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‘Kishan & Sanjay should bring back cancelled ITIR’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that the Narendra Modi government cancelled the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) which was sanctioned by the Congress-led UPA Government, TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said the BJP's Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar should take responsibility for bringing back the ITIR project.

He demanded that Kishan Reddy and Sanjay should make the Centre sanction the cancelled ITIR again to Telangana immediately.

“Sanjay should have said that he would bring back the ITIR when he came to Hyderabad. But he said that he will make the Charminar Bhagyalaxmi Ammavaru Temple a golden temple. Provide food to the hungry instead of inciting sentiments. We will keep reminding Central Ministers about ITIR till they bring it back. We will announce an action plan if they fail to bring it back,” Jagga Reddy said.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Friday, Jagga said the Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Sanjay should focus on creating jobs



instead of inciting the public.

He said the UPA government had sanctioned ITIR to provide jobs to Telangana youth but the BJP government canceled it. Without any discussion the BJP-led NDA government cancelled ITIR, Jagga said.

He said that youth were getting attracted to provocative speeches rather than concentrating on jobs. The BJP leaders, who will not light lamps in temples, run politics around temples, he pointed out.

He said the state lost 15 lakh jobs due to the cancellation of the ITIR.

Jagga said that admitting others into the party is not in his power. The CM who is also the TPCC President is looking after that, he added.

He said that he will not exceed his limits as he had given his word regarding that to AICC leader Rahul Gandhi 14 months ago.

2 Mahila Shakti canteens opened in Secretariat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Women and Child Welfare Minister Seethakka on Friday, along with Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, inaugurated two Mahila Shakti canteens on the Ground Floor and 3rd Floor of the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat as part of the Mahila Shakti programme.

Minister Seethakka and Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari expressed hopes for the Mahila Shakti canteens to grow into a recognisable brand and set a national example.

CM hits back at KTR over Singareni coal block auctions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy hit back at KTR on the issue of coal block auctions affecting SCCL.

Responding to KTR's tweet questioning the government's stance, Revanth vehemently opposed any privatisation attempts arguing they would be 'detrimental' to the state.

KTR's tweet that sparked the debate said: "Revanth Garu, as the TPCC president and MP, in 2021, you had asked the Centre to stop the auction of coal blocks and transfer the four coal blocks to SCCL. Now, as Chief Minister, to the absolute dismay of the people of Telangana, you have sent your Deputy CM to participate in the auctions that you and the Congress had opposed vociferously earlier. Can you explain the reasons for this change of heart and compulsions (if any) that led to this? Do you not agree that the auctioning of Telangana's coal blocks will pave the way for the eventual privatisation of SCCL under

the guise of disinvestment? Why is your government not questioning the Centre on the direct allocations of mines (exempting from auctioning) to PSUs in Gujarat and Orissa by the NDA admin? Why is a Telangana PSU not being given the same treatment?"

"KTR garu," Revanth Reddy's response began, "Since you have not cared to hear anything the people of Telangana spoke for 10 years, it is unlikely that you will care to listen to facts now. But the hope in our hearts tries nevertheless."

He went on to accuse KTR and the BRS of turning a blind eye when previous administrations, both at the Centre and in the state under KCR, auc-

tioned off coal blocks from Singareni to private companies. "The first and second tranches of selling off the coal blocks of Singareni to Aurobindo and Avantika were done by the Centre and KCR when he was the CM. You or your party never spoke against it. Compulsions?!" the CM said.

The CM highlighted the efforts of Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in protesting against further privatisation and demanding the return of previously sold coal blocks.

Asserting the Congress's commitment to safeguarding Telangana's interests, Revanth challenged KTR's accusation, by stating, "The irony is that the guy who sold off Singareni and ORR Ring Road collection rights is speaking now."

KTR's initial tweet had criticised Revanth for what he perceived as a reversal in stance, accusing the Chief Minister of sending his Deputy CM to promote coal block auctions that the Congress had earlier strongly opposed.

Swiss court sentences 4 members of Hinduja family to jail term

PNS ■ GENEVA

A Swiss criminal court on Friday sentenced four members of the wealthy Hinduja family with between four and 4 1/2 years in prison for exploiting their vulnerable domestic workers. The court at the same time threw out the more severe charges of human trafficking. The four — Indian-born tycoon Prakash Hinduja and his wife, son and daughter-in-law — were accused of trafficking of their servants,

mostly illiterate Indians, who were employed at their luxurious lakeside villa in Geneva.

The four were not in court in Geneva though a fifth defendant — Najib Ziati, the family's business manager — was in attendance. He received an 18 months suspended sentence. The lawyers representing the defendants said they would appeal.

The court said the four were guilty of exploiting workers and providing unauthorised employment.

UPA introduced Minerals Act, BRS didn't support it: Vinod

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former MP B. Vinod Kumar accused Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka of making serious allegations against the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2015, in Parliament. He strongly criticised these allegations by saying, "Bhatti must clarify his statements regarding the Act."

"This Act was first intro-

duced in 2011 during the admin headed by Dr Manmohan Singh. The BJP government implemented the recommendations of the UPA Standing Committee in the form of an ordinance," he said. "BRS MPs supported this Act without any financial interest," he emphasised.

"Bhatti should speak responsibly. Earlier, Revanth Reddy claimed he would meet Modi regarding SCCLs demand. Isn't it true," he

added.

"BRS MPs did not support the Bill. It was the Congress which introduced the Bill. As per Section 17, the Centre can reserve minority shareholding rights to SCCL," he said. "Singareni has excess coal. They should use it for Telangana's development. Did the BJP win 19 MPs to defeat Singareni? The mineral Bill was passed with a voice vote amidst our protest," he said.

Carpooling...

Continued from page 1

This system aims to improve efficiency and enhance connectivity across different regions, offering a more organised and convenient transport option for the workforce.

Lastly, the need for regular crisis management drills was emphasised to ensure preparedness and an effective response during emergencies.

‘Osmania Hospital...

Continued from page 1

These initiatives are part of the Rs 5.90 crore earmarked for the hospital's modernisation reflecting the government's commitment to revitalising healthcare infrastructure in Hyderabad.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha emphasised the hospital's historic significance and its role in delivering quality healthcare services to the people of Hyderabad. He pledged government support for all future projects on the hospital's premises.

"Osmania General Hospital holds a cherished place in Hyderabad's healthcare landscape," Minister Rajanarsimha said, highlighting its longstanding commitment to providing essential medical care. He reiterated the government's dedication to strengthening

ening Telangana's primary and secondary healthcare services.

"The Osmania General Hospital is a landmark in Hyderabad's medical history and it needs a check-up. The BRS government focussed on the construction TIMS Hospital and not the Osmania General Hospital. We will discuss with the CM the setting up a foundation for renovating the Osmania General Hospital.

Despite challenges the medical staff, nursing, and administration at OGH are providing commendable service," the Minister said.

"We are reconstructing the GNM Nursing College Hostel building in Osmania Hospital built in 1951. We are revising all rates of the Arogyashree Health Care Trust. We will fill gaps in health schemes.

‘Punish those behind NEET misdeeds’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following a call given by the AICC, the NSUI, the Youth Congress and Congress workers organised a huge rally from the Gandhi Bhavan to the Babu Jagjivan Ram statue on Friday demanding that the Centre take steps to punish people who are responsible for the NEET irregularities.



TPCC Working Presidents B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, T. Jagga Reddy, Anjan Kumar Yadav, AICC Secretary SA Sampath Kumar, MLA Danam Nagender, MLC Balmoori Venkat, Youth Congress Telangana President Shivsena Reddy and others participated in the rally.

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy launched

the rally at the Gandhi Bhavan.

Speaking to the media after the rally, NSUI state President MLC Venkat Balmoori demanded that the Centre should probe the irregularities that took place in NEET by a sitting judge. He also demanded that the Centre should do justice to the 24 lakh students who appeared for NEET across the country.

He said that there were

doubts about the National Testing Agency (NTA) and that there is a need for the Centre to clear them. He demanded that the Centre should cancel the NEET exam and conduct it again.

He said that Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar should answer about the irregularities that took place in NEET.

Youth Congress state President Shivsena Reddy said that lakhs of students suffered injustice in NEET. "Why are BJP leaders not speaking when irregularities took place in the BJP-led Central Government. Who was behind these irregularities?" he asked and made it clear that the BJP government will fall if they identify the persons responsible for NEET irregularities.

Supreme Court refuses...

Continued from page 1

The protests came a day after Pradhan ruled out any immediate action towards cancelling the NEET, saying the government cannot jeopardise careers of lakhs of students who cleared the exam rightfully because of isolated incidents of malpractices. According to NTA officials, the re-exam for 1,563 candidates scheduled on Sunday would be conducted at seven centres. "While all other examination centres have changed, one centre in Chandigarh, where only two candidates will appear, will remain the same. Besides, officials from the agency and Union education ministry will also be present at these centres. The step has been taken to ensure smooth conduct of the

re-exam," a senior NTA official added. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati demanded strict action against the main accused in the NEET-UG question paper leak.

In a post on X in Hindi, Mayawati said, "The government needs to take strict action against the main accused in the NEET (question) paper leak case due to which innocent students are suffering.

And it is not right to do any politics under its guise."

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said a request will be made to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to recommend a CBI probe into the suspected links of the arrested prime suspect in the NEET 'paper leak' with officials associated with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

BRS MLA Pocharam...

Continued from page 1

We consider agriculture as a festival and not a waste. We will move forward taking the support of all who want a farmers' welfare raj," the CM said.

Pocharam said that he has been observing demonstrations that took place after the formation of the Congress government in the state. He said that he had invited the CM to his residence wholeheartedly. The Congress government's poli-

cies regarding farmers' welfare and irrigation projects are acceptable, he said.

"I am a farmer's son and I joined the Congress to support the programmes of the Congress government. Revanth is moving forward overcoming problems. I expect nothing except the welfare of farmers. I was Agriculture Minister. I will work for the state's future with the cooperation of everyone. My political career started with the Congress. Later, I joined the TDP and the BRS.

Now, I have returned to the Congress to support the programmes launched by Revanth. He has the experience to lead the state for 20 years. I have become old and there is a need to encourage a working leader," Pocharam said.

BRS leaders protest at Pocharam's residence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Balka Suman and several other leaders of the BRS were arrested after a protest at the residence of former Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy in Banjara Hills.

The Banjara Hills Police filed a case against them under Sections 353 and 448 and Section 34 of IPC. The charges are obstructing the police, trespassing and group attack.

After being taken to Osmania General Hospital for



medical examination, the leaders would be presented in court.

The Nampally Court gave bail to 11 BRS leaders.

Meanwhile, former MLA Bajireddy Govardhan held a

press conference at the Telangana Bhavan and expressed surprise at the reasons stated by Pocharam Srinivas Reddy for leaving the BRS.

"Pocharam saying that Revanth is focusing on agriculture for joining the Congress is a betrayal. KCR called him Lakshmi Putrudu, while Revanth called the Pocharam family 'Dandupalyam batch' during the Bansuwada campaign," he said.

Kejriwal to...

Continued from page 1

The high court said it was reserving the order for 2-3 days as it wanted to go through the entire records.

It also issued notice to Kejriwal seeking his response on ED's plea challenging the trial court's June 20 order by which he was granted bail.

It listed the plea for hearing on July 10. The ED's lawyer mentioned for an urgent listing its petition challenging the trial court's bail order which was passed late Thursday evening.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, representing the ED, contended that the trial court's order was "perverse", "one-sided" and "wrong-sided" and that the findings were based on irrelevant facts.

The relevant facts, he claimed, were not considered by the special judge.

"Material facts were not considered by the trial court. There cannot be a better case for cancellation of bail than this one. There cannot be greater perversity than this," he argued.

Reserve coal...

Continued from page 1

In the next five years, eight underground mines and three open-cast mines would be closed. In another five years, that is, by 2032, another five underground coal mines and another six open-cast mines would also be shut. By 2037-38, another five mines would be closed, Bhatti said.

At this rate, the SCCL with 39 mines and 40,000 workers would come down to eight mines and 800 employees in the next 15 years. A situation would come when SCCL would have to shut down. As Telangana leaders we cannot imagine that, Bhatti said.

He urged Union Minister Kishan Reddy to use his good offices and talk to the Prime Minister.

"If required along with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy we can send an all-party delegation to appeal to the Prime Minister," he said. "We hope that as a son of Telangana, Kishan would do justice to SCCL," he added.

The 4,000 MW Yadadri Thermal Power plant to be inaugurated soon, another

4000 MW NTPC plant and the 800 MW power plant being constructed by SCCL would require about 24 million tonnes of coal. New coal blocks would have to be allotted to SCCL to produce this much coal, he said.

Bhatti said that after the formation of the Congress admin in the state, he had met former Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi personally and had requested him to allot new coal blocks and give permission to use Thatchirala Block-2.

The coal blocks in Sathupalli Block-3 and Koyagudem Block-3 allotted to private companies through auction did not start work. Thus as per law those allotments should be cancelled and they must be allotted to SCCL. Then SCCL would immediately start excavation there, Bhatti said. The SCCL with its 135-year history is the first public sector coal mining company in the country but because of the coal block auction policy, it is facing a critical situation now. At such a time Kishan assuming charge as the Union Coal Minister gave hope for SCCL.

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CREATES A HEALTHY HUMAN RACE

Guv: Yoga transcends religious boundaries

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor CP Radhakrishnan stated that yoga transcends religious boundaries and significantly contributes to the creation of a healthy human race during the tenth International Day of Yoga (IDY) organised by Heartfulness at Kanha Shanti Vanam on Friday.

Over 2,000 yoga enthusiasts and practitioners turned up at Kanha Shanti Vanam - the headquarters of Heartfulness on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The Governor was the chief guest.

The programme commenced with an invigorating yoga asana session led by the Heartfulness yoga team in the main meditation hall. The session strictly adhered to the International Day of Yoga



asana practice ensuring that participants drew the physical and mental benefits to the most. This was followed by a 30-minutes Heartfulness meditation session delving into deeper states of meditation and fostering inner peace. The Governor said, 'Yoga is

an art and science of healthy living, spiritual discipline based on the suitable science that fosters harmony and coordination between mind, body and soul. It embodies our ancient culture of consciousness and a balanced state of mind propounded by

Patanjali. Today, where division seems to overshadow the basic humanity, knowledge of yoga is a unifying force globally. Yoga helps us alleviate stress and offers remedies to contemporary health issues. I urge the youth to practice yoga every day to make it a discipline. It creates a positive mindset within us and is scientifically validated to overcome psychological conditions and bring holistic wellness. We should unite within in ourselves through yoga to unite with the external world. Let us promote health and well-being in society.'

The Governor planted a sapling at Kanha Shanti Vanam symbolising growth, sustainability and the deep connection between nature and holistic health practices.

ADCP leads session



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Yoga a transformative practice, represents the harmony of mind and body, the balance between thought and action, and the unity of restraint and fulfillment, stated ADCP Shameer during 10th International Yoga Day organised by Cyberabad Police at the Cyberabad police parade grounds on Friday. The event was aimed to promote health, well-being and stress management among the force.

The celebrations commenced at 6:30 am with a special yoga session, which included a variety of yoga

postures, breathing exercises and meditation techniques.

The ADCP emphasized the importance of yoga in maintaining physical and mental health and encouraged everyone to incorporate yoga into their daily routine to improve their overall well-being and performance.

Yoga Instructor Nikhil Sharma said, 'Yoga is not just an exercise; it is a way to find balance in our lives. It helps in reducing stress, improving concentration and enhancing our ability to handle the pressures of work and personal life.'

Railway staff take pledge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

South Central Railway observed the 10th International Day of Yoga at Indoor Stadium, Railway Sports Complex, Secunderabad on Friday. Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR, was the chief guest on the occasion. This year the theme is 'Yoga for Self and Society' and the focus is on enhancing personal well-being and improving society at large.

Arun Kumar Jain stated that yoga is a gift of the nation to the world. It synchronises the power of body and mind thereby rejuvenating physical and mental well-being. Yoga should not be just a one day activity but

a daily practice. He advised the staff to continue practising Yoga regularly to improve health and attain inner peace.

Murari Mohan, renowned yoga teacher and State Coordinator for Art of Living Society, Hyderabad, conducted the session with asanas, pranayama, meditation and sankalpam. A pledge was also administered to the participants for practicing yoga in daily life. He called upon the gathering to practice yoga every day to lead a stress-free life.

R Dhananjayulu, Additional General Manager, P Kishore Babu, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, Principal Heads of Departments, officials and staff also took part in the programme.



TSPSC: OMR sheets can be downloaded from June 24

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Public Service Commission on Friday announced that candidates can check and download their personalised scanned OMR Answer sheets in their individual logins from June 24, 5 pm. Candidates are advised to access their scanned copy of the OMR answer sheet through the link provided on Commission's Website www.tspsc.gov.in.

The Commission conducted Group-I preliminary test on June 9 in 897 centres across 31 districts of Telangana. It has introduced a series of measures to bring transparency in the conduct of Group-I preliminary examination. A total number of 403667 online applications were received from candidates and hall tickets were generated for 403645 candidates.

AIG's Dr Sundeep bags International Services Award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Sundeep Lakhtakia, Director (Endoscopy), Division of Gastroenterology at AIG Hospitals, has been honoured with the prestigious International Services Award by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). This award is in recognition of Dr Lakhtakia's significant contributions to gastrointestinal endoscopy, particularly in training and clinical knowledge dissemination.

Dr Lakhtakia, a global expert in Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS), has played crucial role in advancing GI endoscopy practice and education. His dedication to mentoring young endoscopists and sharing expertise has fostered a community of learning and innovation in therapeutic techniques. Expressing his gratitude, Dr



Dr Sundeep Lakhtakia receiving the International Services Award

Sundeep Lakhtakia said, 'I am deeply honoured to receive the International Services Award from ASGE. This recognition reflects the collaborative efforts of my colleagues and the support from AIG Hospitals. I remain committed to advancing GI endoscopy and training the next generation.'

Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, congratulated Dr Lakhtakia, stating, 'Dr Sundeep's recognition by ASGE is a proud moment for AIG Hospitals. His contributions to GI endoscopy are unparalleled and this award is a testament to his dedication and hard work.'

People are hopeful of positive responses in Prajavani



SAMUEL JOSHUA ■ HYDERABAD

People who attended the Prajavani hope the government will solve their problems, as they are getting positive response. Over 570 people have submitted their applications at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday.

Elderly women Vijayamma and Lakshmi from Ghatkesar submitted a grievance about their pension, which they have not been receiving since the change in government. Lakshmi said they rely on their pension for provisions and food, as their families do not supply much. Vijayamma mentioned that officials responded positively and assured them that the pension would be credited next month.

Kantha Rao, a farmer from

Mulugu, who submitted a grievance about a land issue, claimed that documents had been forged by a wealthy family, falsely stating the land belonged to them. Kantha Rao said that the wealthy family, with the help of revenue officials, manipulated the documents, removing his name from the files. He intended to sell the land for his daughter's wedding, which he is planning next year. He said the officials assured him that the mandal revenue officer and the department would investigate and provide information within a month to help him reclaim his land. He hoped that bringing the case to Prajavani will resolve it soon.

Meanwhile, DSC TTC State Association president Galta Kamalakar from Nagarkurnool district, who submitted a grievance application with 10 mem-

bers and has been visiting the Prajavani every Friday for updates, said, 'We are urging for teacher postings for those who passed the DSC exam and are TTC qualified. Despite rallies, protests, and tribunal appeals for over 10 years, our issues remain unresolved.' Kamalakar stated that over 2,000 TTC qualified members from OC and BC categories are still waiting for postings. He mentioned that State Planning Commission vice-president Dr Chinna Reddy and other officials responded positively and they are now waiting for the new administration to look into the issue to release the postings.

Meanwhile, Dr Chinna Reddy participated in the public address programme and directly responded to some applicants' problems. According to officials, they received 185 applications related to revenue issues, 64 related to housing, 50 related to consumer affairs, food and civil supplies, 43 related to Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, 42 related to the Home Department and 191 related to other departments. Special Publicity Officer and Director of the Municipal Department D Divya, along with other officials, received applications and enquired about the people's problems.

OU to conduct CPGET from July 6 to 15

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University will conduct the State Level Common Post Graduate Entrance Tests (CPGET-2024) from July 6 to 15, 2024 for admissions to PG (MA, MSc., MCom., M.Lib.J.Sc., MEd. and MPED.) courses, PG Diploma and five years integrated programmes of campus, constituent and affiliated colleges of Osmania, Kakatiya, Telangana, Palammuru, Mahatma Gandhi, Satavahana, Telangana Mahila Viswavidyalayam and Jawaharlal Technological Universities for the academic year 2024-2025.

The common entrance test for 45 subjects are scheduled to be held in three sessions per day. The hall tickets can be downloaded from the official websites: www.osmania.ac.in, <http://epget.tsche.ac.in>, www.ouadmissions.com from July 3, 2024. The exams will be conducted across Telangana through online computer-based test (CBT) mode. The candidates are advised to visit or ascertain their test centres in advance and to report one-and-a-half hours before the commencement of the examination.

World Giraffe Day celebrated in Nehru Zoological Park

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nehru Zoological Park celebrated World Giraffe Day by organising an awareness programme conducted at the giraffe enclosure by the Zoo Education Officer. He briefed the importance of the world's tallest animal and its role in nature. There are four distinct species of giraffes in the world - Northern giraffe, Southern giraffe, Reticulated giraffe and Masai giraffes. Just like human fingerprints, no two giraffes have the same coat pattern. Even newborn giraffes are taller than most humans. Giraffes have lost almost 90 per cent of their habitat in the last 300 years. Currently, the park is housing two male giraffes



namely Basanth and Sunny aged about 20 and 8 years old.

Meanwhile, the zoo park also organised the International Day of Yoga by conducting a yoga practice session for all the Zoo staff members.

Yoga mentor SV Rao and

his team practised asanas and briefed their importance. Dr Sunil S Hiremath, Director(FAC) and Curator, A Nagamani, DY. Curator, and all the staff members participated in the practicing session.

SHE Teams nab 111 hooligans in 15 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda SHE Teams organised a counselling session for eve-teasers in the presence of their family members on Friday under the auspices of Women Safety Wing at LB Nagar camp office. Team officials caught 111 hooligans (59-Majors, 52-Minors) who were harassing women and young girls in Rachakonda Commissionerate during the past 16 days.

Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Dr Tarun Joshi said that there is no way that the Rachakonda SHE Teams police will let go the hooligans who harass girls and women. SHE Teams are carrying out decoy operations in bus stands, railway stations, Metro

stations, schools, colleges, vegetable markets and public places in mufti, taking action against the hooligans who chase girls and women with evidence and present them in the court. Finally, the officials counsel them in the presence of their parents.

Rachakonda Women Safety Wing DCP T Usha Vishwanath said, 'In all, 155 complaints have been received from June 1 to 15. The investigation has been completed after taking up the inquiry on the complaints. Among the complaints received, 26 complaints are based on harassment through phones, 34 are harassment through social media apps, 95 are directly fired. In all, 54 people were counselled today.'

Junior doctors protest across State for resolution of demands

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In continuation of the black badges protests, junior doctors from across the State protested near hospitals wearing black dresses, calling for their demands to be fulfilled by the government.

The doctors set a deadline of June 24, stating that they will go on an indefinite strike if their demands are not met.

The demands the doctors are calling for is a green channel for the timely release of stipends; Proper honorarium for super-specialty senior residents; Removal of reservation of 15% seats for AP students in Telangana security improvements in various gov-



ernment hospitals along with adequate hostel facilities in various government hospitals.

A new building for Osmania General Hospital (OGH), proper infrastructure in government medical colleges along with improve-

ment of roads in Kakatiya Medical College, were also among their demands.

The doctors stated that the demands they put forward are very important to improve their working conditions and the entire healthcare system.

South India's largest industrial expo opens

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The largest B2B Industrial Machinery & Engineering Exhibition in South India, Indomach, was inaugurated in the city at Hall No.3, HITEX Exhibition Centre on Friday.

COO & Director of Koike Cutting and Welding India Ltd, T Kumagai, inaugurated the exhibition, which will continue until June 23.

The exhibition primarily showcases machine tools, automation, robotics, welding, electrical and industrial engineering products.

TG IS HOME FOR OVER 800 LIFE SCIENCES FIRMS Meet envisions roadmap for pharma and life sciences

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is home base to over 800 life sciences companies with a combined value of US\$ 50 billion contributing to over 40 per cent of India's pharmaceutical production. The State also projects \$100 billion in market valuation by 2030, stated Shilpa Reddy, Managing Director of Saptagir Group during a CEO's round-table conference on 'Policy and Advocacy, Discussion on Pharma Services' at Taj Krishna on Friday organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII),



Vikas Dandekar (session moderator and Editor of Economic Times), Jonathan Hunt, Akshil Raavi, Manni Kantipudi, Sudarshan Jain, Krishna Kanumuri and Ganesh Sambasivam (left to right)

Telangana. The objective of the session was to understand the needs and create a vision roadmap for the

Pharma and Life Sciences sector in the State.

Shilpa Reddy said, 'Pharma services is a bright spot with-

in the pharma ecosystem comprising contract research organisations (CROs) and contract development and manufacturing organisations (CDMOs), which cater to an extensive customer base of top pharmaceutical companies. This is a high growth; high potential industry provides employment to 1000's of our best and brightest scientists and researchers and contributes significantly to the export of services from Telangana.'

Manni Kantipudi, Co-Convenor, CII, Telangana Pharma and Life Sciences Panel & CEO, Aragen Life Sciences

Ltd, mentioned that pharma services sector is the future growth driver. China's Pharma manufacturing market is many times bigger than India's market. A novel drug discovery is quite challenging, and it may cost about \$2-3 billion and may take about 10 years whereas generic drugs may cost about \$40-50 million and could be developed in two years. Investments and time frames play a key role in success. Both the Central and State governments have to consider setting up a dedicated pharma services park or a cluster with simplified regulations to promote the industry.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROAD BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
•NIT No. BMS/ER&B/JG/2024-25, Dt.14.06.2024
Description of the work: Widening and Strengthening of Four lane road of Sultanabad - Ghatkesar road from Km 00-0/030 in Peddapally District. Amount of Estimate: Rs. 200.00 Lakhs. Bid Submission start Date and Time: 19.06.2024 @ 4.00 P.M., Bid Submission Closing Date and Time: 04.07.2024 @ 3.30 P.M., PQ stage: 04.07.2024 @ 4.00 P.M., Commercial Stage: 08.07.2024 @ 4.00 P.M. Further details at: www.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (R&B) Circle, Jagtial
R.O.No: 1410PCLADVT/10204-25, Dt. 21.06.2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
QUOTATION NOTICE

Quotation Notice No. EE/LB/RUL/BNZ/21/2024-25 Dated: 28-06-2024
Sealed Quotations are invited from Reputed firms, which should be received to undersigned on or before 28.06.2024 upto 3.00 P.M. and the same will be opened on same day at 4.00 P.M. For any clarification you may consult the Executive Engineer, during the office hours.

Sr.	Description of item	Qty	Unit	Amount
1	Supply and fixing of 8 passenger 544 kg capacity Lift, 3 stops, 3 openings, MS coilable gates, MS cabin power coated down collective control, Digital display with up and down Arrows and register lights. "Please close the door" complete as per directions of the Engineer-in-charge.	1	Each	

CONDITIONS: 1. The quotations should be received on or before 28.06.2024 upto 3.00 P.M. and the same will be opened at 4.00 P.M. in the Ofc.Executive Engineer, Cir-4, LB Nagar Circle-4, GHMC. 2. The Executive Engineer, LB Nagar has the reserve right to cancel the quotations without assigning any reason. Address of concerned officer: Executive Engineer, LB Nagar Circle-4, GHMC, Hyderabad.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
LB Nagar Circle-4, GHMC

BRS MLA linked to Rs 300 cr money laundering scandal: ED

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office, executed search operations at 10 locations on Thursday in and around Hyderabad as part of an ongoing investigation into a money laundering case involving M/s Santhosh Sand and Granite Supply, Patancheru. The raids were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, targeting premises associated with the firm's proprietor, Gudem Madhusudan Reddy, BRS MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy, and others.

ED's investigation was prompted by FIRs filed by the Telangana Police against M/s Santhosh Sand & Granite Supply, alleging unauthorised excavation and transportation of significant quantities of building stone and road metal. The firm stands accused of illegally excavating 11,98,743 cubic meters within its permitted quarry area and an additional 10,11,672 cubic meters on encroached government land measuring 4.37 hectares. This activity allegedly resulted in illicit proceeds amounting to approximately Rs. 300 crore, while also evading royalty payments totaling Rs. 39.08 crore owed to the government.

According to ED officials, proceeds from the illegal sales were deliberately concealed



from banking transactions and accounting records, with suspicions that transactions were conducted primarily in cash. The investigation further

uncovered evidence suggesting that the laundered proceeds were reinvested in real estate and other undisclosed activities.

During searches, ED seized unaccounted cash amounting to Rs. 19 lakh, alongside numerous property documents registered under unrelated individuals suspected to be fronts for the accused. Mobile phones containing evidence related to cash transactions were also confiscated, along with recovered bank locker keys. Authorities anticipate that examination of the bank lockers will yield additional incriminating evidence.

The ED confirmed that investigations are ongoing to uncover further details and apprehend any additional persons involved in the alleged money laundering scheme

Cong poaching BRS MLAs, says Harish

BRS MLA Harish Rao said that Congress is attempting to lure BRS MLAs into their fold. He said, "We are witnessing attempts to target BRS MLAs using intelligence and phone tapping".

In a development in the ongoing ED raids at the residence of Gudem Mahipal Reddy and his brother Madhusudan Reddy, Harish Rao said,

"The central and state governments are targeting opposition leaders, including opposition legislators".

He said, "Authorities found no illegal cash or gold in

Mahipal Reddy's residence. His IT returns are reportedly clear and without discrepancies. Despite this, questions arise: why these raids? These raids seem aimed at intimidating opposition legislators," Harish remarked, hinting at political motivations behind the actions.

"Similar instances of unjust cases have been filed by the Congress government in states like Bihar and Gujarat to coerce opposition legislators into switching parties. Why do the ED and IT conduct no raids when leaks occur in question

papers? Why not target officials responsible for conducting exams?", Harish asked

"Congress is attempting to lure BRS MLAs into their fold. We are witnessing attempts to target BRS MLAs using intelligence and phone tapping".

"Authorities have raided Mahipal Reddy and his family with full cooperation. They have provided records and papers and have not made any mistakes. No assets were found in his house. We have trust in the legal system," he said..

BRSLP will soon merge with Congress: Danam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The merger of Bharat Rashtra Samithi Legislature Party with Congress may take place soon.

Khairathabad MLA Danam Nagender hinted at this possibility. The BRS MLA Nagender, who joined the Congress, on Friday said that about 20 BRS MLAs are ready to join the Congress party immediately. He made it clear that consultations were already completed with those 20 BRS MLAs and they would join the Congress party soon.

Nagender also revealed that some BRS leaders, including former Minister T Harish Rao, are trying to join BJP.

In a chat with the scribes at Gandhi Bhavan in the context of former Speaker Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, joining Congress, in presence of CM Revanth Reddy, Nagender said that 20 MLAs including Ch Malla Reddy, Muta Gopal, D Sudhir Reddy, Prakash Goud, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, KP Vivekananda, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, Kale Yadaiah and Arikepudi Gandhi are getting ready to join the Congress party.

Danam Nagender said that there is a chance that the BRS will become empty soon particularly Greater Hyderabad. He alleged that KCR policies affected the BRS party.

Uttam Kumar stresses need to modernise rice milling industry

The Minister said Telangana has contributed a whopping 141 lakh tonnes of paddy for procurement.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday urged the rice milling industry to adopt latest technology and machinery to become the country's number one rice milling industry.

Inaugurating the 16th International Rice and Grains Tech Expo 2024 at Hitex Exhibition Centre on Friday, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured full support to the rice millers to turn Telangana into the number one State in rice milling and production of quality rice. He outlined the government's strategy to promote the rice milling industry, focusing on technology upgrades for better energy efficiency and higher-quality rice production.

The Minister emphasised his deep connection with the rice milling community, having represented Kodad and Huzurnagar as MLA six times and as an MP from Nalgonda once. "Your problems are known to me," he said, pledging his commitment to address them. He recognised rice milling as a major industry in rural Telangana, employing 2 to 3 lakh skilled and unskilled workers, and promised the government's encouragement and transparency in resolving



Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at 16th International Rice and Grain Tech Expo in Hyderabad on Friday

their issues.

He highlighted the significance of the expo in helping rice mills adopt advanced technology. "The quality of rice produced can be significantly improved with better technology and less energy consumption," he noted.

Recalling his long association with key rice milling centres like Huzurnagar, Kodad, Miryalaguda, and Suryapet, he reaffirmed his duty as a public representative and minister to support these areas. He assured that issues such as milling charges and transport charges would be handled proactively to ensure justice for all stakeholders.

Addressing the allocation of Custom Milled Rice (CMR) and paddy, he urged the miller to adhere to government-prescribed systems. He assured support to the millers in secur-

ing export permissions from the Central government for rice varieties produced in Telangana. He also highlighted the government's dual role in benefiting farmers and millers while ensuring consumers receive rice at reasonable prices.

He said Telangana has the second-highest share in paddy procurement. It has contributed a whopping 141 lakh tonnes of paddy for procurement. 'Telangana will likely retain its title as the 'Rice Bowl of India' with an unprecedented production of about 1.7 crore tonnes during the ensuing Vaanakalam. Telangana is estimated to witness a quantum jump of nearly 22 lakh tonnes from 1.48 crore tonnes during the last Vaanakalam. Telangana is already number one in the rice milling capacity.

MLA's wife allegedly dies by suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress MLA M Satyam's wife was found dead at her residence in a suspected case of suicide.

Rupa Devi was found hanging in their house by some family members on Thursday night, police said on Friday.

She is suspected to have taken the extreme step owing to health issues, they said based on preliminary inquiry.

M Satyam represents Choppadandi constituency in Karimnagar district of Telangana.

A case was registered and investigation is on, they added.

Telangana BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar were among those who offered condolences to the family of the legislator.

Tummala calls for Pulse Board in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao has said that Tandur Tur Dal grown in Telangana state has a unique place in the world, only 4 lakh quintals of pulses are available in the market every year. This is the 16th product from Telangana to get the geographical indication (GI) tag.

The Minister asked the Central government to take immediate steps to establish Pulses board to encourage farmers. Similarly, the 25 per cent limit imposed on the collection of pulses has been lifted and 100 per cent should be allowed. Due to this, pulses farmers will be encouraged and they will be able to withstand fluctuations in the markets. Similarly, small bags (minikits) were also requested to be given to the state in abundance.

Nageshwara Rao participated in the video conference conducted by the Union



Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageshwara Rao participating in video conference conducted by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday with Agriculture Ministers of 10 states regarding the steps to be taken to increase cultivation of pulses and area under pulses in the respective states.

On the occasion, the Union Minister said that in view of the growing needs, the cultivation of pulses in the country has to be increased and it is the immediate duty of all that the central government will for-

mulate the policies accordingly.

On this occasion, the Minister also asked the Centre to increase the subsidy given to pulses farmers under the National Food Security Mission. Similarly, Telangana State has also planned to promote the cultivation of pulses as per the decisions of the Central Government, especially after the first harvest of paddy.

On this occasion, the

Minister referred to the oil palm cultivation undertaken ambitiously by the Telangana Government and explained the progress during the last two years. While it has been cultivated since 30 years in Andhra Pradesh, it has been started 3 years ago in Telangana, and more encouragement should be given to the farmers taking up oil palm cultivation, especially the price should be made affordable, he said. Before the last election, it was suggested that the import duty on palm oil should be removed completely, as it has disturbed the interests of the farmers cultivating oil palm domestically, and steps should be taken in the direction of imposing import duty on oil palm again. With that, the price of Oil Palm bunch (Fresh Fruit Bunches) is likely to increase. The Union Minister responded positively and suggested that the Minister should come to Delhi and meet with all the matters.

Lifer for father who raped minor daughter

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A judgment was pronounced in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO Act) case which ended with a conviction on Friday by the XII th Addl Metropolitan Sessions Judge at Nampally Court, Hyderabad.

The accused, Shameem Khan, 41 years old, son of Saleem Khan, a cook residing at House No. 20-3-140/13, Kalipatak, Jamia Nizamia, Hussain Alam, Hyderabad, has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for life, where he will be imprisoned

for the remainder of his natural life, along with a fine of Rs 5,000 for sexually abusing his daughter.

According to the Police of Hussainialam, a complaint was received from the victim girl on Thursday in which she stated that they are eight children to their parents of whom she has two elder brothers and five younger brothers. Her father works as a cook in a hotel and her mother works as a servant.

On May 15, after having dinner, the victim girl's parents slept in a room and she, along with her brothers slept in another room in the mid-

night. While the girl was in deep sleep, her father came to her and had sexual intercourse with her. As the girl was in deep sleep, she could not resist her father's acts. Later on May 18, again her father came to her and had sexual intercourse with her. Thereafter, the father threatened the girl saying not to disclose it to anyone. Hence, she requested the Police to take necessary action against him.

Based on the contents of the petition, G Naresh Kumar, Inspector of Police of Hussainialam, registered a case. Express FIRs were issued to all parties concerned and the investigation was conducted.

MLA Laxma Reddy in queue to join Cong?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA from Upper Bandari Laxma Reddy is also in queue to join Congress party, following in the footsteps of Pocharam Srinivas Reddy who switched allegiance to Congress on Friday. Laxma Reddy met the Congress senior leader

K Jana Reddy to extend birthday greetings. It is learnt that Laxma Reddy discussed the issue of his intention to join with Jana Reddy. It may be recalled that Laxma Reddy joined BRS party from the Congress party ahead of elections. The BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao gave a ticket to Laxma Reddy denying sitting MLA aside.

50 bikers booked for racing; 89 bikes, 2 cars seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Raidurgam Police of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate have registered nine cases against 89 bike racers and two car racers. They seized 89 bikes and two cars from individuals who were racing and creating a disturbance near T-Hub, Knowledge City, Raidurgam.

Dr G Vineeth, DCP of the Madhapur Zone, revealed this information at a press conference held at the Raidurgam police station on Friday.

Police informed that they received credible information on June 1 that near T-Hub, Knowledge City, Gachibowli, some young people were racing bikes and causing a disturbance.

Upon receiving this information, Raidurgam Police rushed to the spot at T-Hub and found young people per-

forming bike stunts and racing on public roads, obstructing the general public and creating a disturbance. This behavior endangers human life and could cause accidents. Upon seeing the police, the individuals attempted to escape, but the police tactically caught 50 bikes. A case was registered against all 50 bikers.

The Police stated that all bikers were bound over before the Executive Magistrate with a surety of Rs1 lakh. If they repeat the offence, they will be fined Rs1 lakh, and all vehicles will be handed over to the RTA for further action under the Motor Vehicle Act.

The Police appeal to parents to control their children, as there is a high risk of accidents and harm to their lives. Bike racing is strictly prohibited, and any violations will result in cases being registered and potential jail time.

Officials warned against laxity while on duty

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The District Collector Narayana Reddy said that every government employee should work for the welfare of the people. On Friday, he held a meeting with the doctors, government employees,

He said that he had visited the government headquarters hospital after taking charge as District Collector. He stressed the need to reform the system in the hospital to ensure that a better services are rendered to patients.

The Collector directed the officials of the District Medical and Health Department to prepare an action plan to ensure that the headquarters hospital extend all help to patients.

CM Revanth to inaugurate Design Showcase on June 28

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the Hyderabad Regional Chapter IIID Design Showcase of Insider X 2024 on June 28 at 11 am. This is the fifth edition of the flagship event, themed 'Design Intelligence,' which will be held from June 28 to June 30 at Hitex Exhibition Centre.

National president of IIID, Sarosh Wadia, will be the guest of honour. Hyderabad Regional Chapter announced that in the evening, there will be a keynote address by Architect Peter Rich from Johannesburg, South Africa, and Siddharth Talwar from Lotus Architects at HICC. A valedictory function will be held on June 19.



IIID HRC chairperson Pallavi Anchuri, InsiderX convener Rakesh Vasu and IIID HRC members launching IIID Showcase Insider X 2024 poster on Friday

Curated by the Institute of Indian Interior Designers, Hyderabad Chapter, the Expo targets the interior design, architecture, and construction industry. It aims to bring together professionals and the general public. The three-day

B2B Trade Expo will showcase emerging trends and contemporary design solutions.

Hyderabad Chapter members informed, on June 21, IIID HRC members organised a curtain raiser event and launched the InsiderX 2024 poster at the

Members of TSSWA Association seek recognition

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Shiv Satula Welfare Association (TSSWA) president Jogini Kolipaka Shyamala Devadaya on Friday requested Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha to represent the members of their association in the festival committee which will be formed for the management of Ashada Bonalu. The representatives of the community under the leadership of Jogini Shyamala presented a petition to Minister Surekha. The community members asked the Minister to arrange special queues for the Shivasats and to give government recognition to the TSSWA, which has been showcasing the glory of the Bonalu festival to the world for a long time. Reacting to their requests, Minister Surekha responded positively.

She said that people consider Shivasats as divine. Shivasats who have a special place in Bonalu festival which reflects Telangana cultural traditions. They will do their best to make the Bonalu festival attended by lakhs of devotees without causing any inconvenience to them, to fulfill the requests of the community.

SCR organises 70th DRUCC meeting

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

South Central Railway organised the 70th Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) meeting of Hyderabad division in virtual mode from DRM's conference hall, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad on Friday. This meeting was chaired by Lokesh Vishnoi, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad division and other branch officers were also present during the meeting. Out of 19 nominated

members, 10 members attended the meeting.

Lokesh Vishnoi highlighted the achievements of Hyderabad division in the current financial year till May-2024. He detailed the members on various development activities taken up over the Hyderabad division, including works in progress at stations selected under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Apart from this, the chairman also briefed the members about the completed passenger amenity

works and on-going works.

The members expressed satisfaction over the developmental activities undertaken by the division and appreciated the efforts made for getting various works done and for the works in progress at stations selected under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. They represented the introduction of new trains, stoppage of trains, running of special trains, restoration of passenger trains, provision of lifts and escalators.

Errabelli denies rumours of quitting BRS

PNS ■ PARVATIGIRI

Former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao has clarified that he will not quit BRS and appealed to the people not to give credence to rumours being spread by vested interests.

He said that a meeting of the party workers and leaders was held at Parvatigiri on Thursday to chalk out a strategy on strengthening the party. The party leaders and workers

would explaining to people the false promises made by the Congress leaders ahead of the Assembly elections.

He appealed to the people to realise the false promises made by the Congress government. Elaborating, he said that the Congress party promised to increase the pension to Rs 4,000 soon after coming to power, but failed to deliver on its promise.

However, in the meantime the neighbouring AP gov-

ernment is preparing the ground to extend Rs 4,000 pension to senior citizens and other pensioners. Therefore, the Congress government should implement the promises made to the people, he demanded.

So far, the government has failed to provide input subsidy being given to the farmers under Rythu Bandhu.

He alleged that the Congress has been circulating rumours about his impending

change of party through social media. It was high-time the Congress put fullstop to such mudslinging campaign and work for the good of the people, he felt.

He predicted that the BRS would regain its past glory in future. Unable to stomach the impending revival of the past glory by the BRS, the Congress has been resorting to such malicious propaganda on social media, he elaborated.

INDIA CORNER

Group flaunting 'koyta' barges into Pune house, assaults three

The Pune police have arrested eight persons after a group of people carrying 'koyta' (billhook) forcibly entered a house on the city's outskirts and injured three members of a family, an official said on Friday. The incident took place at Kirkatwadi village in the Sinhgad Road area on Thursday night. Citing the FIR, the official said that 10-15 people went on a rampage after barging into the home of a youth at Bhairavnath Nagar. They allegedly attacked him, his mother and an elderly relative over a petty issue. Police said they have registered a case under Indian Penal Code sections 307 (attempt to murder), 354 (molestation) and the ones concerning rioting and arrested eight of the alleged attackers. A minor has also been apprehended, said Sachin Wangade, senior inspector of Haveli police station. Meanwhile, Baramati MP Supriya Sule demanded action against the billhook-wielding group.



Red alert issued in Karnataka, warning of extremely heavy rain

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) has issued a red alert for coastal Karnataka, which is likely to receive extremely heavy rainfall on June 22. It also said thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds (30-40kmph) are likely at isolated places across the state. According to a KSNDMC advisory, between June 23 and June 26 isolated heavy rains are also expected in certain areas of the Krishna basin. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also issued a weather forecast stating that coastal and adjacent districts in interior Karnataka are very likely to receive heavy to very heavy rains. Although the Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of Maharashtra, the remaining parts of Vidarbha, some parts of Madhya Pradesh, some other parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal.



Cong leader seeks education min resignation over NEET row

Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad on Friday demanded the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG. Taking part in a protest organised here by her party over the issue, she also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'silence' on the students' plight. "Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan should resign on moral grounds," said Gaikwad, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mumbai North Central constituency in the recently held elections. "Prime minister Modi has not uttered a word about the hardship faced by students due to the irregularities that have come to light," she said, while also adding that education should not be politicised and students should get justice.



ED acting as if Kejriwal 'most wanted terrorist': Sunita

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal lashed out at the ED for challenging her husband's bail order in the high court, accusing it of acting as if the AAP national convener was the "most wanted terrorist in India".

Speaking in south Delhi's Bhogal where Delhi Water Minister Atishi began an indefinite hunger strike to press on her demand for getting more water from Haryana, Sunita Kejriwal said dictatorship in the country has crossed all limits.

"It was only yesterday your chief minister got bail. In the morning, the order was supposed to be uploaded. Even before the order was uploaded, the ED approached the Delhi High Court. This happened as if Kejriwal is the most wanted terrorist in India," Sunita Kejriwal said.

"Dictatorship in the country



Sunita also read out a message from Kejriwal, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, in which he expressed hope that Atishi's 'tapasya' would be successful

has crossed all limits. The ED does not want to give anyone liberty and has gone to the high court against the chief minister demanding a stay (on his bail). The high court's decision is yet to come. We hope the high court will deliver justice," she added.

Before reaching Bhogal, Sunita had also accompanied Atishi to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi.

Sunita also read out a message from Kejriwal, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, in which he expressed hope that Atishi's 'tapasya' would be successful.

The chief minister said he was immensely pained by seeing on TV the plight of the people facing water shortage amid the ongoing intense heat-wave, he said.

"It's our culture to provide water to the thirsty.

BJP's conspiracy 'exposed'; so, ED challenged it in HC: AAP MP

AAP leader Sanjay Singh on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making a mockery of the justice system after the Delhi High Court put on hold a trial court order granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

Singh said the trial court's bail to the Delhi chief minister "exposed" the conspiracy of the BJP and the party should apologise to the Aam Aadmi Party and Kejriwal.

Taking to X, Singh said in a post in Hindi, "Look at the hooliganism of the Modi government, the trial court's order has not yet come, even

a copy of the order has not been received, so Modi's ED reached the High Court to challenge which order? What is happening in this country?"

"Modi ji, why are you making a mockery of the justice system? The entire country is watching you?" the AAP MP said. At a press conference, Singh termed the trial court

order was "historic" and completely "exposed" the role of the BJP government and ED operated by it. "The court order clearly shows that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is fabricating facts against us and presenting documents in its favour in the court, statements are taken from witnesses under pressure," he said.

AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Maharashtra Council polls crucial test for parties

PNS ■ THANE

The biennial elections to 11 seats in the Maharashtra legislative council from the MLA quota will be a crucial test for the ruling Mahayuti and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ahead of the assembly elections to be held later this year.

With 14 vacancies in the 288-member house, the electoral college is 274 and the quota for the winning candi-

date is 23. Out of the 11 seats, the MVA can get two and the ruling alliance nine as per their numerical strength in the lower house of the state legislature.

Congress can get one candidate elected as an MLC, while the Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) can get one candidate. BJP can get five, leaving the rest four for allies Shiv Sena and NCP.

The elections are scheduled

to be held on July 12 and nominations will open from June 25.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has 103 MLAs, followed by the Ait Pawar-led NCP's 40, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena's 38.

The Congress has 37 MLAs, Shiv Sena (UBT) 15 and Sharad Pawar-led NCP 10.

NCP MLAs Ashok Pawar and Nawab Malik have not given affidavits supporting either of the two factions.

Six persons fire rounds in air to spread terror

PNS ■ PUNE

Six persons on two motorcycles allegedly fired rounds in the air at different locations in Talegaon Dabhade town in Pimpri Chinchwad area near Pune in a bid to spread terror, police said on Friday.

The incident took place around 8 pm on Thursday, they said.

"Six persons came on two motorcycles and fired shots in the air at four different

places, including Shala Chowk, Maruti Chowk and Gajanan Temple area in Talegaon Dabhade area," a police official from Pimpri Chinchwad said.

"The preliminary probe indicated that the unidentified accused persons' act of firing in the air was meant to spread terror in the area.

We have launched a manhunt to trace these criminal elements and the process to examine the CCTV footage is underway," he said.

Powerloom worker electrocuted

PNS ■ THANE

A 49-year-old worker from Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district died of electrocution at a powerloom unit, police said on Friday.

The incident took place on Thursday night, they said.



'Hari Mohan Singh received

an electric shock while working at the powerloom unit around 8 pm. He was rushed to a hospital, where the doctors declared him dead," an official of Bhiwanda police station said.

The body of the deceased has been sent for a post-mortem to a government.



When translation led to war of words between Nehru, Harivansh Rai Bachchan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hindu, Urdu or something in between. That was the kernel of an argument between first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Hindi poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan over the translation of a presidential address from English to Hindi that was to be read by vice president Zakir Husain.

Nehru thought that Bachchan's translation of president Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's speech was too complex and the Hindi poet was adamant it was not, says the book "Nehru's First Recruits" by journalist Kallol Bhattacharjee. Both were unwilling to relent.

Recounting what had happened, the book says Nehru lost his cool with Bachchan, whom he had recruited as an

officer on special duty for Hindi at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Bachchan, who authored the landmark "Madhushala", joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1955 on a monthly salary of Rs 1,000, a good Rs 250 hike from his previous job as a producer in the All India Radio (AIR), according to the book.

The major part of his responsibility in the MEA included translating speeches of the president and the vice president -- the commonly used Hindi name 'Videsh Mantralaya' for 'External Affairs Ministry' was, in fact, coined by Bachchan.

The argument with Nehru happened when Bachchan translated the president's speech in English into Hindi.



Nigerian woman held with drugs worth Rs 5.6 L in Thane

PNS ■ THANE

The Thane police have arrested a 25-year-old Nigerian woman after recovering drugs worth about Rs 5.6 lakh from her, an official said on Friday.

A team of the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) spotted the woman, later identified as Santard Biliv Okam, moving suspiciously in the city on Wednesday evening.

She was found to be carrying 56.3 grams of MD crystal powder, valued at Rs 5.6 lakh, the official said.

Worldwide enthusiasm marks 10th Yoga Day

PNS ■ NEW YORK/TEL AVIV

Thousands of yoga enthusiasts from across the world rolled out their yoga mats as they joined day-long sessions of the ancient Indian practice to commemorate the 10th International Day of Yoga on Friday.

Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the UN proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The draft UN General Assembly resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.

The Consulate General of India in New York along with the Times Square Alliance hosted special yoga sessions at the iconic Times Square.

Amid heat advisories in place for the New York area, which experienced temperatures as high as 93°F (33.8°C) during the day, people from all walks of life and nationalities arrived early morning on Thursday and rolled out their yoga mats in the heart of the popular New York City desti-



nation. Yoga instructor and breath meditation teacher Richa Dhekne, who has over two decades of experience as a volunteer and faculty member with the Art of Living Foundation, led the yoga and meditation session hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York. Several other yoga teachers and experts led various meditation, exercises and breathing sessions throughout the day at Times Square, as thousands participated in the day-long activities.

In Washington, hundreds of

yoga enthusiasts came together to observe the day at an event that was addressed by India's Deputy Ambassador to the US Sripriya Ranganathan.

At the picturesque Wharf, overlooking the Potomac River, the International Yoga Day event on Wednesday began with prayers and Indian classical dance performances. The yoga session highlighted the spirit of oneness and harmony inspired by the ancient Indian practice. Over three hundred people from across Israel rolled out yoga

mats and performed asanas as they participated in International Yoga Day celebrations at the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation in Tel Aviv.

First Lady Michal Herzog was the chief guest at the main International Yoga Day event on Thursday. A series of events were held across the country.

The event was organised by the Embassy of India in Israel in association with the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Israel.



Corps Lieutenant General Sanjay Mitra along with

'World adopting our cultural heritage'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday participated in a yoga programme with military personnel on the occasion of the 10th International Yoga Day at the training centre of Strike 1 Corps Headquarters here.

About 600 people including Army Chief General Manoj Pandey and General Officer Commanding of Strike 1

senior officers, Agniveers, families and children participated in this programme.

Singh described the day as a matter of pride for the nation as the world is accepting and adopting this great cultural heritage of India with enthusiasm. He gave credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking yoga to the world.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Yoga for self and society

PM Modi celebrates International Yoga Day in Kashmir, emphasising Yoga's role in fostering peace and unity

On June 21, 2024, International Yoga Day gave new meaning to the people of Kashmir as the Prime Minister celebrated it with them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a momentous occasion by celebrating International Yoga Day in the scenic valley of Kashmir. This event was not only significant as a global celebration of yoga but also as a powerful symbol of peace, unity and cultural heritage in a region that has seen its share of strife and conflict. Kashmir, often referred to as 'Paradise on Earth' due to its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural tapestry, was chosen by PM Modi as the venue for this year's International Yoga Day celebration. The event was held at the iconic Shalimar Bagh in Srinagar. International Yoga Day, celebrated on June 21 each year, was established in 2015 following a resolution proposed by PM Modi at the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. The day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of practising yoga, a 5,000-year-old tradition that originated in India. It emphasises the integration of body, mind and spirit, promoting a balanced and harmonious lifestyle. This year's theme, yoga for self and society resonated deeply in Kashmir, a region known for its complex socio-political challenges.



By celebrating Yoga Day in Kashmir, PM Modi aimed to convey a message of reconciliation and the potential for a peaceful future. Indeed, Prime Minister Modi has always used the symbols very effectively and conveyed the message to the people, celebrating Yoga Day in Kashmir was no exception. The choice of Kashmir as the venue for this significant event is laden with symbolism. The region, which has faced decades of conflict and unrest, witnessed an outpouring of support for the celebration, reflecting a desire for peace and normalcy. PM Modi's presence and the enthusiastic participation of residents is a step towards healing and bridging divides. This was PM Modi's first trip to the union territory since being re-elected for a third consecutive term. During this visit, PM Modi launched several significant developmental projects and participated in International Yoga Day 2024 activities. PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various developmental projects valued at over Rs. 1,500 crores. The Prime Minister addressed the gathering. He underscored the importance of yoga in promoting health and unity. The Prime Minister took this occasion to send a strong message across the border that all acts of terrorism would be thwarted. Indeed, the trip did reinforce the confidence of the people as it came just weeks after the Jammu attacks. This would also be a message to the security forces also to beef up the security. PM Modi's visit underscored his commitment to the development and integration of Jammu and Kashmir. Indeed, the event was not just a display of yoga poses but a concerted effort to promote wellness and unity of the State.

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PICTALK



People perform yoga in the Yamuna river on the 10th International Day of Yoga, in New Delhi

PTI

India's solar industry is a goldmine for investors

The surge in global demand for renewable energy has placed solar power at the centre stage, particularly in India

India's solar energy sector is shining brighter than ever, emerging as a goldmine for investors and entrepreneurs. The market, valued at \$38 billion in 2021, is set to grow exponentially, reaching \$238 billion by 2032, driven by an impressive 40 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR). The surge in global demand for renewable energy has placed solar power at the centre stage, particularly in India. With supportive Government policies, technological advancements and an increasing shift towards sustainability, the solar energy sector is witnessing unprecedented growth. Entrepreneurs and investors capitalise on this momentum, prioritising their goals to reap substantial benefits in the coming years.

Tech Advancements
Technological innovations are at the heart of the solar industry's success. Commercial solar panels have gotten way better at turning sunlight into electricity, cranking up the power they can produce per square foot. The switch from polycrystalline to more advanced bifacial solar panels, which can generate power from both sides, shows how



the industry is focused on squeezing out as much efficiency as possible. In recent years, PERC (Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell) technology has been predominant in India's solar panel market. However, due to efficiency limitations in mass production, there is a gradual shift towards more advanced technologies like TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) and HJT (Heterojunction Technology). **Government Policies**
The Indian Government's policies have played a crucial role in transforming the solar energy landscape. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, with substantial financial allocations (PLI-I with Rs. 4,500 crores and PLI-II with Rs. 19,500 crores), are designed to boost domestic manufacturing of solar components.

Further bolstering the "Make in India" initiative, the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) was reinstated on April 1, 2024, ensuring quality control and encouraging the use of domestically manufactured modules. Various projects by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), such as the CPSU Scheme Phase-II, PM-KUSUM Component B and the Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II, mandate the use of Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) solar panels, providing subsidies to promote the adoption of solar energy.

Environmental Impact
The solar industry in India isn't just about fulfilling energy requirements - it's also helping the environment. By using more solar power and relying less on fossil fuels, the solar industry is assisting in eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change. Shifting towards renewable energy, like solar power, is super crucial for India's climate goals and ensuring a sustainable future. **Market Potential and Investment Opportunities**

India's solar energy market presents a plethora of opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs. The sector's rapid growth and the increasing acceptance of solar power for both commercial and personal uses underscore its potential. With Government support and ongoing technological advancements, the barriers to entry are diminishing, making it an attractive proposition for new ventures. Besides, technological advancements enhance efficiency and reduce costs, increasing profitability. Entrepreneurs can explore various segments within the industry. On a larger front, the global shift towards sustainability ensures a steady demand for solar energy solutions, providing businesses with a long-term growth trajectory. Moreover, India's solar industry's robust market potential, Government support and technological innovation make it a compelling opportunity for those looking to invest or start a venture in renewable energy.

(The writer is the CEO, of Gautam Solar; views are personal)



GAUTAM MOHANKA

NEET: Malice extends beyond a flawed exam

The Supreme Court's recent directive to the Govt to meticulously address any lapses in the NEET examination underscores the critical nature of the fiasco

Plans do go awry. Who could say this better than Modi Sarkar 3.0? Prime Minister Narendra Modi had planned a blitzkrieg of the first 100 days of good governance. It doesn't seem to be happening as of now. First the number of BJP members elected to Lok Sabha did not sufficiently pile up, forcing a toned-down deportment of the Government.

Worse has been the marks manipulation controversy generated around the results declared by National Testing Agency (NTA) of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to the undergraduate courses in the medical colleges across the country. The Supreme Court on June 18 told the Union Government and the NTA to ensure that even '0.001 per cent negligence' in conducting the NEET-UG 2024 exams be looked into with all seriousness considering the immense labour that the candidates have put in for preparing the nationwide examination. Thankfully, we have a mature leader like Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister, who is expected to steer through the crisis and not a Smriti Irani or a Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank camping at the Shastri Bhawan, the seat of the Ministry of Education. Pradhan has so far shown the patience and perseverance in handling this gargantuan-like crisis.

The mess around NEET is much deeper than just the alleged malpractice in the conduct of the examination and the manipulation of marks. It's a question of the very high financial and emotional stakes involved, given the limited number of the seats available in the medical colleges. Over 15 lakh students appear for the NEET annually to fight over about 83,000 seats available. Less than half of these seats are available in the Government-run colleges. More than half of the seats in these colleges are allotted under various quotas. Thus, many deserving candidates are unable to secure admission to Government colleges. The fees in the private medical colleges in India are unbelievably



expensive, often touching Rs one crore for the entire course. For middle-class families, these costs are untenable, prompting them to look for more affordable options abroad.

Thus the medical college market in countries like China, Ukraine, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. Here the cost of education at the best is less than half of what the private medical colleges charge. No wonder if there is COVID happening in China, war happening in central Asia or hooliganism in Kyrgyzstan, miserable State of the Indian students makes news.

The problems of these students don't end here. Even on the successful completion of the course, an uncertain future awaits them. The medical degrees obtained from foreign universities must be recognised by the National Medical Commission of India (NMC). Even if the college is recognised, the medical graduates need to clear the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE) conducted by NMC to practice in India. The pass rate for FMGE is relatively low.

This shortage of seats explains the repeated noise of corruption around the medical entrance tests for several years

“THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL SEATS IN INDIA, COUPLED WITH HIGH FINANCIAL AND EMOTIONAL STAKES, FUELS CORRUPTION IN ENTRANCE EXAMS AND DRIVES STUDENTS TO SEEK MORE AFFORDABLE EDUCATION OPTIONS ABROAD

now. The most prominent among the many fallouts of this situation are higher prices, long wait times and increased competition for the limited available resources. When shortage occurs, an environment is created where individuals or stakeholders may be willing to pay bribes to secure access to the limited resources.

Today, in the NEET eco-system, there aren't just the students and testing agencies who are participating. It can be safely said that the financial stakes at this examination is much higher for the horde of coaching centres and admission counsellors than the students themselves.

Then there are the people who manipulate the system to make entrance into an Indian college 'convenient' lest the candidate ends up selling family silver for an admission in a private college in India or go through the rigmarole of enrolling in a foreign medical college and face an uncertain future.

The expected role of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the current crisis would be to provide an immediate relief to the injury and pain caused to the lakhs of students by the NTA, which con-

ducted NEET 2024. The larger relief would only come by investment in the health infrastructure sector.

Increasing the number of medical seats in Government and private colleges, in the higher numbers in the former category, would lessen the need for students to seek education abroad or the manipulators having a field day. This requires substantial investment in medical infrastructure and faculty.

This would not come by the mere initiative of either Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan or the newly-appointed Health Minister JP Nadda. There has to be a Government vision and more importantly the political will to break the cartel of the private medical colleges.

The management of these colleges maintains a Octopus-like stranglehold over the medical education system through its various arms like the coaching centres and the counsellors. The 'costly' admission process is the first step towards the crass commercialisation of the medical sector in this country. About it on some other day.

(The writer is author and president, Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice, views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WILDLIFE FIRES IN UTTARAKHAND

Madam — Apropos the news story "Forest fires are a grim environmental reality," published on June 21, this is my response. The recent wildlife fires in Uttarakhand highlight a pressing environmental and societal issue. These fires are not just a natural calamity but a reflection of human irresponsibility and systemic failures. Environmental pollution, an unrestrained culture among youth and weak law enforcement have contributed to these destructive events. Global warming, largely driven by hydrocarbon fuel use, has exacerbated the situation, similar to patterns seen in Australia and the USA.

Local industries and vehicular pollution have significantly warmed the atmosphere, making the naturally fire-prone Chir Pine forests even more vulnerable. Additionally, reckless behaviour, such as setting fires for social media fame and illegal activities like unauthorised construction and tree felling, further fuel these disasters. The media often needs to delve more deeply into such incidents' root causes and preventive measures. A more profound understanding, perhaps through the lens of Vedic Physics, could offer comprehensive solutions by integrating ancient wisdom with modern scientific approaches.

Kundan | Delhi

ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESS

Madam — Apropos the news story "Benefits of integrating offline and online channels," published on June 21, this is my response. The management of offline and online channels often operates in silos, with little intersection in their strategies. This separation ignores the fundamental fact that consumers are people whose decision-making spans both realms. Consumers today engage with brands through multiple touchpoints—retail stores, social media, online reviews and influencer videos—making integrated channel management essential. The AIDA model (Attention, Interest, Decision, Action) highlights the need for a coherent strategy across channels, as purchases

UGC to revamp higher education



Apropos the news story "UGC set to revolutionise higher education in India," published on June 21, this is my response. The University Grants Commission's decision to allow biannual admissions in higher education institutions is a significant move. It aims to increase student intake and introduce new programs in emerging areas, aligning Indian education with global standards. This policy mirrors the successful biannual admissions in Open and

Distance Learning and Online modes, which saw nearly half a million additional enrollments. While this decision offers flexibility and opportunities for students, especially those aspiring to study abroad, it raises concerns about infrastructure and faculty requirements. Educational experts worry about maintaining quality amid increased quantity. However, the global model of continuous education and skill upgrading, seen in countries like Germany, highlights the potential benefits. In India, there is a need to change the mindset towards vocational training and practical experience. Successful examples, like IIT graduate Mr Khatri, show that determination and expertise can lead to significant achievements. For the biannual admission system to succeed, policymakers must focus on engaging students and providing practical, hands-on learning experiences.

Bittu Jaat | Jind

can occur either offline or online. Structural issues and managerial specialisations contribute to the disjointed approach, but evolving consumer behaviour demands integration. While offline channels have a long-standing command-and-control structure, online channels are rapidly gaining significance. Companies must adopt integrated thinking to enhance customer experience and ensure sustainable success.

Mitali | Noida

WOMEN AND UNPAID WORK

Madam — Apropos the news story "The Unseen Burden of Women's Unpaid Labour," published on June 21, this is my response. The early 60s saw Canadian writer Alice Munro dismissed as a mere "housewife who finds time to write short stories." Munro's eventual Nobel Prize in 2013 underscored the absurdity of this condescension. Economist Claudia Goldin's research reveals that women's careers are often constrained by societal expectations that idealise their roles as unpaid caregivers. This has tangible impacts: women global-

ly spend 76.2 per cent of their time on unpaid care work, three times more than men. In regions like the Pacific and Asia, men contribute the least.

The burden of unpaid care work keeps 606 million working-age women out of the labour market, compared to just 41 million men. This disparity is reflected in economic metrics; for example, women's unpaid work could be worth up to 40 per cent of GDP in some countries. Additionally, the "motherhood penalty" persists, reducing women's career prospects and earnings. Conversely, men often receive a wage bonus upon becoming fathers. To bridge this gap, significant investments in childcare and care industries are crucial. Research shows that such investments could create millions of jobs and significantly boost women's employment rates. Meeting these needs is essential to achieving gender equality and fulfilling global commitments to women's economic justice.

Jitu Majumdar | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

THE ART OF ANGER MANAGEMENT

Anger or an outburst is an emotion which invariably leads to antipathetic results



RAVI VALLURI


Aeons ago lived a sagacious teacher who adopted unusual techniques as part of his pedagogy while imparting knowledge to his students. One day he provided his students with an empty jar and a bagful of pebbles. He directed them to fill the jar with as many pebbles as they could. The students fretted as they struggled to insert the pebbles in the jar, but eventually managed to insert them. Subsequently, the teacher gave them a bag of sand and guided them to pour it into the jar. The sand filled in all the gaps between the rocks. Eventually, the teacher gave them a pitcher of water and asked the students to pour it into the jar which filled in all the remaining gaps. It was then pronounced that the jar represented our lives and the pebbles, sand and water typified what we live with. The teacher went on to State, “If we fill our lives with anger (represented by the pebbles), there will not be any room for anything else. But if we focus on the important things (represented by the sand and water), we could discover a State of happiness and balance.” Among the students lived a boy who was disposed with a foul temper. He would get angry at every little issue. One day, the sagacious teacher gave him a bag of nails and told him, “Every time you get vexed, hammer a nail into that front wall.” And thus began the activity. On the first day, the boy hammered 50 nails. The following day, he hammered 40. Each time he went up to the wall, he repented being piqued. It was quite a challenge to hammer a nail into the bricks of the wall! Slowly, the stripling discovered that controlling his rage was easier than hammering countless nails into the wall. The strapping youth had already become a laughing stock of his batchmates performing this wasteful exercise. Over a period, the number of nails hammered began to diminish much to the amazement of the student and his friends.



Eventually, came a day when he was not cross and became joyous about the fact. The perspicacious teacher assigned the student yet another task, “If you do not get provoked the entire day, remove one nail from the wall.” After many days, eyebrows were raised as all the nails were extricated from the wall. Finally, the teacher took the student near the wall and asked him what he saw. The student replied that he could view holes in the wall. “These holes are like the scars that one leave’s on individuals when a person gets exasperated. No matter how many times you apologise, the scar does not vanish.” “Thus, I suggest you to do two things; realise that words once uttered linger on. Your irascibility hurts others and leaves a dampener on all.” He continued, “Each time you feel outraged, ‘hammer a nail’ in the wall. The simplest thing you can do is to carry a pocket diary and draw a line each time you get annoyed. At night, count the number of lines drawn for that day. If you make this a habit, each time you would become waspish, you would be reminded to note it down.” “Once you follow this regimen, your awareness and memory muscle about the damage you were inflicting among the people with whom you interact would increase.” The student had learned his lesson, through this ingenious teaching imparted by his teacher. *(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)*

Generative AI revolutionises smart wearable technology

By leveraging AI for coaching and healthcare, wearables are setting new standards in user experience and functionality



C P KHADELWAL

A decade ago, wearable technology was just taking early strides. Today, generative AI — a subset of artificial intelligence — is making its presence felt across diverse domains such as fashion, health, entertainment and more. With smart wearables gaining greater popularity worldwide, the fusing of fashion and innovative technology is permitting smart devices to function as icons of personal styling, connecting every element of users’ lives. As these aspects play out, generative AI is steadily showcasing several novel dimensions of personalisation and functionality. **Personalised Insights** The rising popularity of AI-enabled wearables is partly because of their ability to offer

employing AI algorithms, advanced fitness trackers analyse the user’s data to provide personalised insights and coaching. A dynamic, bespoke approach is adopted in managing the user’s health and well-being as the smart device adapts to each person’s preferences, goals and individual fitness levels. For instance, an AI-driven coaching algorithm, Zepp Coach, offers customised guidance so its users can train and recover more effectively. A user simply needs to enter his or her physical characteristics, exercise experience level and preferred number of training days each week into the app. The app then builds a personalised training regime for every user. As the days progress, the Zepp Coach app monitors



each person’s fitness level, fatigue threshold and current training status. Based on this data, it recommends a reduction (or increase) in training intensity. **Wearables in Healthcare** Besides personal training, generative AI-linked wearables are deployed in healthcare with a similar model of leveraging user data to provide personalised counsel and insights. For example, the WHOOP Coach app uses a generative AI feature to offer extremely personalised, precise advice and suggestions by using GPT-4 — the most advanced generative AI system of OpenAI. Thereby, WHOOP can discover patterns and connections in the data of users and then offer instant, conversational, customised responses to their

healthcare practitioners can employ preventive measures. Propelled by the power of predictive analytics, smart wearables are driving a steady shift from a purely reactive to a proactive healthcare model. Taking these capabilities one level higher, generative AI is empowering wearables with the capability to sense and react to the emotions of users. These emotion-sensing algorithms can analyse facial expressions, monitor heart rate variability and check other physiological cues to assess the emotional State of users. **Immersive Reality** Then there is smart clothing with adaptive features that respond to environmental circumstances and user preferences. Such smart clothing offers temperature-regulating textiles and dynamically adjustable apparel tightness for maximum comfort, especially when users engage in physical activities. Or consider language translation earbuds that offer contextual understanding. Backed by generative AI, these language translation earbuds go way beyond mere word-for-word translations. Through advanced contextual understanding, these earbuds can comprehend the idioms, cultural references and nuances of a specific language. By eliminating language barriers, this smart innovation facilitates seamless and efficient cross-cultural communication. Another exciting wearables category is immersive AR (augmented reality) glasses. Generative AI has allowed these glasses to take a giant leap forward by delivering immersive experiences for users, seamlessly blending the virtual realm with real-world surroundings. This is not all. Generative AI has even revolutionised navigation-aiding wearables for visually impaired people. Through AI algorithms, smart navigation devices can interpret the environmental data to offer real-time details about any obstacles, the surroundings or necessary directions. With these wearables, visually challenged users can enjoy enhanced mobility and a certain level of independence that is not possible otherwise. *(The writer is CEO of PR Innovations, brand custodian of Amazfit India, views are personal)*

India faces a severe groundwater crisis


The groundwater clock is ticking towards day zero. India needs a combination of strategy and investment to safeguard and revitalise the same



KOTA SRIRAJ



According to the India Water Portal, India uses 25 per cent of all groundwater extracted globally, ahead of the USA and China. Nearly 70 per cent of the water supply in Indian agriculture today is groundwater. For a resource that is under such heavy use, India still lacks a contingency plan when it comes to dealing with groundwater depletion and over-exploitation. Predictably, the writing on the wall is becoming increasingly clear. On June 19th, 2024 the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) dropped the shocking news that Delhi has already extracted 99 per cent of its available groundwater. The latest CGWB report revealed a decline in both annual recharge and available groundwater for extraction in the city. According to the CGWB’s findings, Delhi’s net annual groundwater recharge in 2023 was measured at 0.38 billion cubic meters (bcm), with only 0.34 bcm available for extraction. Shockingly, nearly all accessible groundwater has already been extracted, totalling 99.1 per cent. The concerning aspect here is the increased rate of extraction despite reduced groundwater recharge. These trying conditions come at a time when Delhi is already reeling under the worst heatwave in the last 120 years which has claimed 192 lives so far. Sadly the issue of water distressed cities is becoming a worrying trend across India. Bangalore hit rock bottom earlier this year with over 500 million litres of water deficit daily with over 7000 borewells running dry. Coupled with abnormally harsh summers the water scarcity conditions can not only take a toll on human lives but also bring the urban economy to a grinding halt. This trend of drying up groundwater may, unfortunately, become the norm for



INDIA’S WATER RESOURCES FACE A BLEAK FUTURE; THE GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH A NATIONWIDE WATER BODY CENSUS, RAINWATER HARVESTING AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

The future of India’s water resources looks bleak and the Government must deploy a plethora of measures to ensure that the future generations have enough of this precious resource. As a first step, the central Government must conduct a nationwide satellite-assisted natural water body census along with the measurable extent of the water body. This will not only quantify the number of water bodies but will also capture any encroachment of the same. Additionally, steps have to be taken to rejuvenate and revive these water bodies. This can be done by removing the vegetation and setting up artificial groundwater recharge points such as percolation wells. Apart from this, the roping in of local municipal authorities, especially the anti-encroachment departments can help remove unauthorised occupation from the water body area. The central Government in association with State Government authorities can work on measures

such as metered borewells to monitor and regulate groundwater extraction. The concept of metered borewells is not new. The State of West Bengal has metered borewells for a while now and as a result, the State has been experiencing better levels of ground water. The same can be replicated across India, especially in Karnataka which is witnessing over-exploitation of groundwater. Yet another measure that needs sincere application is rain-water harvesting (RWH). Even though a much-talked-about concept, RWH has seen minimal implementation in India. Bangalore is an apt example of the abysmal application of RWH. According to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) data, only 1.8 lakh out of the 19 lakh eligible properties in Bengaluru have installed rain-water harvesting systems. Experts have opined that the city harvests only 10 per cent of the rainwater while the rest 90 per cent drains away wasted. Conditions such as these point towards the unfortunate reality of hyped concepts that receive very little implementation. The Government must try and understand the latent potential of RWH and ensure that not only residential but commercial properties across India implement RWH and the same must be enforceable by law. However conventional remedial measures may still not be able to rein in the runaway groundwater scarcity problem. Since the scale of the problem has risen, the Government must explore investments in innovative technologies to bolster the efforts to revive and boost the groundwater table in India. Efficient farming technologies that rely less on water for instance can make a huge difference. Investments in precision agri-technology for the usage of groundwater for irrigation are an ideal solution for providing optimal water usage. This saves water compared to traditional flooding methods which increases output while conserving resources and reducing water wastage. Similarly, App-driven water meters that automatically regulate extraction and smart groundwater pressure sensors that maintain critical and minimum water levels can all help alleviate the burdens weighing on groundwater. With water scarcity spreading region-wise across India and with a rapidly increasing water use the structural imbalance between water supply and demand continues to widen. Therefore it is time that the Governments in association corporate under corporate social responsibility schemes (CSR) must increase capital expenditure on smart technologies that can actively provide solutions to water scarcity and water quality issues besides improving sustainability of water resources. The groundwater clock is ticking towards day zero. India needs a combination of strategy and investment to safeguard and revitalise the same. *(The author is a policy analyst. The views are personal)*

MONEY MATTERS

Retail inflations for farm, rural workers remain almost flat

Retail inflation for agricultural labourers and rural workers remained almost flat at 7 per cent and 7.02 per cent, respectively, in May as against the two comparative figures of 7.03 per cent and 6.96 per cent a month ago. The corresponding figures in May 2023 were 5.99 per cent for CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and 5.84 per cent for CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers), a labour ministry statement said. According to the statement, the point-on-point inflation rate based on CPI-AL was recorded at 7.00 per cent in May 2024, showing a deceleration from 7.03 per cent in April this year. Conversely, it stated that for CPI-RL, the inflation rate was recorded at 7.02 per cent in May 2024, a marginal increase from 6.96 per cent in the preceding month. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) registered an increase of 6 points each in May 2024, reaching levels of 1,269 and 1,281, respectively.



Peak XV Partners most active investor in India: Hurun India

Venture Capital firm Peak XV is the most active investor in Indian startups with investment in 47 entities, according to ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2024. According to the index report, Peak XV is followed by Accel which has invested in 25 companies that are poised to become the next generation of unicorns. "With an impressive portfolio of 47 investments, Peak XV Partners emerges as the top investor in the ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2024, the report said, adding that Peak XV Partners registered successes by investing in Turtlemint, CleverTap and Classplus, among others. The report said that the number of unicorns -- startups valued at over USD 1 billion -- slipped by one to 67 in 2023. Peak XV is an investor in 70 per cent of India's unicorns. "Ranking 2nd on the ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2024, Accel has made investments in 25 companies that are poised to become the next generation of unicorns.



Bank of Maharashtra pays Rs 857 cr dividend to govt

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Friday presented Rs 857 crore dividend cheque to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The cheque was handed over by BoM managing director Nidhu Saxena and executive director Asheesh Pandey in the presence of Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi. The bank declared a dividend of Rs 1.40 per equity share (14 per cent) for FY24, BoM said in a statement. The Government of India holds an 86.46 per cent stake in the Pune-based bank. This dividend payment reflects the bank's impressive financial performance during the fiscal year, it said. The bank's net profit increased by 55.84 per cent to Rs 4,055 crore in FY24, compared to Rs 2,602 crore in the previous fiscal year. The bank has recorded a 15.94 per cent improvement in total business and a 15.66 rise in deposit mobilisation for the 2023-24. BoM has consistently shown resilience and adaptability to changing market dynamics, enabling it to remain at the forefront in terms of service delivery and customer satisfaction, it added.



Get InvITs under purview of bankruptcy law: SBI MD

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) are enjoying immunity from insolvency proceedings and should be brought under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, a top official from SBI said on Friday.

Ashwini Kumar Tewari, the managing director of the bank, said lenders need the assurance of being able to recover their dues from InvITs in case of a default and added that they are in touch with the Reserve Bank and the government on the same.

"We need to bring these trusts, which are bankruptcy remote, within the purview of the IBC because that will go a long way in giving us the assurance that this is like any other asset," Tewari said, addressing an NBFC event organized by industry lobby Assocham here.

He elaborated that at present, the primary responsibility of an InvIT or a special purpose vehicle under it is towards the trust holders and there are 'gaps'



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management at entities, which is a key feature under the IBC provisions and has already been invoked in the past.

He also made it clear that SBI is "very bullish" on the InvITs space because it takes away the long-term risk from the bank after a project is completed, and also because it provides steady flow of cash to pension funds and other investors.

The IBC was promulgated in December 2019 while InvIT saw the maiden listing in 2017.

Meanwhile, Tewari also questioned the need for a non-banking financial company (NBFC) to have a long list of lenders, and pitched for consortium arrangements in the same.

"We feel that if there are so many banks involved, each with a smaller share and yet the overall credit size is large, the only conclusion which can be drawn is the follow-up, and the control mechanism on the portfolio then is so much lesser. And that is something we are not very comfortable with," he said.

GST rate rationalisation panel reconstituted; Bihar Dy CM Samrat Chaudhary convenor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary has been appointed as the convenor of the GoM on GST rate rationalisation.

According to an official memorandum posted on the GST Council secretariat website, the other members of the reconstituted panel are Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho, Rajasthan Medical, and Health Services Minister Gajendra Singh.

The GoM also includes West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, Karnataka Revenue Minister



Krishna Byre Gowda, and Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal.

The seven-member GoM has been tasked with suggesting required rate rationalisation and correction of inverted duty structure with an objective of simplifying the rate structure, reviewing the GST

exemption list and enhancing revenues from Goods and Services Tax (GST).

This is the second time that the GST rate rationalisation panel was reconstituted.

The GoM was originally set up in September 2021, under then Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Under his chairmanship, the panel had submitted an interim report to the GST Council in June 2022, proposing changes in tax rates for some goods and services to rationalise the levy.

Following the change in government in Karnataka after the assembly elections in May last year, Byre Gowda became the revenue minister. The rate rationalisation panel was then

reconstituted in October last year, making UP Finance Minister Khanna as the convenor.

After JD(U)-BJP alliance formed the government in Bihar in January this year, the finance portfolio was given to the state Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, replacing Vijay Kumar Chaudhary.

The reconstitution of the GoM on GST rate rationalisation was required so as to include Samrat Chaudhary in the panel.

The rate rationalisation panel will now have a task at hand to submit a final report to the GST Council suggesting changes in tax rates and slabs to usher in reforms.

TN fireworks factory workers to be given safety training

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Workers employed in fireworks factories in Virudhunagar and eight other districts that have a high concentration of fireworks-making units will be provided safety training this year to prevent fire accidents, Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Minister C V Ganesan said on Friday.

Asserting that safety measures were essential during the manufacture of fireworks, especially in handling chemicals, to prevent workplace fire accidents, the minister informed the assembly that the government proposed to impart safety training to 7,500 workers.

This refresher course would be provided at a cost of Rs 24.90 lakh to the treasury, Ganesan said winding up the debate on the demand for grants to his department.

DEE Development Engineers IPO gets subscribed 99 times

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The initial public offer of piping solutions provider DEE Development Engineers got subscribed 98.98 times on the last day of subscription on Friday.

The Rs 418 crore initial share sale got bids for 1,47,92,58,933 shares against 1,49,44,944 shares on offer, according to NSE data. The

portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received a whopping 201.91 times subscription while the category for non-institutional investors got subscribed 143.43 times. The part for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 22.52 times subscription. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) has a fresh issue of up to Rs 325 crore and an offer for sale

of up to 45,82,000 equity shares. The price range for the offer is Rs 193-203 per share.

Dee Development Engineers Ltd on Tuesday said it has mobilised a little over Rs 125 crore from anchor investors.

Of the Rs 325 crore fresh issue proceeds, Rs 175 crore will be used for payment of debt, Rs 75 crore for funding working capital requirements, and the remaining Rs 75 crore will be used for general corporate purposes.

Dee Development is an engineering company, providing specialised process piping solutions for industries like oil and gas, power (including nuclear), chemicals and other process industries through engineering, procurement and manufacturing.



'Brand J-K successfully promoted on global platform'

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Territory administration has been successful in promoting brand Jammu and Kashmir on the global platform, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Friday.

Sinha made these remarks after inaugurating J&K Trade Show 2024 at Kashmir Heritage Government Arts Emporium here.

In his address, the Lt Governor welcomed the artisans, weavers, growers and business entrepreneurs.

He lauded the endeavour of the industries and commerce department and J&K Trade and Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) to promote the diverse sectors of handicraft, handloom, agriculture and horticulture.

Markets halt record-breaking rally; Sensex falls 269 points



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Halting their record-breaking rally, equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure as investors pared exposure to oil & gas, capital goods and FMCG stocks amid a bearish trend in global markets.

Snapping its six-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 269.03 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 77,209.90. During the day, it tanked 676.93 points or 0.87 per cent to 76,802.

The Nifty rose 100.1 points to hit a record intraday peak of 23,667.10 earlier in the day. However, it failed to maintain the momentum and slipped 65.90 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 23,501.10.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors, Nestle, Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra and State Bank of

India were the biggest laggards.

In contrast, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro and NTPC were among the biggest gainers.

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

European markets were quoting in the red. US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 415.30 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.16 per cent to USD 85.57 a barrel.

Rallying for the sixth straight session on Thursday, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 141.34 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 77,478.93. The Nifty rose 51 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at its fresh closing high of 23,567.

Fiscal incentives could help accelerate transition to e-vehicles among auto-rickshaws: White Paper

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

By prioritising fiscal incentives, streamlining state processes, facilitating affordable financing and addressing regulatory challenges, India can accelerate the transition to electric vehicles in the auto-rickshaw segment, according to a whitepaper providing a blueprint on retrofitting ICE three-wheelers to electric.

Initiatives such as zero emission vehicle credits, fostering an insurance ecosystem, addressing infrastructure barriers, and promoting awareness among driver partners further contribute to creating an enabling environment for nationwide retrofit adoption, the whitepaper released here on Friday said.

Through these coordinated efforts, India can effectively pave the way for a sustainable and electrified future for its three-wheeler fleet, significantly reducing emissions and operational costs while extending the lifespan of existing

vehicles, according to the whitepaper 'Powering Progress - A Blueprint for Retrofitting Three-Wheelers Internal Combustion Engine to Electric'.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) and the International Copper Association of India released the whitepaper commissioned by the Telangana government.

The whitepaper includes an analysis of the electric three-wheeler retrofit ecosystem and offers a blueprint for the widespread adoption of retrofit technologies across the country.

The whitepaper was launched at a 'Workshop On Advancing Electrification of Passenger Auto rickshaws through Retrofitment Solutions: A Blueprint for Indian Cities' in the presence of Telangana Special Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Jayesh Ranjan, NRDC India Country Head



Dipa Singh Bagai and ASCI officials.

Currently, India has an extensive fleet size of 7.4 million passenger-autos which is expected to reach 11 million by 2030, the whitepaper said.

"The tailpipe emissions from auto rickshaws under best case operating conditions constitute nearly 10 per cent of the total road transport emissions in cities," it highlighted.

Despite the array of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives provided by both national and sub-national governments in India, the penetration rate of passenger electric auto-rickshaws remains low, standing at only 6.2 per cent, it said, adding that this sluggish adoption can be attributed to the high capital costs of new electric vehicles and lack of public awareness regarding cost-effective

technologies to retrofit older vehicles to electric.

The whitepaper made several recommendations including on providing fiscal incentives to harness potential of retrofitment solutions and said implementation of these steps could help accelerate the adoption of retrofitment technologies in the three-wheeler segment.

On the benefits of retrofitment, the whitepaper said retrofitting has emerged as a viable solution to address the declining efficiency and increasing operational costs associated with aging vehicles, such as ICE auto-rickshaws.

"This technology extends the lifespan of these vehicles by an additional 5-7 years, resulting in direct reductions in resource consumption and carbon emissions," it further highlighted.

Electric vehicle retrofitting involves converting conventional petrol or diesel vehicles into electric ones by replacing the original engine with an electric powertrain.

Zepto valued at US\$ 3.6 bn in latest fund raise; eyes IPO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Grocery delivery startup Zepto on Friday said it has raised USD 665 million in an investment round that valued the firm at USD 3.6 billion, almost triple of what it was worth a year back, and is preparing to list soon.

The fund raise will help Zepto compete with e-commerce giant Amazon, Zomato-owned Blinkit, and home-grown firms such as Swiggy's Instamart and Tata Group's BigBasket in the hyper-competitive grocery delivery space that is marred by high investments and low margins.

The three-year-old startup raised USD 665 million from new investors, including New York-based private equity firm Avenir Growth Capital, venture firm Lightspeed, and Avra Capital, a new fund started by former Y Combinator Continuity head Anu Hariharan and Andreessen Horowitz. Existing investors including Glade Brook, Nexus,

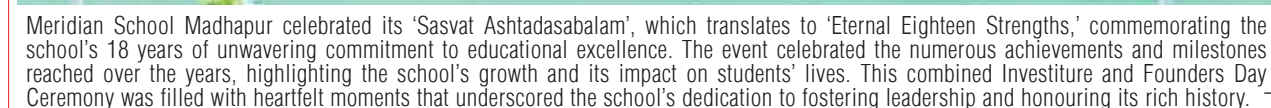
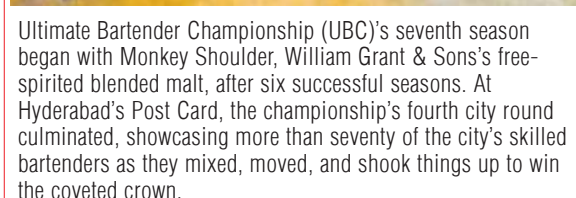
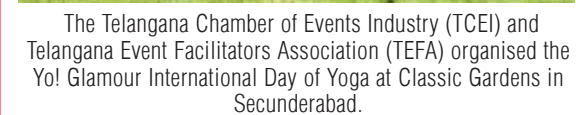
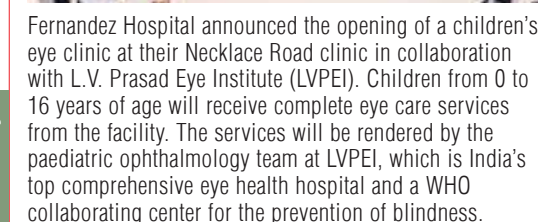
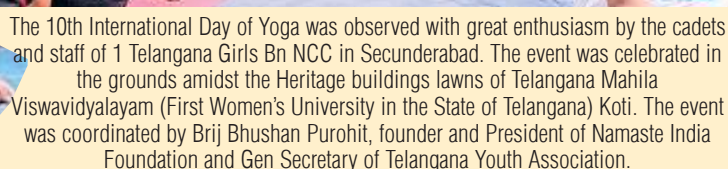
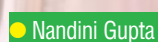
and StepStone Group also participated, the Mumbai-based firm said in a statement. Aadit Palicha, 21, who co-founded Zepto with childhood friend Kaivalya Vohra in 2021 after dropping out of Stanford's computer science programme and returning to India,

said the company's gross merchandise value, or the value of total transactions through the platform, has "multiplied year-on-year to a base of USD 1 billion", and over 75 per cent of its 341 dark stores are profitable at a core operating level.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PR Circle - BONGHUR
Tender Notice No.: TD/P/16-Proc./02/01/02/01/04(2nd/05/2024-25 Date: 21.06.2024
05 Nos of civil works sanctioned under FDR, SDF & VOT&C (Sports) Dept. Grants in Yadadri Bhongir District and Medchal Malkajgiri. With an Total Estt. Cost: Rs.: 172.75 Lakhs. Tenders Download Start & End Dt:25-06-2024 to Dt:03.07.2024 Every NIT/Id will be available (7) clear working days available from the date of publishing in "e" Procurement Platform for further details "e" Procurement Market place i.e. www.aprcprocurement.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Circle Bhongir.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Short NIT No.04/SE (M)/Sec-bad Zone/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 21.06.2024
No. of Works: 04 Works. Estimated amount: Rs. 216.00 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 22.06.2024, 12.00 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 25.06.2024, 12.00 PM. Name & Address Officer Call No.: SE, Sec' bad Zone, GHMC, Cell No. 9969930374. Further details can be seen at @ https://www.tender.telanganagov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Secunderabad Zone, GHMC R.O.No: 993-PF/CIVIL/HT/112024-25 Dt: 21.06.2024

what's brewing?



FUN

THAT'S GREAT, HOBBS!
I'M A TIGER!

WELL, BEING A TIGER IS
MORE THAN JUST STRIPES,
YOU REALIZE.

KIND OF A ZEN
THING, HUH?

YOU HAVE TO THINK
LIKE A TIGER.

"YOWWOW,
I'M HUNGRY!
WHAT'S FOR
DINNER?"

HAR HAR.
DO YOU WANT
ME TO TEACH
YOU ANYTHING
OR NOT?

-HOW'S
THAT?

© 1995 NEA/DO

THE KIDS ARE SO ACTIVE WE HARDLY EAT TOGETHER ANymore.

DAVE COVERLY
© 1999 SIMPSON
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[illegible]

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Yesterday's solution									
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1	5	7	6	8	2	4	9	3	
4	2	3	5	9	7	8	6	1	
9	6	8	3	4	1	7	5	2	

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.

1 A curved wooden thing
thrown by an Australian
Aborigine
6 The steps on a ladder
7 Inexpensive
9 Manufactured
10 Say again
12 Thief
14 Ripped
17 The skin on top of the h
18 Fortunate
19 Family members who
lived long ago

DOWN

2 Possessed
3 A tall pole on a yacht
4 More wealthy

5 A female relation
6 Comments
8 Things made of
kiln-baked clay
11 Humans
13 You remember and
think with this body
organ
15 Happen
16 Apartment

SOLUTION

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A	P	R	I	L	T	A	B	L	E
R	O	A	E	O					
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RASHMIKA MANDANNA’S TRAVEL TALES THROUGH EXOTIC ESCAPADES



Rashmika Mandanna, hailed as India's National Crush, lives by the mantra of seizing every moment. Between her packed schedules, she indulges in exotic getaways that become colourful chapters in her life's narrative, documented vividly on her Instagram—a canvas of admiration from her legion of followers. From the tranquil landscapes of Italy to the opulent resorts of the UAE, the fashion avenues of Paris, the cultural richness of Tokyo, and the glittering events of Dubai, Rashmika's travels are a testament to her zest for life, beauty, and joy. Not long ago, Rashmika shared striking monochrome snapshots from her Italian sojourn, exuding effortless charm against the backdrop of Italy's picturesque vistas. Her stylish shades added a touch of glamour, resonating perfectly with the elegance of her surroundings. Celebrating her birthday, Rashmika chose the serene Bani Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, where she stayed at the luxurious Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Resort. Her heartfelt posts captured moments of tranquility and happiness, resonating deeply with her audience. Rashmika's globetrotting adventures also took her to the fashion capital, Paris, where she graced the Milan Fashion Week in impeccable style. Her Instagram carousel

showcased a stunning black dress, complemented by a matching coat and chic sneakers, blending urban charm with haute couture. Tokyo, a longtime dream destination for Rashmika, finally became a reality. She attended an awards ceremony in a breathtaking ensemble, fulfilling a childhood aspiration. Amidst her busy schedule, she explored Tokyo's vibrant culture and iconic landmarks, creating memories cherished by her and her team. In Dubai, Rashmika's visit for a high-profile shop launch event was nothing short of glamorous. Dressed in a mesmerising golden glitter saree, she captivated onlookers, who gathered in admiration. Videos from the event captured the euphoric cheers of her fans, underscoring her immense popularity both in India and abroad. With each adventure, Rashmika Mandanna continues to inspire wanderlust enthusiasts and fashion aficionados alike; her travels are not merely destinations but celebrations of life's boundless experiences. As she embarks on new escapades, her journey remains a captivating narrative of exploration, elegance, and cultural discovery.



Saiyami Kher excited to join Sunny Deol in Gopichand Malineni's next film



In a significant collaboration for Indian cinema, Saiyami Kher expresses her excitement about joining forces with veteran actor Sunny Deol for the upcoming film *SDGM*, produced by the makers of the blockbuster *Pushpa 2*. Announced with much fanfare, *SDGM* is set to be a highly anticipated project under the direction of renowned filmmaker Gopichand Malineni. The film promises an unforgettable cinematic experience, blending talent and vision to create compelling storytelling. The official launch event for *SDGM* took place on Thursday in Hyderabad, attended by both Sunny Deol and Saiyami Kher, marking the beginning of what promises to be an exciting production journey. Filming is scheduled to commence on June 22, 2024. Reflecting on her role in the film, Saiyami Kher, known for her standout performances, shared her enthusiasm: "I am thrilled to be a part of *SDGM*. It's a dream come true to work alongside Sunny Deol, an icon of Indian cinema. After *Ghoomeer*, this opportunity marks a significant milestone in my career. I've been eagerly waiting to be part of a proper commercial film, and I'm grateful for this chance. Gopichand Malineni's vision for the film is truly exciting. I can't wait to embark on this journey and bring our story to life. I am thankful to the producers for their belief in me and for providing this grand platform to showcase my abilities." The producers, riding high on the success of *Pushpa*, are confident that *SDGM* will captivate audiences with its unique storyline and powerful performances, promising another stellar addition to their repertoire.

AJITH BEGINS SHOOTING FOR VIDAAMUYARCHI IN AZERBAIJAN

In an ambitious move set against the backdrop of Azerbaijan's stunning landscapes, the final shooting for actor Ajith's much-anticipated Tamil film *Vidaamuyarchi* commenced on Friday. This marks a significant milestone as the production team gears up for a 22-day shoot in the picturesque country. *Vidaamuyarchi*, a film that has been generating buzz since its announcement, promises to be a visual treat for audiences with its unique narrative and exotic filming locations. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Magizh Thirumeni, the movie has already captured attention for its intriguing storyline and star-studded cast. Said to be a suspense thriller, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun, Arun Vijay, Regina Cassandra, and Aarav are said to be playing crucial roles in the film. Azerbaijan, known for its blend of modernity and ancient culture, provides an ideal canvas for the film's narrative to unfold. The decision to shoot in Azerbaijan underscores the production team's commitment to delivering a cinematic experience that transcends borders and captivates global audiences. Scheduled for release during Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated with fervor across India and the diaspora, *Vidaamuyarchi* is poised to be a blockbuster hit. The film will have Anirudh Ravichander scoring the music and Nirav Shah as the cinematographer.



Regina Cassandra pens a heartfelt note as she joins SDGM

Regina Cassandra, celebrated for her impactful roles, embarks on a new cinematic journey with director Gopichand Malineni's upcoming project, alongside Bollywood icon Sunny Deol. The collaboration under Mythri Movie Makers has sparked excitement, prompting Regina to share a heartfelt message on her Instagram. "To new beginnings and new adventures! Starting off on a promising note with a team of legends," Regina expressed, signaling her enthusiasm for the project. *SDGM* has garnered immense anticipation since its announcement, with filming set to commence shortly. Regina's radiant appearance in a golden-hued saree, glimpsed in shared photos, has already captivated fans, who eagerly await details about her role in this grand venture. As Regina Cassandra prepares to delve into this ambitious undertaking, the film promises to be a significant addition to her diverse and illustrious career. Stay tuned for more updates as this collaboration unfolds into what promises to be an exciting cinematic spectacle.



Kaala Bhairava's melodious voice for Pottel strikes a chord

Directed by Sahit Mothkhuri, *Pottel* unfolds against a rustic backdrop, promising a narrative that is both refreshing and sincere. The film has already garnered significant praise for its genuine portrayal of emotions, generating palpable excitement among viewers. The musical journey of *Pottel* continues to captivate audiences, with its first three songs becoming instant hits, and now the release of its fourth single has further heightened anticipation. *Buji Meka*, the latest offering, is a poignant and soul-stirring track that encapsulates the essence of the film. Composed by Shekar Chandra, the song's haunting melody provides a perfect backdrop for the evocative lyrics penned by Kasarla Shyam. Kaala Bhairava's emotive vocals breathe life into the composition, infusing it with a deep emotional resonance that strikes a chord with listeners.



Directed by Sahit Mothkhuri, *Pottel* marks his third directorial venture, featuring Ananya Nagalla as the lead actress alongside Yuva Chandraa Krishna. The film is produced by Nishank Reddy Kudithi and Suresh Kumar Sadige, with cinematography by Monish Bhupathi Raju, editing by Karthika Srinivas, and art direction by Narni Srinivas. With its natural visuals and heartfelt performances, *Buji Meka* promises to be a soothing and touching addition to the film's musical repertoire. The makers of *Pottel* are gearing up to bring this heartfelt narrative to theatres soon, aiming to deliver an authentic cinematic experience that resonates with audiences.

Harish Shankar launches Ma Ooru Srikakulam title song from Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes

Director Harish Shankar, renowned for his blockbusters, has unveiled the title song *Ma Ooru Srikakulam* from the upcoming crime comedy thriller *Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes*. Directed by Mohan, known for his writing prowess, the film stars Vennela Kishore and Ananya Nagalla in lead roles. Produced by Vennapusa Ramana Reddy under Sri Ganapathi Cinemas and presented by Lasya Reddy, the film's first-look poster has already received an enthusiastic response. With the launch of the title song, the movie's musical promotions have kicked off in earnest. *Ma Ooru Srikakulam*, composed by Sunil Kashyap, is a catchy and emotive number. The lyrics penned by Saraswati Putra Ramajogaiah Sastry beautifully capture the essence of Srikakulam. Mangli's energetic vocals add a charming layer to the song, which is complemented by impressive visuals. During the song launch event, Harish Shankar

expressed his delight, stating, "I am very happy to launch the title song of *Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes*. The title itself is quite amusing. I have known Mohan since his days as a writer, and he is exceptionally talented. I've seen the visuals, and they are top-notch, with Mangli delivering a brilliant performance. I anticipate a unique film from Vennela Kishore and wish the entire team all the best." The film boasts a stellar technical crew, including music by Sunil Kashyap, lyrics by Ramajogaiah Sastry and Kasarla Shyam, cinematography by Mallikarjun, and editing by Avinash Gurlinka. Suresh Bimamani, known for his work on *Baby*, handles the art direction, while Rajesh Ram Bala serves as the executive producer. With promising talent and a compelling storyline, *Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes* is poised to deliver an entertaining blend of crime, comedy, and thrills, promising audiences a memorable cinematic experience.



EVOL: A unique reverse love story set to captivate audiences

In today's film industry, whether big or small, original content that resonates with audiences is paramount. This trend has spurred directors and producers to continuously innovate. In line with this ethos, a compelling trailer has been released for the intriguing movie *EVOL* (LOVE). *EVOL* stars Surya Srinivas and Siva Boddu Raju as the male leads, with Jennifer Emmanuel portraying the female lead. Producer-director Ram Yogi Velagapudi has unveiled that *EVOL* will present a reverse love story, marking a departure from conventional narratives. The recently released trailer has already garnered positive feedback, signaling an eager anticipation among viewers. The film's detailed presentation will unfold

during a press conference at Prasad Labs on Friday, where Director Ram Yogi Velagapudi, also the producer under Nakshatra Film Labs in association with Theda Batch Cinema, will reveal more about the project. He emphasised that *EVOL* has completed its filming and is poised for release, boasting a storyline centered around the complexities of friendship. Combining elements of a crime thriller with commercial appeal, the movie promises a gripping viewing experience. Filmed against the scenic backdrops of Hyderabad and Vizag, *EVOL* showcases a narrative that promises to challenge and engage audiences alike. As anticipation mounts, fans and cinephiles alike await the unveiling of this distinctive cinematic offering.



PRESSURE BUILDING ON TOP-ORDER AS INDIA TAKE ON BANGLADESH

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

The ever-present tension of their over a decade-long big-stage rivalry would make for an engrossing sub-plot when an undefeated India takes on a faltering Bangladesh, both teams desperately hoping for their batting stars to strike form in the Super Eights clash of the T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

The overall head-to-head record is overwhelmingly in India's favour but Bangladesh have been known to be plucky and Rohit Sharma and his men would be wary of that.

The two South Asian neighbours have also been locked in some off-field drama in the past with Bangladesh often expressing its misgivings with India's financial might in the sport.

At the ongoing World Cup though, there is no doubt that India are as mighty a cricketing power to be a serious title contender.

The Men in Blue produced a professional performance against Afghanistan in their opening Super Eights match. With only a travel day separating their remaining two games, they would be hoping that the players, who have not performed as per expectations so far, deliver the goods.

Top of that list would be the opening pair of Virat Kohli and

Rohit Sharma, both of whom have got starts but have not been able to turn them into defining knocks. They have made a conscious effort to force the pace but have ended with minimal returns.

Another under-pressure team member is left-hander Shivam Dube, who was picked in the World Cup squad to hammer sixes in the middle and death overs.

However, the IPL form that helped him seal a World Cup berth has deserted him and he is yet to come to the party.

The southpaw did make an unbeaten 31 against the USA in a group league game but it was Suryakumar Yadav's effort that made the difference ultimately. Another failure might force the team management to consider Sanju Samson in the middle order.

The biggest positive in the batting department in the Afghanistan game was Hardik Pandya's cameo. The all-rounder is known for his brutal hitting and that was on display on Thursday.

On the bowling front, India are expected to retain the combination having given the first opportunity of the tournament to crafty left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

The wickets in the Caribbean have provided enough help for the spinners, prompting India to play three at the Kensington Oval.



The combination is likely to continue here with Kuldeep retaining his place at the expense of Mohammed Siraj.

"Playing three left-arm spinners, I feel there is an advantage. There are three left-arm spinners out of which we have two finger spinners and

one wrist spinner," said Axar Patel after the Afghanistan game.

"The combination of the three of us is very good. We have a good team. We communicate well. Like whoever comes to bowl first, we communicate what is working and what is

not. I think that is very important when you bowl as a unit," he added.

India's sole aim in the Caribbean is to win the trophy and a solid performance against Bangladesh will be another step forward in that context. A tougher battle

awaits against Australia on June 24.

Bangladesh, who have struggled with their batting throughout the tournament, find themselves in a must win situation after the loss to Australia.

The lack of power-hitters is

hurting them and there is no quick fix to that problem. The under-performance of opener Litton Das and Tanzid Khan has also compounded Bangladesh's woes.

"It's very important for the top-order to get runs like we did today, that's a big boost,

hopefully the bowlers will continue their form. Looking for a good show against India in our next match," Bangladesh captain Najmul Shanto said after the loss to Australia here on Friday.

Both Shanto (41) and Towhid Hridoy (40) did well but the rest of the line-up was not quite up to it.

They will need to find a way to tackle Bumrah, who has been sensational thus far, taking eight wickets at an unparalleled economy rate of 3.46 runs per over.

The pacers, led by Mustafizur Rahman, have done alright but leg-spinner Rishad Hossain needs more support in the spin department.

SQUADS:

Bangladesh: Tanzid Hasan, Litton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Towhid Hridoy, Mahmudullah, Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Mustafizur Rahman, Jaker Ali, Tanvir Islam, Shoriful Islam, Soumya Sarkar.

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj.

Big margin between Bumrah and rest, India fortunate: Manjrekar

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

India are fortunate to have a bowler of the calibre of Jasprit Bumrah, who is head and shoulders above the rest in international cricket, feels former batter Sanjay Manjrekar.

Bumrah bowled an incisive spell (3/7) to guide India to a convincing 47-run victory over Afghanistan in their opening Super Eights fixture of the T20 World Cup here.

With the bat, Suryakumar Yadav was the star performer as he slammed a 28-ball 53 to power India to 181 for eight in 20 overs.

"There were many matches when we had not conceded the boundary and look at the difference between him and the couple of other seamers," Manjrekar told ESPNcricinfo.

"They were also international standard, but quite rightly I mean, he's looking even better and when you look at all the top-class bowlers around the world.

"There's a big margin between them

and Bumrah and India is so fortunate to have him in your playing 11," Manjrekar added.

Former India captain Anil Kumble also lauded Bumrah's performance.

"The kind of understanding of his own bowling you can make out, even when he got Rahmanullah Gurbaz out on a slower ball and wide line. He gets the execution perfect.

"For each batsman he would have figured that out and then doing it right in a big game. This doesn't come easy and I think he has given limited boundaries in the entire tournament," Kumble said.

Regarding Suryakumar, Manjrekar said his presence puts India at an advantageous position.

"This is the advantage India have for having one of the best T20 batters in the world. Tricky pitch, Rashid Khan on song and again you saw the value that Suryakumar Yadav brings to any team.

"And again the thing to like about him which is not really highlighted much is



the amount of ground shots that he plays. He chips the balls over the infield in the gaps.

"So, he's not somebody who's always looking for sixes which means sometimes there can be miss-execution trying to extract power," Manjrekar said.

KUMBLE HAILS SKY IMPACT IN SUPER 8S: Kumble said Suryakumar regaining form in the Super Eights is a good sign for India.

"It (Suryakumar's presence) gives India the kind of power and stroke play that you need from someone who's batting at number four," said Kumble.

"It certainly puts pressure on the opposition bowlers because it's not easy to control a Surya in this kind of a form.

"You don't know where to bowl, wherever you bowl, you find it hard to stop him from scoring boundaries.

"So, yeah, it certainly augurs well. First game of the Super 8s and you have Surya coming back into this kind of form," Kumble said.



India to tour South Africa for 4-match T20I series in November

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

India will tour South Africa for a short four-match T20I series in November this year, CSA and the BCCI announced in a joint statement on Friday.

As per the itinerary released by Cricket South Africa (CSA), the series will begin on November 8 at the Hollywoodbets Kingsmead Stadium in Durban, followed by matches in Gqeberha on November 10, Cenetion on December 13 and Johannesburg on November 15.

"I would like to thank the BCCI for their continued support to South Africa's cricket, and world cricket in general," CSA chairperson Lawson Naidoo said in the statement.

"Any tour by the Indian cricket team to our shores is filled with amazing camaraderie and exciting cricket, and I know our fans will be eagerly awaiting this series which will showcase the exceptional talent from both teams," he added.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah added: "India and South Africa have always shared a deep and strong bond, one that both nations take great pride in. The Indian Cricket Team has consistently received immense appreciation and love from South African fans, and this sentiment is equally strong among Indian fans towards the South African side.

"I am confident that the upcoming series will once again highlight the on-field cricketing excellence and deliver enthralling, high-intensity contests."

India's short tour has been accommodated between their home Test series against New Zealand and their tour of Australia for the Border-Gavaskar series.

Cummins takes first hat-trick at T20 World Cup 2024

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Australia pacer Pat Cummins grabbed the first hat-trick of the ongoing T20 World Cup during the team's Super Eights match against Bangladesh here.

The 31-year-old removed experienced campaigner Mahmudullah and Mahedi Hasan off the last two deliveries of the 18th over and then returned to dismiss Towhid Hridoy with the first ball of the last over to claim the seventh hat-trick in T20I World Cups.

"I didn't know I was on a hat-trick. I did the previous over, I saw it come up on the screen and by the time my next over came around I totally forgot about it," Cummins said at the post-match press conference.

"So, I think Stoinis ran in from the deep, was cheering and I was like, oh yeah, forgot about that. So, yeah, nice one," he added.



It was also the first hat-trick of Cummins' career for Australia.

"I had a few (hat-tricks) in juniors but never for Australia. I think I got one in grade cricket, maybe fourth grade. And I think I got one in second 11 when I was 17.

"And I think the hat-trick ball was similar. It was the first ball of the last day when it was Joe Burns.

"And I went to bowl a slower ball and he ducked underneath it and it hit the ball on the full. So yeah, not too dissimilar to today's," he recalled.

The fast bowler, who has been enjoying a purple patch in international cricket over the past year, finished with figures of 3/29, as Australia defeated Bangladesh by 28 runs via the Duckworth Lewis method at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

"(Ashton) Agar and (Nathan) Ellis on the bench have T20 hat-

tricks so good to join that club," Cummins, who was adjudged the player of the match said.

"Pretty awesome to tick that off. Boys are welcoming me in the club. Good club to be part of," he added.

The country's Test and ODI captain thus joined Brett Lee, the only other Australian to take a T20 World Cup hat-trick, which also came against Bangladesh.

Lee was the first to claim a hat-trick in the marquee event way back in 2007 and the Australian remained the only one to achieve the feat until the 2021 edition when Ireland pacer Curtis Campher (2021), Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (2021) and South African quick Kagisa Rabada joined the elusive list. Other bowlers to claim a hat-trick in the T20 World Cup include UAE's Karthik Meiyappan (2022) and Joshua Little (2022) of Ireland.

West Indies face crunch USA clash

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

West Indies cannot afford another misstep as they take on a tenacious USA outfit in the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup here, seeking to renew their quest for an unprecedented third title.

After remaining unbeaten in the group stage, the West Indies slumped to an eight-wicket loss to defending champions England in their opening Super Eight fixture, paying the price for playing out as many as 51 dot balls and failing to rotate strike.

The heavy defeat to England has not only pushed Rayman Powell and his men to the bottom of the group but they now have -1.343 net run rate and need to win big to keep their hopes of lifting the

title at home alive.

USA, on the other hand, haven't won any game since their victory against Pakistan earlier this month. But they gave a good account of themselves against India and almost shocked South Africa, falling just 18 runs short of the Proteas' 194/4 against a high-quality bowling attack.

The co hosts of the tournament have shown that they are not here just to make up numbers and are not to be taken lightly. They have played an aggressive brand of cricket so far and in likelihood will continue to do so in the coming matches.

"Of course, I would say we're playing good cricket and the team is gelling well together and at the end of the day we know that we're going to be the

underdogs for all teams that we played against in the Super 8s.

"So, we're just here to play good cricket and if we go in, we win - if we lose, we lose," USA batter Steven Taylor said at the pre-match press conference.

However, their weakness is their inexperienced bowling attack that sometimes lacks discipline, and the West Indies, who are blessed with big hitters like Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Powel, will like to capitalise on that.

"We did lack discipline in the bowling at times. Once we play good cricket we can beat any team in the world. But we



need to be a lot more disciplined," vice-captain Aaron Jones had said after the game against South Africa.

Even though they have their backs against the walls, West Indies coach Darren Sammy asserted their "spirits are not dampened".

"In a tournament, there's a game where the opposition will get the better of you. But that doesn't mean you're out of it. Now, in order to win, we've got to win all our matches. And that's what we'll focus on," Sammy said.

Brandon King, who suffered a side strain and was forced to retire hurt against England, remains a doubtful starter for the hosts. If he doesn't recover, Shimron Hetmyer could take King's place in the playing XI.

USA have been without skipper Monank Patel since their game

against Pakistan.

TEAMS (FROM):

West Indies Squad: Rovman Powell (c), Brandon King, Johnson Charles, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell, Romario Shepherd, Roston Chase, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Obed McCoy, Shamari Joseph, Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope.

USA: Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Noshutush Kenjige, Saurabh Nathralvakar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangir. Reserve Players: Gajanand Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Yasir Mohammad.