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YADAV SHINES IN KAAM CHALU HAI



Mangli's new song **OUTNOW** QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer The people of Hyderabad have seen BJP's intentions. They will not accept the vulgar actions of the BJP and the RSS. Is this the 'Viksit Bharat' BJP is talking about? The peace of Hyderabad is more important than elections. I am confident that the people of Telangana will vote against the BJP who are against peace in TG. - Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM Chief

Legacy needs to be passed...

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose on Thursday said that there is a need to pass on the legacy to the future generations, during a Heritage Walk that was held on the occasion of World Heritage Day. The Heritage Walk started from Dar-ul-Shifa, Salar Jung Museum and ended at Osmania Hospital. Zonal Commissioners, HODs and others participated in the Heritage Walk along with Commissioner Ronald Rose. The GHMC Commissioner...

-PAGE: 3

'Back pain, depression...

The main causes of poor health impacting quality of life are low back pain, depressive disorders and headaches, according to a new global research published in The Lancet journal. The study analysed healthy life expectancy during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and found that even though people around the world are living longer, "they aren't spending all those years in good health.""With low back pain, the leading cause of poor health globally, we see that ...

-PAGE: 5

'Electronics industry witnesses...

The electronics industry in the country has experienced sharp growth in hiring and skilling initiatives with a 154 per cent growth in overall hiring in March, compared to the same month last year a report said on Thursday. The report also showed that the telecom sector topped in the hiring demand within the electronics industry, accounting to 64 per cent of hiring, closely followed by lighting and automotive sectors. A comparison of the...

Lucknow Super Giants face...

A set of probing questionnaires awaits the Lucknow Super Giants on their home turf as Chennai Super Kings' cerebral bowling unit will look to use its variation to the fullest on a two-paced Ekana Stadium track during their IPL clash here on Friday. The two teams endured contrasting fortunes in their previous couple of matches. While Ruturaj Gaikwad's team, still 'marshalled' by the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni, is coming into the game with backto-back victories, LSG...



Telangana CM Revanth campaigning in Wayanad on Thursday

'Wayanad voters will vote for future PM'

Revanth campaigning for Rahul in Wayanad

PNS HYDERABAD

The people of Wayanad are going to vote not for just an LS candidate but for the future Prime Minister of this country, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said while campaigning for Rahul Gandhi in Kerala's Wayanad.

"We asked Rahul to contest from Telangana. But Rahul picked Wayanad. In the last LS election, Rahul got 65 per cent of the votes in Wayanad. This time it should be 75 per cent votes. We are fighting against Modi. The people of Wayanad are going to vote not for just an LS candidate but for our future PM," Revanth said.

Addressing a farmers' meeting at Wayanad on Thursday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family are drown-

ing in corruption.

He said that he was surprised to know that Vijayan's family had a hand in gold smuggling and that Prime Minister Modi is not taking action against Vijayan although there were ED and IT cases against him. The reason is that Vijayan has struck a deal with Modi, Revanth

'Vijayan looks like a CPM Chief Minister and Communist leader but actually he is not a Communist but a communalist. Vijayan has been working with the BJP. He is supporting BJP candidate Surendran in Wayanad. Vijayan is deceiving not only the CPM but also the people of Kerala. Vijayan will not work for the CPM as he faces ED and IT cases," Revanth said.



KCR predicts political turmoil in state after Lok Sabha polls

Hints that 20 Congress MLAs willing to switch sides

PNS HYDERABAD

"A senior Congress leader had contacted me asking whether he should bring 20 MLAs. I did not consent to that. There is no team work in the Congress and there is no stability," KCR said.

On the stability of the Congress government, he said, "The BJP tried to topple the BRS government which had 104 MLAs. Will it spare the Congress admin which has just 64

He said that if there is a threat to the Congress government it is from the BJP. "Modi, who wants a Congress-mukt Bharat is pulling down Congress governments. Will he not do some tricks to overthrow the TG Congress admin which has a majority," KCR said.

He said that there is a possibility of political chaos in the state after the Lok Sabha elections. "Whatever may be the reason for the turmoil the BRS stands to gain," KCR is learnt to have said.

KCR clarified that the arrest of BRS MLC Kavitha was illegal and that she was 'illegally arrested with-



BRS chief KCR in a meeting with party leaders at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday

Kavitha's arrest is revenge for issuing notices to **BL Santhosh**

The BJP tried to topple the BRS Govt. Why should it spare the Congress admin

KCR made it clear that the future of the state is the BRS and that victory in the LS elections belongs to the pink brigade. The BRS is going to win eight LS seats as per a survey and in three more seats there are chances of winning, KCR said reportedlyafter giving away B-Forms to BRS candidates.

KCR seeks time to reply to ECI's notice

CR has sought time to reply to the Election Commission's notices issued in connection with his comments about Chief Minister Revanth in Sircilla. KCR has been asked to give an explanation on this by 11 am on Thursday. KCR had asked the EC for a week's time to give an explanation. On

Wednesday, the Election Commission of India issued a notice to BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao requesting an explanation for his alleged "vulgar and derogatory" remarks directed at Congress leaders during a press conference held in Siricilla on April 5.

'Centre trying to divert Godavari waters'

RS chief KCR expressed Bdispleasure at the Central Government's conspiracy to divert Godavari waters to other states as it belongs to Telangana Speaking at the Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, KCR said, "The BJP is conspiring to build a dam in Icchampally on the Godavari River so that they can divert water to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. This is against the Bachawat Tribunal judgment." He said that the Bachawat Tribunal's judgement in 1974 on the distribution of river water is a headache for all. "According to this judgment, river waters are distributed basin-wise and water is sent from upper riparian states to lower states," KCR said. He said that although water supply has been going on for the past 50 years as per the Bachawat Tribunal order, the BJP is ready for conspiracies to bag votes in

Continued on Page 2

KRMB issues orders to release water to TG, AP



PNS HYDERABAD

The Krishna River Management Board has issued orders to release water to meet the summer drinking water needs of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The KRMB issued orders in accordance with the decisions taken at the meeting of the threemember committee held on April 12. It was decided at the meeting to use up to 500 feet of water in Nagarjunasagar keeping in mind the water crisis. The Sagar has 14.195 TMCs of water till 500 feet.

Of this, 5.5 TMCs have been allocated to AP. Telangana was allowed to use the remaining water to meet the drinking water needs of other districts including Hyderabad. The KRMB has made it clear that the water should be used only for drinking.

Appreciate election panel's good work, says apex court

'BJP will win hardly 12-15 LS seats in south'

Revanth Reddy on Thursday claimed that the (BJP) will hardly win 12-15 Parliamentary seats in the southern states in the Lok Sabha polls. Speaking at a rally

while campaigning for Congress leader Adoor Prakash in Kerala's Attingal, Revanth Reddy said that the grand old party will win all they are going to teach a lesson to 20 LS seats in Kerala, while it will bag at least 14 out of 17 LS seats in Telangana.

On the BJP expressing confidence of crossing 400 seats, Revanth Telangana Chief Minister A. Reddy said even BRS president and former Telangana chief minister

Chandrasek while campaigning for last year's Assembly polls had claimed that he would win 100 seats but could bag only 39 seats. Revanth Reddy said

that "similarly, the BJP is trying to confuse people, but people are intelligent and

TELANGANA LS POLLS

BRS banks on anti-incumbency votes

In the crucial Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, first step with the filling of nominations. All the three major political parties, Congress, BJP and BRS have take these Lok Sabha elections very seriously to get an upper hand on their rivals by winning majority seats. Interesting point was between Congress, BJP and BRS, which party will win double digit seats in the Lok Sabha elections. Im the present political atmosphere there may be no chance to any party in winning of seats in double digits.

In Telangana, there are total 17 Lok Sabha seats. In the previous Sabha elections the won 9 seats, BJP won four and the

Congress won three and the AIMIM won one seat. Usually, the political parties take into consideration 16 Lok Sabha seats only leaving the Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat to the AIMIM. The Congress and the TDP, which were in power in the united Andhra Pradesh never won this Lok Sabha seat. Only the BJP took Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat in every election. The Congress or BRS will take 16 Lok Sabha seats in

the calculation of winning number of seats. Out of 16 seats, any party has to win 10 seats to get a double digit. In the keen triangular contest win double digit seats. For BRS and the BJP it may not be possible to win double

digit seats. Only the Congress has such a chance which is an uphill task to it also. But the Congress is going to win majority seats than the BJP and the BRS. While the BRS has become weak after the débâcle in the Assembly elections, the BJP did not strengthen itself compared to the recent Assembly elections.



Power demand touches 4,053 MW

PNS HYDERABAD

The electricity demand in the Greater Hyderabad area crossed the milestone of 4,053 MW on Thursday afternoon.

The peak demand on April 18, 2023, was only 3,471 MW. Compared to last year, the electricity demand has increased by 582 MW. The electricity authorities supplied it without any interruption. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti sumers.



Vikramarka Mallu congratulated the Electricity Department for providing uninterrupted power supply to all categories of con-

As electricity demand is likely to increase in May, electricity staff and officials have been asked to remain alert and provide services in the same way to gain consumer confidence.In March 2023 the average demand was 13,966 MW, consumption 274.42 MU and in April 2023 the average demand was 11,781 MW and consumption was 233.06 MU.



42 candidates file nominations on day 1

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Rai stated that in all 48 nominations were filed on Thursday by 42 candidates.

Speaking at a press meet at BRKR Bhavan Thursday, Vikas Raj said, "The nominations will be accepted till April 25 and the last date for withdrawal is April 29." He also said that

enforcement agencies have a nodal officer appointed by Election Commission of India (ECI), including those of the State and Centre. There are 16 nodal officers in each

district and 2,94,000 government officials are on polling duty. In 51 Assembly constituencies, there is a tight vigil on the identification of the huge expenditure being incurred. About 204 inter-state and 444 flying squads, 160 Central Organisation Forces would be deployed and 60 companies have already arrived. About 20,000 police personnel are coming from the neighbouring States on a bilateral arrangement basis. In all, 60,000 police and other uniform staff are being deployed for maintenance of

security. There is a sufficient availability of EVM, VVPATS. As many as 57,048 ballot units and 44,569 control units 48,134 VVPATs are required for

the Lok Sabha polls including some margins. There are 9,500 critical polling stations across the State and special focus is given to them. District intelligence committees have also been formed. Vikas Raj said that

"The nominations will be accepted till April 25 and the last date for withdrawal is April 29.

as on date, cash or goods worth Rs 136.70 crore have been seized since the Model Code of Conduct came into force on March 16. So far, 2,000 complaints and 4,000

FIRs were filed due to Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violation or IPC or Excise Acts. In areas affected by LWE (Left Wing Extremism), Central forces have already been deployed. Nine police observers, 17 general observers and 34 expenditure observers will be deployed in the State. While there are 3,31,000,00 voters, women votes

There are about 10 lakh people in the age group of 18 and 19. As it is summer, special arrangements will be made during the polls.

increased in the Assembly elections.

All set for first phase of LS polls in 102 seats today

rebound after facing reverses in the

Polling will be held in all seats of

Tamil Nadu (39), Uttarakhand (5),

Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya

(2), Andaman and Nicobar Islands

(1), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1),

Puducherry (1), Sikkim (1) and

2014 and 2019 elections.

Simultaneously, Assembly elections for 92 seats will also be held

PNS NEW DELHI

The 2024 Lok Sabha polls will kick off Friday with polling for the first phase scheduled in 102 seats spread across 21 states and Union territories and among those in the fray are Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Sarbanada Sonowal and Bhupendra Yadav, Gaurav Gogoi of Congress, DMK's Kanimozhi and K Annamalai of BIP.

Simultaneously, assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh (60 seats) and Sikkim (32 seats) will also be held.

Voting will begin at 7 AM and end at 6 PM. The Election Commission has deployed over 18 lakh polling personnel across 1.87 lakh polling stations where over 16.63 crore voters will exercise their franchise.

Voting will begin at 7 AM and end at 6 PM. The Election Commission has deployed over 18 lakh polling personnel across 1.87 lakh polling stations where over 16.63 crore voters will exercise their franchise.

Voters include 8.4 crore men, 8.23

crore women and 11,371 from third

gender. There are as many as 35.67

akh first time voters, besides 3.51

While the BJP-led NDA under

constituents of the opposition Lakshadweep (1).

crore young voters in the age group

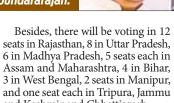
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is

seeking a stronger majority, the

of 20-29 years.

Besides Gadkari, Sonowal and Yadav, six other Union ministers - Kiren Rijiju, Sanjeev Baliyan, Jitendra Singh, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Nabam Tuki (Arunachal Pradesh), and former Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

L Murugan and Nisith Pramanik are among the contestants besides two former chief ministers - Biplab Kumar Deb (Tripura) and INDIA bloc are hoping for a



and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh. Campaigning for the first phase ended Wednesday evening. Besides Gadkari, Sonowal and Soundararajan.

Yadav, six other Union ministers -Kiren Rijiju, Sanjeev Baliyan, Jitendra Singh, Arjun Ram Meghwal L Murugan and Nisith Pramanik are among the contestants besides two former chief ministers - Biplab Kumar Deb (Tripura) and Nabam Tuki (Arunachal Pradesh), and former Telangana governor Tamilisai



'Voting for Cong is vote for BJP'

Why are you sitting in the Secretariat built by KCR?

PNS HYDERABAD

Baba says that Telangana will BRS Working President KTR attended a meeting of BRS booth-level workers of the scam. Arresting Kejriwal is Jubilee Hills constituency on Thursday. "After Revanth Reddy

became Chief Minister a strange situation is seen. he said. Rahul Baba calls some Chowkidar Chor. Revanth Baba says Modi Bade Bhai. Rahul Baba says Adani fraud. Revanth Baba Adani's best BJP. friend. Rahul Baba says the

be modelled on Gujarat. Rahul Baba says there is no liquor unfair. Revanth Baba says Kavitamma's arrest is correct. Who is Revanth working for? For Modi or Rahul Gandhi,"

Every vote for the Congress goes to the BJP. In the program Apni Ki Adalat, Revanth himself asks people to vote for the

"Secunderabad is the first

Gujarat model is fake. Revant seat BRS will win in Telangana Baba says that Telangana will in the Lok Sabha elections. Padma Rao Goud was the leader who raised the pink flag in Hyderabad in 2001. Padma Rao Goud is a leader who stands by KCR like a brother whether he wins or loses," he said.

"KCR installed the 125-feet statue of Ambedkar. Chief Minister Revanth did not garland that. If Revanth is to garland Ambedkar then why is he sitting in the secretariat built by



"After Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister a strange situation is seen. Rahul Baba calls some Chowkidar Chor. Revanth Baba says Modi Bade Bhai. Rahul Baba says Adani fraud. Revanth Baba Adani's best friend.

KTR said that as Padma Rao Goud is contesting from Secunderabad, Kishan is thinking of contesting from a different constituency.

"The policy of Prime Minister Modi is either be in our pocket or be in jail. Our minority brothers should think at least once what the situation was in this country.

'Revanth behaved wisely by giving Bhongir ticket to his associate'

The Munugode Congress MLA, Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy behaved wisely by giving the Bhongir ticket to his associate and by appointing him (Rajgopal) as

Addressing a meeting of Congress activists of Alair, Bhongir, Nakrekal, Thungathurthi and Ibrahimpatnam held at Munugode on Thursday, Rajgopal said that there would be no kick if the party wins somewhere else, but there will

be a kick if the party wins in

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah on Thursday expressed

confidence that the Bharativa

Janata Party will give its best

performance so far in south India in the Lok Sabha elec-

Shah, the BJP candidate

from Gandhinagar Lok Sabha

constituency, was talking to

PTI during a campaign road-

or South, the atmosphere in the

country suggests that we will

get more than 400 seats. The

BJP's performance in south

India will be the best-ever this

The party will sweep all 26

"Be it the East, West, North

show in Ahmedabad city.

PNS AHMEDABAD

tions this time.



He said that the BRS made Telangana which was created by the Congress, a debt-riddled state and that the KCR family will certainly go to jail. Leaders, who mortgaged their selfrespect at the feet of KCR have no right to speak about him, Rajagopal said, making it clear that the Komatireddy brothers

seats in Gujarat with high

margins, and its tally in Uttar

Pradesh will be the highest

Notably, the BIP had won 25

seats in Karnataka and four in

Telangana in the 2019 general

southern states, namely, Kerala,

Tamil Nadu and Andhra

Pradesh, the party had drawn

Asked how many seats the

opposition's INDIA bloc will

get, Shah said, "If we are going

to win 400 seats, you can

imagine how many will be left

trust and enthusiasm for Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in the

"There is an atmosphere of

ever, Shah claimed.

a blank.

Will give best performance in south: Shah

will not fight for posts. He said that BRS leaders were roaming free keeping Kanduvas in their pockets and that people cast their vote seeing his face in the Munugode by-poll and not seeing the BJP. He said that there is no BRS and BJP in Bhongir con-

Rajgopal said that he is trying to get a huge majority from the seven Assembly constituencies in Bhongir LS constituency. He made it clear that the constituency which would give a huge majority to Bhongir Congress candidate Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, will be given development projects worth Rs 100 crore.

Certain media houses abuse me for attacking BJP: Rahul

PNS ■ KANNUR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged certain media houses regularly abuse him for criticising the policies and ideologies of the BJP and the ruling dispensation at the Centre and were "distorting his image nationwide."

Addressing a massive election rally here, he attacked the BJP, saying it was creating disharmony in the nation and, in turn, harming millions of people in the country.
"I fight the BJP and the RSS.

No matter what they do, I fight them every day. I have an ideological difference with them, and I get up every day and think to myself, how am I gonna disturb them today?



But there is a cost to this. "Their media channels abuse

me 24 hours a day. My image is distorted across the country," Gandhi said.

Criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting violence-hit Manipur, he said that wherever the BJP goes, "they will divide people, make people fight with each other, and create problems."

"The thing to understand is

that India has never been as unfair as it is today. Wealth has never been distributed as unequally as it is today. So the next (Congress-led) government has to aggressively sup-port poor people," Gandhi

He attacked Modi, alleging inaction during the COVID-19 pandemic, and said when lakhs of people were dying, the Prime Minister asked the people to clap hands.

...And the entire media was saying how brilliant our Prime Minister is," Gandhi said, adding "because you don't understand India and because you take decisions without asking anybody, you are creating tremendous damage to this country."

Venugopal is Rahul's right-hand man, says Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal is playing a key role in the INDI Alliance and has to win in the Lok Sabha elections, Telangana CM Revanth Reddy said on Thursday in Alappuzha in Kerala.

He said that KC Venugopal is the right-hand man of Rahul Gandhi and plays a crucial role in the Lok Sabha.

Speaking to the media, Revanth said, "Venugopal plays a crucial role in the

the founder of the Lok Satta

party, Jayaprakash Narayan,

Reddy, the Chairman of the

Telangana Bar Council and P.

of the Sweekar Academy,

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a big setback to the opposition TDP chief, the apex court

refused to further defer the

hearing on petitions related to

Hanumantha Rao, the founder

Kishan appealed to the people

Pashyam Yadigiri, Narasimha

Nobody can defeat me in

Secunderabad: Kishan

INDI Alliance. His victory is necessary. He is the right-hand man of Rahul Gandhi and has to play a crucial role in the Lok Sabha. So, I am requesting everyone to vote for him. LDF has nothing to do with this election. This is a fight between Modi and Rahul. Rahul is going to win. He is fighting for a cause. He wants to 'save' democracy. Practically, the BJP has failed to do anything. There are 135 Parliament members from

BRS banks on...

At the same time, the

Congress has improved its

strength after coming to

power in Telangana. The BJP

depends only on the image of

Prime minister Narendra Modi. Power has given addi-

tional strength to the

Congress. The image of the

age-old party in the public,

implementation of welfare

schemes and Rahul, Priyanka

Gandhi's election campaign

will bring victory to them,

said a senior Congress leader.

The BRS has to depend on

Telangana sentiment. Anti-

government factor against

the State and Central govern-

ments will help them in win-

ning majority seats, the BRS

2024. As soon as the hearing on

the petition began today, coun-

sels of Naidu and the Telangana

government requested the court

to postpone the hearing yet

again and sought more time to

Continued from page 1

Kejriwal eating food high in sugar: ED

DESPITE TYPE 2

DIABETES



PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested in an excise scam case, is eating food high in sugar like mangoes and sweets every day despite having type 2 diabetes to create grounds for medical bail, the ED claimed before a court here on Thursday.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) made the claim before special judge for CBI and ED cases, Kaveri Baweja, who directed the Tihar jail authorities to file a report in the matter, including Kejriwal's diet chart.

Kejriwal has moved the court seeking permission to consult his regular doctor via video conference because of fluctuating sugar levels.

The judge directed the authorities concerned to file the report by tomorrow, when the court is likely to take up the matter again.

"Arvind Kejriwal is eating high sugar content food despite having type 2 diabetes. He is consuming 'aloo poori', mango, sweets, daily. This is being done to make grounds for medical bail," the ED told the court.

'Centre trying to...

Continued from page 1

He questioned why the TG Congress government is silent despite all this happening. "If the Centre is moving against the tribunal's order, what is the TG government not stopping it? Isn't that the inefficiency of the state government?" KCR asked.

"If Telangana's river waters have to be saved it is possible only through the BRS. BRS MPs will save the river water that should belong to Telangana and will fight for it," KČR said.

He said, "Why we should vote for the BJP? Is it because the value of one USD has increased to Rs 83? Is it because the water is being diverted from Ichchampally? Is it because projects on Krishna River have been handed over to the KRMB? Is it for including seven mandals in AP? Or is to affixing meters on agricultural pumps?"

CM following KCR's path, says Mothkupally

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress leader Mothkupally Narsimhulu said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is not giving an appointment to meet him and added that Revanth is following the path of former Minister Chandrasekhar Rao.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is conspiring to ensure that Madigas do not get tickets and that the CM is giving tickets to leaders coming from other political parties. He demanded that Revanth should

day hunger strike on Thursday at his residence in Begumpet saying that the Congress is doing injustice to Madigas. He said that he has worked with many Chief Ministers but conditions have changed a lot now.He said that Revanth has not made even a single good decision and that the people won't vote for his schemes.

"It is my last press conference. Will the Congress give tickets to Madigas only if I die," he said.

However, Mothkupally ended his one-day hunger give at least one LS ticket to
Madigas.

Mothkupally staged a one
Strike after senior Cong
leader V. Hanumantha
offered him lemon juice. strike after senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao

Revanth to start campaign from today

PNS HYDERABAD

Following the release of the election notification, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will take part in the election campaign of the Congress from Friday in Telangana.

The Chief Minister will attend the nomination filing of Mahbubnagar Lok Sabha constituency candidate Ch. Vamsichand Reddy on Friday. On Friday evening the CM will attend a public meeting in Mahbuhahad for Mahabubabad LS candidate

Porika Balaram Naik. TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha Tithi: Ekadashi: Apr 18 05:32 PM to Apr 19 08:05 PM Apr 19 08:05 PM to Apr 20 10:41 PM Nakshatram: Apr 18 07:56 AM Magha: to Apr 19 10:56 AM Purva Phalguni to Apr 20 02:04 PM Rahukalam: 10:41 AM to 12:15 PM 3:22 PM to 4:56 PM Yamaqandam: 07:59 PM to 09:47 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:50 AM to 12:40 PM **HYDERABAD WEATHER** Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 39°°

7:34 AM to 9:08 AM

08:14 AM to 10:02 AM

Varjyam:

Amritakalam:

Humidity: 34% Sunrise: 5:57 AM

Sunset: 6:33 PM

Updated: April 18, 2024 5:00 PM

the nomination filing programme of Medak candidate Neelam Madhu on Saturday.

The CM will campaign in Karnataka on Saturday, that is, April 20. After that the CM will attend the nomination filing programme of Congress candidate Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy in Bhongir on The CM will attend the

Congress meeting being held in Adilabad on April 22 morning. On April 23, the CM will attend the public meeting in

Nagar Kurnool and address it. The CM will attend meetings being held in Zaheerabad on April 24 morning and in the evening of the same day at Warangal.

'BJP will win...

Continued from page 1

KCR has recently said that the Congress government in Telangana will not last more than a year "as nobody knows who will join the BJP and when"."We don't know, the Chief Minister (Revanth Reddy) himself may jump to the BJP," he said.KCR said while they want the Congress government to complete its five-year term, considering the recent developments, he doubts if it will last more than a year. He also said that all surveys showed that the Congress would not get more than two Lok Sabha seats in Telangana.

He said that hundreds of two pariwars.

Continued from page 1

Christians died at the hands of BJP goons in Manipur. However, Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah did not visit Manipur. But Rahul met the kin of the victims in Manipur, he said and added that Rahul will take

Continued from page 1

KCR made these com-

ments at the BRS meeting

held at the Telangana

Bhavan. KCR said that BL

Santosh tried to topple the

BRS government. He said

that a case was registered

against BL Santosh and

notices were sent to him. He

said that the TG police went

to the BJP central office. This

made Modi vengeful about

the BRS.He said that there

was no case against Kavitha

and that she was arrested

only to exact revenge. The

BJP dragged Kavitha into the

'Wayanad voters... oath as the PM on June 9. "A fight is going on between

> The ED, EVMs, CBI, IT, Adani and Ambani are in the Modi Pariwar but Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and the people of Wayanad are in the INDIA Pariwar," Revanth said.

> > money laundering case, he

KCR made it clear that the

future of the state is the BRS

and that victory in the LS

elections belongs to the pink

brigade. The BRS is going to

win eight LS seats as per a

survey and in three more

seats there are chances of

winning, KCR said reported-

ly after giving away B-Forms

strong opposition among

the people towards the

Congress government. "If

you work hard, you will get

good results in the Lok

KCR said that there is

to BRS candidates.

Power demand...

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G.

him from winning the Lok

Sabha elections and that the

people of Secunderabad Lok

his victory again. Giving a

Sabha constituency will ensure

PowerPoint presentation named

'Report to the People' on what

he did for Secunderabad as its

Convention Centre attended by

MP Thursday at the Pingle

Venkata Ramana Reddy

Kishan Reddy said that he is

confident that nobody can stop

In March 2024, the average three years.

who went from the BRS to

the Congress are suffering. A

BRS leader went to the

Congress thinking that there

is power there but the BJP

story is going on in the

He told BRS workers that

KCR of the Telangana

movement will be seen

again." He said that his bus

journey route map will be

good response from the peo-

ple and that roadshows will

KCR said that there is

conducted from

finalised on Thursday.

Congress as well," he said.

Continued from page 1

demand was 14,534 MW and consumption 289.71 MU and in April 2024 the average demand was 12,429 MW and consumption 256.11 MU. There is a 16% to 20% increase this year compared to the demand in the last

KCR predicts political turmoil... Sabha elections. The leaders

Continued from page 1

In a letter addressed to the BRS President, the

file the reply in the case.A bench of Justices Sundaresh cash for vote case in 2015. The Court told Chandrababu Naidu and the Telangana state governand SVN Bhatti heard the petiment that this would be the final tion seeking the inclusion of forchance for them to put forth mer Andhra Pradesh chief mintheir arguments in the case. The ister and TDP chief apex court posted the matter for Chandrababu Naidu as an the next hearing on July 24, accused in the case.

KCR seeks time....

CASH-FOR-VOTE CASE

Setback to Naidu in SC

Principal Secretary Avinash Kumar said that the Commission had received a complaint from G. Niranjan, the Senior Vice-President of the TPCC on April 6. The complaint said that KCR "had made certain vulgar, derogatory and objectionable comments against the the Congress leaders.

Responding the Election Commission wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer on Election Commission April 9, requesting a factual report. Accordingly, the CEO submitted the report on April 10, along with the report from the Rajanna Siricilla district election officer. According to Kumar, the factual report sent by the CEO to the EC revealed that KCR had used foul language against

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Legacy needs to be passed on to posterity: GHMC chief

PNS HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose on Thursday said that there is a need to pass on the legacy to the future generations, during a Heritage Walk that was held on the occasion of World

Heritage Day.

The Heritage Walk started from Dar-ul-Shifa, Salar Jung Museum and ended at Osmania Hospital. Zonal Commissioners, HODs and others participated in the Heritage Walk along with Commissioner Ronald Rose.

The GHMC Commissioner said that special efforts are being made to protect the important heritage sites in the city. The renovation of Mojam Jahi Market, Moulali Kaman and Clock Tower has been completed at a cost of Rs 18.33

Action will be taken to complete various unfinished works around Charminar. Six arches around Charminar have been proposed for reconstruction and restoration works. "Necessary steps will be taken to complete the work of Murgi Chowk and Sardar Mahal," he

He also said that during the walk, the old municipal building, as well as the Salar Jung Museum were seen through photographs of what it looked like in the past and how it is Dewan Devadi Kaman,

EPTRI calls for proposals on documentation of heritage sites

Asignificant initiative has been announced by A Vani Prasad, Principal Secretary to the Government of Telangana and Director General, EPTRI, on the occasion of World Heritage Day. Alongside her, M Prashanti. Additional Secretary to the Government of Telangana, has extended an invitation for proposals on the documentation of heritage sites, wetlands, natural or unique landforms, vegetation, and flora and fauna, which will be jointly sponsored by the Environment, Protection, Training and Research Institute (EPTRI) and Telangana Biodiversity Board (TBB). Recognising the importance of preserving our cultural and natural heritage, Vani Prasad urged universities, institutions, organisations, NGOs, research scholars and students to

actively participate in this

documentation initiative Their

collective efforts are vital in

safeguarding and promoting the

now. There is a need to know

the difference, he said. The six

kamans that will be recon-

structed and renovated are

Rani Ganj Kaman, Sheikh Faiz



rich cultural and ecological diversity of Telangana. The initiative aims to document and preserve various heritage sites across the region. This effort seeks to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our heritage, encouraging active participation in its preservation for the benefit of future generations. Interested parties are invited to submit their

Dabirpura Kaman and Hussain

Kiran, Sneha Sabarish,

Abhilash Abhinav, Pankaja,

Venkanna, Additional Commissioners K Srivatsav,

Zonal Commissioners Ravi

Alam Kaman.

Venkanna,

The deadline for submitting the proposals is May 15, 2024. Participants are encouraged to submit their proposals and join the preservation effort They said, this World Heritage Day, let us come together to celebrate and preserve our invaluable heritage by documenting and conserving our cultural and natural treasures.

Chandrakant Reddy, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Veterinary Officer, Chief Entomology Officer Dr Padmaja, Dr Abdul Wakil, Dr Rambabu and others partici-

Focus on safeguarding heritage at Bansilalpet stepwell in city

PNS HYDERABAD

The Meil Foundation and the Sudha Reddy Foundation co-hosted a commemoration of World Heritage Day at the Bansilalpet Stepwell (Koneru Bavi) in Secunderabad on Thursday. The event highlighted the significance of safeguarding our heritage for the generations to

Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, Shailaja Ramaiyer, inaugurated the event by lighting a lamp and began the programme.

The Bansilalpet Stepwell, served as a crucial water source for the Gandhi Hospital well into the 20th century; however, its significance decreased in the 1980s incidents of suicide In 2022 the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Foundation, Sudha Reddy said, "Heritage Corporation and The Rainwater Project is the legacy passed down to us from time World Heritage Day event.



Shailaja Ramaiyer, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, P Sudha Reddy, Director of Meil and Chairman of the Sudha Reddy Foundation seen lighting a lamp at the Bansilalpet Stepwell

led the restoration efforts, breathing new life into this historical landmark. Over 2000 tons of debris were carefully cleared

during the restoration process.

immemorial. It shapes our present and moulds our future.

She also said, stepwells demonstrate architectural brilliance, symbolising both our past and future. It is necessary upon every citizen to cherish and uphold our vibrant cultural heritage.'

The Sudha Foundation fosters committed plans to contribute to the restoration of heritage sites across the Telugu States and India.

The occasion featured a traditional dance performance by "Shanmata" along with traditional music performances.

Shailaia Ramaiver, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, P Sudha Reddy, Director of Meil and Chairman of the Sudha Reddy Foundation, Kommareddy Vijavahhaskaramma an few other dignitaries participated in the

Three teenagers drowned in pond, another rescued

PNS HYDERABAD

A tragic incident occurred in Balayya Nagar where three teenagers went swimming in a pond but drowned.

On a tip-off, Bachupally police recused one of them while the other two were

Bachupally police officials said, "Three teenagers, Ayan (15), Nyan (15) and Khidar (16) went swimming on Thursday at a nearby pond. While swimming, one of them didn't know how to swim and was about to drown.

The other two boys went to save him but all of them drowned. The locals immediately informed us about this

By the time we reached the spot, two children were already dead while the third one was rescued.

The bodies of other two children were taken out and sent to a local hospital for post-mortem. "Due to hurry, we haven't properly taken details of the boy who was recused", they added.

A case was registered and the investigation is on.



Guv takes part in Sri Rama Pattabhishekam at Bhadradri

PNS HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana and Jharkhand and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, CP Radhakrishnan, took part in the celestial marriage of Sri Pattabhishekam at the historic Sita Ramachandra temple Swami Bhadrachalam temple town

In adherence to the tradition, the Governor offered pattu vastralu at the celestial

on Thursday.

coronation ceremony of Lord

Speaking on the occasion, Radhakrishnan stated that he was blessed to witness the divine ceremony at the historic temple. The Governor called for the promotion of ideal human values embodied in Lord Sri Rama.

Earlier, Radhakrishnan had a darshan of the presiding deities at the Bhadradri temple and offered special

The priests who performed

the Samrajya Pattabhishekam ceremony blessed the Governor with ashirvachanam and presented him with the temple prasadam.

Principal Secretary to the Governor B Venkatesham, Joint Secretary to the Governor J Bhavani Shankar, the Commissioner, Endow ments, the Collector and the SP of Bhadradri\Kothagudem district, and temple authorities were among those who accompanied the Governor during his visit to the temple.

SCR celebrates Heritage Day at Kacheguda Railway Station

PNS HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway celebrated the World Heritage Day on Thursday at Kacheguda railway station. R Dhananjayulu, Additional General Manager, SCR, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Every year, the World Heritage Day is observed to spread awareness about our rich cultural diversity and importance of preserving ancient heritage for the future generations. The World Heritage Day (WHD) is celebrated with different themes every year as declared by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMS). Accordingly, the theme for the year 2024 has been declared as "Disaster & Conflicts through the Lens of the Venice Charter". Senior railway officials, staff, rail users and schoolchildren also partic-

AGM Dhananjayulu appre-

WORLD LIVER DAY



"Rail Museum" which showcases the origin and growth of railways in the region. He called upon everyone to honour and celebrate the timeless heritage of our country. "Indian Railways is at the forefront in preservation of rich heritage in the form of monuments and sites," he added.

He also inaugurated the Kacheguda Rail Museum. The Additional General Manager unveiled one display item showcasing logos of different railways from the pre-independent era at the museum ased a souvenir coffee Division in the upkeep of the mug. The employees and stuaesthetically designed unique dents presented a Nukkad

Later, he presented prizes to the winners of drawing, debate and essay-writing competitions and also felicitated the staff involved in the maintenance of the rail museum. In view of the

World Heritage Day celebrations, free entry is being given to the Rail museum for general public, school and college students till April 23. This initiative has been taken to encourage passengers and children, to get a glimpse of The Rail Museum visiting hours are 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Peace more important than polls, says Asaduddin

PNS HYDERABAD

"The peace in Hyderabad and Telangana is more important than elections. I am confident that the people of Telangana will vote against the BJP," AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said on Thursday.

The Hyderabad MP was reacting to Kompella Madhavi Latha's viral video in which the BJP Lok Sabha candidate from Hyderabad is seen aiming an imaginary arrow towards a mosque in Siddiamber Bazaar during the Ram Navami Yatra.

"The people of Telangana have understood the BJP's intention. I humbly appeal to them to use their voting rights wisely," Asaduddin said.

"The BJP is using vulgar videos for political gains. However, they won't succeed as the people will not accept it. Is this what the BJP means by Viksit Bharat and Sab ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas," the MP

Three drug peddlers held; 7 gm heroin seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force (East Zone), in coor-Gudimalkapur police, arrested three drug peddlers and seized 7 grams of heroin from

The accused were identified as Man Singh Batala (30), a chef and resident of Mehdipatnam; Syed Obaid (26), a Rapido rider and resident of Tolichowki; Shabbar Hussain (30), a resident of Langar Houz. While, he was a student Man was influenced by his peers and consumed ganja.

Later, he was involved in two cases including bodily offence and a property theft and was sent to Chanchalguda jail. After

being released, Man came in contact with his childhood friends and co accused Obaid and Hussain. They planned tio procure and sell drugs in order to make money.

The accused pooled Rs

10,000 and searched for a supplier. Man contacted a . Nigerian national residing in Bengaluru. The Nigerian peddled heroin, Man went to Bengaluru to procure the same. Upon his return, Man asked Obaid and Shabbar to collect the drug from him at Cost to Cost , Reti Bowli. Based on a tip off the police nabbed the accused and handed them over to Gudimalkapur police. Apart from the drug, three mobile phones and a bike, all worth Rs 2,10,000 were seized from



every year on April 19, people around the globe come together to observe World Liver Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about liver-related diseases and advocating for better liver health. The liver, often referred to as the body's work horse, plays a vital role in various bodily functions, including metabolism, digestion, detoxification, and nutrient storage. However, despite its significance, liver diseases continue to pose a significant public health challenge world-



wide," Rao explained. "Liver diseases encompass a wide range of conditions, including viral hepatitis, fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and autoimmune liver disorders. These diseases can be caused by various factors, including viral infections, excessive alcohol consumption, obesity, unhealthy diet, genetic predisposition, and to toxins. Alarmingly, liver diseases are on the rise globally, with millions of people affected each

One of the primary objectives of World Liver Day is to promote early detection and diagnosis of liver diseases. Timely screening and detection can significantly improve treatment outcomes and prevent the progression of liver damage," he added.

"Regular health check-ups, including liver function tests and imaging studies, are essential for identifying liver abnormalities at an early stage when interventions are most effective. Furthermore, raising awareness about the risk factors associated with liver diseases is crucial for prevention. Lifestyle modifications, such as

maintaining a healthy weight, adopting a balanced diet, limiting alcohol consumption, avoiding illicit drug use, and practicing safe sex, can significantly reduce the risk of developing liver-related disorders. Vaccination against hepatitis B and screening for hepatitis C are also important preventive

measures," the doctor stressed.

Rao further stressed on access to healthcare services, affordable medications, vaccination programs, and public health initiatives are essential components of a comprehensive strategy to combat liver diseases. Governments, healthcare providers, advocacy organisations, and the private sector must collaborate to implement policies and programs that promote liver health and address health dis-

55 graft cases registered in 100 days of Cong govt, says ACB

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday announced that 55 cases of corruption were registered during the first 100 days of Congress tenure in the State.

The ACB is vigilant against corruption in all departments of the government.

It further stated that one case of corruption is registered every four days. Most of the accused are either police personnel or revenue offi-

On Thursday, the ACB arrested two government officials for demanding a bribe of courts in Warangal.

Rs 15,000. The accused was identified as Lakkireddy Venkata Ramani, a town planning supervisor in Bhadradri\Kothagudem dis-

The ACB apprehended the accused for accepting the bribe from the complainant identified as Kampelli Kanakeswara Rao.

The bribe was to be divided between Ramani and water supply worker Perabattula Prasanna Kumar to process the LRS applications of the complainant.

The accused were arrested and produced before the sessions judge for SPE and ACB

Two students from TG, AP nabbed for shoplifting in US

PNS HYDERABAD

In an incident reported from New Jersey, United States, two female students from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were arrested for

shoplifting. Hyderabda and Guntur. They were pursuing studies in New Jersey. The incident occurred on March 19, when Hoboken ShopRite alerted the police that the girls did not pay for certain items that they had purchased. The accused lifted



The accused belong to 27 items worth Rs 12,948

One of the students offered to pay the full amount or even double it for the items they had stolen earlier. Meanwhile, the other pleaded with the police to release them, promising they wouldn't commit the

same offence again. When the police asked why they hadn't paid for some items, one of them explained that she had a "limited balance"

in her account while the other said that they had simply forgotten. The police informed the duo that they commited a crime and that action would be taken to ensure the law was

The two students were also asked to provide written confirmation that they wouldn't revisit the shop.

Poland's Charge d'affaires visits Polmor factory PNS HYDERABAD

Poland's Charge d' affaires to India, Sebastian Domzalski, visited Polmor Steel factory in Telangana's Medak district on Thursday.

Accompanied by the Consul General of Poland, Aleksander Danda, Economic Counsellor at the Embassy of Poland, Pawel Mokrzycki and Polmor Managing Director KVR Subba Rao, visited the factory at Automotive Park, in Kallakal and Muppireddypalli industrial area in Medak dis-

The delegation went around both the existing plants and the new facility currently under construction.

Polmor Steel is a leading manufacturer of critical components for railway companies and is set to embark on a significant expansion initiative in Telangana, promising to create more employment opportunities in the region.

Expressing his delight at witnessing the progress of a Polish company in India, Domzalski commended Polmor Steel's commitment to growth and job creation. He highlighted the company's alignment with the Union Government's 'Make in India' initiative and extended his best wishes for its continued

Subba Rao shared insights into the company's expan-



sion strategy. "As several European companies establish their presence in India, Polmor Steel is proud to contribute to this trend by

expanding its operations. With plans to acquire an additional 3 acres for expansion and inject 2.5 million euros in capital, we aim to create

employment opportunities for an additional 100 individuals, he said.

More than 30 employees of Polmor Steel are now working in parent company in Poland. This is allowing our people to work in Europe and learn and develop and enhance their skills to deliver European

standard products, he said.
Acknowledging the support received from various stakeholders, including the State government of Telangana and Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC), Subba Rao expressed gratitude to the Ambassador, Consul General and Economic Counsellor for their visit and encouragement.

BJP wooing sitting MP who joined Congress to its fold

With the commencement of the filing of the nominations, the political heat gained momentum in Peddapalli Lok Sabha constituency.

Ruling Congress and oppo-sition BJP and BRS candidates have been devising strategies and counter strategies lending curious turn to the elections in

the Peddapalli seat.
On Friday, Congress and
BRS candidates are going to file their nomination papers. KTR is going to be present in the rally of Koppula Eswar in filing of the nomination papers. All arrangements have been made to conduct a road show in Peddapalli. Plans have been drafted to ensure that all important BRS leaders were present in the nomination papers filing event.

Meanwhile, Congress nominee Gaddam Vamsi Krishna readied himself to file the first set of nominations on Friday. State Minister and in-charge for



A file picture of Gaddam Vamshi Krishna and his father Gaddam Vivekananda.

Peddapalli constituency D Sridhar Babu and all six Congress MLAs in the constituency would be present at the event. The BJP has been toying with the idea of replacing its candidate Gomasa Srinivas, who is lagging behind his rivals in the campaign. Several important leaders in the BJP opposed Gomasa Srinivas' candidature. Several surveys indicate his

poor faring in the campaign. Therefore, the BJP is toying with the idea of changing the candidate. The sitting MP Venkatesh quit the BRS joined the Congress to get nominated from Peddapalli. However, the Congress showed him an empty hand. The BJP has been trying to woo him to its side and replace Gomasa Srinivas with him. The followers of Union

convinced him to contest the elections. The candidature of Venkatesh is going to be announced officially in a day or two. The BJP elders in Delhi has asked Venkatesh to keep ready his nomination papers.

The political analysts pre-

rice point an analysts predicts that the contest in Peddapalli seat will be all the more interesting in the event of Venkatesh filing papers contesting the election on the BJP tight. Triportity contest is ticket. Tripartite contest is inevitable in the contest here with the present of Venkatesh in the fray. Venkatesh is likely to get good support from his community voters of Netakani community and also that of Madiga community.

The Congress did not allot tickets to Madiga community anywhere in Telangana. Whom will Madiga voters in Peddapalli, the largest chunk, will vote for is stirring up an interesting debate among the political circles.

WEAVERS TO RESUME PROTEST FROM APRIL 22

PNS SIRCILLA

The JAC of weavers of textile industry of Sircilla and employees of allied sectors at a meeting held here on Thursday decided to resume their protest programme in the government fails to fulfill its promise to the JAC to resolve their crisis.

The JAC leaders have decided to resume the protest if the government fails to resolve the problems of the textile industryhere, clear the pending dues to the weavers and fail to place orders with the weavers. The JAC has decided to resume the protest from Monday onwards.

The JAC convenor Musham Ramesh has pointed out that the assurances given to the JAC by BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Govt Whip Adi Srinivas, Sircilla constituency Congress incharge KK Mahender Reddy to implement the demands of the JAC are still yet to be implemented. He said that the JAC suspended its protest programme temporarily as Ponnam Prabhakar met JAC leaders 10 days ago.

Cong awaiting candidates for 3 remaining LS seats

a position to make a decision and is in a dilemma, it is learnt.The Congress may

announce the three names

immediately after that leader

joins the Congress. Or else, the

party may announce the name

of one of its Karimnagar tick-

et hopefuls, that is, Velichala

Rajender Rao, A. Praveen

Reddy or Theenmar Mallanna.

more days for the key leader.

The last date for filing nomi-

Lok Sabha Congress activists'

preparatory meeting was held

However, the Karimnagar

nations is April 25.

The party may wait a few

K.VENKATESHWARLU

The eyes of not only the Congress but all other parties and political observers are on the three constituencies of Karimnagar, Khammam and Hyderabad as the Congress has not so far announced its candidates for these constituencies although the ECI issued its notification on Thursday and many candidates filed their nomination papers.

However, it is learnt that the

Congress is seriously trying to induct an important leader from Karimnagar district and so the Congress is not announcing the name of its Karimnagar candidate besides Khammam and Hyderabad.

AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal said on April 14 that a key leader is joining the Congress and there is no hurry to announce candidates for Karimnagar, Khammam and Hyderabad.

According to sources, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's advisor Vem Narender Reddy is holding talks with that key leader from Karimnagar. Transport Minister Ponnam However, that leader is not in Prabhakar on Thursday.

Ticket hopeful Velichala Rajender Rao, Huzurabad in-charge Vadithala Pranav, Government Whip Adi Srinivas and others attended the meeting.

At the meeting, Velichala Rajender Rao said the high command has not yet announced the name of the Karimnagar candidate. However, Congress activists and ticket hopefuls have to work together whoever the candidate might be.

The Congress may announce these three candidates' names after the expected joining of under the supervision of

Filing of nomination papers begins across TG on first day

PNS HYDERABAD

Several candidates filed their nomination papers across the State on the first day of filing

papers on Thursday.
In Medchal-Malkajgiri district, BJP leader Eatala
Rajender filed nomination papers with election returning officer. Similarly, in Peddapalli district, four independent cadidates have filed their nomination papers on the first day of the filing nomination papers on Thursday. They submitted their nomination papers to Collector and returning officer Muzammeel Khan.

Independents Akkapaka Tirupati, Duda Mahipal, D Raj Kumar and Nookala Navin filed their papers. The collector said that the nominations

PNS HYDERABAD

on Thursday.

Union Minister Hardeep

Singh Puri attended the nom-

ination rally of BJP's candidate

from Malkajgiri Lok Sabha

constituency, Etala Rajender

Speaking on the occasion, Puri said, "He (Etala Rajender)

is a very good candidate, very

experienced...He will win and

we will use his experience in

Delhi also. I want to wish him

all the best, I will come again

Malkajgiri is a special constituency and it is Mini-India.

He exuded confidence that

Etala will win the elections and

work with Narendra Modi for

On the other hand, the BJP

the development of India.

Puri further said that

to congratulate him.'



would be received till April 25. In undivided Adilabad district, two nominations were filed for Adilabad LS seat on the first day. Rathod Subhash belonging to Ichoda mandal and Maloth Shyamalal Naik submitted their papers to the district returning officer Rajarshi Sha.

The Retired RTC Employees Association leader Rapelli Satyanarayana on the first day filed his nomination papers to

Hardeep Singh says Eatala will

win, use his services in Delhi

candidates—DK Aruna, Eatala

Rajender and M Raghunandan

Rao filed their nominations on

the first day of filing nomina-

tions on April 18 on Thursday.

run for the Nizamabad Lok Sabha election and submitted his papers to Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu. No súccessive government bothered to resolve problems of the retired RTC employees. His objective is to ensure that the former RTC employees resolve their problems. In Bhongir district, Lingi Venkateswarlu belonging to Suryapeta filed his nomination papers on Thursday contesting on behalf of the

BJP National vice-president DK Aruna filed her nomination papers with the district returning officer Mahabubnagar on Thursday as the BJP candidate for the Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha seat. Rajya Sabha member Lakshman and other BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the former

BRS MLA from Uppal Bethi

Subash Reddy joined the BJP in presence of Puri, Kishan

REFUTES ALLEGATIONS

Jagadish claims himself to be a true TG warrior

PNS NALGONDA

Former Minister G Jagadish Reddy has claimed himself as a true Telangana warrior and would not hesitate to go to jail any number of times for the sake of the people of the state.

Refuting allegations levelled against him by Komatireddy Brothers at a media conference held here on Thursday, he reiterated his statement that CM Revanth Reddy is sure to cross over to the BJP after the LS

Breathing fire on the Komatireddy Brothers for their criticism of him, he said that they forfeited their right to criticise him. A sudden windfall of luck made them rich. Out of extreme ecstasy they were unmindful of what they have been doing, he said.



Jagadish Reddy has pointed out that the two brothers were known by the nickname "brokers". He called them good for nothing persons in district level politics. He alleged that the Komatireddy Brothers received kickbacks from the then CM YS Rajasekhar Reddy by selling Nagarjunasagar water to the people of Andhra at the cost of the farmers of the Nalgonda district and fluorosis affected people.

TG Punjabi Sabha to host Baisakhi Mela

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Punjabi Sabha (TPS) is hosting Baisakhi Mela, grand family carnival at the HITEX Exhibition Centre on April 21, to commemorate the onset of the new solar year and the harvest season. The event consists of various activities including shopping stalls, food courts, games and live musical performances by renowned artistes such as Meet Brothers and Capricio Band. President of Telan gana Punjabi Sabha, Ravinder Singh Sarna said, "Elaborate arrangements have been made for the full-day extravaganza, which will start from 10 am and will end at 10 pm at Hitex Hall-I and Fair Park Lawns.

Spanning over one lakh

square feet, this unique celebration in Hyderabad is carefully planned by Sarna and the TPS team, ensuring a memorable experience for attendees. The venue comes with 35,000 square feet of air-conditioned space, 55,000 square feet of lawn space for live concerts, and 20,000 square feet of open area for various enter-

tainment activities. With over 100 shopping stalls, a kids play zone offering more than 30 games, and a dedicated pets zone with a zoo, the Baisakhi Mela promises something for everyone. Over 40 food stalls will offer different varieties of authentic Punjabi cuisine. The event will be a vibrant celebration of Punjabi culture and tra-

Cong may face rough weather over unfulfilled promises

PNS HYDERABAD

Four months after storming to power in Telangana, the Congress, which seeks to win 12 out of 17 seats in the State in the next month's Lok Sabha elections, may find the going tough as a section of voters feel that it has failed to deliver on several of the six guarantees given in the Assembly polls.

While free bus travel for women was introduced within 48 hours of the Congress government assuming office on December 7, 2023, and the launch of a couple of other schemes created a positive environment for the party, a large number of applicants who were left out are unhappy. Farmers are especially sore as none of the promises made to them were implemented.

A cross-section of voters who spoke were divided in their opinion about the implementation of the guarantees.

While those who benefited from 200 units of free electric-



ity per month and cooking gas cylinders for Rs 500 schemes are happy and said they will vote for Congress again, others who were left out feel let down by the ruling party. They want to support the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) as they believe that its government was prompt in delivering the benefits of welfare schemes.

Considering their experience of the last four months, these voters are taking the new guarantees made by the party at the national level with a pinch of salt, and many of them are not ready to trust it

too short a period to judge the performance of any government, the Congress failed to live up to its own word of implementing six guarantees within 100 days.

Many believe that the government rolled out the schemes just for the sake of launching them with their benefits reaching a limited number. White ration cards (issued to below poverty line families) were the basic criteria for selecting beneficiaries but those who did not possess these were unhappy over being left out.

Revanth & KCR in match fixing deal: BJP's Narsaiah

The BJP's Bhongir candidate, Boora Narsaiah Goud, said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao have entered into a matchfixing deal.

Narsaiah said the Revanth Reddy government has failed to implement its assurances given during the Assembly elections. He said that the Congress is scared that Revanth Reddy's government will fall and added that he was



400 seats and Modi will become the Prime Minister once again.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office here on Thursday, Narsaiah challenged Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy to contest

from Bhongir if he had the guts. He said that the people of Telangana has fallen from the frying pan into the fire. The death of a Gurukul student due to food poisoning reflects the working style of the Congress government, he said.

Narsaiah said that the Congress government came to power and bores dried up and water and power problems started. He said that the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project is the reason for the drying up of Nagarjuna Sagar



RAJA SINGH BOOKED FOR UNAUTHORISED RAM NAVAMI RALLY

PNS HYDERABAD

Goshamahal MLA, T Raja Singh was on Thursday booked by the Afzal Gunj police for carrying out a rally on Ram Navami day without permission.

Afzalguni Sub-Inspector P Rama Kishan filed a com-plaint against Singh for carrying out the unauthorised rally and causing a traffic jam at Gowliguda where the MLA addressed a large gathering.

Based on the complaint, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, his accomplice Joginder Sigh Bittu and others were booked under Sections 341, 290,188 and 171-c read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

Death of student of residential school due to food-poisoning

Revanth Reddy should quit CM post, says RS Praveen Kumar

PNS HYDERABAD

Nagarkarnool BRS MP candidate RS Praveen Kumar, referring to the death of a student in Bhongir social welfare residential school, on Thursday called Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy "heartless" as he did not respond on the suicide death of two hostel girls too in the past. He demanded Revanth Reddy to quit his CM

He sought to know from the government whether they run a people's government or subjecting the people to their vin-dictiveness. Prashant, who joined the residential schools at Bhongir with the objective of becoming either a doctor or an engineer, died due to food-poisoning, he said calling it so sad. Should we have a heartless per-



He sought to know from the government whether they run a people's government or subjecting the people to their vindictiveness. Prashant, who joined the residential schools at Bhongir with the objective of becoming either a doctor or an engineer, died due to

son and the person who lies queried. He asked the people through his teeth to be at the helms of affairs in the State, he making an emotional appeal to them "Should we keep the

lives of our children in his hands?" He appealed to them to think once again.

Prashant contracted diarrhoea on April 10. He was treated by a class 9 student, but his condition worsened on April 12. In spite of it, he had attended classes. The Bhongir Social Welfare School Principal was absent from attending the school for the past six days. The RO plant in the school is not functional. This is the sorry state of affairs of the residential schools in Telangana, he said.

The minister responsible for social welfare residential schools is none other than the CM Revanth Reddy. Who did not visit so far at least one residential school, he pointed out. He did not review the progress of the social welfare schools.

Six cops, negligent in duties suspended

PNS HYDERABAD

Multi Zone-1 Inspector General (IG) AV Ranganath on Thursday issued orders suspending six police officers who were performing police duties negligently. Two inspectors, two sub-inspectors, one head constable and one constable are among those suspended.

In relation to these suspended officials, the Multi Zone-1 IG said, "To aid for-mer MLA of Bodhan, Mohd Aamir Shakeel's son Rahil who caused the road accident at Praja Bhavan, within the at Praja Bhavan, within the limits of Panjagutta police station to escape, the Bodhan Inspector had contacted Panjagutta Inspector. This activity was confirmed by the Hyderabad City Police.

While the Bodhan

While the Bodhan Inspector BD Prem Kumar was suspended, Ramesh, Nizamabad District Central Crime Station (CCS) Inspector came to the police station after consuming alcohol and causing trouble to the station

In the investigation conducted by the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), it was found that Inspector Ramesh came to the station after consuming alcohol and behaved in an embarrassing manner thereby causing trouble to the station

While Ramesh was suspended, in another incident, SP Jagityala, based on the investigation report submitted by SP Jagityal, stated that SIG Manohar Rao, SI A Tirupati, Ravinder Reddy, Head Constable and T Narender, Constable were found negligent in dealing with a ganja case registered at Sarangapur Police Station of Jagityala district. Multi Zone-1 Inspector General issued orders to suspend

CASES AGAINST 10 OFFICERS FOR **NEGLECTING DUTIES**

PNS HYDERABAD

District Election Officer Ronald Rose, strictly warned the officials assigned to parliamentary election duties who have failed to attend training classes. He announced that a criminal case (Cr.No.155/24) has been registered under Section 134 of the RP Act, 1951 against the election staff who were absent from the training classes.

Syed Ilyas Ahmed, a Junior Assistant from the CRCS Department at the Office of the Commissioner, Coope ration and Registrar, Nampally; K. Mahesh, a Junior Assistant from TMREIS, Haj Committee; and Chiliveri Shantan Kumar, a Senior Assistant from the Roads and Buildings Department serving under the Engineer-in-Chief, R&B (Irrum Manzil), were among those who faced action under Section 134 of the RP Act, 1951 for failing to attend the election training sessions.

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | APRIL 19, 2024

Indian woman cadet on vessel MSC Aries returns home

nn Tessa Joseph, a woman cadet who was among the 17 Indians onboard container vessel MSC Aries that was seized by Iranian military over the weekend, Returned to Cochin on Thursday. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said the Indian mission in Tehran is in touch with the remaining 16 Indian crew members of the container vessel. "With the concerted efforts of the Indian

mission in Tehran and the Iranian government, Indian deck cadet Ms Ann Tessa Joseph from Thrissur, Kerala, who was among the Indian crew members of container vessel MSC Aries, has landed safely at the Cochin International Airport today afternoon," it said. At the airport, Joseph was received by the regional passport officer. "The Indian mission in Tehran remains seized of the matter and is in touch with the remaining 16 Indian crew members of the container vessel," the MEA said



Married woman, man jump in front of moving train

married woman and a man allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a Amoving train near Panlipar village here on mursuay, police said.

Shailendra Kumar Dubey (25) and Mahe Nigar (22), both residents of the same moving train near Pahlipar village here on Thursday, police said. The bodies of village in Ayodhya, were found on the Gonda railway line, they said. According to police, Nigar was married and her husband lived in Saudi Arabia while Dubey was soon getting

married and his pre-wedding functions were supposed to start today. They were having an affair and prima facie it seems that they committed suicide due to fear of separation, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police (North) Chiranjeev Nath Sinha said a motorcycle was also found parked about 50 meters away from the spot. They left their homes a day earlier on the pretext of taking medicine, the ASP said, adding that the matter is being



Court sets aside magistrate's order taking cognisance of chargesheet

court here has set aside the order of a magistrate taking cognisance of chargesheet Against three accused, observing that it did not mention the penal offences nor the facts which were considered. The court sent the matter back to the judicial officer. It directed the magistrate to pass a "detailed order" mentioning the facts which were considered along with the Indian Penal Code (IPC) offences under which the magisterial

court took cognisance. Principal District and Sessions Judge (south) Madhu Jain was hearing three revision petitions against a magisterial court taking cognisance of the charges against Gautam Kumar, Isha and Abhishek in February this year. The court noted, according to the complainant, Kumar raped her on the pretext of marriage and also threatened to kill her. In the case she filed at Pushp Vihar police station, she said when she went to Kumar's house for a conversation, his friends Isha and Abhishek assaulted her



SC TELLS PETITIONERS DOUBTING EVM MACHINES

Appreciate election panel's good work, says apex court

PNS NEW DELHI

Underscoring the importance of voter satisfaction and trust in the electoral system, the Supreme Court on Thursday told petitioners who sought its direction to go back to using ballot papers not to suspect the efficacy of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and appreciate if the Election Commission does good work.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas seeking complete cross-verification of votes cast using EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), said over suspicion of everything is a problem.

The VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which enables electors to see whether their votes have been

The bench made the

remarks when advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing petitioner 'Association for Democratic Reforms' (ADR), sought reversal of the poll panel's 2017 deci-

sion to replace the transparent glass on VVPAT machines with an opaque glass through which a voter can see the slip only when the light is on for seven seconds. "I understand it is the elec-

tion eve. At least the bulb which glows for seven seconds should be allowed to glow continuously after the button is pressed in the EVM," Bhushan The bench, which interact-

ed for nearly an hour with senior deputy election commissioner Nitesh Kumar Vyas to understand the functioning of EVMs, told Bhushan that voter satisfaction and trust are at the core of the electoral



"Mr. Bhushan, now you are oing too far. This is too much. Whether it's transparent or translucent glass on a VVPAT machine or the glowing of a bulb, ultimately it is the voter's satisfaction and trust (that matters). The bulb only helps you see better, that's all," the bench said.

It said, "Everything cannot be suspected. You (Bhushan) cannot be critical of everything. If they (the EC) have done something good, you have to appreciate it. You don't

have to be critical of every-

Bhushan said he is not casting any aspersion on the poll panel but possibility for improvement exists.

Justice Khanna told him, 'Agree. But if they have improved things within four corners of law, then it is fine. Bulb or no bulb, how does it matter? If an explanation is given, then you must appreciate it. Over suspicion of everything is a problem. A voter has to satisfy himself, that's all. They gave the explanation for the improvement, you heard them and everyone heard

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was in the courtroom, said as an officer of the court he is submitting that these efforts by petitioners, of doubting the efficacy of EVMs, on the eve of election has an impact on voter percentage.

Kerala to Centre: Ensure assistance to Indians in UAE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday urged the External Affairs Ministry to ensure a mechanism for extending assistance to Indians who need support due to heavy rains in the United Arab Émirates (UAE).

In a post on 'X', the chief minister also extended sincere gratitude to the Malavali expatriates involved in rescue efforts in the Gulf nation, with which Kerala shares warm ties.

"Heavy rains in Gulf countries are a serious concern. A year's worth of rain fell in a day in UAE, highlighting the urgent need for assistance. We request @MEAIndia to urgently ensure a mechanism to support Indians who are in hardship.

"Kerala and the Gulf share warm ties, and we extend our sincere gratitude to all Malayali expatriates involved in rescue efforts," he said.

SC reserves verdict on issue of regulating industrial alcohol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court reserved its verdict on Thursday on the issue of overlapping powers of the Centre and states with regard to the production, manufacturing, supply and regulation of industrial alcohol.

A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud heard arguments from Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior advocates Dinesh Dwivedi and Arvind P Datar, who appeared in the court on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government, and other lawyers representing different states.

Industrial alcohol is not meant for human consumption. While Entry 8 in the State List under the 7th Schedule of the Constitution gives the states the power to legislate on the manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of "intoxicating liquors", Entry 52 of the Union List and Entry 33 of the Concurrent List mention industries whose control is



"declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in public

While both Parliament and state legislatures can enact laws on the subjects mentioned in the Concurrent List, a central law will have primacy over the state law.

A clutch of petitions came before the nine-judge bench a seven-judge Constitution bench ruled against the states.

the nine-judge bench in 2010 after the seven-judge bench ruled in 1997 that the Centre would have regulatory power over the production of industrial alcohol.

The seven-judge bench had, in 1990, observed that through the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the Union had "evinced a clear intention to occupy" legislative competence on the subject and hence, Entry 33 could not The matter was referred to empower a state government.

BJP'S DREAM SHATTERED: GOPAL RAI

'AAP has emerged stronger after Kejriwal's arrest'

PNS NEW DELHI

Sunita Kejriwal, the wife of jailed Delhi Chief Minister husband's voice and carry his message wherever needed in the country, Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Delhi unit convenor Gopal Rai said on Thursday.

In an interview with PTI, Rai asserted that the people of Delhi are firmly behind the AAP and Congress candidates fielded in the parliamentary polls after Kejriwal's arrest and claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is currently trailing in all the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national cap-

Kejriwal has been arrested Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a moneylaundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Sunita Kejriwal will tour Guiarat as a star campaigner of the AAP. The party is contesting the Bharuch and Bhavnagar seats in Gujarat.



Replying to a question on whether Sunita Kejriwal, in the absence of his husband, will campaign in other states, Rai said a plan is being firmed up in this regard.

Arvind Kejriwal was the biggest star campaigner for the AAP and he has been put behind bars to ensure that his voice does not reach the people of the country, he said. "Sunita Kejriwal will take

across the voice of Keiriwal wherever needed in the country. She will become Kejriwal's voice and go wherever his voice needs to be raised," the senior AAP leader said.

"A plan is being firmed up. We will make it public once it

Rai said the party organisation -- MPs, ministers and MLAs -- is collectively taking the day-to-day decisions regarding campaigning and strategy for the Lok Sabha

The ruling BJP at the Centre might have dreamt that the AAP will fall like "a pack of cards" after Kejriwal goes to jail but that did not happen, he

"I can say it with responsibility that the AAP has emerged stronger after the arrest (of Kejriwal) and those who were earlier scattered are now united. The results of this will be visible on May 25, when votes will be cast in Delhi," Rai said.

The AAP is contesting four Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, while its alliance partner Congress has fielded candidates in the three remaining seats

BJP instigated violence during Ram Navami fete: Mamata

PNS RAIGANJ (WB)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday alleged that the BJP instigated violence during Ram Navami celebrations in the state.

She claimed that the violence in Murshidabad district was "pre-planned" and accused the it ahead of the Lok Sabha

A blast happened near a procession in Murshidabad's Shaktipur area on Wednesday, injuring a woman, police said.

"Everything was pre-planned. The DIG of Murshidabad was removed a day ahead of Ram Navami so that you (the BJP) can carry out violence," she said at an election rally in the Raiganj Lok Sabha constituency.

The chief minister also claimed that goons associated with the BJP roughed up police personnel in the district. At another poll rally in Balurghat, the CM dubbed the

BJP as a party that always issues threats. that your monthly allowance (under the 'Lakshmir Bhandar'

scheme) will be stopped if they come to power. I feel like pulling out their tongue for issuing such threats to deprive

"But being a civilised person... I will not utter such words. I will control my lan-guage though the BJP will



Banerjee called the BJP a "party of looters", which has gained "full control" of central agencies.

She said while the BJP-led central government "withheld" dues of the state under the 100 days' work scheme, the ruling TMC ensured that job card holders get 50 days' work wages from the state's coffers.



during which he intended to He, however, alleged that an attempt was being made to "politicise the Governor's office", while asserting he him as a "pawn on the political

Bengal Guv calls off Cooch Behar tour on advice of ECI

PNS KOLKATA

cting on the advice of the Acting on the advice Charles of Commission of Governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday called off his proposed tour to Cooch Behar, "oversee" the polling process. would not allow anyone to use

chess board". "My priority is to be with the neonle of Bengal My focus is to fight against violence in the election(s). My field visits are for these purposes but there is an attempt to politicise the Governor's office. I will not let anyone to lower the dignity of the office of the Governor, Bose said in a statement released by the Raj Bhavan. "I will not allow anyone to use me as a pawn on the political chess

Odisha ex-MLA sells land to fund daughter's poll expenses

PNS KENDRAPARA (ODISHA)

Struggling to meet the rising expenses of the upcoming assembly elections, a former Congress MLA in Odisha recently sold off a portion of his ancestral land to fund his daughter who is contesting as a can-

Debendra Sharma, who represented Aul assembly constituency in Kendrapara district from 2014 to 2019, sold off his five decimal homestead land in his native village recently.

Facing formidable challenges including financial constraints and a well-funded opposition, Sharma expressed concerns over

The main causes of poor health

impacting quality of life are low back pain, depressive disorders

and headaches, according to a

new global research published

life expectancy during the first two years of the COVID-19

pandemic, and found that even

though people around the

world are living longer, "they

aren't spending all those years

in good health."
"With low back pain, the

The study analysed healthy

in The Lancet journal.



from the Congress party, citing the freezing of party accounts by the Income Tax department.

"My daughter Dr. Debasmita Sharma (28), is contesting the polls from the constituency where both my father and I was previously elected as MLAs," he said, highlighting the financial

"We need better tools to

strain on the family due to the heavy campaign spending by rival candidates, making it challenging to meet the necessary poll expenses.

Debasmita, following in the

footsteps of her father and grandfather, left her job as a government doctor to pursue a career in public service.

Sharma explained that the campaign funds provided by the party for his daughter were insufficient. "Consequently, faced with compelling circumstances, I made the difficult decision to sell a piece of our ancestral land in the village to generate additional resources for her

India successfully flight-tests Indigenous Tech Cruise Missile

PNS ■ BALASORE (ODISHA)

India on Thursday successfully flight-tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, the DRDO said. During the test, all subsystems performed

as per expectation. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful test flight of the ITCM. He stated that the successful development of the indigenous long-range subsonic cruise missile powered by indigenous propulsion is a major mile-

stone for Indian defence R&D.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said that the performance of the missile was monitored by several Range Sensors such as Radar, Electro

Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and Telemetry deployed by the Integrated Test Range at various locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path. The flight of the missile was also monitored

from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force, they said. "The missile followed the desired path using waypoint navigation

and demonstrated very low altitude sea-skimming flight.

'LS poll results will have bearing on K'taka CM's continuation'

PNS KOLAR (KARNATAKA)

Indicating that the Lok Sabha poll results will have a bearing on Siddaramaiah's continuation as chief minister of Karnataka, Minister Byrathi Suresh on Thursday warned that voting for opposition candidates poses a

threat to the CM's position. '(Let your votes) be in favour of Congress, Siddaramaiah and (K V) Gowtham (Kolar Lok Sabha candidate). In case you change your mind and make another candidate win, there will be a threat to Siddaramaiah's (CM) seat. So, I request for your support," Suresh said at a meeting of leaders of the Kuruba community to which Siddaramaiah

He said, "By voting for Gowtham, you are also

voting for Siddaramaiah's leadership." The statements gain significance amid persistent rumours about a leadership change in the ruling Congress in the state after the Lok Sabha polls, or midway of the current assem-

Amid such speculations, Siddaramaiah had

recently asked the people of his Varuna assembly segment to give the Congress candidate a lead of at least 60,000 votes in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, to ensure that he remains in the post of chief minister.

On the same day in Mandya, Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President D K Shivakumar, who has made no secret about his chief ministerial ambitions, told the people that the desire with which they supported the party in the assembly poll in May last year, keeping him in mind, "will

not turn out to be false.' There was stiff competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the chief minister's post after the assembly election results were declared in

May last year. The Congress leadership then managed to convince Shivakumar to take up the

deputy chief minister's post.

There were some reports at the time that a compromise had been reached, according to which Shivakumar would become the CM after two-and-a-half years. However, this has not been officially confirmed by the party.





manage this major cause of global disease burden," he adequate amount of time can added. In contrast, Santomauro work. "However, most people said that for depressive disorin the world have little or no ders, therapy or medication or access to treatment, unfortua combination of both for an nately," he said.

"Considering how depression increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's urgent to ensure that everyone with this disorder can get treatment," he further said. Examining how men and

women responded to COVID-19, the researchers found that women suffered more than men when it came to the secondary effects of the viral infection, involving long COVID and mental disorders, even as men were more likely to die from the infection than

Women were found to be twice as likely as men to experience long Covid, and most likely to be affected by depression, seen to increase sharply during the pandemic.

The researchers presented updated estimates from the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD) study 2021, which analysed data from 204 countries and territories. The GBD study is the largest and most comprehensive effort to quantify health loss across places and over time, according to the IHME, which coordinates it.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Time bomb

Currently at 1.44 billion, India's population may double in 77 years unless we curb the trend

ndia stands at a pivotal juncture in its demographic journey; its population already surpassing China's to reach a staggering 1.44 billion. The prospect of this number potentially doubling within 77 years presents a formidable challenge. True, India's burgeoning population holds the promise of a significant demographic dividend: A youthful workforce, if equipped with the right skills and opportunities, can be the driver for economic growth, innovation and productivity. With appropriate investments in education, healthcare and employment opportunities, India has the potential to emerge as an economic powerhouse. But this is easier said than done. Alongside the opportunities, India also grapples with formidable challenges stemming from its rapid population growth. The strain on resources and infrastructure is palpable, with sectors like healthcare, education, housing and transportation already stretched thin. Overpopulation exacerbates the demand for food, water, energy and housing, leading to environmental degradation



and perpetuating socio-economic disparities. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach. First of all, there must be a concerted effort to invest in human capital. Education and healthcare must be prioritised to empower individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to participate meaningfully in economy. Mercifully, our population growth rate is showing a downward trend. To arrest the spiralling growth, a comprehensive population strategy is urgently needed, but the nation does not have any

One reason could be that any attempt to control the population would be highly unpopular. Indira Gandhi,

along with Sanjay Gandhi, tried it in the 1970s which eventually led to her downfall. All political parties also learnt their lesson. Of course, we are no China and no coercive measures should be taken but the Government can make concerted efforts to reward family planning and penalise large family sizes. Comprehensive programmes aimed at empowering individuals, especially women, about reproductive health and contraception can help stabilise population growth. Furthermore, investments in sectors such as healthcare, sanitation, transportation and housing are necessary to meet the needs of the growing population. Sustainable development practices must be embraced to mitigate environmental degradation. Job creation is also paramount for managing population growth effectively. Policies that promote entrepreneurship, attract investments and support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises can help generate employment opportunities. Gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives that enhance access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities are essential. Empowered women are more likely to make informed choices about family planning, leading to smaller family sizes and improved maternal and child health outcomes. There is no dearth of solutions but the big question is, who will bell the cat?



Foreign tourists during celebrations of World Heritage Day at the Agra Fort, in Agra

The enduring ties between India and Iran



Amid geopolitical complexities, India finds itself navigating a delicate balance between Iran, Israel and its domestic constituencies

ersians have had a civilisational connection Hindustan (Persian for India) since antiquity. There is a powerful India connect, even for the most epochal person defining the politics of the post-Iran Revolution (1979) i.e., Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. His paternal grandfather, Seyed Ahmad Musavi 'Hindi', was born in Kintoor, near Lucknow. Musavi was to leave Awadh and settle in Khomein but was popularly known as 'Hindi' in Persia! Later, 'Hindi' was to be the pen name for Ruhollah Khomeini's poetry. In India itself, Shiite dynasties flourished as refugees escaping persecution from Arab-Sunni strains settled and thrived in Deccan, Rampur, Awadh, Bengal

etc., with Lucknow emerging as the epicentre of Indian Shi'ism. Unlike the Middle East, the sectarian tensions were relatively less as the Gazetteer of Gilgit Agency noted, "Wherever Sunnis and Shias are found living together, they seem to practice a mutual tolerance rare in other Muhammadan communities. Except in Chilas and the Indus valley below or, there is, generally speaking, a complete absence of fanaticism". But, times changed and polemical writings of supremacist and sectarian assertions increased, causing bloody rift and polarisation. Soon, even in India the numerically lesser Shias were harassed by the substantially larger Sunni populace, leaving only pockets of Lucknow and Kargil area to have Shias in majority, as other enclaves were predominantly Sunni dominated. Shiaphobia' acquired even more sinister propulsion in neighbouring Pakistan and the air of the Sunni-Shia divide soon acquired political/sovereign overtones with Iran emerging as the transnational voice of Shiite sensibilities. The Ummah (Muslim world) got divided into two broad 'blocs' on sectarian lines and the shadows of Iran-versus-Arab Sheikhdoms undercurrents played out violently in areas with mixed populations e.g., Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, Pakistan and even so in India, though the sectarian ten-



and thriving of Shias in India (where their percentage was in a similar minority to many other Islamic countries with the Sunni majority) did not go

unnoticed in Tehran. India was a rare haven for Shias in modern times and Iran reciprocated the same by occasionally taking a pro-India stand on platforms like the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). That the fate of minority Shias in Pakistan was particularly beleaguered, made Tehran adopt pro-Delhi postures as geopolitical quid pro quo. As the Arab Sheikhdoms were particularly close to the Pakistanis during the Cold War, Iran acted on the rebound by deepening relations with India. But the inevitable consequences of the Iranian Revolution and the need for it to take more puritanical stances and aspire to take over Ummah leadership from Saudi-led Sheikhdoms led to it occasionally striking contradictory postures on issues like Kashmir et al. But situational and sectarian angularity ensured that both Iran and India were on the same side in sensitive theatres like Afghanistan, opposing the Pakistan-led Taliban However, at the same time, India was recalibrating its relations by cosying up to both the United States of America and Israel, strategically. The cost of Delhi's engagement with Washington and Tel Aviv led

INTERESTINGLY, BOTH ISRAEL AND IRAN HAVE STRONG CONSTITUENCIES WITHIN THEIR NARRATIVES THAT CAN CONVINCE THEIR POWERS-THAT-BE

OF INDIA'S 'LARGER COMPULSIONS'

to sticky situations like India stopping oil purchases from Iran owing to US-imposed sanctions, as well as stuttering on strategic projects like Chabahar Port. Yet all along there was always an unsaid understanding between Delhi and Tehran of the other's compulsions leading it to be forced into certain decisions — the bilateral trust and intent were rarely questioned.

While India's drift towards 'majoritarian' politics led to natural concerns within the Ummah (even though Sheikhdoms were officially bonding frenetically owing to India's emergence on the global highway), the local dynamics for Shias remained protected with the ruling political persuasion co-opting the Shias, actively. Both during the 2014 and 2019 General Elections, prominent Shia leaders in Lucknow actively supported the winning dispensation. Again, it didn't go unnoticed in Iran which remains hypersensitive to the fate of Shias across the world. India was an honourable exception in terms of its treatment of the minor-

This undeniable reality helped nuance the parallel (and unprecedented) outreach of Delhi with the capitals of Sheikdoms and Tel Aviv. Today, when the Israel-Palestine war has metastasised into dragging Iran into the conflict, picking sides for Delhi becomes tricky. The

template of 'strategic independence' (used in the Russia-Ukraine conflict) could be afforded to this conflict which conjoins morality with practicality to take a deliberately mealy-mouthed position that offends none and yet genuinely beseeches peace.

Delhi would know about the latent and conflated emotions of the Indian Muslims on the conflict, especially for the Shias when it comes to Iran. From the electoral lens, the dispensation recognises its investment in the Shias and Pasmanda (a backward caste) but the situation does get complex with Israel in the admixture, as that has a similar resonance in the 'majoritarian' calculus as a valorised counterpoise to Pan-Islamism. Israel often gets lionised disproportionately and morality becomes increasingly irrele-

Interestingly both Israel and Iran have strong constituencies within their narrative that can convince their powers-that-be of India's 'larger compulsions'. It is these powerful backdoor channels, civilisational bonhomie and calibrated diplomatese that must be deployed as both countries are vital to India's future. India needs to prioritise peace over binary

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

How justified is abusive language on OTT?



sions were not so pronounced

here. This unique phenomenon

of the relative security, freedom

The impact of abusive language on societal norms is profound; content creators must deliver realistic but responsible content

The Over-the-Top (OTT) platform has revolutionised India's entertainment landscape and has created a niche for itself among audiences. It is considered to be progressive, realistic, has variety and also caters to the needs of all age groups. However, there has been a lot of noise about the proliferation of abusive language in many of the web series that have raised a lot of general and even legal objections. Recently the Supreme Court (March 2024) has given its verdict that the use of abusive language on OTT cannot be regarded as a criminal offence, as it would lead to an infraction of free speech and violate artistic creativity. This leaves us with an open debate about whether under the guise of freedom of speech, we can use foul language that may be affecting the cultural values of people.

The use of abusive language in OTT content shapes how audiences perceive the characters, themes and overall tenor of the content. It may add authenticity to certain narratives or characters. If nothing else, it has become a fashion Statement and is more language and easily gets influrevive our rich heritage, at the

saleable. It can be categorised as a demerit good with a high order of negative externality. Undoubtedly, the onus of the use of such language in society does not lie on OTT, it reflects something already present, but it has certainly contributed to making it more prominent. Some viewers avoid using such foul language, as they consider it to be morally incorrect and undignified. After all, what is the use of good education, if it does not teach us to differentiate between decent and

indecent? With the explosion of cuss words on OTT, even this section of society is affected. The young generation, at tender ages, is exposed to such

enced by it. It can become same time, we are defending, pervasive in everyday usage, hindering effective articulation of thoughts and ideas and challenging the professional and academic standards. It can be detrimental to social

interactions and emotional well-being, hampering overall personality development. Simply providing a statutory warning of the content not suitable for a certain age, does not complete the responsibility of the makers. With the availability of the internet and its easy access via gadgets in every home, it is practically not possible to refrain kids from watching such content every time. With the nuclear family setups and working parents' culture gaining strength, it becomes even more difficult.

We in India have reformed the education system with the introduction of the National Education Policy and Indian Knowledge System. It thrives on providing a high-quality ronment is one where indieducation system rooted in Indian ethos contributing to transforming India into a value-based superpower. So, while at one place when we are trying to imbibe and

if not promoting, the use of

indecent language. We have a zero-tolerance policy against abuse in educational institutes, but a child tends to learn from the overall environment of which OTT is presently an unavoidable part. Besides, another aspect of the foul language on OTT incorporates genderspecific derogatory terms, predominantly objectifying women. Indian society has always given a special place to women and their role is spread across the cultural, economic and spiritual fabric of our society. The worship of goddesses reflects the deeprooted respect and reverence for women in our culture. Undeniably, women are behind building the strongrooted edifice of values and ethics, the society does not feel any responsibility to uphold their dignity. A good and progressive social envividuals feel respected, secure and valued.

(The author is an assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi; views are personal)

POLITICAL CHARADE

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Contribute fully in 400 seats goal: PM to Bengal", published on April 17, this is my response. if Sandeshkhali has indeed "sent shivers down the entire nation"; surely it must be asked whether the country had been "immersed in a coma" revolving around spine-chilling gangrapes /murder/forced cremation /naked parade of women folks in Uttar Pradesh Ĝujarat Kathua or Manipur!

So the TMC Government of West Bengal is "allowing infiltration" to "boost" its "vote bank"! So who mans the Indo-Bangladesh international border? West Bengal police under the TMC-led West Bengal Government or Border security forces under the BJP-led Centre! Period. And "TMC Government 'opposes' Ram Navami celebration in West Bengal" should feature as "joke of the century"! If announcing a State Government holiday for a purely North Indian festival, absolutely alien to Bengali culture, gets "credited" as "Opposition" to Ram Navami with the Who's Who of the TMC, zealously participating in such processions; then the word "Opposition" itself must be urgently amended in the dictionary! Lastly, it must be answered why despite winning as many as unprecedented 18 Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal in 2019, not a single Bengali was allowed to lead a ministry in the Union Cabinet in the last 5 years!

TENSION IN WEST ASIA

Madam — The tension in the West Asia region has escalated since Iran has directly launched missile attacks on Israel. The area is already facing challenges due to Israel's war operation in Gaza after the October 7 attack by Hamas. More than region. thirty thousand people have already died due to this out of which the majority are women and children. USA and other regional players like Hezbollah and Houthis have also been involved in the conflict in these six months. Further escalation of war can lead to serious conse-

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Chhattisgarh encounter aftermath

E EDITO

propos the news article, "Chhattisgarh encounter leaves 29 Naxals dead", published on April 17, this is my response. In the dense forests of Chhattisgarh, where at least 29 Naxals were neutralised, including the top leaders, Shankar Rao and Lalita, divisional committee members of the CPI (Maoist)'s North Bastar Division. This clash, occurring just days before the Lok Sabha polls in Bastar, signifies the ongoing battle against insurgency in the region. More than 60,000 security personnel have been deployed in the district to oversee the electoral

quences in the region and the world. West Asia is often termed as the energy basket of the globe due to its potential to produce oils. Many important sea trade routes connecting Asia to other parts of the world also go through this region.

Any direct war between Tehran and Tel Aviv can pause oil supply and disrupt the sea routes. The war can also pull other regional powers into it. Global organisations and leaders should mediate between the countries and convince them to avoid future intensifications of conflict. The leaders of both Iran and Israel should also stop provoking each other. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza also needs to be stopped immediately as it is the root cause behind the conflict in the

Deba Prasad Nayak | Dhenkanal

TOO MUCH IS TOO BAD

Madam — Apropos the news article, "RCB Maxwell takes a mental and physical break from IPL 2024", published on April 17, this is my response. Many players from

process. This is the highest casualty suffered by the Maoists in a single incident since 2018 when 37 of them were killed in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli

The Maoist rebels may have had reasons to hold a grudge against the government, but their romantic notion of revolution is misplaced because they'll never succeed in displacing the Government or creating their own Communist paradise in Bastar, or any other region of the country. So yes, they'll probably try to continue their usual attacks, but with the continued, concerted push by the security forces into their strongholds, those attacks will become fewer and far between. We have lacs of military and other security personnel but still, activity is not controlled. Adivasi have their livelihood in the jungle. Government. cannot replace them in the name of development. However, I think Maoists' best bet would be to put down their arms and try to effect change through the ballot box. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

the ongoing IPL have been playing all three game formats almost continuously throughout the year, so their endurance limit, patience and love for the game must be appreciated. The saying: "Eat cricket, talk cricket, sleep cricket" is highly suitable in their case. But too much of anything is too bad in many ways.

It wrecks their physical and mental health, playing becomes mechanical & casual, keeps them away for longer periods from their family, spectators will be bored to see the same faces again and again etc. Further cricket became a profession and business, no more a gentleman's game played leisurely and IPL affected the way test cricket is played and reduced its popularity and the number of spectators in the stadiums watching it. No other game has reached such a situation as that of cricket. It is time to restrict the amount of cricket played for its good.

O Prasada Rao | Hyderabad

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FIRST COLUMN

A VISION FOR INDIA'S **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

The BJP manifesto focuses on strategy to make India a champion of Global South



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unveiled its election manifesto earlier this week, opting for a departure from the conventional strategy of enticing voters with freebies and subsidies. Instead, the manifesto takes on the guise of a policy document, delineating the achievements of the PM Modi administration over the past decade and pledging to propel India into a developed economy within the next 25 years. Notably absent from the document is any significant mention of Pakistan, a focal point of India's foreign policy for years, in either the BJP manifesto or the Prime Minister's interviews.

The manifesto underscores the government's emphasis on foreign policy, echoing the strategic vision cultivated during India's G20 presidency. It celebrates India's emergence onto the global stage, exemplified by the unanimous consensus achieved for the New Delhi Declaration, a feat accomplished amidst doubts about US-Russia concordance. Prime Minister Modi elucidated his approach in an interview, emphasising the imperative of working towards global good without personal reservations, a principle that guided India's diplomatic

In delineating the government's foreign policy outlook, Prime Minister Modi reiterated the cornerstone principles of "Neighbour First" and "Act East" since assuming office. The Act East policy has extended India's influence into the ASEAN region, fostering positive perceptions even among nations geographically distant. India's proactive assistance to neighbours during crises, such as earthquake relief in Nepal and aiding Sri Lanka during times of turmoil, exemplifies its commitment to regional solidarity.



The manifesto boasts of the safe repatriation of 1.5 crore distressed Indian citizens and positions India as a vocal advocate for the Global South, a central tenet of its foreign policy stance. Technological innovations like the Digital India stack, including UPI, have amplified India's presence on global platforms, albeit challenges persist in enhancing the acceptability of the Indian rupee in international trade. The document briefly touches upon India's burgeoning focus on the Indo-Pacific, a region of strategic interest for major global players and pledges to safeguard navigation rights and maritime security.

Under Modi's leadership, the manifesto pledges to bolster India's standing as a champion of the Global South, leveraging the Prime Minister's 5S approach of respect, dialogue, cooperation, peace and prosperity. It articulates aspirations for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and vows to enhance collaboration within the Indo-Pacific region to foster mutual growth and security.

Furthermore, the manifesto underscores the importance of securing critical minerals essential for the digital age, signalling intentions to forge partnerships with friendly nations to integrate India more deeply into global supply chains. In sum, the BJP's manifesto serves as a testament to continuity in India's foreign policy objectives, underlining a commitment to advancing the nation's interests on the global

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

Sustainability through global collaboration



RAJDEEP PATHAK

President Dennis Francis, at the helm of the 78th UN General Assembly session, champions sustainability as pivotal to economic advancement

hile the news of increasing temperatures in the Capital City of Delhi in the coming weeks and months hit the headlines, in a resounding affirmation of the symbiotic relationship between sustainability and economic progress, President Dennis Francis (heading the 78th session of the UN General Assembly), recently in an exclusive interview with PTI, unequivocally asserted that the pursuit of sustainability stands as the cornerstone of 21st-century development endeavours. He also emphasised the imperative of integrating sustainability into the fabric of global advancement. Dennis Francis is all set to inaugurate the "Sustainability Week" at the United Nations headquarters scheduled from April 15-19, 2024. Under the overarching theme of "Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future," this landmark event will spotlight pivotal sectors such as tourism, infrastructure connectivity, transportation, energy and debt, dedicating its discourse to the multifaceted dimensions of sustainability in each domain.

In this PTI exclusive, President Francis outlines a strategic focus on key economic sectors — tourism, transportation, infrastructure, energy and debt management — to drive transformative sustainability. He highlights challenges like climate change, energy security and debt entrapment, emphasising their nexus with poverty, education, housing and national security. Francis further underscores sustainability as both a moral imperative and a catalyst for equitable global progress, envisioning judicious decisions in these realms as key to profound shifts towards a sustainable future.

During the upcoming 'Sustainability Week', Dennis will host a series of high-level events including debates on 'debt sustainability' and 'socio-economic equality'; discussions on 'tourism and sustainable transport', an informal dialogue on 'global resilience through infrastructure connectivity' and a stocktaking session for the completion of the 'UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All' - all aimed at advancing the implementation of SDG 7 for sustainable develop-

Dennis (in the interview) fervently promotes the fusion of sustainability and economic advancement, underscoring their intrinsic interdependence for societal wellbeing. He advocates for a transformative approach toward sustainable lifestyles, condemning antiquated resource exploitation methods exacerbating climate instability. He envisions a future where profitability harmonises with environmental stewardship, fostering equity and resilience. 'Sustainability Week' precedes the 'Summit of the Future, to instil sustainability as a collective imperative for safeguarding resources for posterity. He further emphasised the pressing requirement to refocus endeavours on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which saw a setback in target achievement because of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts. Sustainability Week' aims to revive dedication to impactful measures, crucial for reorienting the SDGs towards their intend-

Through collective action, the aim should be to uplift communities, inspire hope and advance the global agenda for sustainability and equity. The need is to empower communities, foster optimism and promote sustainability and equity worldwide.





INDIA'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS EXTEND TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY, **EXEMPLIFIED BY** SCHEMES LIKE MGNREGA AND AYUSHMAN

organisations per se are uniting to tackle environmental challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and renewable energy promotion. For example, in Scandinavia, countries like Denmark have been leaders in wind energy production, investing heavily in offshore wind farms and renewable energy infrastructure. Denmark's commitment to sustainability has led to a significant reduction in carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Moreover, in Southeast Asia, Singapore pioneers innovative strategies to address river and ocean waste, utilising advanced wastewater treatment and strict plastic regulations, effectively curbing marine pollution. Meanwhile, Africa's 'Great Green Wall' initiative fights desertification in the bio-geographical Sahel region by planting trees and promoting sustainable land management, revitalising degraded land-scapes and fostering biodiversity. Across Latin America, Costa Rica exemplifies biodiversity conservation through national parks and eco-tourism, fostering sustainable development while preserving its rich natural heritage, resulting in both environmental protection and economic prosperity. Some of these diverse efforts demonstrate global commitment to environmental management, enhancing resilience and also safeguarding ecosystems for future generations.

India's proactive stance towards achieving the SDGs is evident through multifaceted commitments across sectors. Initiatives like the 'National Solar Mission' and 'Jal Jeevan Mission, 'National Health Mission', etc., highlight the resolve to tackle environmental challenges. India further aims to generate great renewable energy capacity, emphasising reduced reliance on fossil fuels. Water conservation programs such as rainwater harvesting and the

India's dedication to ensuring water security, aiming to provide piped water supply to all households by 2024. This commitment is reinforced by experts like waterman, Rajendra Singh and CEO of Centre for Science and Environment, Sunita Narain, who stress the importance of renewable energy and community-driven water conservation efforts.

Additionally, India's sustainability efforts extend to biodiversity conservation, rural development, healthcare, education, waste management and gender equality, exemplified by schemes like MGNREGA and Ayushman Bharat. Dr. Vandana Shiva emphasises that sustainability encompasses socio-economic factors, with India's inclusive policies striving to create a more equitable and resilient society through integrated policymaking

It may be noted that India initiated its climate action journey in 2009 by pledging to decrease emissions intensity by 20-25 per cent by 2020, achieving a commendable 24 per cent reduction. Subsequently aligning with the Paris Agreement, India outlined its 'Nationally Determined Contributions' in 2015, aiming for a 33-35 per cent emissions intensity reduction by 2030. Additional goals include enhancing non-fossil fuel energy generation, expanding carbon sinks and targeting 'NET ZERO' emissions by 2070. National efforts are reinforced by initiatives such as the 'National Action Plan on Climate Change' and the 'National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change, focusing on renewable energy, sustainable habitat and adaptation strategies.

As per media reports, by April 2023, India had made substantial progress toward 14 of the 33 SDGs, with improvements in neonatal and under-five mortality; sanitation

like adolescent pregnancy, clean cooking fuel and water facilities persist. Legislative amendments promoting renewable energy and carbon credit trading, along with initiatives such as the 'Green Hydrogen Mission, highlight India's commitment to sustainability. "Business Today" report of August 25, 2023, suggests that these efforts, coupled with the implementation of the 'Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework', positioned India as a global leader in sustainability, as reflected in its ranking in the 'Climate Change Performance Index', indicating promising future progress.

India has implemented various environmental conservation initiatives like the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' 'Namami Gange', etc., along with legislative measures such as the 'Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act' and so on. The introduction of the 'Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework' by the National Statistics Office in 2023 signifies efforts to monitor progress. However, despite advancements in climate action, financing SDGs remains a challenge. Proactive measures, integrating sustainability into policymaking and engaging communities are essential for achieving the ambitious 2030 SDG targets globally, ensuring equity and resilience. The imperative for proactive engagement by dedicated and committed citizens, not only within India but globally, underscores the exigency of collective action. Such involvement is paramount in addressing contemporary challenges, necessitating concerted efforts on a global scale. The choice perish or preserve.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

Corruption and political defections: A telltale sign of democratic decay

The electoral arithmetic, rather than the principles of righteousness, often dictates the trajectory of political decisions

through the contents of per in India, an interesting article caught hold of my attention and it made a compulsive reading throughout. The article was captioned — 'Since 2014, 25 Opposition leaders facing corruption probe crossed over to BJP, 23 of them got reprieve. The article was, undoubtedly, a telltale commentary on the holes in the prevalent political system in our country. It was an embarrassing account of the glaringly apparent fact that political parties of all hues and shades are compelled to flow with the tides produced by the fault lines in our political system and that political survival.



ATUL SEHGAL

It may not be worthwhile to go deep into the finer nuances of the above account and be brazenly judgemental of hallowed political parties and personalities. It appears to be proper to dwell on the deficiencies of the current system in Bharat and regretfully State that the electoral arithmetic is the biggest bane of our political system. To too sometimes for sheer build up the numbers for gathering the elusive major-

ity, political parties, under a legal system that is speckled with loopholes, have to resort to such shenanigans to assemble numbers to make stable governments and even make strong governments that can govern smoothly. Our democracy has definite deficiencies. Rather it is anything but perfect. A multiparty democracy is better described as a non-ideal, diluted form of democracy, especially so in a culturally variegated society like ours. The purest form of democracy is outlined in our ancient scripture Manusmriti. While making a mention of Manusmriti, it needs to be clarified that this observation is not to be taken lightly even if there is controversy associated with this ancient scrip-

ture. That controversy sprang from its distorted version, due to historical extrapolations by unscrupulous persons. The original, uncorrupted version of Manusmriti is a divine blueprint of an ideal governance system. The scripture talks of democracy indicating the following three characteristic features of democracy (prajatantra) 1. Partyless system of elections and governance

2. Right to recall the elected representatives by the voters 3. Congruous with the principles of righteousness or Dharma

It would also be relevant to State here that the above primaeval, divine scripture also provides a structural frame for the democratic gover-nance system. It talks of



Rajaryasabha (executive assembly), Vidyaryasabha (subject specialist assembly) Dharmaryasabha (assembly of religious experts). The last-mentioned assembly or council is composed of persons of distinguished moral standing and impeccable character who

act collectively as some kind of moral authority on the functioning of the executive

council. It is easy to see how far the existing polity and governance structure are away from the above-mentioned ideal polity and governance system in a democratic setup. In a party less democratic polity, all problems of electoral arithmetic and the evils that they engender are bound to vanish. There are going to be no big election rallies, no stupendous spending on elections, no horse-trading, no party switching, no turncoats, no go slow on prosecuting the corrupt and criminal politicians and no silly concepts of majoritarianism or minorityism. There is going to be no

nance. It is also not difficult to understand how many secondary evils of the extant political system in our country will get eliminated if we were to incorporate the tenets of the sacred scripture Manusmriti in our polity and governance. It may be farfetched to expect that we can carve out from the present system something exactly conforming to the above utopian structure but even if we incorporate therein one or two important features like party less democratic system in our country, great benefit can accrue to our gover-

In light of what is Stated above, we certainly need to reform our democratic system which does not deliver

look forward to the expectedly third term Modi Government bringing about wide constitutional, electoral and bureaucratic reforms to enable our nation to progress by kangaroo leaps, which it is capable of. Bharat is divinely destined to become the leading global nation-State of the world while maintaining its pristine stature as the moral and spiritual trailblazer of the world. This is so because Bharat is the land of saints, sages and seers who have been the beacons for humanity through the course of its long and chequered historical existence on this plan-

> (The author is a management consultant; views are personal)

Infosys profit jumps 30% to **Rs 7,969 crore in Q4**

T company Infosys on Thursday said its consolidated profit jumped 30 per cent to Rs 7,969 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company posted a profit of Rs 6,128 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. The consolidated revenue of Infosys during the reported quarter increased by 1.3 per cent to Rs 37,923 crore from Rs 37,441 crore in the same quarter a year ago. The company expects a revenue growth of 1-3 per cent in constant currency for

financial year 2025. During the financial year ended March 2024, net profit increased by 8.9 per cent to Rs 26,233 crore from Rs 24,095 crore recorded in FY23. The annual income from operations increased by 4.7 cent to Rs 1.53.670 crore in fiscal year 2024 from Rs 1,46,767 crore a year ago. Infosys board recommended a final dividend of Rs 20 per equity share for FY24 and additionally a special dividend of Rs 8 per equity share. The company also announced that it will acquire 100 per cent stake in German firm in-tech in an all cash deal for 450 million euros.



Nestle India shares decline;

mcap erodes by Rs 8,137.49 cr
Shares of Nestle India on Thursday declined over 3 per cent amid reports that the global FMCG major sold infant milk products with more sugar content in less deve loped continuities. The stock dipped 3.31 per cent to settle at Rs 2,462.75 on the BSE. During the day, it went lower by 5.40 per cent to Rs 2,409.55.It was the biggest laggard among the BSE Sensex firms. At the NSE, shares of the company declined 2.94 per cent to settle at Rs 2,471. The

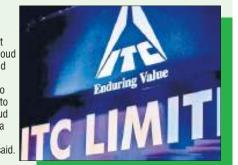
company's market capitalisation (mcap) eroded by Rs 8,137.49 crore to Rs 2,37,447. 80 crore. Nestle India on Thursday said it has reduced added sugar on baby food products in India by over 30 per cent, depending on variants, over the past 5 years, amid reports that the global FMCG major sold products with more sugar content in less developed countries. Accor ding to findings by Swiss NGO, Public Eye and International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Nestle sold baby products with higher sugar content in less developed South Asian countries including India.



ITC Infotech to acquire **Blazeclan Technologies**

iversified entity ITC Ltd on Thursday said its arm ITC Infotech India will acquire Blazeclan Technologies for a total consideration of up to Rs 485 crore. ITC Infotech India, a wholly owned subsidiary, has advised us that they have entered into a share purchase agreement on Thursday for the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of Blazeclan Technologies Pvt Ltd, ITC Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Total consideration for the acquisition is up to Rs 485

crore, including contingent consideration which is subject to achievement of prescribed targets, it added. Blazeclan is a "born-in-the-cloud consulting company" providing cloud services on AWS, Azure and GCP, it added. This acquisition is expected to augment ITC Infotech's capabilities to service its customers in a multi-cloud focus on the partner ecosystem to accelerate future growth, the filing said.

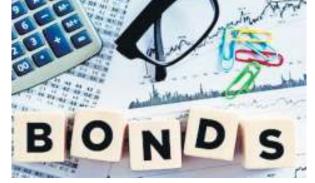


Fundraising through bond placement at all-time high

Fund mobilisation through corporate bonds on private placement basis reached an alltime high of Rs 9.98 lakh crore in 2023-24, marking a surge of 17 per cent from the preceding fiscal, according to a release by primedatabase.com on Thursday.

Prime Database Group Managing Director Pranav Haldea attributed the upswing to a surge in credit demand fuelled by strong economic growth. This came despite changes in taxation relating to debt mutual funds and expectations of lower borrowing costs. The highest fund mobilisation in 2023-24 (FY24) came from the All-India Financial Institutions/Banks category at Rs 4.68 lakh crore. This was in comparison to Rs 4.33 lakh crore raised in 2022-23, representing an increase of

The private sector (excluding banks or financial institutions) witnessed a 44 per cent jump, mobilising Rs 4.96 lakh crore compared to Rs 3.44 lakh crore in 2022-23. Government entities played a key role, collectively mobilising 39 per cent of the total amount, slight-



ly lower than the 41 per cent registered in 2022-23.

Among government entities, All-India Financial Institutions /Banks led with an 91 per cent share, followed by a 8 per cent share by public sector undertakings (PSUs).

NABARD emerged as the frontrunner in fund mobilisation, garnering Rs 65,393 crore followed by REC (Rs 52,140 crore), HDFC (Rs 46,062 crore), PFC (Rs 45,130) and SIDBI (Rs 38,600 crore). The top 5 issuers of 2023-24 raised Rs 2.47 lakh crore, constituting 29 per cent of the total amount.

As per the release, fund mobilisation through corporate bonds on private placement basis stood at Rs 9.98

lakh crore in FY24 as compared to Rs 8.52 lakh crore in the preceding fiscal. This was mobilised by 976 institutions and corporates.

Also, public bonds market witnessed a remarkable growth in FY24 with 48 issues raising Rs 20,787 crore in comparison to 32 issues mobilising Rs 7,444 crore in FY23. The largest issue was from Power Finance Corp that raised Rs 2,824 crore. In addition, Indian companies also raised Rs 3.79 lakh crore through overseas borrowing (including ECBs) in FY24, marking a jump of 71 per cent from Rs 2.22 lakh crore garnered in the preceding

Global warming may result in 10 per cent GDP loss, finds study

Warming of the planet by 3 degrees Celsius may cost the world up to 10 per cent of its GDP, a new research has found. It also found that poorer, tropical countries could see the worst effects -- up to 17 per

cent GDP loss. The study -- led by ETH Zurich, Switzerland, and published in the Nature Climate Change journal -- suggested that roughly half of the predicted global economic damage could be related to extreme heat, with heat waves being the most impactful among the extreme events analysed.

"Impacts are more severe in the Global South and highest in Africa and the Middle East, where higher initial temperatures make countries particularly vulnerable to additional

warming," the authors wrote. The researchers further found that the cost of climate



world after accounting for changes in rainfall and temperatures occurring within a short span at a location.

"If we take into account that warmer years also come with changes in rainfall and temperature variability, it turns out that the estimated impact of spiking temperatures is worse than previously thought," said doctoral researcher and economist Paul Waidelich from

ETH Zurich and lead author of Limiting the rise of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius could cut these projected economic damages by twothirds, the researchers found.

"Some people still say that the world cannot afford rapid decarbonisation but the global economy will also suffer from the impacts of climate

study and a vice-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group I. For the study, the researchers used 33 global climate models and analysed climate indicators related to both greenhouse gas emissions and income growth for the 1850-2100 period. The indicators included yearly average temperature, yearly precipitation

and extreme precipitation.
The authors acknowledged that substantial uncertainties remain while projecting the cost impacts of climate change.

They said uncertainties are primarily "socio-economic" -how long the impacts persist and how well society can adapt.

They added that the total cost of climate change is likely "considerably higher" as the study did not include non-economic impacts, droughts, sealevel rise, and climate tipping

UK-INDIA-FTA

Good market access offered on both sides:UK

PNS ■ LONDON

There has been good market access offered on both sides but not enough to secure a free trade agreement (FTA), the UK government has said as Indian negotiators are in London this week to continue discussions with their British

During a debate in the House of Lords this week, UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron was addressing questions from British peers on the current state of freedom of religion or belief in India.

The recent restructuring of the BBC to create a new Indian-owned entity in order to comply with the country's foreign direct investment (FDI) rules was flagged by Liberal Democrat peer Lord tioned the level of market access being offered to India in the field of media, data and telecoms as part of the FTA

negotiations.
"My understanding of where we are with the trade deal is that good market access has been offered on both sides, but not quite enough yet to secure a deal. It is important with such trade deals, as you only really get one proper shot at it, to make sure that it is a good enough deal that will be welcomed by industry leaders here in the UK as offering real market access," said Lord Cameron. It came as a team from India arrived in London to continue talks this week under the fourteenth round of FTA negotiations.

NSE to launch derivatives on Nifty Next 50 index

PNS NEW DELHI

fiscal year.

The National Stock Exchange will introduce derivative contracts on Nifty Next 50 index from April 24. The Nifty Next 50 index

represents 50 companies from Nifty 100 after excluding the Nifty 50 companies. In a statement, NSE said

it "has received approval for derivatives on Nifty Next 50 index from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and will launch these contracts from April 24, 2024".

The exchange will offer three serial monthly index futures and index options contract cycles. The cash-settled derivatives contracts will expire on the last Friday of the expiry month.



'Hindustan Zinc 3rd largest silver producer globally'

PNS NEW DELHI

Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc on Thursday said it has become the third largest producer of silver globally.

As per a survey, its Sindesar Khurd Mine in Rajasthan now stands as the world's second largest silver-producing mine, moving up from last year's fourth spot, the company said in a statement. Silver plays a pivotal role in the global energy transition and Hindustan Zinc's production growth of 5 per cent year-on-year is attrib-

tion and enhanced grades, reinforcing its status as a key player in the global silver market, Hindustan Zinc Chairperson

Priya Agarwal Hebbar said. Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company in zinc, lead and silver businesses, is the world's second largest integrated zinc producer and now the third largest silver producer. The company has a market share of 75 per cent of the growing zinc market in India with its headquarters in Udaipur along with zinc, lead mines and smelting complexes spread across Rajasthan.

Gold falls Rs 250 to Rs 73,700 per 10 grams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell from an alltime high level and traded lower by Rs 250 at Rs 73,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday amid a decline in the yellow metal's rates in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at Rs 73,950 per 10 grams in the previous session. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 73,700 per 10 grams, down by Rs 250 against the previous day close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

However, silver prices remained flat at Rs 86,500 per kg. Commodity markets were closed on Wednesday on account of Ram Navami.

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,375 per ounce, down by USD 13 from the previous close.

Markets face heavy fluctuations

Settle lower taking downtrend to 4th day

PNS MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty faced heavy volatility on Thursday and ended lower, taking their lossession, dragged by bank stocks and foreign fund outflows. Concerns over fading rate cut hopes and persisting FII fund exodus from domestic equities also dampened

investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined abruptly post noon, reflecting heavy fluctuations, wiping out all its early gains. It tanked 454.69 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 72,488.99. During the day, it gyrated 1,107.38 points between the day's high and low. The benchmark quoted 73,135.5 at 13:31 hours but within two minutes it declined to 72,817.03 at 13.34 hours, reflecting a drop of 318.47 points. The NSE Nifty



declined 152.05 points or 0.69 per cent to 21,995.85. It hit a high of 22,326.50 and a low of 21,961.70 during the day.

From the Sensex basket, Nestle declined the most by over 3 per cent amid reports that the global FMCG major sold infant milk products with more sugar content in less developed countries.

Titan Company, Axis Bank, NTPC, Tata Motors, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finance were the other lag-

Bharti Airtel, Power Grid, Infosys and Larsen & Toubro were among the gainers.



Walmart launches page for Indian sellers

Multinational retailer Walmart announced the launch of a dedicated page for Indian sellers to register and sell on the company's marketplace site.

The company hosted a global seller meet in Jaipur on Tuesday, kicking off a series of regional events to help prospective sellers with insights and knowledge on consumer and category trends and assist with onboarding support and catalogue setup, a

release said. 'India is a priority market for Walmart, and the dedicat-

ed landing page builds upon our commitment to Indian sellers. Walmart Marketplace strives to unlock the potential of Indian businesses by giving sellers access to customers around the world," Michelle Mi, Vice President of Emerging Markets and Business Development for

Walmart stated in the release. "Through dedicated onboarding support and expertise in navigating global supply chains, we are empowering sellers with the tools they need to thrive in the US marketplace and beyond," the

release added.

'Electronics industry witnesses surge in hiring led by telecom sector'

PNS MUMBAI

The electronics industry in the country has experienced sharp growth in hiring and skilling initiatives with a 154 per cent growth in overall hiring in March, compared to the same month last year, a report said on Thursday.

The report also showed that the telecom sector topped in the hiring demand within the electronics industry, accounting to 64 per cent of hiring, closely followed by lighting and automotive sectors. A comparison of the hiring statistics of March 2024 and March 2023 reveals a 154 per cent growth in overall hiring in the electronics industry, according to a report by workforce management solutions provider Quess Corp. In terms of geography, Tamil Nadu led the states with a 33 per cent share of electronics hiring demand, followed by Karnataka, Uttar

Pradesh, and Telangana, it added.
The report by Quess Corp is based on internal as well as external data as well as opinions of industry experts from March 2023 to March 2024.

It further found that there is a significant deployment of women in various roles in the electronics industry, espe-



cially in manufacturing.

The report revealed that the rise in hiring has been more in the mobile man-ufacturing sector, followed by the retail and services sector.

"Industry experts forecast the creation of 1 million jobs by FY26, and the market size is expected to reach USD 400 bil-

lion by 2025. "This growth is not only fuelled by increasing consumer demand but has also received a boost from government initiatives such as 'Make in India' and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme," Quess Corp President, Workforce Management, Lohit Bhatia, said.

Vesuvius Group plans to increase India investment

PNS NEW DELHI

UK-based Vesuvius Group on Thursday said it will increase its investment capex in India to Rs 1,000 crore, its Chief Executive Patrick Andre said

He made the remarks while inaugurating a mould flux manufacturing plant in Visakhapatnam, the company said in a statement. "Given our compelling growth in India and basis our investment pipeline, we envisage surpassing our earlier stated investment plans of Rs 500 crore to reach close to Rs 1,000 crore outlay over the next few years," Andre was quoted as saying in

the statement. Vesuvius has been making significant investments in India by expanding the capacity of its existing manufacturing plants as well as setting up three new greenfield manufacturing



plants, which will create an additional capacity of 2,50,000 tonnes per annum. The flux manufacturing

plant is first of the three new manufacturing plants expected to be operational in 2024.

Mould flux is a critical component used in continuous casting process at steel plants.

"India has always been a strategic market for the group. Our investment in manufacturing capabilities in India will further enhance our competitive position in the country," Vesuvius India Ltd Chairman Biswadip Gupta said.

the pioneer Hvaerabaa

sought refuge in India 80 years ago, has shared her cultural heritage with me, enriching my experience. This cultur-

al exchange extends to her grand-

daughter as well. As I travel from city

to city, I'm not just performing; I'm engaging in a cultural dialogue through

various recitals. Each performance is

an opportunity to connect with the past

orable for an

artist, but the

first dance

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Friday April 19, 2024

Queen of expressions embarks on Poland Spring Tour 2024

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

peksha Niranjan is a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer known A for her exceptional skills, artistic depth, and captivating performances. She has gained recognition in the Bharatanatyam community for her unique style and contributions to the art form. Her dance transcends geographical boundaries, serving as a testament to the universal language of art. Apeksha Niranjan continues to push boundaries with her unique style and captivating per-

formances, representing India on various global She platforms. earned the title of "queen of expres-

Embarking on her fifth performance tour in Poland, she weaved together her heritage and artistic passion. She shares her connection and cultural exchange moments in Poland. 'My connection to

Poland is rooted in my heritage, as my grandmother was Polish. This bond has drawn me to perform in Poland multiple times, and I'm excited to say this will mark my fifth performance there. The Polish audience has always welcomed me with open arms, showing great appreciation for innovative art forms. This time around, I'm introducing a fresh choreography and version of my performance. In a groundbreaking collaboration, I'm joining forces with a local Polish musito blend cian Bharatanatvam with Polish folk music—a fusion that, to my knowledge, is being attempted for the first

Poland, for obvious reasons, holds a unique place in her heart. only because her grandmother, friends, and relatives live there but also because they affectionately refer to her as

the "granddaughter of Poland." "This endears me even more to the country. Performing there evokes a distinct sense of emotion within me, a feeling that's heightened by the presence of my loved ones. The cultural richness of Poland resonates with that of India, creating a shared understanding of values and traditions. This cultural connection makes performing in Poland an experience that's deeply special, akin to

w h o s e

grand-

and present, creating a tapestry of shared experiences and artistic expresthe warmth of performing in India." sion." Every moment on stage is mem-The tour spans various cities and venues, each with its own unique charm and requirements. For the dancing diva, it's

always remains memorable. She recalls, "The first been a pleatime I took sure performing in locations like the stage in Poland, my Zabkowice and even in nerves were front of a church. "My palpable. It was a upcoming perfor-mance in Sobótka moment of truth, facing a
Polish audipromises a distinct atmosphere. One of the organisers,

Gudiya, always advocating for her dreams regardless of external

pressures.

Renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Apeksha Niranjan, who is currently on her **Poland Spring Tour 2024, gets** candid with **The Pioneer**, sharing her cultural exchange moments in Poland,

why was travelling there a

liberating experience for

ence with anticipation, wondering how they would receive me. I had

painstakingly prepared a traditional Indian classical dance, Bharatanatyam,

to present to them. Learning that the

auditorium was filled to capacity

brought me immense joy, yet it was

mingled with a touch of anxiety. The

applause that erupted at the conclusion

of my performance was nothing short

of enchanting. Audience members expressed their admiration for my

dance; some even approached to touch

my feet in reverence. I humbly declined, but they insisted, saying

they saw a divine presence in me. These instances are cherished memories,

marking my debut performance in Poland as an unforgettable one."

"This aspect of performance is particularly poignant for my tour in

Poland, as it underscores the profound

truth that even without sight, one can

express a world of feelings through

their eyes. It's a theme that resonates

universally, allowing everyone to connect with the depth of these expres-



parents together during times of discord. However, tragedy

strikes when Gudiya succumbs to a fatal road accident caused

by a pothole. Subsequently, about 50 minutes are dedicated

Hear out! Signs your liver is crying for help

The liver, one of the body's most confusion may occur in advanced liver vital organs, performs numerous essential functions, including filtering toxins from the bloodstream, aiding in digestion, and metabolising nutrients. When the liver is under stress or facing dysfunction, it often sends distress signals that shouldn't be ignored.

Here are 11 signs that your liver may be crying out for help:

Fatigue: Persistent fatigue and lack of energy, even after adequate rest, could indicate liver impairment as the liver plays a crucial role in energy metabo-

Jaundice: Yellowing of the skin and eyes is a classic sign of liver dysfunction caused by elevated levels of bilirubin, a pigment produced during the break-down of red blood cells.

Abdominal Pain and swelling: Discomfort or swelling in the abdomen, particularly in the upper right quadrant, may indicate liver inflammation or enlargement.

Digestive issues: Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea can occur when the liver is unable to produce sufficient bile or process nutrients effectively.

Loss of appetite: A sudden decrease in appetite or unexplained weight loss may signify liver dysfunction, as the liver plays a key role in metabolism and nutri-

plays a key role in metabolism and nutrient absorption.

Dark urine: Urine that appears darker than usual, ranging from amber to brownish in colour, could indicate liver problems due to excess bilirubin excretion. Pale stools: Light-coloured or clay-coloured stools may indi-cate insufficient bile production, a common symptom of liver diseases such as

hepatitis or cirrhosis. Itchy skin: Pruritus, or persistent itching, can result from the accumulation of bile salts in the bloodstream due to liver

dysfunction. Bruising easily: A comprom i s e d liver may lead to decreased production of in easy bruising and prolonged bleeding.

Swelling in legs and ankles: Edema, or swelling in the lower extremities, can occur when the liver fails to regulate fluid balance properly.

Mental confusion: Cognitive

changes such as difficulty con-centrating, memory lapses, or

disease due to the buildup of toxins in the bloodstream.

If you experience one or more of these symptoms, it's crucial to consult a healthcare professional for a comprehensive evaluation. Early detection and intervention can help prevent further liver damage and improve treatment outcomes. Additionally, adopting a healthy lifestyle, including maintaining a balanced diet, limiting alcohol consumption, and avoiding hepatotoxic substances, can support liver health and function. Remember, listening to your body's signals and seeking timely medical attention can make a significant difference in preserving your liver health and overall well-

(The author, Dr. Ajay Shah, is the Managing Director of Neuberg Ajay Shah Laboratory.)



Rajpal Yadav shines in Kaam Chalu Hai

TANISHA SAXENA

Tn 2015, the Bhillore family was struck by tragedy when they lost their cherished son, Prakash Bhillore, in a harrowing accident attributed to a pothole. Seated behind his cousin on a two-wheeler, Prakash was violently ejected from the bike when its front wheel unexpectedly plunged into a pothole. Regrettably, he succumbed to a brain hemorrhage resulting from the accident.

In the aftermath of this heartbreaking incident, Prakash's father, Dadarao Bhillore, embarked on a mission to address the issue by personally filling potholes, a noble effort that continues with over 750 potholes already tended to. And, the poignant story of their resilience has been immortalised in the Zee5 film Kaam Chalu Hai.

At the heart of the narrative lies a close-knit family trio: Manoj Patil (played by Rajpal Yadav), alongside his wife Radha (played by Giaa Manek), and their cherished daughter Gudiya (played by Giaa Mariek), and their Cherished daughter Gudiya (played by Kurangi Vijayshri Nagraj). Set against the picturesque backdrop of Sangli, Maharashtra, the film unfolds with a captivating drone shot capturing the essence of the cityscape. Seamlessly weaving through the tapestry of everyday life, the film delicately portrays scenes of the railway station, vibrant streets, bustling marketplaces, and individuals engrossed in their daily routines, all depicted through evoca-

tive black-and-white imagery.

Gudiya and Patil share a deeply touching bond, one that exemplifies the beauty of father-daughter relationships.

Despite cricket being traditionally perceived as a male-dominated sport, Gudiya dreams of becoming a cricketer, a passion wholeheartedly supported by her father. Every day, she diligently attends practice sessions, with her father faithfulby by her side, offering unwavering encouragement and companionship. Witnessing their tender moments together, from joint workouts to heartfelt cheers, it's evident that their bond transcends the boundaries of mere familial ties.

While Radha, Gudiya's mother, emphasises the importance of academic pursuits over sports, Patil remains steadfast in his unwavering support for his daughter's aspirations. Their dynamic is a testament to Patil's unwavering dedication to

to Patil's journey as he grapples with the loss of his beloved daughter, from initial denial to eventual acceptance, cul-The viewers are treated to an abundance of heartwarming scenes showcasing the minating in his decision to initiate a revolution by perinseparable bond between sonally filling the potholes. This approximately one-and-a-half-hour film heavily hinges on Rajpal Yadav's gripping and poignant performance. From the get-go, Yadav father and daughter. Gudiya emerges as not only a beacon of inspiration but captivates audiences with his authentic poralso as the adhesive trayal of a grieving father. For instance, after that binds completing all the death rituals for Gudiya, Patil sits with his wife at home, still under the illusion that Gudiya is sitting right beside him. He even picks up the bat and tries to repair it for his daughter. In a n o t h e r poignant scene, Patil sits beside the pothole that claimed his daughter's

overcome with grief, tossing pebbles into it and even running his hands through its depths. These moments are profoundly emotional, and Yadav skillfully ensures they resonate deeply. His expressions are incredibly natural, drawing viewers into the raw authenticity of his character's sorrow.

Well, the film largely overlooked the other two characters. There was significant potential to delve deeper into the mother's role, for instance, or to explore the daughter's character more fully before her tragic demise. However, it appears that the film heavily relied on Rajpal Yadav to carry the narrative. While the emotional depth of the film is commendable, in a story based on real events, there should have been a stronger factual foundation. If the film aims to portray a father's fight for justice for his daughter's death, then this aspect should have been given more prominence. However, the film becomes too emotionally charged to

address anything beyond the central emotional arc. The film's musical score serves as a unifying thread, seamlessly weaving together the various elements of the narrative. Take for example Gudiya, performed by the soulful vocals of Papon, with music composed by the talented duo Palaash Muchhal and Saurabh Singh Senger. This melodic masterpiece not only captures the essence of Gudiya's journey but also evokes a range of emotions that resonate deeply with the audience. Additionally, Ram Naam Satya Hai Unplugged, featuring a heartfelt rendition by Divya Kumar life. He and composed by Muchhal, further enriches the emotion-stares at it, al tapestry of the storyline. These poignant songs serve as

DIRECTED BY: Palaash Muchhal WRITER : Palaash Muchhal **STARS**: Rajpal Naurang Yadav Giaa Manek Kurangi Vijayshri Nagraj RATING: 2.5

poignant reflections of the characters' innermost feelings, elevating the viewer's connection to the narrative and adding a layer of depth to their cinematic experi-

what's brewing?

STINGS

SSI MANTRA ACHIEVES 1000 SURGERIES MILESTONE

S Innovations, the developer of India's first surgical robotic system. the SSi Mantra, dedicated to making robotic surgeries cost-effective and accessible to a global population, today announced a milestone achievement of successful completion of 1000 robotic surgeries using SSiMantra Surgical Robotic System, marking another significant milestone in the annals of the company. To recall, the first SSi Mantra Surgical Robotic System was first commercially installed at Rajiv Gandh Cancer Institute, Rohini, New Delhi in July 2022. In a short span of under 2 years, SSi Mantra has been installed in over 30 hospitals across the country and in Dubai and also been installed for teaching and training at the world famous Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

Victor Rackets now in New Delhi

With branches across the world including Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and China, the Taiwan-based badminton brand is re-entering the Indian market, to provide quality badminton equipment to Indian consumers including apparel, grips, kit bags, rackets, shoes, shuttlecocks, strings and other more badminton related products. General Manager of India, Ben Hsiung said, "This is our first official brand showroom here, and this is just the beginning of our India plans. It's always better late than never". Victor is also the official sponso for Ashwini Ponnappa, India's badminton tournament winner of women's and mixed doubles, and Prannoy HS, India's ace Men's singles badminton player. Victor Showroom is located in DLF Towers Moti Nagar The showroom is open from 10:00 am to 06:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

The Sleep Company opens new Hyderabad outlet

he Sleep Company announced the grand opening of its 75th store in India, located at Himayat Nagar in Hyderabad. The new store will be the company's 8th outlet in the city, catering to the rising demand from the residents for good quality sleep solutions. Stepping into the outlet, visitors will be invited to explore an extensive product array, featuring patented SmartGRID mattresses, smart recliner beds, pillows, office chairs, & recliner sofas. With two additional outlets on the horizon the company is further prepared to expand its presence in the city.

Haier India introduces S800QT QLED Series

aier Appliances India has announced the launch of its latest Smart QLED Series S800QT. Designed to elevate the home entertainment experience, the series has a 4K QLED display and comes in 4 sizes 75",65", 55" and 43". It will be available across all channels starting at a price of INR 38,990. The all-new QLED series builds upon Haier India's widespread acclaim of providing an unparalleled entertainment experience, offering enhanced features, and mesmerizing design elements. With quantum dot technology at its core, the S800QT series delivers an exceptional spectrum of colours, incredibly lifelike visuals, and unmatched clarity with a 4K display. This revolutionary series seamlessly integrates cutting-edge technology with a visually captivating look, aiming to immerse consumers in an unparalleled cinematic journey from the comfort of their homes.

JLR INDIA FULL YEAR RETAIL SALES **UP 81% YEAR-ON-YEAR**

R India reported its sales performance for the full year ended 31 March 2024. Retail sales of 4,436 units, and year-on-year growth of **U**81%, represent one of the best performances in the market since the company's launch in India in 2009 and its highest in the last five years. Range Rover and Defender retail sales continued to grow with year-onyear increases of 160% and 120% respectively. The recently launched 2024 Model Year Discovery Sport and Range Rover Evoque grew by 50% and 55% year-on-year respectively. Total retail sales for the fourth quarter were 854 units, up 43% year-on-year.JLR's certified pre-owned business grew by 28% year-on-year compared with the same period last year, reflecting the growing demand and the equity of JLR brands in India.

realme unveils the Best Player starting from Rs 15,999

ealme announced the launch of its latest realme P Series 5G smartphones - realme P1 Pro 5G and realme P1 5G. The two cuttingedge devices are set to disrupt the mid-range smartphone segment with their superior performance, exceptional user experience, and exclusive availability on Flipkart for Indian customers. Alongside the new P Series realme will also launch its realme Pad 2, Wi-Fi variant and realme T110 buds. Positioned as the "Best Player of Performance and Display", the new realme P Series 5G represents power. The design of these smartphones reflects the realme DNA of being bold and new-to-market, which will light up the eyes of users. The realme P1 5G features the powerful MediaTek Dimensity 7050 5G Chipset, a 120Hz AMOLED Display, 45W SUPERVOOC Charging, and a massive 5000mAh Battery. Whereas the realme P1 Pro 5G comes with a 50 MP Sony LYT-600 Camera with OIS, a 120Hz Curved Vision Display, 45W SUPERVOOC charge along with a massive 5000mAh battery and Qualcomm Snapdragon 6 Gen 1 5G Chipset. Visit Flipkart.com or realme.com for more details on prices and discounts.

Celebrating learners

nacademy announced the outstanding success of its learners in the JPSC CSE results 2023. This accomplishment highlights Unacademy's commitment to nurturing talent and enabling excellence n competitive exams. In the recently concluded UPSC CSE Exam, Jnacademy Learners demonstrated exceptional performance, securing commendable ranks. Among the top performers are Aditya Srivastava(Online Platform Learner) who secured AIR 01, Donuru Ananya Reddy(Online Platform Learner) who secured AIR 03, Srishti Dabas(Interview Guidance Programme) who secured AIR 06 and Nausheen(Online Platform Learner)

Start Your Impossible

oyota Motor Corporation (Toyota) launches the next chapter of the "Start Your Impossible" (SYI) global marketing campaign, igniting excitement for the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024. The global campaign showcases the power of local communities across the world rallying behind their athletes and emphasises Toyota's belief that no journey is taken alone. In Asia, Toyota partnered with 11 athletes from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan. Philippines. Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in "START YOUR IMPOSSIBLE", Toyota's first ever global corporate initiative. These athletes are set to participate and compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024. Progressing themselves toward their sporting aspirations, these 11 exceptional athletes will join more than 200 Global Team Toyota Athletes (GTTA), from across the globe, at the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024.

Goodeebag forecasts over 3x growth in revenue

oodeebag announced its ambitious projection of achieving over 300% growth in revenue for the fiscal year 2024-25. Building on its recent operational successes and expansion initiatives, the company aims to surpass the previous milestones in revenue, signaling a significant leap orward in its journey towards environmental stewardship and business excellence. The surge in projected revenue is attributed to Goodeebag's strategic expansion plans in cities beyond its home base of Hyderabad. With upcoming launch plans in Chandigarh, Guwahati, and Jaipur, Goodeebag aims to tap into new markets and serve a broader customer pase with its innovative waste management solutions

IMGC and Bank of India partner to offer **Mortgage Guarantee-backed Home Loans**

ndia Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC), India's first mortgage guarantee company, today announced its strategic partnership with Bank of India (BOI), one of India's largest public sector banks, to offer innovative mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products. This collaboration focuses on salaried and self-employed home loan customers in the affordable housing segment. Leveraging IMGC's guarantee expertise and Bank of India's extensive network of over 5,100 branches across India, this collaboration will enable Bank of India to provide home loan products with greater flexibility and security to potential homeowners.





Chennai-based Advanced gro hair and glo skin 6th clinic was inaugurated by Tollywood Actress Ananya Nagalla along with Managing Director of Advanced Grohair Clinic - Saran Vel J in presence of the franchise partner Bhargavi Ganji in Raichandani Capital, Road No 12, Banjara Hills. Addressing a gathering after the Inaugural Actress Ananya Nagalla, said that skin and hair clinic play an important role in lending that glamorous touch to every one life



Dr. Ajai Kumar Agarwal, National President of the International Chambers of Public Relations and Advisor to SME Chambers of India for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has recently achieved a remarkable milestone: the Guinness World Records Award. To celebrate this historic achievement, a success meet was organised by Dr. Ajai Agarwal at Chubby Cho restaurant on Road No. 45, Jubilee Hills, lyderabad. The event was graced by the presence of Aiay Mishra, IAS (Retd), former Special Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana and Chairman of Red Cross Society Telangana, who attended as the chief guest.

Photos by-SV

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES

REALITY CHECK

IGNORE HER! SHE'S JUST

TO PITBULL!

TRYING TO GET A REACTION





SPEED BUMP

WHAT PINOL REALLY. I'M JUST TAKING

Notes.





GARFIELD







AUNT FRITZI'S HOLLY-WOOD SCREEN TEST WAS A FLOP-BUT THE STUDIO NEEDED A KID ACTRESS --- SO GUESS WHO GOT A SHOT AT STARDOM?

GINGER MEGGS







SUDOKU



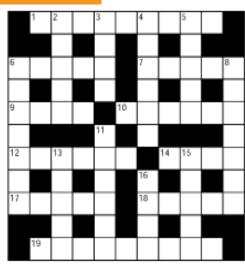
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ** * * * * \(\frac{1}{2} \)

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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Look at the stars through this
- 6 Naming words
- 7 Memorise 9 Awful to look at
- 10 Say again
- 12 A team game with sticks 14 Trip over
- 17 A short spell of very wild weather with wind and rain 18 Instructions for building
- 19 Played make-believe DOWN 2 Of the same length

3 A compass direction

houses



4 Less hot

6 Zeros

5 A flat dish

8 Stinging plants

11 A hard safety hat

13 A large group of

singers

15 Not asleep

16 Unlock

DO YOU WANT ON YOUR ROAST BEEFF







Hyderabad | Friday April 19, 2024

tollywood



Chiranjeevi felicitates Maharshi Raghava for his 100th blood donation

he Chiranjeevi Blood Bank, a beacon of hope and life in the Telugu states, recently witnessed a heartwarming event. Actor Maharshi Raghava, a dedicated supporter of the blood bank, achieved a remarkable feat by donating blood for the 100th time. This incredible act of selflessness and commitment to saving lives deserves immense praise and recognition.

Maharshi Raghava's connection with the Chiranjeevi Blood Bank goes back to its very inception. He was the second person to donate blood, following in the footsteps of Murali Mohan, when the bank opened its doors in 1998. Chiranjeevi, recognising Raghava's dedication, had promised to be present for his 100th donation. Despite being in

Chennai at the time, Chiranjeevi ensured

that Raghava's milestone was celebrated He invited Raghava and his wife, Shilpa Chakraborty, to his residence for a special felicitation ceremony. Murali Mohan, the first donor, also joined the celebration, adding to the significance of the occasion. During the ceremony, Chiranieevi expressed his heartfelt appreciation for Raghava's unwavering commitment. He lauded Raghava's dedication to donating blood every three months, highlighting the profound impact it has on saving lives. The presence of key figures from the Chiranieevi Blood Bank, including Chief Financial Officer Sekhar, COO Ramanaswamy Naidu, and Medical Officer Dr. Anushgari, further emphasised the importance of this

Market Mahalakshmi: Made for family audience

PNS | HYDERABAD

Plot:

A government clerk (played by Kedar Shankar) meticulously plans his son's (played by Parvateesam) future, aiming for a prosperous match with a girl who can offer a substantial dowry. However, his scheme falters when Parvateesam falls for Mahalakshmi (played by Praneekaanvikaa), a spirited vegetable

st: Parvateesam, Praneekaanvikaa, Harsha Vardhan, Mahaboob Basha, Avinash, Kedar Shankar, etc.

Writer and Director: VS. Mukkhesh Producer: Akhilesh Kalaru

lusic: Joe Emnav

tographer: Surendra Chilumula

ditor: R.M. Viswanath Koochanapalli

seller at the market. Mahalakshmi, bur- from real-life experiences, delivering a dened with family responsibilities due to compelling story that challenges tradiher father's paralysis and her brother's (played by Mahaboob Basha) alcoholism, is initially skeptical of love. As Parvateesam endeavors to win her heart, the story unfolds with unexpected twists.

Performances:

Parvateesam shines in a settled performance, complemented Praneekaanvikaa's refreshing portrayal of Mahalakshmi.

Mukku Avinash and Mahaboob Basha also leave a mark in their respective roles.

Technicalities:

Director Mukkhesh's extensive experience in short films is reflected in his cohesive storytelling. Surendra Chilumula's cinematography captures the essence of the narrative, enhancing the film's visual appeal. Joe Emnav's music stands out. Producer Akhilesh Kalaru's dedication to nurturing talent is evident in the impressive production values.

Prithviraj Sukumaran has returned to the director's chair after the success of

Aadujeevitham. Following the tri-umph of his directorial debut

Lucifer, which became a critical and

box office hit in Malayalam cinema, Prithviraj is now filming L2: Empuraan, featuring the legendary Mohanlal in the lead role.

Currently shooting its fourth schedule in Chennai, Prithviraj

recently shared behind-thescenes glimpses from the set,

expressing his excitement with the caption, "On to

Despite its title suggesting a female-centric narrative, Market Mahalakshmi is grounded in profound family values.

Director Mukkhesh draws inspiration audiences.

tional norms. The film's strength lies in its witty dialogues and comedic moments, although certain scenes may test audience patience. The film's pacing improves significantly in the second half,

delivering engaging performances and heartwarming family values.

Verdict:

Overall, Market Mahalakshmi offers a heartfelt cinematic experience, blending comedy with strong family values. While the first half may feel slowpaced, the film picks up momentum post-interval, delivering memorable performances and engaging story-

telling.
It is recommend-

ed for its genuine portrayal of relationships and commitment to entertaining family



Teja's 'Super Yodha' movie titled *Mirai*

ing venture, titled *Mirai*, starring the charismatic Teja Sajja as the enigmatic Super Yodha. Directed by the talented Karthik Gattamneni, this project is backed by the vision of TG Vishwa Prasad, promising top-tier production values and technical brilliance.

The unveiling of *Mirai* commenced with a title that speaks of the future - depicted in a striking Japanese font on Thursday. Teja Sajja's first look as the Super Yodha, set against the backdrop of a volcanic eruption, is nothing short of aweinspiring. The poster captures the essence of the character's fierce demeanor, heightened by the eclipse looming in the background.

A teaser glimpse unveiled the profound backstory of Mirai, rooted in the historical context of King Ashoka and his secretive 9. The narrative weaves around the divine knowledge guarded by 9 warriors across generations, with an impending eclipse threatening this sacred wisdom. Teja Sajja shines as the Super Yodha, poised to protect the legacy of Ashoka's secrets through exhilarating combat sequences.

The glimpse leaves viewers captivated, setting the stage for an epic battle across generations.

Mirai is a testament to the collaborative efforts of a skilled team, with Karthik Gattamneni handling the screenplay alongside Manibabu

People Media Factory has set the stage for a grand cinematic experience with their upcom-Nagendra Tangala's art direction and Vivek Kuchibhotla's co-production further enhance the film's visual appeal.

Anticipation is sky-high as Mirai



gears up for a multi-lingual release. gears up for a mutti-ingual release, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi, and even Chinese, scheduled for April 18th, 2025. This ambitious project promises to deliver an unparalleled cinematic experimental that Declarations. rience in both 2D and 3D formats, marking a milestone in the realm of Indian cinema.

Prithviraj returns as director Aadi Sai Kumar next is *Krishna* From Brindavanam

to content-driven storytelling. With a sing ensemble and a fresh approach to arrative, this project aims to offer a compelling cinematic journey.

The film is slated for release on May 3, 2024, of 1980s

Kakatiya Hills, the launch of Aadi Sai Kumar's elements of village drama, comedy, and heartfelt witnessed the presence of esteemed personalities from Tollywood. Producer Dil Raju and director Anil Ravipudi, along with actor Sai Kumar. The event, marked by traditional rituals, saw Dil Raju initiating the muhurtham shot with the clapboard, while Anil Ravipudi undertook the honorary directorial duties. Sai Kumar contributed by switching on the camera symbolising the auspicious beginning of this much-anticipated family entertainer. Aadi Sai Kumar, expressing his gratitude, acknowledged the presence of Dil Raju and Anil Ravipudi, highlighting the significance of reuniting with director Veerabhadram Chowdary after their previous success with Chuttalabbai. Aadi assured that Krishna From Brindavanam

Director Veerabhadram Chowdary echoed Aadi's enthusiasm, emphasising the film's engaging storyline and the pivotal role played by Digangana Suryavanshi, who reunites with Aadi after Crazy Fellow. The production, led by Thumu Narasimha and Jami Srinivasa Rao under Lakshmi Prasanna Productions, promises to captivate audiences with its engaging narrative. Krishna From Brindavanam is slated to commence shooting in June, with music maestro Anup Rubens onboard to deliver another stellar album. With a talented cast and crew on board, the film is poised to deliver an unforgettable cinematic experience, blending drama, comedy, and heartfelt emotions for

Satyam Rajesh: Embracing authenticity in cinematic narratives vated me from the start, ensuring a cohe-

PNS | HYDERABAD n the bustling city of Hyderabad, where stories unfold behind every apartment door and the echo of daily life resonates through the corridors, Satyam Rajesh found himself drawn into the depths of Tenant, an upcoming film that promises to unravel the intricacies of everyday relationships. Directed by Y. Yugandhar, Megha Chaudhary, Chandana Payyavula, Esther Noronha, and Bharat Kant play key roles in this film hitting theatres today (April 19). Produced by Mogulla Chandrasekhar Reddy under the banner of Mahateja Creations, this film has gotten an A certificate. which is

As he sat down for a candid conversation with the media, Satyam shared glimpses of the movie's essence, infused with his passion for authentic storytelling. "Tenant delves into everyday scenarios, focusing on the intricate problems faced by a married couple," he explained, his eyes reflecting the depth of the narrative. "Set within an apartment, the film unfolds as a realistic depiction of life events." One question that lingered in the air was about the film's 'A' certificate, a stamp that added weight to its authenticity. "The film features a scene where a character falls from a height, depicted realistically for authenticity," Satyam revealed.

The conversation then steered toward Satyam's affinity for unconventional films. "I prioritise concept-driven narratives over mainstream genres like action or romance," he shared adding, "My goal is to contribute meaningfully as an artist, exploring stories that resonate with authenticity rather than commercial elements." Reflecting on the film's production journey, Satyam praised the director's vision. "Every shot was part of the film, seamlessly woven into the trailer. Director Yugandhar's storytelling captisive and engaging narrative," he remarked. When asked about the decision to opt

for a theatrical release for Tenant, Satyam's response was rooted in the film's compelling storyline: "The film surpassed our expectations during the production process. Inspired by its quality, we decided to release it in theaters to reach a wider audience."

The conversation delved deeper into the nuances of Tenant, particularly its writing and music. "Varma Srinivas' writing is natural and devoid of unnecessary dialogues," Satyam praised, further adding, "Sahitya Sagar's music breathes life into the film, evoking genuine emotions that resonate deeply."

Looking ahead to future projects, Satyam expressed enthusiasm for character-driven roles aligned with his artistic vision. "I gravitate towards nuanced roles akin to Prakash Raj and Raghuvaran," he revealed, his passion for diverse performances evident. In closing, Satyam left viewers with a glimpse of what to expect from Tenant: "The film offers a compelling murder mystery intertwined with suspense. Audiences will be intrigued and empathetic towards the

Actor Satyam Rajesh, who will next be seen in the upcoming film *Tenant*, speaks to the media here sharing his passion for authentic storytelling, some insights on *Tenant*, and more

Sree Vishnu launches Raja Raveendar teaser

In a recent unveiling, the teaser of the eagerly anticipated family drama Sarangadariya, starring Raja Raveendar, was revealed with support from actor Sree Vishnu. The film, produced by Umadevi and Sarath Chandra under the Saija Creations bearer for the project marking his directions of the project marking his directions. under the Saija Creations banner and directed by Padmarao Abbisetti (Alias Pandu), is currently undergoing post-production with a planned release date in May.

Speaking about the film, the teaser portrays Sarangadariya as a poignant and emotional family entertainer. It centers around a middle-aged man striving to lead a respectable life within society alongside his wife and children a narrative fraught with challenges

and societal scrutiny. Commenting on the teaser release, producers Umadevi and Sarath Chandra expressed grati-

for the project, marking his directorial debut with *Sarangadariya*. He emphasized the film's exploration of middle-class family struggles and its portrayal of universal themes of love and family bonds. Abbisetti echoed the producers' sentiments, underscoring the film's status as a quintessential family entertainer.

With its compelling narrative relatable Sarangadariya promises to strike a chord with audiences upon its release in May, offering a heartfelt portrayal of familial relationships and societal challenges.



LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS FACE STERN HOME TEST AGAINST QUALITY CSK BOWLING

set of probing questionnaires awaits the Lucknow Super Giants on their home turf as Chennai Super Kings' cerebral bowling unit will look to use its variation to the fullest on a two-paced Ekana Stadium track during their IPL clash here on Friday.

The two teams endured contrasting fortunes in their previous couple of matches. While Ruturaj Gaikwad's team, still 'marshalled' by the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni, is coming into the game with back-to-back victories, LSG under KL Rahul have endured a mini-slump with successive

defeats. With LSG's batting unit not exactly inspiring the highest level of confidence despite its firepower, it remains to be seen how it tackles an attack where each bowler brings something different to the table.

yorkers, is literally unplayable at the death, while Mustafizur Rahman has at least three variations of cutters, including one with scrambled seam.

Ravindra Jadeja, on tracks where the ball grips like it often happens at the Ekana, could be more than a handful. At Lucknow, it could be an option to play the extra spinner in Maheesh Theekshana to make full use of the conditions.

The average first innings score in Lucknow this season has been 175, which is at least 15 sub-par compared to some of the other grounds, and this is exactly the kind of total where Dhoni, like the seasoned 'Concert Master' of an orchestra team, controls the 'pitch and tune'.

Lucknow, on the other hand, have had issues with injuries. Their young pace sensation Mayank Yadav had to sit out of the last two games after suffering lower abdominal

Matheesha Pathirana, with his strain after playing just two

and a quarter games.
The 21-year-old has resumed training on Wednesday and his blistering pace could seriously have an impact on the match as most of the other bowlers playing this game are either medium-fast or fast medium. But there is still no clarity if Mayank will be playing on Friday.

In the spin department, Ravi Bishnoi has been bowling tight spells, but his one dimensional skill of bowling one googly after another has been found out as he got only four wickets in the six game so far. Bishnoi vs a rampaging Shivam Dube will be a mouth-watering contest and will add a spicy sub-plot to the main battle. The batting is a bigger issue for

LSG as one of their mainstays

— Quinton de Kock, after consecutive half-tons, has hit a rough patch in the previous three games. The contentious 'Impact Player' rule has also



more than capable left-hander, has been batting as low as No. 7 and faced 41 deliveries cumulatively in six games — an average seven balls per game. Krunal isn't exactly a finisher, and not using him at optimum level has also been a problem.

problem.
Even skipper KL Rahul (204 runs at 138 SR) hasn't been at his best and his safe starts have been more damaging than beneficial. Young Ayush Badoni too seems to be playing for his place in the side. Only Nicholas Pooran, with 19 sixes in six games, have looked dangerous.

dangerous.
While CSK will look to consolidate their place in the points table with what could be their fifth win, a defeat would further push LSG southwards.

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (wk), Aravelly Avanish (wk), Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Ajinkya Rahane,

Shivam Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra, Santner, Nishant Mitchell Sindhu, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Mustafizur Choudhary, Rahman, Matheesha Pathirana, Simarjeet Singh, Prashant Solanki, Shardul Thakur, Maheesh Theekshana, Sameer Rizvi.

Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (c), Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Deepak Hooda, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravi Bishnoi, Naveen-ul-Haq, Krunal Pandya, Yudhvir Singh, Prerak Mankad, Yash Thakur, Amit Mishra, Shamar Joseph, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, K. Gowtham, Shivam Mavi, Arshin Kulkarni, M. Siddharth, Ashton Turner,

Matt Henry, Mohd. Arshad

Started preparing for freight train called SRH: DC bowling coach James Hopes

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Delhi Capitals bowling coach James Hopes said his team is looking forward to beginning its home stretch against the "freight train" called Sunrisers Hyderabad as it aims for a resurgent run after some early setbacks in the ongoing

Delhi defeated Gujarat Titans by six Delhi defeated Gujarat Titans by six wickets after bowling them out for 89 runs in a clash on Wednesday. The team will now play three back-to-back home games, starting with the contest against SRH on Saturday. SRH have been flying high and have twice posted record-breaking IPL totals in this edition. They registered the highest ever in the tournament history. highest ever in the tournament history — 287/3 — in their last game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Challengers Bengaluru.

"We're running into the freight train next game, which is SRH. We've already started preparing for that. So we're hopeful if we have a good week and a half we would be top-four," Hopes said in a media interaction here on Wednesday night.

DC are currently placed sixth on the points table.

points table.

Hopes said DC skipper Rishabh Pant seems to be hitting his stride at just the right time, with his batting showing improvement and his leadership inspiring

those around him. "It's pretty good. Last year, we tried really hard to cover that gap. It's very hard to cover a world-class keeper, if not the best keeper but batsman in the world.

"Now he's back, you can just see everything about his game. His keeping, his captaincy is becoming very sharp. His batting has been pretty good from the start

of the tournament actually," Hopes said.
"He's rounding in some pretty good form at back half of the tournament, and he's leading really well as well," Hopes said. Hopes was confident that Wednesday's

win would negate the 106-run defeat

against Kolkata Knight Riders on April 3

that hurt the team's net run rate.

"Hopefully that negates the 270 game and the net run rate. So, yeah, it's been a good

the net run rate. So, yeah, it's been a good night, but we've got a pretty quick turnaround to our next game," he said.

GILL NOT UNDER PRESSURE:

MILLER: Gujarat Titans batter David Miller defended skipper Shubman Gill, who had a rare bad day. Gill got out for eight as four of GT's top-six failed to reach double-digit scores and the 2022 champions folded for their lowest IPI total champions folded for their lowest IPL total of 89 in 17.3 overs

"I don't think it affected the result. We have got seven-eight batters and everyone is capable of winning games," the veteran South African batter said at the postmatch interaction.

Asked whether the burden of captaincy is weighing Gill down, the South African said: "No, not at all. He has scored 250plus runs (267) from seven games, so he's batting superbly.

'It was just a bit sticky tonight, he played a bit early and got caught to cover another day he would hit it for four. He's batting

superbly. He's got a lot of runs so far and a lot still to come."

"A couple of wickets were really unlucky and strange dismissals. I thought the wicket was a bit sticky. But it was certainly not a 89 all out wicket... Definitely below par tonight. We can make all the excuses in the world but at the end of the day we didn't play good cricket."

He further backed their head coach Ashish Nehra who was widely credited for GT's historic triumph in their IPL debut

"No, there's nothing wrong with him at all. We really enjoy his enthusiasm, his passion for the game. Off the field, he's got a gift for really making a lot of time for every single player, getting around and making sure that guys are in a good space, whether they're not playing or if they're

playing." "He's so passionate. He really wants the guys to do well and very supportive at the same breath. So, there's nothing wrong with him at all, just a lot of passion," Miller

Pant mobility will give him and Team India management encouragement: Pietersen

PTI AHMEDABAD

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen feels Rishabh Pant and the Indian team management should feel very encouraged by the comeback-man's mobility in the IPL game against Gujarat Titans here as the T20 World Cup draws closer. Pant grabbed two catches, effected a stumping and then played a 16-run cameo in Delhi Capitals' six-wicket triumph over Gujarat Titans here on Wednesday. He was adjudged 'Player of the Match'

adjudged 'Player of the Match' based purely on his keeping skills, a first in IPL since Dinesh Karthik won one in



2009 edition in South Africa. Pant is the top contender for the wicketkeeper's slot in the Indian squad that will be chosen for the showpiece in June. "His mobility was

something that will give him great encouragement, which will also encourage Team India. Of course, he needs game time, as everyone does when coming back from an

injury," Pietersen said on 'Star Sports Cricket Live'.

"He's returning from a horrific Hes returning from a horrific injury, so game time is crucial for him. To prepare for the T20 World Cup, he should play these 14-15 IPL games because it's significant leading into a T20 World Cup. If he plays that much cricket, he will be ready," he added referring to the lifethreatening car crash in which Pant suffered multiple injuries in 2022.

Pietersen was also impressed by Pant's captaincy during the game, saying he used his resources quite tactfully. DC dismissed GT for 89 runs in 17.3 overs before overhauling

Down with hip strain, RCB Maxwell unlikely to play against KKR on Sunday

PTI KOLKATA

n a "mental and physical break" to ght his poor form. Roya Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has revealed that he is also nursing a "hip strain" and is unlikely to return for his team's away IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders here on Sunday.

The 35-year-old, who has managed iust 32 runs in six innings with an average of 5.33, pulled out of their previous match against Sunrisers Hyderabad saying "physical and mental toll probably just wore me down a little bit."



On ESPN's 'Around the Wicket' show he also disclosed his hip injury.
"I've actually got a little bit of a hip

got a few more days

strain so I've got a few more days off and during recovery," he said.
"So I've got a little period here where I'm still training, still trying to get myself right. If there is a spot that becomes available, I'll obviously put my hand up and take it."

"It's not one of those things where I've set a date that I'll be out for three games then I'll come back whenever I'm ready. That's that's not how it works. I haven't been at a level that's good enough to warrant a spot on the side this year."

OTHER SPORTS

Zhou will be a star regardless of who wins the Chinese Formula 1 race in Shanghai

AP SHANGHAI

Formula 1 returns to China this weekend after a fiveyear absence. And, no matter who wins on Sunday, the star locally will be China-born driver Zhou Guanyu. Despite his so-so results, Zhou

is being promoted as a celebrity in China. He's the subject of a new film as the first Chinese driver to compete in F1. And he's, of course, a favourite of sponsors who want a Chinese connection.

Ahead of the first Grand Prix weekend in Shanghai since 2019, Zhou described it as more than a race for him, saying "with a Chinese driver on the grid, we will write

history."
By the time he got to the driver's news conference on Thursday, where the questions to him ranged from China's economy and politics to its burgeoning auto industry's future potential in F1, Zhou had spent more than a week doing promotional work and meetings with sponsors, backers and fans.

"I've been extremely busy, you know - the busiest man, probably, in Shanghai over the last week and a half," he said. "A lot of activities done. It's great to see the support from



since 2022, he's yet to even reach the podium — meaning a finish in the first three places. In the last F1 race almost two weeks ago in Japan, his Sauber retired with a gearbox failure and he placed 18th out of 20.

In the season standings in 2023, he was also 18th with only six points from 22 races. But, the numbers don't matter much in the search for a hometown hero in F1.

The pressure, of course, this race is a little bit higher, but I don't think it gets much more than for me than my debut in Formula 1," he said.

"Because by now everything feels a lot more familiar than

back in the day. First day here is completely different ... Now's third season. So, I'm just going the country already."

Zhou has never won a Zhou was born in Shanghai



He noted that tickets sold out quicker than ever for the Chinese GP, with interest in the sport growing exponentially since he watched his first F1 race.
"For me, of course, it's been 20

years waiting until this Grand Prix," Zhou said. "Coming back here being an F1 driver ... Yeah, I can't wait.

"A lot of mixed emotion, of course, but I want to treat it as much as the normal race weekend."

A film about Zhou's life will be released Friday by the Shanghai Media Group, a state-owned company and one of China's largest media conglomerates.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes — he's moving next season to Ferrari — won the 2019 race in China amid his era of dominance when he won four straight season titles between 2017 and 2020.

However, the race two weeks ago in Japan was the 49th straight that Hamilton has failed to win. His last victory



Juventus ordered to pay Ronaldo more than USD 10 million in salary dispute legal counsel" it's "reviewing

AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

ordered to pay Cristiano Ronaldo more than USD 10 million arbitration arbitration board following a salary dispute. The dispute regarded a move by Juventus players to defer part of their salaries during the coronavirus pandemic. The 9.8 million euros (USD 10.5 million) that Juventus

the decision made by the been arbitration board, reserving Tuventus has assessments and initiatives to preserve its by an board rights." Ronaldo played for Juventus from 2018-21, helping the club to two Serie A titles.

Former Juventus president Andrea Agnelli and the entire club board resigned 2023 amid an investigation into false 10.5 million) that Juventus accounting - which then resulted in a 10-point was ordered to pay Ronaldo is half the amount that the five-time Ballon d'Or penalty for Juventus in winner had been seeking Serie A and a ban by the Union of European Football Associations from the Turin club in back wages. Juventus said in a statement late Wednesday (UEFA) from Europe for that "with the support of its this season.

advance to the Champions League semifinals **AP** MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

 R^{eal} Madrid weathered the storm, silenced the crowd and ultimately ended Manchester City's brief hold on the Champions League.

The all-time kings of Europe moved a step closer to a record-extending 15th title in the competition they have dominated after a 4-3 win Wednesday on penalties at Etihad Stadium. But not before being pushed to the limit by

defending champion City.
"I was pretty much dead on my feet at the end," Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham said. "It's so difficult. They are continuously probing with the ball and move you around. Most teams would fall apart whose teams would rail apart when City get on top of you, but we stood up really well." The game had gone to the uncertainty of a shootout after ending 1-1 on the night and 4-4 on aggregate.

4 on aggregate.
City dominated the chances after going behind to Rodrygo's goal in the 12th minute, but only had Kevin de Bruyne's leveler in the 76th to show for its superiority, which included 64% of possession and 18 corners to Madrid's one

through extra time. That counted for little as Antonio Rudiger struck the decisive spot kick after Bernardo Silva and Mateo Kovacic both saw their



penalties saved. "In this competition, that's the way football happens," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "In other sports, for (these) statistics, we would have won." Guardiola had few complaints. He accepted his team had failed to capitalize against a Madrid team that was forced to defend deep against wave after wave of attack.

Real Madrid beats Man City 4-3 on penalties to

Erling Haaland hit the bar with one header in the first half De Bruyne sent an effort sailing over from inside the box in the second. Madrid dug deep, held on and now faces Bayern Munich in the semifinals after the Germans beat Arsenal 1-0 on Wednesday and 3-2 on

aggregate.
"Today it came down to mentality," Bellingham said.
The defeat ended City's bid to become the first English team to win back-to-back Champions League titles and its pursuit of successive trebles. It is still challenging for the Premier League title

and FA Cup. Victory for Madrid saw the Spanish giant advance to the semifinals for the fourth year in row — denying City the chance to emulate that feat. "This was about survival;" Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "Madrid is a club based on always fighting to stay in situations where there seems to be no way out — but we always find a way. By the time the penalty shoot-out came, we were totally convinced we'd go through." Ancelotti has already won the

Champions League a record four times as a coach — one more than Guardiola - and could extend that record by lifting the trophy for a third time with Madrid.

For Guardiola it is back to the drawing board after watching his team to relinquish the trophy it won for the first time last year and ending his own 12-year wait to triumph again in European club soccer's most demanding competition.