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Two UoH faculty members receive 'Har Gobind Khorana Innovative Young Biotechnologist' Award

Hyderabad: Two University of Hyderabad (UoH) professors have been awarded 'Har Gobind Khorana Innovative Young Biotechnologist Fellowship (IYBF)' for 2023-24 by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.

The fellowship provides research grant support and a cash award to the recipients – Dr. M. Shyam Lal, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Biology, and Dr. Manjari Kiran, Assistant Professor, Department of Systems and Computational Biology, University of Hyderabad (UoH).

DCA raid shops, finds unlicensed medicines

Hyderabad: During raids carried out on in the last two days, the officials of Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, detected drugs falsely manufactured and sold under the guise of food products/nutraceuticals.

The DCA officials of Warangal zone detected Neurocad-G Tablets circulating in the market falsely claiming to be a food product/nutraceutical and were manufactured under a 'food license (FSSAI license)' illegally as a food product/nutraceutical. A.N.Kranthi Kumar, Drugs Inspector, Vikarabad carried out the raid and seized the drugs at a medical shop in Tandur and samples were lifted for analysis. The DCA officials also detected certain medicines circulating in the market with misleading claims on their labels, stating that they treat rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatism, kidney stones and fevers. Such claims were in contravention of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

Supreme Court raps Telangana CM for remarks on bail to Kavitha

CM Revanth Reddy Warns Against Corruption Following Complaints of Intimidation in the Name of HYDRA

GNS News Agency, August 29

Hyderabad: The Supreme Court has taken strong exception to the recent remarks made by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the bail granted to BRS MLC K Kavitha. The apex court criticized Revanth Reddy for his comments, stating that such statements from a constitutional functionary were inappropriate and undermined the judiciary's independence. During a hearing, the Supreme Court bench, headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, expressed its displeasure over Reddy's comments, which suggested a purported deal between the BJP and BRS to secure Kavitha's bail. The court questioned whether it should pass orders in consultation with political parties, asserting that its decisions were made independently and based on constitutional duties. Justice Gavai remarked: "Is this a kind of statement that should be made by a CM? Such statements might create apprehensions in the minds of people. However, we are not bothered by criticism of our orders. We do our duty according to our conscience and the oath taken under the Constitution." The contro-



versy arose after Revanth Reddy publicly questioned the bail granted to Kavitha, comparing it to the prolonged detention of other political figures. "It is a fact that BRS worked for the victory of the BJP in the 2024 LS polls. There is also talk that Kavitha got bail because of a deal between BRS and BJP," he had said.

GNS News Agency, August 29

Hyderabad: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responded to allegations of intimidation under the guise of HYDRA, stating that his attention was drawn to instances where some officials have been demanding bribes. The Chief Minister warned that strict action would be taken against corrupt officials and emphasized that there would be no leniency for those involved in such practices. CM Revanth Reddy instructed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Vigilance departments to focus on identifying and taking action against corrupt officials. He stressed the need for accountability and transparency within the administration, asserting that the government is committed to rooting out corruption and ensuring that all officials adhere to ethical standards. The Chief Minister's remarks come amid growing concerns about corruption in the



administration, and his strong stance signals the government's commitment to maintaining integrity and trust in public service.

SC to appoint special prosecutor for 2015 cash-for-vote scam involving Telangana CM

Relief to DK Shivakumar, High Court rejects CBI plea linked to corruption case

GNS News Agency, August 29

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will appoint a special prosecutor to conduct trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote scam case in which Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is an accused. The top court was hearing a petition seeking transfer of the trial in the case from the State to Bhopal. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai, PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan said it will consult colleagues from Telangana and pass an order at 2 pm. At the outset, senior advocate C Aryama Sundaram, appearing for Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others, sought transfer of trial saying the Telangana CM has been publicly making statements on the case.



"Only on apprehension, how can we entertain... If we entertain such petitions, we will be disbelieving our judicial officers," the bench observed. Sundaram submitted that Telangana CM is himself the Home Minister. "There is a rule of natural justice that no person should be a judge in his own cause," he said. The Bench then said it will pass orders to appoint an independent public prosecutor to inspire confidence. On May 31, 2015, Revanth Reddy, then with the Telugu Desam Party, was apprehended by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while allegedly paying Rs 50 lakh bribe to Elvis Stephenson, a nominated MLA, for supporting TDP nominee Vem Narendar Reddy in the legislative council elections.

Apart from Revanth Reddy, the ACB arrested some others. All of them were later granted bail. The plea, seeking transfer of the trial to Bhopal, has raised the issue of a free and fair trial saying that Revanth Reddy has now become the Chief Minister as well as Home Minister of Telangana. "Because a true and fair trial is sine qua non

GNS News Agency, August 29

The court dismissed petitions filed by the CBI and BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, who had challenged the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw consent for a probe against DK Shivakumar. The Karnataka High Court on Thursday rejected a batch of pleas challenging the state government's move to withdraw consent for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, in a disproportionate assets case.

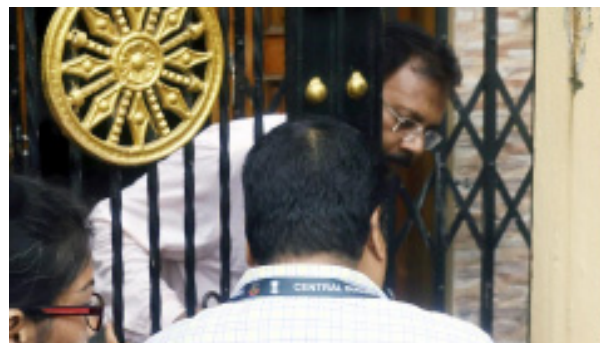


The court dismissed petitions filed by the central probe agency and the Opposition BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, who had challenged the Siddaramaiah government's decision to withdraw consent for a CBI probe into corruption allegations against Shivakumar. Last week, the Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister appeared before the Lokayukta Police for a probe in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case against him. In February, the Lokayukta Police filed a case against Shivakumar after the ruling Congress government in the state withdrew consent to the CBI to investigate the DA case against him in November 2023, and referred the case to it. The Supreme Court, on July 15, rejected a petition by DK

Shivakumar challenging the FIR lodged by the CBI against him, saying it cannot interfere with the High Court order. The High Court, in October 2023, rejected his plea and also directed the federal agency to complete the probe into the case and file the report within three months. The CBI filed the FIR against Shivakumar in September 2020, in which it alleged that he amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income between 2013 and 2018. He was a minister in the then-Congress government during that period.

CBI continues to question ex-RG Kar hospital principal in doctor's rape-murder case

Kavitha visits KCR at his farmhouse in Erravelli on returning to Hyd



Kolkata Police. A civic volunteer Sanjay Roy was arrested by Kolkata Police in connection with the case. Both Ghosh and Roy were among those who have undergone a polygraph test as part of the investigation process. The CBI has named Ghosh in the FIR the agency has filed in connection with its probe into the alleged financial irregularities at the hospital during his tenure. The central agency had, on August 25, conducted a day-long search operation at Ghosh's Beliaghata residence in Kolkata in connection with the corruption cases. The Enforcement Directorate has also filed a money laundering case to probe alleged financial irregularities at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital during the tenure of its former principal and some others, official sources said.

Hyderabad: In an emotional reunion, BRS leader and MLC K Kavitha visited her father, K. Chandrashekhara Rao at his farmhouse in Erravelli on Thursday.

The atmosphere at the farmhouse was filled with warmth as party leaders and cadre too were present. Visibly moved upon seeing his daughter, the former Chief Minister who has always been a pillar of strength for his family, showed a softer side as he embraced his daughter. Kavitha was welcomed with traditional rituals. Her eyes filled with tears, Kavitha bowed at his feet, seeking his blessings.

GNS News Agency, August 29

appeared before our sleuths for questioning," an official at the central agency said. According to sources, the former principal of the State-run hospital, where the body of the trainee doctor was recovered on August 9, has already been questioned by the CBI for over 130 hours. Following orders of the Calcutta High Court, the CBI took over the investigation into the alleged rape and murder of a medic, an official said. Ghosh appeared for questioning before the central agency for the 13th consecutive day. "Ghosh

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday (August 29, 2024) continued to question Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of State-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, in connection with its probe into the alleged rape and murder of a medic, an official said. Ghosh appeared for questioning before the central agency for the 13th consecutive day.

Kangana Ranaut hits back at Akali leader: 'Rape casually used to mock women'

Harish Rao slams government over conditions in Gurukul schools



after Ranaut alleged that "rapes" took place during the farmers' protest. Mann's comments sparked widespread condemnation, with the Punjab women's commission taking note of it. The MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi, in a recent interview, suggested that the farmers' protests could have led to a Bangladesh-like crisis in the country if India's leadership was not strong enough. Ranaut also alleged that "bodies were hanging" and "rapes" were taking place during the farmers' protests, which went on for nearly a year in 2019-2020. She also alleged the involvement of China and the US in the "conspiracy".

Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut voiced her strong disapproval of former Punjab MP Simranjit Singh Mann's derogatory remarks against her over rape. Taking to social media, Ranaut expressed her outrage, stating, "It seems this country will never stop trivialising rape. Today, this senior politician compared getting raped to riding a bicycle. No wonder rapes and violence against women for fun are so deeply rooted in the psyche of this patriarchal nation that it is casually used to tease or mock a woman, even if she is a high-profile filmmaker or politician". It seems this country will never stop trivialising rape, today this senior politician compared getting raped to riding a bicycle no wonder rapes and violence against women for fun, is so deep rooted in the psyche of this patriarchal nation that it is casually used to tease or mock a woman, even if she is a high-profile filmmaker or politician". It seems this country will never stop trivialising rape, today this senior politician compared getting raped to riding a bicycle no wonder rapes and violence against women for fun, is so deep rooted in the psyche of this patriarchal nation that it is casually used to tease or mock a woman, even if she is a high-profile filmmaker or politician". It seems this country will never stop trivialising rape, today this senior politician compared getting raped to riding a bicycle no wonder rapes and violence against women for fun, is so deep rooted in the psyche of this patriarchal nation that it is casually used to tease or mock a woman, even if she is a high-profile filmmaker or politician".

Ranaut's comments come in response to Mann's controversial statement, in which he had said, "You can ask her (Kangana Ranaut) how rape happens so that people can be explained how rape happens. She has a lot of experience of rape". The actress, known for her bold and outspoken nature, highlighted how such remarks reflect a deep-seated cultural problem where the suffering of women is often dismissed or minimized. The Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) leader's remark came days

Hyderabad: Drawing the attention of the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to the state of affairs in the residential schools across the State, BRS leader and former minister T Harish Rao on Thursday expressed his anger and concern over the deteriorating conditions in Gurukul institutions.

His criticism comes in the wake of multiple incidents where students have been bitten by rats and hospitalized due to poor hygienic conditions. He pointed out that 12 students at Ramayampet gurukul school in Medak district and 13 students at Kondabhimnapalli Gurukul School in Nalgonda district were attacked by rats while they were in sleep. These incidents have raised serious questions about the safety and hygiene standards in these residential schools. Harish Rao questioned the Chief Minister's handling of the situation. He pointed out that students are not only being bitten by rats but are also at risk of snake bites and food poisoning. In the last eight months, over 500 Gurukul students have been hospitalized, and 36 students have tragically lost their lives.

Chandrababu Inaugurates First Domestic RTPCR Kit for Monkeypox

GNS News Agency, August 29

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has praised the development of the RTPCR kit developed by Visakha Med Tech Zone, marking a significant milestone in domestic medical technology. The Chief Minister inaugurated the first RTPCR kit during a ceremony held at the Secretariat. In attendance were Med Tech Zone CEO Jitendra Sharma and other representatives, who expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his support. The newly unveiled kit, named ErbaMDx MonkeyPox RT-PCR Kit, has been developed in collaboration with Transasia Diagnostics Pvt Ltd. Jitendra Sharma confirmed that the kit has received urgent approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Central

Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). During the unveiling, CM Chandrababu Naidu congratulated the Med Tech Zone representatives on their achievement, highlighting the local production of the first RTPCR kit for monkeypox diagnosis. He emphasized that this initiative will enhance the "Make in AP" brand and promised the government's continued support for the Med Tech Zone. In addition to the RTPCR kit, Med Tech Zone representatives shared plans to develop a solar-powered electric wheelchair, which will be designed to ensure that users face no financial burden. The Chief Minister encouraged the team to focus on manufacturing durable medical equipment at affordable prices, furthering the state's commitment to accessible healthcare innovation.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

‘Illegal, politically motivated’ – ahead of ‘Nabanna Abhijan’ protest march, West Bengal police cast doubts on organisers



GNS News Agency, August 29

A day before the planned ‘Nabanna Abhijan’ (March to Nabanna) protest march to the West Bengal Secretariat, the state’s police department denounced the march as “illegal” and “politically motivated”. The protest march, organised under the student banner ‘Paschim Banga Chatra Samaj’, comes at a time when the state is already reeling over the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata’s state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Addressing a press conference he held Monday at Nabanna — the state secretariat building in Howrah — Additional Director General of Police (South Bengal)

Supratim Sarkar claimed that a student leader involved in organising the protest met a prominent political figure at a five-star hotel in Kolkata on Sunday.

Without disclosing the identity of this “student leader”, Sarkar said there were “concerns about possible disruptions” during the protest march. “We will bring this matter before the court and are collecting all necessary information to understand the purpose of this meeting,” the senior police officer said. “We have received information that some miscreants may attempt to create chaos during tomorrow’s movement. We are working to identify those who are instigating the event and urge everyone to avoid falling into their trap.”

He also cast doubts on the existence of organisers, the ‘Paschim Banga Chatra Samaj’. “We have conducted thorough checks and found that there is no organisation by this name. While they claim to be non-political, their social media presence suggests otherwise.” “The organisers have been informed of the restrictions imposed near Nabanna. The police have banned gatherings of more than five people around the area,” the ADG said. Significantly, the Left and its student outfits have distanced themselves from the rally, which they claim is a “BJP-RSS ploy” to “detract from the people’s movement” over the rape and murder of a junior doctor.

How PT teacher convicted of sexual harassment of minor girl student allowed to work in same school, held again for similar crime



GNS News Agency, August 29

The Pimpri-Chinchwad police arrested a 56-year-old physical training (PT) teacher of a school under their jurisdiction last week for allegedly sexually harassing a 12-year-old girl student — the second time after being jailed for a similar crime. In 2018, the teacher had committed a similar offence in the same school for which he was not only arrested but was also convicted and sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment by a court in Pune. The school authorities continued the services of the accused after he was released on bail in the case.

As per the police and court records, the accused sexually harassed a 15-year-old girl who was then studying in Class 10 in the same school. The accused, who was a teacher of physical education and defence science, sexually harassed the girl inside the school at around 11 am on October 11, 2018, when she requested him to give her more time to finish some assignments. When the victim met the accused in his cabin, he told her that other students had already submitted their work. The teacher also told her he would grant her some more time on her request. The accused then allegedly, with sexual intent, told her that he was ready to take her on a trip and “she could enjoy”. The victim left the school immediately and narrated the incident to her mother, who was waiting outside. It wasn’t the first time, the accused had harassed the 15-year-old girl. He had allegedly made sexual gestures towards the victim and sexually assaulted her on October 5, 2018, when he offered to drop the victim and her classmates home in his car. After dropping her classmates, the accused allegedly held her hand and demanded sexual favour. He reportedly told the victim that “there can be a love affair between a teacher and a student”.

The police said the victim left the place immediately, but she did not tell anyone about the incident out of fear. After the accused allegedly harassed her again on October 11, 2018, she told her mother and then approached the police. Based on the victim’s statement, a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged against the accused on October 12, 2018, under Section 354-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections of the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act.

Teacher pleaded not guilty in the first case. Charges were framed against him before a special court in Pune on March 30, 2019. The accused pleaded not guilty and claimed that he had been falsely implicated in the case because of the internal politics within the society that runs the school and also because of the greedy nature of the victim’s family. The accused told the court he was the school’s headmaster and alleged he was removed from the post. The person who was made the new headmaster held a grudge against him and hatched the conspiracy to implicate him in the false case, he said. During the trial, the lawyer of the accused argued that he had been felicitated and awarded for his outstanding work in teaching. The accused also submitted some certificates and newspaper cuttings before the court to show that he has earned a good name in the field of sports as a teacher and trainer.

The defence lawyer prayed for acquittal, claiming that the accused is active in social work, and considering his status in society, it cannot be believed that he committed an offence of sexual assault or sexual harassment. The accused also claimed that he was not present in school when the girl was stated to have met him on October 10, 2018. He said he had attended a different school that day. However, the school muster roll, produced before the court, showed he was present in the school on the day of the incident. The court considered the minor victim’s statement recorded before the judge as per Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The court observed, “There is absolutely no reason for the victim to make imaginary or false allegations against the teacher with whom she has no enmity, any other grudge or grievance.” The court also observed, “The profession, the contribution of the accused in the field of sports, and his social work is not a certificate of his innocence so far his sexuality is concerned. Even a renowned person may commit a sexual act out of lust.” “In the present case, from the consistent evidence of the victim, what can be gathered is that taking undue advantage of the position, the accused had made a serious attempt to entice the girl sexually, caused her sexual harassment...” the court stated. Considering the gravity of the offence, the prosecution lawyer demanded maximum punishment and appropriate fine for the accused. On September 28, 2021, the court held the accused teacher guilty and awarded him three years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. The police said the teacher filed an appeal against the conviction order before the Bombay High Court, and the matter is pending. Meanwhile, the high court released the convict on bail, and he rejoined the same school. New case for sexually harassing another minor girl student. On August 23, the police arrested the teacher after filing an FIR against him for the sexual harassment of the 12-year-old girl from the same school. This time, the police arrested the teacher as well as six other school authorities, including the principal and trustees. The accused teacher was booked under sections 74, 78, 79, 351 (2), 115 (2), 13 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections of the PoCSO Act and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. According to the FIR, the accused molested the victim during PT class and used to follow her when she went to the washroom. On August 21, when the girl went to the school washroom, the accused who was allegedly waiting outside, touched her body when she came out and demanded a kiss from her in the Kannada language, the FIR mentioned. The police said the school authorities allegedly encouraged the crime by allowing a convict in a sexual harassment case to work with the girl students.

35-foot statue of Shivaji Maharaj collapses in Sindhudurg; oppn slams govt for poor quality of work

GNS News Agency, August 29

A statue of Maratha King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a fort in Maharashtra’s Sindhudurg district, collapsed on Monday, an official said. Following the incident, the opposition parties have slammed the state government, alleging it had paid little attention to the quality of work. A 35-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj collapsed around 1 pm at Rajkot Fort in Malvan, the official said. Experts will ascertain the exact cause of the collapse, but the district has witnessed heavy rains and gusty winds in the last two to three days, he said. Senior officials of the police and district administration reached the site to take stock of the situation, and the damage is being examined, he said.



PM Modi unveiled the statue on December 4 last year on the occasion of Navy Day. He also participated in the celebrations at the fort. NCP (SP) state president and former minister Jayant Patil said, “The state government is responsible for the collapse, as it did not take proper care. The government paid little attention to the quality of work. It only focused on conducting an event where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited to unveil the statue. This Maharashtra government only issues new tenders, accepts commissions and gives contracts accordingly.” Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Vaibhav Naik also criticised the state government for the alleged poor quality of the work.

“The state government may try to evade responsibility. People responsible for the construction and erection of the statue must be probed thoroughly,” he said. Maharashtra Minister Deepak Kesarkar said, “I don’t have all the details about the incident. However, it’s important to note that PWD Minister Ravindra Chavan, also the guardian minister of Sindhudurg district, has said a thorough investigation will be conducted in the matter.” “We are committed to erecting a new statue at the same location. This statue, unveiled by PM Modi, pays tribute to Shivaji Maharaj’s visionary efforts in building a sea fort. We will take all necessary steps to address this matter promptly and effectively,” he said.

1 man, 16 bank accounts used for cyber frauds: how the law caught up with him



GNS News Agency, August 29

Delhi cyber fraud, bank fraud arrest, fake bank accounts Delhi, Dhan Singh Rajput fraud. After receiving the complaint, the police tracked the account into which the money was transferred and found that it belonged to Bharti Meena, a resident of Dausa, Rajasthan. A former employee of a prominent bank in Delhi was recently arrested for allegedly opening 16 fake accounts of people on the pretext of giving them loans, and using these accounts to facilitate 153 cyber frauds. An officer from the Dwarka Cyber Police Station said a few of these accounts were used by the accused, Dhan Singh Rajput, 31, to execute the frauds, and others were sourced to other fraudsters.

The case came to light when a woman registered a complaint at the Dwarka Cyber Police Station claiming she was duped of Rs. 60,000. Prem Lata, a resident of Vipin Garden Extension in Dwarka, said she received a call on August 14, 2023, from a person who said he had Rs. 25,000 from her husband’s salary with him. The caller then told her that her husband had asked for the money to be transferred through her Google Pay account as he was not able to send the sum to her husband’s account. Prem Lata then gave the GPay number to the man, later identified as Rajput, and received messages saying that Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000 had been transferred to her account. The caller then asked her to return Rs. 45,000 to her, claiming that the money was sent to her by mistake. She returned the amount. The only thing was Lata never received the money from Rajput.

After receiving the complaint, the police tracked the account into which the money was transferred and found that it belonged to Bharti Meena, a resident of Dausa, Rajasthan. According to the police, Meena said her account was made by Dhan Singh Rajput, who claimed he would give her a loan against her buffalo if she opened an account with his bank. However, after a few days, Rajput came to her house saying that the loan couldn’t be passed due to some technical issues. He took away her debit card and the bank kit, saying that he would close the account. The account though, the police say, was never closed. In January, a notice under Section 41a of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) was issued against Dhan Singh Rajput. He joined the investigation and claimed that all the accounts he opened were in line with the bank’s policies. But on further investigation around the Mewat area, we found that he had opened accounts of multiple villagers in the name of giving them

easy loans. Then after claiming to close their accounts, he used to ask them for an OTP to do so,” said an officer with the Dwarka Cyber Police Station.

These OTPs, however, were not for closing accounts. “The OTPs were to change the phone numbers registered with the accounts. These numbers were of fraudsters, who would then use them as mule accounts to execute scams,” the officer said. When the police asked the bank, authorities at the financial institution claimed to have fired Dhan Singh Rajput for being involved in fraudulent activities. On August 17, 2024, the Delhi Police arrested Rajput from Dausa, and recovered a debit card, a cheque book and a mobile phone from his possession. “A detailed investigation into the timeline of the cases he has been involved in and his connections with fraudsters is underway,” said an officer from the Dwarka Cyber Police Station.

Cadbury maker ordered to pay Rs 10,000 over damaged chocolates sold in Mysuru

GNS News Agency, August 29

On August 16, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed the company to pay Rs 10,000 to a consumer who purchased “damaged chocolate unfit for human consumption” from a general store in Mysuru. (File Photo) On August 16, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed the company to pay Rs 10,000 to a consumer who purchased “damaged chocolate unfit for human consumption” from a general store in Mysuru.

What is the cost of a Cadbury Crackle chocolate bar? Close to Rs 100 if you buy it from a general store. However, the same chocolate has cost Rs 10,000 to Mondelez India Foods Private Limited, the company manufacturing it. On August 16, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed the company to pay Rs 10,000 to a consumer who purchased “damaged chocolate unfit for human consumption” from a general store in Mysuru.

In January 2020, Kumaraswamy purchased four Cadbury Crackle chocolates from the Brindavan general store for Rs 439. After going home, he found out that one of the chocolates was damaged, but the store refused to take back the defective chocolates.

Mondelez International, one of the world’s largest snack companies that is known for manufacturing chocolates, cookies, and powdered beverages such as Oreo, Cadbury, and Tang, argued before the commission that Kumaraswamy did not produce a sample of the defective chocolate for examination by a food laboratory or by the company itself.

From Golconda dynasty’s necropolis to heritage park: The restoration of Qutb Shahi tombs

GNS News Agency, August 29

“At three coss off from the town, there is a very fine mosque where there are the tombs of the Kings of Golconda and every day at 4 P.M. bread and pulao are given to all poor who present themselves. When you wish to see something really beautiful, you should go to see these tombs on the day of a festival, for then, from morning to evening, they are covered with rich carpets,” wrote French merchant and traveller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier three hundred years ago about the Qutb Shahi tombs, the royal necropolis of the Golconda dynasty.

The Qutb Shahi tomb complex is a 500-year-old cluster of grand mausoleums, idgah, graves, funerary mosques, a hammam (bath), and baolis (stepwells). The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb’s relentless attack on the Golconda fort led to the fall of Qutb Shahi Dynasty. Of the seven kings, six have their mausoleums at the tomb complex. After a decade-long restoration effort by the Telangana government’s Department of Heritage and Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), supported by several agencies, the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park was opened to the public last month.

The AKTC and its CEO and conservation architect, Ratish Nanda, believes this project is the largest conservation project effort anywhere in the world taken up by a single agency. “We set out to conserve about 40-45 monuments over the years and we now have conserved over 100 monuments, buildings and many of 169 open graves. We are very proud that our work will open a much greater understanding of the Qutb Shahi era,” says Nanda. The Qutb Shahi tomb complex depicts the pinnacle of art and architecture of the region ruled by the Golconda kings for 169 years between 1518 and 1687. The kingdom stretched from the Godavari river in the north, sharing a border with Tamil Nadu to the south, Bijapur to the west, and the Bay of Bengal to the east. It was also during this period that the kingdom became known for its diamond market for merchants from all over the world. This era also saw the region develop into a cultural hub. Known for their patronage of poetry, art and craft, architecture, and literature, the Sultans oversaw the flourishing of Persian, Turkish, Telugu, and Dakhni-Urdu languages in the court. In his book, ‘The Heritage of the Qutb Shahis of Golconda and Hyderabad’, historian MA Nayeem wrote that political upheaval in central Asia and Africa led to an influx of immigrants to the Deccan from Iran, Turkistan, Arabia, Africa and Iran etc during the Bahmani period (1347-1532) and percolation of foreign culture in the Deccan. Sultan-Quli, the founder of the Qutb Shahi dynasty was one such immigrant from Turkestan who arrived in the Bahmani capital of Muhammadabad Bidar towards the end of the 15th century. While Sultan-Quli may suggest royal dignity, the epithet ‘Sultan’ is only a part of his name, he writes.

Nayeem cited Persian historian Muhammad Qasim Fersitha to state that Sultan-Quli’s rise to prominence was mainly due to his literary and military talents. He was addressed in one of the farmans as ‘Master of the Sword and Pen’, and was appointed tarafdar (governor) of Telangana under Bahmani kingdom. It was also here that he was given the title Qutb-ul-Mulk, which he continued to use till death, even after assuming undeclared independence following the fall of the Bahmani kingdom. During the reign of Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah, the fourth Qutb Shahi ruler, the Golconda kingdom was at its peak and the walled city was bursting at the seams.

The peak of Qutb Shahi architecture could be seen in the magnificent mausoleums with intricate stucco decorations and patterns as well as remnants of tile works found at the Qutb Shahi tombs complex. (Express photo by Rahul V Pisharody) The peak of Qutb Shahi architecture could be seen in the magnificent mausoleums with intricate stucco decorations and patterns as well as remnants of tile works found at the Qutb Shahi tombs complex.

“The long reign of Ibrahim (1550-1580) may be said to form a high water-mark in the history of the Qutb Shahi kingdom both in the cultural and the political spheres. It saw literary fluorescence brought by the patronage given to Persian, Telugu, to Deccani idiom which later flowered into Urdu. The Deccani or Proto-Urdu language evolved as a result of the intermingling of people both of the Deccan and foreign immigrants. It was the language of intercourse between people of various walks of life,” wrote Nayeem.

Delhi HC observes 120-day limit on filing written submissions neither unconstitutional nor discriminatory



GNS News Agency, August 29

The Delhi High Court Friday dismissed multiple petitions that challenged the constitutionality of a provision of the Delhi High Court (Original Side) Rules, 2018, which mandates a strict timeline of 120 days for filing written statements in non-commercial matters.

A bunch of petitions had challenged Rule 4, Chapter VII of the Delhi High Court Original Side Rules as unconstitutional. It was argued that it creates "an unfair

discrimination and unequal treatment amongst various litigants in the territory of Delhi, merely on the basis of pecuniary jurisdiction," as non-commercial matters in district courts are governed by the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) that allow the court to condone the delay in filing written statements in non-commercial matters beyond 120 days.

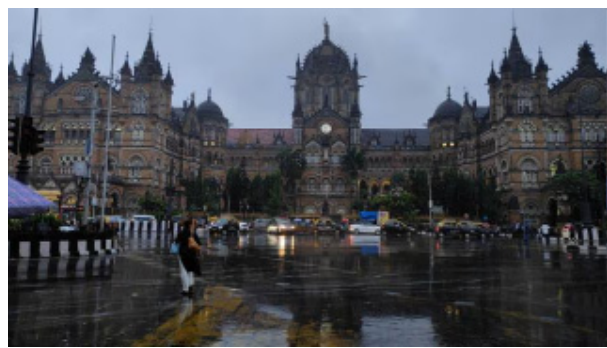
A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkarna held that provisions of the CPC itself and the Delhi High Court Act confer authority on the high court to frame its rules of practice and procedure on the original civil procedure and that it further "envisions difference in the Rules of practice and procedure between a High Court, and a Civil Court."The HC also reiterated that provisions of the Rules "will have an overriding effect on other provisions of the CPC" and in case of "any conflict, the DHC Original Side Rules shall prevail."Further noting that Rule 4 emanates from the powers granted under Section 129 of the CPC and Section 7 of the Delhi High Court Act, the bench observed that the petitioners did not challenge either of these provisions, thus failing to establish their case.

Mumbai to get relief from heavy rains; Thane, Raigad put on alert, says IMD

GNS News Agency, August 29

Following the days of heavy rainfall in the metropolis, the intensity of showers is slated to recede in the coming days with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting moderate showers starting from Tuesday. While no warnings have been issued for Mumbai, the neighbouring districts of Thane and Raigad have been placed on a yellow alert and an orange warning respectively on Tuesday. Amid a yellow alert sounded for Mumbai, light showers continued to sweep the city with the IMD's Santacruz observatory recording 10 mm of rainfall between Sunday and Monday morning, followed by 20 mm of rain recorded in IMD's coastal observatory at Colaba.

Data from the BMC's Automated Weather System (AWS) showed an average of 16.04 mm rainfall was recorded in the island city during the same period, followed by 14.12 mm in eastern suburbs and 10.48 mm in the western suburbs. Meanwhile, between 8.30 am to 5.30 pm on Monday, the Santacruz station received only 0.9 mm rain. According to the weather bureau, Mumbai is slated to witness subdued showers from Tuesday. Owing to the likelihood of only moderate showers on cards, the IMD has downgraded the yellow warning for Mumbai to a green alert between Tuesday and Friday. Thane, which has been placed under a yellow alert today, - light to moderate showers will make a comeback from Wednesday. Even as the metropolis is likely to witness only moderate rain, neighbouring districts of Raigad, Pune, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg will continue to receive heavy downpour until Friday at least. In light of the fore-



cast, IMD has sounded a yellow alert in the districts between Tuesday and Friday. With the city receiving heavy rains over the weekend, Mumbai surpassed its seasonal average rainfall quota on Saturday evening. While the suburbs receive an average of 2,319 mm rain over the four months of monsoon, Mumbai's Santacruz station has logged 2,408 mm rain so far since the onset of monsoon. Even the Colaba coastal observatory - which has clocked 2155.3 mm rain since June - has crossed its seasonal average rainfall quota which is 2,095 mm. Of the total rain recorded, Mumbai has received 355 mm rain in the month of August, which is a shortfall of over 35 per cent from its monthly average rainfall. Meanwhile, amid heavy showers, the total stock in the seven lakes supplying Mumbai its potable water soared to 95.36 per cent - 13.80 lakh million litres - of the total capacity on Monday morning. Last year, on the same day, the lake levels had remained at 86 per cent.

Nuisance due to liquor vends at Jangpura Extension: Delhi High Court directs police to deploy beat constable

GNS News Agency, August 29

Following complaints of public nuisance due to liquor vends at Jangpura Extension in Southeast Delhi, the Delhi High Court on Friday directed the police to take appropriate steps to curb such nuisance, including stationing a beat constable in the evening hours on Link Road in the area and close to the liquor vends.

Jangpura Extension is well-known as a hub for lawyers, with many of them residing and working in this area. The Jangpura Extension Residents Forum and two other residents of the area moved a petition before the high court highlighting issues they were facing. People buying liquor from the shops and drinking it in their parked cars at the spot, traffic congestion due to the liquor vends obstructing the entry of ambulances were some of the issues they raised. The petitioners said these issues "adversely affected their lives on account of the liquor vends located in the area". Adding that there are seven liquor vends, "which is an alarmingly high number considering the area and population of the Jangpura Extension", the petitioners also submitted that "certain anti-social elements gather close to the liquor vends, who then indulge in public consumption of liquor, abuse and harassment of residents, littering food waste around them and also urinating on the walls of the residents' houses". On August 23, the court of Justice Sanjeev Narula acknowledged that it was aware of the situation, as several of his



officers reside in the same area. The court issued directions to the Delhi Police, saying that a beat constable should be deployed "to ensure that there is no public nuisance caused to any of the residents of the society". While seeking that the police submit an action taken report within a week, the court also directed the police to ensure "that there is no public drinking activity outside the vends or even in the vehicles parked outside such vends". Additionally, the court directed the station house officer of the police station concerned to contact the general secretary of the Residents Forum, Sharaf Sabri, to further address the grievances and coordinate the remedial measures regarding the same.

Adani's Mumbai slum revamp struggles to secure land in potential setback

GNS News Agency, August 29

A joint-venture led by billionaire Gautam Adani is struggling to secure land to rehabilitate poor residents of one of Asia's largest slums in Mumbai, a government official said, posing a fresh challenge for the ambitious reconstruction plan. The Dharavi slum, about three-quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, featured in Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning 2008 movie "Slumdog Millionaire". Its open sewers and shared toilets, close to Mumbai's international airport, stand in contrast to India's development boom. After winning the \$619 million bid last year, Adani Group plans to convert the 240 hectare (594 acre) slum into a modern city hub, but it has already faced protests from opposition political parties who say it received undue favours from the state government in awarding the contract. The group has denied the allegations.

Only those who lived in Dharavi before the year 2000 will get free homes in the redevelopment and a lot of the land needed to rehabilitate people - at least 580 acres for now - will be to provide housing to the roughly 700,000 people considered ineligible. To build homes for those ineligible people, the Adani joint venture applied to various local and federal agencies for more land, but has yet

to secure any, SVR Srinivas, head of the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority, said. That's because such government agencies have their own plans for land they own and are not willing to part with it, he added.

Asked if he was worried that land acquisition delays will affect the project timeline, he said: "Yes, without land, the project cannot take place, so that is a very critical factor for doing the project on time."The Adani Group, which holds a majority stake in the joint venture with the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority, did not respond to an email seeking comments. The project, which aims to re-house a million people, is a critical and high-profile project for Adani, who last year faced allegations of business mismanagement and stock manipulation in a scathing report by short-seller Hindenburg Research which he denied. The project started in March with a survey to determine eligibility and its backers are aiming to complete construction in seven years. Mumbai is one of India's most expensive real estate markets where real estate prices are sky-high and land is scarce. Adani's group has acknowledged that rebuilding Dharavi presented "colossal" challenges - though he has said he hoped the area in future would produce "millionaires without the slumdog prefix".

How YouTube videos helped Pune youth steal two-wheelers by breaking their locks



GNS News Agency, August 29

The police identified the accused as Abhishek Mallapa Hawlekar, who currently resides in Chakan and is a native of Shahupuri in Satara. The Pimpri-Chinchwad police arrested a 21-year-old man for alleged motorcycle thefts which he committed after watching YouTube videos on how to break the handle lock of two-wheelers, stated a press release on Monday.

The police identified the accused as Abhishek Mallapa Hawlekar, who currently resides in Chakan and is a native of Shahupuri in Satara. According to the release, the police have recovered 18 motorcycles worth Rs 8.9 lakh from him. Two costly motorcycles were stolen

from a residential society on the Baner-Mhalunge road on August 9. The crime branch of the Pimpri-Chinchwad police initiated a probe. A team led by senior police inspector Sandip Sawant checked about 80 videos captured by different CCTV cameras at multiple locations to trace the vehicle thief. Based on clues from CCTV footage, the police identified a youth and a minor boy who allegedly committed the motorcycle thefts. The police nabbed the minor boy, and his interrogation revealed Hawlekar's involvement. The police then arrested Hawlekar on August 20. During the investigation, the police recovered motorcycles the accused had allegedly stolen this year from different parts of Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and Satara.

The police said Hawlekar's arrest solved 16 cases of two-wheeler thefts registered at Hinjewadi, Wakad, Sangvi, Pimpri, Chinchwad, Chaturshringi, Chandan Nagar, Bharati Vidyapeeth, and Satara city police stations. The probe revealed that Hawlekar had left his home in Satara following a quarrel with his family members. The press release stated that he then allegedly began these thefts by watching videos online on how to start a two-wheeler and how to break its handle locks. When contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sandeep Doifode said, "Investigation is on and action may be taken against the YouTube videos that encourage vehicle thefts."

AAP to launch new campaign to reach out to people ahead of Delhi Assembly polls

GNS News Agency, August 29

The top leadership of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), including former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, met on Monday to discuss and outline a strategy for the Assembly polls in Delhi, which will be held before February 2025. The party announced that it will launch a new poll campaign called 'AAP ka vidhayak, aapke dwaar' from September 1. The party MLAs will hold mandal and booth-level meetings in each constituency to discuss the present scenario and the party's work in the last 10 years.

"The AAP will intensify the campaign for upcoming Assembly polls in Delhi in the coming days," Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak said after the party meeting held at Sisodia's residence on Mathura Road. "A detailed discussion on several aspects regarding governance, the current political scenario in each Assembly constituency in Delhi took place," said Pathak. "There was a detailed discussion on various aspects related to governance, political scenario and each assembly constituency in Delhi," added Pathak. He said that Sisodia's 'Padyatra', launched on August 16, is receiving a positive response and that the party will continue the campaign. Further, Pathak said that during these meetings, AAP MLAs, volunteers, and workers will also expose the BJP's conspiracy to the people and tell them how the BJP is trying



to stop all the work being done for them. The AAP faced a jolt after five councillors joined the BJP on Sunday. Seven councillors and two MLAs from Patel Nagar and Chhatrapur have joined the BJP so far. After coming out of jail, Sisodia, second in command of AAP after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has been handling all party-related matters and election strategies for assembly polls, which will take place in February 2025. The AAP scripted back-to-back Assembly polls successes in 2015 and 2020, winning 67 and 62 seats, respectively, in the 70-member House.

Bengaluru civic infra projects to get a boost as Karnataka Government amends compensation scheme for land losers

GNS News Agency, August 29

To address a major bottleneck in acquiring land through the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scheme in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, the Karnataka Government recently amended the guidelines for compensation offered to private parties. Due to variations in guideline values for agricultural land, land converted to non-agricultural purposes but not developed, and developed land, the civic agency has faced stiff resistance against land acquisition from owners of the plots of land. The Karnataka Cabinet cleared the amendments to the guidelines in its recent meeting held last Thursday.

The TDR scheme allows those who lose land for civic infrastructure projects to have extra built-up areas. The Development Rights Certificate (DRC) issued under the scheme can be used by the owner or transferred to another party. Under the new provisions, if the land acquired is agricultural land, the BBMP will collect the charges for conversion to non-agricultural land, development charges and other statutory charges, and issue TDR for the land. The DRC issued for it will be commensurate with the rate of developed residential purposes as per the guidance value. Similar compensation will be applicable for land converted for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes. Apart from this, for sites where 'A' khata was issued directly after land transfer - without the approval of a single plot layout map from the planning authority - this scheme will be applicable. 'A' khata is a recognised legal document issued to property owners.



The proposal to revise compensation was made by the BBMP in February this year and was cleared during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar in July, before the Cabinet gave the final nod. The BBMP had said that due to the reluctance of landowners to part with their land, "most of the roads have not been completed. In all these cases it is necessary to maintain uniformity as far as possible in fixing the value of the land in a non-discriminatory manner while issuing TDR to the land owner surrendering the land." The TDR scheme has been subject to major controversy after investigating agencies unearthed a scam in its implementation a few years ago. It was discontinued in 2020 and was re-introduced in 2022 as municipal authorities faced challenges in taking up projects that were stalled due to the discontinuation of the scheme.

Maharashtra go-ahead for 34-km tunnel to avoid water loss from Khadakwasla dam

GNS News Agency, August 29

The Maharashtra Government on Monday approved a Rs 2,190-crore project to construct a 34-km tunnel from the Khadakwasla dam to Phursungi to save water lost owing to leakage and evaporation along a canal supplying water from the dam to Pune's rural areas. Pune city draws its water from the Khadakwasla dam, which also caters to the rural areas, for which water is released through a canal going through the city. Leakages, evaporation and the theft of water being supplied through the canal have been a cause for concern in summer. The pollution of the canal water has also increased in the past few years. The idea of a tunnel to supply water to Pune's rural area thus arose.

"The increasing urbanisation and land encroachment alongside the canal have reduced the canal's water carrying capacity. The project would save 2.18 TMC water in a year, equal to one and a half month's requirement of the city, and help to bring in 3,472-hectare land under irrigation," said an officer of the water resources department. The canal goes through urban areas and is above the ground in most areas, except for the underground stretch from Swargate to Race Course of about 2



km. The canal goes through 14 villages—Khadakwasla, Nanded, Kirkatwadi, Dhayri, Vadgaon Budruk, Hingne Khurd, Parvati, Wanowrie, Ghorpadi, Hadapsar, Sadesatranali, Manjari, Shewalwadi and Phursungi. Open channels are susceptible to pollutants, rain-dissolved chemicals, animal and unauthorised human waste discharges, evaporation, flash flood-led accidents in slum areas, and water pollution due to the discharge of waste from factories, homes, car washing and idol immersion, the officer added.

Unified Pension Scheme brings the focus back to Old Pension Scheme in Punjab and Haryana



GNS News Agency, August 29

Several State government employees and pensioners in Punjab and Haryana, who have been demanding restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), have dismissed the Centre government's latest Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), even though in Punjab, where the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government announced the restoration of the OPS in 2022, its implementation is yet to see the light of day. As the delay in the release of standard operating procedures (SOPs) following the OPS notification continues, employees and pensioners under the banner of the Old Pension Scheme Restoration Sangharsh Committee have expressed their anguish on different occasions. With the Centre's UPS announcement, employees have only grown more anxious. Employees currently under the National Pension System (NPS) have asked the State government not to consider implementing the UPS, and instead, implement the OPS in Punjab without further delay.

"We are against the Centre's UPS as it is not in the interest of the employees or pensioners. We urge the AAP government to not consider the UPS. In fact the Punjab government had in 2022 announced the restora-

tion of the OPS, but we are still waiting for its implementation. The State government issued the OPS notification in 2022. Later, it constituted a committee to formulate the SOPs for implementing the OPS, but it's going to be close to two years now and yet the Punjab government has not come out with the SOPs or details about the scheme," Jasvir Singh Talwara, State convener of the joint employee-pensioners' front told The Hindu.

"To step up our struggle, we will stage a march towards Punjab State Assembly on September 3, during the ongoing session of the Assembly. We want the AAP government to immediately implement the OPS," Mr. Talwara said. In neighbouring Haryana, where the Assembly election is due on October 1, the restoration of OPS for government employees has emerged as a key poll issue. Members of the Pension Bahali Sangharsh Samiti (Haryana) are travelling across the State in support of their demand to restore the OPS. They too have dismissed the latest UPS. "We are against the UPS and it's only the OPS that we want to be restored. We are going across the State in a phased manner with our OPS Tiranga march and are urging people and political parties to extend support to our demand of restoring the OPS," Vijender Dhariwal, president of the front, said.

The OPS was abolished by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre in December 2003 and the NPS came into force on April 1, 2004. Under the OPS, the entire pension amount is given by the government whereas the NPS is a participatory scheme where employees contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries, with matching contributions from the government, and is market-linked. Last week, the Union Cabinet approved the Unified Pension Scheme, which includes assured pension of 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for a minimum qualifying service of 25 years, among other provisions.

Supreme Court directs States, UTs to provide complete information on open prisons

GNS News Agency, August 29

The Supreme Court has directed several states and Union Territories (UTs) to provide complete information with regard to the functioning of open prisons within four weeks. Semi-open or open prisons allow convicts to work outside the premises during the day to earn a livelihood and return in the evening. The concept was introduced to assimilate the convicts with society and reduce psychological pressure as they faced difficulties in leading normal lives outside. A Bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan was informed by senior advocate K Parameshwar, who is assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in a matter related to congestion in jails, that several states and UTs have not yet filed their responses. The bench noted that states and UTs like Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have not yet submitted the qualitative and quantitative charts despite circulation of a questionnaire seeking information in respect of the status and functioning of open correctional institutions and whether such institutions exist within their jurisdiction. "We, therefore, direct that all the States/Union Territories, which have not yet filed their response, to file complete response within a period of four weeks from today," the bench said in its order passed on August 20.

It said the states and UTs, which have not given complete information, shall also ensure compliance within four weeks. "We further clarify that if any of the state governments or Union Territories do not respond in terms of the orders passed by this court, we will be compelled to direct the presence of the chief secretary of the states/



Union Territories concerned before this court," the Bench said and posted the matter for further consideration after four weeks. The apex court noted that on July 15, it had directed the chief secretaries of various states and UTs to submit their responses on the issue of open jails. The amicus told the bench that states and UTs of Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Ladakh, have not filed their responses yet. While hearing the matter on May 9, the apex court had observed that establishing open jails can be one of the solutions to overcrowding and also addressing the issue of rehabilitation of prisoners. In its May 17 order, the Bench had noted the submission of the amicus that a model draft manual has been prepared by the Union of India where the nomenclature 'open correctional institutions' is used for such facilities.

Indian ISMR delegation calls on Singapore President and Prime Minister, discuss bilateral ties

GNS News Agency, August 29

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday (August 26, 2024) called on Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and discussed ways to further take forward the bilateral strategic partnership. The four Ministers are in Singapore for the second India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) to be held on Monday to discuss bilateral cooperation and exchange views on issues of mutual interests.

"Honoured to jointly call on President @Tharman_S of Singapore. Conveyed the warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister @narendramodi. Value his guidance on ways to further take forward the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership," Jaishankar said in a post on X after the meeting. "Delighted to call on Prime Minister @LawrenceWongST of Singapore today morning along with my colleagues nsitharaman, @PiyushGoyal and @AshwiniVaishnaw. We conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Appreciate PM Wong's continued engagement with the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable," Jaishankar said. At the ISMR, the four leaders will be joined by their Singaporean counterparts and will review the progress from the first ISMR held in New Delhi in September 2022. The ISMR is being held here ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the city-state next



month. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong will lead the Singapore delegation. The Singaporean delegation will also comprise Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam, Minister for Digital Development and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng, and Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance Chee Hong Tat. The ISMR is a unique mechanism established to set a new agenda for India-Singapore bilateral relations. The meeting will enable both sides to review various aspects of their strategic partnership and identify new avenues to further elevate and broaden it, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said on Saturday.

Gopichand Thotakura, India's first civilian space tourist, receives warm welcome in Delhi

India's first civilian space tourist Gopichand Thotakura returned to the country on Monday (August 26, 2024) to witness a warm welcome in New Delhi. He has set the record of being the second-ever Indian citizen to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma, a former Indian Air Force pilot, who travelled to space in 1984. He was one of the six crew members of New Shepard-25 (NS-25) mission by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin.

"The feeling has been awaited for a long time. I am very happy to be back home. It is a very proud moment for India as well. I am honoured to be representing the coun-

try..." the US-based entrepreneur told ANI. He talked about the possibility of more common people visiting the space. "I believe that space tourism is where the future is," he added. "The feeling has been awaited for a long time. I am very happy to be back home. It is a very proud moment for India as well. I am honoured to be representing the country and very excited for everyone else to go and do something in the space with Origin or any other organisation." Mr. Thotakura further said. "I am leaving to meet my parents and grandparents at home. People around me are more excited," he added. Mr. Thotakura was born in Vijayawada and did schooling in Visakhapatnam.

Rajasthan's Bhilwara on edge after 'cow tail is found on temple premises'



GNS News Agency, August 29

A day after tensions flared in Rajasthan's Bhilwara, after a cow's tail was purportedly found inside the premises of a temple, protesters gathered at the market on Monday and forced shops to down shutters. Sunday's incident in Bhavani Nagar area had prompted a crowd to gather at the spot, demanding action against those responsible. Subsequently, police took out marches in the city and appealed to people to maintain peace.

Satheesan accuses Kerala govt of 'shielding' perpetrators of sexual abuse in Malayalam film industry

GNS News Agency, August 29

Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V D Satheesan, on Monday alleged that the Left government was trying to shield the perpetrators of sexual abuse against women in the Malayalam film industry by not initiating an investigation based on the Justice Hema Committee Report. A day after the state government formed a special team to probe the sexual atrocities faced by female actors, Satheesan questioned why male officers were appointed above the woman IPS officer in the investigation team.

"The opposition had demanded that a team led by senior women IPS officers should investigate based on the statements given by the victims to the Hema Committee. However, the press release issued by the Chief Minister's office regarding the investigation does not even mention the Hema Committee," the Congress leader said at a press conference at his constituency North Paravur near here. The government on Sunday formed a seven-member team headed by IG Sparjan Kumar, which includes four senior women IPS officers. The LoP alleged that the government has taken the stance that they will not investigate the official statements and evidence provided by the victims before the committee constituted by the government. "The government's stand is unacceptable," Satheesan said.

The Leader of Opposition pointed out that even the court had asked what the obstacle was in investigating the Hema Committee report. "Those associated with the government are saying that if the victims stand firm in their statements, we can investigate. In which sexual harassment case have the victims been asked to stand firm in their statements? The government's effort is to protect the perpetrators," Satheesan argued. He added that asking the victims to give their statements again was humiliating to them. The government's stance is to humiliate the victims and protect the perpetrators, the LoP added. Satheesan also criticised state Cultural Minister Saji Cheriyan on the matter, accusing him of expressing

Members of the Sant Samaj as well as local MP Damodar Aggarwal on Monday reached the spot and staged a dharna, demanding the immediate arrest of the accused. Right-wing groups had on Sunday given the police an ultimatum - arrest the culprits by 5 pm or markets will be shut on Monday.

Additional District Magistrate Vandana Khorwal told reporters, "We tried to manage the situation, but there was so much anger in the youth that they started pelting stones. We will take action against the people who are trying to create problems in the city. We have seized vehicles of people who have pelted stones. We are trying to normalise the situation and not let the market shut down." According to sources, police personnel were posted at all sensitive areas around the city on Monday, particularly as a WhatsApp message did the rounds in the morning calling on people to gather at a spot. From 11 am onwards, a large number of people started raising slogans and the situation became tense. Police resorted to lathi charge to control the crowd.



different opinions on the issue since the beginning. He alleged that even in the Hema Committee report, the government had engaged in manipulation.

"The number of pages in the Hema Committee report has been decreasing. According to Section 199 of the Indian Penal Code, it is a criminal act to be aware of offences against women and still fail to take action. This is exactly the crime that Cultural Minister Saji Cheriyan has committed. "By tampering with the report, protecting the culprits, and humiliating the victims, Cheriyan has committed a serious breach of oath, making him unworthy of continuing as a minister. If he is not prepared to resign, the Chief Minister should demand his resignation," Satheesan said.

The Congress leader added that the series of crimes that took place is clearly outlined in the Hema Committee report. "It is the government's legal responsibility to investigate and bring the culprits to justice. Despite this, the government has concealed the fact that a series of crimes occurred over four and a half years," the LoP said. Satheesan also criticised actor Dharmajan Borgatti, a fellow Congress member, who allegedly personally insulted a female journalist during a TV show. "If a mistake is made, we won't justify it like the CPI(M). Our stance is that we do not justify those who make mistakes," he said.

Amid reports that Telangana man died after getting lost in Saudi desert, family says 'false': 'Country told us not to believe online posts'

GNS News Agency, August 29. A Telangana man, Saudi desert death, Indian Express. Fazaal said they were perturbed by reports that Shehzad died a painful death in the desert, but soon realised that all the information available online was a "copy paste" of one post on social media. Amid reports that a man from Telangana died in Saudi Arabia last week after getting lost in the desert, his family has said such information doing the rounds is false and Saudi authorities have told the relatives no such thing. The death, meanwhile, remains shrouded in mystery.

After the death of Shehzad Khan, 27, last week, NRIs working in Saudi Arabia posted online that he and a colleague - a Sudanese national - had got lost in the Rub' al Khali desert. The posts claimed the duo died from dehydration and exhaustion, and that their bodies were found on prayer mats next to their vehicle, which had run out of fuel in the desert, also known as the Empty Quarter that is spread over 650,000 sq kms. The duo, it was claimed, got lost after the GPS signal on their phones failed, the batteries ran out, and they could not call for help. Their vehicle ran out of fuel in the middle of nowhere, the posts claimed.

"All this information posted online is false and fake. No such information has been given to us by Saudi authorities. The reason for his death is unknown as of now," said Mohammed Basheeruddin Fazaal, Khan's brother-in-law. Fazaal said that Saudi authorities contacted them and asked for an affidavit giving permission to conduct the post-mortem. "The cause of death is unknown as per Saudi authorities, and they asked us not to believe what was posted online. Shehzad worked with a construction



company as a surveyor engineer. He never worked for any telecom company (as claimed in the posts). Shehzad had been working in Saudi for the last six years. He had come to Karimnagar a year ago and was expected to return soon. His wife, two young children and mother live in Karimnagar. Shehzad was born in Karimnagar but brought up in Chhattisgarh, where his father had shifted decades ago. After marriage, he shifted back to Karimnagar seven-eight years ago," Fazaal said. "Today, we have sent the affidavit authorising the Saudi authorities to conduct a post-mortem, and a request letter to send his body. All this is expected to take at least two weeks," Fazaal said. Fazaal said they were perturbed by reports that Shehzad died a painful death in the desert, but soon realised that all the information available online was a "copy paste" of one post on social media. "Even his close friends are not sure how and where he died. We have to wait till the Saudi authorities give their report," Fazaal said.

Actor Minu Muneer accuses multiple co-stars of 'sexual misconduct'

A day after Kerala State Chalchitra Academy chairman Ranjith and actors' association general secretary Siddique stepped down from their respective positions over allegations of sexual misconduct, actor Minu Muneer on Monday alleged she had faced sexual misconduct from various actors, including a two-time CPI(M) legislator in the Kerala Assembly.

Muneer, speaking to the media, has named actors Mukesh, Jayasurya, Maniyanpilla Raju and Edavela Babu, a prominent leader of the Association of Malayalam Movies Artists (AMMA). While Mukesh, Jayasurya, and Babu did not respond to Muneer's claims, Raju said he welcomes a probe into the allegations. "I will file a complaint with the state police team, which was assigned to look into the revelations which came up in the wake of

the Hema Committee report," Muneer told the media. She accused an actor of having tried to assault her at a hotel during the shooting of Calender (2009) and Nadakame Ulakam (2011). "He entered the room and pulled me on the bed saying that I will have to consider those who have to be considered for getting better chances. Later, I left that place.. Before that, while travelling by a car, (another actor) told me that he would come to my room the next night. He too had knocked at my door during the night," she claimed. "During a shooting in the state capital, when I was returning from a restroom, (this actor) caught me from behind and kissed. I pushed him down and ran away. He also invited me to his flat. After I rejected the invitation, there was no issue from his side," she claimed. Minu also claimed that in 2013, she had applied for a membership of the AMMA.

‘Solar module shortlist key for local industry to take off; prices will change over time’: Waaree Energies CEO Amit Paithankar



the policy framework has to come first. I would say the government has done the absolute right thing. It is because of this chain of events that this extremely capital-intensive industry can see the day where we are actually going to produce 20 GW of cells. A recent Indian Express report revealed that former New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh was of the view that domestic module manufacturers have been engaging in “excessive profiteering”. What is your take on that? I would love to tell you the exact numbers, but unfortunately, at this point in time, we are in the process of an IPO (initial public offering). Of course, after the IPO, the quarterly results will be out and we'll speak on how much is the profiteering that we are talking about. But for now, I'm restricted from talking about this in detail. The former minister also alleged that the market is concentrated with very few players. In fact, almost 50 per cent of the capacity is held by five manufacturers. Do you think that the market is concentrated and does that have an impact on downstream users? At this point in time, you have four or five manufacturers, which make up 50 per cent. The rest of the 50 per cent is (held by) a lot of small manufacturers. It's not a small number of players in the marketplace. As you start backward integration, your question becomes more valid because then it becomes more intensive in terms of capital and technology. Then you will, of course, see that there will be a lesser and lesser number of people as it comes in. But from a module level, it's definitely not going to be an oligopoly. It's going to be a market with many players. On the policy front, we have the residential rooftop solar scheme, there's the green hydrogen push which will require lots of modules too, and several other schemes that MNRE implements. On top of that, we also have the PLI scheme for module manufacturing and a basic customs duty (BCD) on the import of both modules and cells. Indian module exporters also have good demand coming in from the United States. Given this context, what is the rationale behind restricting the use of imported modules altogether?

The reason why we endorse that view at this point in time is, if you have to have local industry take off, you will need to create a favourable environment. How do you ensure that you have a local industry? If you answer that question, all of those things that you talked about become almost important for any country to go ahead and do. Let's say five years from now, what kind of a future do we like? Do we like a future where we are one of the most advanced countries which comes up with energy solutions that are cutting edge? Or would we like us to be at a point where we take everything from one given country? I'm sure you will select the first one and that's the reason why we should be doing what we're doing. Another concern raised is the adverse impact of higher module prices on tariffs. Do you think electricity tariffs will rise? Actually, no. I don't want to speak for an IPP (independent power producer) but you can go into the maths to see at what price points power purchase agreements were signed. It's all public domain information. You will find that the argument that prices because of (ALMM) are hurt is completely misplaced. On top of it, you look at all the other benefits that we're going to have with the involvement of top tier education and R&D institutions in the whole process and with Make in India. Then, all the multiplier effects that we are talking about and the understanding of the semiconductor ecosystem that we get out of all of this. It's a no-brainer in the market.



called the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), and will be launched nation-wide in due course. ULI facilitates a seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including even land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders. The platform also helps in cutting down the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers.

Telegram reacts to its CEO's arrest, says Pavel Durov has nothing to hide

New Delhi: Encrypted messaging app Telegram on Monday said that its CEO Pavel Durov — who was arrested in France — has nothing to hide and “it is absurd to claim that a platform or its owner are responsible for abuse of that platform.” In its first reaction after Russian-born Durov was arrested at the Le Bourget airport outside Paris after landing via a private jet for allegedly failing to prevent criminal activities on Telegram, the company said it abides by the EU laws, including the ‘Digital Services Act’.

“Telegram CEO Pavel Durov has nothing to hide and travels frequently in Europe. Almost a billion users globally use Telegram as a means of communication and as a source of vital information. We're awaiting a prompt resolution of this situation,” said the platform which has more than 900 million active users.

“Telegram abides by EU laws, including the Digital Services Act — its moderation is within industry standards and constantly improving,” the company added.

The platform has been a critical source of information for the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. In a rare interview with US political commentator Tucker Carlson in April, Durov said Telegram's goal is to be a ‘neutral’ platform and resist requests from governments to moderate.

Find out what happens to the body if you drink lauki juice once a week during summer



Lauki, or bottle gourd, is a summer staple for many, and for good reason. Packed with water and essential nutrients, lauki juice is a refreshing and healthy beverage that can offer numerous benefits when consumed regularly. Lauki juice extracts are known to improve eyesight owing to vitamin A and other vital nutrients, explained Dr Dilip Gude, Senior Consultant Physician, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad. Water-soluble vitamins like B, and C and fat-soluble vitamins like A, E and K are present in lauki juice. Iron magnesium, folate, and potassium are also found in adequate quantities. Decreases cholesterol. Regulation of blood pressure and blood sugars, decrease in cholesterol levels and thereby a decrease in heart diseases is also known to occur with consistent lauki juice intake, according to Dr Gude. Urinary tract infections are also less common in those drinking lauki extracts. In summers, especially, there can be cooling/antipyretic effects, said Dr Gude.

Quenches thirst: Lauki is primarily composed of water, making it an excellent hydrator. Regular consumption can help replenish fluids lost through sweat, preventing dehydration. Cooling sensation: Lauki has a natural cooling effect on the body, providing relief from the scorching summer heat. It can help regulate body temperature and prevent heatstroke. Understanding heat stroke vs. food poisoning with expert insights Lauki is primarily composed of water, making it an excellent hydrator (file) Digestive Health Boost Improved digestion: The high fibre content in lauki aids digestion by promoting regular bowel movements and preventing constipation. Reduced acidity: Lauki juice has alkaline properties that can help neutralize stomach acid, providing relief from heartburn and indigestion, according to Dr Gude.

When BBC journalist said Rajesh Khanna had ‘the arrogance of Napoleon’: Why some people develop narcissistic tendencies in response to success

Rajesh Khanna is considered one of Bollywood's most iconic stars. However, it is no secret that many think the reason behind the sharp decline of his stardom was his alleged arrogance. A BBC journalist named Jack Pizzey managed to document his first-hand experience of being made to run around in circles trying to get an audience with the late star. The 1973 documentary ‘Bombay Superstar’ offered unique insights into the life and career of Khanna. It covered his unexpected marriage with Dimple Kapadia and the beginning stages of his decline. Pizzey noted the actor's extreme arrogance, comparing it to that of Napoleon. He also highlighted the challenges in securing an interview with the actor, with Pizzey having to wait nearly a week for the opportunity.

Pizzey mentioned, “The biggest star of the biggest film industry in the world is probably someone you've never heard of. Film stars are adored in India in a way that they haven't been in the West, since the great days of Hollywood. People in India are film crazy. At least one new film is released here every day, and stars are so well-known, they don't need their names on the posters.” As the documentary went on to show the film crew going about their duties, he added, “It's 10 on a sticky summer morning, and the biggest star should be arriving at this studio. The superstar is Rajesh Khanna. He has the charisma of Rudolph Valentino, the arrogance of Napoleon, and he's late. There's nothing the director can do about it. He rewrites, yet again, the lines that his star should be speaking by now. He sweats and waits. Everyone is sweating and getting ready, and waiting.”

Such statements highlight a common phenomenon where individuals, after achieving significant success, may develop narcissistic tendencies. This mindset of self-importance, while often contributing to their public persona, can also have profound consequences on their personal lives and relationships. Gurleen Baruah, occupational psychologist and executive coach at That Culture Thing, agrees, “Success can sometimes lead to the development of narcissistic tendencies in individuals, but it's important to recognise that not everyone who achieves success becomes arrogant or develops these traits. The key psychological factor at play is a lack of humility. For some, success can amplify an underlying sense of inadequacy or insecurity, which might have been present long before they achieved their goals. When these deep-seated insecurities are paired with success, it can create a fragile ego that compensates by becoming overly self-centered or narcissistic.” Rajesh Khanna Narcissistic individuals often have difficulty coping with failure because their sense of self-worth is heavily tied to success and external validation.

Constant adulation and public praise, and its effects on an individual's self-perception. Constant adulation and public praise can significantly impact an individual's self-perception, often leading to an inflated sense of superiority, says Baruah. “When someone is frequently in the limelight and receives excessive praise, they might start to feel like the world revolves around them. This can create a distorted self-image, where they see themselves as bigger and more important than they truly are, sometimes leading to what is known as a ‘god complex’ or a sense of superiority.” Especially when an individual experiences more success than failure, they can become habituated to winning and the admiration that comes with it. This repeated validation can make them believe they are inherently better than others, fostering arrogance and an ego-centric worldview. “One of the significant risks of this inflated self-view is the fragility it creates. When someone ties their self-worth to external validation, their sense of self becomes highly unstable. A single failure or a dip in public admiration can lead to a devastating loss of confidence,” Baruah notes. Potential long-term consequences

In the professional realm, Baruah states, an inflated ego can damage relationships with colleagues, mentors, and even clients. If an individual becomes overly focused on their own superiority, they may dismiss valuable feedback, alienate team members, and fail to collaborate effectively. This can lead to a breakdown in professional relationships and a loss of crucial support networks.

She says, “Narcissistic individuals often have difficulty coping with failure because their sense of self-worth is heavily tied to success and external validation. When faced with setbacks, they may struggle to adapt, leading

to further professional decline.” When their inflated self-image is challenged, narcissistic individuals may experience intense rage or aggression. This can manifest as outbursts of anger when things don't go their way or when they feel criticised. What to do

To avoid these severe consequences, it's crucial for individuals to maintain a balanced perspective on success and failure. Here are a few strategies: Cultivate humility: Recognising that success is often a combination of hard work, opportunity, and the contributions of others can help keep narcissistic tendencies in check. Build resilience: Developing resilience to cope with failure is essential. Instead of seeing failure as a personal defeat, it should be viewed as a learning opportunity. Seek genuine feedback: Surrounding oneself with people who provide honest, constructive feedback is important. This helps prevent the isolation that often accompanies narcissism. Focus on inner fulfilment: Shifting the focus from external validation to internal fulfilment can reduce the reliance on others' admiration.



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Two children die of viral fever in two days



Kamareddy: Two children died of viral fever in the last two days and several others are infected due to suspected viral fever in Bhoompalle village of Sadashivanagar mandal of the district. According to reports, a ten-year-old boy died on Friday due to viral fever, whereas a 12-year-old girl died on Saturday due to viral fever and issues related to pulmonology.

The two children were initially treated by a local Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) doctor and when their condition deteriorated they were shifted to a private hospital, where they succumbed while undergoing treatment. Though the villagers claimed that the two children died of dengue, the local health officials maintained that the two died due to viral fever and issues related to pulmonology.

The officials pointed out that the private hospital's report clearly mentioned that the girl died due to lung infection and the boy due to viral fever. It is learnt that about four persons have died in last three days due to viral fever in the village. The health officials informed that about 110 cases of dengue have been reported in the district in the last eight months. “Government hospitals are receiving over 30 cases of viral fever on a daily basis in the district. Many people are suffering from high or low-grade fevers, cough, cold and bodyache symptoms of viral or vector-borne diseases,” the officials said. The officials claimed that the department was taking measures to contain the spread of viral and dengue in the district.

Rajit Kapur says actors are exploited, made to work for free: 'If you will stand up against a producer, there is a possibility of you not getting any work'



The discussion around exploitation of actors and entourage cost of stars hasn't ended, nor has there been any changes to solve the issue. Recently, veteran actor Rajit Kapur shared the plight of actors, who are underpaid, not paid and are even working for free for sake of an opportunity. The actor shed light on the lack of a system in the film industry and people to fight for actors' right.

In an interview with Unfiltered by Samdish, Rajit claimed the lack of a system is the biggest reason behind the pay disparity. He said, "There is no system in place. The casting agencies came only five years ago. Earlier, directors and assistant directors would call for actors who would be sitting there, waiting from three days. You just

choose and select. There's no person who is ready to fight for an actor's money. Even today there is exploitation. Even if you deserve Rs 20,000, they will say, 'If you wanna do this, do it for Rs 10,000. Otherwise there are lot of people waiting for one opportunity.' It happens till date."

When asked if with the introduction of casting agencies things have gotten any better for the actors, Rajit Kapur quickly replied, "You think its professional now, because its packaged like that, but it is not. In corporate offices, employees have to be paid their salaries within 7 days or maximum 15 days. But actors are not paid for up to 90 days. What do they do? If you will stand up against a producer, there is a possibility of you not getting any work. That exploitation still exists." He added, "We have the discussion in the open that 'we are paying stars 50% of the film's budget' and for your supporting cast, 'sir, we don't have money.' I have heard this line, so I was like, 'Thank you, when you have the money, call me. Don't waste my time.' I have done that." The actor even shared that with the introduction of OTT, there surely has been an increase in opportunities, but the exploitation remains the same. He said, "OTT has definitely increased opportunities, but it necessarily doesn't mean that the exploitation doesn't exist. They are still paying a bomb to their foreign technicians, but not to actors. Some actors work for free, just because they are getting an opportunity."

KBC 16 contestant Nareshi Meena says Amitabh Bachchan will fully pay for brain tumour treatment: 'Rs 50 lakh winning amount will come to me and...'

On a recent episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati 16, contestant Nareshi Meena left megastar Amitabh Bachchan emotional after she told him about her health condition. During the episode, Nareshi revealed that she had a brain tumour that was operated on but could not be completely removed due to its complicated position. She added that to treat her condition, she needs to undergo proton therapy, which is an expensive treatment and she came on the show to win money for the same. Hearing this, Amitabh promised that he would bear the expense for her treatment. Nareshi went on to win Rs 50 lakh on the show, and her life changed after that. In an exclusive interview with Indianexpress.com, the contestant revealed how she has shut many mouths with her stint on KBC 16. Nareshi also shared that Big B's team has reached out to her and they are assisting her with the treatment.

She said, "His team has gotten in touch with me. They asked me to select the doctor and hospital where I need to get my therapy done. He will directly transfer the money to that hospital. He said they will spend as much money as needed, I just need to talk to them. The Rs 50 lakh winning amount will come to me, and the money that goes into my treatment will come from Big B sir's pocket." Revealing how her stint on KBC 16 was a dream come true, Nareshi Meena said, "Meeting Big B and talking to him, it all became possible through KBC. These are the best moments of my life. People walk up to me now and tell me I did wonders on the show. I have shut a lot of mouths with my stint in KBC. My confidence got a boost too."

Nareshi feels happy that she could gift her mother the jewellery she sold for her treatment and adds that she



gifted her aunt gold earrings as soon as he returned from the show. "I feel happy that I will be able to make the jewellery that my mom sold off for my treatment. I am happy they got a little famous because of me. They have been very happy. People have been congratulating me. When I returned home, my entire village kept a welcome party." Now that Nareshi Meena has met Amitabh Bachchan, she wishes to also meet Nana Patekar and Paresh Rawal someday. "I am a big fan of them," she says. When asked how would she use the prize money, after she makes her mother's jewellery, Naresh shared, "I am not sure, but I want to build my home. However, that is not confirmed since I have to get married too." Nareshi also revealed that she has been trying to come on KBC since 2017, and despite cracking multiple auditions, she only managed to reach the show after seven years. When she finally made it to the hot seat, her family was quite happy. "No one ever thought I would be there, so all of them were very happy. I never told anybody about this until the KBC people came to shoot."

Rhea Chakraborty reveals she had depression, PTSD after Sushant Singh Rajput's death; Aamir Khan calls it a 'tragedy': 'Insaan toot jaata hai'

Rhea Chakraborty recently made a comeback with her podcast Chapter 2. The actress, who faced a lot of turbulence after the sudden death of her boyfriend and actor Sushant Singh Rajput in 2020 and the intense public scrutiny she faced, recently opened up about her journey of healing and forgiveness. She also revealed the real reason behind starting a podcast of her own. In the latest episode of her podcast, the actress spoke to actor Aamir Khan, who praised her courage. He said, "What happened with you, I would call it a tragedy. The way your life changed after that, and the way you have shown patience and strength, you didn't lose hope or faith in yourself. We all can learn a lot from that. A person's morale breaks and gets crushed. You are starting your second chapter."

Rhea added, "I think army upbringing also makes a difference. Because you know life is tough. You have seen it from childhood that when Dad leaves, there's a possibility he may not come back. You are taught to fight and never give up. To always stay hopeful. Its just inherent in your DNA. No one can defeat you easily." Aamir Khan added, "You have shown remarkable courage and you should be proud." During the conversation, the actor revealed how it took her years to get out of her depression. "It took me so long to start chapter 2 is because I was healing all this while. There was pain, anxiety, PTSD, and whatnot. And grief has a veto power over everything else. You could be talking to someone, and you get engulfed by grief out of the blue. There were some of the things, but today I feel that I have renewed energy. I feel like meeting people, my curiosity has been revived. There was no interest in knowing about others and their lives. There's depression conditioning your mind. After overcoming that, now I feel like the sun is rising again. I feel like doing new things."

Rhea also discussed the real reason behind her wanting to start a podcast of her own. She said, "One of the biggest reason why I started a podcast of my own was the fact that media went extreme with the whole episode. I tried to give interviews a couple of times, but I didn't feel good. I went on a podcast sometime ago, and he promised me that 'come, we will talk as friends, that person said, I won't question you like journalist, we are new media, we are podcasters', but he made it all even worse for me. I didn't let him release that podcast. At least, in case of traditional media, I know how they are going to approach things and I go prepared. It was that day that I



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decided that I want to create a safe space where I want to speak to people." Aamir Khan added, "The people who think you are wrong even today because they were informed wrong, I hope they eventually realise your truth." In the same podcast, Rhea revealed how Aamir Khan helped her control her anger during her journey. Rhea said, "I used to be extremely angry all the time because of everything was happening against me. And it was you who made me watch a documentary, Rubaru Roshni, which was about forgiveness and there I saw people have gone through worse, yet they have forgiven people, so that changed things." The actor recalled that day, he said, "I remember you were extremely angry on that day. You were extremely unsettled and that's why I made you watch it." Rhea confessed, "It didn't really change me immediately, but eventually I realised that there is no point in being angry. It only caused self-harm. So its better to forgive everyone and move on." The actress further thanked Aamir Khan for showing her the power of forgiveness as she was in "no mood to forgive" otherwise. After Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead in his Mumbai apartment, Rhea Chakraborty faced severe trolls. She was arrested in September 2020 on charges of procuring drugs for the late actor. After spending 28 days in Bicculla jail, the actress was granted bail in October 2020. She was dating Sushant at that time.

Inside Masaba Gupta's baby shower: Sonam Kapoor, Rhea Kapoor play the 'best hosts', Neena Gupta gives a fun speech.



Actress Sonam Kapoor, producer Rhea Kapoor, and chef Pooja Dhingra hosted a baby shower for their friend Masaba Gupta at Anil Kapoor's house in Mumbai. While the celebrations had Masaba's friends in attendance, her mother Neena Gupta also joined in. Masaba and her husband Satyadeep Misra were seen wearing tan-colored outfits, and it was an evening filled with laughter.

Neena Gupta's friends were also a part of the gathering with Alia Bhatt's mother Soni Razdan on the guest list. Many fun videos and pictures have surfaced on social media as Satyadeep Misra and Neena Gupta shared glimpses from the evening on their Instagram stories. While Neena gave a fun speech where she schooled everyone's fashion choices, Masaba called her friends 'Best hosts ever', while sharing photos on her Instagram

stories. She wrote, "Best hosts ever...got too lucky!"

A special menu was also designed for the baby shower with a live burger station, salads, pasta, and French fries. Other than these, Pooja Dhingra specially baked some delicacies for the event. Masaba's girl gang was seen twinning in shades of brown and cream while Sonam wore an outfit that was designed by the soon-to-be mom. Masaba and Satyadeep had announced the pregnancy in April through a joint post. Sharing an emoji of a pregnant woman, they wrote, "In other news - Two little feet are on their way to us! Please send love, blessings, and banana chips (plain salted only)." Masaba and Satyadeep fell in love in 2020 while they were shooting for the web series Masaba Masaba, the couple got married last year in an intimate ceremony.

Parvathy Thiruvothu at Thangalaan Hindi launch event: 'Both Vikram and Irrfan sir are very generous'

Having entered the Rs 100 crore club, team Thangalaan are a happy bunch. However, the journey of the Pa Ranjith film is far from over. The stars of the film, Vikram and Parvathy Thiruvothu, accompanied their director to Mumbai for a press conference ahead of the release of Thangalaan's Hindi version. The Hindi version is expected to hit theatres on September 6, and it was a rather upbeat atmosphere at the press meet. When asked about the theme of the film, and its experimentation, Ranjith said, "I wanted to use the magical realism to connect this film with the audience. The story of Thangalaan has antecedents in mythology. But what is mythology? Isn't it history with a bit of belief and faith. I wanted to tap into that to say the story of Thangalaan."

Thangalaan is a period film set in the colonial era of India, and explores how the mining of gold in the famed Kolar Gold Fields happened. Just like all Ranjith films, Thangalaan too sparked important conversations about the oppression of the voiceless, and platformed their struggle. A few songs and the trailer were screened for the media, and Vikram, who was last seen in the Ponniyin Selvan films, was asked about the physical and mental transformation he had to undergo for the film. Starting off by showcasing his sardonic wit, Vikram spoke about his Thangalaan, who sported a loincloth for most of the runtime. "It wasn't just me right? Except Daniel and his team (who play Britishers), most of the men in the film wore similar clothes. We were shy initially, but after a point, we started ribbing on others for being so overdressed. It was the purest form of going back in time. I miss not being in that right now."

Delving deeper into the kind of mental transformation required for becoming the Thangalaan envisioned by Ranjith, Vikram said, "I looked the part by becoming lithe, and wiry, almost like a person who only survived on one square meal a day. But mentally, to discover



Thangalaan, his ambition, his bravado, his vulnerability, I spoke a lot with Ranjith. We knew the performance must be unique. After a lot of internalising, we were in total sync. It is very liberating to have this relationship with Ranjith. All of Thangalaan is inspired by him." Parvathy, who starred opposite the late Irrfan Khan in Qarib Qarib Single, was asked about a similarity between him and her Thangalaan co-star Vikram. "Generosity," said the actor, who further divulged, "Irrfan sir used to help me out with a lot of things, to ensure I got into the space. He made sure everyone felt good to be on the sets." Drawing parallels with how Vikram used to make the shooting spots convenient for all the actors, Parvathy said, "He had this habit of handing out native toffees. It brightened everyone's mood. He used to enquire about everyone, and you knew it wasn't just a superficial act. There was genuine concern, and he had everyone's back. In fact, in that sense, he was our Thangalaan, our leader." Summarising her takeaways from working with Irrfan and Vikram, Parvathy said, "People may not remember what you did to them, or what you spoke. They will always remember how you made them feel. That is greatness."

High time AMMA takes cognisance of aftermath of Hema Committee Report: Top functionaries face harassment charges

When the Justice Hema Committee report was finally released to the public, there were many voices arguing nothing would come of it because many names were redacted and there was nothing "new." But the strength of such a detailed study, conducted under the aegis of the government, and presented to public scrutiny is the platform it provides for the voiceless. After the report's contents were out, many survivors came out to tell their stories to the media in the hope that the cycle of oppression doesn't continue. Now, a Malayalam actress has come forward to narrate certain harrowing stories from her past that involve prominent actors like Mukesh and Jayasurya.

In a social media post, she spoke about a series of incidents from 2013 where she was subjected to abuse by actors Mukesh, Edavela Babu, Jayasurya and Maniyanpilla Raju. While the first three did not respond to Muneer's claims, Raju said he welcomes a probe into the allegations. "I will file a complaint with the state police team, which was assigned to look into the revelations which came up in the wake of the Hema Committee report," Muneer told the media.

She also alleged that the AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artists), constituted to safeguard the interests of the Malayalam movie artists, failed to do so. She claimed there are sexual favours being asked of actors who want to be part of the organisation. While it can be argued that this is a case of a few bad apples, the names mentioned by the actress are some of the high-ranking members of AMMA. Minu also claimed that in 2013, she had applied for a membership of the AMMA. "A person who acted in three films is eligible for member-



ship in AMMA. When I called him over the phone regarding filling the application form, he invited me to his flat. While I was filling the application form at his flat, he kissed on my neck from behind. I ran out of the flat. I did not get the membership either," she claimed.

Earlier, many members of Malayalam cinema, including the Women in Cinema Collective, expressed their displeasure over the functioning of the organisation, and it has been reflected in the Hema Committee report too. In fact, Parvathy Thiruvothu resigned from AMMA after Edavela Babu, one of the top functionaries of AMMA, made disparaging remarks about a female colleague. The ripples in the Hema Committee report aren't just limited to the Malayalam cinema fraternity. Siddique, popular actor and former General Secretary of AMMA, and director Ranjith, who was heading the Kerala Chalchitra Academy, resigned from their posts following the allegations of abuse against them.

