

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 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

'LS poll results will have bearing on K'taka CM's continuation'
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RAJPAL YADAV SHINES IN KAAM CHALU HAI
 9

Mangli's new song OUT NOW
 P11

DON'T MISS...
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...
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'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...
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'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...
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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 Runtal Gaikwad's team, still 'marshalled' by the peerless Mahendra Singh Dhoni, is coming into the game with back-to-back victories, LSG...
 -SPORTS



'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-

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 MLAs." 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 without any evidence."



BRS chief KCR expressed displeasure 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 Ichchamally 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 Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
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'Centre trying to divert Godavari waters'
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 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 three-member 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
 P5

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will hardly win 12-15 Parliamentary seats 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 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 Reddy said even BRS president and former Telangana chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao 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 they are going to teach a lesson to the party."

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 Vikramarka Mallu congratulated the Electricity Department for providing uninterrupted power supply to all categories of consumers.

TELANGANA LS POLLS
BRS banks on anti-incumbency votes

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD
 In Telangana, there are total 17 Lok Sabha seats. In the previous Lok Sabha elections the then ruling BRS 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 it will be very difficult to 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 debacle in the Assembly elections, the BJP did not strengthen itself compared to the recent Assembly elections.

42 candidates file nominations on day 1

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Raj stated that in all 48 nominations were filed on Thursday by 42 candidates. Speaking at a press meet at BRKR Bhavan on 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 19 enforcement agencies have a nodal officer appointed by the 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 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 3,31,00,00 voters, women votes increased in the Assembly elections. 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.

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

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, Sarbananda Sonowal and Bhupendra Yadav, Gaurav Gogoi of Congress, DMK's Kanimozhi and K Annamalai of BJP. 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.

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



Besides, there will be voting in 12 seats in Rajasthan, 8 in Uttar Pradesh, 6 in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Maharashtra, 4 in Bihar, 3 in West Bengal, 2 seats in Manipur, and one seat each in Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh. Campaigning for the first phase ended Wednesday evening. Besides Gadkari, Sonowal and Yadav, six other Union ministers - Kiren Rijju, Sanjeev Baliyan, Jitendra Singh, Arjun Ram Meghwal, L Murugan and Nisith Pramanik are among the contestants besides two former chief ministers - Biplob Kumar Deb (Tripura) and Nabam Tuki (Arunachal Pradesh), and former Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.



'Voting for Cong is vote for BJP'

Why are you sitting in the Secretariat built by KCR?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR attended a meeting of BRS booth-level workers of the Jubilee Hills constituency on Thursday.

Gujarat model is fake. Revant Baba says that Telangana will be modelled on Gujarat. Rahul Baba says there is no liquor scam.

seating BRS will win in Telangana in the Lok Sabha elections. Padma Rao Goud was the leader who raised the pink flag in Hyderabad in 2001.



KCR," KTR said.

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

'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.'

'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.'

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."



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.

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."

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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 in-charge.



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.

CM following KCR's path, says Mothkupally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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.

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 Bhongir.

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.

Will give best performance in south: Shah

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party will give its best performance so far in south India in the Lok Sabha elections this time.

seats in Gujarat with high margins, and its tally in Uttar Pradesh will be the highest ever, Shah claimed.

Nobody can defeat me in Secunderabad: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said that he is confident that nobody can stop him from winning the Lok Sabha elections and that the people of Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency will ensure his victory again.



eminent public personalities like the founder of the Lok Satta party, Jayaprakash Narayan, Pashyam Yadigiri, Narasimha Reddy, the Chairman of the Telangana Bar Council and P. Hanumantha Rao, the founder of the Sweetak Academy, Kishan appealed to the people to vote for him.

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 CM will participate in 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 April 21.

'Wayanad voters...'

Continued from page 1

He said that hundreds of Christians died at the hands of BJP goons in Manipur. However, Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah did not visit Manipur.

oath as the PM on June 9. "A fight is going on between two pariwars. 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.

Power demand...

Continued from page 1

In March 2024, the average 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.

CASH-FOR-VOTE CASE Setback to Naidu in SC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a big setback to the opposition TDP chief, the apex court refused to further defer the hearing on petitions related to cash for vote case in 2015.

2024. As soon as the hearing on the petition began today, counsels of Naidu and the Telangana government requested the court to postpone the hearing yet again and sought more time to file the reply in the case.

Today Almanac, Hyderabad Weather forecast. Includes date, time, temperature, humidity, sunset, and moon phases.

'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".

KCR predicts political turmoil...

Continued from page 1

KCR made these comments at the BRS meeting held at the Telangana Bhavan. KCR said that BL Santosh tried to topple the BRS government.

money laundering case, he said. 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.

Sabha elections. The leaders 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 Congress as well," he said.

KCR seeks time....

Continued from page 1

In a letter addressed to the BRS President, the Election Commission wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer on April 9, requesting a factual report.

Responding the Election Commission wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer on 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.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work.

INDIA CORNER

Indian woman cadet on vessel MSC Aries returns home

Ann 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...



Married woman, man jump in front of moving train

A married woman and a man allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train near Pahlipar village here on Thursday, police said...



Court sets aside magistrate's order taking cognisance of chargesheet

A 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...



SC TELLS PETITIONERS DOUBTING EVM MACHINES

Appreciate election panel's good work, says apex court

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...

remarks when advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner NGO 'Association for Democratic Reforms' (ADR)...



"Mr. Bhushan, now you are going too far. This is too much. Whether it's transparent or translucent glass on a VVPAT machine...

have to be critical of everything." Bhushan said he is not casting any aspersion on the poll panel but possibility for improvement exists...

Kerala to Centre: Ensure assistance to Indians in UAE

PNS 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...

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...



"declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in public interest". While both Parliament and state legislatures can enact laws on the subjects mentioned in the Concurrent List...

'AAP has emerged stronger after Kejriwal's arrest'

Sunita Kejriwal, the wife of jailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, will be her husband's voice and carry his message wherever needed in the country...



voice needs to be raised," the senior AAP leader said. "A plan is being framed up. We will make it public once it is ready," he added...

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...

At another poll rally in Balurghat, the CM dubbed the BJP as a party that always issues threats. "BJP leaders brazenly declare that your monthly allowance (under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme) will be stopped if they come to power..."



Bengal Guv calls off Cooch Behar tour on advice of ECI

PNS KOLKATA Acting on the advice of the Election Commission of India (ECI), West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday called off his proposed tour to Cooch Behar...

chess board". "My priority is to be with the people of Bengal. My focus is to fight against violence in the state, particularly during election(s)..."

'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...



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.

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

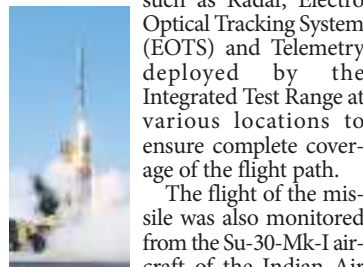
PNS KENDRAPARA (ODISHA) Struggling to meet the rising expenses of the upcoming assembly elections, a former Congress MLA in Odisha recently sold off a portion of his ancestral land to fund his daughter who is contesting as a candidate...



strain on the family due to the heavy campaign spending by rival candidates, making it challenging to meet the necessary poll expenses. Debansmita, following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather...

India successfully flight-tests Indigenous Tech Cruise Missile

PNS BALASORE (ODISHA) 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...



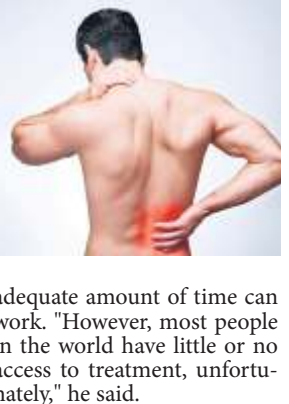
'Back pain, depression, main causes of ill health'

PNS NEW DELHI 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...

leading cause of poor health globally, we see that the existing treatments aren't working well to address it," said co-first author Damian Santomauro, affiliate assistant professor of the Health Metrics Sciences at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, US.

adequate amount of time can work. "However, most people in the world have little or no access to treatment, unfortunately," he said.

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.



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

The 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 endeavours.

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 stage.

(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

While 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 development.

Dennis (in the interview) fervently promotes the fusion of sustainability and economic advancement, underscoring their intrinsic interdependence for societal well-being. 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 intended trajectory.

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, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY, EXEMPLIFIED BY SCHEMES LIKE MGNREGA AND AYUSHMAN BHARAT

Governments, communities and 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 landscapes 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

'Jal Jeevan Mission' underscore 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

and electricity access. Challenges 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 is ours — 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

Last week, while flitting through the contents of a leading daily newspaper 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 relieve'. 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 too sometimes for sheer 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 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 multi-party 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 primaeva, divine scripture also provides a structural frame for the democratic governance system. It talks of



three assemblies — Rajyasyasbha (executive assembly), Vidyaryasbha (subject specialist assembly) and Dharmaryasbha (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 set-up. 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 turn-coats, no go slow on prosecuting the corrupt and criminal politicians and no silly concepts of majoritarianism or minoritarianism. There is going to be no

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

too well. Accordingly, we 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 planet.

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

Queen of expressions embarks on Poland Spring Tour 2024

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Apeksha Niranjana is a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer known 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 Niranjana continues to push boundaries with her unique style and captivating per-

for-mances, representing India on various global platforms. She earned the title of "queen of expressions" too.

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 musician to blend Bharatanatyam with Polish folk music—a fusion that, to my knowledge, is being attempted for the first time."

Poland, for obvious reasons, holds a unique place in her heart, not 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 the warmth of performing in India."

The tour spans various cities and venues, each with its own unique charm and requirements. For the dancing diva, it's

been a pleasure performing in locations like Zabkowice and even in front of a church. "My upcoming performance in Sobótka promises a distinct atmosphere. One of the organisers, whose grandmother

sought refuge in India 80 years ago, has shared her cultural heritage with me, enriching my experience. This cultural exchange extends to her granddaughter 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 and present, creating a tapestry of shared experiences and artistic expression."

Every moment on stage is memorable for an artist, but the first dance always remains memorable. She recalls, "The first time I took the stage in Poland, my nerves were palpable. It was a moment of truth, facing a Polish audi-

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 expressions."



Renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Apeksha Niranjana, 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 her, and more.



Hear out! Signs your liver is crying for help

The liver, one of the body's most 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 metabolism.

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 breakdown 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 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 indicate 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 compromised liver may lead to decreased production of clotting factors, resulting 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 concentrating, memory lapses, or

confusion may occur in advanced liver 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-being.

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



Rajpal Yadav shines in *Kaam Chalu Hai*

TANISHA SAXENA

In 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 Gaa Manek), 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 evocative 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 faithfully 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

Gudiya, always advocating for her dreams regardless of external pressures.

The viewers are treated to an abundance of heartwarming scenes showcasing the inseparable bond between father and daughter. Gudiya emerges as not only a beacon of inspiration but also as the adhesive that binds her

her



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 to Patil's journey as he grapples with the loss of his beloved daughter, from initial denial to eventual acceptance, culminating in his decision to initiate a revolution by personally 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 captivates audiences with his authentic portrayal of a grieving father. For instance, after 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 poignant scene, Patil sits beside the pothole that claimed his daughter's life. He stares at it,

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 and composed by Muchhal, further enriches the emotional tapestry of the storyline. These poignant songs serve as

REVIEW

DIRECTED BY : Palaash Muchhal
WRITER : Palaash Muchhal
STARS : Rajpal Naurang Yadav
Gaa 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 experience.



Chiranjeevi felicitates Maharshi Raghava for his 100th blood donation

The 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, Chiranjeevi 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 Chiranjeevi Blood Bank, including Chief Financial Officer Sekhar, COO Ramanaswamy Naidu, and Medical Officer Dr. Anushgari, further emphasised the importance of this achievement.

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

People Media Factory has set the stage for a grand cinematic experience with their upcoming 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 awe-inspiring. 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

Karanam for dialogues. Sri 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, 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 experience in both 2D and 3D formats, marking a milestone in the realm of Indian cinema.

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 Praneekaavika), a spirited vegetable

seller at the market. Mahalakshmi, burdened with family responsibilities due to her father's paralysis and her brother's (played by Mahaboo 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 by Praneekaavika's refreshing portrayal of Mahalakshmi.

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

Technicalities:

Director Mukkshesh'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.

Analysis:

Despite its title suggesting a female-centric narrative, *Market Mahalakshmi* is grounded in profound family values. Director Mukkshesh draws inspiration

from real-life experiences, delivering a compelling story that challenges traditional 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 slow-paced, the film picks up momentum post-interval, delivering memorable performances and engaging storytelling.

It is recommended for its genuine portrayal of relationships and commitment to entertaining family audiences.



Prithviraj Sukumaran has returned to the director's chair after the success of *Aadujeevitham*. Following the triumph 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-the-scenes glimpses from the set, expressing his excitement with the caption, "On to

home turf next! #L2E #EMPU-RAAN."

In the shared images, Prithviraj Sukumaran can be seen directing his team on set, showcasing his versatility both in front of and behind the camera. His acclaimed performance as Najeer in *Aadujeevitham* has heightened anticipation for his directorial venture, *L2: Empuraan*.

The sequel to the 2019 blockbuster features a stellar cast including Mohanlal, Manju Warrier, Tovino Thomas, and Indrajith Sukumaran, promising an exciting cinematic experience for fans.

Prithviraj returns as director

Aadi Sai Kumar next is *Krishna From Brindavanam*



In a glittering event at the Venkateswara Temple, Kakatiya Hills, the launch of Aadi Sai Kumar's latest venture, *Krishna From Brindavanam*, 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 *Chuttalabhai*. Aadi assured that *Krishna From Brindavanam*

would be a delightful treat for families, filled with elements of village drama, comedy, and heartfelt emotions.

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 audiences of all ages.



Satyam Rajesh: Embracing authenticity in cinematic narratives

PNS | HYDERABAD

In 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 drawing everyone's attention.

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 capti-

ated me from the start, ensuring a cohesive 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 Raghavaran," 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 characters."

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 banner and directed by Padmarao Abbiseti (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-

tude to Sree Vishnu for his support. They highlighted the film's heartwarming emotions and reaffirmed their commitment to the May release schedule.

Director Padmarao Abbiseti (Pandu) shared his enthusiasm 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. Abbiseti echoed the producers' sentiments, underscoring the film's status as a quintessential family entertainer.

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



