

Betrayal thy name is Congress! The Congress came to power in Telangana by selling false dreams to all sections, especially the youth. Congress leaders like Balmoor Venkat were responsible for filing court cases and cancelling many exams. While leaders like Venkat got an MLC post, those who were hoping for government jobs were left in the lurch. The true colours of the Congress are out for all to see

-KT Rama Rao, BRS MLA P4

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

'HYD ALTERED' MY IDEA OF WHAT I WANTED TO DO FOR A LIVING

Sridevi Vijaykumar discusses her comeback to Telugu CINEMA

DON'T MISS... Heavy dependence on water... As the groundwater levels are depleting, the booking of tankers has been increasing, which results in citizens paying more money for water...

'I am a high-tension wire; if you touch us, you will turn into ashes'

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...

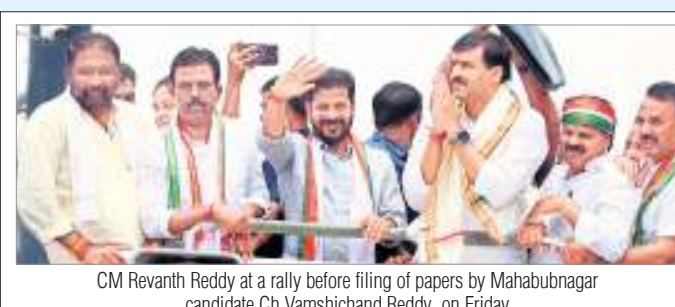
you will turn into ashes like a crow if you touch our MLAs. People buried BRS's car in the Assembly elections. KTR, your car's engine was destroyed. Your car will be sold as scrap. KTR, your father's health is also weak," Revanth said.

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.

'BRS chief gave 5 LS seats to BJP for Kavitha's bail'

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao has struck a secret deal with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his daughter Kavitha's bail and that KCR gave five LS seats to the BJP as part of the deal. KCR has 'mortgaged' the self-respect of Telangana at the feet of Prime Minister Modi, he said.

elections and they would defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. People should not give a single seat to the BJP and the BRS in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana," Revanth said. Addressing the Manukota Jana Jata public meeting on Friday for Mahbubabad Congress candidate Porike Balaram Naik, Revanth said the Congress will be in power for the next 10 years.



CM Revanth Reddy at a rally before filing of papers by Mahabubnagar candidate Ch Vamshichand Reddy on Friday

BRS seeks permission for KCR's bus yatra



The BRS has asked Telangana CEO, Vikas Raj, to give permission for a KCR-led bus trip as part of the Lok Sabha election campaign. It was brought to the attention 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 petition to the CEO 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 critical areas and pay special attention to them, and to deploy Central forces if necessary.

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.

TS govt releases Rs 50 crore dues to weavers

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 Bathukamma sarees. The workers in Sircilla staged successive agitations and appealed to the government to support them by paying the dues.

Both BRS & Cong are corrupt parties: Rajnath

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the BRS and the Congress are two corrupt parties and that the Congress did nothing for the people. He said that the Modi government is not a mere voters only government but an action government. Addressing a rally of Khammam BJP candidate Thandra Vinodrao on Friday at Khammam, Rajnath said that people threw out the corrupt BRS government of Telangana. He said that the BJP government took several key decisions like scrapping Article 370, constructed the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, scrapped triple talaq and many others. He said the BJP government will introduce a Uniform Civil Code as mentioned in its manifesto.



Declaring that he was confident that the Modi government would be voted to power again, Rajnath said that Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi had said that they will eradicate poverty. However, poverty kept increasing in the nation till Modi came to power, Rajnath said.

Is Congress having a different rule for Ponguleti family?

The Congress seems to have a different rule for the family of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. 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 Venkateswar Rao is the Congress candidate in Khammam. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka's brother Mallu Ravi got the Nagarkurnool ticket. Gaddam's family got three oppor-



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.

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 he may become the Home Minister.

Jana Reddy's son Jaiveer is an MLA and now his son, Raghuveer, is the Nagonda candidate. Interestingly, even new entrants like MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy's wife and Kadiyam Srihari's daughter got Congress tickets.

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 question 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...

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...

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

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 re-examine 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 re-examine the assessments done by junior officials, remove mistakes and assess tax.

LOK SABHA POLLS 62.37 per cent voting in phase one

An aggregate 62.37 per cent voter turnout was recorded in phase one of the Lok Sabha polls on Friday, the Election Commission (EC) said. While the figures were issued after the conclusion of polls, the commission said people who were in the queue when voting ended at 6 pm were

allowed to exercise their franchise. The voting percentage is likely to go upwards when reports from all polling stations are obtained as polling is scheduled till 6 pm in many constituencies. Final figures will be known on Saturday after the scrutiny of form 17A," the EC said.

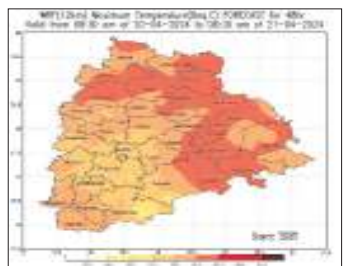
'Your vote safe, exercise franchise in large numbers'



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv 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. "It is a settled issue. It is 100 per 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. "There are a large number of 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.

Heat wave alert; state govt issues advisory

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. Dr B. Ravinder Nayak, the 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 ANMs/ASHAs and Anganwadi workers to meet any exigencies.

India set to become science powerhouse

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.



"In this editorial, we discuss a third aspect: how to bridge the funding gap. One thing India's government can do is to boost science spending by encouraging businesses to contribute more, as is the case for other leading economies. If policymakers and industrialists can get this right, an opportunity to put rocket boosters under the country's impressive scientific achievements

"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.

is there for the taking," the journal said. The editorial noted that in 2021-22, according to government data, India had the world's third-largest pharmaceutical industry by volume and was the leading supplier of affordable medicines and generic drugs, some of which were "crucial" to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. 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.



FIRST COLUMN MIND, THE KEY TO HIDDEN FORTUNE

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



RAVI VALLURI

Once 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 imbroglia could not be resolved and they sought the intervention of a Zen Master. The master impassively said, 'It is the MIND 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)

Human-elephant conflict: The way out

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



BKP SINHA



ARVIND JHA



India's rich biodiversity includes a significant population of Asian elephants, 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 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 developmental 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 elephant 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 accidental 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 km² 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.

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

“ 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 DISPLACEMENT FROM THE DANDELI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, A PLACE THEY HAD INHABITED COMFORTABLY UNTIL 1990

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 collisions. 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 displacement from the Dandeli 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 forests along the Wain-Ganga, Pranhita and Dina river basins. This migration has been linked to increased human encroachment, the construction of two canals in Odisha and mining disturbances in their traditional corridors. The Wayanad region, a vital watershed for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, is currently facing a multitude of environmental challenges such as deforestation, irresponsible tourism and unscientific development. Such activities are posing a significant threat to the ecological balance of the region, endangering the lives of both humans and wildlife. Wayanad plays a critical role in maintaining regional biodiversity. However, ongoing habitat degradation in this region could potentially intensify the water crisis in the Kaveri basin and escalate the HEC, which has tragically led to 41 fatalities already. Similarly, in the northeastern States of Assam and West Bengal, expanding tea plantations and human settlements have encroached on elephants' traditional grounds, leading to frequent HEC incidents. Addressing HEC requires a multi-

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 within forests is another essential strategy for preventing elephants from entering human territories. 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

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 in search of refuge and resources, increasing the likelihood and severity 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)*

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

Even as the Indian 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 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 included hardcore CPI(M) members and activists who



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

made it known that Rahul 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 Pinarayi Vijayan in the wrong way and the CPI(M) cadres consider it as a cardinal sin.

Raja too had publicly questioned 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(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 himself knows that he would

lose by a big margin but he 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 Wayanad 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-

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 Sitarum 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 "communal 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 some of the major political outfits whose secular cre-

dentials depend on their ties with the BJP. The press meeting addressed by A K Antony, the Bheeshma Pitamah of the Congress on 9 April 2024 at Thiruvananthapuram was an indicator of how political marriages take place in Kerala. While Antony was cursing his son Anil Antony who is contesting from Pathanamthitta as a BJP candidate and asking the electorate to ensure the defeat of his son, he was waxing eloquence on Anto Antony, the Congress candidate who is pitted against Anil. The former defence minister lambasted the BJP as anti-nationals, communalists and dictators. But what stood out was his silence on the CPI(M) candi-

dates. Antony's ties with the CPI(M) are infamous as he had sailed with the Marxists for almost two years during 1980-1983. The CPI(M) and the Congress-led by Antony fought the 1980 general election together and ruled Kerala for almost two years. The Congress faction was pushed out of the LDF by the CPI(M) which demolished the offices of the Congress across the State with the police looking the other way. It is not without any reason political pundits say that politicians make strange persons into bedfellows. Do we need more proof than A K Antony? *(The writer is special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)*

Dr. Nabat Lakhani, who firmly relocated to Hyderabad from Kolkata, gets candid with *The Pioneer* for our weekly segment of *Hyderabad*, 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

Let's avoid discussing any hidden implications, but during our interview with Dr. Nabat Lakhani for our weekly *Hyderabad* feature, we discovered that she formerly relocated to Hyderabad from Kolkata with her parents to live in total comfort. Awaiting her was her new residence! A positive subliminal shift in her life that she hadn'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, providing her with a multitude of cultural experiences, chances, and warmth. Her favourite 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 gynecologist and the wife of Dr.

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 people 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. Chimmayee Ratha." Even at the youthful age of 14, she had no intention of leaving her beloved Kolkata, but apparently, Hyderabad and its inhabitants disproved her.

"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 noticeable contrast for me when I first arrived. I have learned and can function fairly well, but I miss my Bengali language, and I have never been fond of Telugu. But I don't think I could have returned home without 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 chances to develop, serve, and forge connections with not only the families she cares for but also with colleagues in the hospital, both junior and senior. She has forged some truly lovely relationships that she will always treasure. Actually, she also said, "With pride, Hyderabad can boast of possessing top-notch, cutting-edge health infrastructure, as well as the 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."

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.

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 is more than just a city to me—it's a sensation, a sense of community that has improved my life in ways I never would have thought possible. It has improved my overall well-being by teaching me the value of flexibility, resiliency, and accepting new experiences. I sincerely appreciate being able to live in Hyderabad."

HYDERABOND

TANISHA EYES GREY ROLES IN PUSHPA AND ANIMAL FRANCHISES!

In an interview with *The Pioneer*, actress Tanisha Mukerji offers an intimate glimpse into her role in the film *Luv You Shankar* and shares insights into her experiences on set.

K. RAMYA SREE

Shreyas 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 character 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 playing 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 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 co-star Shreyas performed a pooja. She shared, "The most memorable moment was when Shreyas and I had to go

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 diyas 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 commented, "I think the biggest takeaway from the project 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 directed all of us, he was really the captain of the ship. At any one point, he was the one who knew exactly what was happening 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, considering the body of work I have done, I 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 challenges 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 negative challenge; I will always take it as positive," she concluded.



Managing diabetes with physiotherapy

Diabetes manifests as a metabolic disorder primarily 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 diabetic 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 mellitus (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 effective 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 self-practice.

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 mobility issues, enhancing strength and flexibility, and promoting overall wellness, physical therapists play a pivotal 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 complexities of their condition with confidence and resilience.

(The author, *Tamilarasu Kumarappan*, is the Chief Physiotherapist at INJL)

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.



Divi



Ashritha



Shajha Begam



Chandana



Priyanka

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.



Ariyana



Munaith Khan



Lakshmi Manchu



Dr. Shaik Amrin Banu

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.



Regina Cassandra



Banu sri



PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary



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



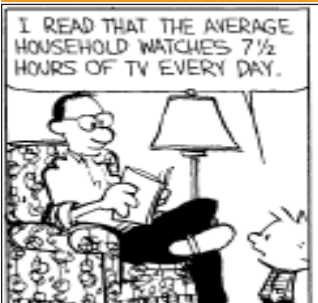
Dr. Sudhir Reddy, Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon at Landmark Hospitals, recently organised a press conference in regards to the success rate of their Augmented Reality Navigation in Total Knee Replacement Surgery. In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the 1st Augmented Reality TKR was conducted at landmark hospitals on February 27 by Dr. Sudhir Reddy's team. Now, nearly 70 surgeries have been done using AR technology.

FUN

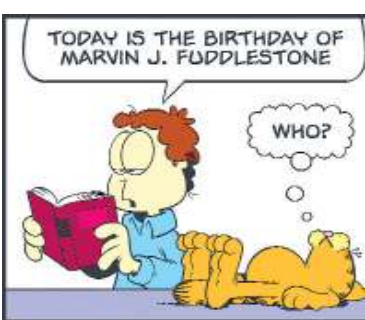
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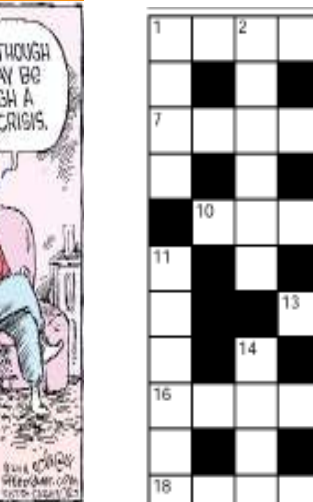
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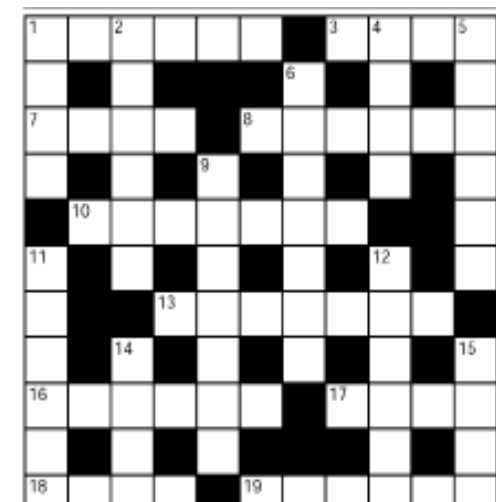
GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution
3 7 9 8 6 4 5 1 2
2 4 6 1 3 5 8 7 9
1 8 5 2 9 7 3 6 4
8 1 3 5 4 2 6 9 7
7 5 2 9 1 6 4 8 3
9 6 4 3 7 8 2 5 1
6 2 7 4 8 1 9 3 5
5 9 1 6 2 3 7 4 8
4 3 8 7 5 9 1 2 6

Rules
• Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
• The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

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
 - 5 Use your ears
 - 6 Opposite of deep
 - 9 Badly behaved
 - 11 We need this gas to stay alive
 - 12 Leave
 - 14 Very unkind
 - 15 Potters use this



GINGER MEGGS





SRIDEVI VIJAYKUMAR DISCUSSES HER COMEBACK TO TELUGU CINEMA

K. RAMYA SREE

Actress Sridevi Vijaykumar, 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 *Pelikani 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

in Tollywood now.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Sridevi shared insights into her decision to return to films and her upcoming projects.

Sridevi revealed, "Of late, I've been focused on television due to convenience 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 settled into a routine, I felt it was the right time to dive back into films. I'm currently 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 happening with TV. Moreover, my entire family is into movies, so I am always surrounded by this circle. But, directly, being on movie sets is always fun and special."

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 different genres, and I

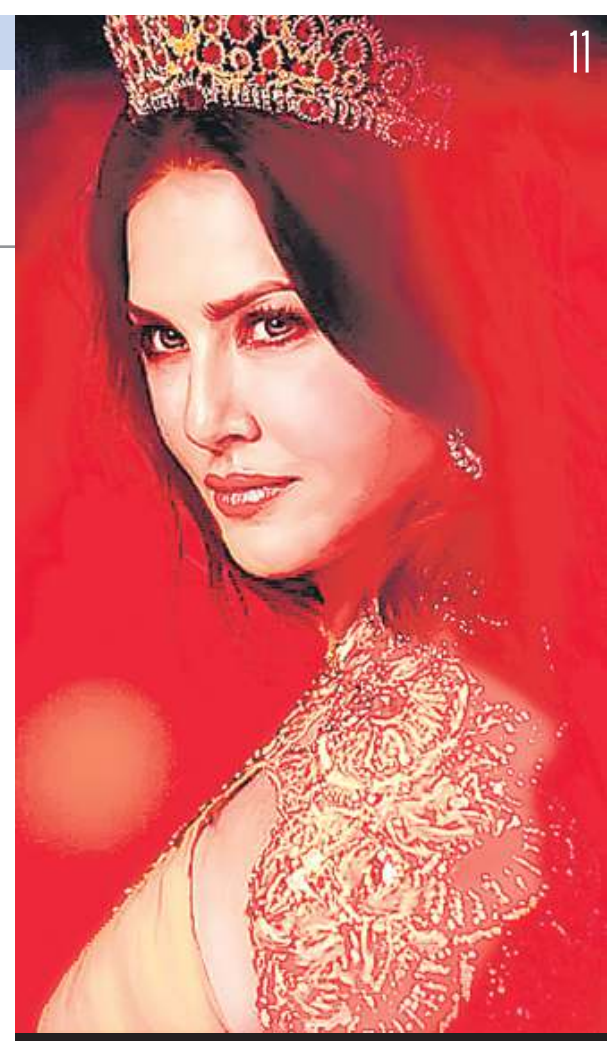
would love to try different genres and characters. I want to portray impactful characters, even if it's a single scene."

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 semi-final, 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.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Sridevi shared insights into her decision to return to films and her upcoming projects.



SUNNY LEONE'S 'MANDIRA'S' FIRST LOOK LOOKS FRIGHTENING!

There 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 enthral 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 Vision 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 telling meaningful stories without glorifying negativity'

PNS | HYDERABAD

Celebrated 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, Sekhar Kammula engaged with the 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 its timeless music. Revisiting it recently, I found the film as fresh and vibrant as ever. Its re-release is a celebration for the youth." While 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.

THARUN BHASCKER, EESHA REBBA'S NEW MOVIE ANNOUNCED

Director 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 Aditya 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-to-be-titled flick is happening in and around Rajahmundry, with the lead cast

participating. The team celebrated heroine Eesha Rebba's birthday yesterday (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.

The shooting of the movie is progressing at a brisk pace. The team is planning to release the movie in October. The makers have also announced the release of the



film's first look soon. Deepak Yeragara is the cinematographer, while Jay Krish provides the music. Nanda Kishore Emani penned the dialogues.

MAD sequel announced

Sithara 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*.

Kalyan Shankar, who debuted with *MAD* as a writer-director, 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



time...MADness will be 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 Jathirathalu fame director CV Anudeep have graced the event as chief guests. Siddhu Jonnalagadda has handed over the script to director Kalyan Shankar. Both

Mohanlal to begin shooting his 360th film next week

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal is 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 Rejaputra 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-turned-character 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

Actor Sharwanand is set to enthral audiences with his landmark 35th movie, *Manamey*, directed by the talented Sriram Aditya 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 Aditya. 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. Director Sriram Aditya pre-

Director Sriram Aditya pre-

BAAK release postponed to May 3



Tamannaah Bhatia, Raashii Khanna, and Sundar C star *Arammanai 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 originally 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 officially 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 two-hour 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."



RISHABH PANT SET FOR EMOTIONAL HOMECOMING

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 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 39-ball century and his partner 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 Ahmed and Mukesh Kumar. Adding to the threat is Heinrich Klaassen, 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. 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 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), have both been average while the tweakers — wrist spinner Mayank Markande (11.23) and left-arm spinner Shabbaz 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

which may not be able to hold its own on a good batting track.

TEAMS (FROM):

Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (c&wk), David Warner, Abhishek 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 Dube, 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 Klaassen (wk), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mayank Agarwal, T. Natarajan, Anmolpreet Singh, Mayank Markande, Upendra Singh Yadav (wk), Umransh Malik, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Shabbaz Ahmed, Travis Head, Jaydev Unadkat, Akash Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanyan



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 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 sixes 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 (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 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

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. 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-rounders. "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 DC's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Saturday. "You know you can play your 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. "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, you 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



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% fit" 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. Ponting said he is nearly 85 to 90% fit. "David did a fitness test on game day in which he got 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.

Hardik Pandya fined for slow over rate against Punjab Kings

PTI ■ MULLANPUR (PUNJAB)

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,

while PBKS dropped a spot to ninth after their fifth defeat. "Hardik Pandya, the Mumbai Indians captain, has been fined after his team 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 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.

OTHER SPORTS



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 Luis 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 aggression," the letter read. The group said there have been similar complaints at other stadiums in Europe, usually impacting visiting fans. It called on teams, organizers of the games and stadiums to ensure their security protocols avoid the "unfair treatment" of supporters. It asks UEFA to provide answers on whether visiting fans in particular are being subjected to more aggressive searches. A request for comment from UEFA sent on Thursday evening was not immediately answered.

Olympic organisers to use AI in sports

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



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 days. 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.

Punia, Sujeet to miss Asian qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a huge setback for the Indian wrestling contingent at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers in Bishkek, two of the country's best wrestlers, Deepak Punia and Sujeet Kalakal, will miss the continental event as they could not report for the weigh-in on time as their flight arrived late in the Kyrgyzstan capital owing to bad weather in Dubai. While both Punia and Kalkal eventually managed to reach Bishkek after being stranded at the Dubai international airport due to incessant rain and flooding, they could not report for the mandatory weigh-in on time, according to sources.



The sources added that the organisers did not allow late weigh-in despite request from the Indian coaches. Punia (86kg), who had come close to 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