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MEN THROUGH TAILORED COSMETIC PROCEDURES

'My character reflects the challenges of nepotism in **LOVE GURU** QUOTE OF THE DAY The pioneer KCR kept the self-respect of Telangana at the feet of Modi. KCR has been saying that BRS votes should be transferred to the BJP. He said that Revanth Reddy should be toppled within 100 days. Why is KCR not saying anything about toppling Modi who has been in power for the last 10 years?

- A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

Shallow Aquifer Project to...

With the temperatures soaring high every year, Hyderabad witnesses a water crisis. To tackle this, the Telangana government has implemented Shallow Aguifer Management (SAM) Project in Hyderabad. For this, five parks in the city were chosen and it is nearing completion. These shallow aquifers aim to conserve groundwater and address urban flooding issues also.Dr N Sunanda Rani, Additional Commissioner of the Urban Biodiversity Wing (UBD), said, "The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs...

2 brain systems in disorder in...

Two brain systems have been found to function improperly in people experiencing psychosis, where they have trouble distinguishing between what is real and what is not, according to a new research led by Stanford University, US. These systems were found to be - one, a 'filter' directing attention towards what is important externally and internally, and two, a 'predictor' involved in anticipating rewards. The filtering system, or the salience network, helps us dismiss irrational thoughts so that.

'Malpractices by candidates fear...

Malpractices by candidates during online assessments is one of the biggest fears among recruiters and talent acquisition (TA) specialists, a report said on Monday. Fraudulent practices by candidates during ments have emer as the biggest fear of the participants (39 per cent), followed by anxiety over finding the right candidate for a role (37 per cent) according to a report by Alpowered recruitment automation firm HirePro. The lack of effective tools to gauge specific skills has emerged as the ..

-PAGE: 8

RR brace for Narine spin treat as KKR...

Rajasthan Royals' star-studded batting will face the serious challenge of decoding Sunil Narine's mystery at Eden Gardens when they take on two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders in a top-of-the-table IPL clash here on Tuesday. Narine, who is one month shy of turning 36, had played a pivotal role in KKR's twin triumphs under former skipper Gautam Gambhir in 2012 and 2014. Ever since joining the side way back in 2012. Narine has sizzled at Eden Gardens with his crafty bowling..

Will waive agri loans up to Rs 2 lakh by Aug 15: CM

Says loan waiver delayed due to LS poll The CM said that Congress activists did not give up the party flag even though they

faced a lot of trouble. The Congress gave tickets to the poor and the BCs and enabled them to win elections.

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress government will waive loans up to Rs 2 lakh taken by farmers by August 15, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said.

The CM said that they will waive the loans of all farmers at one go and that there is no scheme. He said the implementation of loan waiver got delayed by the Lok Sabha election code.

Addressing the Narayanapet Jana Jatara public meeting on Monday, the CM said that all government schemes will be handed over to beneficiaries through Indiramma Committees.He made it clear that the selection of beneficiaries for govgoing back on implementing ernment schemes will be done the farmers' loan waiver through Indiramma Committees.

'KCR mortgaged BRS to Modi for Kavitha's bail'

Targeting former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that KCR mortgaged the BRS to Prime Minister Modi for getting bail to his daughter Kavitha, who is now in jail in connection with the Delhi liquor scam.

"KCR kept the self-respect of Telangana at the feet of Modi. KCR has been saying that BRS votes should be transferred to the BJP in the state. KCR has been saying that Revanth Reddy should be deposed. Why is KCR not trying to topple Modi who is

in power since the last 10 years," the CM said.Addressing the Narayanpet Jana Jatara public meeting on Monday, Revanth said that KCR did 100 years of destruction in the state in the last 10 years.

No relief for

Delhi CM Kejriwal

CM promises minister post to **Mudiraj** community

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that he will make a son of the Mudiraj community a Minister if they ensure the victory of the Congress in 15 LS seats in Telangana. The CM said that BRS Chief KCR did not give a single ticket to the Mudiraj community which has a 10 per cent population in the state. Addressing the Narayanpet Jana Jatara public meeting on Monday, the CM said that the Congress government will fight in the Supreme Court to convert the Mudiraj Community from BC-D to BC-A group .The CM said that former CM KCR did not care about this in the last 10 years even though the case is in the Supreme Court. Revanth made it clear that Madigas should be classified and justice should be given to them.He assured that he would give more posts to Madigas in



Uttam: Paddy will be procured at MSP

• TG got Rs 1,110.05 cr more by auctioning paddy

Minister dismisses allegations of auction scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that every grain produced by Telangana farmers will be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He also warned of stern action against traders who purchase paddy or other produce below MSP.Addressing a press conference at the Gandhi Bhavan, Uttam dismissed allegations levelled by BRS leaders of a scam in the global tenders the Civil Supplies Corporation called to sell paddy. He said former minister Harish Rao, former BRS MLA Jeevan Reddy, and other BRS leaders were levelling baseless allegations as they had no idea of paddy procurement.

Uttam gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation providing comparative figures of paddy procurement processes and auctions between the BRS admin and the current Congress Government. Giving a comparative statement

on paddy procurement this year (as of April 14) compared to the previous year, Uttam said that as against 7,031 Paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) proposed last year, this year, their number has increased to 7,149 centres.

While only 335 PPCs were opened by April 14 last year, this year, as of March 25, a total of 6,919 centres have been opened.



EXCISE 'SCAM'

'It's BJP custody not CBI custody'

Court sends Kavitha to judicial custody till April 23rd

PNS HYDERABAD

A Delhi court on MLC K. Kavitha to judicial custody till April 23, in a money laundering case connected to the Delhi excise policy scam. BRS leader K.

a corruption case filed by the CBI in connection with the alleged



in the day by the special judge for the ČBI and EĎ, Kaveri Baweja, who earlier in the day sent Kavitha to judicial custody till April Kavitha on Monday 23.Kavitha while moved a Delhi court seeking bail in coming out of court said, "This is

Delhi excise scam.

is likely to be taken

The application

not CBI custody. Continued on Page 2

A Delhi court on Monday extended

PNS NEW DELHI

till April 23 the judicial custody of Chief Minster Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED), Kaveri Baweja, extended Kejriwal's custody after he was produced before the court through video-conferencing on the expiry of his period of custody granted earlier. The ED sought extension of Kejriwal's custody by 14 days, saying the investigation was at a crucial stage. The judge extended Kejriwal's judicial custody till April 23, noting that the judicial custody of some of the co-accused persons in the case, including BRS leader K Kavitha, is ending on that date. The court had on April 1 sent Kejriwal to judicial custody till April 15 in the case.

Kadiyam family facing rough weather: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Working BRS President KTR made it clear that and the BJP are going to face a backlash in the state during Parliament

He held a meeting with the key BRS leaders of Warangal and Peddapalli Parliament constituencies and said that there will be strong opposition among people regarding the cheating of the party by the Kadiyam family at the last moment in Warangal.

He said that BRS has suffered no loss due to some leaders exiting the party and that the people are still with the BRS.

Dr Marepalli Sudhir Kumar, who brought the BRS into the fray, is getting a good response from the people. He reminded that the selection of the candidate was done with consensus.KTR called upon BRS ranks to work together for the victory of Sudhir Kumar, who was with KCR right from 2001. Stating that the victory.

people of Warangal symbolise political awareness KTR said that he was confident that they are ready to rious.

KTR said that a BRS victory is certain in Peddapalli too. He said that BRS LS candidate Koppula Eshwar has special recognition among the

people as a leader of the Telangana movement. He said that Telangana's voice can be heard strongly in Parliament only if a person like Koppula Eshwar is elected. He said that everyone from farmers to autorickshaw drivers are angry with the Congress. KTR said that the BJP has no

agenda in the state and in the country, and that is why they are trying to 'stir up' religious emotions. He said that such conspiracies which divert public attention from discussing real issues during elec-tions should be countered at the field level.KTR called upon BRS ranks to join hands for the party's

ECI seizes Rs 49 cr in Telangana



PNS HYDERABAD

With general elections 2024 underway, officials of the Election Commission of India have seized Rs 49 crore in cash in Telangana as of April 13. This is the second highest in the country after Tamil Nadu where Rs 53 crore was seized.

Enforcement agencies have made a record seizure of over Rs 4,650 crore. This marks a sharp increase from the around Rs 3,475 crore seized during the Lok Sabha election in 2019.

Significantly, 45% of the seizures are drugs and narcotics that have come under the special focus of the ECI. The seizures have been made possible by comprehensive planning, scaled-up collaboration and unified action by agencies, proactive citizen participation and the optimal engagement of technology.

'Banks must not trouble farmers to recover loans'

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao asked banks not to trouble farmers to recover loans. Tummala said that the Telangana gov-

crop insurance and loan waiver

Tummala directed officials to

Kharif season. He made it clear to marketing offi-cials that they must take steps to see that support price is given to paddy coming to the market

He directed officials to ernment has been working on the take action against businessmen procedures for Rythu Bharosa, a who use carbide to ripen fruits and to ensure that the procurement of corn, sunflower, groundnut and jowar is done properly through

Modi's guarantees are false: Mallikarjun Kharge





ready seeds and fertilizers for the MARKFED.

PHONE TAPPING

Praneeth withdraws bail petition from CMM court

PNS HYDERABAD

The lawyers of suspended DSP Praneeth Rao have withdrawn his disposed of by the court. These bail bail petition from the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) on Monday.

One of the advocates of of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, states that the Court of a ment for a term exceeding seven in his room.

Earlier, one of the other accused's bail petitions was also petitions can be filed again in the sessions court on Tuesday.

Accused number four in the case, the former DCP of the task Praneeth Rao said that due to a few force, Radha Kishan Rao, is reportlegal Sections involved in the case edly not well in jail. He was also they are withdrawing the case reportedly not well during interro-from the CMM court. Section 29 gation when he was in police cus-

It is learnt that the environment Chief Judicial Magistrate may pass where he had lived so far is quite any sentence authorised by law different from the one in jail. So he except a sentence of death or may request the court to give him imprisonment for life or imprison- a special room and other facilities

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

Campaign fails to pick up in TG

PNS HYDERABAD

With less than a month left for the Lok Sabha elections, the campaign has not yet gained momentum. Even party chiefs are participating only selectively in public meetings. The Congress is the only party

which hasn't announced its candidates in the three constituencies of Khammam, Karimnagar and Hyderabad. The BRS and the BJP have announced their candidates in all constituencies.

The Congress held its manifesto meeting in Chevella on a large scale and Revanth Reddy is mainly focussing on Mahbubnagar where he held public meetings. However, on the ground, the campaign continues to be slow.



will begin in full swing only on April 24. "Now it is mostly meetings with cadres to keep spirits high. Our national team will also be visiting from May." Prime Minister Narendra Modi

addressed three public meetings.

A BRS MLA said, "We are keep-

Constituency coordination meetings are also being held." Revanth held several meetings in

Mahbubnagar. KCR held two public meetings in Karimnagar and Chevella while the next meeting is in Medak district. KCR will focus on roadshows, corner meetings and The candidates are carrying out ing expenses less as there is still time. meeting farmers and weavers.



BJP TG unit President Kishan at Rythu Deeksha on Monday

BJP sets up wing to learn about farmers' problems

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP has set up a wing at the state BJP office to learn about the problems of farmers, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said. He suggested that farmers should call the number 9904119119 in case the Congress government troubles them regard-

ing paddy procurement.

He also appealed to farmers not to commit suicide in case they face

Kishan staged a Rythu Deeksha

demanding that the Congress government should implement its assurances given to farmers.

Addressing the gathering, Kishan told farmers to ask Congress leaders why they have to vote for the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections. He asked the farmers to file a

complaint with the BJP office if they fail to get seeds and fertilizers and if banks exert pressure on them regarding the loans given to









TG, AP to coordinate for smooth conduct of elections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have decided to coordinate to hold general elections transparently. A meeting of the coordination committee was held on Monday at the Telangana Secretariat to discuss issues connected to elections in the two states.

Telangana Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Jawahar Reddy attended the

meeting.
The TG Chief Secretary, Santhi Kumari, said that coordination meetings have already been held with Collectors and senior officials of various departments of border districts to conduct polling on

May 13 properly.
She said that illicit liquor, transportation of goodies to lure voters and drug trafficking have been stopped and the security situation is fully under

The meeting of the two states' Chief Secretaries will



The TG Chief Secretary, Santhi Kumari, said that coordination meetings have already been held with Collectors and senior officials of various departments of border districts to conduct polling on May 13 properly.

said that as elections to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha are being held simultaneously the AP government is coordinating with Telangana to conduct elections peacefully.

She said that vigilance is needed at checkposts in border areas to prevent the transport of illegal liquor, drugs and other goods from Goa, Karnataka and other states.

Already, the Telangana government has set up 36 interstate police check-posts, three inter-state check-posts of the wildlife department, eight of help maintain order till polling. the excise department, 224

enforcement teams, and seven check-posts of the commercial tax department and they are organising 24-hour patrols.

Andhra Pradesh Chief

Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy

She that there is no terrorism in Telangana and that Maoists based in Chhattisgarh are not active. The police of both the states and Central forces are coordinating oper-

Andhra Pradesh Chief ed the meeting.

'Constitutional institutions not personal property of PM'

PNS WAYANAD

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said that the Constitutional institutions of the country are not his personal property but belong to every single Indian

Accusing the ruling BJP at the Centre of attempting to capture all the Constitutional institutions of the country, he said the upcoming Lok Sabha polls is a fight between those who want to protect the Constitution and those who want to destroy it.

He was addressing party workers and voters after taking out a roadshow in Vellimunda in this high range constituency.

He said the Constitution is the document that protects the rights of all Indians regardless of the language they speak, the community they are from, the religion they practice and the state they belong to. Everybody is the same in the eyes of the Constitution, he



You understand very well that the BJP is attempting to capture all the (Constitutional) institutions of our country, one by one," he alleged.

Whether it is the judiciary, Election Commission, CBI, ED, Income Tax department or the high bureaucracy, the RSS is infiltrating these systems by putting their men, he further charged. And on the other side, there is the INDIA bloc which believes that these institutions belong to India and not to any one organisation, he said.

"These institutions are not the personal property of the Prime Minister. They are the property of every single Indian citizen," Gandhi asserted.

He said that every now and then, some BJP MP says that they would change the Coństitution.

"Let me make it very clear, the Congress party will not let the RSS change the Constitution of India," he said.

Gandhi further said that it is the duty of the Congress party to protect every single Indian regardless of their community. religion and state. This is the sacred duty of the Congress party, he added. The Congress leader came here today to launch the second phase of his election campaign. He had kicked off the poll campaign in Wayanad early this month by filing his nomination papers and holding a

Cong campaign song focused on 'Nyay'

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday released a campaign song for the Lok Sabha polls, focusing on the theme of "Nyay" for women, youngsters, farmers and labourers as well as on participatory

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh and spokesperson Supriya Shrinate released the song with the lyrics "Hum Saath Hain To Haath Ye Halat Badal Dega" at the AICC headquarters here.

The Congress leaders also spoke about the various phases of the party's campaign, saying it started with the "mere vikas ka do hisaab" slogan and then moved on to "haath badlega halaat", which is based on five "nyay" (justice) --naari nyay, kisaan nyay, yuva nyay, shramik nyay and hissedaari nyay.

"Our party is distributing our guarantee cards to eight crore households. About 80 per cent of the

cards have been distributed in the constituencies that go to polls on April 19," Ramesh said.

PARBOILED RICE

'Centre okays procurement of 30 lakh tonnes from TG'

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy thanked Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Piyush Goyal for approving the procurement of 30 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice from Telangana. Kishan said the Centre has already issued orders regarding this.

the Central Government has farmers across the state by approved the procurement of

30 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice from Telangana during the Kharif and Rabi seasons of 2023-24. The decision taken by the Centre will help Telangana farmers a lot, Kishan said. He said that, therefore, the state government must raise the Minimum Support Price and pay the bonus of Rs 500.

Kishan demanded that the state government should proldy immediately from paying a bonus.

Cong, DMK 'sin' on Katchatheevu hidden for four decades: Modi

PNS TIRUNELVELI

At a rally on Monday concluding his Lok Sabha poll campaign in Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a Tamil-centric pitch as he proposed to set up Thiruvalluvar centres globally, and labelled the Congress and DMK "sinners" over "ceding" Katchatheevu to Sri

Modi dubbed the DMK and Congress "anti-national" and said the entire country has now understood the "truth", Katchatheevu to another dark, they told lies to them the DMK and Congress," he hidden for four decades and it scenes in the House in 1989.



country after "cutting it off" from Tamil Nadu Not only did they keep "the

He said that a special drive

Operation Puritan to prevent

ganja and illicit liquor from

being transported to Andhra

Pradesh. He said that check

posts have been set up by var-

ious departments on the bor-

ders of Andhra Pradesh and

illegal liquor transportation,

remittance of money and trans-

portation of goodies for distri-

bution to voters have been

Telangana DGP Ravi Gupta,

Additional DGPs Shivdhar

Reddy, Mahesh Bhagwat, AP

Additional DG Dr Sankabrata

Bagchi, the Special Secretary of

the AP Commercial Taxes and

Excise Department, Dr Rajat

Bhargava, Telangana PCCF

RM Dobriel and AP PCCF

Chiranjeevi Chaudhary attend-

prevented.

and committed a sin behind the scenes, Modi alleged.

"Our fishermen brothers get

and Congress "antinational" and said the entire country has now understood the "truth", that they had given Katchatheevu to another country after "cutting it off" from Tamil Nadu.

Modi dubbed the DMK

said, in an apparent reference to the frequent arrests of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lanka.

Modi then went on to slam the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu over the alleged corruption and drug menace in the state. He also accused the DMK of

insulting the legacy of late Chief Minister M G Ramachandran and said the Dravidian party had "ill treated" late AIADMK matriarch J Javalalithaa in the state assemalluding to the unruly

is the BJP that unravelled the

truth and brought it to the

attention of the people, he

claimed. Following this, the

DMK and Congress have just "gone silent", he alleged.

In an attempt to appeal to the cultural sensibilities of the people of the state, Modi pointed out that the BJP had released its manifesto on the day of Tamil New Year. He also said that his party has resolved to set up Thiruvalluvar centres across the globe.

"We worked day and night for Tamil Nadu's development in the past 10 years," Modi told the people gathered there, and exhorted them to vote for the saffron party, saying, "For those who love Tamil language and culture, their first choice is the those who love the country.

INDIA will win, Rahul will become PM: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that he was confident that the INDI Alliance would win a majority of LS seats and that Rahul

Gandhi would take oath as Prime Minister on June 9. Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Uttam said that

with his 30 years of election experience, he can say that the Congress will come to power along with its alliance parties at the Centre. He said that he has a continuous winning track record of seven times from one constituency unlike former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and former Minister K.

ECI seizes Rs 49 cr... Uttam: Paddy will be...

Continued from page 1

The highest seizures were in Rajasthan where Rs 778 crore was seized, followed by Gujarat with Rs 605 crore, Tamil Nadu with Rs 460 crore and Maharashtra with Rs 431

Of the total seizure of Rs 4,658 crore, Rs 395 crore was in cash, Rs 489 crore as liquor, Rs 2,068 crore as drugs, Rs 562 crore as precious metals, and Rs 1,142 crore as freebies.

In Telangana, the ECI seized Rs 121 crore, including Rs 49 crore in cash, Rs 19 crore worth of liquor, Rs 22 crore worth of drugs, Rs 12 crore worth of precious metals, and Rs 18 crore worth of freebies.

In January and February, the months preceding the official announcement, countrywide seizures totalling Rs 7502 crore were recorded in the form of cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals and freebies. This brings the total seizure to over Rs 12,000 crore so far with six weeks still left for the election.

123 Parliament constituencies have been marked as expenditure-sensitive constituencies for focused vigilance. These constituencies had either had a history of distribution of inducements in previous elections or had inter-state and international borders with potential inflow of drugs, cash and liquor.

Continued from page 1

While only 233 Metric

Tonnes (MTs) of paddy were procured last year, as of April 14, a total of 2,69,699 MTs (2.70 LMTs) have been procured so far.

"As of now paddy procurement is significantly higher than last year," he said sharing the district-wise breakdown of PCCs opened and the quantity of paddy purchased in Rabi 2023-24.

He said never in the past were PCCs opened before April. However, this year, special permission was taken from the Centre to start PCCs on March 25. "With 50 LMTs, Telangana

is the top state in the procure-

ment estimate of rice against the Rabi crop during KMS 2023-24. The estimate is 25 LMTs for Andhra Pradesh, 10 LMTs for Odisha, 8 LMTs for Tamil Nadu, and 3.42 LMTs for

Maharashtra," he said. Uttam said that the entire infrastructure required for paddy procurement has been made available on time. These include 172,884 tarpaulins, 8,184 paddy cleaners, 9,638 moisture meters and 12,869 weighing scales with weights.
The Minister also gave

examples of paddy purchases above MSP. For instance, in Nizamabad's Varni area, the purchase rate was Rs 2,350 per quintal. Similarly, it was between Rs 2,600 and 2,750 in Miryalguda of Nalgonda, Rs

2,300 and 2,900 in Kesamudram of Mahbubabad and Rs 2,500 and 2,900 in Mangapet of Mulugu district.

Uttam said that the Congress Government has ensured immediate transportation of paddy from PPCs to mills.

"We have coordinated with rice millers to unload and acknowledge paddy quantities immediately. Teams have been constituted for random inspection to ensure quality and avoid bogus transactions. We have ensured timely payment of MSP to farmers through banks. We have ensured infrastructure is available in all centres and PPCs incharges are thoroughly trained," he said.

'KCR mortgaged...

Continued from page 1

"Doras are not in a position to digest the fact that a Palamuru's son is the CM. Can only Doras sit on the CM's chair," Revanth asked.

The CM demanded that KCR should reveal how many double-bedroom houses were given to the poor in the last 10 years. The Congress government sanctioned 3,500 houses in every Assembly constituency immediately after coming to power. We allotted Rs 5 lakh for every house. We have to give funds to BCs on the basis of their population and so the Congress government passed a resolution for a BC census," he

Jana Reddy. TODAY

Apr 16 03:05 AM

ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha Tithi: Ashtami: Apr 15 12:11 PM to Apr 16 01:24 PM Apr 16 01:24 PM to Apr 17 03:14 PM

Nakshatram:

Temp: 38°

Pushya:

to Apr 17 05:16 AM Apr 17 05:16 AM Ashlesha to Apr 18 07:56 AM Rahukalam 3:22 PM to 4:55 PM 9:09 AM to 10:42 AM Yamaqandam: 07:29 PM to 09:16 PM Varjyam: 12:16 PM to 1:49 PM

Amritakalam: 10:17 PM to 12:02 AM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:51 AM to 12:40 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Sunny



BJP sets up wing...

Continued from page 1

He said the Modi government has been standing by farmers and so farmers should not commit suicide.

He asked farmers to quiz Congress leaders about the Rs 15,000 Rythu Bharosa, the Rs 12,000 for farmhands and the Rs 500 bonus for paddy.

He demanded that the state government should see that the Kisan Samman Nidhi reaches beneficiaries transparently. He asked all eligible farmers to register their names for the Kisan Samman Nidhi by sending a call missed 9904119119.

Tt's BJP custody not CBI...

Continued from page 1

It's BJP custody. Whatever the BJP is talking outside is the same thing the CBI is asking. There is nothing new. They have been repeating the same questions for the last two months."

Kavitha was arrested from Tihar Jail, where she was lodged after her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The CBI produced her in court after the expiry of her three-day police custody granted earlier by the judge and sought judicial custody. The CBI told the court

that she was not required for

further custodial interroga-

The CBI told the court that Kavitha has not given satisfactory answers to questions put to her in connection with her case. "She also did not reveal facts and gave evasive replies to most of the questions. Her replies were contrary to oral and documentary evidence gathered by the CBI during the investigation. She was not disclosing facts truthfully, despite being confronted with evidence and is also concealing facts, which are exclusively in her knowledge," the CBÍ told the court. "Her further custodial interrogation is not required at this stage. As already submitted she is deliberately evading relevant questions connected to the case. She, being a prominent politician, is very influential. As such, there are credible reasons to believe that she may influence witnesses and potential witnesses, who are yet to be examined, tamper with evidence that remains to be collected and may hamper the investigation," the CBI told the court. The CBI added that investigation is going on and that the same is at a very crucial stage and that some crucial witnesses are yet to be exam-

Will waive agri loans up to...

Continued from page 1

The CM said that elections to local bodies will be held two months after the Lok Sabha

The CM said that Congress activists did not give up the party flag even though they faced a lot of trouble. The Congress gave tickets to the poor and the BCs and enabled them to win elections. There is no other party than the Congress to do justice to Backward Classes, he said.

The CM said that they will underground sanction drainage in Narayanapet



CM Revanth Reddy in Narayanapet Jana Jatara public meeting along with Mahabubnagar MP candidate Ch Vamshichand Reddy

municipality. BJP Vice-President DK Aruna said that Revanth Reddy's post should be scrapped. Will DK Aruna ask the PM about the nation-

al project tag given to the Palamuru-Rangareddy project? Will she demand the Makthal-Vikarabad railway line, Revanth asked

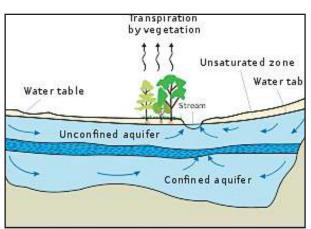
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TO OVERCOME WATER CRISIS IN HYDERABAD

Shallow Aquifer Project to reduce urban flooding

With the temperatures soaring high every year, Hyderabad witnesses a water crisis. To tackle this, the Telangana government has implemented Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) Project in Hyderabad. For this, five parks in the city were chosen and it is nearing completion. These shallow aquifers aim to conserve groundwater and address urban flooding issues also.

Dr N Sunanda Rani, Additional Commissioner of the Urban Biodiversity Wing (UBD), said, "The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHŬA) under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 has launched the SAM Project (pilot project). It has sanctioned Rs 20 lakh for the project. The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), an autonomous body under MoUHA had partnered with the "Adva Enviro Solutions



Pvt.Ltd" (a Rainwater Project) to identify suitable recharge structures in collaboration with the GHMC in the city. We have selected five parks in three zones. They are Kakatiya Park in Habsiguda, KLN Yadav Park, Indira Park, GHMC Park in Sainikpuri Techno Park in Madhapur. Additionally, the State government has allocated an extra Rs 5 lakh for

this endeavour. The main aim behind the project is to eradicate urban flooding and

increase groundwater level." She also said, "Hyderabad experiences flooding during monsoon and there is no proper rain water harvesting in the city. In a shallow aquifer project, we encourage a maximum amount of rainwater to circulate in the ground thereby increasing groundwater

level. Once it is successful according to the responses of colony residents, we can expand it to other parks and buildings. This project is implemented block by block, especially in the areas which have parks."

Kalpana Ramesh, Founder of the Rainwater Project said, "A shallow aquifer is an under-ground layer just below the ground that contains water, within the first 100 feet below the ground. For instance, in Habsiguda park, the park has a well along with a channel connecting it. However, the channel was filled with silt. Hence, water

during the monsoon did not sink into the ground. Moreover, because of rocky strata, the water which sunk into the ground was less. For solving this issue, we set up silt traps for trapping debris before allowing the water into the borewells. The water is filtered multiple times in the shallow aquifer project before allowing it into the borewells.'

Mega blood donation camp at Osmania varsity today

PNS HYDERABAD

Osmania University will be organising a mega blood donation camp in Arts College, Science College and Engineering College of Osmania University under the auspices of the National the auspices of the National Service Scheme (NSS) Regional Directorate Hyderabad and NSS Cell Osmania University on Tuesday, as per the directives of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Central Government. NSS programme officers, NSS volunteers and other

NSS volunteers and other faculty members of all degree colleges in the twin cities will participate in this mega blood donation camp at the university level.

Professor Ravinder, Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Registrar Lakshminarayana, Telangana NSS Regional Director Ramakrishna will be the chief guests of this camp.
NSS Programme

Coordinator Savin Souda said that donating blood is a great gift and it is equal to donat-



All set for Sitarama Kalyanam at Bhadradri tomorrow

PNS HYDERABAD

With Sri Rama Navami round the corner, all the arrangements were inspected at the Mithila Stadium where Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy's Kalyana Mahotsava celebrations will be held at Bhadrachalam on April 17.

Hanumantha Commissioner of Department of Information and Civil Relations, said that Bhadrachalam shrine is the most glorious place in the

world where Sitarama kalyanam takes place. The celestial marriage has been taking place in this field for several decades. It has been said in the Vedas that the devotees who watched the Kalyana Mahotsavam, indirectly will get a lot of merit.

Since a large number of devotees are likely to flock to Bhadrachalam to witness the marriage ceremony of Sitarama Chandraswami, all arrangements are being made to ensure that the devotees do not face any problem. Fresh water and water canopies are being arranged. A total of 24 sectors are being set up for the devotees to watch the marriage ceremony and LED TVs are being set up in each sector. For the convenience of the devotees, the tickets are available at https://bhadradritemple.telan-

gana.gov.in. Mandal TDA PO Pratik Jain, Devasthanam EO Ramadevi, AEOs Ravinder, Shravan Kumar and others participated in the programme.

Principal secy takes stock of Mission Bhagiratha in districts

PNS HYDERABAD

Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development Department, said that every village and every municipality will be provided with drinking water through tap as all reservoirs in Wanaparthi and Gadwala districts have enough drinking water till July and August.

On Monday, they visited Wanaparthi NagarKurnool districts to know about the water reserves and drinking water supply in the district. He asked the officials about the water level in the reservoirs, how many days there is sufficient water storage, whether the motors are running at all the intake wells and Mission Bhagiratha details. The Chief Secretary spoke to the media at Gopal Dinne

He said that the State govtion to drinking water in the summer, and as part of this, the collectors of all districts are keeping abreast of the situation



at the field level and are taking measures where there is drinking water problem. He said that all preliminary measures have already been completed so that drinking water can be sup-plied through bore motors in case of emergency.

Mission Bhagiratha officials were told that all reservoirs in Wanaparthy and Gadwala districts have enough drinking water till July and August and there should be focus on supplying drinking water to the people by pumping them regularly. The offiirected to provide water supply to 392 habitations and 5 municipalities in Wanaparthy district without any interruptions and to solve

any problem immediately. It has been ordered to take steps to ensure that no single habitat should be in the yellow, orange or red category of drinking water supply and all the habitats should be in the

green category.
Mission Bhagiratha aims to provide 100% drinking water to every household and ordered the officials to work accordingly. If there is a small problem anywhere and one day there is a problem in water supply, people should be assured that there will be no should not get worried and get misconceptions, they should immediately supply water through an alternative route.

Early Bird scheme: GHMC collects Rs 230 cr in 15 days

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose said that since the Early Bird scheme was introduced on April 1, Rs 230 crore property tax has been collected so far.

Property owners will receive a five per cent discount on property tax if they pay the entire amount for the financial year of 2024-25 till April 30. This scheme aims to encourage taxpayers to get an incentive to settle their dues early and also which helps to get revenue to the

In the 2022-23, GHMC collected Rs 1,660 crore and for the 2023-24 financial year, the corporation garnered Rs 1,917 crore. Which means, GHMC collected Rs 257 2023-24. This year officials are estimating more than Rs 1,000 crore from the Early

ISB reviews curriculum for a more customised PGP

PNS HYDERABAD

The Indian School of Business (ISB) has unveiled a comprehensive curriculum review for its Post-Graduate Programme in Management (PGP), responding to the ever-changing business landscape on Monday.

It has a three-pronged focus, which includes a move towards a more customised and flexible programme structure, given the diverse needs of the students, who come from backgrounds varying from engineering to the armed forces to art or sports. With it, learnability is the second pillar, as the school will now use more activity-based methods that build the ability to constantly learn. The third key point is a built-in system of renewal in the curriculum so as to respond to future needs proactively.

The revised curriculum, in sonalised and experiential learning opportunities, for which the newly set up Centre for Learning and Teaching



Excellence will play a pivotal role. It will drive continuous improvement in content and curriculum design.

Increased flexibility was seen as an imperative as the school consistently has a diverse cohort. Up to now, half the curriculum could be built by the student from the list of elective courses, while the other half, the core, was fixed. PGP students can now build up to 60 per cent of the programme from an expanded list of electives credits. The of those too, four can be cho-

sen from a wider list. The school has laid emphasis on enhancing its Analytics

curriculum to align with the

demands of today's data-driven business landscape. Elective offerings include Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). Technologists and cognitive psychologists will be part of this faculty-driven centre, and innovations will be driven by their expert inputs too.

Dean Madan Pillutla said, "The overarching impetus for the changes was the evolving nature of jobs, and the reduced shelf life of knowlconstant change, what one knows for sure is that people who have a variety of skills will succeed.

TG likely to receive above normal rains, says IMD

PNS HYDERABAD

The Indian Meteorological Department on Monday predicted that Telangana is likely to experience above normal rainfall in 2024, beginning from June to September. In its announcement on Monday, the IMD pointed to the weakening El Ñino conditions as a significant factor contributing to this prediction.

IMD's study showed a trend in La Nina years, indicating that most years experienced either above normal or normal monsoon patterns. Exceptions to this trend were noted in 1974 and 2000, which recorded belownormal rainfall. The forecast extends beyond

Telangana, encompassing the entire nation, with expectations of an above-normal monsoon. IMD estimates cumulative rainfall to reach 106 per cent of the long-period average, monsoon, Telangana received a cumulative rainfall of 86.2 cm during the south-west monsoon from June to September.

Admission on for diploma courses in French, German

Osmania University on Monday has announced the applications for the admission to four months compressed Junior and Senior Diploma Courses in French and German, Advanced Diploma (one academic year) in French/ German for the academic year 2024-2025.

The eligibility criteria for Junior Diploma is a pass in Intermediate examination or equivalent examination while for senior Diploma, 50 per cent marks at Junior Diploma or in Second Language at Graduation level with 50 per cent marks is the prerequisite. Candidates having learnt the concerned languages elsewhere may be required to am.

appear for a Special Entrance test in the University College of Arts and Social Sciences (UCA&SS), OU.

In the case of Advanced Diploma (one academic year), the eligibility criteria for students is 50 per cent marks in Senior Diploma. The applications have to be made online using any of the following links https://diploma.osmaniaerp.com/Registra tion/Student/ . For further details, candidates may contact the Office of the Foreign Languages or the Department concerned at 8331041309.

The last date for the submission of filled in applications is July 6, 2024. Classes begin on July 8, 2024 and timings are from 7 am to 9

Narayana student clinches Guinness World Record

PNS HYDERABAD

One of the students from Narayana Schools, R Jashwanth from Narayana eTechno School in Maduravoyal, Chennai, has made it into the Guinness World Records for his amazing skills with the Rubik's Cube. He is just under 10 years old.

This achievement not only highlights Jashwanth's talent but also reflects how Narayana schools support their students in all areas, whether it's academics or other interests. This is not Jashwanth's first time in the spotlight. He's already bagged several world record titles before! From drawing Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's portrait upside down to spelling long words super-fast, he's a real champ. And let's not forget his knack for solving multiplication problems while tackling the Rubik's Cube or spinning a hula hoop on an upside-down pot.



P Sharani, the Director of Educational Naravana Institutions, sees Jashwanth's achievements as proof of Narayana's commitment to their students' well-being and growth. According to her, Narayana doesn't just focus on academics but also nurtures students into confident individuals ready to take on the world. Narayana Schools is thrilled

about Jashwanth's success and hopes he continues to make his family and school proud. He's truly an inspiration for anyone chasing their dreams. And at

viding the right guidance and support to help students reach their full potential. Narayana Schools, with over

500+ branches, forms a large portion of Narayana Educational Institutions, one of Asia's largest and well-respected education groups with over 45 years of egacy in the field of education. The institution has a vast network of more than 800 schools, colleges, coaching centres and professional colleges across 23 Indian states. Their central focus remains on striking a harmonious balance between the curricular and co-curricular domains so that the students reach their full potential. This encapsulates the essence of what Narayana stands for.

One can visit: Narayana Schools https://www. narayanaschools.in/; Narayana Group https://www.narayanagroup.com

Call to promote cotton to save handloom sector

PNS HYDERABAD



Transport Ponnam Prabhakar urged people to use and promote cotton

in order to save Telangana's handloom sector. He urged people on Monday to purchase and use cotton garments such as shawls, etc, for treating guests and elders. While for children, you need to purchase and use books and pens as it is useful for them.

This encourages weavers to produce more cotton products. He said since cotton is useful for everyone in all seasons, they should use and promote it.

Hike in BC quota for local bodies demanded **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

As the elections to the local bodies will be held immediately after the Parliament elections, Ŕ Krishnaiah, President of National BC Welfare Association, demanded that local body elections should be conducted only after the caste census of BCs is announced and their reservations are increased

to 50 per cent. He said, "In its election manifesto, the Congress announced that the reservation for local bodies would be increased from 22 per cent to 42 per cent. Moreover, Rahul Gandhi announced that the reservation for local bodies will be increased to 50 per cent according to the population by conducting a caste census. However, caste census has not been conducted yet. It will still

take time. In a letter written to the Chief Minister, I requested him that after the conclusion of the Parliament elections, the BC reservations should be increased to 50 per cent and the local body elections should be conducted.'

He also said that earlier in 1986, BC Welfare Association took many initiatives and the then chief minister NT Rama Rao responded by increasing 20 per cent reservation for BCs in ZPTC, MPTC and municipal elections. The BC Welfare Association has been campaigning for six consecutive years to increase the BC reservation to 40 per cent and to increase the BC reservation in the sarpanch elections also. In 1993, the then chief minister Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy responded by increasing the reservation to 34 per cent.

5 online cricket betting gangs arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Special Operations Teams (SOT) of Shamshabad, Balanagar and Madhapur teams have arrested 15 organisers of betting gangs and seized Rs 2,41,06,767 from them on Monday.

In the five cases, the police have frozen 57 bank accounts and eight Phonepay UPI numbers. Police have arrested 15, seized cash of Rs 33,30,600, total cash available in the bank accounts of Rs 2,07,76, six smartphones, three

laptops and 16 keypad mobiles. SÔT Shamshabad team apprehended one bookie named Pondhuri Suresh. He was organising online cricket betting through various sites and online betting applications on ongoing IPL-2024 matches. On Suresh's information police apprehended one more accused Mothkupally Rama Krishna Reddy at Kukatpally. On enquiry, Suresh revealed that Ramanjaneyulu, native of Narasaraopet, is the main organiser, but he is absconding.

In another case, SOT Shamshabad Team apprehended four betting organisers at Mallampet village under the limits of Dundigal police station, who were organising online betting, threeexch.com on the ongoing IPL-2024 Matches.

SOT Madhapur team apprehended four bookies at SRS Diamonds Apartments, Gokul Plots under the limits of Miyapur police station, who were organising online cricket betting through www.londonexch.com www.nationalexchange9.co and www.ukexch24.com on ongoing IPL-2024. On inquiry, the accused revealed four other people but all were absconding. SOT Balanagar team apprehended two online cricket betting organisers of online cricket betting on ongoing IPL matches

Wine shops to remain closed tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On account of Sri Rama Navami, Tarun Joshi, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda has announced that, "In exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 20 Telangana State Excise Act, 1968, the closure of toddy and wine shops, bars attached to restaurants, military canteen (including bars in Star Hotels and registered clubs) within the limits Rachakonda Police Commissionerate shall remain closed from 6 am to 6 pm on April

Corporation waste) from door-steps.
User charges start from Rs

Use paid service for debris disposal, says GHMC chief

PNS HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose said that the corporation is providing paid services for the disposal of Construction and Demolition waste (C and D

398.50 per million tonnes of waste and the rate varies from one area to other area. Citizens can reach out to the GHMC to raise a request through the



MyGHMC mobile application about C&D waste, which includes collection, transporta-

tion and processing. People can contact toll free 1800-120-1159 and WhatsApp number 9100927073. For the circles of GHMC covering Uppal, Hayathnagar, L B Nagar,

Saroornagar, Malakpet, Santho shnagar, Amberpet, Yousu fguda, Serilingampally, Chandanagar, RC Puram, Moosapet, Kukatpally, Quthb ullapur and Gajular amaram. For Chandrayangutta,

Charminar, Falaknuma, Rajendranagar, Mehdipatnam, Karwan, Goshanahal, Jubilee Hills, Kapra, Musheerabad, Khairatabad, Alwal, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad, Begumpet circles people can call 1800-203-0033 and Whatsapp number 7330000203.

People's resolve would be Modi's guarantee

ical parties that were rejected by the people. The main party among them is the Congress. The people miserably defeated the Congress in the last two elections. Now, the Congress was limited to just two states in the country. In a straight contest between the BJP and Congress in 190 seats, the BJP secured 175 seats while the Congress had to contend with just 15 seats, winning them with a wafer-thin majority. In about 224 seats, the BJP vote share ranged between 50% to 70%

What do the statistics decipher? It makes clear that the Congress would be nowhere near the BJP in future. What would be the value of the election manifesto brought out by such a party? The Congress has been trying to showing heaven in the palm. In spite of ruling the nation for over six decades, the party which could not bring millions of people above the poverty line is now boasting of rendering social justice to the people.

Family members of the rul-

ing elite in the Congress, the corrupt leaders and those who have amassed wealth illegally and those who do anything just for the sake of power have served their time for over six decades dividing the people on the lines of caste and religion. The Congress manifesto clearly indicated using minorities as vote banks by appeasing them and laws applicable to people of the nation are not applicable to the them. There is no scope for the people to give credulence to the promises

made by such a party.

The BJP would have no purpose to play vote bank politics because the credibility that the BJP's manifesto enjoys is totally different. The election manifesto is a policy document for the BJP. It is a document that will honour the people. It is a firm resolve. That is why, the BJP intimated its plans for the next years to the people in the form of a document. Resolve means which is above making the promises and giving assurances. The BJP vowed to make India the third biggest economy in world in the next five years. It declared to erad-

Family members of the ruling elite in the Congress, the corrupt leaders and those who have amassed wealth illegally and those who do anything just for the sake of power have served their time for over six decades dividing the people on the lines of caste and religion

icate poverty ultimately from India. It also vowed to intensify the BJP's fight against corruption.

The manifesto promised to implement reforms in various sectors of development for the next generation and offered to trailblaze development. The document said that it will take many pro-people decisions. It made it clear that it will put in place all steps to make India a super power, the moment the BJP comes to power without wasting a moment. The BJP under the heading Modi Guarantee listed out series of

measures to be initiated by it for the benefit of various sections of society.

One can notice the line of thinking of the BJP from the beginning. The BJP would not work for the appreciation of any particular section of society. What is common to all election manifestoes of the BJP are improving the wealth of the nation and distributing it among the people, especially among the down-trodden sections, fast development of infrastructural amenities to modernise India, making every India feel proud so that he will



Y SATYA KUMAR **BJP National Secretary**

roam with his or her head held high, giving top priority to safe-guard Indian culture and tradition, stoking patriotism, taking steps to promote nationalism, stamp out across the border terrorism and Naxalism to improve security of the nation.

The BJP fulfilled many of the promises that it made to the people. It scrapped Article 370 giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir. For the past several decades it has been time and again harping on making the J and K an integral part of India. It scrapped the Article 370 when it came to power

with full majority. It initiated measures to implement Uniform Civil Code and did away with the practice of triple talaq. It built Ram temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya fulfilling the promise made by it long back. A magnificent Ram temple was built in Ayodhya in January this year fulfilling the long-cherished dream. Because of the zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and Naxalism, the country is able to breathe free getting rid of these evil forces. The BJP scrapped the age-old laws and replaced them with the modern laws that aide the nation's

development. It replaced the

British colonial Indian Penal

Code with the Bharatiya Nera

Samhita. The country devel-

oped from one of the five

weak economies in the world

to one of the five strong

economies of the world. Under

Modi's regime, at least 25 crore

people crossed the poverty Bank accounts, LPG connections, individual sanitary latrines, clean drinking water,

electricity became accessible for TRULY) millions of people. There has **SPEAKING** been a perceptible change in the

lives of the farmers, women, fishermen, street vendors, petty business organisations, SCs and STs and Adivasis. The MSP has increased manifold in the last 10 years benefiting the farm-

The present manifesto has been devised to accelerate the measures initiated during the past 10 years. When Modi came to power 10 years ago, there was all-round despair among the people. In the first term of the Modi's rule, the despair disappeared as people began to feel confident of India becoming a strong economy. In the last five years, the confidence took the shape of self-confidence. The BJP released its Sankalp Patra to the people on the basis of the style of functioning of Modi in the past 10 years. It indicated the changes that are going to take place in the country in the next 25 years. The documents declared to constitute Krushi Infrastructure Development Mission to develop agricultural infrastructure in villages. To provide free and quality health care to the aged, the Ayushman Bharat Yojna would be expanded further, declares the document.

It specified that supply of free food grains to 80 crore people of the country would continue till 2029. It also announced to supply piped supply of LPG in all main cities of the country. It announced to double Mudra loans to Rs 20 lakh. It also offered to provide free power to the poor families under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna.

The BJP invited suggestions from people to compile its manifesto. At least 10.5 lakh people offered their suggestions. Over 4 lakh people have sent their suggestions through NAMO mobile application. Over 50 BJP ministers categorised them and compiled the Sankalp Patra. That is why the BJP's resolve would be the people's resolve. Modi guarantee means confidence to the people.

Women Sub-Inspector in ACB net



PNS KUMRAM BHEEM

A woman Sub-Inspector in the Asifabad police station was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 25000 from a driver held on the charge of causing an accident.

Anti-Corruption Bureau Deputy Adilabad Superintendent of Police VV Ramana Murthy said sub-inspector Rajya Laxmi was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe from Yahia Khan of Coal Chemical Complex in Naspur in Mancherial district. A case connection with a road accident who was booked in a road mishap in Buruguguda village under Asifabad mandal on

March 31. Rajya Laxmi allegedly demanded a bribe to release the vehicle involved in the accident and also grant station bail to Khan. The Anti-Corruption Bureau officials laid the trap and caught the woman subinspector after the driver approached them, the DSP said. The sub-inspector was produced before the ACB court in Karimnagar and remanded in judicial custody.

Leicester varsity, Apollo varsity partner for global healthcare

PNS HYDERABAD

The Apollo University on Monday announced that it entered an agreement with the University of Leicester to strengthen collaborative education and research ties. The two universities have initiated programme partnership. Marking a significant milestone, this collaboration launches a computer science programme wherein students commence their studies with two years at TAU in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, before progressing to their final year and graduation at the University of Leicester,

As part of the agreement, a cohort of 120 students will be prepared with the curriculum jointly mapped between the two universities. Students who achieve a minimum of 50% in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics during their Intermediate or diploma studies, and successfully complete Class 12 or its equivalent with these subjects as majors from a recognised Board are eligible to apply for the programme.

Harish appeals people to be wary of designs of BJP

Former minister T Harish Rao has assailed the BJP for being content with distributing pictures, calendar, bags and saris as it has lacked concrete schemes for the welfare of the people.

He was speaking at BRS extended meeting held in Mahabubnagar district held at Kodangal on Monday.

Harish Rao said that the BRS would always remain with people irrespective of electoral outcome. The BRS would always fight on behalf of people to exert pressure on the government to implement the election

The BRS works for the people. The people have seen the 10year BRS rule and also that of the 10-year BJP rule. What did the BRS do to the good of the people, pat comes the list of at least 100 schemes like RytuBandhu, Rvtu Bima, KCR Kit, Asara pensions, Kalyana Lakshmi and so

He wanted the people in villages to question the BJP leaders



for the people. It did not benefit the Dalits, tribals, farmers and also the poor. It increased the prices of diesel, LPG which now costs Rs 1,000 a cylinder. The prices of essential commodities are on the rise. The BJP government broke the back of the poor with the inflationary tendencies. It has become difficult for the poor to life. The promise of the BJP is to fill at least 2 crore jobs in a year. In fact, it should have given 20 crore jobs in 10 years, he said accusing the BJP of dup-

ing the unemployed.

The BJP leaders have no it, he reiterated. That is why, they have been distributing photos, visiting them on what had it done calanders, bags and saris. The

'Journalists are in the firing line in Kodangal constituency' Siddipet BRS legislator T Harish Rao has alleged that the Congress government has not

> who filed reports on the difficulties being faced by people in Kodangal received threatening calls. Journalists work to BJP started 157 medical colleges across the nation, but did not give at least one to Telangana, he alleged. Similarly, it started 157 nursing colleges in the country but showed an empty hand to the Telangana. It duped the

ing national project status to

been sparing even journalists. H

that it has been threatening even

the journoulists. Addressing the

extended meeting at Kodangal on

Monday, he claimed to have got

the information that journalists

Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha

constituency BRS workers

claimed that he has information

highlight the problems being faced by people to bring them to the notice of the government. They also try to popularise government schemes by taking them to the people, he said, adding that the journalists alert the government, ignoring the people's problems, waking them from their deep slumber. It was unfortunate to note that the journalists, who act as a bridge between the rulers and the ruled, have been getting threatening calls, Harish Rao

Scheme. In the last MP elections. Modi completion of the LI scheme but did not give permission to the project. It did not devolve at least Re 1 for the pro-

Telangana people by not accord- ers have been trying to dupe the people and alerted them to Palamuru-Rangareddy LI remain on the vigilant.

Siddipet farmers send postcards to CM seeking bonus for paddy



Farmers gathering at market yard in Siddipet to send postcards to Chief Minister seeking bonus on paddy

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Farmers in Siddipet have launched a postcard campaign demanding that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy implement the schemes that the Congress had promised ahead of the Assembly elections.

The farmers said that they had been left with no option except to launch the protest as they got short shrift from the State government. They demanded compensation of Rs either withered away due to lack of water for irrigation or damaged by unseasonal rains.

The farmers urged the Chief Minister to pay a Rs 500 bonus per quintal of paddy. They also demanded that the govern-ment pay input subsidy at the rate of Rs 15,000 an acre under Rythu Bharosa. They questioned the government as to why the Congress government promised to waive farm loans

up to Rs 2 lakh at one go.
The farmers, in their letters, also demanded that the government announce Rs.25,000 compensation for each acre of due to unseasonal rains or withered away due to lack of water for irrigation.

leader Venugopal Reddy and other party leaders gathered at Marketyard in Siddipet to rally round the farmers who launched the postcard cam-

The farmer said that they were not even paid the minimum support price for paddy. Rice millers were purchasing paddy at a lower than minimum support price. The rice millers were paying between Rs 1,700 and Rs 1,800 per

The BRS leaders assured the farmers that they would fight on their behalf.

Minister for Roads and buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy interacting with

Komatireddy assures people of comprehensive development of Nalgonda

PNS NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has assured the people of the town that he will strive for development of all wards in the municipality.

He attended a function at the house of a Congress worker in Asat Nagar of 25th ward on Monday. On the occasion, people of

the area highlighted their problems to the Minister and sought his intervention to

Once the elections are over, the underground drainage development works would be implemented in the town and Cement Concrete roads would

be developed in all colonies. Similarly, all those who have the house site would be sanctioned Rs 5 lakh to enable them to build a house, he said,

adding that he would strive for comprehensive development of Nalgonda town. He asked the people to bring their problems to the notice of the municipal chair-

man and councillors. Nalgonda Congress Committee president G Mohan Reddy, Municipal chairman Burri Srinivas Vice-chairman Abbagoni Ramesh goud, market committee chairman Jukuri Ramesh, several councillors, Congress leaders and activists were present.

Concern over increasing pollution levels in city

PNS HYDERABAD

The sound pollution levels in the city are on the rise at an alarming level both day and night. The residential, commercial, sensitive and industrial areas have been registering more than normal sound lev-

The Pollution Control Board calculates the extent of sound pollution in Jubilee Hills, Abids, Tarnaka, JNTU, Paradise, Sanat Nagar, Gaddapotaram, Jeedimetla, Zoo Park and Hyderabad Central University

During January and February this year, the residential areas of Jubilee Hills and Tarnaka, sensitive zones GachhiBowli, HCU and Zoo Park recorded 20-30 decibels more than the normal pollution level. It is attributed to growing number of vehicles, modified silencers, use of the outdated vehicles and expansion of the city in all the four directions. In spite of the state government implementing measures to reduce the noise pollution level in the city, the measures have not been yield-



ing positive results. The Pollution Control Board calculates sound pollution taking the commercial, residential, industrial and sensitive areas as a standard.

The sound levels should not cross 55 decibels per day in residential areas during day time and should not exceed 45 decibels at night. However, in January and February this year, the pollution level has gone up by at least 20 decibels on an average in residential areas like Jubilee Hills and

The increased pollution levels in residential areas has been a cause f concern for

authorities. Similarly, the pollution levels are on the rise in

sensitive areas Medical experts warn people that people exposed to higher levels of noise pollution are likely to suffer from hearing impairment. The new born will lose their sense of hearing if exposed to sounds exceeding 90 decibels. It would have an adverse impact on the brain and cause loss of concentration among the people.

The increased noise pollution levels trigger health problems of hypertension and sleeplessness among the people and would affect the health of the aged.

April 27 is last date to pay Haj fees

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Haj house on Monday announced that April 27 is the last date to pay the final instalment of the Haj fee for 2024.

The announcement was made in compliance with the Haj Committee of India's circular number 20. Shaik Liyakhat Hussain, executive officer of the Telangana State Haj Committee said, "The total amount payable by each pilgrim is enclosed in the table given below and the mentioned amount calculated is tentative and may increase or decrease based on actual expenditure incurred. The Selected Haj pilgrims who have deposited the Advance and second Instalments are advised to deposit the balance amount as per the Table on or before April 27 2024.'

The pilgrims have paid Rs 81,800 (without Qurbani) and Rs 1, 70,000 (with Qurbani) respectively in the first two installments. The balance amount for those who paid the fee without

qurbani is Rs 98,080 which would take grand total to Rs 3,49,880; while those who've paid the fee with the qurbani will need to pay Rs 82,900, which would take the grand

total to Rs 3,34,700. "Before paying the balance Haj amount, pilgrims must verify the exact amount payable by them on the Haj Committee of India website. www.hajcommittee.gov.in. The Haj pilgrims may download bank payment challan through online website www.hajcommittee.gov.in of State Bank of India or Union Bank of India by using a unique Bank Reference Number in the specified Payin-slip on the mentioned website," Hussain explained.

It is advised that pilgrims must adhere to the stipulated last date for paying the final installment. For 2024, the Haj Committee of India has fixed the Qurbani amount at Rs 15,180 for each pilgrim; pilgrims traveling with infants are required to pay an additional fee of Rs 9,700 for each supplemen-

Phone tapping "drama" being staged to mislead people: Jagadish

PNS NALGONDA

Former minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy has claimed that none came out openly and complained that their phones had been tapped and demanded that the State government bring to book the person who first encouraged the

phone tapping in the State. In fact, the phone tapping started 20-30 years ago.

Addressing the Bhongiri constituency BRS workers here on Monday, he claimed that his phone was subjected to tapping during the course of the Telangana movement for Statehood to Telangana.

The Congress government would be able to do no harm to BRS supremo KCR in the phone tapping case and it as a highdrama being staged by Congress government to mislead the people, Jagadish Reddy alleged.

Referring to increasing thefts in Yadadri-Bhongir district, he sought to know what the district



Former minister G Jagadish Reddy speaking at BRS workers meeting on

minister has been doing. In an indirect reference to PM Narendra Modi and CM A Revanth Reddy, he said, "Two thieves have joined hands to fin-ish off Kejriwal and KCR politically." Criticising the Congress leaders in an abusive language, Jagadish Reddy pointed out that the people of Telangana voted the

Congress to power believing in their promise of ushering change in their lives. There was a perceptible change in society in the form of withering away crops in fields and increasing number of theft cases. In an indirect reference to R and B Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, he accused him of barking like a dog. He could

not be seen for over a month and avoiding to meet the farmers.

The government directed Collector to take action against rice millers in Miryalaguda on procurement of paddy. The result was that no action was taken against the millers and also the denial of MSP to the farmers by

8 Bangladeshi women sentence to 25 months RI for illegal stay in India

court in Navi Mumbai on Monday convicted eight Bangladeshi women for illegal Astay in India and sentenced them to 25 months of rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Additional Sessions Judge KR Deshpande at Belapur also imposed a fine of Rs 11,000 each on them. The Bangladeshi women, who worked as labourers, were arrested in December 2022 from Turbhe in Navi Mumbai for staying without valid

documents, according to police. Two separate FIRs (first information reports) were lodged against them. In two different sets of orders, Judge Deshpande found the accused guilty of offence under section 14(A) of the Foreigners Act, 1946, and violating the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950, and sentenced them to 25 months of rigorous imprisonment. Section 14(A) of the Foreigners Act



'Iran & Israel told to calm down'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

India is very concerned over escalating hostilities between Iran and Israel and New Delhi has told the countries to "calm down," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday, amid spiralling tension in the Middle East.

attack on Israel on Saturday in response to a suspected Israeli strike on its consulate in Damascus on April 1 that killed Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards including a senior general.

not to allow this (the situation) to escalate and that this is a very crucial region for the global economy," he told reporters

the stability of the Middle East region was essential because about one crore Indian citizens live there and said, "a large part



This is an enormously sensitive region. So we are very concerned when there is this kind of escalation and hostilities. So our effort has been to tell both of them to calm down. So yesterday, I made a phone call to both, not only Iran (Foreign Minister) Hossein Amir-Abdollahian but also I called up my Israeli counterpart (Israel Katz)," Jaishankar said.

"We also understand that they have concerns. I'm only saying that for the rest of the world and definitely for India, we would like to find ways of de-escalating the situation," he added.

remain unaffected.

IIT-M launches medical devices calibration facility

IT Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels, the institute said on Monday. Developed under its 'Anaivarukkum IITM' (IIT Madras for all) initiative, the mobile facility will ensure pervasive quality healthcare irrespective of geographical locations across the country. The infrastructure available in this mobile unit includes state-of-the-art equipment to test the safety of medical devices and their

standards. "This will help to test and maintain medical devices that are used in a wide range of hospitals including those in villages at their doorsteps," a release here said. Maintenance and quality assurance of life-saving medical devices are of paramount importance for healthcare delivery, it said. IIT Madras Director Prof V Kamakoti launched the facility at the campus in the presence of Prof R Sarathi, Dean (Planning) and others.



TMC to release manifesto in 5 languages; in a three-cornered fight

he Trinamool Congress is set to release its manifesto in five languages this time, including the Santal language 'Oi Chiki', and Nepalese, sources said. The TMC, which is in power in West Bengal and at present the fourth largest party in Lok Sabha after the ruling BJP, Congress, and DMK, is in a three-cornered fight in the state against the BJP, and the Left-Congress alliance. Sources said the party's manifesto this time will be

released in Oi Chiki, which is the script for the Santali language, as well as Nepalese, besides Hindi, English, Bengali and Urdu. In West Bengal, 5.5 per cent of the total population is tribal. Among them nearly 51.8 per cent are Santals. More than half of the total ST population of the state is concentrated in southern districts of Medinipur, Purulia, and Bardhaman and Jalpaiguri in north. Bankura, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinaipur districts also have sizable ST population.



JAISHANKAR AMID TENSIONS IN MIDDLE EAST

areas in the country.

Iran carried out its first direct

"We have been telling them

Jaishankar emphasised that

of our shipping passes through this region and also, oil comes from there

To a question on the adverse impact of the Iran-Israel conflict, Jaishankar said in a globalised world, no country can

However, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the "guts to take the

No provision to maintain records of applications under CAA rules: RTI reply

PNS KOLKATA

There is no provision under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and its rules, notified on March 11, to maintain records of citizenship applications filed online under the law, according to an RTI reply by the Union Home Ministry.

The ministry's response came to RTI applications filed by Bangla Pokkho, an organisation that claims to work for the rights of Bengalis, seeking information on the number of people who applied for citizen-ship through the website provided by the Home Ministry on March 12 and 13, the two days following the notification of the CAA rules.

The Union Home Ministry in a communication (F No 26027/94/2024-IC-I, dated April 15, 2024) stated, "... that the records are not being maintained as desired by you because the Citizenship Act, 1955 & Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and

the rules made thereunder does not have the provision to maintain the records of Citizenship application received." "Further, as per the RTI Act, 2005, CPIO is not authorised to create information. Hence the information sought may be treated as NIL," said the communica-

PTI possesses a copy of the communication disbursed by the Foreigners Division (Citizenship Wing) of the Home Ministry.

The RTI applications were filed by Md Sahin of Bangla Pokkho. "Such a response is ridiculous given that all CAA applications are made online and are centrally digitised," said Garga Chatterjee, general secretary of Bangla Pokkho.

Chatterjee claimed that the people may be reluctant to apply due to the mandatory requirement to declare under affidavit the applicant's country of origin and upload it on the website with documentary evi-

India has capability to hit its targets across border: Rajnath

PNS NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has shown to the world that it has the power to hit its targets within and across the border in the aftermath of Uri and Pulwama terror attacks.

The terrorists attacked an army camp in the border town of Uri in September 2016, resulting in the killing of 19 soldiers. A fortnight later, the Indian Army carried out a surgical strike across the border and destroyed launch pads for terrorists.

In February 2019, over 40 CRPF personnel were killed in a suicide attack on their convoy by the terrorists in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. Twelve days after the attack, the Indian Air Force (AIF) destroyed the terrorist camp in Balakote, Pakistan.

Addressing an election rally in support of BJP candidate Jitendra Singh here, he said,



"Earlier India was considered as a soft state...India has neither attacked any country nor occupied any foreign land which is its character.

"But when Uri and Pulwama happened, India gave a strong message that we will not touch anyone but if touched by someone we will not leave them," he added.

Singh, Union Minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, is seeking his re-election for the third term from Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the first phase on

'We have the capability and power to hit (our targets) anyborders. The power of India increased in the world (after the surgical strikes)," he said, giving credit to Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Referring to the safe evacuation of over 22,500 Indian students in the midst of war between Ukraine and Russia in early 2022, he said the fighting between the two countries stopped for over four hours after Modi established contact with the presidents of the two countries and the US.

'The concerned parents of these students started demanding for the return of their wards from the war-torn country and the government facilitated their safe return (to their homes)," he said.

The senior BJP leader said there is hardly any person in the country who had not benefitted from the government schemes over the last 10 years.

"The corona vaccination was ensured to all citizens without any charge and it was possible only because of the strong leadership," he said.

INDIA bloc has nothing to do with general public: Nadda

PNS DEHRADUN

Launching a vitriolic attack on the opposition INDIA bloc, BJP president JP Nadda on Monday said that it has nothing to do with the general public and all parties in it are conabout their fami

Addressing a poll rally in Mussoorie in support of BJP candidate from Tehri Garhwal Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, Nadda said on one side there is the BJP's manifesto (Sankalp Patra) which lays the roadmap for a developed India and on the other side the INDIA bloc constituents who have their separate manifestos.

"What will they do for development when they cannot even come together," he said.

Describing the INDIA bloc as a conglomeration of the corrupt who are either in jail or on

PNS ■ PILIBHIT/MORADABAD (UP)

as it did when it was in power in

Uttar Pradesh.

BSP supremo Mayawati on Monday attacked the

several opposition parties, as well as the BJP, say

ing the old "drama and empty rhetoric" will not

work in the coming election and claimed that

the people are being oppressed in the name of

religion and Hindutva in the country.

Addressing election rallies in Pilibhit and

Moradabad, Mayawati said if the party comes

to power in the Centre, it will do solid work just



bail, he said that all they are concerned with is saving their

Naming Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and P Chidambaram, and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Sanjay Singh, Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain, Nadda said all of them are either in jail or on

The BJP president asked the general public whether they would vote for such peo-

Empty rhetoric not going to work for

BJP, Congress in election: Mayawati

"They (INDIA bloc) have nothing to do with you. They are only concerned with their families and saving themselves," he said. Nadda said that all con-

stituents of the opposition have been in scams be it Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Yadav's fodder scam, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav's laptop scam or the numerous scams committed during the The BJP president said it is

also a gathering of family centred parties led by Lalu Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav, Mamata Banerjee (TMC) or Stalin

"The only ones who care about you are your Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party, "he

Modi's guarantees are false: Mallikarjun Kharge

PNS PUDUCHERRY

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said that the guarantees given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi are "false" as none of them have been fulfilled, leaving the people in "utter disarray".

Addressing an election rally organized by the INDIA bloc votes for the Congress nominee Vaithilingam in the April 19 Lok Sabha polls, Kharge invoked the promises given by the PM regarding two crore jobs per year to the youth, which were not implemented.

"Similarly, the farmers are not getting a hike in prices for their produce or minimum support price for their crops.

The promise of every person getting Rs 15 lakh from retrieval of black money stacked abroad is also yet to be realised," Kharge said.

The Congress president said that such guarantees or promises were "false" and people "were taken for a ride". He said that the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls would be an opportunity for the people to s the INDIA bloc and "ensure protection of their fundamental rights and democracy".

Alleging that BJP had done nothing to prevent inflation, Kharge claimed that both PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are "misusing" the agencies like Enforcement Directorate, CBI and Income Tax to harass MPs and MLAs



of the opposition and pressure them to switch their allegiance to the BJP.

He added that whenever BJP could not get power, they adopted arm-twisting methods and harassed elected members of the opposition.

'Strong undercurrent' in Cong's **favour in Northeast: Jairam Ramesh** PNS NEW DELHI The Congress on Monday claimed that there is a "strong undercurrent" of support for it in

the Northeast because of the fear going to be "destroyed" and uniformity imposed by the BJP. Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said that there is a fear in the Northeast that a government that can "bulldoze the abolition of Article 370 can very well bulldoze the abolition of Article 371 and its special provisions". Ramesh, who recently was on a campaign tour to northeastern states such as Nagaland, Assam and Mizoram, said there is a "strong undercurrent" of support and sympathy for the Congress Sabha elections are quite different from those in the assembly elections. "The issue in the Lok Sabha election is the preservation of the special provisions for the Northeast in our Constitution --371-A for Nagaland, 371-B for Assam, 371-C for Manipur, 371-F for Sikkim, 371-G form Mizoram, 371-H for Arunachal Pradesh.

QUOTA FOR DISABLED IN DISTRICT JUDICIARY

SC seeks replies from Centre, states

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre, states, UTs and all high courts on a PIL seeking reliefs including four per cent reservation in judicial appointments in district judiciary for persons with disabilities (PwD), as mandated under a 2016 law.

tions to the Centre and others to "set right" the existing judicial services rules for appointment of judicial officers as per the law pertaining to rights of persons with disabilities (PwD). A bench comprising Chief

under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, The 2016 legislation is a special law that has been enacted to The PIL also sought direcgive effect to the UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular the principles laid down there

Justice D Y Chandrachud and The legislature thought it fit justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj that the reservation for PwD Misra took note of the submisshall not be less than four per

sions of senior advocate Sanjay cent under the statutory provi-Parikh, appearing for the two PIL petitioners, that persons sion, the plea, filed through lawyer Shashank Singh, said. with disabilities are not getting their due in the appointment of The PIL has been filed by Renga Ramanujam and judicial officers as mandated Summaiya Khan, residents of

Noida in Uttar Pradesh and Bangalore, respectively.
"The Petitioners are constrained to file the present petition seeking directions from this Hon'ble Court to the Respondents to set right or streamline the existing judicial

for their empowerment, besides High Courts for appointment of judges to the District/Lower judiciary under PwD Quota as per the mandate of Section 34 read with 33 of the Rights of persons with disabilities Act

services rules of different states/

DG (PRISONS) AMID ROW OVER **KEJRIWAL ISSUING ORDERS**

'Inmates can't sign docs political in nature'

PNS NEW DELHI

With AAP maintaining Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is running his government from Tihar jail, top prisons official Sanjay Baniwal Monday said an inmate can only sign two kinds of documents while in judicial custody and they should not be

political in nature. In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here, Director General (Prisons) Baniwal also said no distinction is made in the treatment meted out to the inmates and it is ensured they get the same basic right.

Earlier in the day, Punjab Chief minister Bhagwant Mann met Kejriwal in the jail and alleged he was not even getting the amenities a hardcore criminal is allowed in Tihar. Baniwal dismissed suggestions the Delhi chief minister was being treated

differently by the jail authorities. "There is no distinction between a hardcore or a normal criminal. In the jail, manual which is passed by the government of Delhi, there is no distinction between the inmates.

2 brain systems in disorder in people with psychosis

PNS NEW DELHI

Two brain systems have been found to function improperly in people experiencing psychosis, where they have trouble distinguishing between what is real and what is not, according to a new research led by Stanford University, US.

These systems were found to be - one, a 'filter' directing attention towards what is important externally and internally, and two, a 'predictor' involved in anticipating rewards.

The filtering system, or the salience network, helps us dis-

miss irrational thoughts so that we can focus on what's real and meaningful to us, such as paying attention to traffic while dri-

various legal provisions to pro-

mote non-discrimination and

ences, Stanford University, US. "This process derails the nor-

senior author of the study published in the journal 'Molecular Psychiatry'. In psychosis, patients experi-

ence hallucinations, such as hearing voices, and hold delusional beliefs, such as thinking that people who are not real exist, the researchers said. The state is known to occur either on its own, or as a symptom of mental illnesses such as bipolar

disorder and schizophrenia. For the study, the researchers analysed brain scans of people aged 6-39 years with psychosis. They found the two brain

psychosis were the anterior insula, which is a key part of the salience or 'filtering' network, and the ventral striatum, which is the 'reward predicting' one.

The findings provide a good model for understanding the development and progression of schizophrenia, according to lead author Kaustubh Supekar, clinical associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

"In schizophrenia, by the time of diagnosis, a lot of damage has already occurred in the brain, and it can be very difficult to change the course of the disease," said Supekar.

the past, when it was in power at the centre, it did it give even a single rupee. They misguide



dent said while addressing an election rally in Pilibhit. She alleged that the BJP is spending most of its time on making its favourite capitalists richer and giving them protection.

She alleged that it is this very patronage which bankrolls the party, as was exposed with the revelations of the electoral bond data.

over its election manifesto, specifically the promise of Rs 1 lakh per year to women. "Wherever it is in power in the states, or in

The politician also criticised the Congress

you through tall promises at election time but forget all about it when they come to power," Mayawati said.

She also accused the BJP of politicising the central investigating agencies. "The condition of Muslims and other minori-

ties is also not good, it is bad and pathetic. In the past few years, it is because of the BJP and RSS governments that their development and uplift has been affected. Their oppression in the name of 'dharm' specially Hindutva is at its peak," she alleged.

> BJP is not going to return to power, provided the elections are The Dalit leader said that her party has given each section a proper representation in ticket

The BSP chief claimed that the

"We have fielded candidates in accordance with the demographic constitution of a constituency. Like in places where there are

are more in numbers,' "But Samajwadi Party has done the opposite. Where Muslims are more in number, it has given tickets to Hindu, for instance in Moradabad. This has been the culture of the Samajwadi Party," she added.

ed and Muslim candidates where the Muslims

Speaking on the free food grains distribution programme of the ruling BJP, Mayawati said she has come to know that the people from the BJP and RSS are going to villages and seeking votes on the back of free ration, which is wrong.

ving, researchers explained. The reward predicting system, driven by dopamine, is critical to anticipating what will be rewarding or important, they

Together, they malfunction in way such that thoughts not linked to reality capture the brain's cognition networks, said Vinod Menon, a professor of psychiatry and behavioural sci-

mal functioning of cognitive

control, allowing intrusive thoughts to dominate, culminating in symptoms we recognise as psychosis," said Menon,

regions contributing the most to

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Damage control

World leaders scramble to soothe tempers after Iran's retaliatory attack on Israel for Damascus

he fragile peace equilibrium in West Asia has been hit once again, with Iran launching a direct attack on Israel and escalating tensions. Fresh apprehensions reverberated globally, prompting swift diplomatic action from President Joe Biden who, besides conveying to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the US will not be part of any retaliatory action, has convened the G7 nations to address the urgent matter. The missiles-and-drones attack, which targeted strategic locations including military installations and civilian areas in Israel, has escalated the situation to a dangerous level. While casualties and damages are still being assessed, the brazenness of this assault has sent shockwaves across the region and beyond. Iran, a key player in the region, has often found itself at odds with Israel, citing ideological differences and regional power struggles. However, the direct military engagement between the countries represents a dangerous escalation that could have far-reaching consequences. Israel, known for its



robust defence capabilities, has vowed to respond to Iran's aggression, raising concerns of a prolonged and devastating conflict. The events of April 1 in Damascus marked the onset of a fresh chapter in the ongoing regional strife between the countries. That assault, resulting in the loss of several high-ranking Iranian military officials, signified a shift from indirect hostilities to confrontation. Subsequently, Iran initiated its longanticipated reprisal against Israel, deploying numerous drones and ballistic missiles. Despite indications of this impending attack during discreet negotiations between the US and Iran, most of the strikes were intercepted en route Israel.

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities, particularly Netanyahu, have endeavoured to depict their nation as the target of unwarranted Iranian aggression. President Biden has responded swiftly by convening a meeting of the Group of Seven (G7) nations. The G7, consisting of the world's leading industrialised democracies, serves as a forum for coordinating responses to global challenges, including security threats. Though the US may have fostered conditions conducive to Netanyahu's actions, Israel acted independently to trigger the latest escalation. Therefore, to be fair to Iran, its reaction has not been an unprovoked attack. Lately, Netanyahu has been drawing flak for his misadventures at home and abroad, and the US support for his military campaign is also waning. So he played the Iran card to win brownie points and, with Iran being the West's favourite punching bag, it bolstered Netanyahu's standing whereas a gullible Iran took the bait and allowed itself to be drawn into a war in which it had no role so far. An individual's obstinacy has now put the entire region at heightened risk of volatility. As G7 deliberates on the appropriate response, efforts must be focused on de-escalating tensions and facilitating dialogue between the conflicting parties. Diplomatic channels should be utilised to engage Iran and Israel in constructive dialogue to find a peaceful solution to their grievances.



Devotees perform 'Arghya' ritual on the last day of 'Chaiti Chhath' festival, in Patna

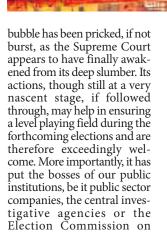
Avoiding icebergs in troubled times



Amid escalating unease surrounding the credibility of Government agencies, the path to assuaging these concerns and reinstating trust lies in conducting a transparent inquiry

learly, in these dystopian times reality has come to be stranger than fiction and social mores turned on their head. In an earlier time, actions seen as abhorrent or distasteful, when caught, would be immediately disavowed. Today they are brazenly flaunted as a badge of honour and attempted to be normalised. The blatant misuse of our Central Agencies to hound and arm-twist opposition politicians, journalists, businessmen and corporates being one such. What could be more unconscionable than a politician publicly claiming personal credit for an initiative after our Supreme Court has declared it unconstitutional? That too, because it violates the citizens fundamental right to informa-

In fact, not only did he attempt to justify his action using that tired old cliché, "it was for our own good", but also added to good effect that those critical would subsequently regret it. An implied threat perhaps? The reasoning in support was that we would never have come to know the specifics of political donations if not for this initiative, which while accurate, could not be further from the truth. There can be no dispute that was certainly not the intention to begin with, otherwise why the secrecy in the first place? Moreover, it was the Government's top lawyers who made every effort to convince the court that the ordinary citizen had no right to such information. While it may have just been an attempt to brazen through in view of the elections, one cannot help but feel that the Government believes it has not erred and is thus unrepentant and likely to be pushed through again. The Belgian painter and author, Erik Pevernagie, makes a very pertinent point when he writes "politicians are but tantalising storytellers, as they mix facts with fiction, grab our emotion and tell things, they want us to believe. Their factoids are unremittingly reiterated, take a life on their own and in the end become the very truth... until the bubble bursts." Unfortunately for this



Moreover, details of alleged linkages that are emerging from the Electoral Bonds issues suggest humungous malfeasance and sordid corruption at an unimaginable scale indulged in by the richest and most powerful within the country for their own personal gain. All of this has been at the cost of the ordinary tax payer. Moreover, we have yet to learn whether foreign entities have channelled in funds through domestic players, as is a distinct possibility. Such interference, if it has occurred, should be a matter of great concern given the impact it may have on nation-**ACCOUNTABILITY** al security. In this context, the functioning of the Prime Minister's Cares Fund must



IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ONLY CREDIBLE OPTION REMAINING IS FOR THE SUPREME COURT TO ORDER A JUDICIAL **INVESTIGATION** UNDER ITS OWN AEGIS, WHICH SHOULD BE **BROADCAST LIVE TO ENSURE COMPLETE** TRANSPARENCY AND

given its lack of transparency and the various allegations made against it.

Both these initiatives were

conceived and implemented

by the present dispensation in power, which in all probability, will return. It is extremely unlikely therefore, that they will undertake a credible or fair investigation of allegations made. Moreover, our premier investigative agencies also find themselves under a cloud for their acts of omission and commission. For example, the Enforcement Directorate has since 2005 registered approximately 5900 cases. It has completed and filed chargesheets in only 1142 cases and disposed of just twenty-five of these, with twenty-four ending in convic-

What is worse is its biased actions in investigating politicians. As media reports show, since 2014 the Directorate has probed 121 prominent politicians of which 115, or 95 per cent, belong to the opposition. As per these same reports the Central Bureau of Investigation mirrored the pattern followed by the ED. In these circumstances, the only credible option remaining is for the Supreme Court to order a judicial investigation under its own aegis, that

should be broadcast live to ensure complete transparency and accountability. One does not need to be a soothsayer to suggest that if such a strict and non-partisan step is not initiated at the earliest, we will always remain at the mercy of leeches who will suck the life blood out of our democratic norms, right to good governance and the rule of law.

Finally, from the proceedings in Supreme Court on the Electoral Bonds case one can infer that the manner in which the Chairman, State Bank of India, used the resources entrusted to him by the depositors to defy and hamper the directions of the Court render him patently unfit to hold that appointment.

Just because the party in power appoints him and others to head public institutions and agencies, they cannot see themselves as mere factotums of those who appointed them and do their bidding. One expects far more of them, not least to show integrity of character and follow rules without fear or favour.

(The author, a military veteran, is a visiting fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and a senior visiting fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai, views are personal)

Screenwriters as architects of emotion



Government it seems that the

They are the true magicians. Their contributions extend far beyond the screen, touching hearts and shaping societal narratives

he magic of cinema is not just seen; it's heard in the echo of words that linger long after the screen goes dark. Screenwriters, the unsung architects of these moments, weave dialogues and scenes that shape our emotional landscapes, often becoming a part of our very identity.

Take the classic scene from 'Deewar', where Amitabh Bachchan, embodying the success and arrogance of his character, delivers the powerful lines, "Aaj mere paas gaadi hai, bungla hai, paisa hai... tumhare paas kya hai?" To this, Shashi Kapoor responds with the iconic, "Mere paas, maa hai." This exchange transcends its cinematic origin, showcasing the screenwriter's ability to capture the essence of human values and emotions in a few, yet profound, words.

This is the essence of screenwriting—not just creating dialogues but sculpting moments that become landmarks in cinematic history. It's about crafting narratives that engage, entertain and evoke a spectrum cultures and generations. ences. In the realm of cin-

of emotions, from the laughter that bubbles up during the light-hearted moments in '3 Idiots' to the tears that unknowingly fall for the poignant scenes in 'Taare Zameen Par'.

Screenwriters delve into the depths of the human experience, drawing upon themes of love, loss, victory and defeat to create stories that resonate across

Through their words, characters come to life, embarking on journeys filled with challenges, joys, sorrows

and ultimately, growth. Movies and shows like Mohabbatein' and 'Maharani' which challenge the values of "Parampara, Pratishtha, Anushasan," not only entertain but also inspire reflections and conversations among audi-

ema, screenwriters are the true magicians, crafting the spells of dialogue and narrative that enchant us, make us reflect and sometimes even change our perspectives. Their contributions go beyond the screen, touching hearts and shaping societal narratives.

As we recount memorable lines or find solace in the cinematic moments that have moved us, let's remember the architects behind these emotions-the screenwriters. Their mastery over words and their deep understanding of the human condition empower them to create stories that entertain, enlighten and

In celebrating their craft, we acknowledge the profound impact of their work, not just on cinema, but on culture and society at large. For in the hands of a skilled screenwriter, words become the bridge between the world of the film and the heart of the viewer, making the cinematic experience truly unforgettable.

(The writer is Co-Chair, Media Sub Committee, SWA; views are personal)

POLITICAL CHESSBOARD

also be viewed with suspicion,

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Battle lines drawn in western UP", published on April 13, this is my response. In the heartland of Uttar Pradesh, a political battlefield is shaping up unlike any seen before. With the looming Lok Sabha elections, Western Uttar Pradesh finds itself in the eye of the storm, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vigorous campaigning seeks to consolidate Hindu votes against a backdrop of shifting alliances and historical legacies. The region's intricate social fabric, woven by dominant communities like the Jats, Muslims and Dalits, carries the weight of political dynasties and ideological realignments. From the legacy of Charan Singh's Kisan politics to the emergence of new power centres like the BJP and BSP, each move on this electoral chessboard is strategic, aiming to capture seats and the narrative of Uttar Pradesh's political future.

As the BJP navigates through the complexities of caste dynamics and minority representation, the challenge lies in maintaining its Hindu vote bank while facing the formidable opposition bloc, now bolstered by the BSP's calculated manoeuvres. In this high-stakes game, the fate of Uttar Pradesh hangs in the balance, awaiting the verdict of its diverse electorate.

Abhijeet Nand *Bhopal*

EXPLORING HUMAN LEARNING Madam — Apropos the news article, "Education's cultural impact is profound", published on April 12, this is my response. The enduring belief that "man is a learning animal" has shaped civilizations, but a deeper examination reveals nuances. While youth and adulthood foster comprehensive learning, its impact wanes with age. The underscores the need for continual renewal and tailored educational approaches. In India, where knowledge, behaviour and spirituality form the essence of personality, there's a call to integrate these elements into education. To achieve this, the curricu-

Urban farming



propos the news article, "Cultivating sustainability through urban farming", published on April 11, this is my response. The Pioneer's succinct write-up of urban farming as a climate change solution is commendable. Climate change's urgency demands immediate action and urban farming offers a multifaceted response. It not only addresses food security but also mitigates environmental degradation and fosters com-

amidst life's challenges.

Each subject demands a unique learning approach, suggesting teachers articulate specific methods for effective internalisation. Embracing learning theory in pedagogy promises a more pragmatic education system, resonating with the ethos of a nation aspiring to be a global leader. Ultimately, acknowledging the multifaceted nature of learning enriches our collective understanding, enhancing not only individual lives but also the fabric of society. It's time to imbue education with the wisdom that "man is a learning animal," fostering a culture of continuous growth and

Shihaab Khan | Hyderabad

adaptation

Madam — Apropos the news article, "A harbinger of justice and equality", published on April 13, this is my response. The legacy of Dr BR Ambedkar, a towering figure in India's history, continues to inspire millions worldwide. His tireless efforts towards lum must evolve to address lifelong learn- social justice, equality and inclusivity have

munity cohesion. The article rightly emphasises the need for supportive policies to scale up urban farming initiatives. Governments must incentivise and facilitate urban agriculture to make it accessible to all communities. Additionally, community engagement plays a pivotal role in its success, fostering social bonds and economic opportuni-

Urban farming's transformative potential lies in its ability to convert urban spaces into sustainable ecosystems. By repurposing vacant lots and rooftops, cities can combat the urban heat island effect and reduce carbon emissions from food transportation. In essence, urban farming represents a promising pathway towards a more resilient and sustainable future. Its integration into policy frameworks and community initiatives is crucial in tackling the imminent challenges of climate change

Khirabdi Tanya Nayak | Noida

ing needs, ensuring skills remain relevant left an indelible mark on the nation's conscience. Born into poverty, Dr Ambedkar overcame numerous obstacles to become an intellectual powerhouse and a relentless

advocate for the oppressed. His vision of a just society, rooted in education and empowerment, remains as relevant today as ever. Dr Ambedkar's emphasis on dialogue, non-violence and co-existence underscores the path towards societal harmony. His contributions to India's legal framework, particularly in llabourrights, are foundational to the country's progress. As we commemorate his birth anniversary, let us not only hhonourhis memory but also recommit ourselves to the ideals he espoused. Let us strive for a nation where every individual, regardless of caste or creed, enjoys equal rights and opportunities. Dr Ambedkar's teachings resonate as a beacon of hope, guiding us towards a democratic, secular and inclusive future.

Priyanka Sharma | Delhi

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FIRST COLUMN

BALANCING WELLBEING IN WORK AND LIFE

In the intricate dance of work and life, boundaries save individual sanctuaries



oundaries serve as the invisible fences that portrays an individdual's personal as well as professional spaces, safeguard the individual wellbeing and preserve harmony in their interactions. Be it in the workplace or in life, setting and maintaining boundaries is paramount for fostering healthy relationships, achieving balance and nurturing self-respect. In today's world, where the pace of life is often hectic and boundaries can easily be overlooked or disregarded, establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries is essential for promoting individual well-being, healthy relationships and a more compassionate and equitable society. Moreover, boundary setting is an indispensable aspect of both the workplace and life at large.

When talked about the workplace, setting boundaries are essential for maintaining professionalism, productivity and helps the employees reduce misunderstandings, conflicts and instead maintain a healthy work-life balance, prevent burnout and improve job satisfaction. It also promotes efficiency, prevents distractions, safeguard individuals from exploitation, harassment and undue stress



In a competitive and demanding work environment, it becomes crucial to set limits on workload, deadlines and expectations to prevent overcommitment and exhaustion. Numerous studies have also highlighted the importance of setting boundaries to maintain a healthy work-life balance. By defining clear limits on workload, working hours and availability, employees can better manage their work-related stress and maintain a positive attitude towards their jobs. In doing so, they can protect themselves from intrusive inquiries or demands that encroach upon their emotional well-being. Furthermore, boundary setting cultivates respect and professionalism in workplace dynamics and encourages others to treat self with similar respect. By clearly communicating the expectations and limits, the individual establishes a culture of mutual respect and accountability in the workplace. When individuals assert their boundaries assertively yet respectfully, it communicates self-confidence and self-worth, fostering a culture of mutual respect and dignity. Respect for boundaries encourages open communication, empathy and understanding, strengthening interpersonal relationships and teamwork.

Beyond the workplace, boundary setting is equally indispensable in personal relationships and daily life too. In interpersonal relationships, boundaries define acceptable behaviours, emotional intimacy and personal space. Healthy boundaries empower individuals to prioritise their needs, values and aspirations, fostering relationships based on mutual respect and reciprocity. Whether it's setting limits on time spent with certain individuals or communicating preferences regarding personal space, boundaries nurture healthier and more fulfilling connections. Remember, setting boundaries is not about being selfish or uncooperative rather it's about taking care of individual self and ensuring that one can perform their best while maintaining the individual well-being. When done thoughtfully and respectfully, setting boundaries can strengthen the individual's professional relationships and enhance their effectiveness at work.

Remember, boundaries are never about telling other people what they can and cannot do. It is about telling people what they will and will not do. Setting boundaries is an act of self-love and self-respect which is essential for individual wellbeing. Setting boundaries around leisure time, self-care routines and social engagements will allow an individual to recharge, replenish their energy and cultivate resilience in the face of challenges. By honouring their boundaries, individuals assert their agency and reclaim control over their time, energy and emotions.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Challenges galore for NATO@75



KS TOMAR

The alliance confronts formidable challenges amidst mounting criticism from European nations and the surge of right-wing nationalist movements



ne of the biggest challenges being faced by the North Organisation (NATO) on its 75th anniversary pertains to combating and addressing the severe criticism from some European countries and the spread of right-wing nationalist movements. Hence, it needs to adopt a cautious and balanced approach to stay relevant in the 21st century.

Challenges ahead to stay relent: NATO,

with 32 member states and five aligned nations including Japan, New Zealand, Israel, Australia and South Korea, must enhance defence capabilities and security arrangements to ensure mutual trust and better cooperation. NATO also called Washington Treaty, was created on April 4, 1949 to counterweight to Soviet military forces stationed in Central and Eastern Europe after world war 2nd, has traversed a hazardous journey and sustained faith of security and protection from aggressors hinges on its commitment to stay united and germane. Secondly, NATO's military potential is

being perceived as a tool and weapon of the United States to ensure its hegemony over nations that do not pose military threats.

There is a calamitous need to dispel such impressions of supremacy, evident from its 200 military interventions worldwide in 75 years, including 20 major ones like the questionable outcome of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, unlawful interference in Syria, invasion of Iraq, bombing of Yugoslavia, destabilisation of

Libya and the creation of ISIS. Thirdly, as a parting gift, NATO Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg has proposed a \$100 billion package of military aid to Ukraine for five years, aimed at avoiding a potential halt in aid if Trump wins the 2024 American presidential elections.

Former President Trump has made it



NATO MUST ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY THAT

PRODUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL ONLY IF IT INTEGRATES ITSELF WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. BESIDES STRENGTHENING

ITS MILITARY

CAPABILITIES

clear to keep his country away from such conflicts and he is seen as pro-Putin, which might upset NATO. Experts feel that NATO members should get this proposal approved at the upcoming meeting in Washington and counter Russia's aggression in Ukraine. NATO Needs Reforms: Foreign

policy experts argue that NATO needs to focus on non-traditional threats such as terror attacks, disinformation campaigns, cyber assaults and risks to disrupt supply chains to preserve its allies. Otherwise, it will lose its credentials and effectiveness. WILL BE Secondly, NATO must adopt a

comprehensive strategy that will be productive and fruitful only if it integrates itself with international organisations besides strengthening its military capabil-Thirdly, it should put in place an

effective mechanism to foster a shared sense of purpose and make relentless efforts to ensure cohesiveness and unity among the member states. Consensusbuilding should be the primary motto of the alliance, guided by essential elements like discussion, dialogue, unified planning and political alignments. Fourthly, transparency is obligatory to create mutual trust and internal synergy, as well as to improve coordination among the five main policy formation committees, including the executive working group, political committee, policy formalisation group, military group and senior resource board. Why did India reject the US offer to be part of NATO? From the Indian perspec-

part of an alliance to safeguard against Chinese aggression. India is capable of independently countering such threats and, therefore, does not need the assistance of a military grouping like NATO. If India joins NATO, it will pave the way for the US to establish military bases, which is unacceptable to Delhi. US allies like Australia, Israel, Japan and South Korea have permitted military bases, but India cannot allow the infringement of its sovereignty and degradation of its positioning in the world arena. While maintaining never jeopardise its age-old trustworthy ties with Russia, which is at odds with America and its allies after the Ukraine conflict. A United States Congressional committee had recommended that the US should strengthen NATO Plus to safeguard borders from China and enhance its capabilities to counter Chinese aggres-

in the organisation. The successes and failures of the organisation go hand in hand, but conflicts' contamination is spreading among major powers and frozen encounters may always heat up in the future, attributed to growing state brittleness and spillover threats, thereby disturbing

sion in the Indo-Pacific region

hence it warrants India's inclusion

the world order. The recent Global Risk Report has come out with curious findings pertaining to the Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS) which is the culmination of the analysis of fifteen hundred global experts who have investigated the global

tive, experts say that India has already rejected the US offer to be support decision-makers responsible for balancing current crises and long-term policies and priorities.

One major failure of NATO relates to the lack of allocation of 2 per cent of funds by defence ministers of state members of their GDP agreed upon in 2006 towards security — related expenditures, especially when the United States accounts for twothirds of the alliance's spending, which needs to be shared by other nations in the organisation. NATO had focused on restricting communism, discouraging milistrategic autonomy, India will tant nationalism and controlling the Soviet Union during the Col War, but now the situation has become volatile in post-Cold War era as Russia has indulged in annexing neighbours, posing a threat to other smaller nations as well. Analysts feel that as NATO celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2024, it stands at a vintage point of passing through a litmus test of its core mission of safeguarding the security and freedom of its members, based on a principleoriented international order and mandate.

Trump's potential return to the White House may jeopardise the existence of NATO as it may encourage aggressors like Putin and give a boost to China's overambitious expansion policy to annex Taiwan in the future. Trump may encourage Putin to continue his onslaught on Ukraine, putting Europe's security at risk.

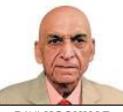
(The writer is a political analyst based in Shimla; views are personal)

A call to vote responsibly beyond party lines

With focus on accountability and progress, it's imperative to scrutinise governmental performance across key sectors

ndia is undeniably a youthful nation, with a significant portion of our population comprising the younger generation. Every year, countless young individuals come of age, reaching 18 years and gaining eligibility to vote. This message is directed not only to those who have recently attained this milestone but also to those who did so in the past few years. With the power to vote comes a profound responsibility—the responsibility to elect leaders who possess the competence and integrity to effectively govern

our nation. As citizens, it is imperative that we transcend party lines and critically evaluate the progress of our nation. Are we moving in the right direction? Are there tangible improvements



RAVI KOCHHAR

in various sectors? Are we receiving value for the taxes we pay? These are fundamental questions we must ask ourselves as we assess the state of

While political parties often prioritise winning elections, it is our duty as responsible citizens to vote for candidates who prioritise the welfare of the people and deliver on their promises. Over the past 75 years, India has made remarkable strides, earning recognition as a responsible global player. Whether it's our nuclear capabilities or our humanitarian efforts during crises, we have demonstrated our commitment to progress and compassion.

The electoral process grants us the opportunity, every five years, to hold our leaders



accountable for their actions. We must evaluate their performance across various sectors,

Infrastructure Development: Assess the improvement in infrastructure, particularly in terms of connectivity by rail, road and

waterways, which directly impacts ease of doing business and facilitates movement across the country.

2.Industrial Growth and Policies: Evaluate the government's plans and policies for industrial growth and decision-making processes, ensur-

ing there is no policy paralysis hindering progress.

3. Impact on Poor and Middle Class: Examine how Government policies impact the poor and middle class, with a focus on initiatives aimed at upliftment and improvement.
4. Healthcare Sector

Performance: Evaluate the government's performance in the healthcare sector and assess the affordability and accessibility of healthcare for all citizens. 5.Education and Skill Development: Analyse initiatives in education and skill development, focusing on improving literacy rates, bridging urban-rural gaps and empowering the youth.

6.Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity: Assess improvements in digital infrastructure and connectivity, particularly

in urban-rural sectors and how they benefit citizens.

7. Agriculture and Rural **Sector:** Review Government initiatives in agriculture and rural development and their impact on rural communities. 8. Transparency and

Accountability: Ensure transparency and accountability in public administration, with efforts to curb corruption and promote good governance. 9. Foreign Policy and

International Relations: Evaluate the government's performance in foreign policy and international relations, considering India's standing on the global stage.

Remember, our national identity, symbolised by our flag, transcends religious and caste divisions, uniting us as one nation. As we exercise our

right to vote, let us remember the significance of our national flag and the unity it represents. Your vote holds immense power. History has witnessed elections being decided by a single vote. Therefore, before casting your vote, consider crucial factors such as the government's performance and policies, rising above religious and caste affiliations for the greater good of the nation.

While this list is not exhaustive, it underscores the importance of informed decision-making and prioritising the wellbeing of our nation. Let us unite in our commitment to building a stronger, more prosperous

> (The wrtier is group Pro VC Amity University; views are personal)

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) opens new delivery centre in Brazil

T major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday announced a new delivery centre in Londrina, Brazil, to help Brazilian organisations in their technology transformation with a focus on digital transformation, artificial intelligence and cognitive business operations. The new centre will create more than 1,600 new job opportunities over the next five years, contribute to the local economy and strengthen TCS' presence in the region, a company

statement said. "The delivery centre will specialise in key areas, such as business transformation, artificial intelligence, and cognitive business operations, offering a comprehensive suite of IT services to clients in Brazil and around the world," it said. TCS Brazil Country Head Bruno Rocha said the company is aiming to double the number of associates in key areas like cybersecurity, cloud, cognitive business operations, information technology infrastructure services, artificial intelligence and automation.



Byju's India Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arjun Mohan quits; rejig announced

rjun Mohan, CEO of India operations of Think and Learn, which owns Byju's brand, has resigned from the beleaguered firm, which on Monday also announced a Ahas resigned from the beleaguered minn, which on monday also amounted the business rejig consolidating its operations into three verticals. Mohan had joined Byju's in July last year as the CEO for international business after quitting rival UpGrad in February as CEO. Later, he was given charge of India operations in September after Byju's

then CEO Mrinal Mohit resigned. After taking over the charge, Mohan undertook restructuring of the organisation which led to layoffs of around 4,000 employees at Byju's. Byju's Founder Byju Raveendran will now handle the firm's day-to-day operations following the resignation of Mohan, the statement said. The company has also announced a major rejig of its business, consolidating it into three focused divisions -The Learning App, Online classes and Tuition centres, and Test-prep.



Vedanta secures 11- year Rs 3,900 cr loan from PFC; to expedite projects

Crore from Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), sources said. The financial ining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd has secured an 11-year term loan of Rs 3,918 closure will enable Vedanta to expedite completion of its power projects. The group plans to increase the operating capacity of its power business in India to 4.8 GW

by FY27, sources with knowledge of the matter said. The latest financing follows Vedanta group's takeover of Meenakshi Energy Ltd on December 28 in an NCLTdriven insolvency process. Meenakshi Energy has a coal-based power plant at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, which Vedanta will use to supply power to merchants. Vedanta has acquired two plants --Meenakshi Energy Ltd in Andhra Pradesh with a capacity of 1 GW, and Athena Power in Chhattisgarh with a capacity of 1.2 GW. It will primarily use the funds for these two of its key power plants, they said.



India top choice for digital pursuit: nasscom

PNS NEW DELHI

India remains the top choice for enterprises looking to expand digital services portfolio and companies are expected to increase spending on AI, data analytics and cybersecurity, industry body nasscom said in a report on Monday.

The report 'Digital Enterprise Maturity 5.0: Digital Readiness in the Era of AI is based on a survey of 550 enterprises across 11 major sectors and seven major geographical regions.

The survey found that 71 per cent of enterprises in India spent over 20 per cent of their tech spends on digital in 2023.

"Nearly 90 per cent of companies have signalled plans to boost investments in key digital technology areas in 2024, including artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning (AI/ML), big data analytics, cloud computing, cybersecuri-



The report further said the focus is expected to lean more towards cybersecurity by the first half of 2025, as a response to increased adoption of generative AI (gen AI) which has emerged as a prominent technology in 2023.

The report further said the focus is expected to lean more towards cybersecurity by the first half of 2025, as a response to increased adoption of generative AI (gen AI), which has

emerged as a prominent technology in 2023.

The advancements in gen AI propelled an increased emphasis on digital talent, nasscom said, with 83 per cent of enterprises reporting that over 6 per was dedicated to digital roles.

The report noted that sectors like BFSI (banking, financial services, and insurance), hightech, discrete manufacturing, telecom, media and entertainment, as well as energy, utilities, and alternatives are expanding their digital services contracts.

It said India continues to be the preferred outsourcing destination for businesses aiming to build and expand their digital services portfolio, with over "50 per cent of companies in the travel and transportation, telecom, media and entertainment, and construction and engineering sectors choosing it for their outsourcing needs".

At least 47-49 per cent of firms in sectors like telecom, media and entertainment, discrete manufacturing, and enerand utilities outsourced digital services work to their own capability centres in India,

Wholesale inflation hits 3 month high

PNS NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation in the country rose marginally to three-month high of 0.53 per cent in March compared to 0.20 per cent in the preceding month due to increase in prices of vegetables, potato, onion and crude oil.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.26 per cent. The inflation in

March 2023 was 1.41 per cent. "The annual rate of inflation based on all-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 0.53 per cent (provisional) for the month of March, 2024 (over March, 2023)," the commerce and industry ministry

said in a statement on Monday. Food inflation moved up marginally to 6.88 per cent in March from 5.42 per cent in the same month a year ago, data showed. Inflation in vegetables was 19.52 per cent, up from (-2.39) per cent in the same month a year ago.

DESPITE GEO-POLITICAL TENSIONS

India's engineering exports edge up to US\$ 109 bn

India's engineering exports edged up to USD 109 billion in 2023-24 despite a slowdown in some of the major global markets amid geo-political ten-sions, EEPC said on Monday.

India's engineering exports are competitive globally and expected to gain further market share in the coming years, with the country entering into more FTAs, it added.

The apex body of engineering goods exporters expects the value of shipments from the sector to rise to USD 300 $\,$ billion by 2030 and generate a significant number of jobs and foreign exchange earnings in the process.

Notably, the engineering sector is the largest contributor to India's overall exports, with a share of 24 per cent, and also contributes approximately 40 per cent of the country's total manufacturing exports. "The engineering goods

previous year's numbers despite a slowdown in some of the key global markets, geopolitical tensions, Red Sea crisis and high freight rates," said EEPC India Chairman Arun Kumar Garodia. Engineering exports in FY24

exports in FY24 surpassed the

rose to USD 109.31 billion from USD 107.04 billion in the previous financial year, thus registering a growth of 2.13 per cent, the Commerce Ministry data released on Monday

According to EEPC, FY24 said.

closed on a strong note, with engineering exports rising 10.66 per cent year-on-year to USD 11.28 billion in March

against USD 10.19 billion in the same month last year. "The monthly, as well as cumulative numbers, clearly show that the Indian engineering sector is quite competitive globally and consistently achieving success in penetrating new markets. The quick response from the government to counter various external challenges," Garodia

Delhi airport among world's top 10 busiest airports: ACI

PNS NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Apr 15 (PTI) Delhi airport has been named among the world's top 10 busiest airports for 2023 in a list topped International Airport.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital is ranked tenth while Dubai and Dallas airports are at the second and third positions, respectively, according to the Airports Council International (ACI) World.

Releasing the list on Monday, the ACI also said the global total passenger forecast for 2023 stands close to 8.5 billion (850 crore), reflecting a remarkable recovery of 93.8



per cent from pre-pandemic levels and 27.2 per cent higher than 2022.

'Notably, international traffic recovery drew nearer to that of domestic traffic, emphasising its essential role in propelling the industry's resurgence and expansion," it said. Among the top 10 busiest

airports, five are in the US. At the tenth place, Delhi airport handled more than 7.22 crore passengers in 2023. In 2022, the airport was at the ninth position.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is on top and it handled over 10.46 crore passengers last year.

Gold rises Rs 300; silver jumps Rs 500

PNS NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Apr 15 (PTI) Gold price rose Rs 300 to Rs 73,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday in line with firm trends in the to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also jumped Rs 500 to Rs 85,700 per kilogram. In the previous trade, it had ended at Rs 85,200 per kilogram.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 73,050 per 10 grams, up Rs 300, taking positive cues from overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi,

Analyst Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international mar-



kets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US\$ 2,355 per ounce, up US\$ 12 from the previous close.

Gold resumed trading on a positive note, mainly lifted by safe haven buying after the escalation in the conflict between Iran and Israel over the weekend. Iran's attack on Israel reduced investor appetite for risky assets, and increased demand for safe haven assets like bullion, Gandhi said.

lition prices were trading high er at US\$ 28.25 per ounce. In the previous session, it had finished at US\$ 27.84 per ounce.

According to market analysts, recent US inflation data diminished the possibility of a interest rate cut in June by the US Federal Reserve.

However, it will be critical to monitor the geopolitical landscape and whether other nations choose to intervene, so as to intensify the crisis.

Investors' wealth erodes by Rs 5.18 Lcr as markets crash on Iran-Israel conflict worries

PNS NEW DELHI

A sharp plunge in the stock market wiped out Rs 5.18 lakh crore from investors' wealth on Monday as an escalating conflict in the Middle

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 845.12 points or 1.14 per cent to settle at 73,399.78. During the day, it plunged 929.74 points or 1.25 per cent to 73,315.16.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies fell by Rs 5,18,953.97 crore to Rs 3,94,48,097.94 crore (USD 4.73 trillion).

The worsening situation in the Middle-East with con-



flict between Iran and Israel flaring up had engulfed Dalal Street. Investors worldwide, including in India, have turned cautious and resorted to profit-taking. Geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over interest rate cuts could have a bearing on the markets," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities

Quantum MF objects to delisting ICICI Securities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Quantum Mutual Fund has objected to the scheme of merger of ICICI Securities with parent firm ICICI Bank, saying it is "flawed and bridled with irregularities" and will adversely affect minority shareholders of the broking firm. Last month, ICICI

Securities announced that about 72 per cent of its shareholders voted in favour of delisting and subsequent merger with ICICI Bank, even



as the majority of retail investors opposed the scheme. "The scheme of merger is

flawed and bridled with irregularities," Quantum Mutual Fund MD and CEO Jimmy Patel said in his letter written last week to ICICI Bank and forwarded it to market regulator Sebi and the stock exchanges.

With just Rs 150 base airfare, take a 50-minute flight

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

airfare and take a 50-minute flight from Lilabari to Tezpur. Not just this route, there are many more flights where the base ticket price is less than Rs 1,000. All of them are operated under the regional air connectivity scheme that provides various incentives for

Shell out just Rs 150 as base

the airline operators. According to an analysis shared by travel portal ixigo

routes where the base airfares are less than Rs 1,000 per per-



son, with the lowest being Rs 150 for flights connecting Lilabari and Tezpur in Assam. The cheapest one way base fare is Rs 150 for a flight to

with PTI, there are at least 22 and from Lilabari to Tezpur (Assam). The flights are operated by Alliance Air. While booking a ticket, there will be addition of convenience charge to the base fare.

Broadly, the duration of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) flights on these

routes are around 50 minutes. Majority of the routes where the base airfares range between Rs 150 and Rs 199 per person are in the North

India's merchandise exports dip marginally, shipments at US\$ 437 bn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports declined marginally in March to US\$ 41.68 billion, while for the entire 2023-24 it dipped 3.11 per cent to US\$ 437.06 billion, as geopolitical issues continued to hamper global shipments.

Imports, too, declined 5.98 per cent to US\$ 57.28 billion in March, taking the trade deficit to 15.6 billion during the

According to commerce ministry data released on Monday,



the imports during 2023-24 stood at 677.24 billion, down 5.41 per cent from US\$ 715.97 billion in the preceding year.

The trade deficit or gap between imports and exports worked to be US\$ 240.17 billion. Replying to a query on esca-

lation of the crisis in the Middle east, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, who was briefing about the trade data, said the ministry was monitoring the situation and will take "appropriate action". However, he did not elabo-

rate due to the Model Code of Conduct in the wake of the ongoing Lok Sabha election. The overall exports (mer-

chandise + services) are estimated to surpass last year's highest record, the Secretary

ONLINE ASSESSMENTS

'Malpractices by candidates fear recruiters'

PNS MUMBAI

Malpractices by candidates during online assessments is one of the biggest fears among recruiters and talent acquisition (TA) specialists, a report said on Monday.

Fraudulent practices by candidates during online assessments have emerged as the biggest fear of the participants (39 per cent), followed by anxiety over finding the right can-

didate for a role (37 per cent), according to a report by AÍpowered recruitment automation firm HirePro.

The lack of effective tools to gauge specific skills has emerged as the next significant worry among 26 per cent of recruiters, it added.

The report by HirePro is based on a survey among 837 recruiters, talent acquisition specialists, and HR professionals during October 2023 to



March 2024. It further revealed that in the recruitment planning phase, the anxiety of finding

the right candidate for a role (37 per cent) is the biggest concern for recruiters and talent acquisition specialists, followed by the uncertainty of meeting hiring targets (32 per cent), in case it concerns planning for high-volume hiring and hiring for specific skill In the candidate engage-

ment phase, the report found

that the inability to ascertain

whether candidates are explor-

ing multiple job offers (29 per cent) and the anxiety surrounding offer rejections or candidate no-shows (28 per cent) are among the top fears.
This is followed by the stress

budget constraints (25 per cent), it added. During the interviewing phase, the management of candidates' and hiring managers'

of losing candidates due to

availability is a concurring challenge, the report noted. Industries Ltd and Jivan Sathi Dream Projects.

Sebi to auction 30 properties of 7 companies next month

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday said it will auction 30 properties of seven companies, including Mangalam Agro Products and Purusattam Infotech Industries, on May 15 to recover money illegally collected from investors.

reserve price of nearly Rs 25.64 crore. The other companies, whose properties will also be auctioned, are Bishal Group of Companies, NVD Solar Ltd, Sun Plant Business, Sumangal

The properties will be auctioned for a

Properties that will go under the hammer include land parcels, land with building structures and flats in West Bengal and Odisha. It will be auctioned at a reserve price of Rs 25.64 crore, according to a notice issued by the

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). Sebi invited bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against Mangalam Agro Products, Purusattam Infotech Industries, Jivan Sathi Dream Projects, Sun Plant Business, Bishal group, Sumangal Industries and NVD Solar, along with their promoters/ directors, it

the pioneer rabad

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Tuesday April 16, 2024



Silence 2 speaks volumes!

TANISHA SAXENA

um sabke andar ek moral compass hota hain. Usko cross karke grey ke andar ghusna (We all have a moral compass within us. Crossing it and entering the grey) is your choice, and you have to pay for that choice eventually," asserts ACP Avinash Verma, portrayed by Manoj Bajpayee, in the concluding scenes of the second season of Silence, a gripping whodunit

In a typical thriller like this, officers often exude a sense of brooding intensity, accompanied by dramatic music and dimly lit interrogation rooms. Forensic reports and

DNA analyses are the bread and butter of investigation, while a cluttered office adorned with a bulletin board filled with suspect photos sets the scene for the hunt.

However, Silence flips the script with its unconventional approach. ACP Avinash Verma brings a refreshing energy reminiscent of a sea-soned cop, but with a quirky charm that sets him apart. Instead of relying sole-ly on forensics, the film delves into the psychology of its characters, unravelling their hidden motives and intri-

cate connections. And while there may be a board with suspect names, it's not just a sta-tic backdrop; it evolves with each revelation, reflecting the dynamic nature of the investigation. *Silence* proves that it's not just about following the typical tropes but about reinventing them in unexpected ways.

Following the harrowing shootout at the Night Owl Bar, which claimed the lives of eight to ten individuals, the unexpected demise of Minister Pradeep Joshi's esteemed PA, Saryu Seth, initially served as the focal point of the investigation. However, this proves to be merely a deliberate misdirection, as the true depth of the case begins to unfold. Subtle hints pepper the narrative, suggesting a more profound revelation awaiting discovery. As the Special Crime Unit investigators delve deeper into the heart of the matter, the intricate pieces of the puzzle gradually align, uncovering not only the usual suspects but also shedding light on sensitive societal issues such as human trafficking, rape, and the alarming trend of young

Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Sahil Vaid, Prachi Desai, Vaquar Shaikh, Parul Gulati girls being trafficked into bachelorette par-**Streaming on:** Zee5 ties. It is this nuanced Rating: 3 exploration of societal ills that elevates the show beyond its initial premise; what started as a routine murder inquiry evolves into a multi-

and Writer: Aban Bharucha Deohans

Producer: Kiran Deohans

layered exposé of pervasive social injustices. Sahil Vaid as Amit Chauhan, Prachi Desai as Inspector Sanjana Bhatia, and Vaquar Shaikh as Inspector Raj Gupta form a formidable team under the leadership of ACP Avinash. While Bajpayee undoubtedly serves as the backbone of both the team and the show, the ensemble cast adds an extra layer of depth to the already compelling narrative. Each member of the team is not merely a supporting player but rather a vital ingredient, enhancing the overall flavor of the series. With well-crafted dialogues and distinct roles, every character brings their own charisma to the table, contributing to the dynamic chemistry and seamless storytelling of the show.

While Silence 2 undoubtedly boasts compelling storytelling and a talented ensemble cast, it is not without its flaws. One notable weakness lies in its cinematography, which fails to effectively capture the essence of the various locations depicted in the show. Despite featuring Mumbai, Jaipur, and even glimpses of Madhya Pradesh, the lack of

emphasis on these locales leaves viewers feeling disconnected from the environment and geographical setting of the narrative. With only fleeting glimpses of iconic landmarks like Jaipur's Hawa Mahal, the film misses an opportunity to fully immerse its audience in the rich tapestry of its surroundings, creating a noticeable void in the viewing experi-

Despite its shortcomings, the exceptional performances of the cast elevate *Silence 2* to a commendable standard. From Bajpayee's masterful portrayal, blending strength with nuanced emotion and sharp dialogue delivery, to Prachi Desai's portrayal of beauty with brains, the ensemble cast delivers stellar performances. Shruti Bapna's contribution adds another layer of depth to the show, while Sahil Vaid and Vaquar Shaikh captivate with their compelling portrayals. Unlike other whodunit narratives, Silence 2 deliberately eschews delving into the personal lives of its characters, instead focusing on the intricacies of the whodunit mechanism. The disciplined narrative unfolds with precision over its two-and-a-half-hour runtime, maintaining a structured pattern throughout. A special mention must be made of Parul Gulati's captivating portrayal of Aarti, a troubled character who leaves a lasting impression despite her limited screen time, leaving viewers yearning for more. In essence, Silence 2 is worth watching.

tailored cosmetic procedures

n recent years, a notable shift has occurred in the realm of cosmetic procedures, challenging traditional stereotypes that once deemed such practices exclusively feminine. Men are increasingly embracing the idea that self-care goes beyond skincare routines, hitting the surgeon's chair with confidence. This surge in male interest prompts a closer look at tailored cosmetic treatments designed to address their unique

aesthetic concerns.

One significant factor contributing to this trend is the evolving perception of mas-culinity. Modern men are breaking free from outdated norms that stigmatised grooming and aesthetic enhancements. In response, the cosmetic industry is witnessing a surge in demand for treatments that cater specifically to men, acknowledging and addressing their distinct features and

Facial rejuvenation, for instance, has become a popular avenue for men seeking to maintain a youthful appearance. Botox and dermal fillers are now customised to preserve masculine facial structures, enhancing features without compromising the rugged

charm often associated with male beauty.

Something customised for men called "the corporate look," seems like another new concept which gives them less angry, less tired, and more youthful skin. This tailored approach ensures a subtle and natural result, avoiding the overdone look that can be a concern for many men. Hair restoration is another domain witnessing a surge

enhancements. Tailored treatments acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of male beauty, dispelling stereotypes and empowering men to embrace their

in male interest. With advancements in technology, personalised hair transplant procedures are gaining popularity. These procedures not only address male pattern baldness but also consider factors like facial structure and hairline preferences, providing men with a bespoke solution that aligns

musicians, this is a testimonial to that fact. "I had the good fortune to have wonderful mentors, and I would advise others to look for outstanding teachers as well. Learning from a mentor you don't respect can be difficult." Thus, the Sitarist concludes, "Find a guru who inspires you, someone you aspire to emulate, and let your

potential shine

with their unique sense of identity.

Body contouring, a realm once dominated by female clientele, is now attracting a growing number of men. Procedures like liposuction and non-invasive fat reduction are tailored to accentuate masculine contours, fostering a more sculpted physique. This shift reflects a broader acknowledgment that body image concerns are not exclusive to

any gender. As the demand for male-centric cosmetic procedures rises, it's crucial to recognise the importance of a holistic approach.
Understanding that men have unique aesthetic goals allows practitioners to refine and tailor treatments to meet those specific needs, ultimately promoting a more inclusive and diverse beauty standard.

The rise of cosmetic procedures among men signals a progressive shift in societal attitudes toward self-care and aesthetic

> unique aesthetic journeys with confidence. The future of cosmetic procedures is undeniably unisex, breaking free from outdated norms and welcoming a new era of inclusive beauty stan-(The author, Dr. Ruby

Sachdev, is a consultant aesthetic physician at Gleneagles Hospital.)



what's brewing?







Commissioner of India Tunisia Trade Council, along with Kabeer Khan, a Member of NSI Global Council. The event was attended by a massive crowd of politicians, bureaucrats, consulate generals, and Tollywood actresses, among the dignitaries. The aura was filled with formal tones and a sense of prestige as these esteemed individuals came together to celebrate this special occasion with delicious food, including Dum ki Biryani, Apollo fish Sheer Qorma, and a variety of







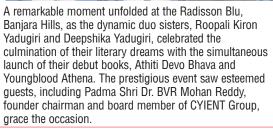


Hearzap celebrated a remarkable

achievement—the grand inauguration of its 100th store at Jubilee Hills. The 100th flagship store was unveiled by S.K. Sharma, former CEO of Siemens Hearing Instruments Inc., alongside Hearzap's founder and Managing Director, Raja S.





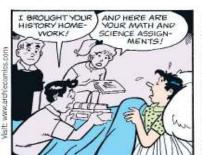




Khan, known for her elegance and style, recently walked the ramp at Pune Fashion Week. The actress turned into designer Archana Kochhar's muse for her collection! The collection featured a blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary aesthetics in pastel hues, reflecting Kochhar's signature style that seamlessly merges heritage with modernity.

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES







CROSSWORD



JUNIOR GROSSWORD 718

GARFIELD

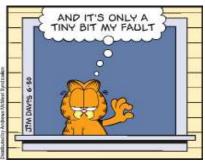


OH-NANCY-GO PACK YOUR THINGS-- WE'RE LEAVING SOON



uted in the comic strip Fritzi Ritz by Ernie Bushmiller in 1933. Fritzi adopted her orphaned niece, who soo estar. The strip's name changed to Nancy in 1938. We're ringing in the New Year with the history of Nancy.

JEEPERS ... I HATE NEW DRESSES IN



REALITY CHECK

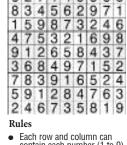




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DOWN

6 A traffic circle where

8 A pointy thing that

indicates direction

roads cross

13 A greeting (4,7)

14 Salty water from the eyes 18 Wear this on a finger 17 Rubber covers on wheels 19 Getting better after illness

ACROSS

10 Snapshot

- 1 Bitter-tasting
- 2 Cold winter crystals 3 Moist
- 4 A song for one singer 5 The most powerful

7 Female children



9 A command

11 Bees make this

15 A curved support

under a bridge

12 A fishing pole

16 Rescue

17 Grow weary

GINGER MEGGS

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO LIVE WITH MY AUNT FRITZI- SHE WAS HEADING FOR







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Hyderabad | Tuesday April 16, 2024

'My character reflects the challenges of nepotism in Love Guru'

Actress Mirnalini Ravi, who is currently seen in the film Love Guru, gets candid with The **Pioneer**, sharing interesting insights about the character, her preps for the same, and more.

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

irnalini Ravi is a rising south actress known for her work in Tamil and Telugu cinema. With a background in engineering and a stint in IT sector, Mirnalini's transition to acting was propelled by her viral TikTok and Dubsmash videos, marking her as a versatile talent in the industry. Making her debut with the acclaimed film Super Deluxe in 2019, she has since then garnered attention for her roles in movies like Gaddalakonda Ganesh, Enemy, and Cobra.

Now, the actress, who is seen alongside Vijay Anthony in *Love Guru*, delves into her character, as she shares, "In the movie, I portray the character of Leela, whose journey closely mirrors my own experiences. She embodies the struggles of today's generation, facing opposi-tion from her traditional-minded parents as she pursues her passion for acting. Despite their disapproval, Leela perseveres, working in the IT sector while tirelessly striving to establish herself in the film industry. Her

Bhargava has written the story for

this film and directed by Krishna.

On this occasion, the author Satyakashi

Bhargava said that in *Rama Ayodhya*, he

Ram, showing many important places in

"Í hopé all Telugu people will like it."

Ayodhya and telling their special features.

Director Krishna said that Ayodhya is

was telling the important qualities of Lord

story reflects the challenges of nepotism, as she navigates through small roles in Chennai and Hyderabad, determined to realise her dream. Each day, she wakes up with unwavering determination to break through barriers and make her mark as an actress."

She further states that unlike conventional movie narratives, where the hero faces obstacles and the heroine provides support, her characeter takes centre stage, with the hero offering his support and love as she pursues her aspirations. Through Leela's journey, she reveals,

The film sheds light on the resilience and strength of individuals pursuing their dreams against all odds. I had every reason to say yes to this script—it's undoubtedly the finest piece of work I've encountered throughout my entire career."

She reflects on the rigorous training required on to embody the character of Leela, detailing the challenges encountered in portraying her on-screen, "For a month, I underwent intense training under Kalyani Ma'am, focusing intensely on expressions and eye movements. This character demands subtlety; she speaks little, revealing her emotions through her silent anguish and weariness from constant rejection in the industry. Despite the pain, she harbours a glimmer of hope, persistently chasing her dreams. We honed the art of maintain-

ing a blank face, ensuring that the agony resonated through my eyes.

Throughout the movie, I portray a rigid, aloof, and occasionally abrasive demeanour, a challenge that required nuanced variations to prevent monotony while conveying her persistent frustration and bitterness."

She further shares, "It's crucial not to risk losing the audience's interest while ensuring that my character remains relatable. Despite her struggles, she mustn't disregard the support from her husband, Aravind or alienate viewers from empathising with her journey. Although the hero's unwavering love poses a challenge, the aim is for viewers to feel a sense of sympathy and root for her, rather than resent her for her aloofness this was the chal

lenging part of the role. So, to justify the character of Leela was a difficult task."

tollywood

In reflecting on her experience working with her costars, the actress expresses genuine joy, particularly highlighting Vijay Antony's remarkable support and flexibility in allowing her to flourish on screen. She expresses, "Vijay Antony sir, in particular, was incredibly supportive and allowed me the space to shine in the movie. His willingness to take on the role of Aravind, which required him to display vulnerability and self-deprecation, was commendable, especially in a film centred around women's issues and aspirations. His involvement as both actor and producer further exemplified his commitment to the project. Together, we formed a close-knit family on set, and everyone's dedication to their roles made the experience truly unforgettable."

On the working front, she has a web series titled *Pre* Love, which delves into the tumultuous journey of a teenage girl transitioning into her early twenties. With the entire series centred around her character, it's an exhilarating yet intense role that she is very much thrilled to undertake. "We've already completed shooting for 20 days, with another 60 days ahead of us. Unlike *Romeo*, which explores old-school love in a refreshing manner, *Pre Love* tackles a hard-hitting and controversial subject, offering a completely new genre for audiences. Embracing such challenging roles has become a personal addiction for me; I'm drawn to characters where I can truly showcase my acting prowess and evoke a sense of pride.

The love and respect garnered from portraying such roles hold a different significance, driving me to pursue projects that offer depth and substance over glamorous or peripheral roles. I'm not inclined towards being part of bigbudget films where I play secondary characters; instead, I prioritise roles that allow me to make a meaningful impact and push the boundaries of my craft," she signs off saying.



The oldest daughter of renowned filmmaker Shankar Shanmugam got married to Tarun Karthikeyan in February 2024. The pair is currently in the news once more after being married in front of their loved ones!

The private wedding photos have been making the rounds on social media, and as of right now, the place and time of

the ceremony are unknown. Celebrities like CM Stalin, Kamal Haasan, Chiyaan Vikram, Atlee, Suriya, Karthi, Vignesh Shiyan, Navanthara, Maniratnam, Suhasini, and others did, however, attend the event. These images are currently becoming viral on social media. Regarding his career, Shankar has two upcoming films that are slated for wide release in theaters: Indian 2 and

he renowned Telugu actor Allari Naresh, under the direction of Malli Ankam, is about to debut his next

In Aa Okkati Adakku, Naresh portrays Gana, a man who discovers via a priest's prophecy that he must be married within the next twenty-five days to prevent living a life of singledom. While his family frantically searches for him to match with someone suitable, Gana finds himself falling in love with a vibrant woman, played by Faria Abdullah. However, she is reluctant to get married, which puts Gana in a difficult situation. The picture appears to provide a beautiful fusion of humour and romance, maintaining viewers' interest throughout. Along with comedian Jamie Lever, who is making her Telugu debut, the ensemble

cast includes Faria Abdullah as the female

lead. Prominent performers such as Ariyana Glory, Viva Harsha, and Vennela Kishore are also featured in important

parts in the movie.

Chaitanya Rao in the lead roles of the film Teppa Samudram. The film is directed by Satish

Rapolu, produced by Neerukanti Manjula Raghavendra Goud under the banner of Srimani

Entertainments, and presented by Baby Vaishnavi. For this film, P.R. is the music director. The

film is going to hit screens on April 19 after completing its shooting. As part of the promotion of

the film, the trailer launch and pre-release event were organised by the film unit.

main characters and an amusing plot were introduced in the film's teaser, which was released on March 12. Now, the makers have released the release date

of the film, which is on May 3!

Game Changer.

Raghava **Lawrence aiming** for two films

n the minds of the Telugu audience, Raghava Lawrence has always been associated with horror-comedies, but he is soon to explore other genres. His effort at a chick flick action drama about a mobster with a social message proved well in Tamil last year, but not in Telugu. Jigarthanda DoubleX is the topic of discussion. He's aiming for two projects this year. The first is *Hunter*, which is written and directed by co-director AR Murugadoss Venkat Mohan. Devi Sri Prasad will write the soundtrack for it. Its tagline is The Battle For the Sou. It's said that this one is an action adventure. Benz, created under Lokesh Kanagaraj's G Squad banner, is the second. Director of Roemo and Sulthan, Bakkiyaraj Kannan, is behind the thriller. According to the announcement poster, "A

> warrior with a cause is the most dangerous soldier.

Aa Okkati Adakku in cinemas on May 3

Teja Sajja, a young actor, would feature in the film Jai Hanuman as the following actor. However, he has a film with acclaimed filmmaker Karthik Ghattamaneni, who helmed Ravi Teja's *Eagle*, before he heads to the sequel's sets. People Media Factory has stated today that the first look poster and title of the action-packed film (*PMF 36*) would be unveiled on April 18, 2024. The movie is called *Mirai*, which translates to "The Future," according to the process In an effort to build enticipation for the process the entire process. build anticipation for the movie, the actor's pre-look poster was removed. Manchu Manoj portrays the antagonist in the film, while Ritika Singh plays the key female character. However, Dulquer Salmaan does not have a major part in this TG Vishwa Prasad-Rama Ayodhya to premiere on Sri Ram Navami documentary film titled Rama Ayodhya shot in Ayodhya on the 16 virtues of Lord Rama is going to be released in Telugu OTT Aha on this Sri Rama Navami. National Film Award winner - Satyakashi

not only

Ram Mandir,

but there are many

holy places and shrines. They have shown

qualities of Lord Ram in the present time,

they have made it simple so that everyone

them all very well in our film. Moreover,

he said that how they can practice the

can understand it.

Vishal's *Raththam* trailer out now shal collaborated with filmmaker Hari on the movie *Raththam*, which will be his next big-screen appearance. With *Raththam* Vishal and Hari reunite for the third time following their phenomenal hits, *Thamirabarani* and *Poojai*. With less than two weeks until the movie's premiere, the makers of the movie have finally released the trailer. The film is scheduled to hit theaters on April 26. The movie's theatrical trailer was unveiled by the producers, who are getting closer to the release date. A Hari movie would be expected to TEPPA SAMUDRAM
PRE-RELEASE EVENT HELD include a lot of action, and the trailer has plenty of it. Even though the plot hasn't been fully disclosed, it's obvious that the main focus of the

movie is keeping the female lead, Priya, safe from the antagonist and

Important parts are played by Samuthirakani, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Vijay Kumar, Jaya Prakash, Yogi Babu, and others. Devi Sri Prasad composed the soundtrack for Rathnam, which was produced

by Kaarthekeyen Santhanam and Zee Studios under the auspices of

Stonebench Films and Zee Studios.



RR BRACE FOR NARINE SPIN TREAT AS KKR EYE TOP SPOT

Rajasthan Royals' star-studded batting will face the serious challenge of decoding Sunil Narine's mystery at Eden Gardens when they take on two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders in a top-of-the-table IPL clash here on Tuesday on Tuesday.

Narine, who is one month shy of turning 36, had played a pivotal role in KKR's twin triumphs under former skipper Gautam Gambhir in 2012 and 2014.

Ever since joining the side way back in 2012, Narine has sizzled at Eden Gardens with his crafty bowling, proving to a big threat to opposition batters.

Now after reuniting with Gambhir, who returned to the team as their mentor, Narine dished out an mentor, Narine dished out an allround show, reigniting their title hopes again and a win against RR will hand them the pole position in the 10-team standings ahead of the halfway stage of the season. His 1/19 against the Sunrisers Hyderabad or 1/17 against Lucknow Super Giants may have

eight overs where he did not concede a single boundary made all the difference in the end for

Phil Salt may have walked away with the player-of-the-match award in their solid eight-wicket win over LSG here on Sunday, but it was Narine, who choked LSG in the middle overs to limit them to a

below-par 161 for 7.
Come Tuesday, the likes of Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer -- who all have struck at

Hetmyer -- who all have struck at the rate of more than 155 this season -- will be up against the Narine challenge. It remains to be seen if Jos Buttler is fit to be included in the playing XI after missing their last fixture against Punjab Kings. With his ability to express himself at the top, Narine, who has a strike-rate of 183.51 and averages 33-plus this season, has a Rashid Khan-like aura at KKR. Their IPL record buy Mitchell Starc has also shut all the noise to

Starc has also shut all the noise to return to his elements, claiming two wickets in the last over for his



In such a scenario, the top-of-the-table contest may well boil down to KKR's bowling versus RR's

to KKR's bowling versus RR's batting.
KKR's only weaklink could be their skipper Shreyas Iyer's poor form with the bat.
Even though he remained unbeaten on a run-a-ball 38 in their 162-run chase against LSG, Shreyas looked tentative both against the pacers and spinners and KKR's batting may well get exposed if RR manage to give early breakthroughs.

breakthroughs.

KKR's batting has largely depended this season on Salt-Narine's fireworks at the top and Andre Russell's blitz at the death, as their Indian batters have not been tested much.

been tested much.
Rinku Singh has had a quiet season with 63 runs from four innings and has not got much opportunity, while team vice-captain Nitish Rana is sidelined

with an injury.
RR have a formidable bowling lineup in Trent Boult, Avesh Khan, Yuzvendra Chahal and Keshav

seen if Ravichandran Ashwin is fit for the match.

TEAMS (FROM):

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shreyas
Iyer (c), KS Bharat, Rahmanullah
Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Angkrish
Raghuvanshi, Sherfane
Rutherford, Manish Pandey,
Andre Russell, Nitish Rana,
Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy,
Ramandeep Singh, Varun
Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine,
Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya,
Harshit Rana Suyash Sharma Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hussain and Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan, Rovman Powell, Shubham Dubey, Tom Kohler, Cadmore Dubey, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Abid Mushtaq, Nandre Burger, Tanush Kotian, Keshav Maharaj.

CSK have a man behind stumps telling them what is working: Pandya pats Dhoni

PTI MUMBAI

ould not hide his appreciation for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's tactical acumen following his team's 20-run loss to Chennai Super Kings at the Wankhede Stadium here on Sunday.

three sixes and a hurriedlycompleted two runs off the fourth and last delivery was something that gave CSK the winning cushion, it was the former India skipper's reading of the game from behind the stumps that Pandya felt made the difference on a belter of a track.

They (CSK) were smart with their plans and used the longer boundary well. They got the hang of it and they have a man behind the stumps telling them what's working," said Pandya after kinds of venues demand both his side failed to chase 206 Rohit Sharma despite smashing his second IPL

century and batting from bowled exceptionally well start to finish.

Indians CSK skipper Rututaj Gaikwad said. Hardik gave Dhoni a huge On why he did not open the ald not compliment. saving his innings and instead sent power-hitting with just four balls remaining made the difference between victory and defeat.

Dhoni, 42, scored 20 off four deliveries, which in the end While Dhoni's barrage of made the difference to the match's outcome.

"Our young wicketkeeper (MSD) scoring three sixes down the order helped a lot and I think that was the difference. To start off, on this kind of ground, you need 10-15 extra runs. We were looking at 215-220, but Bumrah bowled well," said Gaikwad, who took over the captaincy duties from Dhoni

this season. "Bowling-wise, we were spoton with our execution. Even in powerplay, I would have taken six overs for 60. These skills: batting and bowling. Malinga Our (Lasith) (Matheesha

Ajinkya Rahane with Rachin Ravindra, Gaikwad said. "Nothing, Jinks (Rahane) was carrying a bit of a niggle. Thought it was better for him to open and get away quick runs. I'm fine batting anywhere."

Player of the Match, Pathirana, who grabbed his best IPL figures of 4/28, said he was a bit nervous as he was coming back into the side after recovering from a

niggle. "When we bowled in powerplay, I was nervous. I don't think about results and I just think about execution. First of all, I was having a niggle before two weeks and all support staff and players helped me.

That's the main thing to have my form," said the Sri Lankan, who has modelled his action on the lines of the legendary Malinga.

Absolutely ordinary bowling, ordinary captaincy: Gavaskar slams Hardik

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya faced scathing criticism from prominent former players after Mumbai Indians' fourth loss in the ongoing IPL with the great Sunil Gavaskar slamming him for his "absolutely ordinary bowling and ordinary captaincy" so far.

far.
Booed and heckled by fans ever since he took over MI's captaincy, Pandya found himself in the line of fire of the legendary Gavaskar and former England captain Kevin Pietersen after his team slumped to yet another defeat, this time to Chennai Super Kings, here on Sunday night. It was the 26 runs that Pandya conceded in the final over with Mahendra Singh Dhoni going hammer and tongs,

which proved to be decisive as Chennai Super Kings notched up a 20-run win over MI.

up a 20-run win over MI.

"Oh, absolutely ordinary bowling, ordinary captaincy. They should have been restricted despite the fact that Ruturaj Gaikwad had batted so well along with Shivam Dube. I do believe that they should have been restricted to 185-190," Gavaskar said.

"Probably the worst kind of bowling that I've seen for a long, long time," Gavaskar said on Star Sports during the innings break after CSK posted 206 for 4.

"It almost looks like I've had this embrace with my hero. I've got the kind of deliveries that he's gonna hit for sixes. One six is fine. The next one is a length ball when you know this batter is hunting for a length ball that he wants to

a length ball that he wants to



"Third ball is again a full toss "Third ball is again a full toss on the legs when you know he (Dhoni) is looking for a six." Pandya finished with figures of 2 for 43 from his four overs and also had a tough time with the bat, managing a mere two runs off six balls at a crucial juncture of the game as MI ended at 186 for six despite a fine 63-ball 105 by

former skipper Rohit Sharma. Pandya has faced fans' ire right from the first match and even at the Wankhede Stadium, boos have followed him, forcing Rohit (against Rajasthan Royals) and Virat Kohli (in MI's game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru) to ask the crowd to calm Pietersen feels the outside noise is taking a toll on the flamboyant all-rounder.

flamboyant all-rounder.

"I actually think, with Hardik Pandya, everything away from the game is affecting him so much. He's smiling too much when he does the toss. He's trying to act like he is so happy. He is not happy. I have been there. I have been in the firing line. And I can tell you now, it affects you.

"The boos we have been hearing just now and I know they are happy to see former CSK captain (Dhoni), the lion, smacking him (Hardik)

lion, smacking him (Hardik) all over the park, it hurts you. Because he has emotions. And he is an Indian player and he doesn't want to be treated like this. So when this is happening, it's affecting him, it's affecting his cricket and something needs to happen."

Pollard defends Pandya, says sick & fed up of people pinpointing individuals for team losses

Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard is "sick and fed up" of people pinpointing particular individuals for the team's losses as he urged fans not to "nitpick" struggling captain Hardik Pandya after MI lost to Chennai Super Kings by 20 runs in their Indian Premier League match here. CSK legend MS Dhoni took 26 runs off Pandya's final over with the help of three consecutive sixes as the MI skipper struggled for right line and length while also bowling two wides at a crucial time.

Pandya finished with figures of 2 for 43 from his three overs and also had a tough time with the bat, managing a mere two runs off six balls at a crucial juncture of the game.

"You're going to have those days. I'm sick and fed up of just looking to pinpoint at individuals. Cricket is a team sport at the end of the day," Pollard said at the post-match press conference Sunday night. "He (Pandya) is a confident guy.

He has been great around the group. In cricket, you have good days and you have bad days. I'm seeing an individual who's working bloody hard to continue his skill and to ply his trade."
Pollard reminded fans about the

possibility of Pandya being picked for India's T20 World Cup campaign, saying if that happens everyone would be 'singing his praises'. "This is an individual that's

going to represent the country in less than six weeks' time. We're all going to be cheering for him and want him to do well," said



the West Indian who himself is a MI legend. "It's about high time that we try to encourage and try to stop nitpick. See if we can get the best out of one of the great all-rounders India could ever produce. "He can bat, he can bowl, he can

field. He has an X factor about him. I hope very well deep

down within my heart that when he comes out on top, I'll sit back and I'll watch everyone sing his praises."

The match witnessed intermittent booing of Pandya who struggled with both bat and ball and also received criticism from former England captain Kevin Pietersen who claimed that the

MI skipper has been 'smiling too much'. Pollard said he is seeing Pandya evolving and backed him to turn things around. "As an individual, you have to

evolve as well. When you're young and there's that youthful exuberance, you go out and you do things in a certain manner. But the older that you get, at times, responsibility sort of kicks in, accountability to teams sort of kicks in," he said.

"What I'm seeing is a guy that is evolving. Obviously, we as individuals, we want to see certain things, but sometimes the game does not demand certain things." Pollard said while Mumbai Indians would revisit their plans on Dhoni but added that anyone could have been at the receiving end of the former CSK skipper's onslaught, like Pandya experienced Sunday night.

Cricket brings happiness for Afghan public but cannot help if Australia refuses to play us: Rashid

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"You can't do anything about it," Rashid Khan conceded as he tried to make sense of Australia's refusal to play bilateral cricket with Afghanistan men's team, which he believes, achieves nothing beyond denying happiness to his people. Cricket Australia cancelled an ODI series Down Under in 2023 and as recent as last month, refused to play a T20 series scheduled in the UAE later this year due to its government's concerns over "marked deterioration" of treatment of women in

the Taliban-ruled state. But Afghan players, including Rashid, continue to be welcome in the Big Bash League.

"I want, all the players want, to play cricket because that is the only source of happiness for people back home in Afghanistan and if you take that away, there is nothing that people could celebrate or enjoy," Rashid told PTI during an exclusive interview on Monday. In 2023, Rashid had threatened to pull out of the Big Bash League over Australia's refusal to play bilateral cricket with them. The 25-year-old

has many Australian friends but he hasn't actually spoken to any of them about the issue.

Well, I have never discussed it with anybody (Australian cricketers) as I haven't had that opportunity to discuss all those things with them, something which is not in your hands or you have no control over, you can't do anything about it.

"It's not a cricketing reason or matter that you think about it, it is about two governments and as a player you can't do anything about it. What we can do is whenever we get an opportunity to play cricket, we go with full pride while representing our country."

Having played over 400 T20 games and being the most sought after freelancer in the T20 universe, Rashid feels privileged about being the face of Afghanistan cricket. "Before 2017, we never thought about playing the IPL. It was hard (far-fetched) thought for us to even think of playing in the biggest T20 league in the world.

"The hardest part is to get into the system and when I (first) got the opportunity, I knew okay, I got that opportunity now I have to do the



best where it helps me promote my cricket and also help my country where youngsters can get inspired to get into cricket more and more," the eloquent Pathan said.

Apart from Rashid, Noor Ahmed and Azmatullah Omrzai are playing for Gujarat Titans in the ongoing IPL. Mohmmed Nabi is representing Mumbai Indians and

Rahmanullah Gurbaz is part of the KKR squad. "Back in 2017, it was only me and

cricket in Afghanistan."

DIFFICULT TO HIT RHYTHM **IMMEDIATELY SURGERY:** Rashid had undergone a major back surgery last year, which didn't allow him to play the India series in January. It was a hard

with different franchises, and it is

so good to see them not just being

a part of the team but also performing," he said. "At the end of the day,

it is helping Afghanistan cricket and youngsters back home. So I am

quite happy, and blessed to be one of those who brought about this

change in mindset of people about

time but now he feels he is back in rhvthm.

"For me, those three to four months were hard but I tried to make sure that I am relaxed and when I get back on field, I am fully ready and prepared for it," the champion spinner said.

"The main focus for first four months was on getting back on track, it is hard when you are not playing but these are things which are attached to your career, and it is important as a player that you (Mohd) Nabi, who were there and now we have 7-8 players who are make sure that you look after your-

"I made sure that I spent time with my family and looked after my

MISSING SHAMI BUT HAPPY WITH GT BOWLING UNIT: Gujarat Titans have had a bumpy

ride with three wins and an equal number of defeats in the season thus far. While the absence of a game-changer like Mohammed Shami is being felt massively, Rashid stood by the bowling unit. "Shami played a main role for us in last two seasons, both with new ball

and old ball, and the way he has delivered for the team actually made mine and others job easier, especially in the middle overs," he had no hesitation in admitting. We have started the season with a

positive mindset and everyone is taking responsibility and delivering best for team but sometimes result doesn't go your way but we are quite happy with bowling unit. T20 is all about making right

decisions at the right time. Spencer Johnson, Darshan Nalkande, Azmat, Umesh have all delivered and most importantly, Mohit (Sharma) bhai as well."