

As the groundwater levels are depleting, the booking of tankers has been increasing, which results in citizens paying more money for water. People who have ordered the tanker from Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) or from other private tankers, have to pay different prices. This is ranging from minimum Rs 500 to a maximum pf Rs 2,000 per tanker. Tarnaka resident Manohar said, "I am living in an apartment where there are seven flats ...

-PAGE: 3

### **Delhi Police to** travel by...

In a first, the Delhi Police personnel with weapons will be seen travelling in metro trains during emergency situations to avoid getting stuck in traffic jams and reach the spot sooner, officials said on Friday According to officials, the Delhi Police has got the go-ahead on its proposal in a recent meeting with the DMRC (Delhi Metro Rail Coorporation) and CISF (Central Industrial Security Force), which is deployed at the stations for security checks...



### If AI steals our jobs, who'll...

(360info) Economics has good news for workers fearing joblessness due to the rise of AI only labour consumes, and the value of consuming populations is growing. The guestion is one of increasing urgency. What will workers do when technology does most of the work? In April, tech titans Google Microsoft, IBM, Cisco and SAP, employment website Indeed, along with professional services major Accenture, among others, formed a consortium to explore the impact of ... -PAGE: 8

# Revanth warns KCR against trying to buy Congress MLAs



### **K VENKATESHWARLU** HYDERABAD

Countering BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao's statement that 20 Congress MLAs are in touch with him, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that he will shield all Congress MLAs. "This is Revanth Reddy. KCR, count how many MLAs will be in your shed this evening. Revanth Reddy is a high-tension wire and

if you touch our MLAs. People buried BRS's car in the Assembly elections. KTR, your car's engine was destroyed. Your car will be sold as scrap. KTR, your father's health is also weak," Revanth said.

PNS HYDFRABAD

government

Addressing a huge rally in Mahbubnagar before the Congress candidate filed his nomination on Thursday, the CM asked KCR what he had done for the people of

you will turn into ashes like a crow Palamuru although they had sent him to the Lok Sabha in the 2009 elections from Mahbubnagar.

Revanth asked KCR whether he had not constructed irrigation projects in Palamuru although the Krishna River flows through the district. He said that KCR failed to bring industries to the district but once KCR is seeking votes in Mahbubnagar again.

**Continued on Page 2** 

### BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. Chandrasekhar Rao has struck People should not give a single a secret deal with Prime Minister seat to the BJP and the BRS in the Narendra Modi for his daughter Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, Kavitha's bail and that KCR gave Revanth said. Addressing the five LS seats to the BJP as part of Manukota Jana Jatara public

**'BRS** chief gave 5 LS seats to

**BJP for Kavitha's bail'** 



# Is Congress having a different rule for Ponguleti family?

NAVEENA GHANATE HYDERABAD

The Congress seems to have a different rule for the family of Minister



Although Ponguleti is credited with the Congress win in Assembly elections the party has not yet

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS has asked Telangana

CEO, Vikas Raj, to give permission

for a KCR-led bus trip as part of the

of the CEO that KCR decided to go

on a bus trip across the state from April 22 to Mast 10.

BRS spokesperson K. Vasudevareddy handed over a peti-

tion to the CÉO and appealed to

take appropriate security measures for the bus trip. He asked the police to give orders to take security

measures for the yatra, identify crit-

ical areas and pay special attention to them, and to deploy Central

forces if necessary. As all officers will come under

EC during elections, it is request-

ed to take proper security measures

Congress government is attacking

BRS activists and social media

warriors.Regarding the recently

held BRS Chevella meeting, he said

that a flexi placed in the open meeting held in Medak and

Zaheerabad Parliament premises

The petition said that the

regarding the trip.

was removed.

It was brought to the attention

Lok Sabha election campaign.

said. "Delhi Modi and farmhouse KD are thieves. The people next 10 years. defeated the BRS in the Assembly

hief Minister Revanth Reddy said that BRS chief K. the deal. KCR has 'mortgaged' the self-respect of Telangana at the feet of Prime Minister Modi, he

elections and they would defeat the meeting on Friday for Mahbubabad Congress candidate Porike Balaram Naik, Revanth said the Congress will be in power for the

**Continued on Page 2** 



### **TS govt releases Rs 50 crore** dues to weavers

### PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana government has released Rs 50 crores in arrears due to weavers. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to release the remaining dues as soon as possible.

Last year, the then BRS government had to give arrears of about Rs 351 crore with respect to Bath kamma workers in Sircilla staged successive agitations and appealed to the government to support them by paying the dues. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Vemulawada MLA and Government Whip Adi Srinivas held discussions with the workers many times.

Both BRS & Cong are corrupt parties: Rajnath

### **Rishabh Pant set** for emotional...

An emotional homecoming awaits Rishabh Pant when he leads Delhi Capitals out at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here, hoping to halt the marauding run of Pat Cummins' Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday and continue the resurgence which has come to define his life both on and off the field. The last time Pant was seen at the refurbished stadium, he needed crutches to walk but that now seems a distant memory given how remarkably well he has managed to come back ...

-SPORTS

**Continued on Page 2** 

**BIP** candidate Friday at Khammam, Rajnath said that people threw out the corrupt

tioned in its manifesto. BRS government of Telangana.

Declaring that he was confident He said that the BJP government that the Modi government would be took several key decisions like voted to power again, Rajnath said scrapping Article 370, constructed that Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi had said that they will eradicate poverty. However, poverty kept increasing in the nation till Modi

The Congress is indecisive about candidates in Khammam LS constituency. Although Ponguleti is credited with the Congress win in Assembly elections the party has not yet decided to field his brother Prasada Reddy in Khammam.

Now, there are rumours that Mandava Venkateshwar Rao is the Congress candidate in Khammam.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka's brother Mallu Ravi got the

tunities with the latest being Vamhi Krishna contesting from Peddapalli on a Congress ticket. Already Gaddam Vivek and Gaddam Vinod

are MLAs. In the case of the Komatireddy brothers, Venkat is now a minister and if Rajgopal Reddy wins Bhongir

decided to field his brother Prasada Reddy in Khammam.

Jana Reddy's son Jaiveer is an MLA and now his son, Raghuveer, is the Nalgonda candidate.

Interestingly, even new entrants like MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy's wife and Kadiyam Srihari's daughter got Congress tickets.



### 'Your vote safe, exercise franchise in large numbers'



### PNS NEW DELHI

Kumar on Friday dismissed apprehensions about Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and assured people that their vote was safe and secure.Kumar asserted that the EVMs were 100 per cent safe as a large number of safeguards – technological, administrative and process-oriented - were in place.

cent safe. It has been raised in the honourable Court also. We are awaiting judgment, nothing can happen to the machines. Every stage political parties and their candidates are involved. Mock polls are done," he said to questions on doubts raised on the EVMs.

safeguards, technological, administrative, and process-oriented. Just enjoy the voting. This is a time to enjoy the voting, not doubt anything," the CEC said.

"Enjoy your voting, your vote is safe, secure and will be recorded as you vote," Kumar said.

# Govt to re-examine 15K GST assessments done under BRS rule

### PNS HYDERABAD

The Commercial Taxes Department has reportedly initiated a re-examination of GST assessments done during the BRS government's term.

The department suspects that GST assessments during BRS rule greatly reduced the government's revenue. So, it has been reportedly decided to re-examine nearly 15,000 assessments worth over Rs 13,000 crore of businesses with a



turnover of over Rs 5 crore spanning three financial years. The CT department estimates that by re-examining at least 10 per

cent, that is, around Rs 1,000 crore would come to the government.

The Commissioner has reportedly issued an internal order to reexamine the assessments of businesses with a turnover of more than Rs 5 crore in Telangana.

According to Section 108 of the GST Act, higher authorities can reexamine the assessments done by junior officials, remove mistakes and assess tax.

"In this editorial, we discuss a

third aspect: how to bridge the

### **LOK SABHA POLLS** 62.37 per cent voting in phase one PNS NEW DELHI allowed to exercise their fran-

An aggregate 62.37 per cent likely to go upwards when

the commission said people who were in the queue when voting ended at 6 pm were

voter turnout was recorded in reports from all polling stations phase one of the Lok Sabha polls on Friday, the Election Commission (EC) said. While the figures were issued will be known on Saturday after the conclusion of polls, after the scrutiny of form 17A, the EC said.

chise."The voting percentage is

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv

"It is a settled issue. It is 100 per

"There are a large number of

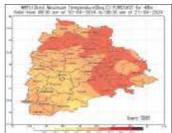
# Heat wave alert; state govt issues advisory

### PNS HYDERABAD

A heat wave alert (yellow) has been issued for the state by the India Meteorological Department-Hyderabad (IMD-H) in Telangana to help people witness a dry spell with temperatures soaring to a maximum of 44 degrees Celsius.

There is a possibility of a heat wave in the State from April 19 to 20. Temperatures are likely to be between 44°C to 45°C in East Telangana and 41°C to 42°C in Hyderabad. So the Telangana health department has issued a health advisory for all residents.

Director of Public Health & Family Welfare Telangana said, "As a part of precautionary measures, the gov-



ernment has made elaborate arrangements by providing special beds, IV fluids and essential medicines at all public health facilities. ORS sachets are made available with Dr B. Ravinder Nayak, the ANMs/ ASHAs/ and Anganwadi workers to meet any exigencies."



# India set to become science powerhouse

### PNS NEW DELHI

Science journal 'Nature' has said that India along with being an economic power is also more than ready to take the next step towards becoming a science powerhouse, as it called for a rise in the country's research and development spending, especially from the private sector.

The prestigious British weekly said in its editorial headlined "How India can become a science powerhouse" cited researchers to highlight that basic research has been neglected by successive governments and that a thriving research system needs much greater autonomy.

"Along with being an economic power, India is also more than ready to take the next step towards becoming a science powerhouse. This is not yet a given, but it can happen," it said.

is there for the taking," the journal said

funding gap. One thing India's government can do is to boost sci-22, according to government data, ence spending by encouraging busi-India had the world's third-largest pharmaceutical industry by volume nesses to contribute more, as is the case for other leading economies. If and was the leading supplier of policymakers and industrialists can affordable medicines and generic get this right, an opportunity to put drugs, some of which were "crucial" rocket boosters under the country's to fighting the COVID-19 pandemimpressive scientific achievements ic worldwide.

"Along with being an economic power, India is also more than ready to take the next step towards becoming a science powerhouse. This is not yet a given, but it can happen," 'Nature' said.

Last year, India became the fourth country ever to achieve a soft landing on the Moon and the first to land near the lunar south pole, it said, adding that the country also has the world's largest constellation of remote-sensing satellites.

The magazine said India is among the world's most prolific countries in terms of research output after the United States and China.



The editorial noted that in 2021-

Nagarkurnool ticket. Gaddam's family got three oppor- he may become the Home Minister.

the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, scrapped triple talaq and many others. He said the BJP government will introduce a Uniform Civil Code as mencame to power, Rajnath said.



# hyderabad 02



# 'TG gateway to south'

### PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that Telangana is the gateway to south India, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that people stand to gain if a stable government comes to power

Addressing a meeting at the Mahabub College Grounds on Friday on the occasion of the BJP's Secunderabad candidate G. Kishan Reddy's filing his nom-ination, Rajnanth said that the BJP supported the Telangana Bill thinking that the region would develop if a separate state is created. However, BRS leaders looted public funds for the last 10 years.

He said that there is not even a single corrupt charge against

### ECI filed 263 FIRs since MCC announced in the city PNS HYDERABAD

### District Election Officer (DEO) Ronald Rose said that since the Model Code of Conduct came into force on March 16, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has filed 263 complaints till 6 am on Friday. The ECI seized Rs 14,38,95,085 in cash and material items worth Rs 2.01 crore and 20,768 liters of illegal liquor were seized. The DEO said that from Thursday 6 am till Friday 6 am, the ECI seized Rs 4,33,295, and Rs 2,440 worth of material items. In all, 37 licenced arms have been deposited in police stations and two FIRs have been registered.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet colleagues. He appealed to the people to ensure the victory of Kishan Reddy.

### **CHOPPER CHECKED**

Election flying squad checked the helicopter travelled by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday. The flying squad conducted the checking at Khammam when Rajnath went there to participate in BJP candidate Thandra Vinod Rao's nomination filing programme. District social welfare officer K Sathyanarayana and trainee assistant collector Mirnal Shreshta conducted the checking for 10 minutes. Later, the officials stated that nothing was found in their search.

# **ECI nod must to advertise** in social media: DEO

### PNS HYDERABAD

District Election Officer (DEO) Ronald Rose ordered the political parties and leaders to get permission from the Media certification & Monitoring Committee (MCMC) to give advertise-ments in the social media. Along with social media other platforms like electronic media, Îocal cable, social media, FM radio, other online media, bulk SMS, video messages, advertisements in cinemas and for

filed nominations.

For Hyderabad constituen-cy The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin

Owaisi and an Independent Mohammed Akram Ali Khan

Meanwhile, Hyderabad

District Election Officer

(DEO) Ronald Rose said that

prior permission should be

obtained for political meetings

Nominations will be

received till 3 pm on April 25

for Hyderabad parliamentary

constituency candidates, who

should file nominations at the

office of the Returning Officer

have filed nominations.

and rallies.

at Lakdikapool.



printing pamphlets also, political leaders should approach the Election Commission of India. Ronald Rose said that the MCMC has been set up in

before the MCMC. the Chief Public Relations Officer's (CPRO) office in the GHMC head office. Political leaders should apply 24 hours prior to giving any advertise-

**Political leaders** 

should apply 24

advertisements

hours prior to

giving any

ments before the MCMC. The DEO said that in the pamphlets, along with the publisher's name, address, handbill, they should print the election code of conduct also. In those pamphlets candidates should not campaign against competitors with his caste, court cases and other issues. Under Section 127A of the Representation of the People

Act, 1951, any printing done without the name of the publisher and the name of the person will be prosecuted.

## WHOSE MLAS ARE IN TOUCH WITH WHOM? Jagga to KCR: Wait till LS polls are over

### PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said that whose MLAs are in touch with whom will be known after the Lok Sabha elections and that he will answer all the charges of KCR in August.

Jagga said that the Congress will bring out its weapons if KCR comes out and that KCR cannot do anything to the

Congress government. Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Jagga said that the BRS and the BJP have two to three top leaders. However, the Congress has around 100 top leaders, he said. He asked whether Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would keep quiet if the powerless KCR

played games. He said that how many BRS MLAs would join the Congress would be known after the LS elections. Jagga said that the joining of BRS MLAs in the Congress does

General Secretary, Secretaries and Ministers. He said the BJP graph has fallen across the nation and so

Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are experiencing sleepless nights.

He said that the

graph of INDIA is

rising and that of

the NDA is falling.

He said that the graph of INDIA is rising and that of the NDA is falling.

He said that BJP leaders are duplicate patriots and that the original patriots are Congress leaders. Describing BJP leaders as graphics leaders Jagga said that Rahul Gandhi's family is full of 'patriots' starting from Motilal Neĥru.

Jagga said that the Congress will win more than 14 LS seats not come under him and that it in TG and that the BJP and the comes under the CM, the BRS will not get back their Deputy CM, AICC in-charge deposits in most seats.

## Is Congress having a different..

### Continued from page

darshan of Swamivaru and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and his wife Padmavati are MLAs.

## LS 2024: 8 candidates file nominations in the city

### PNS HYDERABAD

On the second day of nominations, eight persons filed their nominations in the city. Out of the eight people, six persons filed for Secunderabad constituency and two have filed for Hyderabad constituency.

For Secunderabad constituency, Minister for Tourism Kishan Reddy has filed nomination from Bharata Janata Party, T Padma Rao from Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Beeramganti Sunitha Rani from Socialist Party (India), Kolisetty Shiva Kumar, R Gangadhar and Chalika Chandra Sekhar have

# Payments worth Rs 66,507 crore made after Cong came to power

### PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress government made payments worth Rs 66,507 crore after December 2023 till April 15. Of this, Rs 22,328 crore went for the payment of salaries and Rs 26,374

to clear debts in Telangana. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka said that around Rs 170 crore was allocated to Mission Bhagiratha, CDMA and HMWSSB to tackle the water crisis. Rs 5,575 crore was paid to 64,75,319 farmers as Rythu Bandhu, that is, 92.7% of farmers who have less than five acres has been trans-



The Rythu Bhima premium of Rs 734 crore was paid along with the power subsidy of Rs 3,924 crore, he said.

Bhatti said that a Central minister's claim that the Centre has given Rs 10 lakh crore to the state in the last 10 years is a lie and added that only Rs 3,70,235 crore has been

### received.A Union Minister made a mistake in his statement and said that the Centre has given Rs 10 lakh crore to Telangana in order to mislead the people even though the state does not get what it is entitled to from the taxes paid directly and indirectly by the state's people.

# BRS MLA Prakash Goud to join Congress in one or 2 days: CM

BJP leader Ravindra joins Congress in Revanth's presence

PNS HYDERABAD Kishan Reddy conducted poo-

Telangana BJP President G. signed on his nomination papers. ater

Nallakunta Shankar Mutt, had

Kishan conducts poojas in 4

temples before filing nomination

### maved, has also been lied about the loan waiver"

Contest of liars going

on in Cong: Harish

BRS MLA Harish Rao said

"Bhatti's statement that he 1 not promise a

peting against each other on who is going to tell the maximum lies.

PNS HYDERABAD

The six guarantees of the Congress have once again proved to be equal to 100 lies. He referred to the Deputy CM's statement, "The Congress had never promised to waive farm loans within 100

days of coming to power. We had promised to waive Rs 2 lakh farm loan. We will definitely fulfil the promise after the LS elections."In a tweet Harish said, "Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka is competing with CM Revanth Reddy in lies. After announcing in the full Assembly that the Congress has not given any guarantee on unemployment benefits, Bhatti, who was dis-

### TODAY ALMANAC

	•
Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Dwadashi:	Apr 19 08:05 PM
	to Apr 20 10:41 PM
Trayodashi:	Apr 20 10:42 PM
	to Apr 22 01:11 AM
Nakshatram:	
Purva Phalguni:	Apr 19 10:57 AM
	to Apr 19 10:56 AM
Uttara Phalguni:	Apr 20 02:04 PM
	to Apr 21 05:08 PM
Rahukalam:	9:07 AM to 10:41 AM
Yamagandam:	1:48 PM to 3:22 PM
Varjyam:	10:11 PM to 11:59 PM
Gulika:	6:00 AM to 7:34 AM
Amritakalam:	06:50 AM to 08:38 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:49 AM to 12:39 PM

### **HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Partly Cloudy Temp: 37° Humidity: 42% Sunrise: 5:57 AM Sunset: 6:33 PM

Updated: April 19, 2024 5:00 PM

er in 100 days is a gross deception of 70 lakh farmers. It is ridiculous to pretend that Bhatti did not know that

Revanth Reddy in his capacity as the PCC president said that he would waive off Rs 2 lakh loans on December 9, and that his first signature as Chief Minister would be on loan waiver," Harish said.

"The Congress which was showering promises before elections is showing an iron hand after it is over. People see everything. In the next election, they will surely speak their mind. Earlier, evasion of unemployment benefits and today's tendency to skip farm loan waivers are evidences of Congress leaders' frauds," Harish said.

TS govt...

### Continued from page 1

They brought to the attention of the CM that dues should be released keeping in mind the problems of the workers.Responding to it, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to release the dues immediately. He said that the arrears should be cleared keeping financial flexibility in mind. The leaders assured that the government will take appropriate measures and make arrangements to pay the bills from time to time.In the last three months, the State government paid about Rs 47 crore in advance and Rs 14 crore has been released for purchase of

yarn and sizing.

PNS HYDERABAD

Friday and expressed his will-In a shocking development, the BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao's statement that 20 Congress MLAs are in touch with him resulted in the BRS paying a heavy price in the

form of Rajendranagar BRS MLA Prakash Goud.

ingness to join the Congress in a day or two. Prakash is the first BRS MLA who met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a few days

after the Congress came to power in Telangana. At that time also, there were Prakash Goud met Chief rumours that Prakash Goud

may join the Congress at any Minister Revanth Reddy on time. However, Revanth has kept Prakash Goud in reserve and asked him to join now to give a fitting answer to KCR's

statement. Meanwhile, BJP leader Ravindra Naik joined the Congress on Friday in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

DK Aruna declares 82 vehicles 62.37 per cent...

### PNS HYDERABAD

Mahabubnagar BJP Lok Sabha candidate DK Aruna, in her affidavit, declared that she and her husband, DK Bharatsimha Reddy, own a fleet of 82 vehicles, mainly lorries and cars. Her husband Bharatsimha Reddy is a contractor involved in road projects. Her family owns properties valued at Rs

66.4 crore and she faces six criminal cases. She studied Intermediate. Meanwhile, Wealth of Hyderabad MP

# Heat wave alert...

Continued from page 1

He advised to avoid getting out in the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3:00 pm.

drinks may lead to the loss of

Asaduddin Owaisi assets total assets have increased include movable properties, from Rs 8.1 crore in 2019 to Rs cash and gold worth Rs 2.95 19.2 crore in the past five crore. He & his wife's immovyears. His assets comprise Rs able properties, commercial 8.3 crore in movable assets and and agricultural are worth Rs around Rs 10.8 crore in 20 crore. He owns one NP immovable assets. Bore .22 pistol, one NP Bore Kishan Reddy owns 8 acres

of land in Thimmapur, located in the Kandukur mandal of Rangareddy district. There are no criminal cases against him. He owns a 1995 Maruti 800 car valued at Rs 1.1 lakh, and his income for 2022-23 is Rs 13.5 lakh.

'Your vote...

as in four temples be ing his nomination papers on Friday as the Secunderabad BIP candidate.

Continued from page 1

Polling took place in 102 con-

stituencies across 21 states and

Union Territories in the first of

the seven-phase elections. The

commission described the

turnout as "high", noting that

voting remained "largely peace-

ful".In the first phase of the 2019

Lok Sabha elections, the voter

turnout was recorded at 69.43

per cent. ome of the constituen-

cies were different then and the

total number of seats which

went to polls were 91.

Earlier, Kishan conducted special poojas at his residence. Later, he conducted special poojas at the Amberpet Mahankali Ammavaru Temple and had darshan at the Bagh Amberpet Saibaba Temple. After that, Kishan went to

Ujjaini Mahankali Ammavari Temple and took the blessings of Ammavaru. Kishan launched his nomination rally along with Union

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Rajya Sabha Member Dr K. Laxman, former MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy and reached the Mahabub College.

Mynampally Hanumanth Rao and his son Rohit got tickets even though the former was defeated. In fact, people who lost like

Jeevan Reddy are being given a chance again in Nizamabad.It looks like the Congress is selectively applying its Udaipur declaration 'one family, one ticket.'

## Govt to re-examine..

### Continued from page 1

In Telangana, around 70,000 assessments worth Rs 16,172 crore have been completed in the three financial years of 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 in the state's 14 commercial tax divisions.

The CT department is likely to take action if it is confirmed that officials who conducted the assessments got personal benefits and defrauded the government. The Commissioner of the

the assurances given in the

AP Bifurcation Act, he said.

is coming to power at the

Centre and Rahul Gandhi

will become the Prime

Minister. The Congress is

going to fly its flag on Red

Fort and Rahul will take oath

as the Prime Minister on

said.Manukota has always

9, the CM

He said that the Congress

TK Sridevi, has reportedly ordered officials to re-examine around 13,000 assessments. As per the orders, the list of assessments done in each circle and each division are submitted to the Joint Commissioners of the respective divisions and to the Joint Commissioners in the Commissioner's office who have to give a report to the Commissioner incorporating all the errors and mistakes in past assessments.

Commercial Taxes Department,

**'BRS** chief gave 5 LS...

June

### Continued from page 1

Nobody can touch the Congress government even if they hatch conspiracies, Revanth said. "KCR, you cannot bring me down. Ýou can't topple me. I swear on the soil of Manukota, I will be in power for 10 years. We did not come to power easily," Revanth said.

Revanth said that the BJP been a Congress hub. The and the BRS have no right to Congress has the support of seek votes in TG. Modi did the CPM, the CPI and the injustice to Telangana. The Telangana Jana Samithi as it BIP deceived Telangana for had during Assembly electhe last 10 years by not giving tions

### 'I am a hightension wire...

Continued from page

KCR transformed Mahabubnagar into a desert in the last 10 years, he said and asked KCR whether he had secured the national project tag for the Palamuru-Rangareddy project. "Should we vote for the BRS to sleep in Parliament," he asked.

Later, Revanth participated in a programme of Congress candidate Ch. Vamshichand Reddy's in Mahbubnagar in connection with filing his nomination.

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30-60 rifle and he has loans worth Rs 7 crore and has five pending cases against him. Union Minister Kishan Reddy and his family's assets grew by 136% in the past five years. According to his election affidavit, Kishan Reddy's

"Avoid strenuous outdoor

activities when outside. In the afternoon, do not go out barefoot and avoid cooking during peak summer hours," the SC said.Open doors and windows to ventilate the cooking area adequately. Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks or drinks with a large amount of sugar as these

more body fluids or may cause stomach cramps.He said avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food. "Do not leave

children or pets in parked vehicles. Although anyone can suffer from heat stress & heatrelated illness, some people are at greater risk and should be given additional attention. These include infants and young children, people working outdoors and pregnant women, people who have mental illness, the physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure."

### Continued from page 1 The first phase of the Lok Sabha elections got underway

across 102 constituencies in

21 states and union territories

"We are getting reports

from the field that even if

rains are happening, people

are really coming out in large

numbers. Women, youth, old

age people... everyone is

rushing towards the polling

stations. It is really a delight-

ful situation to see that peo-

ple are dancing to the tune of democracy," Kumar said.

on Friday.



# hyderabad 03

# PEOPLE PAYING RS 5,000 EVERY MONTH FOR WATER Heavy dependence on water tankers in city

### **CHITHALURI REVANTH** HYDERABAD

As the groundwater levels are depleting, the booking of tankers has been increasing, which results in citizens paying more money for water. People who have ordered the tanker from Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) or from other private tankers, have to pay differ-ent prices. This is ranging from minimum Rs 500 to a maximum pf Rs 2,000 per tanker.

Tarnaka resident Manohar said, "I am living in an apartment where there are seven flats. My apartment is booking a HMWSSB tanker for Rs 500 and a private tanker for Rs 1,000. As my apartment borewell has dried up, we are totally relying on water tankers. So we are booking a HMWSSB water tanker and a private tanker every day. So when I calculate that for 30 days, it would be around Rs 6,000."

HMWSSB is charging a domestic tanker of 5,000 liters

### Increase in NRIs choosing Indian term insurance online

### PNS HYDERABAD

A rise is seen in the number of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) opting for term insurance from India through online platform. This increase is fueled by the accessibility offered by the Indian insurance market. Among various factors contributing to the growing interest in term insurance in India, affordability and convenience comes as primary drivers.

This demand among individuals aged 18-60 has seen 130% year-on-year growth, with India becoming the favored choice for NRIs residing in countries such as the US, UK, Canada, UAE, and Singapore. The spike in demand from

NRIs can be linked to several standout features and benefits. Term policies from India cost up to 30-50% less for NRIs residing in the UAE and Singapore. Along with policies with coverage of up to Rs 5 can be with tele-medical check-ups from India



of water at Rs 500 and Rs 850 for commercial tankers. But private tankers are charging from Rs 900 to Rs 1,500. Also, due to the installation of various water filling stations in the city, the delay in the tanker supply has been reducing dayby-day.

PNS HYDERABAD

Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on

Friday. During the special raids

at the quacks' clinics, stocks worth a total of Rs 2.56 lakh

On April 18 and 19, officials from the Drugs Control

Administration raided the

premises of quacks who were

claiming themselves as 'Rural

Medical Practitioners' and practising medicine without prop-

er qualifications at their clinics.

ics are Bandari Venkata Swamy,

Veppur Village, Mahabubnagar

dist, where the DCA officials

found 36 varieties of medicines

stocked and seized them worth

Rs 1.00.000∙ Chintakindi

The name of the quack clin-

were seized

Though the delay in getting Banda in Ŕukatpally said, "We are not getting tap water as much as we need. Hence, we tankers has been reduced, in some areas the board is not able to supply water in time. Mainly in the areas of are booking tankers and filling tubs and other water tanks. For Manikonda and Gachibowli tankers we are paying around

Though the delay in getting tankers has been reduced, in some areas the board is not able to supply water in time. Mainly in the areas of Manikonda and Gachibowli there is a huge demand for water tankers

Rs 6,000 per family. We get water twice a day and that too only for half an hour. A few months back water was supplied for more than one hour but now we are not getting it, though it is summer.

Also the delay in supplying water tankers came down in the city, thanks to additional filling stations and new tankers. HMWSSB officials are trying to ply water tankers to the customers within 12 hours of time after booking.

### Land-grabbing case booked against Cong candidate

### PNS HYDERABAD

A land-grabbing case was registered against Congress candidate Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy of Bhuvanagiri Lok Sabha constituency on April 13 at Adibhatla police station of Rangareddy district with the orders of the court. A woman named Kancharla Radhika filed a complaint at the Adibhatla police station that Kiran Kumar Reddy has encroached on her 200-yard flat in Ragannaguda survey number 500 and 501 under the Turkayamjal municipality. The police registered a case under Section 447, 427, 506 of the Penal Code against

Kiran Kumar Reddy. Meanwhile, Adibhatta CI Raghavendra explained that there are documents that the plot was purchased by Kiran Kumar Reddy in 2003 and Radhika in 2015. The complainant has showcased her documents that she purchased the plot in 2015 while the documents brought by Kiran Kumar Reddy showcases the fact that he bought the plot in 2003.

# 1,079 summer special trains to ensure comfortable travel

### PNS HYDERABAD

To ensure the convenience of passengers and manage the anticipated surge in travel demand during summers, South Central Railway (SCR) has announced 1079 special train services to cater to the additional rush during the summer season of April and May on Friday. The trains have been announced to the destinations that passengers are regularly travelling to and in the directions that have huge waiting lists.

Some of the popular des-tination pairs for which the trains have been announced towards include - Northern, Eastern directions like Secunderabad - Danapur, Hyderabad - Gorakhpur, Kacheguda - Kochuveli, Secunderabad -Agartala, Secunderabad - Santragachi, Secunderabad -Shalimar, Secunderabad Patna, Tirupati - Shirdi, Kacheguda Madurai, Secunderabad -Kollam, Hyderabad - Cuttack and Hyderabad - Raxaul.

In addition, special trains have also been announced to suffice the needs of the people travelling between the two



Telugu states during the holiday season which include destinations like Secunderabad - Tirupati, Lingampalli - Kakinada, Hyderabad - Narsapur, Tirupati - Visakhapatnam and Secunderabad-

Visakhapatnam. To meet the travelling needs of the passengers travelling in general coaches to Prayagraj, Varanasi and Danapur, SCR has also announced 22 unreserved weekly special trains towards Danapur. These trains have fully unreserved coaches thus providing affordable and convenient travel to the lower middle class, Shramik workers and pilgrim passengers who plan to visit these places

during holiday season. Indian Railways is operating a record-breaking 9,111

The additional trains have been meticulously planned to connect key destinations across the country, ensuring seamless travel on major railway routes. All zonal railways spread across India have geared up to operate these additional trips, catering to the summer travel rush from states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Telangana, Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. Passengers can book their ticket in these additional trains through Railway Ticket counters or Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) website or app.

trips during summer season.

### 3 held for selling IPL tickets in black

### PNS HYDERABAD

Special Operation Team (SOT) of Madhapur arrested three software employees who were selling IPL tickets in the black in Kondapur area. Acting on a tip-off, the team arrested Sonthuru Madhu Babu, Nova Sri Kumar and Niranjan Elangovan on Friday.

"It is our giving back to soci-ety as we have also gone through a struggle period in our preparation days," Bhagwat said. Mahesh Bhagwat has spe-cially acknowledged efforts of The police have seized 15 IPL tickets of the next match cially acknowledged efforts of between Sunrisers and Royal his team members who have Challengers Bengaluru. The walked extra miles beyond call Mahesh Bhagwat, ADG, of duty. For those who have not accused were illegally selling the tickets for Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 in black. Further, the achieved success, Bhagwat has advised to hold on to their dream and work on weak areas, also keep ready plan B.



there is a huge demand for

water tankers. A HMWSSB official said

that if we receive rain in the

next few days, the demand for

the tankers would come down.

Later on, we would not face the

struggle as we are facing now.

Sandeep from Yellamma

found 43 varieties of medicines stocked and seized them worth Rs 56,000 and Annapureddy Rajalakshmi , Film Nagar, Jubilee hills, Hyderabad, where the DCA found 40 varieties of medicines stocked and seized them worth Rs 1,00,000.

During the special raids, G Rajyalakshmi, Assistant Director, Warangal, T Rajamouli, Assistant Director, Hyderabad, Sk Rabiya, Drugs Inspector, Mahbubnagar, A Balakrishna, Drugs Inspector, Janakrishna, Drugs Inspector, Jangaon, Ch Swapna, Drugs Inspector, Jubilee Hills, M Aravind Kumar, Drugs Inspector, Warangal, B Lakshmi, Drugs Inspector, Charmiar and A Bashmi Charminar and A Rashmi,



### PNS HYDERABAD

Around 7% of the Indian population suffers with Îrritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), a chronic gastrointestinal condition characterised by recurrent abdominal pain, changes in bowel habits, bloating, and flatulence. It is often accompanied by psychological and somatoform comorbidities.

IBS imposes significant morbidity, work absenteeism, loss of productivity and economic burden, affecting patients quality of life. An integrated care approach, involving education, lifestyle changes, personalised nutrition and wellness, along with medical management, offers

effective management of IBS. Marking April 19 as World Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) Day, DailyBloom IBS, developed by Dr Reddy's inhouse is a m

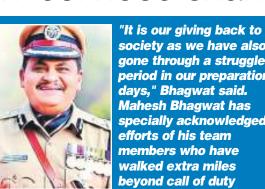
# 200 mentored by Bhagwat cleared civil services exam

### PNS HYDERABAD

In all, 200 candidates mentored for the interview by Mahesh Bhagwat, ADGP, have cleared the Civil Services exam with flying colours. All India rank third Donoru

Ananya Reddy from Mahabubnagar cracked the exam at age of 22 in her first attempt followed by Ruhani fifth rank, Nausheen from Uttar Pradesh - Ninth rank, Ayan Jain from Madhya Pradesh -16, Nandala Sai Kiran from Ramagundam, -27 th rank, Deepthi Rohilla -39 th rank, Sameer Khode from Nagpur -42nd rank, KN Chandana Jahanavi from Hyderabad - 50 th rank, Dr Neha Rajput from Jalgaon, Maharashtra - 51st rank and Khushhali Solanki from Rajasthan - 61st rank.

All the 200 candidates from all over India including Manipur, Nagaland and J & K in the list o 1,016. In the selected list rank 830 Adha Sandeepkumar from



from 2015 in person as well as Adilabad, is son of Telangana police HC Adhawar Venkatesh online through WhatsApp and rank 718 Vishal is son of group sessions. ACP Jaipur.

Rank 780 Mulgani Uday Krishna worked as police constable in AP Police for five years and then resigned and prepared for the exam and received guidance from Bhagwat's team.

Railway & Road Safety, with a team of mentors started help-



### society as we have also gone through a struggle period in our preparation days," Bhagwat said. Mahesh Bhagwat has specially acknowledged

Drugs Insp are among the officers who car-Yadagiri, Suryapet Road, Jangaon, where the DCA ried out the raid.

/anaparthy

offering an integrated care plan is launched.

ing civil services aspirants for their interview preparation

case is being invertigated by Madhapur Police.

## Screening by TOMCOM for nurses' enrollment

### PNS HYDERABAD

As part of the ongoing 'Triple Win partnership' between the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOM-COM) and Federal Employment Agency of Government of Germany, a special screening and enrollment programme for German language training for nurses to be recruited in Germany will be conducted on April 23 in Hyderabad.

General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM)/B.Sc Nursing from recognised col-leges of Telangana within the age group of 21-38 years with professional or clinical work experience of minimum 1-3 year preferably in ICU, geriatrics/orthopedics/psychiatry/cardiology/neonatal/surgical ward etc. and candidates

can also apply. Selected candidates will

have the opportunity to work in Germany as nursing assistant after successful completion of their B1 (level) language training in India and will be promoted as registered

nurse after clearing B2 and recognition exam in Germany. The minimum salary offered is 2300-2800 Euros. (excluding overtime allowances). Training is free of overtime cost; stipend will be paid to selected candidates upon successful completion of German language exam (Euros 250 after clearing A2 exam and Euros 250 after clearing B1 exam).

All Visa, immigration process and one-way flight tickets will be facilitated free of cost by TOMCOM and German partnership under with German language skills this programme.

**IIIT-H** starts Geospatial CGD Programme PNS HYDERABAD registered for UGEE will have the opportunity to include this pro-

gramme among their choices IIT Hyderabad has announced during the finalisation process. the introduction of a new pro-According to the institution, gramme in Geospatial technology as part of its trans-disthe CGD programme aims to equip students with the ability to ciplinary dual degree programmes beginning in the navigate the geospatial industry, handle complex challenges across various disciplines using 2024-25 academic year. These programmes combine a B.Tech a mix of computational and geospatial knowledge and inno-(Hons) in Computer Science with a Master of Science in specialised domains through vate cutting-edge technologies within the intersecting domains. Admissions to the CGD

This academic and research ini-(Computer Science and Geospatial Technology) protiative is launched to support the country's academic and research gramme will be conducted via capabilities in Geospatial science IIIT-H's Undergraduate and technology, in alignment Entrance Examination (UGEE). with the National Geospatial Policy (NGP) 2022. Eligible candidates must have completed the 12th class or

The NGP recognises the sigequivalent with Mathematics, nificance of this multidiscipli-Physics, and Chemistry by June nary field and emphasises the 2024. Those who have already promotion of research and tech-

nical manpower development at the university level.

combined Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), where India holds a significant role, highlighting capacity building and research innovation as crucial pillars for advancing Geospatial technologies.

Registrar and Head of Lab for Spatial Informatics, "Graduates holding dual degrees in computer science and spatial technol-ogy are presented with a wide range of promising career prospects spanning academia,

Narayanan said, "Geospatial technologies are composed to play a crucial role in the forthcoming years as data tied to spe-

**MAHAVEER JAYANTHI** Slaughter houses to remain closed

### PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ronald Rose ordered that on the occasion of Mahaveer Jayanthi, slaughter houses and retail beef shops under the GHMC would be closed on the occasion of Mahaveer Iavanthi.

Ronald Rose said that notices were already issued to the owners of the meat shops under Section 533 (b) of the GHMC Act, 1955 to close the shops on April 21. Veterinary and municipal authorities have issued orders to implement the closure orders of cattle slaughter houses and retail beef shops.



## Women SHGs start voter awareness drive in city

PNS HYDERABAD

Women self-help groups (SHG) in many colonies in the

city have initiated voter aware-

ness programmes. The groups

are reaching to every house-hold and creating awareness on

exercising the right to vote and

Systematic Voters' Education

and Electoral Participation

programme, better known as

(SVEEP) programmes carried

out in law colleges and veg-

The SHGs have created

awareness on the Saksham

application, PWD and other

awareness activities conducted

etable markets in the city.

at Mettuguda, Sitaphalmandi, Ramnagar vegetable market, Padala Rama Reddy Law College, Yusufguda, Tarnaka, Ameerpet, Begumpet circle and Patigadda.

Charminar zonal commissioner T Venkanna held a meeting with Booth Level Officers (BLO) and supervisors on Friday, where he ordered the officers to take measures to increase the voter turnout in all the polling centres and for that purpose, go to the Residential Welfare Associations, slums and markets and conduct voter aware-

ness programmes.

# Close affinity of Veddas of Sri Lanka to Indians

various tongues, pointing

towards a deep-rooted history

that predates linguistic diver-

Prof.Gyaneshwer Chaubey,

sifications,

research.

### PNS HYDERABAD

In a landmark study published in the journal Mitochondrion, 10 researchers from five institutions have unveiled significant findings regarding the genetic history of the Vedda population, an indigenous group of Sri Lanka.

The language isolates Vedda, who are among the least studied indigenous populations in Sri Lanka, have long intrigued scientists and historians alike due to their unique linguistic and cultural characteristics. This study, therefore, unravels the mysteries of their genetic origins and affinities

### with Indian populations," said

Dr K Thangaraj, one of the senior authors of the study and JC Bose Fellow at the ĆSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. The study involved a comprehensive analysis of high-resolution autosomal and mitochondrial genomes, sheds new light on the initial peopling of Sri Lanka and the ancient genetic ties between the Vedda and other populations in Asia. Key findings from the research indicate that despite the lack of close linguistic sim-

ilarities, the Vedda people share

a significant genetic link with

the ethnic populations in India.



stated

"Our autosomal analyses sugmolecular Anthropologist at the Banaras Hindu University gest a close genetic connection between the Vedda and Indian (BHU), Varanasi ethnic populations speaking

"Maternal DNA analysis supports the existence of an ancient link, reinforcing the notion of a shared genetic heritage," said the lead author, Dr Ruwandi Ranasingh, from

Colombo University, Sri Lanka. 'This study underscores the

complex mosaic of human migration and genetic diversity in South Asia, revealing how the Vedda have preserved their genetic identity over millennia despite massive cultural and linguistic changes around them. These valuable insights will contribute to a better understanding of the genetic diversity in South Asia and foster a deeper appreciation for

the unique cultural and genet-ic heritage of the Vedda people", said Dr Vinay Nandicoori, Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

Mahindra varsity ties up with Rockwell Automation

### PNS HYDERABAD

Mahindra University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rockwell Automation, Inc to train students in areas of sustainability best practices on Friday. The partnership will develop a collaborative framework to create, implement and promote a comprehensive 'Climate Solutions' course. The goal is to equip students with skills and knowledge in sustainability best practices.

The collaboration between Rockwell Automation and Mahindra will cover development of a comprehensive curriculum, carefully crafted to include fundamental sustainability concepts, methodologies and real-world applications. This will be complemented by the creation of dynamic learning materials, from traditional textbooks to cutting-edge online resources and engaging multimedia content.

The partnership will establish a climate solutions laboratory

that will offer students invaluable hands-on experience with advanced technologies. Outside of academia, joint research efforts will delve into pressing sustainability issues, fostering innovation and effective solutions

Dilip Sawhney, Managing Director, Rockwell Automation India, said: "By combining our expertise and resources, we aim to give a new generation of leaders the knowledge and skills needed to address pressing environmental challenges.

# Moreover, the United Nations Greater

research, and industry." Director of IIIT-H, Prof. PJ

cific locations proliferates."

According to Prof. KS Rajan,



# 

time. It explains why Revanth Reddy, fearful of his boss' loss in Wayanad, goes ballis-

tic against Pinarayi Vijayan. It

explains why Mamata

Banerjee can't spare even a

seat in West Bengal for her

alliance partners, whom she

sees as weak and unwinnable.

It explains why both the

Communist parties have to eat

a humble pie but dare not

question the Congress leaders

in Telangana for Revanth

Reddy's insulting accusations

against their leader in Kerala.

two choices. On the one hand,

In this election, voters have

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijavan communalist, not a Communist. Pinarayi Vijayan colluded with Prime Minister Modi to defeat Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad. Pinarayi Vijayan and his family are drowning in corruption. These are some of the statements made by Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana and a star campaigner of the Congress while campaigning in Kerala a couple of days ago. Pinarayi Vijayan is not only

the Left Democratic Front (LDF) Chief Minister of Kerala but also a member of the politburo -- the highest decision-making body of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)). It is worth noting that the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the CPI (M) are the leading members of the LDF -- the coalition that rules Kerala.

While Revanth Reddy was busy denouncing the Chief Minister of the lone Communist government in

INDI alliance underestimating voters the country as corrupt and communal, his cabinet colleague Uttam Kumar Reddy was busy praising the CPI(M) and the CPI as secular parties at a public meeting in Kodad. Uttam, who is the Civil

While Revanth Reddy was busy denouncing the Chief Minister of the lone communist government in the country as corrupt and communal, his cabinet colleague Uttam Kumar Reddy was busy Supplies and Irrigation

praising the CPI(M) and the CPI as secular parties in a public meeting in Kodad.

Delhi. The Congress' diametrically opposite stance on the arrests of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of AAP - a constituent of the INDI alliance, and Telangana MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntla of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) in the liquor scam is a case in point. The Congress opposes Kejriwal's arrest in Delhi and supports Kavitha's arrest in Telangana for their roles in the same scam alliance.

West Bengal is another example. The Left parties -CPI and CPI(M), the Trinamool Congress (TMC), and the Congress are all mem-bers of the INDI alliance, but not so in Bengal. In Bengal, the TMC chief, Mamata Banerjee, accused the Congress and CPI(M) parties on Friday of being agents of the BJP - a party whose defeat is the sole goal of the INDI



Let us explore ways to make sense of the contradictory statements by the INDI alliance partners from place to place. The first explanation could be that the leaders of the INDI alliance live in a paral-

lel universe. It is a universe where the internet as well as electronic and social media do not exist and the print media only report news within a state's borders. It is a universe in which voters in each state remain ignorant of happenings in other states or at the national level. In this scenario, the INDI alliance partners feel confident of taking a different stance in each state while keeping a straight face. This explanation leaves the need for the INDI partners' changing stances across state borders unexplained.

A second explanation could be that the INDI alliance partners believe the voters are in their thrall and do not notice their contradictions. Or they assume that the voters have so much faith in them that they will see the INDI

partners' contradictory stances as part of a grand strategy for their benefit, though beyond their comprehension. This explanation does have merit in the sense that it takes into consideration the elitist mindset of the Congress and its friends. Yet it, too, does not explain why these parties resort to such contradictions. The only comprehensive explanation for the contradic-

partners at any given place or

'Only Balmoor Venkat became MLC, while youth left in lurch'

they have the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), with Narendra Modi, a strong tions is that the INDI alliance and decisive leader driven by a Sabka Saath philosophy and a vision for Viksit Bharat. On is a coalition of opportunistic, self-centred, and shameless the other hand, they have the power seekers with a shallow INDI alliance, whose conopinion of Indian voters' intelligence. Its members neither stituents neither trust one trust one another nor have a another nor agree on a leader common agenda. Hence, each or an agenda. The choice partner in the alliance takes could not be any easier. the stand that solely benefits themselves at the cost of their

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

with an MLC post, the govern-

ment job aspirants are left in

the lurch. The true colours of

the Congress are out for all to

see. It's time for the unem-

ployed youth to teach

# **New ration cards after LS polls**

### PNS KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar has promised new ration cards to the eligible after Lok Sabha elections. He made the promise during the election campaign.

As part of the Lok Sabha election campaign here on Friday, Prabhkar appealed to the electorate not to waste their vote by voting for the BRS or the BJP as these parties had done nothing for the development of the Telangana state in general and Karimnagar constituency in particular.

He said that he is ready to develop Karimnagar Lok that the State government will

Minister of Telangana, claimed the Left parties - CPI

and CPI (M), joining the Congress campaign for its Nalgonda candidate sends out

a signal of unity amongst

'secular' forces that are fight-

ing against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Uttam fur-

ther claimed that the Congress

would win 14 parliamentary

seats in Telangana with the

support of CPI and CPI (M).

ners' change in stance from

state to state has of late

become routine. Take, for

example, the liquor scam in

The INDI alliance part-

Sabha constituency. Once the Lok Sabha elec-

tions are over, the new ration cards will be distributed, he said. The State government would fulfil its promise of waiving crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh by August 15.

bonus per quintal. He also assured the farmers

continue payment of bonus of the farmers. Rs 500 per quintal of paddy. The BJP and BRS have been

its popularity, he alleged. He exuded confidence that

### Cong leaders, workers urged to ensure party's victory

Minister for Transport Ponnam Prabhakar on to women, he said. Friday appealed to Congress party leaders and workers to ensure that the party wrests majority of Lok Sabha seats.

been resorting to histrionics in the name of the deity. He failed to bring at least a rupee Addressing them at Alaganur here on to the Vemulawada, Kondagattu and Dharmapuri shrines under the Centre's Friday, Prabhakar said that the sitting Lok Sabha member Bandi Sanjay did not visit vil-Prasaad scheme. In cricket parlance, he said that the BRS lages in the constituency to gain the firsthand knowledge of their problems ever since was duck out in the recent Assembly elec-

he was elected MP. Further, he said that the Congress will procure the kharif crops by extending Rs 500

The free bus travel facility was extended

The Congress Party is always conspiring against the the Congress government will committed to the welfare of Congress unable to stomach last its full term of five years.

Further, he alleged that Bandi Sanjay has

tions. Therefore, the Congress will lock horns

He objected to Modi saying no remorse on

receiving the corrupt money as donations

with the BJP In the ensuing LS polls.

through electoral bonds.

KTR said that "Betraval thy name is Congress.' He said,

"The Congress Party came to power in Telangana by selling false dreams to all sections of the populace, especially the youth. In just over 120 days of ruling, Congress government betrayed everyone, including

PNS HYDERABAD

the unemployed" KTR said that the Congress

party's bigwigs, like Priyanka Gandhi, promised to roll out unemployment allowance of Rs 4,000 after coming to power. "But after assuming power, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka backtracked, denying any such promise was made.

The Congress gave frontpage newspaper ads about their job calendar, promising to issue job notifications from February 1. In reality, the

Congress a lesson for ditching Congress government is claim-ing credit for 30k jobs filled

during the BRS regime, merely by generating appointment letters", KTR said on X He said, "Congress promised to conduct all com-

petitive examinations free of cost. In a shameful U-turn, the Congress government hiked the TET exam fee from Rs 400 to Rs 2,000 (for 2 papers). Congress leaders like

Balmoor Venkat were responsible for filing court cases and cancellation of many examinations. While leaders like Balmoor Venkat got rewarded

them" Reacting to it, Balmoor Venkat said, "If the cases filed by me are false, then why the court cancel those notifications. Now you are blaming me or the court? You are in the post of MLA, watch what you are talking about! KTR be careful with you words. Know now that your pride is your enemy! You and your family have lost Telangana! Will your party last until the next election or not? I'm not like you! I am always meeting the unemployed, talking on the phone and working to solve their problems. You are sweaty due to the heat, keep the AC on full and sleep at home'

# Student suicides haunting RGUKT



# Burglar nabbed; gold worth Rs 16 lakh recovered

### PNS MIRYALAGUDA

the police said.

Vijayawada.

Bapulapadu

stayed

Bombay colony

He committed a house-

breaking offence in

Miryalaguda town on April

10 and stole Rs 50,000,

according to a complaint

lodged with the police. The

theft took place when the

inmates left the for Ayodhya.

in

The Miryalaguda police on Friday busted inter-state gang of burglar who operated in two Telugu states. The burglars were arrested during the operation vehicle search at Edulaguda junction near here and recovered 20.3 tolas worth Rs 16 24 lakh



# 'Cong in slumber as AP empties Nagarjunasagar tailpond water'

### PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress government is being careless about water resources as Andhra Pradesh



He accused that the district was pushed to the brink of drought without fighting for our rights in Krishna districts in the last 60 years. He xpressed his concern

Jagdish Reddy demanded



### PNS BASARA

A Spate of suicides of students has been haunting the elite institution of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) here.

The institution caters to the technical education of the meritorious students belonging to the rural areas.

The spate of suicides have tarnished the image of the RGUKT. The university officials are blamed for the series of tragedies that are happening for long. Till 2023 since starting the

RGUKT in 2008, a total 15 students committed suicide. Also, six others, including a student belonging to Siddipet

mechanism is conspicuous by its absence in the university. Moreover, there is no full-time Vice Chancellor for the univer-

district, committed suicide.

In the absence of a regular Vice Chancellor, there is none to take firm decision which benefit students. Ex-servicemen have been appointed to help student. They are sup-posed to take problems of the

The student counseling

students, if any, to the notice of the higher authorities, but of no avail. The parents appeal to the state government to focus on the RGUKT and ensure that

Mirvalaguda no further suicides take place Kalwakurthy.

Police officials explaining the modus operendi of the arrested inter-state burglar to the media in Miryalaguda on Friday

States. The spent one year in jail in Guntur. He was released from jail in the last week of Jan 2024. He resorted to committing thefts to meet his financial

He also committed thefts Teams had been constituted to prevent thefts in the in Krishna colony in the district. The SP appealed to town, in Gudivada town of take precautions like fixing Krishna district in AP, in of CCTV cameras at their under Hanuman Junction police station limits in AP, at house homes or shops and in the surrounding areas of their in Tungapahad village of homes

He also said that the and released criminals are being watched with the help of He was jailed in the two

the jail releasing monitoring system. If the people notice any suspects they should first call 100 to lodge a complaint.

The case was detected by the police under the supervision of the Miryalaguda DSP Rajasekhar Raju. Inspector G Sudhakar, SI R Ravi Kumar, finger prints ASI Siva, constables S Venkateswarlu, N Srinu, P Nagaraju and others took part in the detection of the case. The SP appreciated

the police personnel.

tail pond, said MLA Jagadish Reddy. Jagadish said that emptying of Nagarjunasagar tailpond by Andhra Pradesh stands as the height of Congress government's neglect of the river waters, irrigation and drinking water issues. He responded to the theft of Krishna Tail Pond water and said that an attempt is being made to convert Nalgonda districts into desert. He asked what are the district ministers were doing and asked if they are in slumber.

Tail-pond located 21 km downstream of NagarjunaSagar dam at Satrasala in Nalgonda has a storage capacity of 6 tmc ft and in the last 10 years it was full even in summer season to

meet the drinking water needs in Nalgonda district. Jagadish

that CM Revanth and district He accused that the ministers should be held district was pushed to responsible for tail pond water theft. Former Minister the brink of drought Suryapet MLA Jagadish Reddy without fighting for our warned that if the governrights in Krishna districts ment does not respond to the in the last 60 years. He tail pond issue immediately, a expressed his concern public movement will be inithat there is a danger tiated. He said that if the fulthat Nalgonda district will fillment of the promises is left once again fall victim to aside, the existing opportunithe fluoride racket under ties are being handed over to the leadership of the the neighboring states. He warned that if the govern-Congress government

Reddy said that this year it had been emptied by AP.

ment does not respond to the issue of tail pond water, another public movement is inevitable. Assets of Naidu, family grow at 41%

### PNS VIJAYAWADA

to Rs 810 cr in 5 years

Assets of former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his family grew by over 41 per cent in the past five years to Rs 810.42 crore, according to an affidavit filed with the Election Commission on Friday.

Naidu's wife N Bhuvaneswari on Friday filed the nomination on behalf of her husband at Kuppam for the Andhra Pradesh Assembly election, which is to take place on May 13. Bhuvaneswari owns the

lion's share of the assets, as she holds 2.26 crore shares of Heritage Foods Ltd worth Rs 337.85 apiece (market value). The total value of the shareholding stands at nearly Rs 764 crore as against Rs 545.76 crore in 2019.

# Bodies of Maoist couple brought to native village

here.

### PNS BHUPALAPALLI

The Maoist couple, who were among 29 killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh , were brought to their native Bhupalapally district on Friday.

The couple was identified as Siripelli Sankar Rao alias Sudhakar alias Murali and his wife Daseshwar alias Sumana alias Ranjita.

He hailed from Challagarige village of Bhupalapally district. His parents identified the bodies of Sudhakar and Ranjita on Thursday at Kanker. Ranita belonged to Bazar Hatnur village of Adilabad district.

On the request of the parents of Sudhakar, the police agreed to send the bodies to Challagarige. The bodies reached the village on Friday. People in the neighbouring villages went to the village

to pay their tributes to the couple. Siripelli Sudhakar was

son the of Rajapochamma and

family at a young age to join Maoists. In 1998, he was imprisoned. After his release he went underground and worked in the Maoists party for the last two decades.

Odelu of Challagarige vil-lage. He deserted the

### Suspension of 106 employees PNS HYDERABAD The Telangana High Court on Friday stayed the suspension of 106 government employees who were suspended after they attended the BRS meeting on April 17. Advocate Chandrashekhar Reddy filed a petition. He argued in the court that the District Collector has no authority to suspend SERP employees. Siddipet District Collector Manu Chowdhary suspended the government employees, including contract and permanent employees, for attending a meeting hosted by BRS' Medak Lok Sabha candidate P Venkatrama Reddy.

**FROM ANDHRA PRADESH** 

EWS

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The suspended employees were working for the Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)both wings of the District Rural Development Agency.

# 'Vote YSRCP for welfare' Jagan says while Naidu is looking to loot AP, PK is getting him votes

### PNS TUNI, KAKINADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged the public to support YSRCP's initiative, which ensures 50% reservation for women in nominated positions.

Addressing a public gathering in Tuni of Kakinada district as part of his 'Memantha Siddham Yatra' on Friday evening, the Chief Minister accused Chandrababu of seeking to loot Andhra Pradesh and Pawan Kalyan

of campaigning to bolster TDP's votes. He labelled the opposition alliance as a facade, asserting Chandrababu's ultimate authority despite having coalition partners.

Regarding Purandeswari, the current BJP chief, Chief Minister Jagan remarked, "She initially aligned with Congress but later shifted allegiance, indirectly aiding Chandrababu."

Expressing gratitude for the overwhelming support, Chief Minister Jagan emphasised the impending



which he claims defends the dignity of every household in the state.

Chief Minister Jagan said the electoral contest is a class struggle between the impoverished backed by his administration and the capitalist interests led by Chandrababu and his allies. He called upon the public to defeat this anti-poor coalition, emphasising that the election is pivotal for the continuity of welfare programmes over the next five years.

Encouraging voters to support YSRCP, Chief Minister Jagan warned election, urging the crowd to rally YSRCP, Chief Minister Jagan warned behind the YSRCP government, that failure to do so would jeopardise

the continuation of welfare schemes, contrasting it with Chandrababu's alleged hollow promises.

He underscored the significance of voting for YSRCP, highlighting the revival of government services and financial aid for women beneficiaries. Chief Minister Jagan also cautioned against Chandrababu's return to power, predicting a halt to welfare measures and exploitation of the

like English medium instruction and He pledged to uphold these initiatives

Jagan emphasised healthcare reforms, including village clinics, doorstep delivery of medicines, and the Arogyasri insurance scheme, warning of disruption should Chandrababu and his allies regain power.

economically disadvantaged. Enumerating the achievements of

the YSRCP government, Chief Minister Jagan cited initiatives such as Rythu Bharosa Kendras, free crop insurance, and educational reforms Byju's content in government schools. if re-elected.



# nation 05

### Rane files nomination; cites PM's call of 'abki baar 400 paar'

nion Minister Narayan Rane on Friday filed his nomination from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra's Konkan region and urged supporters to ensure they contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of winning more than 400 seats. Rane, a senior BJP leader and former chief minister, is making his Lok Sabha poll debut. He was accompanied by Shiv Sena ministers Deepak Kesarkar and Uday Samant as

well as Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. It is PM Modi's guarantee that all the development seen in the past 10 vears was just a "trailer", while the entire film was yet to come ("picture abhi baaki hain"), Sawant said. "We have to implement UCC (Uniform Civil Code) and One Nation One Election," he added. Speaking on the occasion, Rane said Modi's hattrick of victories will ensure eradication of poverty in the country and also make it fully self reliant.



### White tigress Sneha dies at Nandankanan Zoo in Odisha

14-year-old white tigress Sneha died at her enclosure in Nandankanan Zoological Park on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar city on Friday, officials said. The white tigress APark on the outskirts of Bilubaneswar City on Filiday, children outskirts of Bilubaneswar City on Filiday, children outskirts affective and the affective a medicines but died this morning. According to the official, apart from her old age ailments, she could have been afflicted with the prevailing intense heat wave.

Born to Royal Bengal tiger Nishan and white tigress Kusum on March 1, 2010, Sneha delivered three cubs, Mousumi (female), Chinu (male) and rare melanistic Vicky (male), on August 5, 2016, and Luv and Kush during her second pregnancy. On March 28, 2021, she gave birth to three normal male tiger cubs, Rakesh, Rocky and Banshi. Earlier in October 2022, the zoo had lost 11-year-old white tigress Bijaya, who succumbed to a cancerous growth in her lungs.



### Chhattisgarh: CRPF jawan on poll duty killed in explosion of grenade shell

32-year-old jawan of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) deployed on poll duty Ain Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district was killed on Friday when a shell of Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) exploded accidentally, police said. The incident took place near Galgam village under Usoor police station limits when a team of security personnel was out on an area domination operation half a kilometer away from a polling

booth, said an official. Bijapur district comes under the Bastar Lok Sabha constituency where voting is underway in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections. The injured jawan, identified as constable Devendra Kumar of CRPF's 196th battalion, was shifted to Jagdalpur, headquarters of Bastar district, in an air ambulance helicopter and admitted to the Medical College Hospital there. But he succumbed to the injuries during treatment, the police official added



# PM says 'aatank' Pak is struggling for 'aata' now

### PNS DAMOH (MP)

Taking a dig at Pakistan without naming it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said a country which was a supplier of 'aatank' (terror) is struggling for 'aata' (flour) these days.

Addressing an election rally at Damoh in Madhya Pradesh, he said India, which once bought most of its arms from overseas, was now exporting high-tech weapons to other countries, and referred to providing BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.

Citing the prevailing situation in the world, he pitched for a strong and stable government at the Centre, on a day when the the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, being held in seven phases, kicked off with voting in more than 100 seats.

There are many countries in the world whose condition has worsened. Many are getting bankrupt. Even one of our



now struggling for supply of 'aata' (flour)," Modi said, targeting Pakistan.

The PM asserted his government works with the principle of "Rashtra Pratham" (nation first) and never succumbs to pressure from any quarter or

February 2022, he said "To

ensure that the people of the country get cheap oil and farmers get adequate fertilisers,

we have taken this decision in the national interest.

bows before anyone. over, but a strong BJP govern-

Defending India's move to ment brought back its citizens purchase oil from Russia in from all over the globe," he face of international pressure after its invasion of Ukraine in The BJP's star campaigner emphasised the next five years

are crucial for making the country a big global power.

The PM said when war clouds are hovering in differ-ent parts of the world, there is a need for a government which is capable of tackling any exigencies, comments coming in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war, conflict in West Asia and rising Iran-Israel tension

He said India has become self-reliant in the defence sector and is in the process of exporting weapons worth Rs 21,000 crore to other countries this year.

Modi underscored that while he is delivering a speech 'We have seen in the last 10 here (in Damoh), India is years how a stable government exporting the BrahMos superworks in the interest of the sonic cruise missiles system to the Philippines. The PM accused the oppopeople. During the COVID-19 crisis, there was chaos world

sition of weakening the country's defence sector and said they are guided by their own vested interest even when it comes to purchase of weapons for the defence forces.

PNS WAYANAND (KERALA)

### Man killed over argument at wedding in Shahjahanpur **PNS** ■ SHAHJAHANPUR (UP)

A man was allegedly murdered following an argument at a wedding ceremony here, police said on Friday.

Rajesh Kumar (40) was found dead in the morning in Dakhnaou locality under Allahaganj police station area, Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Meena said.

He added the body, which had an injury on the head, has been sent for a postmortem.

According to the police, Kumar on Thursday night attended a marriage function where he allegedly got into an argument with the guests. He was a relative of the bride. "The deceased had some

argument with some people from the groom's side over taking pictures.

The matter was resolved by other guests there. Our teams are trying to investigate if the murder is linked with the argument that night," SP Meena said.

# 'BJP skipped 3 LS seats as it failed to win people's hearts'

### PNS SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Friday said the BJP had not fielded its candidates from the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir as the party and its government have allegedly not been able to win people's hearts after the abrogation of Article 370.

"The importance of this election in itself is that it is the first time after August 2019 that the Lok Sabha elections are being held here. Also, in 2019, the BJP had fielded its candidates on all the seats (in the valley), this time the (Union) Home Minister (Amit Shah) says that we will first win the hearts of the people and then field the candidates.

"This simply means that they could not win the hearts of the people and the 2019 decisions have made people more angry and alienated," Abdullah told reporters here. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister alleged the BJP was not directly contesting the elections in the



Kashmir valley, but it was "holding the reins from behind".

"If the BJP had left the field, it would have meant a lot in itself. But, they have not left the field. They are holding the reins from behind. (BJP national general secretary) Tarun Chugh's arrival in the past days here and meeting some political parties. "When the (Union) home

minister talks about defeating the NC-Congress INDIĂ alliance, but he does not talk about defeating other political parties. You get to know with whom the BJP is connected,"

People's Conference (PC) chief Sajad Lone calling him a "tourist" and belonging to an "elite class", the NC leader said there was no secret that his fight in the north Kashmir constituency -- from where Lone is also contesting -- is against Delhi. "Tarun Chugh comes to Srinagar and immediately calls Sajad Lone. And he (Lone) runs to meet him. And the home minister talks about defeating the NC, Congress and India alliance, but he does not talk about defeating the PC.

When asked to comment on

Abdullah added.

# SC seeks Centre, Assam's reply on plea challenging CAA rules

### PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on

changes in Assam. The indigenous people, who were become a minority in their own land."

### Himanta sure of winning by 5 lakh vote margin

### PNS GUWAHATI

As BJP candidate for the Guwahati Lok Sabha constituency Bijuli Kalita Medhi filed her nomination on Friday, Assam Chief Minister

leader Rahul Gandhi and LDF's Annie Raja of the CPI in the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

BJP chief J P Nadda said on Friday that parties within the He pointed to this fight INDI Alliance, such as the Congress and the Left, have between the Congress and the Left parties to reinforce his claim, become 'ideologically bankrupt.' highlighting the apparent camaraderie among their top leader-ship in New Delhi despite the He highlighted their fierce electoral battles with each other "The double standards and

# Karnataka.

leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's the EVMs," the BJP chief said. allegation that if there is no glitch He said the BJP will have a in the EVM, the BJP is not going strong presence in the southern to win more than 180 seats, the states in the Lok Sabha polls. BIP chief hit back at her, saying "In the south, I saw much the Congress leaders have no issues with the EVMs when their party wins polls like

enthusiasm... the road show in Wayanad for Surendran. The participants were enthused: many turned out in large numbers he said

Friday sought replies of the Centre and the Assam government on a plea challengthe Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, meant to operationalise and regulate the process of grant of Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants who came from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before December

31, 2014. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala took note of the sub-

missions of a lawyer representing petitioner Hiren Gohain, a Guwahati resident, and issued notices to the state government and the union ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs.

The top court also ordered that the fresh plea be tagged with those pending on the issue

The lates plea on the hugely contentious issue said, The uncontrolled influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh to Assam has

Recently, the bench, while refusing to stay the operation of the CAA Rules, asked the Centre to respond to the applications seeking a stay on their implementation till the apex court has disposed

of the pleas challenging the validity of the Citizenship (Amendment)

Act, 2019. Gohain, in his plea, said the CAA Rules, 2024 are "ultra-vires to the Constitution" as

they are "palpably discriminatory, manifestly arbitrary, illegal and against the basic structure of the Constitution".

"It is stated that the impugned Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 violates the petitioners' fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 (right to equality), 15 (right against discrimination on basis of

religion, race, caste etc), 19 (freedom of speech and expression), 21 (right to life and personal liberty) etc of caused huge demographic the Constitution," it said.

Himanta Biswa Sarma exuded confidence that the party will retain the seat with a margin of over 5 lakh votes.

'The enthusiasm of the people here today shows the support for BJP and our candidate. is a big encouragement for us," Sarma said, addressing a gathering before Medhi filed her papers.

The CM, who is a voter here and also represents Jalukbari Assembly segment of Guwahati, said, "This support shows that we will win here by a margin of over 5 lakh votes. As it is, we are already winning all the five seats where elections are taking place today."

Sarma maintained that the support was for Narendra Modi and to make him the prime minister for the third successive term.

'We want to take Assam forward, Modi ji is trying to make Bharat the 'Vishwa guru' and we will present these things during campaigning," he added.

Medhi, who is a vice-pres-ident of the state BJP and former president of the party's women wing in the state, also sounded confident of winning the seat.

outside of Delhi wh ing cordial relationships within the national capital to oppose the

BIP. Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of a roadshow organised by the BJP-led NDA in Sulthan Bathery for its candidate K Surendran, the BJP chief cited the electoral battle between Congress

hypocrisy of Rahul Gandhi, the Indian National Congress, CPI(M), and CPI are visible here. CPI general secretary D Raja's wife (Annie Raja) is contesting against Rahul Gandhi as a LDF candidate. However, in Delhi, D Raja sits between Sonia



Congress, Left ideologically bankrupt, says Nadda

Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. They are ideologically bankrupt, and the outcome is evident here," Nadda said

When asked about Congress

Calling both Privanka and her brother Rahul "political tourists," Nadda said, "They come for the election and then vanish. How can you take their statements seriously? "When they win in Karnataka,

they have no issues with EVMs. When they ruled Rajasthan for five years, they had no issues with

Earlier, while addressing the gathering in Sultan Bathery, Nadda launched a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi accusing the Congress's Wayanad Lok Sabha candidate of believing in dynastic rule, which, according to him, is detrimental to Indian democracy.

said in the last one year, the

The petition said a major

and Akhoondji Masjid, which

was more than 600 years old,

has been completely razed on

## Vote for candidate backing PM for development: Ajit Pawar

### PNS 📕

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINA-

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday asked voters of Osmanabad Lok Sabha constituency to vote for a candidate who Krishna-Bhima stabilisation project through a tunnel. "Maharashtra will constrengthens the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it would lead to develtribute 50 per cent of the cost opment. of the Dharashiv-Tuljapur-

Addressing a rally for the Nationalist Congress Party candidate Archana Patil, Pawar said," PM Modi has started many welfare schemes. Please must choose the candi-

date who is backing our PM," he said. Citing development projects for the region, Pawar said

the candidate who is support-

the gathering.

The Osmanabad Lok Sabha seat is witnessing a fight Omprakash between Rajenimbalkar of the Shiv Sena water supply for Dharashiv (ÚBT) and Archana Patil of the ruling alliance, which also con-sists of the Eknath Shinde-led (Osmanabad) from Ujani dam was not enough and there was need to get water from Shiv Sena and the BJP.

Patil is the wife of BJP MLA Ranajagjitsingh Patil and she joined Ajit Pawar-led NCP just before the Lok Sabha polls. Speaking about the pos-Solapur railway line. To get sibility of former MP Ravindra these development works Gaikwad, who is part of the done, people should vote for Shinde-led Sena, contesting as a rebel, Pawar said he has spoing Narendra Modi," he told ken to him on avoid such a situation

### Plea in HC seeks removal of top Delhi govt official as waqf board administrator

### PNS NEW DELHI

religious committee has rec-A plea has been filed in the ommended removal/demoli-Delhi High Court seeking tion of several waqf properties including Dargah Mamu Bhanja, Sunehri Bagh Masjid, removal of Ashwani Kumar, Principal Secretary (Home) of the city government, as the administrator of the Delhi Masjid Madarsa Kangal Shah and Akhoondji Masjid. Waqf Board accusing him of portion of Dargah Mamu acting against the interest of waqf properties. Bhanja has been demolished

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora has listed the matter for hearing on the "erroneous recommenda-

April 30. The plea said the administrator of the waqf board is also the chairperson of the religious committee which has recommended 'removal and demolition" of several waqf proper-

tion" of the religious committee. It said the Delhi Waqf Board was dissolved on August 26, 2023 as its statutory term of five years had expired. Ashwani Kumar

was appointed as the administrator of the board on January 10, 2024.

"As a chairman/ head of the religious committee, he is passing orders for removal/ demolition of waqf properties which are outside his jurisdiction. In the capacity of administrator, the respondent no.3 (Kumar) is sitting over the Delhi Waqf Board interfering in policy matters and in the capacity of Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, he is the head of the Revenue Department from which the board receives Grant in-aid for

its expenses," the plea said.

# Delhi Police to travel by Metro with weapons during crisis

### PNS NEW DELHI

In a first, the Delhi Police personnel with weapons will be seen travelling in metro trains during emergency situations to avoid getting stuck in traffic jams and reach the spot sooner, officials said on Friday.

According to officials, the Delhi Police has got the goahead on its proposal in a recent meeting with the DMRC (Delhi Metro Rail Coorporation) and CISF (Central Industrial Security Force), which is deployed at the stations for security checks.

As of now, the Delhi Police personnel are not allowed to travel in metro with weapons.

According to a Delhi Police officer, the final modalities for

the SOP (standard operating procedure) have been chalked out, and if possible, it may be implemented before the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi.

"We have got the approval for travelling in the metro with weapons during crisis or law and order situations from the DMRC

On April 16, a meeting was held with all the stake holders, including the DMRC and CISF, regarding the matter," the officer said

The officer further said a group of personnel can travel without the token, but before the journey, their in-charge or



"The journey will be on pay-ment basis and each travelling head, will have to inform the DMRC about the reason and details of the personnel. personnel will be wearing the A coach might be dedicated uniform," the officer added. to the personnel depending on Citing an example of riotlike situation where extra force the situation, he said.

The Delhi Police has got the go-ahead on its proposal with the **Delhi Metro Rail Coorporation and Central Industrial** Security Force, which is deployed at the stations for security checks

is required, their movement in large numbers in buses becomes difficult due to heavy traffic in Delhi, the officer said. Sometime it even takes more than an hour to reach

from one district to another, he said

The metro line has spread almost every parts of Delhi and it can be utilised in saving the time to reach the spot at the time of crisis, he added.

Another police officer said, as per the plan, transportation will be provided to the force for 'pick and drop' from metro stations to reach the spot.

This also includes the movement of paramilitary personnel, if they are to be deployed in the national capital during emergencies.

Delhi has witnessed communal riots in Trilokpuri and North-East Delhi, in 2014 and 2020, respectively.

organisation is appointed for

the welfare and betterment of the organisation and such person has to protect the interest of that organisation. However, in the present case, the administrator of Delhi Waqf Board is acting totally against the waqf properties. Instead of protecting them, he is sitting to destroy the waqf properties," the plea, filed by Secular Front

of Lawyers, alleged. The petitioner, represented by senior advocate Salman Khurshid and lawyers Imran Ahmad and Rohit Sharma,

ties. "The administrator in an

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | APRIL 20, 2024

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

# Theatre of the absurd

The ever-falling state of polity touches a new low, trivialising life for political gains

n the realm of politics, where governance and public welfare should reign supreme, a disturbing trend has emerged — the trivialisation of human life for the sake of political benefits. Recent events surrounding Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal exemplify this worrying trend, where his health crisis has become a point of one-upmanship and is being used to serve narrow political narratives rather than addressing the genuine concerns of his health. The case took a curious turn when the Enforcement Directorate (ED) claimed that Kejriwal intentionally indulged in a high-sugar diet to fabricate grounds for bail. Kejriwal's colleague Atishi has countered this assertion, alleging a conspiracy to deny the jailed Chief Minister access to essential insulin and home-cooked food, potentially putting his life at risk. Both claims, while patently opposite, underscore a distressing reality — the callous politicisation of a health crisis. In the theatre of politics, where power dynamics often overshadows ethical considerations, the sanctity of human life



seems to have been direly neglected. The focus has shifted from genuine concern for an individual's wellbeing to exploiting their vulnerabilities for partisan gains. Such a narrative not only reflects poorly on the integrity of political discourse but also raises profound questions about the moral compass of those entrusted with governance.

The ED's assertion of Kejriwal deliberately manipulating his health for legal advantage is a damning indictment of the extent to which political opponents are willing to go to discredit their adversaries. It underscores a culture where the personal struggles of individuals are weaponised for political advantage. Conversely,

Atishi's allegations of a plot to endanger Kejriwal's life highlight the dangerous consequences of unchecked political rhetoric. Accusations of attempted murder, if unsubstantiated, not only sow seeds of distrust but also trivialise the gravity of such heinous crimes. At its core, the Kejriwal saga underscores a broader crisis within the polity — the prioritisation of political expediency over human dignity. In the relentless pursuit of power and influence, the inherent value of human life is often sacrificed at the altar of partisan interests. This erosion of empathy and decency not only corrodes the fabric of democracy but also threatens the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. Without delving into the merits of the case or passing judgment on who is truthful, Kejriwal, like everyone else, must be given the best treatment at the moment, even if the illness is selfinflicted. To reclaim the integrity of polity, it is imperative for political actors to realign their priorities with the values of compassion, integrity and accountability. The welfare of individuals should never be subjugated to the exigencies of political gamesmanship. Instead, leaders must demonstrate a commitment to upholding the dignity and wellbeing of every citizen, irrespective of their political affiliations. The Kejriwal saga serves as a sobering reminder of the perils of allowing politics to trump humanity.



# Aung San Suu Kyi: Prison or house arrest?



Concerns over Suu Kyi's whereabouts as the junta stares at defeat

he news website, *The Irrawaddy*, cites "informed sources in Naypyitaw and Yangon" as saying that Aung San Suu Kyi (78), the emblem of the Myanmar's struggle for democracy and Win Mint (72), incarcerated president of the country's democraticallyelected Government ousted by the coup on February 1, 2021, remain in prison. This, indeed, is likely to be the case given the high level of credibility that the website enjoys. It would be instructive to read what it has to say in this connection. The ball, so to say, was set rolling late on the afternoon of April 16 when a pro-regime media outlet said that both had been moved to a new location. It was followed by the regime's spokesman, Major-General Zaw Min Tun telling the Burmese services of VOA and the BBC: "Not only Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ú Win Myint but also some [other] older prisoners were given necessary care since the weather is extremely hot." However, he did not say that Suu Kyi had been moved to a new location. When media outlets pressed him for further information, he did not provide any details. Despite this and the absence of any photographic or other evidence showing their having been moved to house arrest, both local and international and news agencies carried stories saying that it was the case

That this is not so is further sug-gested by Aung San Suu Kyi's son, Kim Aris, who to told Kay Burley of Sky News during a breakfast interview, "They are saying house arrest. She only has one house and she's not there." Given the utterly unsavoury reputations that the junta and news outlets which act as its mouthpieces enjoy, the confusion may, in all likelihood, have been deliberately created by both acting in tandem. If this, indeed, is the case, what purpose vas sought to have been

not providing her the kind of medical attention she needed. It has also been speculated that the junta could murder her in prison and claim that she had died of old age or other natural causes. Whatever it is, it would serve the generals well to create the impression that it was not their fault if something untoward happened to her. The other reason could be differences within the junta, a section of which wants to do a deal with her to end the civil war they are losing and another would hear nothing

of it. The Sit-Tat (which and not Tatmadaw, is the real name for Myanmar Army), is now facing defeat at a none-to-distant future. It has been suffering one major reverse after another since the opposition Three Brotherhood Alliance (henceforth Alliance) launched its current offensive, codenamed Operation 1027, on October 27, 2023. The latest, the loss of Myawaddy, an important border town, on April 11, 2024, to the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and Karen National Army, is clearly the most devastating blow suffered by



THE JUNTA IS REPORTEDLY PREPARING TO LAUNCH A COUNTER OFFENSIVE. WHETHER IT MATERIALISES AND. IF IT DOES, WITH WHAT SUCCESS, **REMAINS TO BE** 

the junta since the Alliance's current offensive began. A key trading hub close to the eastern end of Myanmar's border with Thailand-the total value of imports and exports passing though it has been valued at \$ 1 billion in 2023-it is also regarded as Myanmar's opening to South-East Asian countries.

The Junta is reportedly preparing to launch a counter offensive. Whether it materialises and, if it does, with what success, remains to be seen. But even if it is successful and the Sit-Tat is able to retain the town after regaining it, the event is unlikely to be a turning point in the civil war which is going overwhelming in favour of the Alliancecomprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), active in the Kokang Special Region of Initially, one had thought northern Shan State, the that the Junta's ouster, even SEEN

(PDF) and other ethnic armies like the KNLA and KLA.

At the time of writing, the AA has brought almost the entire Rakhine State under its control. By early April, it had captured some 170 junta camps and posts, several larger bases, battalion headquarters and training facilities. It seized the important town of Paletwa on January 15, 2024. Kyaukphyu, where China is developing a port and a special economic zone spread over 1,600 hectares, is about to fall. The AA is pressing hard on Sittwe, an important port town, after seizing control of the small towns around it and cutting off access to it through road and waterways. India shifted its staff from its consulate there to Yangon earlier in April, 2024.

Ta'ang National Liberation though inevitable, would take Army (TNLA), also active in a long time to come about. It the Shan State and the Arakan now seems that it would be defenestrated much sooner than one had thought. India must bear this in mind. (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)



achieved? The most plausible answer would be that it was to show that the junta cared. Why suddenly?

It has been known for some time that Aung San Suu Kyi was very ill in prison and the junta was

Army (AA), based in the Rakhine State in the country's western part.

Acting in close cooperation opposition National Unity Government's military arm, the People's Defence Force

School students with their faces and hands painted as part of voter awareness campaign pose for photos, in Jammu PTI

# Transformative trends in India's higher education ARITRA GHOSHAL



The surge in EdTech presents opportunities for democratising education but also highlights challenges such as the digital divide and ensuring quality

ndia's higher education landscape is undergoing a transformative shift. With initiatives like the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, skill development programs by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the encouragement of 100 per cent FDI in education, the landscape is ripe for innovation and investment. Additionally, UGC's push for setting up international campuses in India and the Ministry of Education's focus on global learning is reshaping our educational framework.

The market size of the Indian higher education system was estimated at around \$40 billion in 2023, growing at a CAGR of 15 per cent. With over 1,200 universities, 49,400 colleges and 12,600 standalone institutions, India hosts one of the largest higher education ecosystems in the world. Catering to more than 50 million students - a number expected to grow substantially in the next five years – these institutions are crucial in achieving an enhanced Gross Enrollment Ratio and improving the skill set of our future workforce.



Amidst this expansion, the post-pandemic era has seen a significant influx of digitisation in learning, with universities offering online programs and various platforms providing a broad spectrum courses online. of Considering our current infrastructure and the expected demand, it is essential for the country to further explore online learning and skill development opportunities. Aligning these opportunities significant challenges. with the next 10-year growth Addressing the digital divide, plan is crucial for preparing ensuring equitable access to technology and improving a skilled workforce that enhances graduate employainternet connectivity, especially in underserved areas, bility.

However, the selection of courses among students has also seen a paradigm shift. strengthening quality assur-India is moving beyond tra- ance and adapting accredita-

ditional domains like engi- tion and regulatory frameneering, medicine and manworks are essential to maintaining standards and crediagement. Today, students are bility. These bodies must adapt to the changing dynamnew-age courses that promise ics of higher education to uphold academic integrity and student outcomes.

The Ministry of Education's current focus on the internationalization of higher education in India is set to have profound effects, not only on educational practices but also on the broader economy and society. This strategic emphasis will enable transnational education and student/faculty exchanges, thereby building a globally competent

workforce and fostering

knowledge exchange between nations. As we look ahead, the future of higher education in India is not just about scaling up but also about smart scaling. By embracing these trends and ments requires overcoming addressing inherent challenges, we can ensure that the sector not only expands but also elevates, providing every student with a world-class education and global opportunities.

(The writer is the founder and director of OneStep Global; views are personal)

### LETTERS 0

### **BJP'S STRATEGIC MANIFESTO**

Madam — Apropos the news article, "A Vision for India's Global Leadership", published on April 19, this is my response. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) manifesto signals a shift towards a policy-centric approach, departing from traditional electoral strategies. By highlighting achievements and projecting a vision for India's future, it aims to secure votes based on governance rather than populist promises. The absence of significant Pakistan-centric rhetoric suggests a nuanced understanding of foreign policy priorities, focusing instead on global engagement and regional stability.

Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on "Neighbour First" and "Act East" policies reflects a proactive stance in regional diplomacy, enhancing India's influence and fostering solidarity among neighbouring nations. The manifesto's commitment to global advocacy for the Global South underscores India's aspirations for a leadership role in international affairs. However, challenges persist, particularly in integrating India into global supply chains and enhancing the rupee's acceptability. Yet, the manifesto's articulation of strategic goals and pledges for collaboration within the Indo-Pacific region portrays a coherent vision for India's role in the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Sneha Gupta | Delhi

### **OTT LANGUAGE DEBATE**

Madam - Apropos the news article, "How justified is abusive language on OTT?", published on April 19, this is my response. India's OTT platforms have reshaped entertainment, offering diverse content but facing criticism for excessive profanity. The Supreme Court's recent ruling defends free speech, sparking debates on cultural integrity. Profanity may enhance realism yet risks societal norms, especially impacting youth. While OTT isn't solely responsible, it amplifies existing trends. Education reforms emphasise cultural values, conflicting with profanity's normalisation.

### **Political quagmire**



propos the news article, "Corruption and political defections: A telltale sign of democratic decay", published on April 19, this is my response. The article delves into the unsettling reality of political manoeuvring, where corruption probes seem to act as a revolving door for politicians, raising questions about the integrity of the system. It draws a

Despite honouring women in tradition, derogatory language persists, undermining societal respect. Education institutions oppose abuse, but OTT exposure challenges efforts. A balanced approach is crucial, fostering dialogue on artistic freedom versus cultural preservation. OTT's influence demands responsible content creation, respect for diverse audiences and societal values. Ultimately, societal progress intertwines with cultural preservation, demanding nuanced solutions to maintain integrity amidst evolving entertainment landscapes.

Rishab Vashisht | Bhopal

### **INSIGHTS ON INDIAN JEWELRY**

Madam - Apropos the news article, "Heritage Indian jewellery dazzles the world", published on April 19, this is my response. Dr Alka Raghuvanshi's posthumously published masterpiece, "Rendezvous with Traditional Indian Jewellery," transcends the boundaries of a mere book. It's a heartfelt journey delving into the soul of India's cultural heritage, where artistry intertwines with pro-

sharp contrast between the flawed current State of affairs and the ideal governance system envisioned in ancient scriptures like Manusmriti. The Manusmriti's principles, though controversial, present a compelling blueprint for a more righteous governance model, emphasising a partyless system, voter recall rights and alignment with moral principles. The chasm between this ideal and the existing political landscape is vast, highlighting the urgent need for reform.

While achieving perfection may be a distant goal even partial adoption of Manusmriti's principles could yield significant improvements, reducing electoral malpractice, corruption and divisive politics. As the nation awaits potential reforms under the Modi Government, India, with its rich spiritual heritage, can transcend its current challenges and emerge as a global exemplar of moral dovernance.

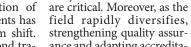
Ishaan Shukhi | Ludhiana

found symbolism. The meticulous attention to detail reveals a rich tapestry of craftsmanship, history and significance. The book's thematic chapters unravel the evolution and diversity of Indian jewellery, from the majestic influences of the Mughal era to the intricate designs of South India.

It showcases stunning visuals and explores the deep symbolism ingrained in each piece, reflecting social, religious and cultural narratives. Moreover, it sheds light on the craftsmanship and techniques passed down through generations, pre-serving the essence of traditional jewellery-making. Regional variations highlight the unique aesthetics across India, celebrating its diverse cultural tapestry. This book is a captivating ode to India's cherished art form, offering insights for enthusiasts, historians and admirers alike, encapsulating the beauty and legacy of Indian jewellery.

Lavanya Sharma | Lucknow

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





tion. been transformative and represents a key area ripe for investment and innovation. By providing everything from career guidance to student counselling digitally, these platforms have democratised access to education, ensuring that students from all regions have better career opportunities. Yet, realising the full potential of these advance-

increasingly drawn to interdisciplinary programs and quicker skill acquisition and certification. There is a significant opportunity for institutions to expand their offerings in these certification/degree courses where students can learn new skills in less dura-The surge in EdTech has

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | APRIL 20, 2024

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## **FIRSTCOLUMN** MIND, THE KEY TO **HIDDEN FORTUNE**

True wealth lies not in material possessions but in the freedom of mind



### RAVI VALLURI

nce upon a time lived a woman. She was struck with an unexpected tragedy as her husband passed away untimely. The lady was now left with only one son and precious jewellery. Since she was hounded by creditors to repay the debts accrued by her husband, she conjured a trick to hide the wealth.

In sheer desperation to keep the jewellery safe from creditors, the lady wrapped the precious wealth in a piece of cloth and hid it under a tree. The mother and son lived in an impoverished State. Her mind was always disturbed by the fact that she did not share this piece of vital information with her only son. As it turned out, she carried this secret to the grave.

Consequently, the son inherited plenty of debt, a barren hut and a cot. The son had to work hard for sustenance and to repay the ever-rising liabilities. He toiled hard to survive and regretted his misfortune. 'Property is not the sacred right. When a rich man becomes poor it is a misfortune, it is not a moral evil. When a poor man becomes destitute, it is a moral evil, teeming with consequences and is injurious to society and morality,' opined Lord Acton. Indeed, the impoverishment of the poor is heart-wrenching.

One day while cutting the branches of a tree, he stumbled upon the jewellery. Dumbfounded and stupefied, the strapping youngster hid the bijouterie in a pit he dug in the hut, petrified that the creditors would appropriate the wealth. He too committed the cardinal mistake of not sharing the secret with his wife and carried it to his grave. The mother and son were not mindful and wakeful enough to be in the Present Moment and remained prisoners of their past and future.



Two Buddhist monks were once discussing a flag flapping in the wind. While one felt it was the wind moving, the other conjectured it was the flag fluttering. The imbroglio could not be resolved and they sought the intervention of a Zen Master. The master impassively said, 'It is the MIND

# Human-elephant conflict: The way out



ARVIND JHA

To ensure the protection of these majestic creatures, it is imperative to revisit and revise legislative frameworks with a focus on ecological sustainability

ndia's rich biodiversity includes a sig-nificant population of Asian ele-phants, which are not only an integral part of the country's wildlife heritage but also hold cultural and religious significance. However, the increasing instances of human-elephant conflict (HEC) have become a pressing concern for (HEC) have become a pressing concern for both conservationists and those living near elephant habitats.

The root causes of HEC are multifaceted, primarily stemming from habitat loss and fragmentation due to human activities. As India's population expands, so does the need for land for agricultural and developmen-tal activities. This expansion often leads to encroachment into elephant territories, resulting in the destruction or fragmentation of their natural habitats. Consequently, elephants are forced to venture closer to human habitations in search of food and space. Mining activities, in particular, lead to deforestation and habitat degradation, disrupting elephant migratory routes and undermining the scope and health of ele-phant habitats. Similarly, urbanisation and infrastructure development often intersect with elephant corridors, pushing these gentle giants into unfamiliar and potentially dangerous territories. Climate change is another significant factor in this conflict. Changes in climate patterns can affect the availability and distribution of food and water sources in elephant habitats. Extreme weather events like droughts, floods and high temperatures can force elephants to migrate in search of these resources, often bringing them into conflict with humans. The current State of HEC in India is alarming. Over 500 humans are killed annually in encounters with elephants and more than 100 elephants lose their lives due to human-related activities, including poaching for ivory, poisoning, electrocution and collisions with trains. Train collisions are the second-highest cause of unnatural elephant deaths in the country, following acciden-tal electrocution. Over the past decade, train collisions have claimed the lives of more than 200 elephants.

As mega-herbivores, elephants consume up to 150 kilograms of forage and drink up to 190 litres of water per day. This necessitates a large foraging area, typically spanning 100-1,000 km<sup>2</sup> for a family herd, to provide a diverse diet of grasses shrubs and fruits However, navigating large areas to find sufficient food and water becomes a challenge when these areas overlap with human activities. This often results in crop raiding, property damage, and, in some tragic instances. human casualties. These incidents, unfortunately, lead to retaliatory actions from humans that can be fatal for these majestic creatures, further intensifying their fear and mistrust of humans. Farmers, particularly those with limited resources struggle to cope with crop losses. This hardship breeds resentment towards elephants, undermining conservation efforts and trapping both humans and elephants in a cycle of violence.



wires. This was not an isolated incident; back in October 2021, sagging power lines near the Dihing-Patkai National Park claimed the lives of another three elephants. The situation worsened in October 2022, when within a single week, 11 elephants across Assam lost their lives to human-related hazards including electrocution, crop poisoning and

train confisions. Western Maharashtra, a region not traditionally known for elephant habitation, saw a significant change in 2002 when elephants migrated from Karnataka. This movement was largely attributed to their dis-placement from the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary a place they had Wildlife Sanctuary, a place they had inhabited comfortably until 1990. The construction of the Kali hydroelectric project is believed to have been the catalyst for their relocation to the districts of Kolhapur and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, leading to notable incidents of crop raiding. A similar pattern emerged in 2022 when a herd of 22 elephants trekked from Chhattisgarh to Maharashtra, settling in the lush

pronged approach that balances the needs of wildlife conservation with the socio-economic realities of human populations living near elephant habitats. This includes securing and restoring elephant corridors to ensure safe passage for elephants between different habitats, thereby reducing the likelihood of them entering human-dominated landscapes. Recognising this need, the Indian Government has launched an ambitious initiative known as Project Elephant. This program focuses on enhancing elephant habitats by creating a network of reserves, corridors and protected areas. To address the common issue of crop raiding in human-elephant interactions, the project employs innovative technologies such as early warning systems and elephant-proof barriers. It also implements various strategies like durable and solar-powered electric fences and biological deterrents including bio-fencing with cacti, beehive fences and chilli smoke to deter elephants. Enhancing the natural food supply

conflict management, are significant steps towards addressing this complex issue.

Statutory support is fundamental in the conservation efforts addressing the HEC. Elephants, listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List, are protected under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Recent amendments to the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 have raised concerns regarding their impact on elephant reserves and corridors, particularly within the 100 km strip of India's boundary where the majority of these reserves and corridors are located. These changes could potentially worsen the fragmentation and degradation of these vital habitats, thereby intensifying the HEC. The Forest Rights Act of 2006, while well-intentioned in empowering forest-dwelling communities, has also had unintended consequences. Its implementation has sometimes resulted in further encroachments and habitat fragmentation, which can force elephants to venture into new areas strategy for preventing elephants from entering human territories. ity of conflicts. Post-project monitoring, particularly in the mining industry, is often insufficient, leading to a neglect of wildlife protection measures that were stipulated during the project's approval. This oversight can result in significant harm to elephant populations and their habitats, undermining conservation efforts. As we move forward, let us remember that our fates are intertwined with those of the elephants and all wildlife. Their survival is our survival. Their well-being reflects the health of our planet and their continued existence enriches our world in ways that cannot be quantified. It's high time we recognise our role and act responsibly, ensuring a future where humans and wildlife coexist harmoniously, each playing their part in maintaining the balance of our shared ecosystem. (The writers are former principal chief conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are personal)



MAHARASHTRA, A REGION NOT TRADITIONALLY KNOWN FOR ELEPHANT HABITATION, SAW A SIGNIFICANT

forests along the Wain-Ganga, Pranhita and Dina river basins. This CHANGE IN 2002 within forests is another essential WHEN ELEPHANTS migration has been linked to increased human encroachment, MIGRATED FROM the construction of two canals in Odisha and mining disturbances in KARNATAKA. THIS their traditional corridors. MOVEMENT WAS The Wayanad region, a vital watershed for Karnataka and Tamil LARGELY Nadu, is currently facing a multitude of environmental challenges such as ATTRIBUTED TO deforestation, irresponsible tourism THEIR and unscientific development. Such activities are posing a significant threat to the ecological balance of DISPLACEMENT the region, endangering the lives of FROM THE both humans and wildlife. Wayanad plays a critical role in maintaining DANDELI regional biodiversity. However, WILDLIFE ongoing habitat degradation in this region could potentially intensify the SANCTUARY, A water crisis in the Kaveri basin and escalate the HEC, which has tragi-PLACE THEY HAD cally led to 41 fatalities already. INHABITED Similarly, in the northeastern States of Assam and West Bengal, expand-COMFORTABLY ing tea plantations and human set-**UNTIL 1990** tlements have encroached on elephants' traditional grounds, leading to frequent HEC incidents. Addressing HEC requires a multi-



analys \$ 07

that moves, neither the flag nor the wind.

Humans need freedom from their past and future to be in the present. And being in the NOW or present is true enlightenment and mindfulness. The past is full of sorrows and regrets while the future brims with anxieties and worries and humans are caged in that mindset, thereby postponing their happiness quotient. To appreciate true happiness and joy, the human mind should not vacillate between the past and the future but remain in the PRESENT.

A young monk was once travelling in pursuit of happiness and truth. During his travels, he encountered a massive river that he could not cross. A short while later, he saw a senior monk on the other side of the river. He hailed him and sought assistance to cross the river to reach the other side. The senior monk pondered and replied, 'You are already on the other side'

This fact can be appreciated only when the mind is centred. Breathing techniques such as Sudarshan Kriya, Pranayama, Yoga, Meditation and Vipassana all help in dissolving the mind so that it becomes centred. 'True happiness is not possible without freedom. We have to learn the habit of being free. We do not allow our past, the future, our projects, or our fear to get hold of us. We are free. Every step is free. Every step is nourishment. Every step is healing. Every step is joy,' says Thich Nhat Hanh.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Since 2019, there have been over 1500 human fatalities reported due to elephant attacks. In 2023-24 alone, Odisha reported 149 elephant deaths due to HEC. Mineral-rich districts like Dhenkanal, Angul, Keonjhar and Sundargarh have been hit the hardest, with Dhenkanal alone witnessing 130 elephants and 227 human deaths over the last decade.

In August 2023, three elephants were electrocuted at the Rani Tea EState near Guwahati due to low-hanging high-voltage This involves improving water conservation, regenerating forests by replanting and nurturing native trees and plants, implementing fire protection and removing invasive species. Programs focused on ecotourism and livelihood diversification not only engage local communities in conservation but also provide them with sustainable economic alternatives. Success stories from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape underscore the effectiveness of community-led conservation endeavours, strategic land-use planning, trans-border collaboration and habitat restoration in diminishing conflict incidents. Kerala has also taken a bold initiative to relocate people from forest regions and reforest agricultural lands, despite the central Government's refusal to fund this Rs. 620 crore project. The State's declaration of HEC as a State-specific disaster and the involvement of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in

# Rahul Gandhi holds on to Wayanad despite speculation

The decision comes as a strategic move, influenced by a variety of factors, including local dynamics and broader political alliances in Kerala

E National Congress was burning midnight oil about the Lok Sabha constituency from where Rahul Gandhi would contest this time, The Pioneer has reported that the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi clan would not leave Wayanad from where he was elected with a mammoth majority of four lakh votes in the 2019 edition made it known that Rahul of the General Election. The report was prepared after speaking to a cross-section of the electorate in the Wayanad constituency who were unanimous in their opinion that Rahul Gandhi should contest from Wayanad itself.

Those who reacted to the queries posed to them Pinarayi Vijayan in the wrong included hardcore CPI(M) way and the CPI(M) cadres



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

should register a much bigger majority than that of the 2019 poll because the opponent happened to be Annie Raja of the CPI and K Surendran of the BJP. Annie, the spouse of D Raja, CPI's national general secretary, had rubbed Chief Minister

Raja too had publicly ques-tioned the capability of Vijayan and this made the CPI(M) activists furious. Had the Congress or BJP leaders criticized Vijayan, they would not have bothered but the CPI had crossed the Lakshman Rekha (it could be Stalinist Rekha since the comrades do not accept Ramayana). The  $CPI(\dot{M})$ 

comrades would certainly teach Annie Raja a lesson or two in the art of politics. The truth is that the CPI(M) leaders wanted Rahul Gandhi to contest from Wayanad so that the CPI would lose one seat for sure

The decision to field Surendran, the Kerala State president of the BJP, was made much later. Surendran members and activists who consider it as a cardinal sin. himself knows that he would

has to kowtow the party line. The information coming out of the BJP office is that he may be given a gubernatorial position even if he loses the security deposit. There are no suitable candidates in Kerala BJP to challenge the supremacy of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress. The question being asked by Wayand voters is that how many people remember the names of the 2019 challengers to Rahul Gandhi.

What is interesting is that the animosity between the CPI(M) and Congress has come down drastically with Gandhi filing the nomination from Wayanad. Though the Congress leaders lambast the CPI(M), it is just a façade to convince the hardcore mem-

lose by a big margin but he bers of these parties that there is no alliance between them. But what the people of the State see in TV channels and newspapers is the video images and pictures of Sitaram Yechury and D Raja hugging and kissing Rahul Gandhi while in Tripura former CPI(M) Chief Minister Manik Sarkar openly campaigning for the Congress party's candidates. Kerala is the only State where they act as if they are rivals and enemies. By the next

election, one can see the Congress and the CPI(M) fighting it together in Kerala against the BJP-led front (provided the Hindutva party leadership throws out all the rotten eggs from its basket). There is no difference between the Congress and

the CPI(M) as of date. Political pundits have been asking both parties to officially legalize the ties so that the entire secular parties could be arrayed under the flag of the Congress across the country against the "com-munal and fascist" forces. The secular parties include the Muslim League! In Marxist parlance, they say that whoever aligns with the CPI(M) is secular while the BJP is "communal and fascist". The CPI(M) does not have any issues in accepting the former NDA constituents as allies once they call off the marriage of convenience with the BJP. Telugu Desam of Andhra Pradesh, BJD of Orissa, BSP and JD(U) are tors. But what stood out was his some of the major political silence on the CPI(M) candioutfits whose secularist cre-

dentials depend on their ties with the BJP.

his son, he was waxing elo-

mer defence minister lam-

als, communalists and dicta-

dates. Antony's ties with the CPI(M) are infamous as he The press meeting addressed had sailed with the Marxists by A K Antony, the Bheeshma Pitamah of the for almost two years during 1980-1983 The CPI(M) and the Congress-led by Antony Congress on 9 April 2024 at Thiruvananthapuram was an indicator of how political marriages take place in Kerala. While Antony was fought the 1980 general elec-

tion together and ruled Kerala for almost two years. cursing his son Anil Antony The Congress faction was who is contesting from Pathanamthitta as a BJP canpushed out of the LDF by the CPI(M) which demolished didate and asking the electhe offices of the Congress torate to ensure the defeat of across the State with the police looking the other way. quence on Anto Antony, the It is not without any reason Congress candidate who is pitted against Anil. The forpolitical pundits say that politics make strange persons into bedfellows. Do we need basted the BJP as anti-nationmore proof than A K Antony?

(The writer is special corre-spondent with The Pioneer;

views are personal)



# Money 08

## HCC Rs 350 crore rights issue oversubscribed 2.5 times

industan Construction Company Limited (HCC) on Friday said its rights issue has been oversubscribed by 250 per cent, with the company receiving applications worth Rs 877 crore against an issue size of Rs 350 crore. The company, in a statement, said it has retained an amount of Rs 350 crore, corresponding to 100 per cent of the rights issue size, with the balance being refunded to investors. Equity shares have been allotted

to the applicants as per the basis of allotment finalised with the designated stock exchange BSE Limited, it added. HCC Vice Chairman Arjun Dhawan said, "We are grateful to our shareholders for their overwhelming support as we chart a new chapter in HCC's growth". Through the rights issue, the company said the number of shares in HCC has increased by 16,66,66,666 - from 1,51,30,28,244 to 1,67,96,94,910, and the paid-up share capital has increased by Rs 17 crore from Rs 151 crore to Rs 168 crore.



## Wipro Q4 net profit falls 7.8% to **Rs 2,835 crore**

T services company Wipro on Friday reported a 7.8 per cent year-on-year drop in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,834.6 crore for the March quarter. The company's revenue from operations was down 4.2 per cent on-year to Rs 22,208.3 crore, according to an exchange filing. The net profit (attributable to equity holders of the company) declined to Rs 2,834.6 crore in Q4FY24 from Rs 3,074.5 in the year-ago period, translating into a 7.8 per cent fall. For the April-June quarter, Wipro has given

sequential guidance of (-) 1.5 per cent to +0.5 per cent in constant currency for IT services revenue. "We expect revenue from our IT services business segment to be in the range of USD 2,617 million to USD 2,670 million," the company said in its outlook for the first quarter of 2024-25. For the full year FY24, the revenue from operations came in at Rs 89,760.3 crore, almost 0.8 per cent lower than the previous fiscal. The net profit fell by 2.6 per cent to Rs 11,045.2 crore over the previous fiscal.



### Dell expects new hiring, economic growth to drive commercial PC sales in India

C maker Dell Technologies is banking on new hirings, replacements and growth P in the Indian economy to drive sales of its commercial devices this fiscal, a senior company said. While speaking at the launch of a new commercial personal company said. While speaking at the launch of a new commercial personal computers portfolio, Dell Technologies India, Senior Director and General Manager, Client Solutions Group, Indrajit Belgundi said that faster technology adoption is

another factor that will drive sales of commercial devices unveiled by the company. "Every year new students are joining the workforce. Refresh cycle is also coming in. New version of technology is now coming in and many customers who took devices during the pandemic are now looking to upgrade. Also, India's GDP is expected to grow at 6.8 per cent. I personally think the opportunity for us to grow will be higher than that GDP growth," Belgundi said.



Grancharova - Kozhareva, Acting President of the

Bulgarian National Audit

Murmu further highlighted

the broader implications of the

MoU, stating it will also help

cementing the ties that already

exist between the two nations.

"I am positive that the MoU

The CAG said the signing of

the MoU marks a significant

milestone in promoting clos-

and Bulgaria, underscoring a

lence in auditing practices.

Office.

# **InterGlobe, Archer Aviation plan** electric air taxis in India in 2026

### PNS NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Apr 19 (PTI) InterGlobe Enterprises, the parent company of India's top airline IndiGo, and US-based Archer Aviation will launch an all-electric air taxi service in India in 2026, that will carry passengers from Connaught Place in the national capital to Gurugram in Haryana in just 7 minutes.

Archer Aviation will supply 200 electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft that can carry four passengers besides a pilot and operate just like helicopters but with lesser noise and better safety.

The 200 planes, each having 12 rotters, will cost around USD 1 billion.

Besides Delhi, the joint venture between InterGlobe and Archer Aviation will launch similar services in Mumbai and Bengaluru to start with.

The cost of the seven-minute



Archer Aviation will supply 200 electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft that can carry four passengers besides a pilot and operate just like helicopters but with lesser noise and better safety. The 200 planes, each having 12 rotters, will cost around USD 1 billion.

flight operated with the comcould be around Rs 2,000 to pany's five-seater eVTOL (elec-3,000, according to Archer tric vertical takeoff and land-Aviation executives. ing) aircraft from Connaught and CEO Adam Goldstein on Place to Gurugram in Harvana

Friday said discussions are going on with the US regula-Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the certification process for its aircraft is at an advanced stage.

The certification is expected next year and once that is in place, the process will be initiated for the certification by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

In an interview with PTI in the national capital, Goldstein said the company expects to start flights in India in 2026 and aims to have 200 of its Midnight planes for the operations

Initially, Archer Aviation will be focusing on Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. With its flight, the duration will be around 7 minutes from Connaught Place in Delhi to Gurugram and the cost could be Rs 2,000 to 3,000. In a car, Archer Aviation Founder for the 27-kilometre distance, it would take around 90 minutes and the cost would be about Rs 1,500, according to Goldstein.

The five-seater Midnight aircraft will be able to accommodate the pilot and four passengers. The plane, which will have six battery packs, will get fully charged in 30-40 minutes and one minute charge broadly translates to one minute of flight, its Chief Commercial Officer Nikhil Goel said.

Archer Aviation will be having a joint venture with InterGlobe Enterprises and the final contours are being worked out.

The US-based company is also in discussions with various municipalities with respect to infrastructure and other aspects of the flight operations. Goel said it will use the full

strength of InterGlobe, which is a conglomerate, and the joint venture might choose partners for the eVTOL operations in India.

# CAG, SAI Bulgaria to enhance international collaboration

### PNS NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed an agreement with SAI Bulgaria, the Bulgarian National Audit Office, in Sofia, in a bid to foster international cooperation.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), inked by the two Supreme audit institutions, aims to enhance collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two nations, the CAG said in a statement.

Through the MoU, a platform will be established for the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst auditing professionals and technical teams through collaboration in training programs, and mutual assistance in conducting



audits, it said.

will also vield many opportu-Girish Chandra Murmu, the CAG of India, expressed connities for greater exchange of fidence in the partnership and said the MoU will further knowledge and experience between members of our SAIs strengthen bilateral cooperaand will also foster the spirit of tion cooperation and friendship between our SAIs," he added.

'We look forward to working closely with you and assure you of our support and commitment to energize our capacer ties and collaboration ity development initiatives and among the Supreme Audit exchange of knowledge and Institutions (SAIs) of India information between our SAIs," he said. shared commitment to excel-

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Goritsa

# Air India suspends Tel Aviv flights till Apr 30

### PNS NEW DELHI

Air India on Friday said its flights to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended till April 30 amid tensions in the Middle East.

weekly flights between the national capital and the Israeli

Air India flights to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended

until 30th April 2024, in view of the emerging in the Middle East in the wake of attacks by Iran situation in the Middle East. We are continu- on Israel and the response in retaliation.

ously monitoring the situation," an airline spokesperson said in a statement.

The airline is offering one-time waiver on rescheduling and cancellation charges for passengers who have confirmed bookings for travel to and from Tel Aviv dur-

ing this period. On Sunday, the carrier decided to temporarily sus-

A CONTRACTOR pend its flights to Tel Aviv. Tensions have escalated

ond half on value-buying in MARKET banking shares. NSE The ftv mpec

Stock markets stage

ther 672.53 points or 0.92 per cent to hit a low of 71,816.46

in early trade. However, the index rebounded in the sec-

# Nod for demerger of Madura Fashion & Lifestyle biz

### PNS NEW DELHI

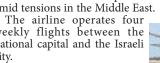
Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd on Friday said its board has approved a proposal to demerge Madura Fashion & Lifestyle business, while it plans to raise Rs 2,500 crore equity capital within 12

ties for value creation. The board authorised the management to evaluate the verti-

cal demerger. The board of directors of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL), at its meeting on Friday, has approved the proposal for vertical demerger of BFRL into a newly in merger with pro-

implemented through an NCLT scheme of arrangement, and upon its completion, all shareholders of ABFRL will have identical shareholdings in

both the companies," it added. Upon completion of the demerger, as per the share entitlement ratio approved by





strong rebound

points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 73,088.33. The index opened lower and tanked fur-

PNS NEW DELHI

er on Fridav

snapping the

four-day losing

streak on heavy

Stock markets rebounded

from early lows to close high-

BSE Sensex climbed 599.34 The broader index dropped to a low of 21,777.65 in early trade before paring its losses to end in the green.

151.15 points or 0.69 per cent to close at 22,147.

moter participation. Earlier this month, the com-

Fire breaks out

at NTPC's North

Karanpura plant

pany announced plans to demerge its fast fashion and retail business Madura Fashion & Lifestyle into a separate listed entity to unlock opportuni-

onths of

rated company Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands Ltd (ABLBL), which will be listed separately on completion of the demerger, the company said in a statement.

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

net profit to Rs 337.37 crore for the

quarter ended March 2024, aided by higher income. It had clocked

Rs 253.61 crore net

State-owned IREDA on Friday

posted a 33 per cent rise in its

"The demerger will be

he board and rea by the independent valuer, the shareholders of ABFRL will get one share of ABLBL for every one share in ABFRL, in addition to their existing shareholding in ABFRL, it

added.

IREDA Q4 net profit

grows 33% to Rs 337 cr

ENERGY FOR EVER

Infosys shares decline nearly 1% after Q4 earnings

### PNS NEW DELHI

Shares of Infosys on Friday ended nearly 1 per cent lower after the company's revenue growth guidance for FY25 failed to meet market expectations.

The stock fell 2.87 per cent to Rs 1,379.70 during the day on the BSE. It finally ended at Rs 1,411.60 apiece,

intra-day trade. Shares of the company ended at Rs 1,411.95 each, down 0.51 per cent.

The company's market capitalisation (mcap) declined by Rs 3,655.37 crore to Rs 5,85,936.45 crore.

In volume terms, 8.65 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 206.04 lakh shares on the

# **PE/VC** investments decline marginally in March quarter: Report

IR INDIA

### PNS MUMBAI

Investments by private equity and venture capital funds have declined by 1 per cent year-onyear to USD 13.5 billion in the March 2024 quarter, according to a report.

However, it was 41 per cent higher com-P pared to the 퉲 preceding December

quarter, the report by consultancy firm EY and industry lobby grouping IVCA said. When looked at from a

volume perspective, the number of deals was 33 per cent higher at 292 in January-March 2024 against 220 in the year-ago period, it added.

tion in the geopolitical conflicts eases down," EY partner Vivek Soni said. The infrastructure sector received the maximum

PE/VC investments in the quarter at USD 6.5 billion

"We believe the markets

and PE/VC investment activ

ity will be range-bound till

clarity emerges on election

results and the risk of escala-

across 23 deals, 138 per cent higher than the USD 2.7 billion across 14 deals in the year-ago period, it said, adding that the same was led by the USD 2 bil lion investment by Brookfield in ATC India Tower Corporation

Andromeda expects 20% growth in loan disbursals

### PNS NEW DELHI

Loan distributor Andromeda expects around 20 per cent growth in loan disbursals to around Rs 1 lakh crore during the current fiscal, driven primarily by mortgage demand. Loan disbursals have seen a

23 per cent growth to Rs 75,397 crore in FY'24, from Rs 60,000 crore in the previous fiscal, Andromeda Sales and Distribution Pvt Ltd Co-CEO Raoul Kapoor said.

Despite the increase in housing prices, the demand for housing loans remains robust, he said, adding, the average ticket size of housing loans has witnessed an increase

PNS GREATER NOIDA

lations is growing.

does most of the work?

In April, tech titans Google,

Microsoft, IBM, Cisco and SAP,

employment website Indeed,

along with professional ser-

In addition, he said, digitalization, faster approvals, and increased availability and flex-

ibility have fueled higher

demand for personal loans. The home loan business surged to approximately Rs 33,918 crore in FY24, up by over 22 per cent from Rs

ceding year's Rs 22,456 crore.

27,798 crore in FY23. In FY24, he said, the loan against property distribution was at Rs 24,776 crore, an increase of 10.33% from the pre-

Meanwhile, business loans experienced a notable surge of approximately 32 per cent, rising from Rs 5,255 crore in FY23 to Rs 6,927 crore in FY24, he said.

PNS RANCHI A massive fire broke out at NTPC's North Karanpura superthermal power plant in Jharkhand's Chatra district on Friday, officials said.

The fire was first spotted around 2 pm, they said. The fire broke out at the

BHEL material yard of unit 3 in the power plant. So far no casualty has been reported," a senior BHEL said. Efforts are underway to

douse the blaze, he said. The installation is a 660X3 mw coal-based

power plant.

डरडा New IREDA profit during the January-March period of the preceding 2022-23 fiscal, the company

said in an exchange filing. The company's total income surged to Rs 1,391.63 crore in the fourth quarter of FY24 ciency/conservation.

and Renewable Energy, is a non-banking financial institution engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance

of energy and energy effi-

for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources

# SJVN Green Energy forms JV with Assam Power discom

### PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned power producer SJVN on Friday said its wholly-owned arm SJVN Green Energy has incorporat-ed a joint venture company Assam Power with Distribution Company to generate electricity from

renewable sources. The joint venture company -- SGEL Assam Renewable Energy, shall carry out business in the field of power generation from all renewable energy sources including hydro power by setting up power plants, SJVN said in a

regulatory filling said. joint venture were taken fron SJVN Green Energy will hold 51 per cent in SGEL authorities like NITI Aayog, Assam Renewable Energy. SGEL Assam Renewable Energy has authorised capital of Rs 1,000 crore, it said.

DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, Government of India etc, according to the filing.

The approvals to create this 🎯 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🕋 'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE Date: 19.04.2024 NIT No. 01/EE/DIV-19/SLPZ/GHMC/2024-25 No. of works: 08 Nos. civil works, Estimate Amount: Rs. 62.60 lakhs, Start Date Download End Date & time: 22.04.2024 @ 2.00 PM / 25.04.2024 Upto 2.00 PM Only, Name & Address of the Officer: Executive Engineer, Division- 19, GHMC Sri U. Raj Kumar, 99635-50654. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sdl- Executive Engineer DIV-19, (SLPZ), GHWC R.O.No: 11952-PP/CLIADVTI1/2024-25, Dt. 19.04.2934

others, formed a consortium to explore the impact of Artificial Intelligence on IT job roles. The joint effort will enable workers to find and access relevant training programs and, mal science", does offer a rosy



according to the companies, is expected to help more than 95 million people around the world over the next 10 years.

vices major Accenture, among The jobs that AI can do are multiplying by the day. While this may be frightening for some workers, economics, which is often called the "disoutlook

While advancements in AI potentially herald a future with no limits on production and income, the implications for workers, may not be as scary as initially feared.

In an economy-wide view (economists call this 'general equilibrium'), all resources of

multiplying by the day. While this may be frightening for some workers, economics, which is often called the "dismal science", does offer a rosy outlook.

capital and labour combine to produce all goods and services. Technology then boosts productivity, removing the limits set by resource constraints.

However, a study of consumer demand (so-called microeconomics) says that consumption depends on an individual's income, and only

If AI steals our jobs, who'll be left to buy stuff? 'labour' consumes.

The crux is this: Increased productivity is ultimately pointless if there is no market for the goods and services

being produced. The focus of many international managers, often reflected in statements given to the media, is thus increasingly on future consumption - and, therefore, on countries with large and growing consuming populations, including India.

Author Ruchir Sharma has argued that no country can grow faster than the rate of rowth of its population. Since India has a large population where consumers are expected to grow for the next decade or so, the focus of global managers seems justified.

NSE during the day.

from Rs 1,036.31 crore a year ago. Its expenses were Rs 911.96 crore in the period lower by 0.63 per cent. On the NSE, it declined 2.85 per cent to Rs 1,378.75 in under review, as against Rs 747.93 crore in the year-ago period. IREDA under

the Ministry of

# Huder the pioneer bad

Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Saturday April 20, 2024

Dr. Nabat Lakhani, who firmly relocated to Hyderabad fro Kolkata, gets candid The Pioneer for our weekly segment of Hyderabond, sharing her association with the city, recalling the times of migration, and more.

# **'Hyd altered my idea of what** I wanted to do for a living'



SHIKHA DUGGAL

et's avoid discussing any hidden implications, but dur-ing our interview with Dr. Nabat Lakhani for our week-ly **Hyderabond** feature, we discovered that she formerly **Hyderabond** feature, we discovered that she former-ly relocated to Hyderabad from Kolkata with her par-ents to live in total comfort. Awaiting her was her new residence! A positive subliminal shift in her life that she had-n't anticipated at such a young age. "My association with Hyderabad is deeply personal and profound," she tells us during our conversation. "Since class 8 when I arrived here, this energetic city has become my home away from home, if not more." The city extended a warm welcome to her pro-

The city extended a warm welcome to her, pro-viding her with a multitude of cultural experi-ences, chances, and warmth. Her favourite thing about Hyderabad is its distinct fusion

thing about Hyderabad is its distinct fusion of modernity and history! "I got jitters going from my new school, which I was very nervous about because I studied in an all-girls convent in Kolkata, to a coed here. However, at that point, our principal at Niraj, Dr. Jyothi Reddy, was actually a blessing in disguise for me. She gave me unrivalled love and inspiration," shared the obstetrician and gynecologist at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Secunderabad. God brought her another angel, Dr. Bhavani, a

Gurava Reddy when she completed her undergraduate studies. Dr. Bhavani completely altered her idea of what she wanted to do for a living and taught her more than just medicine; to her, she was like a second mother. The practitioner says, "There were several other wonderful peo-ple I met in my journey here in Hyderabad, including Dr. Pratibha Narayan, Shrimati Chitra Narayan (my Bharatnatyam guru), who were instrumental in my life, and some who always support me, Dr. Manjula Anagani and Dr. Chinmayee Ratha." Even at the youthful age of 14, she had no intention of leaving her beloved Kolkata, but apparently, Hyderabad and its inhab-itans: "On the rainbow, Kolkata and Hyderabad are two distinct colours for her. Hyderabad begins its day when Kolkata is nearly half gone (she laughed out loud). This was a notice-and function fairly well, but I miss my Bengali Ian-guage, and I have never been fond of Telugu. But I don't think I could have returned home with-out the independence that Hyderabad gave me as a girl. Thus, certainly, there is salt and sugar in both towns," says the renowned doctor from the city. The city has consistently provided her with charnes to fwelop, serve, and forge connections with not only the fam-iles she cares for but also with colleagues in the hospital, both junior and senior. She has forged some truly lovely rela-tionships that she will always treasure. Actually, she also sait, "With pride, Hyderabad can boast of possessing top-notch, cutting-edge health infrastructure, as well as whe know-how to effectively utilise it for the benefit of its citizens' health and that of those who travel both domestically and abroad to use it." Acording to our interviewee, women in Calcuta

both domestically and abroad to use it."

both domestically and abroad to use it. According to our interviewee, women in Calcutta historically found it challenging to exercise their freedom, even among the most independent of them. However, she recalls that since moving to Hyderabad, she has driven around the entire city by herself without experiencing any problems with safety. That was the best Hyderabad could give her. This isn't possible in Calcutta because it makes women feel uneasy.

the best Hyderabad could give her. This is the possible in Calculate because it makes women feel uneasy. Additionally, "Hyderabad has such a rich heritage that relatives would like to visit each one and perhaps bring back memories with a dash of paradise and Karachi bakery. To be honest, Hyderabad r me. She gave me unrivalled love and spiration," shared the obstetrician and ynecologist at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Secunderabad. God brought her another angel, Dr. Bhavani, a gynecologist and the wife of Dr.

# TANISHA EYES GREY ROLES IN **PUSHPA AND ANIMAL FRANCHISES!**

In an interview with *The Pioneer*, actress Tanisha Mukerji offers an intimate glimpse

and do Pooja in the ghat by the banks of the Ganga, and that may be the second or third time I had been there, but it was the first time that I was in Banaras. It was my first time on the ghats of Banaras, and the feeling was just unbelievable, we had to put the divas into the water. Standing there, I was filled with so much immense joy, and my feet were in the water, and we had to put the diyas in for the shot. It was like, I just felt like I was getting the moment through the cinema that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise; I was just very happy to have that moment." Reflecting on her takeaway from the project, Tanisha praises the director's brilliance in crafting a beautiful film. She commended, "I think the biggest takeaway from the pro-ject is the brilliance of the director. Because he really crafted a beautiful film out of Luv You Shankar, he was put together when he was narrating the subject, with lots of animation and then characters. Then, the way he direct-ed all of us, he was really the captain of the ship. At any one point, he was the one who knew exactly what was hap-pening in the film, and he was just very clear, like what he wanted, and clear with what he was saying. So I would say our director is very brilliant, and he knows children's films very well, like he knows what children want to see." Looking ahead, Tanisha remains optimistic about future projects, hoping that exciting opportunities will emerge post-Luv You Shankar. As an artist, she seeks out roles that challenge her. She expressed, "Age is a concept that I don't believe in. I think at this stage of my life as an actor, consid-ering the body of work I have done, I ann would like to play something that would challenge me. I want to play the negative lead in *Pushpa 2* or *Pushpa* 3 or wherever; please make me the vamp of *Pushpa 2* or *Pushpa 3* whichever film or even *Animal* I don't mind, Sandeep Vanga Reddy if you are listening, I want to be the negative lead, I want to be the villain of any film, for the south directors especially." Furthermore, transitioning to personal reflections, Tanisha shared her perspective on chal-lenges in both work and personal life. She expressed gratitude for her upbringing and family background as she is the sister of renowned Bollywood actress Kajol and daughter of renowned Tanuja, viewing obstacles as blessings that have shaped her identity positively. "I have lots of gratitude for who my mother is. I never look at anything as too much of a challenge; I always look at everything as a blessing. Even though there have been difficulties, I always understand the difficulties because of who I am, and I am lucky to be who I am. So I never look at anything as a nega-tive challenge; I will always take it as positive," she concluded.



### into her role in the film Luv You Shankar and shares insights into her experiences on set.

### K. RAMYA SREE

hreyas Talpade and Tanisha Mukerji starrer Luv You Shankar, graced the cinemas on Friday. We reached out to the actress to know how excited she was about the film's release in Telugu along with Hindi, Tamil, and Kannada. Interestingly, she openly expressed her desire to work in the Pushpa franchise as a villain.

That being said, beginning the interview about her char-acter in this latest flick, Tanisha expressed her delight at playing a mother on screen for the first time. She described, "In Luv You Shankar, I am playing mother for the first time, and I think the relationship between the mother and the child is beautiful because it's more of a friendship than a very strict mother-child relationship. This is the first time I played this mother character. I have no children, so I have taken inspiration from all my relationships with my niece and nephew and watching my sisters interact with their children, and I have really enjoyed play-

ing it." Set against the backdrop of the sacred city of Banaras, the film revolves around the endearing bond between an eight-year-old boy and Lord Shiva, thus making the film a complete family entertainer.

Reflecting on her decision to join the project, Tanisha recalls how the director and casting team approached her for the role. They sought a unique face opposite Shreyas Talpade's character, Panditji, and Tanisha was excited Panditi, and famisna was excited to be part of a film centered around Lord Shiva, offering an adventurous and entertaining experience for children.

Regarding the film's mythological context, Tanisha emphasises that her character draws from personal experiences, particularly her relationships with family members.

Recalling a memorable moment from filming *Luv You Shankar*, Tanisha vividly describes a scene at the banks of the River Ganga in Banaras, where she and costar Shreyas performed a pooja. She shared, "The most memorable moment was when Shreyas and I had to go



# Managing diabetes with physiotherapy

iabetes manifests as a metabolic disorder pri-marily caused by defective insulin secretion, impaired insulin utilisation, or both. Individuals with diabetes typically exhibit elevated plasma glucose levels compared to non-diabetic individuals, potentially leading to metabolic disturbances and various dia-betic complications including nephropathy, neuropathy, retinopathy, foot diseases, and gum diseases. India ranks second globally in terms of diabetic prevalence, with 74.9 million cases projected to increase to 124.9 million by 2045 among individuals aged 20–79 years. While pharmacological treatments have traditionally been the mainstay of diabetes management, their adverse effects, including heart failure, increased fracture risk, bladder cancer, and weight gain, often outweigh their benefits. Consequently, there is a growing emphasis on non-pharmacological approaches to diabetes management, with physiotherapy emerging as a cost-effective, customisable treatment option for individuals with pre-diabetes, early type 2 diabetes melli-tus (T2DM), and advanced cases with multiple complications.

### **IS PHYSIOTHERAPY EFFECTIVE IN** MANAGING DIABETES

Consistent engagement in physiotherapy can yield significant benefits for individuals living with type 2 diabetes, particularly among older adults and those with multiple comorbidities. Physiotherapy intervention operates within two primary domains: preventing the progression of symptoms and effectively managing existing diabetic symptoms.

### How Physiotherapists can Help Manage Diabetes?

Physical therapists play a crucial role in assisting individuals with diabetes in participating in safe and effec-tive exercise programs, leading to lower blood sugar levels. They focus on improving mobility, enhancing daily activities, and alleviating pain. Moreover, physical therapy treatments expedite the healing process of diabetes-related skin issues.

### ASSESSMENT AND PERSONALISED TREATMENT

Physical therapists evaluate patients' blood glucose records and examine their skin for wounds. Additionally, they conduct comprehensive assessments of patients' strength, flexibility, endurance, balance, and skin sensation, particularly in the feet. Based on these findings, they design tailored treatment plans to address specific needs and challenges.

### **IMPROVING MOBILITY**

Physical therapists employ specific activities and

treatments to restore normal movement, starting with passive movements performed by the therapist and progressing to active exercises and stretches for selfpractice.

### **BUILDING STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY**

Through targeted exercises, physical therapists help patients regain strength gradually and safely. They also address muscle tightness by teaching gentle stretching techniques to improve flexibility.

### ENHANCING ENDURANCE AND BALANCE

Rebuilding endurance and balance is essential to prevent falls and facilitate daily activities. Physical therapists guide patients through exercises to improve endurance and restore coordination.

### WALKING ASSISTANCE AND PAIN MANAGEMENT

If needed, physical therapists adjust footwear and may introduce supportive inserts to enhance walking comfort. They also provide techniques to manage chronic pain effectively, utilising various treatments and technologies while prescribing safe exercises.

### **BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL AND WOUND HEALING**

Prescribed exercise programs aid in lowering blood sugar levels, contributing to better glucose control. Additionally, physical therapists apply dressings and treatments to expedite the healing of wounds, offering guidance on foot and skin care to prevent complications.

### HOME EXERCISE AND RECOVERY GOALS

Physical therapists educate patients on strengthening, stretching, and aerobic exercises for home practice, tailored to their needs. They collaborate with patients to set recovery goals aligned with activity objectives, ensuring a safe and efficient rehabilitation process.

Physiotherapy stands as a valuable ally in the holistic management of diabetes. By addressing mobili-ty issues, enhancing strength and flexibility, and promoting overall wellness, physical therapists play a piv-otal role in empowering individuals with diabetes to lead healthier, more active lives. Through personalised assessment and targeted interventions, physiotherapy offers a multifaceted approach to diabetes management, helping individuals navigate the com-plexities of their condition with confidence and resilience.

> (The author, Tamilarasu Kumarappan, is the Chief Physiotherapist at JNI.)



# what's brewing?



Actress Divi and Tollywood director Sriram Aditya launched India's first ever 3D wall panel showroom in Hyderabad. Found and built by Sreekanth Chowdary and Lakshmi Reddy, The Deco Wall is a unique 3D wall panel-making company that serves the needs of interior design enthusiasts. The 3D wall panels are made of gypsum, specially brought from Iran.





To commemorate the significant milestone and celebrate its first year anniversary, actress Lakshmi Manchu, along with the founder of Brillare Clinic, graced its anniversary celebrations at the elegant Park Hyatt, located in the heart of Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.





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Malabar Gold and Diamonds is hosting the 'Heritage Jewellery Show', at its Somajiguda store. The show will be available until April 28. The show will feature some timeless and treasured jewellery collections in gold, diamonds, polki, and much more. It will also feature exclusive bridal pieces meticulously crafted by their master craftsmen to make weddings truly unforgettable.

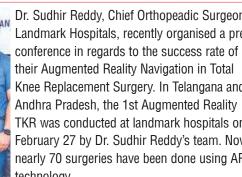
exploring the stars as an astrophysicist, faced a daunting health challenge from a young age. Overcoming persistent jaundice, stunted growth, severe itching, shortness of breath, and a host of troubling symptoms, Varun's journey through life took a heartfelt turn as he underwent a transformative medical breakthrough at CARE Hospitals. Concerned about their son's deteriorating health, Varun's parents turned to CARE Hospitals and sought the expertise of Dr. Mohammed Nayeem, a distinguished liver transplant surgeon at CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, renowned for his state-of-the-art work in the field of pediatric and adult liver transplantation.



Dr. Sudhir Reddy, Chief Orthopeadic Surgeon at Landmark Hospitals, recently organised a press Knee Replacement Surgery. In Telangana and TKR was conducted at landmark hospitals on February 27 by Dr. Sudhir Reddy's team. Now, nearly 70 surgeries have been done using AR technology.

Varun Mitra, a 12-year-old boy with dreams of





### ARCHIE

# HOT POG'S A PRETTY AMAZING POGI LOOKI HE WANTS TO PLAY WITH THE BALL!





### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

FUN



WE'RE FINE, ALTHOUGH

THINK DOB MAY BE

GOING TUDDUIGU A

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438759126

contain each number (1 to 9)

Each row and column can

exactly once.

Rules

MIDDLE-AGES CRISIS.

, die

### GARFIELD



unic strip Fritzi Ritz by Emie B

### NANCY

I WAS LONELY IN HOLLYWOOD I REALLY MISSED MY FRIENDS BACK HOME IN THE EAST



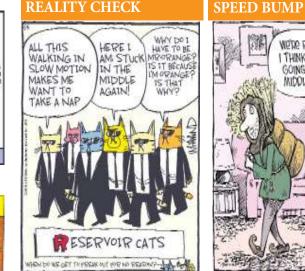


### **GINGER MEGGS**





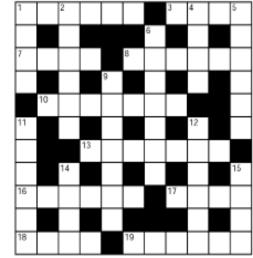




### **SUDOKU**

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## **CROSSWORD**



### ACROSS

- 1 Begins 3 A worshipped statue 7 Keep a pet bird in this
- 8 Yells
- 10 A citizen of Israel
- 13 Took no notice of
- 16 People invited
- 17 A large public building for meetings, functions
- 18 One third of twenty-seven 19 A pie's covering

### DOWN

- 1 Unwell
- 2 A month
- 4 A musical instrument played with sticks
- RN PRETENDED

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5 Use your ears

6 Opposite of deep

9 Badly behaved

11 We need this gas

to stay alive

15 Potters use this

SOLUTION

TELESCOPE

14 Very unkind

12 Leave





# **SRIDEVI VIJAYKUMAR DISCUSSES**

In an exclusive interview with The

Pioneer, Sridevi shared insights into

her decision to return to films and her

Sridevi revealed, "Of late, I've been

focused on television due to conve-

nience after my daughter was born.

I didn't accept much work, it was only

those that were convenient to me.

Now that she's seven years old and set-

tled into a routine, I felt it was the right

time to dive back into films. I'm cur-

rently working on three Telugu

movies and am in discussions for

Tamil projects as well. Apart from *Sundarakanda*, I am doing another film called *Magic* with director

Gowtam Tinnanuri and another one

with Naga Shaurya. The shoot is going

on. It feels nice to be back on movie

sets. I never felt like being away,

although there was a gap, because something or another was always hap-

pening with TV. Moreover, my entire

family is into movies, so I am always

surrounded by this circle. But, direct-

ly, being on movie sets is always fun

Discussing her evolving roles and the changing landscape of cinema, Sridevi expressed enthusiasm for exploring diverse characters. "Today,

age, marital status, and family don't

limit actors. It's all about the content,"

she noted, adding, "That's the

good thing for actors

now to try dif-

ferent gen-res, and I

and special."

in Tollywood now.

upcoming projects.

### K. RAMYA SREE

Sridevi ctress V i j a y k u m a r, renowned for her impactful performances in Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada cinema, is making a resounding return to the limelight after a brief hiatus dedicated to motherhood. As the daughter of legendary actors Vijaykumar and late Manjula, Sridevi has left an indelible mark on the South Indian film industry with notable films like Eeswar, Ninne Istapaddanu, Aadi Lakshmi, and Pellikani Prasad, among many others.

After taking a break to focus on raising her daughter, Sridevi is now back in action, engaging actively in television shows like Super Jodi on Zee Telugu, where she serves as a judge alongside her close friend, actress Meena.

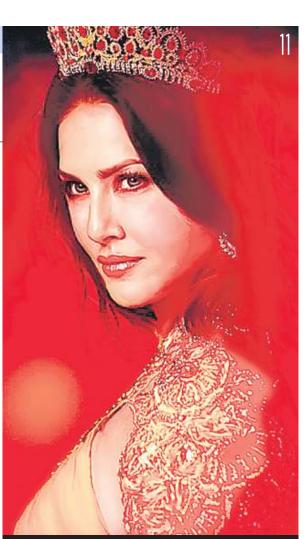
Recently, it was announced that Sridevi will be playing a pivotal role in actor Nara Rohit's 20th film, Sundarakanda, marking a significant return to cinema. Without any further delay, we rang the actress to know about her return to cinemas, and to our surprise, Sridevi shared that she has signed three films

would love to try different genres and characters. I want to portray impactful characters, even if it's a single scene."

Speaking about her job as a judge for the highly-rated Telugu dance show *Super Jodi* and how it feels to return to television, the actress shared, "I had an association with Zee already where I worked for Drama Juniors, which was a successful show. It is a continuation of coming back on board with them for Super Jodi. This is a dance show, so it's more fun because entertainment is much more important. It is a double dhamaka for Meena and I to be on set together. It has been only happy times till now."

Reflecting on her role as a judge on *Super Jodi*, Sridevi emphasised the unique dynamics of the show, where celebrity contestants showcase their dancing skills. "It's not your typical dance show. These are actors, not professional dancers, who are learning and improving with each performance. We are now close to the semifinale, and it is so nice to watch them improve their skills on this journey. They are also taking it seriously and trying to give their best in spite of being busy as actors," she shared.

As Sridevi embarks on this exciting phase of her career, fans can anticipate her captivating presence on both the silver screen and television, embracing new opportunities and pushing boundaries in the world of entertainment.



## SUNNY LEONE'S MANDIRA'S FIRST LOOK **OOKS FRIGHTENING!**

here is good demand for films that fall under the genre of horror comedy Those who love horror and thriller elements and those who love entertainment will equally love them. Sunny Leone is all set to enthrall as Mandira in the upcoming horror comedy, where she will be seen in the titular role. R. Yuvan is directing this movie under the banner of Viision Movie Makers. It is produced by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati and presented by Kommalapati Sridhar

Interim, the makers have come up with an update on this film. Sunny Leone's first-look poster from *Mandira* was released. Although she looks beautiful as a queen, the character she plays as a ghost is going to frighten the audience. The poster surely created curiosity for the movie. The shooting of this movie was already complete The film unit is busy with post-production activities. The rest of the details will be

announced soon.

'I take pride in meaningful tories withou glorifying negativity

### PNS | HYDERABAD

In an

exclusive

Sridevi

shared

interview with

The Pioneer,

insights into

her decision

to return to

films and

upcoming

projects.

her

n elebrated filmmaker Sekhar Kammula's seminal work, *Happy Days*, has returned to theaters, evoking nostalgia and joy among audiences. The 2007 coming-of-age drama was a turning point for Kammula, receiving critical acclaim and striking a chord with viewers for its relatable college narrative. In honour of his 25th year as a director

THARUN BHASCKER, EESHA REBBA'S NEW OVIE ANNOUNCED

irector Tharun Bhascker, who has already proven his acting prowess in several films, is doing a lead role in another intriguing project, where Eesha Rebba will be the leading lady opposite him. Billed to be a hilarious entertainer, Sanjeev AR is directing, while Srujan Yarabolu, Vivek Krishnani, Sadhik, and Aditva Pittie together are bankrolling it on S Originals and Movie Verse banners. The makers have announced the project officially today.

The first shooting schedule of this yet-b-be-titled flick is happening in and

participating. The team celebrated heroine Eesha Rebba's birthday yesterdays(April 19th) on the sets. The still released by

the team shows both Tharun Bhascker and Eesha Rebba in rural get-ups. While Tharun looks decent in formal dress, Eesha wore a traditional saree.

at a brisk pace. The team is planning to release the movie in October. The ma

film's first look soon. Deepak Yeragara is the cinematographer, while Jay Krish provides anda Kishore Eman the musi



The shooting of the movie is progressing

media, reminiscing about his illustrious career, memories from Happy Days, and upcoming ventures. Reflecting on the enduring charm of Happy Days, Kammula noted, "The film encapsulated the essence of college life,

evoking nostalgia with Filmmaker its timeless Sekhar Kammula music. who celebrated Revisiting it recently, I found his 25th year as a the film as fresh director, speaks to and vibrant as the media here, ever. Its rereminiscing about release is a celebration for his illustrious the youth.' career, memories While from Happy Days, and more.

considering a sequel to Happy *Days*, Kammula shared the challenges of crafting a compelling narrative. "I intended to create a sequel but struggled to capture the essence of the original," he explained.

Delving into his filmmaking ethos, Kammula emphasised the importance of upholding personal values. "Crafting successful films aligned with my values is a challenging yet rewarding endeavour," he affirmed, adding, "I take pride in conveying meaningful messages without glorifying negativity. In discussing his deliberate storytelling approach, Kammula stressed the significance of conceptual clarity. "Each film requires careful ideation to convey a clear message and propose plausible solutions," he elaborated. Looking forward, Kammula teased an ambitious project starring Dhanush and Nagarjuna, centered around a profound philosophical theme. "Both actors embody the essence of the narrative," he revealed.

Expressing a desire to revisit Leader with Rana Daggubati, Kammula reaffirmed his commitment to addressing complex societal issues through cinema. "Crafting stories with political undertones demands a pragmatic approach," he concluded, emphasising the need for viable solutions.

As Sekhar Kammula continues to push creative boundaries, audiences eagerly anticipate his upcoming projects, anticipating thought-provoking narratives and impactful storytelling.

around Rajahmundry, with the lead cast

↑ ithara Entertainments is known for encouraging young directors, and they have been successful far more often than not in delivering surprise blockbusters with such young teams. DJ Tillu, MAD, Jersey, and Tillu Square can be described as the best examples of their fearlessness and content driven approach.

They delivered a surprise blockbuster with all young, inexperienced actors and technicians - MAD, in October 2023, and now they are gearing up to deliver its sequel, *MAD* Square.

Kalvan Shankar, who debuted with MAD as a writerdirector, worked as one of the writers for *Tillu Square*, and now he is coming up with his MAD comic caper sequel, titled MAD Square.

Narne Nithin, Sangeeth Shobhan, and Ram Nithin—the original MAD trio—are back for the sequel. The girls gang is yet to be announced. Makers have stated that the movie will be twice as mad as the original.

They have stated that we know "The Boys... The Bond..." and confirmed that "The Madness... Is not done yet." Makers have further made a big promise by stating, "This have also announced the release of the

the dialogues.

## MAD sequel announced



will be time...MADness MAXimum."

The MAD team has officially started the movie with a puja ceremony. Regular shooting is progressing at a brisk pace, and makers are super confident about the sequel to repeat double blockbuster success like Tillu Square with this sequel, too.

Star Boy Siddhu Jonnalagadda and Jathiratnalu fame director CV Anudeep have graced the event as chief guests. Siddhu Jonnalagadda has handed over the script to director Kalyan Shankar. Both

of them wished for another double blockbuster sequel to Sithara Entertainments with MAD Square, like Tillu Square. Suryadevara Haarika and Sai Soujanya of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, respectively, are producing the film. Srikara Studios and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi are presenting the film.

Technicians who worked for MAD are back for MAD Square, like Shamdat, who is handling cinematography, Navin Nooli is editing the film; and Bheems Ceciroleo, who is composing music.

### Mohanlal to begin shooting his 360th film next week

 $M^{\mbox{alayalam}}_{\mbox{set}}$  to commence shooting for his 360th film, with the highly successful duo of Mohanlal and Shobana making a comeback in this project. Shobana herself announced the news, expressing her delight at working together again and marking their 56th collaboration. This upcoming film, which is the 14th production under Renjith's Reiaputra Films, features Mohanlal in the role of a taxi driver, harking back to iconic roles that contributed to his superstar status. Directed by Tarun Murthy and written by K.S. Sunil, the film boasts cinematography by Shaji and includes popular comedian-turnedcharacter actor Jagdish in a significant role. The film's shooting is scheduled to commence on Monday in Chennai, with an anticipated release during the Puja holidays in October. Fans eagerly await this milestone film

featuring the legendary Mohanlal and

Shobana.

## *Manamey* teaser offers a fresh experience

ctor Sharwanand is set to A enthrall audiences with his landmark 35th movie, Manamev, directed by the talented Sriram Adittya and magnificently produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory. The film's promotional materials, including its first look, glimpses, and debut single, have received tremendous acclaim. Recently, the makers unveiled the film's teaser, providing a captivating glimpse into the enchanting world of *Manamey*.

The teaser introduces a narrative centered around two individuals with contrasting mindsets encountering an unexpected twist in their journey with the arrival of a young boy, portrayed by Vikram Adittya. The protagonist, played by Sharwanand, initially appears innocent but reveals a playful, carefree persona. Krithi Shetty portrays a responsible, candid character, bringing depth to the story

sents a fresh, new-age narrative infused with humour. The teaser cleverly teases the dynamics between the characters without revealing their full relationship, leaving audiences eager for the upcoming theatrical trailer.

The teaser highlights the exceptional performances of the cast, with Sharwanand's charismatic portraval, Krithi Shetty's noteworthy performance, and Vikram Adittya's scene-stealing presence. The visuals, captured by Vishnu Sharma and Gnana Shekar VS, exude vibrancy and grandeur, complemented by Hesham Abdul Wahab's captivating score. The production design by People Media Factory is top-notch, adding richness to the visuals.

*Manamey* promises to be a must-watch this summer, offering wholesome entertainment that appeals to all audiences. With an exciting storyline and stellar performances, the film is poised to captivate cinemagoers during the holiday season.

Director Sriram Adittya pre-

# BAAK release postponed to May 3



amannaah Bhatia, Raashii Khanna, and Sundar C starrer Aranmanai 4 is set to release in Telugu as Baak. The Sundar C-directed horror comedy, originally scheduled for release on April 26, 2024, has now been postponed to a new date.

The producers have officially announced that the movie will hit screens on May 3, 2024, a week later than original-ly planned. Consequently, the Telugu dubbed version of the film, titled Baak, has also been rescheduled and will release on the same date by Asian Suresh Entertainment LLP, alongside the Tamil version.

Produced by Sundar's wife, Khushbu Sundar, and ACS Arun Kumar, the movie features a stellar cast including Kovai Sarala, Yogi Babu, Vennela Kishore, Srinivasa Reddy, Sunil, KS Ravikumar, and others in pivotal roles. The film's music is composed by Hiphop Tamizha.

## A3 Labels's next starring Tony Kick, **Sunita Marasyar offically launched**

At Hyderabad's Film Nagar Sannidhaman on Friday, the latest movie from A3 Labels, starring Tony Kick and Sunita Marasyar, had its premiere. Bullet Bandi Laxman is directing this film, which Girish Kumar is producing. "I am happy that Pradeep and Girish are producing the film together under the banner of A3 labels," Chinnikrishna stated. "I've listened to sixty different scenes of this story. It is known that in South India, Ram and Laxman's records were enormous hits. An animated narrative based on their album's song Allah Hey Allah is in the works. After this film, Bullet Bandi Laxman will remain the greatest director. I hope this film becomes a huge success." He also uttered,



"I want everyone to bless the team." "Once we entered the film industry, we faced difficulties and went back," said director Bullet Bandi Laxman. "Folk music helped us win over the audience, nevertheless. Girish Kumar, our producer, stepped forward to make the film after realising my ambition of a movie. He lacked financial resources. I have attempted to tell a story in four minutes of song so far. Our producer has now expressed interest in creating a twohour movie. Our goal with each and every song is to entice them to the

theater and win their hearts. Our team's willpower is behind me. Similar to the support I've received on YouTube, I hope to receive the same in the film."



## sports 12

# PREMIER LEAGUE

# **RISHABH PANT SET FOR EMOTIONAL HOMECOMING**

### PTI NEW DELHI

emotional A homecoming awaits Rishabh Pant when he leads Delhi Capitals out at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here, hoping to halt the marauding run of Pat Cummins' Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday and continue the resurgence which has come to define his life both on and off the field.

The last time Pant was seen at the refurbished stadium, he needed crutches to walk but that now seems a distant memory given how remarkably well he has managed to come back both as a wicketkeeper and batter after enduring a life-threatening car accident in 2022.

Capitals have had a mixed season so far, but a couple of impressive wins against Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans have put them back in the mix. In all, they have three wins and four defeats in seven outings so far. Placed fourth in the IPL points table, Sunrisers Hyderabad have set a different template altogether with two of the highest-ever totals of 277/3

and 287/3, which will require a

lot of heart and skill to counter. Hence, 'Captain Pant' will have to use his resources with extreme caution and guile on a track which will have good bounce and carry for a change. Travis Head (235 runs) — IPL's foreign flavour of the season will be keen to build on his 39ball century and his partner Abhishek Sharma (211 runs) is

Abhishek Sharma (211 runs) is no pushover either. Both have a penchant for taking the aerial route during powerplay. Head and Abhishek's intimidating strike rates of 199 and 197 respectively will pose a serious challenge for the pace trio of Ishant Sharma Khaleel trio of Ishant Sharma, Khaleel

Ahmed and Mukesh Kumar. Adding to the threat is Heinrich Klaasen, who is also striking at 199, who is one of the best finishers in international cricket with propensity to hit balls out of the stadium, which gives SRH's batting a scary look. But Kuldeep Yadav's (economy of 6.06) left-arm wrist spin could well prove to be a game-changer and in Tristan Stubbs, Pant has got an ideal third spin option alongside Axar Patel

(6.75). Pant, who is himself



getting back to the top of his game, wouldn't mind if he can win the toss and opt to bat. which may not be able to hold its own on a good batting track. But David Warner's knuckle

injury is a cause for concern for Pant and head coach Ricky Ponting although Jake Fraser-McGurk has impressed one and all in his first two matches. While SRH's batting has been top-notch on belters, their bowlers have suffered a lot on bowlers have suffered a lot on those tracks with only skipper Cummins (7.87) having an economy rate of less than eight runs per over, which is considered good in T20. However, the seasoned duo of

Jaydev Unadkat (11.35) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (10.45), bhuvneshwar Kumar (10.45), have both been average while the tweakers — wrist spinner Mayank Markande (11.23) and left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed (ER 12.44) — have been sent on a leather hunt. The best option for Pant would be to open the batting and go for the jugular against SRH, putting a scoreboard pressure on the rampaging Orange

Army. In case Capitals have to chase, the idea would be to keep SRH down to 210-220 which would be chaseable against an attack

**TEAMS (FROM):** Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (c&wk), David Warner, Abishek Porel, Ricky Bhui, Yash Dhull, Shai Hope, Prithvi Shaw, Tristan Stubbs, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Swastik Chikara, Ishant Sharma, Jhye Richardson, Rasikh Dar Salam, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Praveen Dubey, Khaleel

Ahmed, Sumit Kumar, Axar Patel, Mitchell Marsh, Lalit Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk. Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins (c), Abdul Samad, Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram, Marco Jansen, Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Glenn Phillips, Sanvir Singh, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Agarwal, T. Natarajan, Anmolpreet Singh, Mayank Markande, Upendra Singh Yadav (wk), Umran Malik, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Travis Head, Jaydev Unadkat, Akash Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanyan



# Hardik Pandya fined for slow over rate against Punjab Kings

PTI MULLANPUR (PUNJAB)

# It was my dream to play sweep shot against Bumrah: Ashutosh

### PTI MULLANPUR (PUNJAB)

Punjab Kings' batting Sensation Ashutosh Sharma said he lived a "dream" when he swept "world's best fast bowler" Jasprit Bumrah during his team's IPL clash during his teams IPL clash against Mumbai Indians here. The 25-year-old Ashutosh put the Bumrah-led Mumbai Indians' bowling to sword here on Thursday when he hammered seven sizes and two fours to make 61 off a mere 28 balls, a knock which brought PBKS back from the brink after an early collapse. PBKS were 17/4 inside the powerplay but courtesy the stunning fightback from Ashutosh and Shashank Singh while PBKS dropped a spot to (41), they were able to get close to MI's 193-run target before losing by nine runs. It was in the 13th over of Punjab's chase when Ashutosh got down low on his front to convert an attempted yorker from Bumrah into a full toss and smack it for a six over backward square leg. "It was my dream to hit a sweep shot against Bumrah. I was practising for that shot but it came against the best bowler in the world - it is a part of the game," Ashutosh told the media here after the match. Ashutosh said he was confident of taking Punjab over the line. "I had belief in myself that I

questions," Ashutosh said. "He gave me a chance, and also the entire Punjab team which showed belief in me. Our head coach Trevor Bayliss, Ashish (Tuli) paaji, Shikhar (Dhawan) paaji, everyone believed in me, so it was for all of them," he added.

Punjab slumped to their fifth defeat in seven matches as well defeat in seven matches as well as to the ninth spot in the points table, but Ashutosh said his side has been playing well. "Winning and losing are part of the game. How you are playing is something that matters and we are playing well as a team. If we will play well, we will win," he said. Mumbai Indians, "near Gerald Mumbai Indians' pacer Gerald Coetzee conceded his side was tense after Ashutosh's stunning onslaught. "He really brought it to us. We just wanted to be really clear tactically what we wanted to do. We executed really well to him in the back end to shut it down and win the game," the South African bowler said. "But it was tense, as I think evervone saw. But it was just all tactical discussions," he added. Coetzee conceded Mumbai Indians could've been better with their slower balls, something that PBKS used perfectly in the first half.

## Impact Player not ideal for coaches but fans have last say: Ponting PTI NEW DELHI

The Impact Player rule in IPL might be hampering the growth of all-rounders but Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting said on Friday that fans should be able to decide on the future of this contentious system.

contentious system. Ponting has never been a strong advocate of the Impact Player and the debate gained momentum after Rohit Sharma in a recent YouTube podcast said that he is not a "fan of the rule" as it hurts development of Indian all development of Indian allrounders.

"Look, I think, I read some really, really interesting answers from Rohit Sharma on this yesterday. This Impact Player is taking the all-rounders out of the game a little bit," Ponting said ahead of Ponting said he is nearly 85 to DC's match against Sunrisers 90% fit. Hyderabad here on Saturday.

liking it as much, then there's no reason why I couldn't go back to the old," he added. "Warner is around 85 to 90%

David Warner, who missed the last match due to a knuckle injury, was seen batting at the nets and also hit some balls into the stands while facing throwdowns.

"David did a fitness test on game day in which he go

Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has been fined Rs 12 lakhs for his team maintaining a slow over rate during their thrilling nine-run victory over Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League. Mumbai Indians, thanks to Suryakumar Yadav's blazing 78 off 53 deliveries, posted a competitive 192/7 and then dismissed PBKS, despite Ashutosh Sharma's stunning 28-ball 61 and Shashank Singh's 41, for 183 in 19.1 overs.

MI rose to seventh from ninth position on the points table following their third win in seven games in IPL 2024,

"Hardik Pandya, the Mumbai Indians captain, has been after his team fined maintained a slow over rate during their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match against Punjab Kings at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur on April 18," said an IPL statement on Friday. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct

ninth after their

relating to minimum over rate offences, Pandya was fined Rs 12 lakhs," the statement added. Mumbai Indians next play Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur on April 22.

would be able to win the game

for the team," he said Ashutosh credited former India player and coach Sanjay Bangar, head of cricket development at PBKS, for his improvement this season. "Sanjay sir told me that I am not a slogger and that I can play proper cricket shots. It was a small statement but carried a huge meaning for me. I am only following it - I am not a hard-hitter, I am playing proper cricketing shots and that is what has changed my game," Ashutosh said

"Back home, I was working with my coach Amay Khurasiya who had told me that the longer you stay on the pitch, the more your team has

a chance of winning," he added. The right-handed batter, who made some gestures towards the PBKS dugout after completing his fifty, said the celebrations were meant for his team management.

"That celebration was for our Sanjay (Bangar) sir, I have been working a lot with him and I keep asking him

### **OTHER SPORTS**

"We just really learned from their innings. We adapted our plans and I think it worked," Coetzee added.

You know you can play you specialist batsman down till No. 8. Pretty much. But look, I think for a coach and for the players, it's probably not ideal, but I think you know a lot of what this game tries to do is to entertain people," Ponting explained his point of view.

explained his point of view. "The T20 game is an entertainment package and it's probably better asking the spectator what they think about the impact player, because if everyone is loving the fact that teams are making, vou know, 220 up to 250 in a lot of the games, and the spectators like seeing it, then it should stay.

"But if the spectators aren't

close. He's probably sort of 85 or 90% a couple days ago. We'd expect that there would be a little bit more improvement from him today.

"But he will have to do a lot of batting today against some fast bowling stuff to make sure that the pain is not there anymore," Ponting replied to a query from PTI.

The coach was happy with the pitch on which DC will play its first home game.

"A lot more grass on the entire square than we used to see here. You know, this is the main reason that we moved away from those couple of games at the back of WPL.



# Group condemns searches by security at Barcelona stadium

### AP PARIS

The director of a group that advocates for female sports fans says she and other Paris Saint-Germain supporters were subjected to "abusive" searches while entering Barcelona's stadium for a Champions League match earlier this week.

Anoush Morel, the director of Her Game Too France, told L'Equipe and RMC Sport that her breasts, buttocks and groin were touched by a female security officer during a pat-down at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium on Tuesday night. Other women reported similarly aggressive searches, she said.

Paris Saint-Germain won the match 4-1 and advanced to the Champions League semifinals.

In a letter Thursday, the organization

condemned the practice and called on "relevant authorities" to take action. "It's unacceptable that spectators, fans and women in

general were particularly targeted by these intrusive and humiliating searches that constitute sexual PTI NEW DELHI aggression," the letter read.

The group said there have been **T**n a huge setback for the Indian wrestling similar complaints at other stadiums in Bishkek, two of the country's best in Europe, usually impacting visiting wrestlers, Deepak Punia and Sujeet Kalakal, fans. It called on teams, organizers of the games and stadiums to ensure will miss the continental event as they their security protocols avoid the could not report for the weigh-in on time as "unfair treatment" of supporters. their flight arrived late in the Kyrgyzstan

capital owing to bad weather in Dubai. It asks UEFA to provide answers on whether visiting fans in particular are being subjected to more aggressive managed to reach Bishkek after being searches.

A request for comment from UEFA due to incessant rain and flooding, they sent on Thursday evening was not immediately answered. could not report for the mandatory weighin on time, according to sources.

## Ilympic organisers to use AI in sports International

Olympic

AP 📕 LONDON

Olympic organisers unveiled their plans Friday to use artificial intelligence in sports, joining the global rush to capitalize on the rapidly advancing technology. The International Olympic Committee

outlined its agenda for taking advantage of AI. Officials said it could be used to help identify promising athletes, personalize training methods and make the games fairer by improving judging. "Today, we are making another step to ensure the uniqueness of the Olympic Games and the relevance of sport. To do this, we have to be leaders of change," IOC

contingent at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers

While both Punia and Kalkal eventually

stranded at the Dubai international airport



President Thomas Bach said at a press event at the former London Olympic Park, which hosted the Summer Games in 2012. "We are determined to exploit the vast potential of AI in a responsible way," Bach said.

The IOC revealed its AI strategy as it gears up to hold the Paris Olympics, which are set to kick off in just under 100 davs.

The IOC's AI plans also include using the technology to protect athletes from online harassment and to help broadcasters improve the viewing experience for people watching from home. The IOC earns billions of dollars through the sale of broadcast rights for the games.

## Andy Murray back on practice court

### AP LONDON

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray has returned to the practice court after confirming that he's not going to have surgery on his injured ankle.

The 36-year-old Murray tore ligaments in his left ankle during a match at the Miami Open last month.

Murray's team said this week he's "out of the walking boot," wouldn't be having surgery, and was "hoping to start hitting again on court soon." A short video on Murray's Instagram account on Friday showed the former world No. 1 hitting forehands on an indoor court.

There was no timeline for his return announced. The two-time Wimbledon champion, who has said he's unlikely to play past this summer, has been hoping to compete for Britain again in the Paris Olympics.



not allow late weigh-in despite request from the Indian coaches.

winning a medal at the Tokyo Games, and Sujeet (65kg), were on their way to Bishkek to participate in the Asia Olympic qualifiers - the second-last qualifying event for Paris



The sources added that the organisers did

Punia (86kg), who had come close to

Punia, Sujeet to miss Asian qualifiers

Olympics - when a majority of the flights

leaving Dubai got cancelled or delayed because of the flooding of the airport. The duo, accompanied by Russian coach Kamal Malikov and physio Shubham Gupta, were forced to sleep on the floor and

'They were stuck at the Dubai airport since

April 16 and it seems the chance of

qualifying for Paris Olympics is slipping out of their hands as they are scheduled to

compete tomorrow. They are not getting any flights to Bishkek. I am worried about

them," Davanand Kalakal, Sujeet's father,

had told PTI on Thursday.