the traffic system hi-tech. Traffic rules compliance while driving guarantees safe travel. Road safety is a collective responsibility as every year thousands of people lose their lives in road mishaps while many become permanently disabled," CM Sai said.



DU VC: Plan to start Manusmriti for LLB students not found appropriate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University (DU) Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Friday said the proposal to introduce Manusmriti for LLB students was rejected as it was not found appropriate, and that there are other texts which can be used for teaching Indian knowledge.

In an interview with PTI, Singh said he exercised his emergency powers to scrap the proposal during a pre-screening of the agenda for the Academic Council meeting on Friday.

The vice-chancellor (VC) held back the proposal to introduce Manusmriti for LLB students on Thursday and clarified that no such text would be taught by the university after a section of teachers objected to it. The proposed changes in the syllabus of the jurisprudence paper pertained to semesters



one and six of LLB.

According to the revisions, two readings on Manusmriti - 'Manusmriti with the Manubhasya of Medhatithi' by G N Jha and 'Commentary of Manu Smriti - Smritichandrika' by T Kristnasawmi Iyer - were proposed to be introduced for the students.

A committee headed by Singh decided that the proposal made by the Faculty of Law was not appropriate to be

introduced for deliberations and rejected it before it could be tabled before the Academic Council, the highest decision-making body of DU.

"When this proposal was put forward in front of a committee headed by me, we did not find it appropriate and rejected it. There are many other texts to teach Indian knowledge and we should not rely on any one text," Singh said.

Pradhan: No question of including controversial portion of any script

Amid a row over the proposal to teach Manusmriti to law students of Delhi University, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday said there is no question of including any controversial portion of any script in the curriculum. While noting that Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh had rejected the proposal to teach Manusmriti to law students on Thursday itself, Pradhan said the government is committed to upholding the true spirit of the Constitution. "Yesterday, some information came to us that Manusmriti will be part of Law Faculty course (in DU). I enquired and talked to Delhi University Vice Chancellor. He assured me that some law

faculty member have proposed some changes in the jurisprudence chapter," Pradhan told reporters in Hyderabad. "There is no endorsement of any such proposal in the Academic Council. Yesterday itself, the Vice Chancellor rejected that proposal. We all are committed to our Constitution, to futuristic approach. Government is committed to upholding the true spirit and letter of Constitution. There is no question of including any controversial portion of any script," he said. A proposal to teach Manusmriti to Delhi University's LLB students was slated to be discussed in a meeting of its Academic Council.

'Guarantees block funds for developmental works'

K'taka CM Siddaramaiah's economic advisor admits

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi has said that huge allocations to the five guarantees of the state government have made it difficult to get funds for developmental works.

The Congress MLA from Yelburga in Koppal district was speaking at a farmers' meeting after launching work at a lake at Mangaluru village in his Assembly segment.

"The Chief Minister has made me his economic advisor, and as I interact with him daily, this money has come (for the lake project), or else it wouldn't have come...impossible. This is the only work that is happening in the entire state, because guarantees will itself finish things... Rs 60,000- Rs 65,000 crore we have to



spend for it (guarantees). I know how difficult it is, internal finance" Rayareddi said.

Opposition BJP and JD(S) have been accusing the Congress government in the state of not taking up any developmental works, because of the large spending to fulfil the guarantees promised by the party during the Assembly elections.

Reacting to Rayareddi's claims, Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President

D K Shivakumar has said "there are no difficulties, we are streamlining. We have fulfilled our promises. We will continue the guarantee schemes..."

Siddaramaiah has set aside Rs 52,009 crore for his government's flagship five guarantee schemes in the current financial year. The five guarantee schemes are: 200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), payment of cash in lieu of the additional 5 kg of rice to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders for two years (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses.

Indian techie drowns in Glacier National Park in US

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

A 26-year-old Indian IT professional working in California drowned in the famous Glacier National Park in the US state of Montana while on vacation with friends, according to park authorities.

The victim has been identified as Siddhant Vitthal Patil, the National Park Service said in a statement.

Patil, who was a technology professional, was hiking above the gorge on June 6 on Avalanche Lake Trail, where he fell off a large rock into Avalanche Creek.

It is unclear if he slipped on a wet portion of the rock or lost his balance.

Friends who were with him saw Patil go underwater and resurface before being swept up by the current into the gorge.

His body has not been found. Helicopters conducted aerial searches, but officials suspected the body was being held down. Patil is presumed

dead, the statement said.

Rangers suspect that the body is being held down by submerged obstacles such as fallen trees or rocks.

Rangers are continuously monitoring the area and are starting to recover personal items that have washed downstream.

The water in the gorge is unsearchable due to depth and turbulence, creating whitewater conditions. Rangers flew a drone to try and determine the location of the body, but the effort was unsuccessful. Ground search efforts continue from the gorge to the bridge on Trail of the Cedars.

Patil, hailing from Maharashtra, was living and working in California and on vacation with friends.

He texted his mother two hours before the tragic incident, telling her that he would be returning to San Jose, where he worked with Cadence Design Systems, in another three days.



Snow cover in HP river basins declined by 12.72% in 2023-24

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The seasonal snow cover in Chenab, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej river basins in Himachal Pradesh decreased by 12.72 per cent in 2023-24 compared to 14.25 per cent in 2022-23, a statement issued here on Friday said.

During the early winter months of 2023-24 (October to November), the Chenab, Beas and Sutlej basins showed negative trends in snow cover, whereas the Ravi basin showed a marginal increase, reflecting a positive trend, the statement quoting a study said.

However, results for the peak winter months indicated significant declines in all the basins -- 67 per cent in Sutlej, 44 per cent in Ravi, 43 per cent in Beas and 42 per cent in Chenab in January 2024, according to the study conducted by the State Centre on Climate Change, under the aegis of the HP Council for Science, Technology, and Environment (HIMCOSTE).

In February, a positive trend was observed in all basins, with an increase in snow cover, continuing into March 2024.

Based on the analysis, it was observed that the decline was 15.39 per cent in the Chenab basin, 7.65 per cent in Beas, 9.89 per cent in Ravi and 12.45 per cent in Sutlej in 2023-24.

RADICAL CHANGE AFTER 94 YEARS

Kerala Kalamandalam serves non-veg food for the first time

PNS ■ THRISSUR (KERALA)

For the first time in the history of the Kerala Kalamandalam, a premier public institution for the preservation and promotion of the traditional performing arts of the state, non-vegetarian dishes were served at its canteen to students on July 10, on popular demand.

An official at the Deemed-to-be-University said that chicken biryani, prepared at the famous kitchen run by inmates of Vayyur Central Jail, was served to the students on Wednesday.

This marked the first time since its founding in 1930 that



food was served to students at the institution which was not just plant-based or dairy-based, according to the official.

Kalamandalam is a residential institution that imparts training in various performing arts, such as Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Thullal,

Kuttiyattam (male and female), Panchavadyam, Carnatic music, Mridangam, etc.

The official said the decision to serve meat-based dishes was taken by the university authorities in response to the demand from students to not be restricted to plant-based food. Initially, a mess committee comprising representatives of students, teachers, and non-teaching staff was formed, and based on student demand it was decided to serve chicken biryani on July 10. The mess committee is scheduled to meet on July 20, and a decision is expected to be made on serving other meat-based dishes to the students, the official said.

Delhi HC denies bail to Bibhav Kumar in Swati Maliwal assault case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday denied bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar who is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta dismissed Kumar's bail plea, saying he enjoys "considerable influence" and no ground to grant him the relief was made out.

It cannot be ruled out that witnesses may be influenced or evidence tampered with in case the petitioner is released on bail, said the judge.

Keeping in view the nature of accusations and apprehension of the witnesses being influenced, no grounds are made out for releasing the petitioner on bail at this stage, the judge concluded. "Application is accordingly dismissed."

Kumar, presently in judicial

custody, allegedly assaulted Maliwal on May 13 at Kejriwal's official residence. He was arrested on May 18.

An FIR was registered against Kumar on May 16 under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including those related to criminal intimidation, assault or using criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe, and attempt to commit culpable homicide.

Scribe uttering objectionable word not edited: X

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media platform X has contended before the Delhi High Court that the video clip in which senior journalist Rajat Sharma could be heard uttering allegedly an objectionable word to Congress leader Ragini Nayak during a TV debate cannot be construed to be "edited".

X claimed that the video in the social media posts which Sharma seeks to remove from its platform matches with his channel India TV's own livestream and is prima facie "authentic".

The micro-blogging site has approached the high court seeking vacation of an ad-interim injunction order by which X Corp, Google India

and Meta platforms were required to remove social media posts if they are not deleted by Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Ragini Nayak.

The application-cum-reply has been filed by X in the pending suit of Sharma in which he sought removal of the alleged offensive posts and videos against him on social media and restraining the political leaders from making allegations against him.

Justice Manmeet P S Arora issued a notice and asked the journalist to respond to file response to X's application. He listed it for further hearing on August 22.

Meanwhile, the counsel for the three Congress leaders



submitted that in compliance with the high court's June 14 order, they will delete the social media posts authored by them.

However, the take down of posts will be without prejudice to their rights and contentions on the merits of the matter, the counsel said.

Justice Arora asked X to unblock the particular URLs

which it claimed to have geo-blocked in pursuance of the court order by 5 pm on Friday and inform the Congress leaders about it.

Upon being informed, the leaders shall immediately delete the tweets, latest by 7 pm on Friday, the high court said.

"In the unlikely event that defendant nos. 4 to 6 (Congress leaders) breach the undertaking given to this court and do not take down the impugned tweets listed above by 7 PM on July 12, the plaintiff shall notify the defendant no. 1 (X) about the non-compliance by 8 PM on July 12. Upon receiving intimation from the plaintiff, the defendant no. 1 shall on or before 8 PM on July 13 once again block the above listed

URLs," it said.

The journalist has claimed that he was defamed by the Congress leaders over use of "abusive language" during his show on June 4, the day counting of the Lok Sabha elections was taking place.

X, in its application-cum-reply, said, "This court cannot conclude that the video is 'edited' or that it contains 'insertions' merely on the basis of plaintiff's (Sharma) vague and unsubstantiated assertions... The injunction order should be vacated because it has prejudiced the trial in the suit by already returning an unsubstantiated finding that the video is edited at a preliminary stage, when prima facie there was no 'editing'."

My role is to translate aspirations of states into reality: Scindia

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia on Friday said his role would primarily be that of a facilitator, ensuring that aspirations of the states in the region are realised.

He emphasised the importance of showcasing the North Eastern region's rich cultural heritage, traditions, and natural resources to the world.

Talking to reporters at the airport here on his first visit to the North East since assuming charge, Scindia said he will work towards realising the government's vision of making



the region the "gateway of India's progress". "Work to achieve it has already been on track for the last 10 years," he added.

He said the budgetary outlay for the region has increased from Rs 24,000 crore to almost Rs 84,000 crore in the last decade, highlighting develop-

ments in infrastructure such as roads, railways, and airports, which have expanded from nine to seventeen.

Scindia also pointed out advancements in social sectors including health, education, and sports, as well as potential growth areas like tourism, agarwood, and bamboo production.

"North East is a repository of our age-old traditions, rituals, cultural vibrancy, nature's abundance and that must be showcased to the world," Scindia said, adding that the nation's 'Look East Policy' has been changed to 'Act East Policy' for this purpose.



Do Democrats have a Plan B?

With Biden increasingly under attack for his lacklustre performance, Democrats must be exploring alternatives

The Democratic Party have to take a make-or-break decision— to continue with Joe Biden as presidential candidate or find an alternative. Both choices are difficult and have their pros and cons. Biden's age and performance might push the party to consider a Plan B. But the time is running out for Democrats and so are the options. It all began much earlier but the presidential debate was the proverbial last straw when Biden performed below par. However, Despite the challenges, there are strong arguments for sticking with Biden. He has overseen a period of significant legislative achievements, including the passage of a massive infrastructure bill, ambitious climate change initiatives, and a robust COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Biden's administration has also navigated complex international relations, working to rebuild alliances and address global threats, especially China and Russia. His centrist approach has aimed to unify a deeply divided nation, seeking to appeal to both progressive and moderate Democrats, as well



as independents and even some Republicans. However, concerns about Biden's age and cognitive abilities persist. At 81, he is the oldest president in US history, and questions about his stamina and mental acuity have been fodder for both political opponents and media speculation. Polls indicate a significant portion of the electorate is uneasy about his capacity to serve another four-year term. Furthermore, his handling of certain issues, such as the withdrawal from Afghanistan and ongoing economic challenges, has drawn criticism from both sides of the political spectrum.

These controversies have fueled speculation about whether Biden is the best candidate to lead the Democrats to victory in 2024. But with elections barely four months away Democrats would find a replacement rather hard. Even invoking the 25th Amendment, which allows for the removal of a president deemed unfit to serve, remains an extreme and unlikely scenario. Given the potential political fallout and the necessity for clear, indisputable evidence of incapacity, this route is rather a precarious one. If the Democrats decide to explore alternatives, several high-profile figures could emerge as potential contenders. As the sitting vice president, Kamala Harris is the most obvious choice. Her historic candidacy as the first female, first Black, and first South Asian vice president offers a compelling narrative, but her leadership and policy effectiveness will be under intense scrutiny. Next in line would be Pete Buttigieg, the Secretary of Transportation and former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. His youth, eloquence, and policy acumen make him a viable candidate. Then of course you have Gavin Newsom, the governor of California has been a vocal advocate for progressive policies and has shown resilience in the face of political challenges. The Democrats are caught between the devil and the deep sea. Ultimately, the decision will hinge on the party's assessment of Biden's ability to lead effectively and win re-election.

PICTALK



Priests of Shiva Temple perform 'pooja' at the reception of container ship San Fernando, in Thiruvananthapuram PTI

Young philanthropists ushering in new age of giving in India

With a burgeoning startup ecosystem, India is witnessing a new generation of wealth creators who are passionate about funding impactful projects

Young philanthropists are playing a catalytic role in ushering in a new age of giving that underscores the need for scalable change and long-term impact. Having the third-largest startup ecosystem, and being home to 100 unicorns, India has given rise to a new generation of wealth creators who are young, tech-driven, and passionate about change. These 'new-age' philanthropists are transforming the country's infrastructure and bringing about long-lasting growth. Their efforts are not just about giving back; they are about driving systemic and sustainable impact across communities. For instance, initiatives like the Karnataka Model School Pathways Programme are redefining India's education system. In a world where socioeconomic challenges are pervasive, these young change-makers are bringing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to philanthropy, making it not only a trend but also a powerful force for social change. Moving away from the traditional approach of philanthropy being seen as a post-retirement task, this genera-



tion of philanthropists is starting early, leveraging their wealth, influence, and technological savvy to drive meaningful change within their lifetime. Instead of adhering to traditional models of charity, young philanthropists are adopting a more entrepreneurial approach, seeking out innovative solutions and investing in new focus areas like climate change, mental health, sports for development, etc. The India Philanthropy Report 2024 shows how emerging issues like climate change and Gender, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) have become the top three areas of interest apart from traditional causes for this new cohort of young entrepreneurs. Nikhil Kamath, CEO of Zerodha and one of the

youngest philanthropists is a strong advocate of climate change. A founder of YIPP which brings together young entrepreneurs to address pressing societal issues collectively, Kamath had started investing in environmental problems way back in 2019 with the launch of Rainmatter Foundation and recently invested in a charity that combats climate change in India. These new age givers are using technology to tackle some of India's most pressing problems, combining data-driven insights with a deep understanding of social issues to create long-term, scalable impact. Their approach has been guided by a blend of head and heart making their philanthropy more strategic and forward-thinking. Their willingness to collaborate and pool time, talent and treasure for collective impact is another characteristic of this new generation of philanthropists. Recognizing the complexity of social challenges and the need for coordinated action, they are forging partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations to amplify their efforts. Collective philan-

thropy presents a dynamic approach to otherwise traditional models of philanthropy, opening avenues for innovative solutions to India's unique problems. This spirit of collaboration is exemplified by initiatives such as the YIPP which was started in 2021 to bring together young change makers below the age of 45 to create new-age solutions collectively. With a clear focus on accountability and scalability, this 15-member group aims to make their giving more structured, bold and innovative. Hailing from diverse backgrounds, experiences and philanthropic aspirations, they are collectively a motivated force keen to showcase the power of collaboration and strength in working together towards a set common goal. With their entrepreneurial spirit, technological acumen, and commitment to collective action, they are leading the charge towards a brighter tomorrow for India and the world.

(The writer is founding member, Young India Philanthropic Pledge and chief inspiration officer, Yuva Unstoppable; views are personal)



AMITABH SHAH

The Taliban's war on Afghan women

Despite denials by Taliban officials, the bravery of Afghan women coming forward underscores the severe and dehumanising treatment they endure

A piece in *The Guardian*, bylined Zahra Joya, Chris McGreal, Khodadad Poladi, Annie Kelly and Tom Levitt, dated July 6, 2024, and published under the heading "Video appears to show gang-rape of Afghan woman in Taliban jail," makes horrifying reading. According to the report, the video recording, seen by *The Guardian* and Rukhsana Media, an online news agency focused on covering issues affecting women in Afghanistan, shows a young woman, a human rights activist, being gang-raped and tortured in a Taliban jail by armed men. It shows her being told to take off her clothes and then raped multiple times by two men. She is seen as standing naked, her face visible, and is identifiable during the attacks. The report cites the woman as saying that she was arrested for participating in a public protest against the Taliban and was raped in a Taliban prison. The video was sent to her after she had fled Afghanistan and spoken out against the Taliban, with the threat that it would be shown to her family and released on social media if she spoke against the Islamic Emirate in public. It also cites other examples of sexual abuse, beatings, and torture, including by electric shocks, of not only those protesting against the Taliban's squelching of women's rights but of young women and teenagers accused of violating hijab rules. Zabihullah Mujahid, Chief Spokesman and Deputy Minister of Information and Culture of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has, according to *The Guardian* report, denied the allegations of widespread sexual assaults on incarcerated women. While he could not have done otherwise, one can hardly doubt the women's versions, given the stigma attached to victims of sexual violence in countries like Afghanistan. It takes a massive amount of courage and resolve for a woman, or her relatives, to state that she had been raped or molested in custody. Even the UN has commented on the arrests and detentions. Under the heading "Permanent Darkness," Ajit



Kumar Singh has written in the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATPOR, Volume 22, Number 18) dated March 11, 2024, that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) had expressed grave concern over the arrest and detention of women and girls for alleged non-compliance with the Islamic dress code. He has quoted Roza Otunbayeva, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of UNAMA, as observing that enforcement measures and physical violence were "especially demeaning and dangerous for Afghan women." Detention, she continued, carried "an enormous stigma that put Afghan women at even greater risk." The Taliban's war on women—perhaps the most diabolical feature of their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001—continues in their second innings with rape and molestation as a part of it. The process started in September 2021 when the Taliban removed the signboard of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Kabul and replaced it with that of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, the earlier incarnation of which had



IT TAKES A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF COURAGE AND RESOLVE FOR A WOMAN, OR HER RELATIVES, TO STATE THAT SHE HAD BEEN RAPED OR MOLESTED IN CUSTODY

earned widespread notoriety during their first stint in power, for arbitrary and savage enforcement—with particular harshness towards women—of the government's obscurantist diktats. A series of measures has followed. Women are not allowed to travel more than 70 kilometres without a male escort who is her husband or a mahram, a close blood relative—father, son brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, nephew with whom marriage is prohibited and, in whose presence, she need not wear a hijab. They are to wear "proper" hijabs, loose black garments, covering their bodies and faces, in public places and their male relatives have been made responsible under pain of punishment. They are excluded from education above the primary level and virtually every kind of employment. Worse, in a voice message broadcast by Afghanistan's state television on March 23, 2024, the Taliban's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, had said, "We will flog the women ... we will stone them to death in public [for adultery]." The Taliban had started flogging women even before the announcement, administering at least 30 strokes for

"offences" like using cell phones, talking to men or being in love or relationships. All this was not unexpected given the Taliban's obscurantist beliefs and record in power during its first coming from 1996 to 2001. What is surprising is the silence—to say nothing of the absence of effective action—of the rest of the world, even the Western democracies, in the matter. The UN too seems to be falling in line. This is suggested by its surrender in the case of the recent conference of global envoys, held in Doha, Qatar, and attended by envoys of 25 countries including the US, Russia, China and the European Union. The conference, to promote engagement with the Taliban on a variety of issues, was the third of its kind. The Taliban, which had not attended the earlier two, attended it only after the organisers accepted their condition that women would not attend it. The UN's capitulation has been widely condemned by human rights organisations which rightly believe it would encourage the Taliban to further trample on women's rights. But who cares? (The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS TO REIGNITE PROTESTS

Madam — The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), India's largest farmers' organization that led the historic 2020-21 protests, has announced plans to resume their agitation against the BJP-led NDA government to push for their pending demands. These demands include a guaranteed MSP law, loan waivers, and pensions for farmers and farmworkers. The General Body has decided to restart the agitation, demanding the implementation of the agreement signed on December 9, 2021, by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and other key demands affecting farmers' livelihoods. The SKM plans to campaign against the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections and intends to expose, oppose, and punish the party. The farmers' movement has significantly impacted Lok Sabha elections, defeating the BJP in 38 rural seats across Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. Clearly, all is not well for the BJP.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam — Madam, This is in reference to the report, "Namami Ganga: Rs211 Crore Splash to Keep Maha Kumbh Eco-Friendly" (July 10). Whether the state government spends money on the Maha Kumbh Mela (MKM) at Prayag or not, the Modi government at the Centre is ready to pour money into the coffers of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government months ahead of the function. The Government of India, which delayed the payment of flood relief money to Tamil Nadu for many months and finally released a small amount with great reluctance coinciding with the Lok Sabha elections, has now 'splashed' Rs211 crore to the UP government quickly for the Mela scheduled for January-February 2025. This money is intended for preserving the purity of the Ganga river and ensuring cleanliness throughout the mega event. Just a week ago, another annual global event, the Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra, was celebrated by the

World Population Day



World Population Day is observed with various programs aimed at achieving overall population control worldwide, and India is no exception. The focal theme

emphasises family planning to significantly improve the health of mothers and children. However, in India, discussions about controlling the population of over 1.35 billion people often meet with resistance from both the public and political leaders. Given the current growth rate, India is expected to surpass China's population by 2025, ahead of the earlier projection for 2028.

This year's World Population Day on July 11 coincides with the anticipated birth of the Earth's eight billionth inhabitant. While this milestone celebrates our diversity and advancements in health that have extended lifespans and reduced maternal and child mortality rates, the uncontrolled population increase poses a significant threat. The situation demands urgent attention and action to avoid potential dangers.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

ISKCON organization in Odisha. It was also a mega Hindu festival, but the Centre did not choose to fund this festival. However, the core issue I wish to point out is the fate of the Clean Ganga project introduced by the BJP government in its first tenure, for which Rs 5,000 crore was allocated. It is not known if the cleaning project was completed, as no report was presented in Parliament. It is unclear whether sustained maintenance is regularly done by the UP government, whether a system has been put in place to guard against the misuse and overcrowding of the Ganga river, and whether steps are taken to prohibit the immersion and floating of dead bodies in the river. Protecting the holiness and purity of the Ganga river is the foremost duty of both the Centre and the UP government.

Manoharan Muthuswamy | Ramnad

SUPREME COURT'S ALIMONY VERDICT

Madam — The Supreme Court's decision on alimony for divorced Muslim women is significant. The court determined that every woman, regardless of faith, has the

right to alimony. Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustin George Masih, though making independent decisions, ultimately reached the same conclusion. Both indicated that a divorced Muslim woman could file a lawsuit against her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC to receive alimony. The Supreme Court's ruling is admirable and consistent with the duties of a welfare state. This verdict mirrors the one handed down in the Shah Bano case on April 23, 1985. Previously, alimony for divorced women was determined by Muslim Personal Law, which allowed alimony only during the Iddat period. However, the Supreme Court declared that Section 125 of the Indian Penal Code is equally applicable to all women, allowing them to claim alimony even after Iddat. Many divorced Muslim women do not remarry, and receiving alimony only during the Iddat period does not resolve their issues.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

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FIRST COLUMN

BALANCING EMPATHY AND PROFESSIONALISM

While layoffs are challenging, there is room for improving how they are managed



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

Layoffs are never easy. The impact on the affected employees will be deep and most often devastating; it is a turning point in their professional and personal lives—a stressful one, of course. But what the majority of people are not aware of is that those tasked to deliver the message—the HR professionals—also carry an emotional burden. It may be the senior leadership making tough decisions, but HR bears the heart-wrenching job of communicating them. HR professionals are often the stoic face of the company during these times. But behind the professionalism of that stone exterior is a very real understanding of the weight of their actions. They, too, are humans.

They also carry the burden of those decisions. The difference lies in their need to balance empathy with the requirement of upholding company policies and procedures, often concealing their feelings in the process. When an HR professional sits down with an employee to discuss a layoff, how complicated the emotions in that moment can be is beyond measure. They know they are delivering news that will change a life. However, how that news is conveyed does indeed have an impact.

There are no ideal words to cushion the blow, but compassion can help ease the transition. Difficult situations present an opportunity for HR professionals to think of effective strategies. They can understand and relate to the challenges faced by their staff, while also providing a positive outlook and potential for growth. They could say, "I do appreciate that this job may be a priority to you, but on the other hand, this could be one of those opportunities for upskilling to do something you are passionate about." I mean, such words, though they don't diminish the hardship—can usher in a glimmer of positivity.

This compassionate attitude toward the situation epitomises how such initiatives can give hope and dignity to the employees during this painful process of transition. It is important to keep in mind that neither the employee nor the organisation wants to end their



relationship on a sour note. By approaching layoffs with professionalism laced with humanity, HR can help ensure a transition to be as respectful and supportive as possible, even while it remains painful.

That being said, while layoffs can be one of the more challenging aspects of corporate life, there is certainly room for improvement in how these transitions are handled. Showing empathy, fostering clear communication, and providing support can greatly improve the experience for those undergoing layoffs. In times of uncertainty and change, it's important to remember that even small acts of kindness can make a difference.

Moreover, providing outplacement services, career counseling, and job search assistance can help laid-off employees find new opportunities more quickly. Encouraging networking and offering workshops on resume writing and interview skills can also make a significant difference. HR departments can collaborate with local businesses and employment agencies to create a support network for those affected.

By taking these extra steps, companies can demonstrate a genuine commitment to the well-being of their employees, even in difficult times. This holistic approach not only aids in the immediate transition but also helps maintain a positive company reputation in the long term.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

NATO: A legacy of conflict and controversy



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

As the alliance celebrates its 75th milestone, it faces scrutiny for its violations of international law and its failure to protect civilians in numerous conflicts

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), widely regarded as the most notorious and venomous military alliance in history, celebrated its 75th anniversary in Washington this week, amidst claims of establishing global peace. However, NATO's actions have often spread war across continents in pursuit of supremacy. Following a disastrous performance in the presidential debate, President Joe Biden unsurprisingly announced increased military aid to Ukraine, targeting their 'designated enemy' at the expense of this small European nation. NATO's ambitions are clear: to weaken Russia through proxy wars and to provoke China into potential conflict in Asia.

However, finding examples where NATO has truly ensured peaceful lives for ordinary people, rather than pursuing its broader goal of supremacy through alliances with enemies of its enemies, remains challenging. NATO must be held accountable for its violations of international law and its failure to protect unarmed civilians in nearly every conflict it has engaged in since its inception. While NATO celebrated its 75th anniversary, mainstream media barely acknowledged the 25th anniversary of NATO's intervention in Yugoslavia—a glaring failure of this war-oriented alliance. June 10 marks the 25th anniversary of the end of NATO's bombing campaign in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, initiated without UN Security Council approval and lasting 78 days. NATO dropped 22,000 tonnes of bombs, including 15 tonnes of depleted uranium, resulting in over 2,500 deaths, including 79 children, and displacing over a million residents. The aftermath included long-term health and environmental impacts from depleted uranium munitions. In the decade following the bombing, approximately 30,000 people in Serbia developed cancer, with over 10,000 deaths. Studies indicate increased cancer rates and other serious health issues among children born after 1999. Three thousand victims have filed lawsuits against NATO, despite the alliance claiming immunity based on agreements with Serbia and Montenegro.

Serbian experts dispute this, stating that no agreements grant NATO immunity for past war crimes. NATO's attempts to evade accountability only accentuate its war crimes and the suffering it caused. Since its establishment, NATO's military operations have frequently resulted in chaos and trauma rather than peace and stability. From April 1992 to December 1995, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina erupted among its three main ethnic groups over their future and territorial divisions. Shortly before the outbreak of war in Bosnia, NATO hastily recognised Bosnia and Herzegovina's independence, exacerbating ethnic conflicts in the region. NATO launched extensive airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs, eventually compelling the three ethnic groups to sign the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a consequence, 278,000 civilians perished, over 2 million people became refugees, and the war inflicted more than £5.1 billion in direct economic losses, with the majority of economic facilities destroyed. The Kosovo War, ignited by ethnic tensions and led by the US-backed NATO without UN authorisation, lasted from March 24, 1999, to June 10, 1999. The three-month bombing campaign caused 1,800 civilian deaths, 6,000 injuries, and substantial infrastructure damage, amounting to economic losses of £150 billion. This marked NATO's first offensive war against a sovereign state without UN approval, marking a shift towards interventionism and expansionism. NATO's actions violated international law, including the UN Charter and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, through the use of force against Belgrade. Despite this, no NATO member has been fully held accountable for their actions, in stark contrast to incidents involving their erstwhile 'puppets', such as the swift hanging of Saddam Hussein of Iraq by Western forces or the extrajudicial killing of Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, famously remarked on by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with, 'We came, we saw, he died. In Afghanistan, the US-led NATO coalition launched a war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban on October 7, 2001, in response to the September 11 attacks.

The two-decade-long conflict ended abruptly with the withdrawal of US and NATO forces in May 2021, resulting in 241,000 deaths, including 71,000 civilians, and displacing millions.

The war generated significant economic losses, averaging approximately £45 million per day, and led to social disorder in Afghanistan, with 72% of the population living below the poverty line and 3.5 million children deprived of education. A new report issued this Monday by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) revealed shocking statistics: over 24% of Afghan children aged 5-17 experience anxiety, while 15% suffer from depression in this war-torn country.

This is the legacy left behind by those who claimed they could guarantee a peaceful life under a rule-based system founded on democratic norms. During this period, terrorist networks such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and Al-Qaeda expanded, worsening regional instability. This pattern of devastation persisted in Iraq and Libya, where NATO interventions resulted in substantial civilian casualties and prolonged instability. NATO's actions consistently undermined peace and security, earning it a reputation as a war machine rather than a force for peace. However, in Ukraine, NATO finds itself in disarray, having underestimated Russia's determination to defend its interests while overestimating its ability to expand its military alliance to Moscow's doorstep. The strategy of flooding Ukraine with weaponry for swift victory has backfired, with Russia proving resilient in defence.

As the conflict drags on, NATO member states face escalating costs and inflationary debt, while Ukraine depletes its fighting-age soldiers. Western leaders, deeply invested in the conflict, encounter diminishing confidence in Ukraine's capacity to reclaim territories without escalating the conflict and potentially involving NATO troops—a move that lacks public support. In recent months, Russia has made incremental territorial gains, advancing in the Kharkiv Oblast and compelling Ukrainian forces to retreat from a neighbourhood in Chasiv Yar, Donetsk.

However, the lack of significant progress has raised doubts about Russia's capabilities. While struggling to maintain the frontline, Ukraine has targeted Russian ships, energy depots, and border regions with drones, resulting in casualties. Two and a half years into the conflict, neither side appears capable of achieving a military solution. Ukraine faces substantial challenges in reclaiming captured territories, while Russia's aggression has bolstered NATO's resolve, which now pledges long-term support for Kyiv. A viable resolution entails bringing both parties to the negotiating table. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have expressed support for dialogue. Russia's allies should urge President Vladimir Putin to cease hostilities and engage earnestly in negotiations, while Ukraine's supporters should encourage Kyiv to consider peace talks—although NATO vehemently opposes this idea.

With American elections looming, a Trump victory could pave the way for a negotiated settlement, whereas a Biden re-election might prolong the conflict, potentially transforming Ukraine into another Afghanistan or Vietnam. Meanwhile, Russia's economy has strengthened despite sanctions, buoyed by trade partnerships with China and India. Historians might view the US-led NATO expansion as a strategic failure that catalysed the formation of an alliance among BRICS nations to counter NATO. President Xi Jinping perceives Putin as pivotal in opposing the United States and its allies, although a new Trump administration could potentially avert broader conflict and repair relations with adversaries. The summit's news report highlighted NATO and its Indo-Pacific partners—Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand—launching four joint projects aimed at deepening cooperation, announced by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the NATO Defence Industry Forum. Amidst the celebration of this military alliance, Asia faces the daunting task of safeguarding its position against a coalition adept at leveraging proxies to achieve its objectives. This historical pattern resonates with poignant examples throughout history.

Asia's imperative now is to cultivate robust trade relationships and settle territorial disputes through constructive dialogue, preempting external interference. History presents a stark choice: yield to foreign ambitions, akin to the post-World War II tragedies and subsequent killing fields from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and West Asia to present-day conflicts in Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria, or thrive together in dignified coexistence. The path to a peaceful future hinges on a unified commitment to peace and saying no to NATO and its proxies. Better the devil you know than the angel you don't.

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

AMIDST THE CELEBRATION OF THIS MILITARY ALLIANCE, ASIA FACES THE DAUNTING TASK OF SAFEGUARDING ITS POSITION AGAINST A COALITION ADEPT AT LEVERAGING PROXIES TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES

Modi-Putin summit revives India-Russia relations amid global tensions

The meeting underscored India's strategic balancing act between global powers while prioritising its own economic and security needs

Just when there was a growing perception that ties between India and Russia were losing momentum, even stagnating, the summit-level meeting between PM Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin should help impart a fresh impetus to bilateral relations.

Held after a gap of over two years, amid the ongoing geopolitical churn, the 22nd summit saw the two sides resolve to unlock the full potential of their strategic partnership. The summit's outcomes conveyed New Delhi's intent to continue to forge closer ties with Moscow, notwithstanding the widespread Western opprobrium Putin has drawn after Russia invaded Ukraine and the consequent sanctions slapped on his country. With Putin preoccupied with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, now into its third year, the summit-level meetings had fallen by the wayside. The last summit was held in New Delhi in December 2021.

The summit indicated eagerness on the part of both sides to not just reinvigorate the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership', but also make economic cooperation



PARUL CHANDRA

the lynchpin of the relationship. This was reflected in a separate joint statement spelling out nine key areas for economic cooperation, with a new bilateral trade target of \$100 billion being set for 2030. While the Modi-Putin Summit left Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressing "disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal", it's unlikely to hurt New Delhi's close ties with Kyiv. India may not have condemned the invasion, but Modi did tell Putin "there is no peace on the battlefield" while reiterating India's position on the need for dialogue. While Washington also expressed its displeasure over the Modi-Putin meeting, it is unlikely that will allow this to impact the trajectory of its ties with Moscow, propelled as they are by India's strategic imperatives. One of them, of course, is the tightening Russia-China embrace. The thrust on closer ties with Russia will also help address Moscow's concerns over New Delhi's decidedly pronounced tilt towards Washington. India has so far managed to do a fine balancing act between the two geopolitical rivals and should continue to do so.

India sees Russia as a time-tested trusted partner. Much as the Western world would like to keep a sanctions-hit Russia isolated over the Ukraine war, India's push for broader and deeper economic linkages reflects its own strategic needs. India's purchase of Russian oil despite the sanctions will not just continue but is expected to increase further. Crude imports from Russia have increased from 2.5 million tonnes in 2021 to 90 million tonnes in 2023, with India being clear this is vital for its energy security. Investments in the energy sector by both sides also remain a top priority. Fertilizer imports from Russia, too, are seen as vital for India's agriculture sector. Russian oil imports have helped push the bilateral trade figures to \$65.70 billion. But while Indian imports were worth \$61.44 billion, its exports accounted for a mere \$4.26 billion.

While happy to import Russian oil at discounted rates, New Delhi will need to address this trade imbalance by widening the trade basket with Russia. Among the major export items from India are pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, iron and steel and electrical machinery.

That the two sides agreed to look at the possibility of eliminating non-tariff trade barriers and the setting up of a Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)-India Free Trade Area shows the seriousness of intent to promote bilateral trade. The nudge to begin full negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the EAEU too should lend a fillip to trade ties.

Connectivity too remains a priority for both sides. It would mean access for Indian goods to the Eurasian markets. However, the proposed INSTC (International North-South Transport) Corridor is still a long way away from becoming a reality. While there is renewed interest between the two sides to establish a Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor, which was first mooted in 2019, it also remains to be seen whether it will fructify. The summit, of course, also emphasized the importance of robust cooperation in the defence sector, which is an important element of India's security paradigm. Russia remains India's biggest arms supplier despite New Delhi's continuing efforts to diversify by turning to others like the US, France and Israel to meet its requirements. India would have undoubtedly sought to address its concerns over the delays in the supply of Russian military hardware and spares owing to the Ukraine war. The Modi-Putin Summit may have left the West fulminating, but it's fairly obvious New Delhi will plough its furrow so long as it serves its strategic priorities. The writer is a senior journalist who writes on foreign affairs.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



MONEY MATTERS

Centre launches 321 fisheries projects worth over Rs 114 cr in Tamil Nadu

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh virtually inaugurated 321 projects at the Fisheries Summer Meet held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu on Friday. These initiatives, approved under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), represent a total investment of Rs 114 crore, an official statement said. The projects covering 19 states and Union Territories include fish retail kiosks, shrimp hatcheries, brood banks, ornamental fish units, biofloc units, fish feed mills, and fish value-added enterprises. PMMSY, a flagship programme of the Centre, aims to foster sustainable development in the fisheries sector. While details of specific financial assistance were not disclosed, the scheme is expected to significantly bolster local businesses and enhance the country's fisheries output. The minister also distributed Kisan Credit Cards, presented PMMSY achievement award letters to beneficiaries and felicitated Fish Farmers Producers Organisation (FFPOs) onboarded on Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC).



Costly vegetables push retail inflation to 4-month high of 5.08% in June

Retail inflation increased to four-month high of 5.08 per cent in June as food items, including vegetables became dearer, according to government data released on Friday. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was on a decline since January, before rising again in June. The CPI-based retail inflation was 4.8 per cent in May 2024 and 4.87 per cent in June 2023. The previous high was in February at 5.09 per cent. Inflation in the food basket was 9.36 per cent in June, up from 8.69 per cent in May, according to the data of the National Statistical Office (NSO). The government has tasked the Reserve Bank to ensure that the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The highest inflation was in vegetables at 29.32 per cent, followed by 'pulses and products' at 16.07 per cent in June on an annual basis. 'Cereals and products' and fruits too were dearer in June over the same month last year.



Air Liquide India sets up manufacturing unit in Mathura with Rs 350 cr

Industrial gases firm Air Liquide India on Friday said they have set up a manufacturing unit in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, with an investment of Rs 350 crore with a view to expand its business. This air separation unit, it said, is dedicated to healthcare and industrial merchant activities in Kosi, Mathura. It has a production capacity of more than 300 tonnes of liquid oxygen and medical oxygen per day, as well as about 45 tonnes of liquid nitrogen and 12 tonnes of liquid argon per day, the company said in a statement. The unit will supply industrial gases across Delhi Capital Territory, Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. The medical grade oxygen manufactured in this plant will be supplied to hospitals. It added that the new unit is planned to fully operate on renewable energy by 2030. 'Air Liquide has invested around Rs 350 crore to build this state-of-the-art air separation plant,' it said in a statement.



India-UK trade pact to be win-win result for both economies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the new government taking charge in Britain, the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the UK will get a renewed push and a comprehensive pact would deliver a win-win result for both economies, experts said.

They said that promoting export of services seem to be a priority for the UK's Labour government and it will seek to negotiate standalone sector deals, such as digital, or mutual recognition agreements, to promote services exports.

International trade expert and Hi-Tech Gears Chairman Deep Kapuria said the new UK government will seek a new strategic partnership with India, including an FTA, as well as deepening co-operation in



areas like security, education, technology, and climate change.

"This is a positive indication for India but its goal to reduce net migration may cause some hin-

drance in FTA signing," he said.

Kapurja said while it is too early to draw any definitive conclusion on the future of India-UK FTA negotiation, it

all depends upon how soon the new Labour government spells out its priorities and more importantly on the promised action to reduce net immigration.

"For India, undoubtedly, the UK is an important market for both goods and services export as well as an important source of FDI. A comprehensive FTA with the UK will deliver win-win results for both the economies," he added.

Ludhiana-based exporter SC Ralhan said the UK is a key export destination for Indian businesses and a free mutually beneficial trade agreement will help increase India's out-bound shipments to Britain.

Ralhan added that the negotiations for the agreement will now get a renewed push as the new government has taken charge in the UK.

Residential launches decline 11pc in first half of 2024: Report

PNS ■ KOLKATA

India's residential real estate market thrived in the first half of 2024 with a 55 per cent increase in new launches to 159,455 units, while Kolkata exhibited a contrasting trend, according to a report released on Friday.

The eastern metropolis witnessed an 11 per cent decline in new launches during the period.

Kolkata launched 4,388 units in the January-June period of 2024, as compared to the 4,942 in the corresponding months of 2023, realty consultant JLL said in the report.

Kolkata accounted for only three per cent of the new launch inventory among the top seven cities. Cities, like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi NCR and Hyderabad led the surge nationally, contributing to a total of 159,455 units launched.

SIAM seeks sops for EVs, addL incentives for vehicle scrapping

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Auto industry body SIAM on Friday sought sops to promote EVs and suggested the government to bring in additional incentives for scrapping of vehicles in the upcoming Budget.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers emphasised on a growth oriented Budget with focus on greater allocation for capital expenditure.

"We are expecting that the government should come up with a FAME 3 like policy... good schemes like PLI are already in place, which we are sure will continue," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal told reporters here. The FAME 3 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme, if unveiled, is expected to offer financial incentives to electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers as well as government-owned buses. The FAME 3 scheme will



succeed Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS), which was introduced when FAME 2 scheme ended on March 31, 2024.

"We are also expecting that the government could do something more on the incentives for the scrapping of vehi-

cles, because the scrappage policy is already in place but we have not seen much impact of that," Aggarwal said.

He further said, "And so therefore, to give further boost to the scrapping of old polluting vehicles, I think something needs to be done."

IIP grows to 7-month high of 5.9% in May: Govt data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production grew to a seven-month high of 5.9 per cent in May 2024, mainly due to good showing by power and mining sectors, according to official data released on Friday.

The factory output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 5 per cent in April, 5.4 per cent in March, 5.6 per cent in February and 4.2 per cent in January 2024. The IIP was 4.4 per cent in December and 2.5 per cent in November 2023.

Sensex, Nifty rally nearly 1% to scale fresh highs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty soared nearly 1 per cent to hit new lifetime highs on Friday, fuelled by intense buying in IT and tech stocks after robust TCS earnings.

A rally in Reliance Industries and Infosys also boosted investor sentiments, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 622 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 80,519.34. During the day, it zoomed 996.17 points or 1.24 per cent to hit an all-time high of 80,893.51.

The NSE Nifty surged

186.20 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 24,502.15. Intra-day, it jumped 276.25 points or 1.13 per cent to hit a new lifetime



peak of 24,592.20.

Among the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services climbed nearly 7 per cent after the country's largest IT services player reported 8.7 per cent

growth for the June quarter net profit at Rs 12,040 crore.

Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were the other major gainers.

Maruti, Asian Paints, Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher, while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower.

European markets were trading higher in mid-session trade. US markets ended mostly lower on Thursday.

Rupee settles 1 paisa higher at 83.52 against US \$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 1 paisa at 83.52 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as the support from firm domestic equities was negated by elevated crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the rupee inched higher as domestic equities touched fresh all-time highs and a weak tone in the US dollar supported the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit traded in a narrow range. It opened at 83.53, and touched an intraday high of 83.49 and a low of 83.55 against the American currency during the session.

It finally settled at 83.52

(provisional) against the dollar, 1 paisa higher than its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee settled 2 paise lower at 83.53 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on the weak US dollar as cooling inflation raises expectations of a September rate cut by the US Fed," said Anuj Choudhary -- Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Odd of a September rate cut rose to around 90 per cent post inflation data. "Positive tone in the domes-

tic markets and fresh foreign inflows may also support the rupee. However, a surge in crude oil prices may cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from India's IIP and CPI data," Choudhary added.

US\$-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.25 to Rs 83.80.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent lower at 104.39.

"The US dollar declined as inflation cooled more than

expected. US CPI rose 3 per cent y-o-y in June 2024 versus forecast of 3.1 per cent. Core CPI rose 3.3 per cent y-o-y in June 2024 versus forecast of 3.4 per cent," Choudhary said.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading 0.94 per cent higher at US\$ 86.20 per barrel. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended the day 622.00 points, or 0.78 per cent, higher at 80,519.34 points. The broader NSE Nifty settled 186.20 points, or 0.77 per cent, up at 24,502.15 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,137.01 crore, according to exchange data.

Fitch Ratings revises outlook on Tata Steel to negative

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Friday revised its outlook on domestic steel major Tata Steel to negative on account of uncertainty surrounding the turnaround of the company's operations in the UK.

However, the expected robust growth in Tata Steel's India operations and likely earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) profits at FY25, may offset any losses at UK operations, Fitch Ratings said in a report.

"Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlook on India-based

Tata Steel Limited's (TSL) Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to Negative, from Stable, and affirmed the IDR at 'BBB-'.

"We have also affirmed the rating on the US\$ 1 billion notes due July 2024 issued by TSL's subsidiary ABJA Investment Co. Pte. Ltd, and guaranteed by TSL, at 'BBB-'," the statement said, adding that the negative outlook reflects uncertainty surrounding turnaround of the UK operations.

The rating agency further said that the change in the UK government and labour union's actions to save job losses at TSL's UK operations may delay its plan to reduce losses

through FY25.

Tata Steel owns 3 million tonne per annum (MTPA) at Port Talbot plant in South Wales and employs around 8,000 people across all its operations in that country.

As part of its decarbonisation plan, the company is shifting to a low-emission electric arc furnace (EAF) process from the blast furnace (BF) route which is nearing its end of life cycle.

In September 2023, Tata Steel and the UK government agreed on a joint investment plan of 1.25 billion pounds to execute decarbonisation plans at Port Talbot steel making facility in Britain.

Haryana: ED seizes property documents, cash in bogus input tax credit claims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Friday said it seized documents of properties worth Rs 40 crore, bank lockers, and more than Rs 16 lakh in cash after conducting searches against some Haryana officials and private persons in a money laundering case related to alleged bogus input tax credit claims.

The raids were undertaken on July 9 at 14 locations in Haryana and neighbouring Punjab.

The money laundering case stems from multiple FIRs filed by the Haryana Police in 2020 where it was alleged that false input tax credit (ITC) was shown and refunds obtained by



claimants in connivance with Excise and Taxation Department officers, causing loss to the exchequer worth crores of rupees, the agency said in a statement. "Bogus firms were incorporated by syndicate members and the sales in these bogus firms were claimed at concessional rate of tax against 'C' forms, resulting into claim of false input tax credit and ultimately getting

fraudulent refunds with the help of officers of Excise and Taxation Department."

"These fraudulent refunds have been withdrawn in cash and utilised for acquisition of movable and immovable properties worth several crores of rupees," it claimed. The raids were conducted at the business and residential premises of three retired state government officials -- former excise and taxation officer (ETO) Ashok Sukhija, former deputy excise taxation commissioner Narendar Ranga and Gopi Chand Chaudhary -- and "syndicate" members identified as Mahesh Bansal, Padam Bansal, Amit Bansal, Monil Bansal, Rishi Gupta, Harish Biyani.

Tata Communications board to consider fundraising proposal via NCDs on July 18

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Communications board will consider a proposal to raise funds through Non-Convertible Debentures on July 18.

Tata Communications said as part of its debt management framework, the company refinances its debt from time to time, and at times ahead of scheduled maturities, to achieve the objectives stated in the framework. "Accordingly, a proposal to raise funds through the mode of issuance of Non-

Convertible Debentures (NCDs) will be placed for consideration before the Board of Directors at its upcoming scheduled on July 18, 2024," the company said in a regulatory filing.

Tata Communications manages its balance sheet stability through a debt management framework, which aims to balance the need for financing with the long-term goal of maintaining financial stability, cost-effective financing, and minimising risks associated with debt.



TCS shares climb 7% after earnings update

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of TCS on Friday surged nearly 7 per cent, adding Rs 94,866.26 crore to its market valuation, after the country's largest IT services player reported an 8.7 per cent growth in the June quarter net profit at Rs 12,040 crore.

The massive rally in the IT bellwether stock also took its market valuation to above the Rs 15 lakh crore mark. The stock jumped 6.68 per cent to settle at Rs 4,184.90 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it surged 7 per cent to Rs 4,199.

On the NSE, it rallied 6.59 per cent to Rs 4,182.45 per share.



The company's market valuation jumped Rs 94,866.26 crore to Rs 15,14,133.45 crore.

The stock emerged as the biggest gainer among the Sensex and Nifty pack.

Meanwhile, other IT stocks, including Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies and Wipro, were also in high demand. Infosys, HCL Technologies and Tech

The company's market valuation jumped Rs 94,866.26 crore to Rs 15,14,133.45 crore. The stock emerged as the biggest gainer among the Sensex and Nifty pack

Mahindra rallied over 3 per cent each, while Wipro soared 4.81 per cent on the BSE.

Tracking the rally in IT stock, the BSE Information

Technology index ended with a jump of 4.32 per cent at 39,828.91.

Massive buying in IT stocks fuelled a rally in the equity market. In the broader equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 622 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 80,519.34. During the day, it zoomed 996.17 points or 1.24 per cent to hit an all-time high of 80,893.51.

The NSE Nifty surged 186.20 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 24,502.15. Intra-day, it jumped 276.25 points or 1.13 per cent to hit a new lifetime peak of 24,592.20.

DGCA allows IndiGo to carry pre-flight briefing data in digital form

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday said it has allowed IndiGo to carry pre-flight briefing data in electronic form, a move that will help in reduction of overall weight of aircraft and fuel consumption.

With the adoption of the Electronic Flight Folder (EFF), the airline can carry pre-flight briefing data such as flight plans and weather charts in the digital form instead of hard

copies. The move is expected to reduce the cost as well as other benefits like improved safety

and increased efficiency in pre-flight preparations, the DGCA said in a statement.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
"e" PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No: E/526/6/2024-25/119 Dt: 12-07-2024
Name of the Work: For (1) Works) "Supply and spreading of gravel for approach road to Ashoor Khane-E-Hussan Ibne Ali, Satyanarayana Colony in view of Moharrum festival in Ward No.13, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC." Estimate Amount: Rs.1.25 Lakhs. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 16-07-2024 @ 11:00 AM. Name & Address: Officer Cell No.: Sn/K Ramesh Babu, Executive Engineer, Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC. (M) : 8790374055 & 7331189513. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ http://www.aprocurement.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 1170-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25 Dt: 12.07.2024 Hayath Nagar Circle-3, GHMC.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
"e"-Procurement Notice
"e"-Procurement Notice.No.825/TU/FIDC/Jaangoon/2024-25, Dt:11-07-2024
Works in Jangoon Districts - 13Nos of works - Estimated cost Rs 2200.00 Lakhs. 2Nos of works reserved for SCs for Rs.150.00 Lakhs. Download start date and Down load end date as per uploaded bid document. Further details can be seen @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer(ph) Unit-1, Tufido, Warangal

‘Chefs in Hyd need to educate their guests more on the newly introduced dishes’

TEJAL SINHA

The days when Hyderabad’s cuisine was solely focused on Mughal and Nawabi dishes, are long gone. You can enjoy a variety of cuisines these days, including Andhra, Italian, Chinese and even Korean.

But Chef Sanjeev Kumar believes that there’s still a not-too-long way to go for the city in terms of the food culture. Hailing from a family from the Indian Navy, hospitality was never something he thought he’d get into. However, destiny had a different plan!

While enjoying cooking with his mumma in the kitchen, the young Sanjeev found his friends doing well in the hospitality industry, making him get into IHMCTAN in Mumbai. Learning under the guidance of Chef Varun Kohli, Chef Aaron and Chef Maithreyi, he joined the Management Training (MT) program at TAJ Hotel, Mumbai and did an internship for ITC Grand Central. Over the years, he has also had the opportunity to closely associate and work with the renowned chef Ranveer Brar. Later on, he also travelled to the US for his other skill development programs.

However, the pandemic in 2020 came as a twist in his career. “During COVID-19, when hospitality in Mumbai were shut, I was home for 7 months. I then got an offer from Hyderabad. My then-boss offered me to travel to Hyderabad and join her restaurant. I came here and started working with Tiger Lily.”

Before shifting to Hyderabad, he was a part of Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach and Novotel Maimi.

Born in Patna and mainly brought up in Mumbai, also travelling to other cities due to his father’s posting, Hyderabad, he says, has given him love, name and fame. “It was unbelievable how Hyderabad has shaped my career. I’m out of words to express the gratitude I have for the city. I will always be grateful for the kind of work culture and the type of skill development I got from here. I definitely started my career in Mumbai, but the development of my career happened in Hyderabad.”

Though Hyderabad has been one of the top cities when we talk about its hospitality, on the contrary, he says, “I’ll be very honest with this. When it comes to hospitality, Hyderabad is definitely a good place. However, I feel it’s still going to take some time for Hyderabad to reach the level of cities like Mumbai, Delhi and the US. People are understanding of the authenticity of the food

here. Now people are enjoying cuisine worldwide.”

Over the years, he shares that Hyderabad has now become more than just about Hyderabadi Biryani when it comes to food. “Today, if you see, people are trying different cuisines that tantalise their taste buds. There have been so many restaurants with different cuisines and concepts. When you open a new restaurant with a new concept, people here in Hyderabad will surely try it.”

While, he does give much of his career’s development credits to the city and is also a member of the World Indian Culinary Association (WICA) and Telangana Chefs Association (TCA), he shares, “There’s a lot to love about the city and I can’t just name one. However, if you ask about the dislikes when it comes to introducing a new dish, it does take a little time as compared to other cities. For that to change, the chefs here in the city need to educate and make the guests understand more about the new cuisines for people to be aware of.”

At present, he works as a corporate chef for Mondo Foods Jubilee Hills Hyderabad and has also been a part of Tiger Lily Bistro, Taro, Fat Pigeon and Resign Sky Bar, all in the city, on a concluding note, he says, Hyderabad holds a special place in his heart.

CHEF SANJEEV KUMAR, WHO WAS BORN IN PATNA AND SPENT MOST OF HIS CHILDHOOD IN MUMBAI, JOINS **THE PIONEER** FOR A SPECIAL EDITION OF **HYDERABOND**. HE SHARES HOW HIS CONNECTION TO HYDERABAD HAS CHANGED THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER



USING HIS TRADEMARK MUSICAL TOUCH TO EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS!

AARTI SREENATH

Savneet Singh, a rising musical star in the world of romantic music, has captivated audiences once again with his latest release, *Tu Hai Sab Hai*.

Produced by T-Series, the song is not merely a catchy tune, but a soulful exploration of the profound impact love has on our lives.

Singh’s musical style has garnered him a loyal following. He’s known for weaving simple yet impactful lyrics into memorable melodies that resonate deeply. *Tu Hai Sab Hai* is a testament to this signature style. The song’s melody is a gentle caress, drawing the listener in with its warm embrace. Each note feels carefully chosen, building a soundscape that perfectly complements the lyrical message of all-encompassing love. Sharing his inspiration behind the song, he said, “I’ve always been a hopeless romantic. For me, love is all-encompassing and I’ve closely observed how it transforms lives. Your world revolves around that one person who becomes everything. This song is an ode to that feeling.”

His burgeoning fanbase is evident in his impressive Spotify statistics. The Punjabi pop star’s music is demonstrably resonating with a global audience.

In a heartfelt message, he expressed his profound gratitude to his listeners. “While some may see these as mere numbers, for me, these stats carry immense value,” he shared. The knowledge that over 8,00,000 times listeners have chosen his music for their personal journeys is a deeply humbling experience. He also acknowledges the significance of each individual who has incorporated his music into their lives, whether it’s a single song or a full playlist. He emphasises, “I am immensely grateful to every single listener.” This genuine appreciation for his audience further underscores Savneet’s sincerity and his connection with his fans.

The true beauty of the song lies in its ability to transcend mere words. The lyrics, translated as “You are everything,” paint a vivid picture of a love so profound that it becomes the very foundation of one’s existence.

In this interview, he further delved into the creative process behind *Tu Hai Sab Hai*. He spoke of his keen

observation of how love acts as a transformative force, shaping and influencing every aspect of our lives. He describes his world as revolving around that one special person, a sentiment beautifully captured in the song’s central theme.

The *Khoya tha* artist added, “If you’ve listened to my previous songs, you’ll notice I place my lover on a pedestal, writing about how being with her makes me feel complete. *Tu hai toh sab hai, tu na kuch nahin*, encapsulates that sentiment.” He has a history of crafting songs that celebrate the feeling of completeness that comes with being with the one you love. *Tu Hai Sab Hai* continues this tradition, offering a fresh yet familiar exploration of this universal theme.

One key element that distinguishes his music is his ability to create a lasting impression with simple yet impactful lyrics. He doesn’t rely on complex metaphors or flowery language. Instead, he chooses words that resonate with raw emotion, allowing his message to connect with listeners on a deeper level.

Another defining characteristic of his music is the unique way he delivers his vocals. He explains how listeners recognise his songs by specific nuances in his singing style. These signature vocal inflections add another layer of depth to the music, creating a memorable experience that lingers long after the song has ended. “People recognise my songs by the unique way I sing certain lines. My music has a signature touch that stays with listeners long after they’ve heard it,” he explained.

While creating music that resonates with his audience is important for him, his primary focus remains on personal connection. His dedication to pouring his heart and soul into his music allows listeners to connect with the sincerity of his emotions. “I make music for myself first. If I can’t listen to my own creations, I can’t expect anyone else to. This honesty and purity are what connect people. Audiences today are discerning; they can sense sincerity and will resonate with genuinely heartfelt music,” he shares.

The excitement in his voice is palpable as he talks about his upcoming projects. He has three more songs waiting to be unleashed upon the world that he believes represent some of his best work yet.

This anticipation from the artist himself is a testament to the passion and dedication he pours into his music.

WITH HIS MOST RECENT SINGLE, *TU HAI SAB HAI*, SINGER SAVNEET SINGH ENTHRALLED THE CROWD ONCE AGAIN. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH **THE PIONEER**, HE TALKS ABOUT THE SONG AND OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS MUSIC

Road to recovery from shoulder injuries

The shoulder joint is very flexible, allowing lots of movement, but this also makes it prone to injury. Many parts, like muscles and bones, can be hurt from accidents, overuse, or even everyday activities, which can lead to shoulder problems like torn rotator cuffs, stiffness, and arthritis.

Even activities like lifting heavy weights or repetitive tasks can stress the shoulder and make it absorb a lot of shock. This can lead to stretched or torn ligaments, especially around the arm, chest and back. These injuries can cause pain, tightness and difficulty moving the shoulder.

SOME TREATMENTS FOR INJURIES

• **Cold compress and heat therapy:** One of the best methods for treating shoulder discomfort is to use a cold compress. The affected area can be treated with ice packs. This could reduce severe discomfort. By limiting blood flow, the cold packs can worsen the damage already done to the muscles and ligaments. When used consistently throughout the day, the cooling

impact can aid in improving the situation. Heat therapy works best when applied 72 hours after the injury, in contrast to ice therapy, which is applied within the initial few hours following the accident. Like cold therapy, it relieves pain and allows muscle relaxation.

• **Usage of Medications (NSAIDs):** NSAIDs, or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medicines, can help relieve shoulder pain and swelling and speed up the healing process. These over-the-counter pain relievers and muscle relaxants can aid in recovery by reducing inflammation and speeding up the healing process. One should seek a doctor’s advice before using them. To ensure that there are no serious adverse effects, they should only be taken under medical supervision.

• **Physical Therapy:** The primary mode of care for shoulder injuries is physical therapy. Strengthening muscles, increasing flexibility, and restoring range of motion are all helped by a structured exercise schedule. Physical therapists modify exercises based on the individual injury, ensuring a gradual and controlled

rehabilitation process for the shoulder. For conditions where muscle weakness and stiffness are major problems, such as tendinitis and frozen shoulders, this treatment can be extremely helpful. Significant improvements in shoulder function can be achieved with the constant use of recommended exercises and regular therapy sessions.

• **Exercises for strengthening and extending:** Exercises for strengthening and stretching the shoulders can be useful in treating shoulder pain. Pain can be relieved by reducing joint pressure and inflammation by strengthening and stretching the muscles, tendons, and ligaments that surround the shoulder joint.

• **Surgical Interventions:** Surgery could be the solution necessary for more serious shoulder problems that fail to improve with conservative measures. Techniques like arthroscopic surgery enable minimally invasive repair of injured cartilage, tendons and ligaments. Chronic conditions such as arthritis might require consideration of shoulder replacement procedures. A thorough rehab-

ilitation programme is generally implemented after surgery to regain strength and function. Patients with complex shoulder injuries now have far better recovery periods and outcomes due to advancements in surgical treatments.

Suffering from the shoulder can be mild or severe. However, there could be instances where things get worse quickly, and there can be several underlying issues at play. As soon as the pain worsens, such as when there is a “locked feeling” in the chest and shoulder, severe back, chest, or shoulder pain, or difficulty moving the shoulder, then it is important to visit a doctor.

(The author, Dr. Vinay Kumar Gautam, is a Consultant - Orthopaedics, at Manipal Hospital.)



what's brewing?



Manisha



The much awaited Z6III was debunked by Nikon India Private Limited at the Vivanta by Taj in Begumpet.



Saijan Kumar



Bhargavi

PARTY





Connecting the Mind and Heart
BANGARA HILLS

The 29th anniversary of Meridian School Banjara Hills' founding was commemorated on Friday with an investiture ceremony. This year's theme is "Samarpan, One Thought, One Belief." Among the dignitaries present at the occasion were Neelakanta Butta, the founder and managing director and Renuka Butta, a co-founder and member of the 16th Lok Sabha.



Hyundai India Couture Week is scheduled to take place at the Taj Palace from July 24-31, 2024 and promises to be the most stunning fashion event of the year. The concluding exhibition of the festival on July 31 by Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HML) and the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), guaranteeing an amazing experience with an exclusive presentation by the renowned designer team Falguni Shane Peacock.



The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Boehringer Ingelheim India to advance solutions in the field of dementia care.

Photos by- SV Chary




The National Restaurant Association of India, has recently released its long-awaited India Food Services Report 2024 (NRAI IFSR 2024). The report was introduced on Friday in Hyderabad by Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, the Minister of Industries and IT. The Hyderabad Chapter Office Bearers, including Sampath Srinivas Tummalla, Chapter Head; Sandeep Balasubramanian, Co-Chapter Head; Kavitha Mantha, Secretary and member of the National Committee; Faisal Tayabali, Joint Secretary and Sarita Sarkar, Treasurer, also added dignity to the occasion with their presence.




After 8 city rounds, over 1300 registrations, and an intense competition, Monkey Shoulder's 'Ultimate Bartender Championship' crowned Denzil Franklin from Sixteen33 as the winner. The thrilling finale for the Ultimate Bartender Championship took place at Samskara Resort bringing 20 exceptional finalists from across India, all vying for the prestigious title. The contenders showcased their skills in challenges centered around key bartending talents like ingredients, mixing, pouring, nosing and perfecting the ultimate serve.

FUN


ARCHIE




GARFIELD




NANCY




GINGER MEGGS




CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6		7		8
9		10		11
12		13		14
15		16		17
18		19		

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

ACROSS

- Sick people in hospital
- A feeling that makes you scratch
- Ran after trying to catch
- One of your five senses
- Pimples on the face
- Requires
- Opposite of winner
- Attend classes here
- Young child
- Studied closely
- Wash your hair with this
- Frozen water
- Smashed to pieces
- This turns into a frog
- The country of the Spanish
- A biting insect
- A popular pet

DOWN

- See these at an art gallery
- Small nails for carpets
- Pleasant

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION


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

Rules

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

SOLUTION

N	O	A	R	C
A	T	T	R	A
C	O	E	M	N
H	A	P	P	E
Y	I	A	S	O
C	A	T	E	R
O	F	E	O	I
L	I	N	E	S
A	D	E	A	S
T	R	A	V	E
L	I	N	G	



Shiva Rajkumar joins Ram Charan's next

The global success of *RRR* has elevated Global Star Ram Charan to international fame. For his 16th film, Ram Charan is teaming up with the sensational director Buchi Babu Sana, who made a significant impact with his debut film, *Uppena*. This highly anticipated project, *#RC16*, is proudly presented by the Pan India production powerhouse Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings. Venkata Satish Kilaru is making his grand entry into film production with this large-scale venture, which promises to deliver a high-budget, high-quality cinematic experience under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas.

Exciting news for fans: Kannada superstar Karunada Chakravarthi Shiva Rajkumar is joining the cast in a powerful role. The announcement was made today on Shiva Rajkumar's birthday, adding to the celebratory mood. Fans of both actors are eagerly anticipating seeing these two superstars together on screen.

The film will feature a musical score by Academy Award-winning composer AR Rahman, with Janhvi Kapoor cast as the leading lady opposite Ram Charan. The cinematography will be handled by R Rathnavelu and Avinash Kolla will serve as the production designer.



INDIA FILES UNVEILS CULTURAL MILESTONE

In a vibrant showcase of cinema and cultural pride, Dr. Bommakuru Murali's *India Files* held its much-anticipated audio launch at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad. Under the banner of Bommakuru Creations and the presentation of Bommukuru Himamala, this film marks a significant milestone as the first to delve into the theme of cultural DNA in Indian cinema.

The event saw prominent figures from various spheres come together to celebrate this groundbreaking project. Telangana State Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, Minister Reddy reflected on his past engagements with the film industry, noting how he had been unable to attend many events due to time constraints. However, he expressed his enthusiasm for *India Files* and praised its relevance and ambition. He also lauded the film's lead actor, Addanki Dayakar, for

his depth of understanding on social issues, while acknowledging the contributions of other notable personalities like Gaddar and lyricists Chandra Bose and Suchitra Chandra Bose.

Music director MM Keeravani also made a significant appearance at the event, where he spoke about the musical elements of the film. Keeravani, renowned for his work on films like *Baahubali*, expressed his excitement about composing the soundtrack for *India Files*, highlighting the quality and depth of the music that he believes will elevate the film.

Dr. Addanki Dayakar, who plays the protagonist, shared his gratitude towards Dr. Murali for offering him the lead role. He emphasised the film's pan-India aspirations and its aim to spread the concept of cultural DNA to a global audience. Dayakar also praised the collaborative efforts on set, particularly the synergy with fellow actors Suman and Ravi Prakash.

Global acclaim for Gopal Bodepalli's film *Hunger*

In the world of filmmaking, some create for financial gain, others seek accolades, while a select few craft their art driven by pure passion. It's often those fueled by genuine love for the craft who achieve both critical acclaim and recognition. Gopal Bodepalli, a software engineer based in New York, is a shining example of this passion-driven success.

Gopal Bodepalli, who both produced and directed the film *Hunger*, is receiving international acclaim for his dedication to filmmaking. The film has garnered significant



recognition, including an Honourable Mention Award at the International New York Film Festival. Additionally, *Hunger* has won awards at prestigious film festivals in Paris, London, and ten other global locations.

Previously, Gopal's short film *Maranam* also achieved notable success, winning awards at 34 international film festivals. Both *Hunger* and *Maranam* have been nominated for official selection at the Dada Saheb Film Festivals, further underscoring Gopal's remarkable contribution to cinema.



SARDAR 2 SHOOT TO BEGIN FROM JULY 15

Following the massive success of *Sardar* in Tamil and Telugu, the makers have officially announced the sequel, *Sardar 2*. The auspicious pooja ceremony for the film was recently held, and regular shooting is set to commence on July 15th, 2024, with grand sets in Chennai. Directed by PS Mithran, who helmed the prequel, and produced by Prince Pictures, *Sardar 2* promises to build on the success of its predecessor.

As revealed towards the end of *Sardar*, the new mission will unfold in Cambodia. The sequel will be produced on a larger scale with a substantial budget, featuring top-notch technical expertise across various departments.

The music for *Sardar 2* will be composed by Yuvan Shankar Raja, with George C Williams handling the cinematography. Dilip Subbarayan will serve as the stunt director, Rajeevan Nambiar as the production designer and Vijay Velukutty as the editor. AP Paal Pandi will act as the production executive, A Venkatesh as the co-producer, and S. Lakshman Kumar as the producer.

Chaitanya Rao's *Dear Nanna* wins Remy Award at Houston International Film Festival

Since its premiere on the OTT platform Aha, *Dear Nanna*, featuring Chaitanya Rao and Yashna Chaudhary in pivotal roles, has garnered acclaim from both audiences and critics. Directed by Anji Saladi and produced by Rakesh Mahankali under the Black Pepper Cinemas banner, the film also boasts a script written by Mahankali.

Launched on Father's Day as a tribute to unsung heroes, *Dear Nanna* has not only enjoyed a strong reception on Aha but has now achieved a prestigious milestone. The film has won the 2024 Remy Award at the Houston International Film Festival, marking a significant achievement in its journey.

Since its release on June 14, *Dear Nanna* has resonated deeply with viewers through its poignant Father-Son narrative set against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaitanya Rao's performance as an aspiring chef has been particularly well-received, showcasing his ability to capture the emotional depth of his character.

Under Anji Saladi's direction, the film intricately explores the life and struggles of its characters, focusing on the critical role of medical shops and the unsung sacrifices of the Pharmacy professionals during the pandemic. The screenplay, also crafted by Rakesh Mahankali, brings to light the profound impact of these unsung heroes, highlighting their vital role as Corona Warriors.

With its compelling storyline, engaging screenplay, and standout performances, *Dear Nanna* has not only won the 2024 Remy Award but continues to captivate audiences on the Telugu OTT platform Aha.

Santosh Soban's next film is *Couple Friendly*

UV Creations, a prominent name in Tollywood known for high-budget projects and unique storylines, is currently working on the highly anticipated film *Vishwambhara* with megastar Chiranjeevi. The production house has now unveiled their next venture, starring the talented Santosh Soban.

Santosh Soban, recognised for his versatile performances in content-rich films, is set to collaborate with debutant director Ashwin Chandrasekhar for this new project. The film will feature Miss India Manasa Varanasi as the leading lady.

The announcement was made on Friday on Santosh Soban's birthday, with the title of the film revealed as *Couple Friendly*. The first look suggests a charming romantic comedy, with the film scheduled for release on Valentine's Day, 2025. The title poster adds a touch of intrigue with its simple yet striking design, showcasing bikes with Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu number plates. In addition to the title reveal, a fresh and rugged look of Santosh Soban was unveiled. *Couple Friendly*, produced by UV Concepts and presented by UV Creations, promises to be an engaging entertainer. The film will feature cinematography by Dinesh Purushothaman and music by Aditya Ravindran. The release date is set for February 14, 2025, with more details to be announced soon.

Indian 3 set for January 2025 release!

The long-awaited sequel *Indian 2*, directed by S Shankar and starring Kamal Haasan, premiered on July 12, 2024, to much anticipation. Now, fans of the blockbuster franchise have even more reason to celebrate as the release date for the next installment, *Indian 3*, has been officially announced.

Indian 3 will hit theatres worldwide in January 2025. During the promotional campaign for *Indian 2*, the filmmakers confirmed that a third part was in the works. In one of his latest interviews, Director S Shankar revealed that, if all goes according to plan, *Indian 3* will be released within six months of the sequel.

Excitingly, viewers who stay through the credits of *Indian 2* will be treated to a special preview of *Indian 3*. This exclusive teaser, lasting 2 minutes and 30 seconds, aims to build anticipation for the next chapter of the saga.

As for *Indian 2*, early reviews on Twitter (now X) present a mixed bag. While many fans have praised the film and Kamal Haasan's performance, some have expressed disappointment. Reactions vary from blockbuster acclaim to criticisms labeling the film a letdown.

The sequel, produced by Lyca Productions, continues the story of Senapathy, Kamal Haasan's iconic vigilante character. The film also stars Rakul Preet Singh, Siddharth, and Kajal Aggarwal in key roles. Following the dramatic conclusion of the first installment, which saw Senapathy promising to return if his country needed him, the saga will indeed continue with *Indian 3*, as confirmed by the production team.

SHIVAM BHAJE WORLDWIDE GRAND RELEASE ON AUG 1

Aiming to bag the expectations on Ait, Producer Maheswara Reddy Mooli announced on Friday that Shivam Bhaje, this new-age intriguing divine suspense thriller will release worldwide on August 1.

Ashwin Babu and Digangana Suryavanshi are playing leads in this film, directed by Apsar.

Bollywood actor Arbaaz Khan, Hyper Aadi, Sai Dheena, Tanikella Bharani, Murali Sharma, Brahmaji, Tulasi and other senior actors played crucial roles.

While the producer, director and the team are extremely confident on the output, post-production works are closing in on the final step.

Speaking on the occasion, director Apsar said, "With immense support from our producer Maheswara Reddy garu, hero Ashwin Babu, technicians and actors, we've achieved what we visioned. The response to our teaser made us understand the excitement in everyone and so our producer announced its grand release on August 1. Looking forward to a thrilling response from audiences in theaters."

Meanwhile, hero Ashwin Babu says, "We're confident that our *Shivam Bhaje* will thrill everyone beyond bounds of age and region."

RRR, Sita Ramam steal the show at 68th Filmfare Awards

BELOW ARE THE AWARDS TELUGU CINEMA BAGGED



Filmfare has unveiled the winners of the 68th Filmfare Awards South, honouring the best in South Indian cinema for the year 2022. After a hiatus last year due to unforeseen circumstances, the prestigious awards have returned to celebrate the exceptional talent and significant contributions across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada film industries.

In Telugu cinema, *RRR* emerged as a standout, clinching the Best Film Telugu Award. The film's leading stars, N.T.R. Jr. and Ram Charan, were recognised as the Best Actors in a Leading Role (Male) for their powerhouse performances. Mrunal Thakur was awarded Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for her acclaimed role in *Sita Ramam*, while S. S. Rajamouli secured the Best Director Award by Popular Choice for his visionary work on *RRR*.

Tamil cinema saw a monumental achievement with *Ponniyin Selvan Part 1* being honoured as the Best Film Tamil. Renowned director Mani Ratnam received the Best Director Award by Popular Choice for his



masterful direction. Kamal Haasan was awarded Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for his powerful performance in *Vikram* and Sai Pallavi won Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for her role in *Gargi*.

In Malayalam cinema, Darshana Rajendran was recognised as the Best Actress for her compelling performance in *Jaya Jaya Jaya Hey*. Kunchacko Boban won Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for *Nna Thaan Case Kodu*, which also took home the Best Film Award in the Malayalam category. The Best Director Malayalam Award went to Ratheesh Balakrishnan Poduval for his work on *Nna Thaan Case Kodu*.

Kannada cinema saw Kiranraj K awarded Best Director for his acclaimed film *777 Charlie*. *Kantara* was celebrated as the Best Film Kannada. Chaithra J Achar won Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for her role in *Taledanda*, while Rishabh Shetty was honored as Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for his blockbuster performance in *Kantara*.

Rohit Gopakumar, Director of Worldwide Media and CEO of ZENL



BCCL TV & Digital Network, congratulated all the winners, stating, "Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada cinema have profoundly influenced us with their stellar performances and creative brilliance, setting new benchmarks for Indian cinema. Filmfare remains committed to honoring this exceptional talent, and with the continued support of our audiences, we will uphold this dedication. Congratulations to all the winners for their outstanding contributions."

Jitesh Pillai, Editor-in-Chief of Filmfare, expressed his delight, saying, "We are beyond thrilled to honor the exceptional artistry, creativity, and dedication within Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada film industries. Filmfare takes immense pride in celebrating these brilliant performances, and I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the winners for their well-deserved victories."

The 68th Filmfare Awards South has indeed highlighted the remarkable achievements in regional cinema, reaffirming the vibrant and diverse landscape of Indian filmmaking.



Best Film: *RRR*
Best Director: SS Rajamouli (*RRR*)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): Jr NTR and Ram Charan (*RRR*)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): Mrunal Thakur (*Sita Ramam*)
Best Film (Critics): *Sita Ramam* (Hanu Raghavapudi)
Best Actor (Critics): Dulquer Salmaan (*Sita Ramam*)
Best Actress (Critics): Sai Pallavi (*Virata Parvam*)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Rana Daggubati (*Bheemla Nayak*)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): Nandita Das (*Virata Parvam*)
Best Music Album: MM Keeravani (*RRR*)
Best Lyrics: Sirivennela Sitarama Sastry for *Kaanunna Kalyanam* from *Sita Ramam*
Best Playback Singer (Male): Kaala Bhairava for *Komuram Bheemudo* from *RRR*
Best Playback Singer (Female): Chinmayi Sripada for *Oh Prema* from *Sita Ramam*
Best Choreography: Prem Rakshith (*Naatu Naatu* from *RRR*)
Best Production Design: Sabu Cyril (*RRR*)

Young Indian stars look to translate dominance into series victory over Zimbabwe

PTI ■ HARARE

Back to their collective best, a clutch of young Indian stars will be eager to usher in a new era in the shortest format with a series victory when they face Zimbabwe in the fourth T20I here on Saturday.

After an unexpected defeat in the first match, the Shubman Gill-led side rediscovered its mojo in the second and third games to take a 2-1 lead with comprehensive wins.

Under the existing cricketing landscape, a series win over Zimbabwe will not rank high in the pecking order, but it will certainly spark ambitions inside some young players who are keen to take the team forward post the retirement of some modern-day greats. None provide more compelling cases of that scenario than Washington Sundar and Abhishek Sharma.

Post the retirement of Ravindra Jadeja from T20Is, Washington is eyeing the spin-all-rounder slot and the Tamil Nadu man has shown some promising signs against Zimbabwe, taking six wickets at a fine economy of 4.5.

Whenever the selectors sit together to pick the Indian squad for the upcoming white-ball tour to Sri Lanka, they now will have to consider Washington's name seriously.

The 24-year-old has given this Indian side the option of a bowler flexible enough to operate inside and outside the Power Play, and a handy lower-order batter, who if the need arises, has the technique to come up the order as well.

Abhishek bludgeoned a 47-ball hundred in the second T20I here, underscoring the hope around him as a long-term India material.

India will no longer have the services of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the ultra-abridged version, and Yashasvi Jaiswal is the frontrunner to occupy one of those top-order slots. Abhishek will hope to further buttress his claim for the other vacant top-order spot, for which there are other strong contenders in Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad, with a bruising knock against the African side here on the morrow.

But this is not to say that some of the more established names such as



Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube have nothing to gain from this series.

They linked with the squad here after taking part in India's victory parade in Mumbai post the T20 World Cup triumph, where they had limited or little role in that epochal run.

So, the remaining two matches of this series will be an opportunity for Dube and Samson to keep themselves in the front row of players who will carry India into the future, producing some valuable efforts.

Indian management will also be pleased by the outing of their bowlers, particularly that of leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, whose googlies were indecipherable for the home batters.

Bishnoi has six wickets, numbers similar to Washington and pacer Avesh Khan, who proved a nippy customer in this series.

Mukesh Kumar might come in place for left-arm pacer Avesh Khan after getting a rest in the previous match, but the pacer, though he has taken four wickets, will certainly like to be more economical.

On other hand, Zimbabwe have slipped a few rungs below after beating India in that match.

There have been lonely sparks in their line-up like searing spells by impressive pacer Blessing Muzarabani and a well-paced fifty by Dion Myers.

But they need to harness them to meaningfully challenge this Indian unit, which is currently operating at one level higher.

TEAMS:

India: Shubman Gill (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), Shivam Dube, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tushar Deshpande.

Zimbabwe: Sikandar Raza (c), Akram Faraz, Bennett Brian, Campbell Johnathan, Chatarata Tendai, Jongwe Luke, Kaia Innocent, Madande Clive, Madhevere Wessly, Marumani Tadiwanashe, Masakadza Wellington, Mavuta Brandon, Muzarabani Blessing, Myers Dion, Naqvi Antum, Ngarava Richard, Shumba Milton



India showed resilience to win T20 WC and celebrations told that story: Laxman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Batting great VVS Laxman hailed India's "resilience" while winning the recent T20 World Cup "from the jaws of defeat", and said the passionate celebration by players and former head coach Rahul Dravid exemplified the value of that triumph to them.

India won their first ICC trophy after 11 years and their second T20 title after 17 years when they beat South Africa by seven runs in the final in Barbados on June 29.

"The kind of finish we had after we were under pressure with South Africa batters needing 30 runs off 30 balls. And from there to show character, resilience and self-belief to pull off the match from the jaws of defeat, it shows the character of the entire team," Laxman said in a video posted by the BCCI on its 'X' handle.

"The amount of hard work they put in, the celebrations (by the players and support staff) told the bigger story behind this victory."

The 49-year-old Laxman, who is currently heading the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, said the fervent celebrations by the team showed how much the victory meant to each of the players and the support staff.

"Obviously, it is a special feeling winning the World

Cup. When you are playing against the best and win the trophy, it means a lot to all the players participating in the tournament.

"Everyone showed their emotions and it showed how much it meant to each and every player in the squad, as well as the support staff, the emotions were really high. You saw Hardik Pandya breaking down once he bowled the last delivery. You saw Rohit Sharma on the ground.

"The entire country is rejoicing this win. It was a special feeling keeping in mind we had come close (to winning the title) six months back (ODI World Cup). We should have won the 50-over World Cup, dominating the entire tournament but not being able to cross the final hurdle," he said.

Laxman made a special mention of the expressive celebration of Dravid, who generally abhors public show of emotions.

"Someone like Rahul with whom I have played so much cricket, knew him for so many years, but for him to show that emotions, first when the last ball was bowled and then the various conversations he was having with the team members and when he lifted the trophy.

"I thought it was a great gesture by Rohit and Virat Kohli to hand over the trophy to him (Dravid) and the way he

We are very greedy to win every game: Harmanpreet ahead of women's Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's team is entering every match with an unquenchable thirst for victory and there will be no deviation from that set path during the highly-anticipated Asia Cup match against Pakistan later this month, reckoned captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

The Indian women are high on confidence after beating South Africa in a three-match ODI series and in the one-off Test while drawing the T20I series 1-1 recently at home.

"The kind of approach we have right now, every day whenever we are going to play the matches, we are giving equal importance to all matches," Kaur told Star Sports.

"We all are very greedy to win every game, and that is something we feel should be in a team, and this is what everyone in the team is feeling," she added.

India's next assignment is the Women's Asia Cup, set to begin on July 19 in Sri Lanka, with Kaur and Co. Opening



their campaign against familiar foes Pakistan at Dambulla.

Kaur said it is her responsibility as a leader to calm her team's nerves during such pressure games.

"When you play against Pakistan, there is a different atmosphere in both the countries. Both the countries want their team to win.

"As a player, there is a lot of pressure for us. But as a leader, it is my responsibility

to make my team feel light in that environment, so that they don't think that we are playing against Pakistan or it's a pressure game," she said.

India-Pakistan rivalry is one of the most sought after be it in men's or women's game. But for Kaur, it is imperative for her side to forget the outside noise and treat the match as any other game.

"It will be important for me to make

everyone feel that this is also just another game. We have to do well for the team and make the team win.

"Other than thinking about what is going on in the stadium, who are the other people cheering for? Who are they talking about? Just focus on the main things. Don't think about the things that we can't control," she added.

Middle-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the team is enthusiastic about its chances at the Women's Asia Cup.

"The enthusiasm is really high, and that's always been the scene. It's a nice feeling, but more than that, it's very inspiring to know that every time we walk out on the field, we know we have the support of every single person backing us.

"It's just about how well we prepare rather than thinking too much ahead of ourselves. About the results, it's always about preparation.

"We know if we prepare well, we are going to go out there and do well," she added.

Sable says he can win medal in Paris Olympics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable does not want to be just a participant at the Olympics and believes he can win a medal at the Paris Games beginning later this month.

The 29-year-old Sable, who recently broke his own national record, will be competing in his second Olympics. He had failed to make it to the finals at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"I don't want to just participate, I believe I can win a medal. I am working hard with my eyes set on that goal, if everything falls into place I win a medal," Sable said when asked about the Paris Olympics.

"I used to think Olympic medallists had a unique and difficult approach to training, but my experiences over the past two years have boosted my confidence," he said in a



JioCinema release.

Sable had clocked 8 minutes and 9.91 seconds to break his earlier national record while finishing sixth at the Paris Diamond League earlier this month. At the Paris Olympics, he will face at least seven competitors who have run at better time than him this year.

The likes of legendary Indian athletes like Milkha Singh, Sriram Singh and PT Usha have inspired Sable to aim for an Olympic medal.

"Their performances at the world level have deeply inspired me. If my role models

can excel globally, so can I. I've been taught to focus on my own progress rather than others. My competition is with my timing," he said.

"My goal has always been self-improvement rather than focusing on the competition. This mindset has allowed me to break the national record ten times," said the reigning Asian Games gold medallist.

He said his silver medal winning performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games gave him the confidence that he can compete against the best in the world.

"My aim at the Commonwealth Games was to compete against the Kenyan athletes. Finishing second by a fraction of a second gave me the confidence that we can compete against the best in the world," said Sable, who had broken Kenyan medal monopoly in 3000m steeplechase in the CWG.



704 wickets and out: England great Jimmy Anderson bows out of test cricket in win over West Indies

AP ■ LONDON

It's 704 wickets and out for Jimmy Anderson.

The most prolific fast bowler in test history bowed out of international cricket by helping England complete a win by an innings and 114 runs over the West Indies at Lord's on Friday.

The 41-year-old Anderson's 188th and last test ended with him taking 3-32 in the West Indies' second innings as they were dismissed for 136 a little over an hour into the third day's play.

One of those wickets came on Friday, with Anderson enticing an edge behind off Joshua Da Silva with a delivery that seemed away. It was classic Anderson - unlike the caught-and-bowled chance he dropped off Gudakesh Motie with England needing just one more wicket for victory.

He fell to his knees and covered his face with his hand.

Soon, he was walking off the

field at the home of cricket to a standing ovation after Gus Atkinson took the final wicket.

The morning had started with Anderson, who doesn't like being the center of attention, looking emotional after being given a guard of honor from both teams - and a first standing ovation from the crowd - when he came out at the start of the day's play.

Atkinson, who represents the future of English pace bowling, took two of the wickets after the Windies resumed on 79-6 - still 171 runs adrift of making England batting again - and had match figures of 12-106.

He became the first England bowler to get a 10-wicket haul in a test at home since Alec Bedser in 1946.

Anderson finished his test career four wickets behind the late Australia legspinner Shane Warne's tally of 708 wickets. Only one bowler has more than them: former Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan with 800.

Indian hockey defender Jarmanpreet, who once served doping ban, geared up for Olympics debut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Frustrating doping ban jolted Jarmanpreet Singh's career in 2016, but he has long forgotten that bitter episode and the defender is all geared up for his Olympics debut in Paris later this month.

Jarmanpreet, a regular member of the Indian hockey team in the last few years, was picked in the 16-member Indian team for the Paris Games.

"It was not easy. It was one of my darkest phases, with many uncertainties," said Jarmanpreet on the doping ban from 2016 to 2018.

"Players don't usually emerge from a setback like this. To sit out of matches for two years is a big gap in the sport," he recalled.

Jarmanpreet was then a promising player on his way



to playing for India at the Junior World Cup 2016 when he was slapped with the doping ban.

The Punjab player did not

give up and served out the two-year period in exile before making a return to competitive hockey and then to the Indian senior team.

"But I was persistent and I knew I had to bounce back. I don't think I could have done this without a strong domestic structure where I

could show the selectors that I still had it in me," said Jarmanpreet, who is now an Income Tax officer, in a Hockey India release.

"In 2018, after the Hockey India Senior Men National Championship, I was among the 50 probables in the camp. Hockey India gave me a chance to rebuild my career. I was selected for the national programme for senior men where I was given an opportunity to catch up with my peers and make my senior India debut.

"They saw that potential in me and I didn't give up on my dream to play for India at the Olympic Games," he noted.

The 27-year-old has played in 98 international matches since making his India debut at the 2018 Champions Trophy in

Breda, the Netherlands, where India won the silver medal.

He was a part of the Indian team that won a gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023 and silver-winning squad at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Now in Switzerland where the Indian team is going through a mental conditioning camp, Jarmanpreet is excited and eager to experience his first outing in the Olympics.

"The journey so far with this team has been incredible. We have gone through the highs and lows as one strong unit. Now, we are focused on our goal and we are in the last block of our preparations.

"I am super excited and eager to start our campaign at the Paris Olympics," he said.