


"We won in two constituencies in Nadigadda in adverse conditions. We won 39 seats. We lost 14 seats with small margins. Voters have entrusted us with the responsibility of being the Opposition so as to fight for people's rights. When we were defeated, those who had held posts of power selfishly left the party,"

KTRama Rao, BRS working president

Strong ASEAN can play vital role in Indo-Pacific



RELIANCE UNDERLINES ITS COMMITMENT TO VIKASIT BHARAT



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DON'T MISS...

There's still room for ensuring ...

About 87 per cent of women professionals aspire to hold leadership roles compared to 78 per cent of men professionals, as per the All India Management Association (AIMA) and Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) in India report released on Tuesday. The survey considers perspectives from professionals across industries on five key aspects: the current representation of women...

-PAGE: 3

People from low socio-economic ...

People from a lower socio-economic background are twice as likely to develop chronic pain after a physical injury, a new research has found. It also found that people with a combination of factors including smoking, poorer support networks, and lower education levels or income could be seven times more likely to develop chronic pain after an injury. Chronic pain is that ...

-PAGE: 5

Indians most confident in..

Indians are most confident in adapting to changes due to tech innovations at workplaces and a large majority of professionals seem to be ready for any change in their roles, a report said on Tuesday. The report by global job site Indeed said around 54 per cent of workers in India predict a substantial shift in their roles within the next five years and 95 per cent expressed confidence in their ability to adapt to...

-PAGE: 8

Once we got Hasaranga..

Letting go of Yuzvendra Chahal is something Royal Challengers Bengaluru could regret for the longest time and the franchise's former director of cricket, Mike Hesson on Tuesday insisted they failed to retain the leg-spinner due to a miscalculation at the last IPL auction. On Monday, Chahal scripted history by becoming the first player in IPL to have taken 200 wickets. "Yuzi is one I will be frustrated with until I have finished my career and probably beyond. He is an outstanding ...

SPORTS

'MY GOVERNMENT WILL WAIVE FARM LOANS BY AUG 15TH'
Will you dissolve BRS?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Asserting his government will implement the Rs two lakh farm loan waiver before August 15, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday challenged BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao to dissolve his party if it is done.

Revanth Reddy, who was speaking at a Congress meeting in his Assembly constituency-Kodangal, referred to BRS MLA T Harish Rao's reported comments as to whether the chief minister would resign if he was not able to implement the loan waiver before August 15.

"I am throwing a straight challenge at Harish Rao and KCR. I will carry out loan waiver before August 15. If I do, will you dissolve your party? Accept the challenge. I will carry out Rs two lakh loan waiver before August 15 come what may," he said.

Assuring that farmers need not worry over loans, Revanth Reddy said the government would pay the loan amounts and cooperative banks should not trouble farmers.

KCR, when he was the chief minister, had asked farmers to cultivate paddy but later told them that paddy cannot be purchased, Revanth Reddy said.

"Is he the one who will improve agriculture? Should farmers trust

CM REVANTH CHALLENGES KCR



The previous BRS government led by KCR did not fulfill promises to build double bedroom houses for the poor, three acres of land to Dalits, students' tuition fees reimbursement, 12 per cent reservation for STs and minorities, he charged.

him and vote in his favour in parliamentary elections," Revanth Reddy, who is also the state Congress president, said. The previous BRS government led by KCR did not fulfill promises to

build double bedroom houses for the poor, three acres of land to Dalits, students' tuition fees reimbursement, 12 per cent reservation for STs and minorities, he charged.

Though his government has implemented five poll guarantees in 100 days, KCR says that Revanth Reddy should step down, he said.

Attacking the BJP, he claimed that devotion to god should be in the hearts and that "shouting in the streets" is not devotion. Communal harmony and respect to other faiths is inherent in Hinduism, he said.

BJP is trying to win elections by creating disputes, he alleged.

"Don't fall for the campaign of BJP (PM Narendra) Modi did not do anything for 10 years. He did not implement housing for the poor, doubling farmers income, depositing Rs 15 lakh in accounts of poor," he said.

Since the BJP has nothing to boast about, the party is trying to win elections after creating some trouble, he alleged.

He also said the Congress candidate from Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituency Vamsichand Reddy should get a majority of 50,000 votes from Kodangal.

EXCISE POLICY CASE

No relief yet again
 Delhi court extends judicial custody of Kejriwal, Kavitha till May 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday extended till May 7 the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader K Kavitha in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special judge for CBI and ED matters Kaveri Baweja extended the custody of Kejriwal and Kavitha along with co-accused Chanpreet Singh, who allegedly managed the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) funds in the 2022 Goa assembly elections after they were produced before the court through video conference on the expiry of their remand.

The judge also extended the judicial custody of Kavitha, a Telangana MLC and the daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, till May 7 in a related corruption case being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The court, meanwhile, adjourned

for Wednesday the hearing on Kavitha's bail application in the money laundering case. The judge had on April 22 reserved for May 2 its order on her bail application in the corruption case.

Kavitha is in judicial custody in both the cases lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI.

She was arrested by the ED from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad in the money laundering case on March 15. Later, she was arrested by the CBI from Tihar jail on April 11.

Kejriwal was arrested by the ED on March 21, hours after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from coercive action by the federal anti-money laundering agency. He is currently lodged in Tihar jail.

The CBI is probing alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22, while the ED is investigating the money laundering aspect

'25 BRS MLAs ready to join Congress'

Gutha Sukhender Reddy enough to tackle Jagdish: Venkat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy is enough to face former BRS Minister G. Jagdish Reddy, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said. He said that 25 BRS MLAs are ready to join the Congress and that the BRS will not win even a single LS constituency.

Addressing the media at Nalgonda on Tuesday, Venkat said that Jagdish Reddy who won with a margin of 4,000 votes is not



a leader and that Gutha Sukhender Reddy has already

explained about Jagdish. He said that Jagdish is facing trial in a liquor case in Miryalaguda and also three murder cases separately. Venkat warned that if Jagdish talks about the Komatireddy brothers again he would be beaten. Venkat said that this is the last time that he will be speaking about Jagdish.

He said that the BRS will not be able to save its deposit in Nalgonda and Bhongir Lok Sabha constituencies even if former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao decides to

2

Congress gives B-forms to 14 candidates



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress gave B-forms to its Lok Sabha candidates on Tuesday at the Gandhi Bhavan.

AICC Secretary Rohith Choudhary, TPCC working Presidents B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, T. Jagga Reddy, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, State Government Protocol and Public Relations Adviser Harkara Venugopal, TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan, T. Kumar Rao and others were present on the occasion.

Congress candidates Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy (Bhongir), Neelam Madhu (Medak) and Danam Nagender (Secunderabad) received the B-forms personally. The other candidates had sent representatives to receive their B-forms. The Congress gave B-forms to 14 candidates. It has to issue three more B-forms after the announcement of the remaining three candidates.

Govt spent Rs 1,807.45 crore on Shadi Mubarak

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The response to a query under the Right to Information Act by a city-based activist revealed that the Telangana government spent Rs 1,807.45 crore on the Shadi Mubarak scheme from 2019 to 2024.

In its response to activist Kareem Ansari's petition, the Telangana Minorities Welfare Department provided data on the yearly expenditure on the Shadi Mubarak scheme. In 2019-2020, Rs 356.04 crore was allocated for the scheme. During 2020-2021, Rs 291.40 crore was allocated. In 2021-2022, Rs 298.20 crore was allocated. In 2022-2023, Rs 442.68 crore was allocated for the scheme and in 2023-2024 the budget was Rs 419.13 crore.

Referring to social welfare schemes, Ansari said, "The BRS government provided funds regularly for minority schemes and marginalised people benefited immensely from them. I hope the Congress government also takes up such schemes to help the marginalised."

The activist took to X and said, "An RTI application revealed that the Government of Telangana spent Rs 1,807.45 crore on the Shadi Mubarak Scheme from 2019 to 2024. I think Telangana is the only state that spent huge amounts on social welfare schemes. @KTRBRS @TSwithKCR @BRSHarish @KarthikIndrAnna @BrsSabithaIndra"

NDA won't get more than 200 seats: KTR



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Participating in a roadshow at Rajendra Nagar in Chevella Lok Sabha constituency, BRS Working President KTR said that Modi and the NDA alliance would not get

more than 200 seats. "The Congress will not be able to get even 100 to 150 seats. If eight to 10 seats are given to the BRS the Centre will listen to what we say," KTR said.

He said that Congress candidate Ranjith Reddy and BJP candidate Konda Vishweshwar Reddy cheated the BRS.

"Be sure to teach a lesson to the cowards who ran away when the party was in trouble. Bahubali Kasani Gnaneshwar garu united weaker sections. There is a rumour that if you give seats to weaker sections you will not win. Prove it wrong. For the first time a BC candidate is in the fray in Chevella," he said.

Continued on Page 2

'KCR will rule state politics if BRS wins 10 to 12 LS seats'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a Bharat Rashtira Samithi meeting in Waradhannapet, former minister and party working president KT Rama Rao observed that should the BRS win 10 to 12 Lok Sabha seats, "KCR will once again rule state politics".

"Kadiam Srihari was made Deputy Chief Minister, Continued on Page 2

Railways offers economy meals for passengers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Railways and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have introduced 'Economy Meals' to provide affordable, hygienic food to rail passengers.

Arun Kumar Jain, the General Manager of South Central Railway, said on Tuesday that economy meals will be useful to general coach passengers. The SCR serves economy meals from IRCTC kitchens at seven railway stations.

Anticipating a surge in passenger traffic during summer, rail passengers are now provided with two types of meals at affordable rates, particularly to those travelling in general coaches. These meal counters are now operational at over 100 stations across the country. The South Central Railway's



Railway catering staff serving economy meals to people

(SCR) economy meals are being served at 12 railway stations through 23 counters to passengers. These stations are Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Renigunta, Guntakal, Tirupati, Rajahmundry, Vikarabad, Pakala, Dhone, Nandyal, Purna and Sambajinagar (Aurangabad).

The initiative offers economy meals and snacks to passengers. Economy meals are priced at a pocket-friendly rate of Rs 20 which is the affordable option for passengers while snacks are priced at Rs 50 for those who want a lighter bite.

These meals and drinking water are available at counters located near general second-class (GS) coaches on platforms. Passengers can buy their food directly from these counters eliminating the need to search for vendors outside the station.

Earlier, this service was successfully tested out at around 51 stations last year across the country. Building on that success, the Railways has significantly expanded the programme with 150 counters now operational at around 100 stations. The programme will now be expanded to cover more railway stations shortly.

KCR predicts YS Jagan's victory in AP

'KAVITHA NOT RELATED TO LIQUOR SCAM'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi chief and former TG chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has reasons to believe that YSRCP chief and Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will retain power in the upcoming Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections.

"No matter who wins in Andhra, we have no problem. We are not related. According to our general information, Jagan is likely to come again," he told a Telugu news channel. KCR said, "Himachal Pradesh has already fallen after the election. After Karnataka, 'Modi bomb' is going



Answering queries on the talk of BRS trying to topple the Congress government in TG, KCR said: "We are democrats and want the Congress government to stay for five years. Only then will the corruption of the Congressmen be exposed."

to fall in Telangana".

Answering queries on the talk of BRS trying to topple the Congress government in TG, KCR said: "We are democrats and want the Congress government to stay for five years. Only then will the corruption of the Congressmen be exposed."

He said that there was no chance for the BRS party to revert to Telangana Rashtira Samithi- its original name. For, the Election Commission would not allow changing of BRS to TRS as the process would need at least a 5-year gap. He said that the survival of his party depended on work,

2



Nine defeated candidates trying their luck in LS polls

SNCN ACHARYULU
HYDERABAD

Will the defeat become victory for them? How many of them are lucky? These questions are creating interest in the political circles. In the coming Lok Sabha elections nine candidates contesting from the Congress, BJP and BRS were defeated in the recent Telangana Assembly elections. In the previous Lok Sabha elections, from the BJP four and from the Congress two MP candidates won though being defeated in the Assembly elections just three months before.

From the Congress, Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy and A Revanth Reddy were defeated in 2018 Telangana Assembly elections. But both were elected as MPs in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections both contested and won. Revanth Reddy has become the Chief Minister and Komati Reddy Venkatreddy has become a Minister.

Regarding BJP, Bandi Sanjay, G Kishan Reddy,

Dharmapuri Arvind and S Babu Rao were defeated in the 2018 Telangana Assembly elections. But they all won as MPs in 2019 Lok Sabha elections and Kishan Reddy became a Union Minister. Bandi Sanjay and Dharmapuri Arvind contested in the 2023 Assembly elections and both were defeated. Union Minister Kishan Reddy did not contest in the Assembly polls.

Bandi and Dharmapuri are again contesting in the Lok Sabha elections. Like in the previous time, this time also defeat in the Assembly elections turn into a victory in the Lok Sabha elections for both of them or not is creating interest. From Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency from BJP Dharmapuri Arvind, from Congress T Jeevan Reddy and from the BRS Bajireddy Govardhan are contesting in the coming Lok Sabha elections. All these three candidates were defeated in the recent Assembly elections. Among them, whoever wins, the defeat will turn as victory to him.

Whether BJP candidate

Dharmapuri Arvind will repeat the same or the Congress candidate Jeevan Reddy or BRS candidate Bajireddy Govardhan grab the luck from BJP candidate have to be seen. From Peddapally Lok Sabha constituency, former Minister Koppula Eswar is contesting from the BRS. Eswar was defeated in the recent Assembly elections. From Medak Lok Sabha constituency, Raghunandan Rao is contesting from the BJP and Seelam Madhu is contesting from the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections. Both were defeated in the recent Assembly elections. Seelam Madhu contested to the assembly from the BSP and after the defeat he joined the Congress and now he is contesting to the Lok Sabha. From Malkajgiri Lok Sabha constituency, Etala Rajendar is contesting from the BJP in the coming Lok Sabha elections. For the first time, Etala was defeated in the Assembly elections held in 2023. Now he is trying to test his luck by contesting in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul to resume campaigning today



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who was not participating in Lok Sabha poll campaign since Sunday as he was unwell, will resume electioneering on Wednesday with public meetings in Maharashtra's Amravati and Solapur.

Congress general secretary Jai Ram Ramesh said Gandhi will be addressing a public meeting in Amravati at 12:30 pm and in Solapur at 3:30 pm.

"Rahul Gandhi will resume his election campaign tomorrow in Maharashtra. He will be addressing a public meeting in Amravati Lok Sabha at 12:30 pm and in Solapur at 3:30 pm," Ramesh said on X.

On Sunday, he said that Gandhi, who was set to participate in the INDIA bloc rally in Ranchi that day, would not be able to attend as he "took ill suddenly and is unable to leave New Delhi for the present".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attended the Ranchi rally after addressing a public gathering in Madhya Pradesh's Satna.

'Cong tried to give reservation for Muslims from Dalit quota'

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Congress has tried to extend reservation based on religion and give it to Muslims, and accused the party again of hatching a "deep conspiracy" to snatch people's wealth and distribute it among a "select" group.

In a blistering attack on the opposition party, he charged that it is difficult to follow one's faith under the Congress rule and even listening to Hanuman Chalisa becomes a crime.

His remarks at an election rally in Rajasthan's Tonk came on the day the country celebrated Hanuman Jayanti.

"Modi is giving you a guarantee that reservation for Dalits and the backward tribals will neither end nor allowed to be divided in the name of religion," he said.

He said the then prime minister Manmohan Singh had given a speech in which he had said Muslims have the first right on the country's resources.

"This was not a coincidence. This is not a single statement. The Congress ideology has always been of appeasement and vote bank politics.

"As soon as the Congress formed the government at the Centre in 2004, one of the first things it did was to reduce the SC/ST reservation in Andhra Pradesh and give it to Muslims," Modi said.

"This was a pilot project which the Congress wanted to try in the entire country," he charged.

"Between 2004 and 2010, the Congress tried to implement Muslim reservation in Andhra Pradesh four times but due to legal hurdles and the awareness of the Supreme



Court, it could not fulfill its intention," he claimed.

"In 2011, the Congress tried to implement it throughout the country. They played the game of snatching away the rights provided to the SC, ST, and OBC and giving them to others for vote bank politics," he said.

"The Congress did this deliberately and without caring about the Constitution and B R Ambedkar," he added.

Modi's speech at a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara triggered a political row Sunday when he referred to the Congress manifesto and charged that the party was set to redistribute people's wealth to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children".

He made a similar remark - but skipped the direct reference to Muslims - at an Uttar Pradesh rally on Monday. And he returned to the theme in Tonk on Tuesday.

The prime minister dared the Congress to "declare" openly that if it comes to power it would provide reservations to Muslims out of the quota for Dalits and tribals.

The prime minister said when the BJP government in Karnataka got an opportunity, it abolished the Muslim quota created by the Congress government out of the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

"You made the policy and took the decision and when Modi exposed the secret and your hidden agenda came out, you are trembling," he said.

He said it was written in the Congress manifesto that they would "survey" people's wealth.

"Their leader has said in a speech that an X-ray of wealth will be done. This means that if something is kept in a box or hidden in a wall, it will be searched through X-ray," Modi claimed.

Cong MLAs in race to increase Kiran's majority in Bhongir

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

Congress MLAs are competing with each other to gain more majority for the Congress LS candidate than others in their Assembly segments of the Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress has fielded Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, a close associate of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, in Bhongir.

Bhongir has seven Assembly segments. They are Ibrahimpatnam, Munugode, Bhongir, Nakrekal, Thungathurthi, Alair and Jangaon. Six of the constituencies have Congress MLAs. Jangaon MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy belongs to the BRS.

The MLAs of the remaining six Assembly constituencies, Malreddy Ranga Reddy (Ibrahimpatnam), Komati Reddy Rajgopal Reddy (Munugode), Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy (Bhongir), Vemula Veeresham (Nakrekal), Mandula Samuel

(Thungathurthi) and Beerla Ilaiiah (Alair) are competing with each other to gain more majority for the Congress candidate in their Assembly constituencies for Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

MLA Komati Reddy Rajgopal Reddy is also the Bhongir Lok Sabha election in-charge and he has been trying hard to ensure the victory of Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy with a huge majority.

Already, Rajgopal has announced that he will manage a huge victory for Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy as a gift for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

The remaining MLAs, Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Vemula Veeresham, Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Beerla Ilaiiah and Mandula Samuel have also been working hard to ensure the victory of Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy to get into the good books of Revanth as Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy is a close associate of the CM.

Boora files papers, Jaishankar confident of win

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP candidate in the Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency, Dr Boora Narsaiah Goud, filed his nomination on Tuesday.

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, Rajya Sabha Member Dr K. Laxman, Bharatiya Janata Legislature Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy and BJP leader Dr Kasam Venkateshwarlu attended the nomination filing programme in Bhongir.

Speaking on this occasion, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar said, "We have just submitted the nomination papers of our candidate. As I said, he is a very good candidate. He is also well-known. So we have the confidence that the people will place their confidence in him, will make him an MP and send him to Delhi to strengthen the hands of Modi."

Laxman said that Revanth has no stature to criticise Modi and that BJP activists are getting ready to fly the saffron flag on the Bhongir Fort. He said that the Congress is politicking using religion and supporting the Razakar party AIMIM. "Is that not communal politics," he asked.

Gold plunges Rs1,450 to Rs 72,200

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Declining for the second day in a row, gold prices tumbled by Rs 1,450 to Rs 72,200 per 10 grams in the local market here due to profit-taking by traders and weak global trends.

Silver prices also tanked by Rs 2,300 per kg. According to HDFC Securities, gold prices declined by Rs 1,450 to Rs 72,200 per 10 grams in Delhi. The precious metal had closed at Rs 73,650 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices nosedived by Rs 2,300 to Rs 83,500 per kg. In the previous close, it had ended at Rs 85,800 per kg.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,200 per 10 grams, down by Rs 1,450 amid bearish cues from overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,310 per ounce, down USD 55 from the previous close. Gold prices dipped further on Tuesday amid easing tension in the Middle East and signs that the US Federal Reserve will keep rates higher for

longer, crimping demand. Traders also shifted their money flow from safe haven to riskier assets, leading to profit-taking in the precious metals following the recent rally, Gandhi said.

Silver was also trading lower at USD 26.80 per ounce. In the previous session, it had ended at USD 27.95 per ounce.

"Gold prices continued their downward trend and the decline was attributed to a sharp drop in Comex Gold, within a span of two days.

"In the coming days, gold prices in MCX may find support near the Rs 70,000 mark. However, if prices fall below this level, another sell-off towards Rs 68,500 could occur, as risk sentiments of middle east cools off," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Meanwhile, in the futures trade on the MCX, gold tanked Rs 754 to trade at Rs 70,443 per 10 grams. The most traded June contract hit an intra-day low of Rs 70,202 per 10 grams. Further, silver contracts for May delivery were also trading lower by Rs 728 or 0.9 per cent to Rs 79,851 per kg on the bourse.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Purnima: Apr 23 03:26 AM to Apr 24 05:18 AM
Krishna Paksha Padyami: Apr 24 05:18 AM to Apr 25 06:46 AM
Nakshatram:
Chitra: Apr 22 07:59 PM to Apr 23 10:32 PM
Swati: Apr 23 10:32 PM to Apr 25 12:41 AM
Rahukalam: 3:22 PM to 4:56 PM
Yamagandam: 9:06 AM to 10:40 AM
Varjyam: 04:50 AM to 06:36 AM
Gulika: 12:14 PM to 1:48 PM
Amritkalam: 03:26 PM to 05:13 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:49 AM to 12:39 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 38°
Humidity: 36%
Sunrise: 5:55 AM
Sunset: 6:34 PM
Updated: April 23, 2024 5:00 PM

Karimnagar...

Continued on Page 1

Ponnampallam had said on Monday and Tuesday that he had attended Velichala Rajender Rao's nomination filing programme as per the directions of the high command. He had said that the high command would announce Velichala Rajender Rao's name officially at any moment.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's relative Ramasahayam Raghurami Reddy and Sameer Waliullah filed their nominations on Tuesday for Khammam and Hyderabad respectively.

It is learnt that they had filed their papers as per the directions of the high command and that the high command had convinced Ministers Tummala Nageshwar Rao

and Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to accept the candidature of Raghurami Reddy.

Four sets of nomination papers were filed on Tuesday on behalf of Ramasahayam Raghurami Reddy.

Lawyer Swami Ramesh Kumar and Congress leader Nukala Naresh Reddy filed two sets of nominations on behalf of Raghurami Reddy. Maddineni Swarna Kumari, Niranjan Reddy, Borra Rajashekar, Nukala Naresh Reddy, Dr Kota Rambabu, Rammurthi Naik, MD Mustafa, M. Jagan, J. Ravi and Ramesh filed another two sets of nominations on behalf of Raghurami Reddy in Khammam.

Hyderabad DCC President Sameer Waliullah filed his nomination papers on Tuesday as the Congress.

NDA won't get more than...

Continued on Page 1

"Have you seen the movie 'Bahubali'? There are two parts to it. Revanth Reddy's fraud is Part 1. That is over. Revanth Reddy is now making a sequel, that is, cheat Part 2. Getting cheated once is the fault of the cheater. If they are deceived a second time it is the fault of those who get cheated," KTR said.

He said that KCR's 10-year rule is on the one side and the 100-day rule of Congress liars is on the other side.

"The BJP wants to win LS seats by fanning 'hated' using religion," KTR said.

KCR predicts YS Jagan's victory in AP

Continued on Page 1

ideology, and attitude but not on symbol. He asserted that the BRS would come to power again.

Indicating that he has not given up his ambitions for playing a role at the national level, he said: "We should participate in national politics. Unfortunately, we lost here...if we had won, we would have rolled in Maharashtra. Modi's influence is decreasing day by day," he said.

KCR characterised the Congress' 'six guarantees' as bogus. He said that if the Congress government failed to fix the damage at Medigadda



barrage, he would go there along with people and fix it with public funding.

Reacting to the Delhi liquor scam, KCR said: "One CM and one MLC are not getting bail; such is Modi's rule. Kavitha is not related to the liquor scam."

'KCR...'

Continued on Page 1

MLC and an MLA after he joined the BRS. His daughter was also given a ticket. In the morning she took KCR's blessings and left the party in the evening after the ticket was given. The battle is between honest activist Sudhir Kumar and backstabber Kadiam Srihari in Warangal. Another backstabber Aruri Ramesh joined the BJP," KTR said.

Changing parties was not wrong. "But if you ask for a ticket, then you are a cheat," KTR said and added that people were very angry with the Congress government.

Earlier in the day he held a meeting in Alampur in the Nagar Kurnool Lok Sabha constituency. "We won in two constituencies in Nadigadda in adverse conditions. We won 39 seats. We lost 14 seats with small margins. Voters have entrusted us with the responsibility of being the Opposition so as to fight for people's rights. When we were defeated, those who had held.

'25 BRS MLAs ...'

Continued on Page 1

launch a Bus Yatra from Miryalaguda.

He said that the BRS candidates in Nalgonda and Bhongir Lok Sabha constituencies are not even suitable for Sarpanch posts and that the Nalgonda BRS candidate failed to win the Sarpanch post in his village.

Venkat said that he was confident that the Congress would win 14 LS seats in Telangana. KCR destroyed Nalgonda district by compromising with AP Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy regarding Krishna River waters, he added.

THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR ENSURING GENDER DIVERSITY

87% women professionals aspire for leadership roles

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

About 87 per cent of women professionals aspire to hold leadership roles compared to 78 per cent of men professionals, as per the All India Management Association (AIMA) and Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) in India report released on Tuesday.



The survey considers perspectives from professionals across industries on five key aspects: the current representation of women in leadership roles, the aspirations and challenges women face in their leadership journeys, the effectiveness of leadership development programmes for women, the availability of opportunities and fairness of evaluation systems for women leaders and the

strength of diversity and inclusion efforts within organisations. This comprehensive analysis aims to provide recommendations for creating a more equitable and inclusive environment where women can thrive in leadership positions.

According to the report, more than nine per cent organisations in India do not have any women occupying leadership roles while 12 per cent of organisations are sailing through with more than 50 per cent women in leadership roles. About 51 per cent of organisations have achieved

diversity at the CEO/CXO level, the remaining 49 per cent are yet to catch up. This indicates progress, but there's still room for improvement in ensuring gender diversity in leadership positions across organisations.

Yezdi Nagporewala, CEO, KPMG in India, said, "The Indian corporate landscape is transforming. The report findings reveal that while challenges remain, the progress achieved in terms of the number of organisations having strong women leadership representation is encouraging. Robust mentorship and sponsorship programmes, flexible work policies and embracing 'returnship' programmes will help women re-integrate into the workforce and invigorate their leadership journey."



Massive fire at Srinagar Colony

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an incident reported from Srinagar Colony on Tuesday, a massive fire broke out at Nani Cars Consultant damaging property worth Rs 1 crore.

The incident occurred around 4 am in which at least 20 cars were gutted. Following a distress call, fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The firefighters successfully controlled the fire, stopping it from spreading any further and thus ensuring the safety of nearby residents. The Jubilee Hills police has registered an FIR regarding the incident.

The police said that there were no casualties or injuries during the incident.

ASPIRANTS SLAM 'UNNECESSARY CHANGES'

TSPSC not publishing details in General Ranking List

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Public Commission (TSPSC) has brought changes to the General Ranking List (GRL) of appeared candidates for the competitive exams.



The changes have been made after the group IV general ranking list has been released. In the GRL of lecturers in government polytechnics in technical education service, the TSPSC has provided only rank, hall ticket number and marks. But in the GRL of Group IV, which was released on February 9, 2024, there were 10 columns, which were hall ticket number, marks, gender, community, economically weaker section (EWS), physically handicapped (PH), ex-servicemen, sports and local district details.

This issue with the TSPSC. A person named Mende Suresh posted that the TSPSC brought an unnecessary change in GRLs by not publishing the critical details like caste, gender, zone and special reservation.

It may be important to mention that on February 8, 2024, the TSPSC has released a corrigendum, where it mentioned that while preparing the General Ranking List (GRL) for various recruitments, notifications issued from the month of April 2022 onwards, if the candidates get the same marks in the written examination. If the total marks of two

or more candidates are equal, the local status of the candidates is considered for ranking. If the total marks and local status of the two or more candidates are equal, then the date of birth of the candidates is taken for ranking.

So the Commission itself stated the importance of disclosure of local status, marks along with other details. Aspirants also say that the transparency in the filing of notification would be lost if the GRL only has marks. But when The Pioneer correspondent contacted the officials, they were unavailable to comment on GRL.

It was learnt that the TSPSC has taken a decision after an internal meeting. Also, the board is getting more calls regarding the changes of the GRL since the release of GRL of lecturers in government polytechnics.

Under-construction bridge on Manair river collapses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A part of an under-construction bridge across the Manair river in Telangana's Peddapalli district collapsed on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. However, there were no casualties.

temporary road under the bridge was being used for commuting by the local people.

The foundation stone for the bridge was laid in 2016. Its estimated cost was Rs 47.40 crore and was scheduled to be completed within a year. The bridge was expected to reduce the distance between Manthani and Parakal, and Bhupalpally and Jammikunta towns by about 50 kilometres.

As per GO RT No 253, Rs 51.60 crore was the revised estimate.

As per the agreement, by 18 months, the agency M/S Sai Constructions, Hyderabad, had to complete the bridge. But the agency failed to complete it and thrice EOT was granted. As per CE J Mohan Naik, this happened in BRS regime. As per APDSS rule, the contract was cancelled and Rs 65 lakh was not returned.

The incident occurred in Odeu village of Mutharam mandal. Two girders collapsed due to strong winds. A tragedy was averted as the incident occurred past midnight when there was no one around. Villagers alerted the police about the incident on Tuesday.

The work on a kilometre-long bridge has been going on since 2016. The bridge was being constructed to connect Odeu to Gammilapalli village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

The work was delayed due to a change of contractor, lack of funds and other reasons. A

11 hospitals paid Rs 5.11 cr tax as part of Early Bird Scheme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose announced that as part of the Early Bird Scheme for the financial year 2024-25, the 11 hospitals owned by Yashoda Hospitals across various areas in the city have collectively paid property tax amounting to Rs 5,11,73,133 and have received a discount of Rs 26,92,790. The Commissioner encouraged the residents of Hyderabad to seize the opportunity provided by the Early Bird Scheme.

The hospital owners presented their property tax checks to the commissioner.

With the Early Bird Scheme concluding on April 30, Ronald Rose advised those who have not yet settled their property tax for the financial year 2024-25, to immediately pay the tax amount and get a five per cent discount.

Pressing challenges in cyber security discussed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Data Security Council of India's (DSCI) Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CCoE), led by Dr Sriram Birudavolu as CEO, took proactive steps to advance cyber security initiatives by initiating and successfully executing the Cyber security and Privacy Conference for Telangana government departments on Tuesday in Hyderabad. This event brought together stakeholders from government departments and industry to collectively address the pressing challenges and opportunities in cyber security.

Dr Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, ITE&C Department and Department of Industries & Commerce, was the chief guest, while Rama Devi Lanka, Director, Emerging Technologies, was the guest of honour. Venu Prasad, Jt. Director (Infra &

Communications), Vinayak Godse, CEO - DSCI, Srikanth Srinivasan, Vice-President of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) were present.

The conference featured diverse sessions like Cybersecurity - Best Practices, Privacy and DSCI Privacy Seal, Risk Management, Attack Surface Management, Application Security Posture Management, Incident Response, Preventing Modern Day Cyber Attacks with the Endpoint Detection Response (EDR) and Extended Detection Response (XDR), Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) Readout, Cert-In Directives and Digital Well-being led by industry experts.

The Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, under the leadership of CEO Dr Sriram Birudavolu emerged as a

cornerstone of the event where he underlined proactive efforts to fortify the cyber security landscape across government entities.

Following the sessions, seven startups and partners of CCoE, namely PamTen, Paradigm IT, Tekskills, Synradar, Spearsoft, Skillscan, and WesecureApp, were lauded for their exemplary performance in conducting penetration testing exercises on government department websites, demonstrating a commitment to advancing cyber security standards.

The conference witnessed a dynamic exchange of ideas, fostering collaborations between government entities and industry stakeholders to strengthen the cyber security ecosystem. Over 200+ government representatives from 30+ departments took part in the conference.

TSBIE exempts private candidates from attendance for Rs 500

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) on Tuesday announced the grant of Exemption from attendance to private candidates (without college study) to appear for Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations (IPASE) to be held in May/June 2024.

The students with Arts / Humanities combinations will be considered on payment of Attendance Exemption fee of Rs 500. The provision of granting exemption from attendance (without college study) to the science candidates was dispensed with from I.P.E. September 1997. The prescribed fee is Rs 500 for grant of exemption. The fee once paid will not be refunded or adjusted in case the candidates found ineligible to appear for IPASE May/June 2024. The last date for payment of exemp-

tion fee and submission of application form for grant of exemption is May 1, 2024.

The candidates who were eligible to IPASE exam are those who have a gap of one year after passing the qualifying examination i.e., S.S.C., or its equivalent are eligible to appear only for first year Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations, and if the gap period is two years or more, they can appear for both first year & second year Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations at a time.

Further, the second year failed candidates who desire to change their Optional Subjects from Sciences to Arts Humanities and for Change of Group in Arts / Humanities from one faculty to another as per the Rules of the Board will also have to apply for "Exemption from Attendance" on or before the due dates given above.

Hyd engulfed in Hanuman Jayanti celebrations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad was enveloped with a festive atmosphere with people of all ages participating in the celebrations of Hanuman Jayanti and singing in praise of Hanuman on Tuesday. The roads where the Hanuman Shobha Yatra took place were decorated in saffron flags.

The Shobha Yatra was organised by the Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. It commenced at 11:30 am following rituals at Gowliguda Ram Mandir. The members of Bajrang Dal who performed Hanuman deeksha carrying the silver idol of Hanuman led the rally followed by thousands of two-wheelers with saffron flags printed with the images of Hanuman and Rama. The people who participated in



the yatra raised slogans such as 'Jai Hanuman' and 'Jai Sri Ram'. The vehicles carried giant idols of Rama and Hanuman. There was a vehicle carrying a Punganur breed of cows, which attracted passersby.

The rally was peacefully passed through the dedicated

route. The police personnel guarded the yatra and ensured that no untoward incident took place. The yatra proceeded towards Bowenpally, moving through Putlibowli X roads, Andhra Bank X roads, Koti, DM & HS, Sultan Bazaar X roads, Ramkoti X roads, Kachiguda X roads, Narayanguda YMCA, Chikkadpally X roads, RTC X roads, Ashok Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Viceroy Hotel, Praga Tools, Kavadiguda, CGO Towers, Bansilapet Road, Bible House, City Light Hotel, Bata Showroom, Ujjaini Mahankali temple, Old Ramgopalpet PS, Paradise X Roads, CTO Junction, Lee Royal Palace, Brooke Bond, Imperial Garden, and Mastan Cafe, before finally culminating at Sree Hanuman temple at Tadbund.

Man sentenced to RI for sexually assaulting minor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to rigorous imprisonment (RI) for life for sexually assaulting a minor. The incident occurred in May 2021.

Following the incident, the victim's mother noticed some changes in the girl; she enquired regarding the issue and took the victim to a clinic. The doctor revealed that the victim was six months pregnant; The victim's mother took her to Niloufer hospital for abortion.

The authorities demanded a court order to perform the abortion. The mother approached the Langar Houz police where an FIR was registered based on her complaint.

The victim was taken to Bharosa centre, where she was sheltered for a year. However, the victim's mother turned hostile and secured a court order to take back the

victim's custody. The mother then took the victim to the court where the latter also turned hostile.

However, the Bharosa team followed up with the doctor regarding the medical examination; the DNA report was supportive of the conviction. The convict was identified as Attheeq Khan (23), a mechanic and resident of Langar Houz. The accused was booked under Sections 376(2)(f)(n), 376(3), 506 IPC & SEC 5(L)(j)(ii)(n) r/w sec 6 of POCSO ACT 2012.

Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge T Anitha sentenced Khan to rigorous imprisonment for life, meaning imprisonment for remainder of natural life of the convict. A penalty of Rs 500 was imposed on Khan.

He was further ordered to undergo six months of simple imprisonment. Khan was further sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment with a penalty of Rs 2,000.

ECI has seized Rs 155 cr in cash & kind since March 16

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has seized cash and material worth Rs 1,55,85,98,318, including liquor, drugs and freebies from March 16 to April 21, 2024.

The ECI seized Rs 61.11 crore in cash, Rs 28.92 crore worth of liquor, Rs 23.87 crore of Narcotics, Rs 19.16 crore of precious metal ornaments and Rs 22.77 crore of freebies.

District Election Officer (DEO) Ronald Rose said that since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has filed 289 FIRs in Hyderabad district.

On Tuesday, the ECI released a press release, where-



in it mentioned that the enforcement teams seized Rs 77.50 lakh, Rs 22.65 worth of materials and 34 liters of liquor from Monday 6 am to Tuesday 6 am.

Ronald Rose said that so far a total of Rs 15.44 crore of cash and other items worth Rs 7.13 crore have been seized in the district and 20,989 liters of illegal liquor was seized, 211 cases were registered and 211 persons were arrested.

Matrimonial fraudster held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber crime police of Cyberabad Commissionerate have arrested a 38-year-old habitual cyber crime offender and matrimonial fraudster named Komineni Vamsi Chowdary on Tuesday. From 2009, he had been engaged in deceiving job seekers and other fraudulent activities for financial gain. Cases have been filed against him in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The accused person used to target innocent divorced women and widows who posted their details in matrimonial websites seeking alliance for their marriage. Komineni Vamsi Chowdary discontinued his degree and had been facing unemployment since 2009. Later, he shifted to Bengaluru. After a few years he

shifted to Andhra Pradesh. On March 28, 2024, the police received a complaint from a woman, aged about 35 years of Kondapur in Rangareddy district. In the complaint she mentioned that her husband had expired in 2008. After a few years she uploaded her details on the Shaadi.com matrimony app, where she connected with Krishna Vamshi. Their communication transitioned from the Shaadi.com application to WhatsApp, where Krishna Vamshi, claimed to be a Google company employee.

Later, he claimed that he was facing family problems and informed her that his family was not accepting their marriage, attributing she is having two children. Subsequently, he visited her parents and engaged in lengthy discus-

sions with them. Later, he claimed that his family had blocked his accounts and also the IT department had blocked his other accounts.

Upon trusting him, the victim handed over her bank accounts credentials, debit cards, gold and silver ornaments to him as he cited various reasons. Krishna Vamshi manipulated the victim and her family into believing in the legitimacy of the scheme, resulting in her substantial financial losses. When the victim realised that Krishna Vamshi deceived her in the name of marriage by luring about Rs 1.80 crore and went into communication.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crimes, K Narsimha advised the public to report on Cybercrime.gov.in or Dial 1930.

TSRTC to run 60 special buses for IPL tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has arranged a total of 60 special buses for IPL matches at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium (RGIC) on April 25. On Tuesday, TSRTC released a press communique where it mentioned that the buses will be operated between 6 pm to 11:30 pm from various destinations to the stadium and after the completion of the match again these buses will be available to pick up the return traffic.

TSRTC will run four buses from Uppal stadium on Mehdiapatnam, four buses from Ghatkesar to stadium, four buses from NGO's Colony to stadium, two buses from

Ibrahimpattam to stadium, two buses from Koti to stadium, two buses from Afzalgunj to stadium, two buses from Lakdikapool to stadium, two buses from Dilukhnanagar to stadium, four buses from Jeedimetla to stadium, four buses from JBS to stadium, four buses from Charminar to stadium, two buses from LB Nagar to stadium, two buses from BHEL to stadium, two buses from Kondapur to stadium, two buses from Mehdiapatnam to stadium and two buses from Medchal to stadium.

Spectators can contact 9959226160 of Koti and 9959226154 of Rathifile bus station. For communication, passengers can contact 9959226143 of Cantonment depot and 9959226141 of Ibrahimpattam depot, 9959226418 of Musheerabad depot.



Democracy will shine if change follows people's aspirations

Where the government is really of the people, by the people and for the people, there democracy will shine as change will invariably follow people's aspirations. Parties may have differing ideologies, but they must fulfill people's aspirations by working within the framework of the Constitution.

When it comes to strengthening a democracy that is not vibrant, the rulers' attitudes must align with the aspirations of all sections of people as they are the ultimate decision-makers. The problem arises when rulers think they are born to rule for a second, third, or further term as well, and they are willing to do anything demeaning for it. It is for people to decide who should be in power. Present-day rulers are enjoy-

ing power, instead of utilising an opportunity they have to serve the people. Most of the rulers have become corrupt, or are facing the stigma of corruption. Some have become autocratic. Persons like Navin Patnaik (Odisha) and Nitish Kumar (Bihar) etc. can be exempted from the list of persons who have become autocratic on getting a second term or more.

The will of people counts in a democracy. Cheerleaders of rulers can be ignored. In the tenth House of the undivided Andhra Pradesh Assembly (1994-99), two members - one of the ruling party and the other of the opposition party - confronted each other on the possible length of rule of then Leader of the House. Ruling party member Masala Eeranna

The will of people counts in a democracy. Cheerleaders of rulers can be ignored. In the tenth House of the undivided Andhra Pradesh Assembly (1994-99), two members - one of the ruling party and the other of the opposition party - confronted each other on the possible length of rule of then Leader of the House.

(TDP- from Aluru of Kurnool dist) claimed that his leader and then chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu would be in power for 30 long years. Opposition Congress member K. Bapiraju (Kaikalur, Krishna dist) objected to the remarks made by Eeranna and advised him not to underestimate the wisdom of people. Present AP Chief Minister

YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who had urged people during 2019 electioneering to grant him 'one chance' to rule the state to prove himself and carry forward the legacy of father late YS Rajasekhara Reddy, is now claiming that he should continue in power for 10 more years to help future generations. In Tamil Nadu, people generally prefer a new dispensation



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

every five years. In TN, there have been only one or two occasions on which one political party got an opportunity to continue in power for a second consecutive term. In general, people stepping into politics with money bags are welcome today. One mil-

lionaire is believed to have paid Rs.100 crore to the party's leadership to get a seat in Upper House of Parliament. He was then asked to look after all contestants of that party in that particular district. As expected by the leadership, that MP played a crucial role in getting all his party's candidates elected by dumping money as per their needs in every constituency. Surprisingly, the same MP gave a slip to his leadership and shifted his loyalties to the leadership of the opposition party. If money makes such things possible, the administration might get derailed and untoward happenings would become inevitable. The 'no extension' policy adopted by the electorate in Tamil Nadu seems far better than such a situation. As for the YSRCP government in AP, there is a clear

imbalance between welfare and real developmental activities. Infrastructure development seems to have been relegated. The state government recently announced that it had brought one hundred thousand crores of rupees (Rs.1 lakh crore) of investment for the development of AP. But the same government dumped Rs.2.90 lakh crores for the implementation of welfare schemes, fondly called 'Nava Ratnalu'. This huge amount has been disbursed into the savings accounts of lakhs of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, though the rulers have been claiming for public consumption that "welfare and development are like two eyes for the government". Under such circumstances, the common man would think whether the government can continue such welfare schemes with only bor-

rowings and without creating assets for the state. As the state is already under a huge pile of nearly Rs. 11 lakh crore debts (both external and internal borrowings); it may not be possible for rulers, whoever they be, to continue the same. What would be the option before the government tomorrow in such a situation? Pruning of the lists of beneficiaries might become inevitable, regardless of chaos among various sections of beneficiaries. The YS Rajasekhara Reddy government in the erstwhile undivided AP had granted 70 lakh white ration cards throughout the state in its first stint and brought the number down by 30 lakhs after retaining power in 2009. This suggests that they have to swallow their words while professing that they are committed to welfare measures!

Prashant accuses CM of 'cheating' farmers

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Former Minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashant Reddy on Tuesday charged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with taking the farmers for a ride. The Chief Minister has been giving assurances to the farmers for political gains in Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress had a history of ordering police firing on farmers and foisting cases on them when they demanded that their dues be cleared. Speaking at a meeting, he said it was the KCR regime that came to the rescue of the farmers. It was the KCR that cleared Rs 11 crore dues to the



Former minister Vemula Prashant Reddy speaking at a meeting in Nizamabad on Tuesday

farmers for the procurement of red sorghum and the BRS government withdrew the cases foisted on the farmers. Refuting the allegations levelled by Revanth Reddy at the

Mondays' public meeting in Nizamabad, Prashant Reddy accused the Chief Minister of trying to dupe the farmers again. The Congress which was at the helms of the affairs for nearly 50 years did not sanction the turmeric board for Nizamabad, he pointed out. The Chief Minister has been making empty promises to the farmers to reap electoral dividends.

The BJP, which was in power for the last 10 years, had earlier rejected the proposal for turmeric board. He appealed to the voters to bury Congress and BJP which have been spreading lies, and support KCR, who is pro-farmer.

DCA seizes two overpriced medicines from medical shop

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Drugs Control Administration (DCA) on Monday seized two overpriced medicines, Itrazole-100 and Itrazole-200 at a medical shop at Vanasthalipuram here. The DCA officials conducted raids on Monday, according to a media statement here on Tuesday.

According to DCA director general VB Kamalasan Reddy, Itraconazole Capsules sold under brand name 'Itrazole -100' and the Itraconazole capsules sold under brand name 'Itrazole -200' are under the provisions of Drug Price Control.

The price of the products shall be in accordance with the ceiling Price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), 100 and Itrazole-200 at a medical shop at Vanasthalipuram here. During the raids, stocks worth a total of Rs. 5.52 lakhs were also seized. The price of the products shall be in accordance with the ceiling Price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Government of India, stated the DCA chief. During the raids, stocks worth a total of Rs. 5.52 lakhs were also seized.



BRS will wrest Nalgonda Lok Sabha seat: Jagadish Reddy

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Suryapeta legislator G Jagadish Reddy has predicted that the BRS will capture the Nalgonda Lok Sabha seat if the enthusiasm of the people of the constituency is any indication. Addressing the media at the Collectorate Tuesday after the BRS candidate Kancharla Krishna Reddy filed his nomination papers, he said that the people realised that the Congress went back on its promises.

He charged the Congress



leaders with postponing the implementation of the farm loan waiver and cheating the farmers thoroughly. He criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy saying that

he is biding his time abusing the opposition parties and hoodwinking the people by telling lies. In an indirect reference to Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Jagadish Reddy said that the district minister here threatened to hit farmers with footwear if they demanded input subsidy under the Rytu Bandhu. Only KCR has the right to seek votes, he felt. The people are ready to chase the Congress leaders away, he alleged.

Komatireddy warns Jagadish not to shoot his mouth off

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Building Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has exuded confidence that the Congress will win in at least 14 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana. In an indirect reference to former minister G Jagadish Reddy, Venkat Reddy said that a person who was elected to Assembly thrice with a wafer-thin majority of 3,000-4,000 votes could not be called a

leader. Addressing the media here on Tuesday, he said that the case filed against Jagadish Reddy registered in Miryalaguda is still alive. He also alleged that Jagadish Reddy was involved in cases. If he ever dared to shoot his mouth off against Komatireddy Brothers, he would be hit with sandals, he said. It is sufficient to field Gutta Sukhender Reddy against Jagadish Reddy, he said.



Devoted to equality



Endowments Commissioner Hanumantha Rao has his meal along with devotees at Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Dharampur during Annadanam programme on Tuesday

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

A curious political battle has unfolded in Nagarkurnool Lok Sabha constituency with a Congress dissident entering the poll fray. It was thought to be a three-cornered contest. But, with Congress dissident Mandha Jagannadham entering the poll fray, the constituency is now witnessing a four-cornered contest. The BRS, BJP and Congress embarked on a fierce campaign. With RS Praveen Kumar quitting the BSP and joining the BRS, Jagannadham secured the BSP ticket to contest from Nagarkurnool. The BRS fielded Praveen Kumar from Nagarkurnool. Jagannadham quit the Congress as he was denied a ticket to contest.

Congress candidate Mallu Ravi, however, is confident of winning the elections. The sitting BRS Lok Sabha member crossed over to the BJP. The saffron party fielded him from the constituency. The constituency has a total electorate of 17,34,773 voters. The constituency has a considerable number of Scheduled Caste voters. The BRS, BJP and BSP candidates belonged to the same community while Congress candidate Mallu Ravi belonged to a different community. Irrespective of the caste equations, in many constituencies Congress candidates were elected in the recent Assembly elections. BRS nominee RS Pravin Kumar and BSP candidate Jagannadham belonged to

the Alampur Assembly segment, while BJP nominee P Bharat belonged to the Kalwakurthy constituency. Malluravi was elected to Lok Sabha twice and Mandha Jagannadham four times from the constituency. Mallu Ravi, who joined the Congress-affiliated organisations during his student days, has been continuing in the Congress. He worked as the State Government's representative in Delhi during YS Rajasekhara Reddy's regime. Mandhajagannadham was first elected MP in 1996 on a TDP ticket. He went on to become MP four times during the TDP regime. He joined the TRS and contested the LS election in 2014 only to get defeated at the hands of Nandi Yellaiah of the Congress.

Anti-Muslim remarks played

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the latter's anti-Muslim remark. "Do you know how many children Vajpayee's parents had? There were seven, Yogi Adityanath has six siblings, then comes Amit Shah who has six siblings, a total of seven kids each. Even the Prime Minister is one of the six children. Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Ashok Singhal also has six siblings. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has three siblings and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has six siblings," said Owaisi in response to PM's remark. It is to be noted that during a rally in Rajasthan on April 21, Modi said, "If the Congress comes to power it will provide resources to infiltrators and those who produce more children." Addressing a rally in Karwan, Owaisi said, "They are trying to divert attention from major issues and resorting to such tactics." The Chandrayangutta MLA further said, "Muslims are being called infiltrators despite their contribution to India. The Taj Mahal, Red fort, Qutub Minar and Charminar are symbols showing Muslims' loyalty towards the country.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Jagan terms Oppn '420 Gang'

Asserts his govt's welfare schemes helped everyone's dreams take the wing

PNS ■ VIZIANAGARAM

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has underscored the importance of the reformative impact of Andhra Pradesh's schemes, asserting, "To fulfil your dreams, you have Jagan's schemes in Andhra Pradesh." Speaking at a public gathering near Chelluru Junction in Vizianagaram during his 'Memantha Siddham Yatra', he highlighted the government's implementation of over 40 schemes tailored to the aspirations of the underprivileged. Addressing the upcoming elections, Chief Minister Jagan underscored their significance beyond mere political representation. "The forthcoming elections are pivotal for safeguarding the welfare schemes that have touched every household in the State. They are crucial for sustaining the doorstep delivery of government services," he remarked. Chief Minister Jagan condemned the Opposition parties' alignment with Chandrababu Naidu, stating, "From Congress, BJP, Pawan Kalyan-led JSP to vested interests in regional media in Andhra Pradesh, everyone seems to bolster TDP Chief Chandrababu Naidu in one way or another. Their campaign is rife with conspiracies and falsehoods." Reflecting on his administration's tenure, CM Jagan contrasted his proactive approach with the lack of initiatives under the previous regime. "In these 58 months of governance, we've introduced welfare schemes benefiting all households. Conversely, the opposition failed to offer even a single scheme dur-



ing their tenure. Now, they seek to thwart the progress supported by the YSRCP government," he observed. Pledging to continue advancing every family's development, CM Jagan rallied support against the Chandrababu-led opposition alliance, characterizing their tactics as a betrayal of people's aspirations. Taking a firm stance against Chandrababu Naidu and his allies, CM Jagan denounced politicians who deceive with empty promises as '420'. He labelled the opposition coalition in Andhra Pradesh as the 'Chandramukhi Gang' or the '420 Gang', juxtaposing their lack of initiatives with his government's implementation of over 40 schemes, benefiting millions. Highlighting the government's commitment to education, CM Jagan emphasized initiatives such as the Amma Vodi scheme and enhancements to the educational infrastructure, catering to the aspirations of the underprivileged.



PK's assets up by 215%

Row over use of National Flag by JSP chief during his nomination rally

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA/KAKINADA

Actor-turned-politician Konidala Pawan Kalyan's declaration of assets during his nomination filing for the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections indicated a staggering surge of 215 per cent, totalling Rs 164.52 crore, compared to Rs 52 crore in 2019. This exponential rise consists of assets worth Rs 41.65 crore, including a fleet of luxurious vehicles valued at Rs 14 crore, along with immovable assets worth Rs 94.41 crore, which consist of land properties and residential buildings, notably in

Hyderabad's upscale Jubilee Hills area. However, despite his substantial assets, Pawan Kalyan's educational qualification is only a Class 10 pass. Moreover, amid Pawan Kalyan's nomination rally, a controversy surfaced regarding his use of the National Flag. Pawan Kalyan was seen holding the National Flag during the rally, prompting a complaint to the Election Commission by journalist Nagarajuna Reddy. In addition to these issues, Pawan Kalyan faces a considerable debt of Rs 65.76 crore, juxtaposing his financial prosperity with significant liabilities.

INDIA CORNER

70343 arms deposited in Himachal before Lok Sabha polls

As many as 70343 out of a total of 100403 licensed weapons in Himachal Pradesh have been deposited till Monday evening to ensure free and fair elections in the state, a spokesperson of the state election department said here on Tuesday. He said the number of the arms deposited was 1350 in Baddi, 4913 in Bilaspur, 5603 in Chamba, 3898 in Hamirpur, 12468 in Kangra, 1406 in Kinnaur, 4653 in Kullu, 222 in Lahaul-Spiti, 7281 in Mandi, 3954 in Police district Nurpur, 12111 in Shimla, 5791 in Sirmour, 3877 in Solan and 2816 in Una district. There are 14 police and excise districts in the state which include Baddi and Nurpur while the number of revenue districts is 12. Since the implementation of the model code of conduct (MCC) on March 16, about 73 complaints were received from across the state through C-Vigil, out of which 36 complaints were disposed of by Tuesday afternoon while 37 complaints, which were either false or were not found genuine.



Two constables suspended for robbing a student of gold chain

Two police constables were suspended by the Nagpur police commissioner on Tuesday, days after they allegedly robbed an engineering student of a gold chain valued at over Rs 2 lakh by threatening to take action for indulging in "obscene" activity. The duo, posted in Kalamna police station, have been on the run since April 13. The constables allegedly threatened the engineering student and his female friend, who were seated in a car parked opposite a hotel on April 13 night, with action for "indulging" in obscene activity, police said. They demanded Rs 1 lakh from the student to settle the matter and subsequently forced him to hand over his gold chain, as per the FIR. Based on a complaint lodged by the student, police launched an investigation and identified the duo through CCTV garb. A case was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, following which the constables were suspended.



Closure report on Sexual harassment case filed by minor on May 20

Delhi court is likely to pronounce its order on May 20 on whether to accept a police report seeking cancellation of a sexual harassment complaint filed by a minor wrestler against former Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The court, which was scheduled to pass the order on Tuesday, said some clarifications were required in the matter. During the in-chamber proceedings held on August 1 last year, the minor wrestler told the court that she was satisfied with the Delhi Police's investigation in the case and not opposed to the closure report it had submitted. On June 15, 2023, the Delhi Police filed a report before the court seeking cancellation of the case involving the girl after her father made a startling claim midway through the probe that he levelled false allegations of sexual harassment against Singh to get back at him for perceived injustice to his daughter.



Strong ASEAN can play vital role in Indo-Pacific: EAM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India believes that a strong and unified ASEAN can play a constructive role in the emerging regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday while underlining that a "multipolar Asia" and a "multipolar world" are increasingly self-evident today. In his virtual address at the 1st ASEAN Future Forum, he also said "we believe that Quad complements the ASEAN and the ASEAN-led mechanisms" in their effort to make the region prosperous through delivery of people-centric benefits.



Jaishankar asserted that ASEAN is "at the heart of our Act East Policy" and is a "crucial pillar in India's wider Indo-Pacific vision". "We support ASEAN unity, centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific," he said. Jaishankar said India and ASEAN are neighbours sharing "millennia-old cultural and civilisational linkages". The ASEAN-India relationship which has entered its fourth decade and has matured into a "comprehensive strategic partnership" is based on shared values and common aspirations, he added. Jaishankar said India believes that a "strong and unified ASEAN can play a constructive role in the emerging regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific". Earlier in his address, he congratulated Vietnam, especially Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son, for successfully holding the first 'ASEAN Future Forum'.

"Today, a multipolar Asia and a multipolar world are increasingly self-evident. This brings to the fore an ever important role of ASEAN and of India to deal with the realities of the emerging world order. It underlines the need for greater cooperation and coordination between India and the ASEAN," Jaishankar said. The 10-member ASEAN includes -- Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. "Synergy between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) is reflected in our ASEAN-India Leaders Joint Statement provides a strong framework for cooperation, including in addressing challenges to comprehensive security," Jaishankar said. India was among the first to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia indicating our collective resolve towards maintaining peace, prosperity and stability in the region, he said.

MISLEADING ADS CASE

If apology published prominently in newspapers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the cross hairs of the Supreme Court over misleading advertisements, Yoga Guru Ramdev and his aide Balkrishna on Tuesday faced questions about how prominently they have published their unqualified apology in newspapers. "Is it the same size of advertisements that you normally issue in newspapers?" a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah asked them while hearing the case related to misleading advertisements by Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the duo, told the bench they have issued on Monday an unqualified apology for the "lapses" on their part. "Where was it published?" the bench asked.

NEVER THOUGHT OF DIVIDING SOCIETY: RAJNATH SINGH

'PM Modi does not play politics on religion basis'

PNS ■ NOIDA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has never done politics based on religion or by dividing the society and stressed that his predecessor Dr Manmohan Singh had in 2006 talked about extending reservations for the Muslims. The defence minister made the remarks at an election rally in Greater Noida in support of BJP's Gautam Buddha Nagar Lok Sabha candidate Mahesh Sharma. Prime Minister Modi on Sunday suggested that if the Congress comes to power, it would redistribute the wealth of people to the Muslims and cited Dr Singh's remark that the minority community had the first claim on the country's resources. Addressing a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara, Modi also alleged the Congress plans to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have



more children". Addressing a gathering at Bisahda village in Greater Noida, the defence minister attacked the opposition for creating a ruckus at this time and trying to put a question mark on Prime Minister Modi. "Sisters and brothers, it's not that I know the prime minister from today. We have had very good relations for a long time. He has never done politics of Hindu, Muslim and Christian. Our prime minister never thought of doing politics by dividing the society," Singh said. "He (Modi) said at one place that Congress has said in its manifesto that we will get the properties surveyed. If it is said in the manifesto then why should people have any objection to it? What do you want to do by getting the properties surveyed? Do you want to distribute the country's resources equally? What do you want to do?" he asked. The veteran BJP leader also asked the Congress to clear its position on the matter. "Dr Manmohan Singh ji was the prime minister of India. I respect Dr Manmohan Singh ji even today, I have respect for him, brothers and sisters. Dr Manmohan Singh himself in the meeting of the National Defence Council at the Vignyan Bhawan on December 9, 2006, had said that if anyone has the first right on the property of this country, it is the minority and especially said that it belongs to the Muslims," Singh said.

BJP will stop TMC's corruption and cut money culture: Shah

PNS ■ MALDA/KARANDIGHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal over issues of corruption, including the school jobs scam, and asserted that only the BJP can eradicate corruption and cut money culture of the TMC in the state. Addressing a rally at Karandighi in the Raiganj constituency, Shah said the party has set a target of winning 35 Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal. "The Calcutta High Court yesterday gave a judgment cancelling thousands of appointments made through the 2016 teacher recruitment test. It is a matter of shame that jobs were sold for lakhs of rupees. They have taken 10 lakhs, and 15 lakhs as bribes for jobs. It means if you do not have 15 lakh rupees, how will you get a job for your brothers and sons?" he said.



West Bengal Chief Minister M a t a Banerjee had termed the high court order "illegal" and said her government will challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. Shah said, "Rs 51 crore were recovered from the residence of TMC minister Partha Chatterjee. What action was taken against him?" Former education minister Partha Chatterjee was suspended from the party and removed from the state cabinet in July 2022, days after his arrest in the school jobs scam. "This cut-money culture and corruption must end in West Bengal. I want to know whether this should stop or not.

INDIA bloc is a platform against BJP: Pinarayi

PNS ■ KANNUR (KERALA)

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said the INDIA bloc was not a front, but a system of opposition political parties that has come up as a platform against the ruling BJP at the Centre. The statement by Vijayan comes amidst an intense fight between the CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF -- both INDIA bloc partners -- in Kerala ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in the state on April 26. During a press meet here, he said that during the LS polls, alliances were being formed in various states as part of the platform, resulting in the BJP being largely isolated. "There is also a strong public sentiment against the BJP in the country," he added. A final decision would be taken regarding the bloc's next step only after the polls after analysing the prevailing situation, the Marxist veteran said in response to a query as to whether the partners in the INDIA bloc were moving towards the goal for which the front was created. On being asked whether Rahul Gandhi was the Prime Ministerial candidate of the bloc, Vijayan said that the Congress has not made any decision about it yet.

K'taka witnessing wave in favour of Cong, says CM

PNS ■ CHITRADURGA (KARNATAKA)

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said there is no Modi wave in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections but there is one in favour of the Congress party's guarantee schemes in the state. Addressing a poll rally here, he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to fulfill any of his promises such as bringing back black money from abroad, creating two crore jobs every year, and doubling farm income. "There is no Modi wave in the

state because of his lies. People have realised his lies. Hence in the entire country, the Modi wave is not there. If there is any wave it's only our Guarantee wave," Siddaramaiah said, as he referred to the five guarantee schemes launched by his government. He claimed that during his previous stint as chief minister from 2013 to 2018, he managed to fulfill 158 out of 165 promises, and also started 130 new programmes during the period. The BJP, which governed the state from 2019 to 2023, could not keep up any of its promises, the chief minister alleged at



the public meeting, which was also addressed by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. He also targeted Janata Dal (Secular) patriarch and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda over his party's "unholy alliance" with a "communal BJP".

Country's biggest leader given up morality: Priyanka

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that "the biggest leader of the country has given up morality, does drama before people and does not walk on the path of truth." She alleged that attempts are on to weaken the opposition by suppressing their voice, seizing their bank accounts, and jailing two chief ministers. "There was a time

when a leader would stand up, and the people of the country expected him to be an ethical person. They would expect morality from him but today "the biggest leader" of the country has given up morality and does drama before you," Priyanka said, addressing a public meeting in this district headquarters town. "There was a time when we expected that our leaders would tread on truthfulness.

Cong alleges 'misinformation' by BJP about manifesto

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday complained to the Election Commission and sought action against the BJP alleging that the ruling party was spreading confusion and angst among the salaried professionals and the middle class over Rahul Gandhi's remarks about equitable development of society. In a complaint to the chief election commissioner, All India Professionals' Congress head Praveen Chakravarty claimed, "There is a willful and deliberate attempt to stoke confusion,

havoc and angst among the salaried professionals and the middle class through misinformation and lies." He said while launching the Congress party's manifesto in Hyderabad on April 6, 2024, party leader Rahul Gandhi spoke about the Congress' commitment to economic and social justice to ensure more equitable development of our society. "This message has been deliberately twisted and propagated. I bring to your attention one such incident as proof," he alleged. Terming it as "fake news", Chakravarty demanded

action against the BJP stating that the ruling party was spreading misinformation about the Congress' manifesto and its leaders alleging that the party would "redistribute wealth" if it came to power. He also complained to the EC against an individual along with his phone number who forwarded the message to the professionals on WhatsApp which says that the Congress party manifesto promises to "confiscate two-thirds of your assets for redistribution to the poor under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Wealth Redistribution Scheme".

NITISH OPEN LETTER TO VOTERS 'Serving Bihar my dharma, entire state like my family'

PNS ■ PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday penned an open letter to people, urging them to vote for the NDA and persuade their neighbours to do so while recalling the plight of the state under the previous regime. With only a day left for campaigning to end for the second phase of Lok Sabha polls, scheduled on April 26, the JD(U) supremo, in the letter, asserted that serving Bihar was his dharma and that the entire state was like his family. "JD(U) is set to contest all the five seats in the state that will go to polls in the second phase on Friday. The longest-serving chief minister of the state, without mentioning his arch-rival Lalu Prasad and RJD by name, said in the opening remark in the letter, "You would recall the plight of Bihar under the previous regime..."

with RJD in January. "You all know of the sacrifices I made, since 2005, for Bihar's regeneration. Today, our state has got back its lost glory with all-round progress, in power, roads, education, and law and order," he claimed. "Serving Bihar is my dharma. The entire state is like family to me," said Kumar who often fulminates against his arch-rival for promoting his sons and daughters in politics. In an apparent rebuttal of the claim of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav that he, as the then, deputy chief minister, deserved credit for large-scale recruitments in government departments, Kumar underscored that in his manifesto for 2020 assembly polls, "I had promised 10 lakh government jobs and an equal number of rozgar (employment opportunities)". "I promise my government will continue with employment generation, including government jobs," said Kumar. "In the end, I would appeal that your constituency is going to polls. Please help the NDA achieve the target of winning all 40 seats in Bihar," he added.



PEOPLE FROM LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Twice as likely to develop chronic pain, says study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People from a lower socio-economic background are twice as likely to develop chronic pain after a physical injury, a new research has found. It also found that people with a combination of factors including smoking, poorer support networks, and lower education levels or income could be seven times more likely to develop chronic pain after an injury. Chronic pain is that which lingers for more than three months after the initial physical

injury, while the pain experienced in the first three months is described as 'acute'. People with chronic pain often experience poorer quality of life and are also more likely to develop diseases including cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Researchers said current approaches to managing chronic pain focus on physical rehabilitation of the site of pain or injury, whereas the body taking more than three months to heal suggests that reasons underlying longer-term pain are more complex.



"The purpose of acute pain is to alter behaviour to protect the body from harm, but chronic pain persists because of a sensitised nervous system that continues our experience

of pain, even after the (initial) healing process has completed," said Michael Dunn from the University of Birmingham, UK, and lead author of the study published in the journal PLoS One. The researchers found that healing is influenced by a range of psychological and social factors. Therefore, treatment focusing solely on the injured body part is often ineffective, they said. The team found that factors influencing the development of chronic pain were related particularly to one's experiences of

pain, rather than a type of injury. "For that reason, approaches to treating people with musculoskeletal injuries should be more person-centered, focusing on broader biological, psychosocial, and social well-being. Put simply, current healthcare approaches do not address all the reasons people do not get better," said Dunn. Other factors that the researchers identified for an individual to develop chronic pain included lower levels of job satisfaction, stress, and depression.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Weather vagaries

It is as bad as predicted: Extreme events of 2023 were triggered by a much warmer climate

The year past us was characterised by a slew of extreme weather events. Now, a new study has shed light on a disquieting correlation: Many of these occurrences were in line with predictions of a warmer world due to climate change. The study, by a team of atmospheric scientists, analysed the unprecedented frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena across the globe in 2023: From devastating wildfires to record-breaking heatwaves, and from erratic precipitation patterns leading to floods and droughts to powerful tropical storms. One of the key findings is the undeniable alignment between these extreme events and the long-standing predictions made by climate scientists. As greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, Earth's climate system is being pushed to its limits. While it has long been established that a warming climate exacerbates the intensity and frequency of such events, the empirical evidence underscores the urgency of addressing climate change mitigation. Also, the ramifications of these events extend far beyond environmental concerns, encompassing socio-economic, humanitarian and geopolitical dimensions. Vulnerable communities bear most of the brunt, and disruption of essential infrastructure and supply chains amplifies the challenges. In the face of these sobering revelations, concerted action is imperative to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This entails not only reducing greenhouse gas emissions through transitioning to renewable energy sources and implementing sustainable land-use practices, but also investing in adaptation strategies to cope with the unavoidable effects of a changing climate.



One such initiative is the issuance of tailored advisories by meteorological agencies to assist farmers in mitigating the impacts of climate variability on agricultural productivity. In this regard, the IMD has taken proactive steps, leveraging advanced forecasting techniques and agronomic expertise. By harnessing data-driven insights and employing localised approaches, these advisories offer valuable guidance to farmers regarding optimal planting schedules, irrigation management, pest and disease control and crop selection. The IMD's initiative exemplifies the importance of integrating scientific knowledge with practical solutions to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By empowering farmers with actionable information and tools, such initiatives not only enhance agricultural resilience but also contribute to sustainable livelihoods and food security. As we navigate the complexities of a changing climate and its far-reaching implications, collaboration and innovation emerge as indispensable pillars for building a more resilient and sustainable future. By heeding the warnings conveyed by atmospheric science studies and embracing proactive measures at local, national and global levels, we can strive for a world where the impacts of extreme weather events are mitigated, and communities are empowered to thrive in harmony with nature.

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PICTALK



Devotees arrive at Jakhu temple to offer prayers on the occasion of 'Hanuman Jayanti', in Shimla

PTI

The rising power of nano influencers

Unlike their macro and celebrity counterparts, they embody the authenticity of everyday people, fostering genuine connections with their audience

In the ever-changing world of social media marketing, nano influencers are becoming a significant presence, giving brands a different way to connect with consumers that focuses on being genuine and establishing personal relationships. Nano influencers, who usually have between 1,000 and 10,000 followers, provide a unique mix of community-focused influence and reliability that sets them apart from larger accounts like macro and celebrity influencers. Nano influencers are similar to regular people — they are our friends, family and colleagues who share their lives and interests on social media without the polished image usually seen in professional influencer marketing. This authentic form of influence relies on real connections and trust, characteristics that are becoming more important in a crowded marketplace filled with advertisements and endorsements from celebrities. Authenticity and Engagement is at the core of Nano Influencers. Nano influencers are successful because of their gen-



uine relationships with their followers, who see them as peers rather than distant celebrities. This authenticity makes their product recommendations more effective and trustworthy. By leveraging personal connections, nano influencers can have a significant impact on their audience. Why are Brands Leaning Towards Nano Influencers? Smaller brands are starting to see the benefits of working with nano influencers for a few reasons. To start, nano influencers tend to have much higher engagement rates compared to influencers with bigger audiences. This shows that nano influencers have real and personal relationships with their followers. On top of that, collaborating with nano influencers is usually more affordable, which means brands can get more out of their marketing bud-

gets while still connecting with their target audience. The Pros 1. Hyper-Targeted Marketing: Small-scale influencers typically concentrate on particular niches, enabling brands to reach individuals with specific interests, resulting in more impactful marketing initiatives. 2. Cost-Effectiveness: With reduced hopes for payment, companies have the opportunity to collaborate with numerous nano influencers using the same amount of money they would typically spend on just one macro or celebrity influencer. 3. Higher Quality of Engagement: Nano influencers tend to spark more genuine engagement, resulting in increased levels of interaction such as comments, likes and shares. 4. Authentic Product Endorsements: Recommendations from nano influencers hold the same weight as recommendations from friends and can greatly influence buying choices. 5. Increased Brand Visibility and Community Building: Nano influencers play a cru-

cial role in connecting brands with tightly-knit communities, increasing brand exposure and building a strong sense of connection with potential customers. The Challenges Although there are many benefits to working with nano influencers, there are also some challenges to consider. It is important to find influencers who truly connect with the brand's values and message. Additionally, brands will need to deal with the logistics of working with a larger group of influencers to reach their target audience effectively. Brands are always looking for more genuine ways to connect with consumers and nano influencers are becoming a popular choice. These influencers focus on building real relationships and trust with their followers, creating a more authentic connection. This approach is resonating with consumers who are growing tired of traditional advertising and celebrity endorsements. (The writer is the founder and CEO of iCubesWire; views are personal)



SAHIL CHOPRA

Historic legal battle unfolds over Gyanvapi



PRAFULL GORADIA

Amidst the legal wrangling, a deeper narrative emerges, one of contested ownership, religious desecration and the enduring scars of history

The legal hearings, whether in the court at Varanasi or the Supreme Court, over the past many months regarding the worship at Gyan Vapi, carry ethical interest. The statures of the lawyers of both sides in these courts appear to be comparable. It has occurred to neither lawyers nor laymen that one side argues in defence of their clients' rights of worship; the puja in the tehekhan, whereas the opposing side also has argued that they have been the owners of the edifice in question. Also, it has not occurred to the judges, leaders and clients; in fact, no one else that the property is an acquisition by dacoity; i.e., loot in whatever sense. There was no mosque in that vicinity at all, until 17th century Mughal emperor Aurangzeb via a firman (a royal decree) had the Kashi Vishwanath Temple destroyed, except for the western side, which still unmistakably bears the evidence of the structure being originally a temple, in the form of its carved walls. The fervent followers of the Mughal emperor are not embarrassed that the Hindu devotees of Kashi Vishwanath since the mid-17th century and even in independent India, have to worship in a small temple, because of lack of any more space. For over three centuries then, an illegitimate structure stands, welcoming the followers of Aurangzeb's bigoted ideology. The judges in this case should soon begin trials. It should be declared that this is a trial over a place of worship that was robbed and desecrated, not a dispute between two equals. The law of adverse possession cannot apply here. "The Europeans should clearly understand that this spirit of Mohammedanism is unchangeable and that, if by any mischance, India should again come into the possession of men of this creed, all the churches and colleges and all the Mission institutions, would not be worth a week's purchase". So wrote Reverend Mathew Atmore Sherring, an English official. The Muslims did not harm the Christians of British India. But he was so upset at the vandalism he saw in Banaras that he could not help speaking out.



Reverend Sherring was a devout, maybe slightly bigoted evangelist member of the London Missionary Society, dead against idol worship. And yet he said it would not be difficult to find twenty temples in all Banaras of the age of Aurangzeb (1658-1707). This is the case throughout the whole of northern India. His description of the desecration of temples by the thousand and their blatant conversion into mosques, mau-soleums, dargahs, palaces or pleasure houses has to be seen to be believed. In his view, if there is one thing about the Mohammedan period that Hindus remember better than another, it is the insulting pride of the Musalmans (sic), the outrages that they perpetrated upon Hindu religious convictions and the extensive spoliation of their temples and shrines. "When we endeavour to ascertain what the Mohammedans have left to the Hindus of their ancient buildings in Banaras, we are startled at the result of our investigations. Although the city is strewn with temples, it is unlikely that there are many which are old". Reverend Sherring continued, that the diminutive size



HERRING WRITES THAT JUST AS MUSLIMS YEARN TO VISIT MECCA AND CHRISTIANS YEARN TO VISIT JERUSALEM, THE HINDU HEART GOES OUT TO BANARAS. IF THE HINDUS REFER TO ANY ONE CITY AS THEIR HOLIEST, IT IS BANARAS

of nearly all the temples in India — except for the south — that exist is another testimony to the stringency of the Mohammedan rule. It seems clear that Mughal emperors forbade the Hindus to build spacious temples and forced them to erect only small structures, of the size of cages, for their idols and those of no pretensions to beauty. The consequence is that the Hindus of the present day, blindly following the example of their predecessors of two centuries ago, commonly build their religious edifices of the same dwarfish size as formerly. These observations speak volumes about the trauma that the Hindu psyche has suffered as a result of the impact of Islam. Sherring writes that just as Muslims yearn to visit Mecca and the Christians, Jerusalem, the Hindu heart goes out to Banaras. If the Hindus refer to any one city as their holiest, it is Banaras. Aurangzeb tried to change its name to 'Muhammadabad'. The temple of Bisheshwar, regarded as the god of all gods, was systematically demolished by Aurangzeb during the 17th century. The new temple was built at the behest of Rani

Ahilyabai Holkar long after Aurangzeb's desecration. As already explained, all the temples built during the Mohammedan rule in Banaras had to be diminutive in size. It transpires that the demolition of temples was inspired not only by a hatred for idolatry or greed for loot but also by a desire to humiliate the Hindus. Or, else, how does one explain that the masjid built by Aurangzeb is bang next to the Gyan Vapi or the well of knowledge? Sherring has also referred to Al Baruni, an important source of Indian history of the medieval period. He came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni. Although Sherring casts doubts on Al Baruni's contention, nevertheless, he mentions that Ghazni reached as far as Banaras during his ninth incursion into India. In 1194 AD, Shahabuddin, better known as Muhammad Ghor, after defeating the Kannaujian monarch, Jaichand, marched to Banaras where he is reported to have destroyed a thousand Hindu temples. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WEATHER WOES

Madam — Apropos the news article, "India grapples with erratic weather", published on April 22, this is my response. The recent weather fluctuations across India present a stark reminder of our vulnerability to nature's whims. While Delhi anticipates relief from the scorching heat, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh face contrasting challenges. Odisha grapples with a relentless heatwave, prompting necessary precautions, including school closures. Conversely, Himachal Pradesh reels under heavy rain and snow, causing infrastructure havoc. These extreme conditions underscore the urgency of climate resilience measures. Moreover, the IMD's forecast of above-normal monsoon rainfall signifies hope amid uncertainties. However, the spectre of increasing extreme weather events, as highlighted by recent research, casts a shadow over the future. Regions like the Indus and Ganges plains are particularly at risk, threatening millions of lives. This serves as a clarion call for proactive measures, from robust disaster management strategies to sustainable practices. As citizens, it's imperative to heed warnings, adapt to changing climates and advocate for broader environmental stewardship to mitigate future crises. Rahul Kapoor | Delhi

POWER PRICING PREDICAMENT

Madam — Apropos the news article, "With power freebies, debt comes calling", published on April 22, this is my response. RK Singh's stance on power pricing echoes a common-sense truth: electricity isn't free. His call for States to bear the financial burden of free power initiatives highlights a critical issue plaguing the sector. The practice of offering free electricity distorts the market, undermines the financial health of distribution companies and ultimately hampers economic growth. The complex dynamics of tariff setting, with subsidies for certain consumer segments, exacerbates the problem. While political parties may win favour with vot-

Kejriwal's health report



Apropos the news article, "Kejriwal stopped taking insulin months back: Bihar", published on April 21, this is my response. The revelations about Arvind Kejriwal's health present a perplexing narrative. On one hand, the Bihar administration claims he ceased insulin under a Telangana doctor's advice, contradict-

ing his court Statements. The tug-of-war between AAP and BJP adds political spice. Amidst allegations of a "conspiracy," one wonders about the truth's cloak. If Kejriwal indeed stopped insulin, was it wise? The report's assertion of no alarming sugar levels suggests a balanced picture, yet doubts linger. The stringent dietary restrictions, though, raise eyebrows. Are they necessary or punitive? The bureaucratic tangle over hospital referrals muddles clarity. Amidst these complexities, Kejriwal's medical saga becomes a microcosm of larger political battles. As a concerned citizen, one hopes for transparency and genuine concern for his health above political theatrics. The saga demands more than just a casual glance; it beckons scrutiny and empathy amidst the whirlpool of accusations and counterclaims. Aisha Khan | Chennai

ers through such measures, the long-term repercussions are dire. Delays and partial reimbursements only deepen the financial woes of discoms, leading to a vicious cycle of debt and inefficiency. The solution lies in structural reforms, freeing discoms from undue State control and allowing market forces to determine pricing. Direct financial support to targeted beneficiaries would ensure transparency and sustainability. Such reforms are essential for fostering a resilient and competitive electricity sector, benefiting both consumers and the economy at large. Vivek Rao | Mumbai

MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Brain Wellness", published on April 22, this is my response. The staggering statistics on childhood development and the economic ramifications underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions. The formation of the National Task Force on Brain Health, spearheaded by esteemed professionals, marks a significant step towards bridging critical health-

care gaps. Dr RK Dhamija's insights illuminate the task force's holistic approach, emphasising inclusive healthcare from grassroots to tertiary levels. The task force's focus on equitable access and awareness aligns with global initiatives, acknowledging the profound impact of neurological disorders on society. By evaluating existing infrastructure and policies, the panel aims to catalyse transformative change, recognising the intertwined complexities of brain health and socioeconomic factors. India's healthcare landscape mirrors global challenges, with disparities magnified in rural areas. The task force's mandate to submit actionable recommendations reflects a commitment to prompt action. However, sustained efforts beyond policy formulation are crucial to translating vision into tangible improvements, ensuring every individual has access to quality brain healthcare. Natasha Reddy | Vijayawada

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The Upanishads offer profound insights into the enigmatic realm of the afterlife



SWAMI CHARANASHRIT

The Upanishads, ancient philosophical texts that form the foundation of Hinduism, offer profound insights into the nature of existence, consciousness and the ultimate reality. Among the myriad themes they explore, the concept of the afterlife occupies a significant place. Delving into the Upanishadic thoughts on the afterlife unveils a tapestry of ideas, reflecting deep contemplation on the nature of existence beyond the mortal realm.

The Transient and the Eternal: Central to the Upanishadic understanding of the afterlife is the distinction between the transient, ephemeral aspects of existence and the eternal, unchanging essence of the self (Atman). These texts assert that the physical body is subject to birth and death, bound by the cycles of samsara (the cycle of birth, death and rebirth), while the Atman transcends these cycles, being eternal and indestructible.

The Doctrine of Karma: Integral to the Upanishadic worldview is the doctrine of karma, which holds that every action, thought and intention produces consequences that shape one's future experiences. According to this doctrine, the quality of one's actions determines the nature of their existence in this life and beyond. The Upanishads emphasise that the consequences of karma extend beyond the confines of a single lifetime, influencing the soul's journey through successive rebirths.

The Journey of the Soul: The Upanishads envision the soul's journey through samsara as a process of spiritual evolution aimed at realising its true nature and attaining liberation (moksha) from the cycle of birth and death. This journey is characterised by the accumulation of karma, which propels the soul through various life experiences and incarnations. Each lifetime presents opportunities for growth, learning and self-realisation, ultimately leading the soul closer to its divine source.



The Concept of Rebirth: Rebirth, or reincarnation, is a fundamental tenet of the Upanishadic philosophy. It is believed that the soul undergoes multiple births, inhabiting different bodies and experiencing diverse life circumstances based on its past actions. The Upanishads describe the process of rebirth as governed by the law of karma, wherein individuals are born into specific situations that reflect the consequences of their previous deeds. Liberation from the cycle of rebirth is attained when the soul transcends its attachment to worldly desires and realises its essential unity with the divine.

The Ultimate Goal: Moksha: At the heart of the Upanishadic teachings on the afterlife lies the concept of moksha, or spiritual liberation. Moksha represents the culmination of the soul's journey, wherein it breaks free from the cycle of samsara and merges with the ultimate reality, known as Brahman. Achieving moksha involves transcending the ego, relinquishing attachments and realising the eternal truth of one's identity as Atman, identical to Brahman. In this state of liberation, the soul experiences eternal bliss, beyond the confines of time, space and individual identity.

Conclusion: The Upanishads offer profound insights into the nature of the afterlife, presenting a holistic worldview that encompasses the transient nature of earthly existence and the eternal essence of the self. Through the exploration of concepts such as karma, rebirth and moksha, these ancient texts provide a framework for understanding the soul's journey beyond mortality and its quest for spiritual realisation. Ultimately, the Upanishads invite us to contemplate the deeper mysteries of life and death, guiding us towards the realisation of our divine nature and the attainment of ultimate liberation.

(Writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

A timeless inspiration for India's reform agenda



RENU PANDEY

Amidst the jubilant celebrations of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the legacy of Jyotirao Phule, a pioneer in social reform, resonates deeply



India has had a rich treasure of social reformers who contributed immensely to bringing about change in the lives of the people, especially the subaltern class. Jyotirao Phule is one of them who was born in Maharashtra on 11th April and is remembered as a social reformer, author and activist. Though he was born in the 19th century his ideas are still relevant in the 21st century. Throughout his life, he worked tirelessly to bring change in the lives of deprived groups, especially women, Shudras and Dalits. He was a visionary par excellence who realised very early that for a nation to progress, the marginalised groups need to be given due recognition.

As Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated, it is high time to take a pause and introspect as to what initiative has been undertaken to realise the dream of reformers like Phule. In recent years, the Government has initiated a series of welfare measures like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Balika Samridhhi Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan etc. and a series of direct benefit transfer schemes meant for the poorer segment of the population. These schemes are the furtherance of Phule's ideas as he visualised long back that these groups/communities needed to be made self-reliant.

He cudgelled his brain to find the solution to remove the inequalities based on caste, class, gender and religion from society. He understood very early in life that people were kept in the dark and they had been dragged into following the vacuous customs and norms without adequate understanding. He envisioned the furtherance of everyone's rights through social empowerment.

Phule's philosophy was conceptualised against the backdrop of the polity and society in pre-colonial Maharashtra, which was in a deteriorated state. His critique of the Brahminic religion, scriptures and theories, the founding of



PHULE REVAMPED THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY AND MARRIAGE SYSTEM AND REFUTED THE HACKNEYED VIEWS ON THE PRESCRIBED TYPECAST ROLES OF MAN AND WOMAN. HE SUPPORTED CONTRACT MARRIAGE AS FOR HIM, MARRIAGE IS NOT A HOLY SACRAMENT BUT A HOLY CONTRACT

Satyashodhak Samaj (truth-seeking society) for the upliftment of the downtrodden to the 'new moral community' and his radical writings which pioneered a reformation movement in Hindu society deserve special attention. He gave the people a voice and a vehicle by establishing the Satyashodhak Samaj which was the first of its kind for social empowerment. It promoted caste equality and was devoted to securing social justice and human rights of low-caste people. Throughout his life, he fought to emancipate women from the clutches of rigid patriarchal order and found education as a tool to address such evils. He rejected the system of regressive hierarchy which engineered divisions and schism among the oppressed Hindus.

Undoubtedly, the action against all age — long traditions was the result of the hard work, grit, determination and tenacity of Phule. Phule's dour expression and laconic persona had a long-lasting effect on people's minds. It is palpable that Phule in his writings had discussed the eclectic range of ideas and concerns about the socio-cultural milieu additionally, giving the solution of establishing an alternative model of Hindu Social order, which was earlier brimmed with hierarchies and pluralities

He engineered the strategy to free society from myriad inequalities, with elan and consequentially, influencing the upcoming reformers in the offing. Phule revamped the traditional family and marriage system and refuted the hackneyed views on the prescribed typecast roles of man and

woman. He supported contract marriage as for him; marriage is not a holy sacrament but a holy contract. Additionally, he also rejected the priesthood system. He was far ahead of his time as he opened an orphanage for helpless widows who got pregnant. He left an indelible impression in the field of women's education as he found it a 'remedial whipcord' for 'nauseating wrong done to the women'.

He insisted on compulsory and free primary education and persuaded the British Government to make education compulsory till the age of 12 years. He was also the pioneer of the language formula in schools which was ultimately adopted by the Indian Government after independence. He opined that mother tongue (local language); Hindi and English were the three languages that every person should know. He also suggested that schools should provide education based on vocational skills. He believed that such a course would attract students and help them in gaining employment.

To maintain the high quality of education, he thought that the curriculum of primary education should meet the needs and requirements of society. The same is also emphasised in the New Education Policy, 2020. Even the United Nations has advocated inclusive, equitable and quality education which Phule emphasised long back.

His ideas and thoughts will remain relevant in the 21st century as he always believed in establishing an egalitarian social order which is the core of any substantive democracy.

The same is being emphasised by the Government through its various welfare policies. It would be a befitting tribute to him if his ideas of inclusion of those who are at the periphery like women; and marginalised groups were given adequate attention. As seats are reserved for women from Panchayat to Lok Sabha still they are lagging far behind men in terms of their representation. To put it succinctly, it can be said that mainstreaming the periphery should be the motto of Government and by doing so it can fulfill the dream of Mahatma Phule.

Phule's establishment of the Satyashodhak Samaj provided a platform for social empowerment and caste equality. His advocacy for women's education and rejection of regressive customs reshaped societal norms. Phule's foresight extended to educational reforms, advocating for vocational training and multilingual education, ideas that resonate with modern policies like the New Education Policy, 2020.

In today's pursuit of an egalitarian society, Phule's principles remain indispensable. Prioritising the inclusion of marginalised groups, especially women, aligns with his vision of social justice. As we honor Phule's legacy, let us commit to mainstreaming the periphery, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard and valued.

In doing so, we honor the spirit of Mahatma Phule and pave the way for a truly inclusive society.

(The writer is Assistant Professor in Department of History Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University; views are personal)

Jallianwala Bagh: A turning point in India's freedom struggle

The aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre not only claimed the lives of over 1,000 innocents but also ignited a fervent spirit of resistance

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre or the Amritsar massacre, a peaceful socio-political gathering of the native population dealt with a violent administrative response on 13th April 1919 by the then British Government killing above 1000 children, women and men firing 1650 gunshots, received strong criticism and gave the Indian freedom movement a clear direction for complete freedom from the foreign rule. The incident underlined the secular and all-inclusive character of the freedom movement. While in other parts of India, there were religious conflicts, in Amritsar the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs had decided to celebrate their religious days (eid ul-fitter on April 01, Ram Nawmi on April 08 and



SUKHDEV SINGH

Baisakhi on April 13) together to communicate the message of united freedom struggle against the foreign rule. The dead bodies of those, including Hindus, killed by the police while they were protesting against the arrest and deportation of the two local leaders Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal to some unknown place, according to the local narratives, were kept in the Khairuddin mosque

before their final funeral rites. Earlier on the occasion of Ram Nawmi on April 9, 1919, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims drank water using the same tumbler. These events caused fear among the British rulers. In the background of what happened on April 13, 1919, was the rising unrest among the people caused by the post-world-war inflation, heavy taxes and other repressive policies of the British Indian Government.

During the world war between 1914 and 1917, though the British forces were supported by the British-India Government and principalities, the Gadhries in Punjab had planned a mutiny by the Indian soldiers serving in the British Indian Army for February 1915 on the lines of

1857 mutiny, opposing the colonial Government anti-people policies which due to weak planning could not succeed. Yet, given a strong and colonial-Government atmosphere in Punjab and Bengal, in particular and in India, in general, on ardent advocacy by the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, Michael O'Dwyer, the British India Government passed a 'Defence of India Act 1915' curtailing the civil and political liberties.

In 1918, suspecting revolt with support from Russian Bolsheviks, the Government appointed a committee headed by Sidney Rowlett to assess the German and Bolshevik links to the militant movement in India, especially in Punjab and Bengal. On the committee's recommendation, the

Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, popularly called the Rowlett Act, was passed on 21st March 1919 further limiting civil liberties and granting special powers to the Government enabling up to 2 years' detention of purported political agitators without trial. Breaching their promise for post-war political reforms in exchange for India's resources the Government hurriedly passed the Act, ignoring opposition by the Indian members of the Imperial Legislative Council, who all resigned in protest. Muhammad Ali Jinnah wrote to the Viceroy: "I, therefore, as a protest against the passing of the Bill and the manner in which it was passed tender my resignation ... a Government that passes or sanctions such

a law in times of peace forfeits its claim to be called a civilised Government". The Act, seen as a betrayal, enraged the Indian leaders and citizens. Mahatma Gandhi gave a call for Satyagraha against the Rowlett Act urging for a peaceful participation in Hartals (strikes), economic boycott and non-cooperation. The anti-Rowlett Act sentiment was so strong in the whole country, especially in Punjab, that in response to the Satyagraha call on April 6 "practically the whole of Lahore was on the streets". Following the events on April 9 and the detention of the local leaders Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal on April 10, 1919, a large crowd gathered to demand the release of Dr Satyapal and Dr Kitchlew. In

the protest, 20-25 Indian and four British were killed while others were injured. The atmosphere in Amritsar was so tense that on April 11, Marcella Sherwood, an elderly English missionary was attacked by an angry mob in the Kucha Kurichhan. Although she was rescued by some residents in the same street, enraged at the assault, Brigadier General R.E.H. Dyer, ordered every Indian passing through the street to crawl its length on his hands and knees as a punishment. He also authorised the indiscriminate public whipping of locals. The local leaders of the freedom movement, in a meeting held on April 12 at the Hindu College, planned a peaceful public protest gathering on April 13, the day of Baisakhi, in Jallianwala Bagh

spread over 6-7 acres of vacant land surrounded by residential buildings.

By April 13, most parts of Punjab under put under martial law. Civil liberties were curtailed and the assembly of more than four people was banned. The orders of banning public meetings and gatherings were not being widely and properly communicated. After celebrating Baisakhi many people relaxed in the Bagh, waiting to join the peaceful protest against the arrest and deportation of Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew. Rest as they say is history.

(The writer is retired professor of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar and member, governing council, INTACH, New Delhi; views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

Sify Technologies records Q4 net profit of Rs 38 million

Integrated ICT solutions and services provider Sify Technologies has reported Rs 38 million as profit for the January-March 2024 quarter, the company said on Tuesday. The city-based company had registered a profit of Rs 34 million during the corresponding quarter of last year. For the year ending March 31, 2024, the profit fell to Rs 49 million from Rs 674 million a year ago. Total revenue during the quarter under review grew to Rs 9,637 million from Rs 8,861 million in the same period last year. For the year ending March 31, 2024, total revenues grew to Rs 35,634 million, as against Rs 33,404 million in the previous financial year. "Our robust infrastructure investments and comprehensive services portfolio are structured to precisely address customer objectives. Concurrently, we maintain proactive engagement with clients, identifying their distinct requirements and customising our offerings to align with their evolving needs," company CEO Kamal Nath said in a statement today.



Volkswagen India launches new variants

German automaker Volkswagen has rolled out two new variants of its popular sports utility vehicle Taigun, the company said on Tuesday. Widening its product portfolio, the company has launched Taigun GT Line equipped with a 1.0L TSI engine at Rs 14.08 lakh, while the Taigun GT Plus Sport 1.5L TSI will be available at Rs 18.53 lakh, both ex-showroom prices. The two new variants were formally unveiled at the Volkswagen Annual Brand Conference which showcased its all-electric vehicle ID.4 in March. "The Volkswagen GT badge is an aspirational cornerstone that evokes the unmatched feeling of sporty driving. We are delighted to introduce the all-new Taigun GT Line and Taigun GT Plus Sport for Indian buyers," the company's Brand Director Ashish Gupta said.



JNK India IPO receives 49 pc subscription on Day 1

The initial public offer of heating equipment maker JNK India received a 49 percent subscription on the first day of bidding on Tuesday. The initial share sale received bids for 53,86,212 shares against 1,10,83,278 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE. The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) subscribed 67 percent while the portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 48 percent subscription. The non-institutional investors part fetched 25 percent subscription. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) has a fresh issue of up to Rs 300 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) component of up to 84,21,052 equity shares. Those offloading shares in the OFS are promoters Goutam Rampelli, Dipak Kacharula Bharuka, JNK Heaters Co Ltd, and Mascot Capital and Marketing Pvt Ltd, and a shareholder Milind Joshi. The price range for the offer is fixed at Rs 395-415 a share.



'Upshift in GDP growth shaping up: RBI Bulletin

Says weather events risk to inflation

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Conditions are shaping up for an extension of a trend upshift in real GDP growth in India, though extreme weather events along with prolonged geopolitical tensions may pose an inflation risk, said the RBI's April Bulletin released on Tuesday. The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) factors for its monetary policy, eased to 4.9 per cent in March after remaining at 5.1 per cent during the two preceding months. "There is a sizzle in the spring of 2024," said an article on 'State of the Economy' published in the Bulletin. Global weather agencies are in agreement that March 2024 was the warmest March since record-keeping began in 1850 - the global surface tempera-



Global weather agencies are in agreement that March 2024 was the warmest March since record-keeping began in 1850 - the global surface temperature was at 1.6 degrees Celsius (3.01°F) above the 1880-1899 period.

Careful monitoring during the summer is warranted as overlapping food price shocks

play out, before an above-normal Southwest monsoon this year, as projected by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), enabling an easing of food price pressures, said the article authored by a team led by RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra. "In the near term, however, extreme weather events may pose a risk to inflation along with prolonged geopolitical tensions that could keep crude oil prices volatile. "Overall, the projection indicates further easing of headline inflation in the coming months before unfavorable base effects kick in during the second half of the year, which have to be seen off," it said. While alignment with the inflation target is gradually occurring, incoming data will provide greater clarity and confidence on the disinflation path, it added.



Indian Bank inks pact with Tata Power Solar Systems

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Public sector Indian Bank has partnered with Tata Power Solar Systems to offer financing for customers under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Scheme to install solar rooftop systems in residences. Residential consumers would be able to receive loans of up to Rs 2 lakh for installations of 3 KW solar rooftop capacity at an interest rate of 7 per cent per annum. "This partnership demonstrates our commitment to promoting awareness, growth, and social upliftment. By offering financial assistance, we aim to make a significant contribution to India's energy objectives..." Indian Bank Chief GM, Retail Assets and Micro, Small Medium Enterprises, Vikas Kumar said in a press release.

WEST ASIA TENSIONS

Shipping regulator issues 'urgent advisory' to recruiting agencies

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maritime sector regulator Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has issued an 'urgent advisory for Indian recruiting agencies and seafarers amid the ongoing situation in Iran and Israel to ensure safety of the Indian seamen in the vicinity of these two countries. The urgent advisory was issued on April 19. In light of the advisories issued by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) concerning maritime security in the Iran and Israel



region, the "Directorate General of Shipping urges all Indian registered Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers (RPS) agencies and shipping companies to exercise utmost caution and refrain from facilitating the engagement or deployment of Indian nation-

al seafarers to Iran or Israel until further notice from the Ministry of External Affairs", according to the urgent advisory. The advisory is in continuation of the Ministry of External Affairs' caution regarding the current situation in this area, it said. Noting that this advisory is issued considering the security risks and potential hazards associated with operating in the vicinity of Iran and Israel, it said, "it is imperative that the safety and well-being of our seafarers remain our top priority."

PepsiCo reports 'high single-digit' volume growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PepsiCo on Tuesday reported a "high single-digit growth" in its beverage unit volume in the Indian market during the first quarter of 2024. The company's convenient food business reported a "double-digit growth" in the country during the period, according to a global earnings statement from the food and beverages major. PepsiCo's net revenue in the



Africa, Middle East, and South Asia (AMESA) division, which covers the Indian market, went up by 2 percent to USD 1.04 billion. The growth reflects an "organic volume growth and effective net pricing" and a partial offset of the impact of unfavourable foreign exchange, the company said. In AMESA, PepsiCo's "beverage unit volume grew 2 percent, primarily reflecting mid-single-digit growth in the Middle East and high single-digit growth in India". Its convenient food unit volume grew 4.5 percent, "primarily reflecting high-single-digit growth in South Africa, double-digit growth in India", and offset by a double-digit decline in the Middle East.

NCLT adjourns hearing in Byju's rights issue case to Jun 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The injunction on the use of rights issue funds by Byju's will continue as a company law court in Bengaluru adjourned the matter to June 6 after hearing from investors as well as the

management. In its order earlier this year, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru Bench, said the funds received by the company for the rights issue should be kept in a separate escrow account and not be

withdrawn till the disposal of the matter. While investors have alleged that Byju has misused the funds and leveled charges against it over non-compliance with the court's past order, the embattled ed-tech firm on Tuesday stated it has complete-

ly followed the NCLT directions. The matter has now been listed for the next hearing on June 6. Byju's has been accused by four investors of violating the tribunal order and utilising some of the funds raised during the rights issue.

'India will become third largest economy'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said the Modi government has provided a corruption-free regime in the last 10 years and the country in the next few years will become the world's third-largest economy. Addressing a massive gathering of traders here, Goyal said the country's economy is growing at a faster pace, and a series of measures have been taken to promote growth. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country will become the world leader, he said.

Modi guarantees that India will become the third largest economy in his 'third' term, he said. He added that the taxpayers' money is being utilised properly for the welfare of people and infrastructure development. The government, he said, has transferred Rs 30-35 lakh crore in the last 10 years to the poor through direct benefit transfer (DBT). "Today in India, the infrastructure sector is growing at a fast pace," he said, adding that in Mumbai, several projects have come up such as the metro, coastal road, trans-harbor link, and Atal Setu.



M&M Financial shares tank 5.50 per cent

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services tanked 5.50% after the company deferred its board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, saying it had detected fraud at one of its branches in the northeast. The stock of the NBFC firm declined 5.47 percent to Rs 263.60 on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 7.88 percent to Rs 256.85. At the NSE, it went lower by 5.52 percent to Rs 263.45. The company's market valuation declined by Rs 1,884.18 cr to Rs 32,568.57 cr.

Reliance underlines its commitment to Vikasit Bharat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries has topped the India Involved Ranking 2023 that measures how India Inc is committed to Vikasit Bharat. The ranking and the index has been put together by Skoch, a leading Indian think-tank dealing with socio-economic issues and focusing on inclusive growth, after a six month-long study, analyzing a number of companies across 231 indicators to rank the top-20 corporates on comprehensive 'India Involved Ranking'. It is followed by Hindustan Unilever and Adani Group. Jio Platforms Limited topped the 'India Involved



Ranking in Digital Transformation'. It is followed by Lupin and Heritage Foods. Hindustan Unilever topped India Involved Ranking in ESG, followed by Adani Group and Britannia. Bank of India topped India Involved Ranking in Corporate Excellence, followed by HDFC Life Insurance and Aditya Birla Health Insurance, according to a Skoch release. Reliance Industries has always followed its 'We Care' philosophy, which puts doing good before doing well. "We care for the planet. We care for humanity. We care for our beloved motherland, India. And, of course, we care for all our partners, employees and shareholders," is how its chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani explained Reliance philosophy. Reliance has always believed in "What is good for India, is good for Reliance". Its investments, projects, ambitions, achievements are all a testament to its faith in India, to the unlimited India opportunity, and to the boundless Indian talent.

FIRM GLOBAL CUES

Markets climb for 3rd day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for the third session in a row on Tuesday, following gains in telecom, tech, and consumer durable shares amid a firm trend in the global markets. However, rising global crude prices and renewed foreign capital outflows amid geopolitical tensions restricted the markets' appreciation bias, traders said. After rallying over 400 points, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 89.83 points or 0.12 percent higher at 73,738.45. During the session,

it jumped 411.27 points or 0.55 percent to 74,059.89. Trimming most of its early gains, the NSE Nifty ended 31.60 points or 0.14 percent up at 22,368. During the day, it climbed 111.15 points or 0.49 percent to 22,447.55. "The domestic market exhibited range-bound performance, tracking positive global cues with sustained outperformance of the broader market. While tensions between Iran and Israel were perceived to have limited escalation, the uptick in crude prices suggests investors' reassessing the risks.

Global NCAP accords low safety rating to Bolero Neo, Amaze

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vehicle safety group Global NCAP said it has given a one-star safety rating to Mahindra Bolero Neo for adult and child occupant safety. The UK-based group also accorded two stars to Honda Amaze for adult and zero stars for child occupant safety. It also gave three stars in adult safety and five stars for child occupants to Kia Carens after the latest round of crash tests. The highest score on a vehicle crash test is five stars, while the lowest score is zero stars. "We were disappointed to see Mahindra's one-star rating for the Bolero Neo. This falls well below the safety performance we have come to expect from the



Mahindra & Mahindra said the company is committed to delivering vehicles that ensure the safety and satisfaction of customers and users.

manufacturer," Global NCAP Secretary General Alejandro Furas said in a statement. Mahindra & Mahindra said the company is committed to delivering vehicles that ensure

the safety and satisfaction of customers and users. Bolero Neo has always complied with safety regulations that have been introduced over time and continues to be fully

compliant with the latest Indian safety standards, it said. "As we are constantly innovating and improving our vehicles to exceed safety regulations, we want to assure our customers and stakeholders that Mahindra has significantly enhanced safety features in all our recent launches," the auto major stated. Models like Thar, XUV700, XUV300, and Scorpio-N have been recognised with high safety ratings of 4- and 5-star by the Global NCAP, reflecting the company's ongoing commitment to safety. Furas said there has been an improvement in Kia's rating for the Carens since its original test when the model scored a zero rating for adult occupant protection.

NBCC bags work orders worth Rs 23,500 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned construction firm NBCC Ltd on Tuesday said it secured projects worth Rs 23,500 crore during the last fiscal year. In a statement, NBCC said it has secured significant business during 2023-24 financial year. The company "has secured record new works of Rs 23,500 crore on a consolidated basis and Rs 18,400 crore on a standalone basis, as compared to Rs 6,700 crore (consolidated basis) and Rs 4,225 crore (standalone basis) in preceding fiscal." Among the major orders received in 2023-24, NBCC said it has got additional FAR (floor area ratio) works in Amrapali worth about Rs 10,000 cr.

Indians most confident in adapting to tech related changes: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Indians are most confident in adapting to changes due to tech innovations at workplaces and a large majority of professionals seem to be ready for any change in their roles, a report said on Tuesday. The report by global job site Indeed said around 54 per cent of workers in India predict a substantial shift in their roles within the next five years and 95 per cent expressed confidence in their ability to adapt to these changes. The report - 'Tomorrow's World: The Workplace and Workforce of the Future' - is based on an online survey across 11 countries, including

India. Global market research firm YouGov on behalf of Indeed collected data from November 30 - December 21, 2023, from 16,671 working professionals. The participants comprised 9,592 employees, 4,592 employers, and 2,487 HR decision-makers. The report revealed that India led the way in fostering optimism towards technology and artificial intelligence (AI), with 75 per cent of respondents expressing confidence in the transformative potential of tech advancements. India's zeal for tech and AI far outweighs any other nation such as Germany (41 per cent), Canada, and France (42 per cent), it stated. Over 44 per cent of respon-

dents also felt that more jobs will be created by AI-related opportunities, the report said. "India is at the forefront of embracing the future of work, driven by a profound belief in the power of technological innovation. Our findings underscore a remarkable readiness among the Indian workforce to adapt and evolve." Indeed India Head of Sales Sashi Kumar said. According to the report, employees in India have adopted a proactive stance towards career learning and development to adjust to forthcoming shifts in the workplace with 53 per cent having upskilled to develop longer-term skills and learning in the last three years.

Rapper-lyricist Ikka, who has created a niche and a stardom for himself in the hip-hop world, gets candid with *The Pioneer*, sharing his music, his journey of ups and downs, and more.

HARDEST IN THE GAME, WITH A STRONG PEN GAME

TEJAL SINHA

You might not know him if we call him Ankit Singh Patyal. But the moment we mention rapper Ikka, you might just go, 'Dammnnnn!' Well, that's the kind of sensation he has created in the hip-hop world—in fact, also in B'town. Coming from a middle-class family, he had big dreams, and throughout his childhood, there has been a rollercoaster ride. The reason that he has been versatile in his own way has been the opportunities and working with versatile artists. Hip-hop, to him, is all about life, love, and everything. Undeniably, one of the hardest in the game with a strong pen game. Recently, the rapper star was at the city of temples, Bhubaneswar, for a musical extravaganza experience by Royal Stag Boombox. For all the obvious reasons, the event was not just a ravishing experience for the audience but also for Ikka too. As *The Pioneer* gets to connect with the artist post his show, he enthusiastically begins, "This season had some amazing line-up of artists. There was Badshah Bhai, and I'm still a big fan of him. Every time that I get to work under his guidance, it just feels amazing. There is a lot to learn from him. Then there were Armaan Bhai, Dino, and DeeMC. There were so

many amazing artists, and having the chance to work with them was a one-of-a-kind experience as a whole." The *Dilbar (Satyamev Jayate)* singer was very impressed with the tagline of the event—'Live it large', as he too believes in living every moment and celebrating every moment. When he was working on his first hip-hop album, which was in 2020, he wished to work on his first album with Universal. He recalls, "Since childhood, all the artists I have seen had Universal written on the back of their cassettes, so I dreamed that my album would have a mass appeal. Nash, such a big name in hip-hop, a legendary name, wrote about me on his post, saying, 'Welcome to the family'. I was so happy, and that moment was like the biggest turning point in my life." "My family's happiness is what defines success for me," he further shares on a brighter note. "I am able to provide them with all they need. I have what it takes to take care of my family and my obligations. Habits are the most important characteristic of a successful artist. Even though his creativity is sound, he will never be able to fully realise the potential of his art if his lifestyle, attitude, etc. are out of balance." Something that we are sure even you might agree upon is his lyrics, which many feel they relate to. Well, Ikka feels very relatable to Eminem, and why is that? The *Pyaar Le Pyaar De* singer goes on further: "I was listening to Eminem, and his emotions and music had connected very well with me. I feel that whatever Eminem's story is, it is my story too, and when you connect with someone, you understand that he is talking about me. So you love a thing, you love a person, you love his art, and then I explored a lot. I have been a big fan of Eminem and got inspired by him, and after that, I

started doing bohemian and hip-hop." He also believes that a person's musical tastes reveal a lot about who they are as a person. "I typically use an artist's mood as a measure and attempt to decipher what genre of music they enjoy. Everything just falls into place after that. I provided the artists with my written lyrics and hooks, and they responded with their own verses, which I then sent back to them. With their combined help, my album began to take shape." It was that moment he knew he had to do this. Also, a much-accomplished lyricist recalls, "I remember reading these comics in my childhood, and that's why I started writing stories. I started reading stories in the fourth grade, and I used to read *Raj Comics, Doga, Super Commando Dhruv, Nagraj*, and many more. I had learned the method of writing stories, but the method of rapping—what are similes, what are metaphors, and how to use them?—was something I slowly explored, and that is how we become rappers today." There have been so many moments in his life that he recalls being the key highlights in his journey, namely—meeting Honey Singh, singing for Diljit Dosanjh, releasing his own album, making his debut in Bollywood, seeing himself in the theaters, and many more. However, on the other hand, he recalls, "TV pe aana bohot bada challenge tha uss waqt, kyunki YouTube tha nahi aur bohot struggles they (TV appearance was a big challenge back then because there was no YouTube and there were many challenges). You were not supposed to approach the labels by yourself. Luckily, I got to meet some good people in my journey, who were not only an inspiration but also helped me a lot in my career. They've been a major part of my journey, and it is because of them that I'm hearing him talking to you (he proudly smiles)."

'Surprised to find myself sitting next to Diljit Dosanjh'

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Sahiba Bali is a multifaceted personality whose journey seamlessly weaves together diverse professional endeavours, from marketing to acting content creation to cricket anchoring and beyond. Her story reflects a deep-seated belief in the importance of authenticity and the pursuit of one's passions, defying societal norms and carving her path on her own terms. Well, the actress recently seen in Imtiaz Ali's *Chamkila* plays the role of a journalist, and, embarking on a journey that consistently blended her roles as a brand manager at Zomato and her passion for acting, the unexpected call from Mukesh Chhabra, the casting director for the film marked a pivotal moment for her. "It was quite intriguing," begins the actress on an exclusive note. "While I was juggling my role as a brand manager at Zomato, I was also pursuing my passion for acting. Then, out of the blue, I received a call from Mukesh informing me that Imtiaz Ali was interested in casting me for a role. I was genuinely surprised and deeply honoured that he specifically asked for me. We had previously worked together on *Laila Majnu* years ago, so this unexpected recognition was humbling." Upon learning about the role, she had a lengthy Zoom call with Imtiaz Ali, where he explained that although it was just one scene, it held immense significance in the film. "His assurance that this scene would resonate deeply with audiences was all the motivation I needed. With Imtiaz sir's guidance and Mukesh sir's support, I dove into the project with enthusiasm. The shooting spanned over two days, and sharing the screen with Diljit was exhilarating. When it came to preparing for the role, I initially pondered if I needed to brush up on my Punjabi language skills, given the film's setting in Punjab. However, Imtiaz sir clarified that the character was an independent Doordarshan girl from the 1960s with roots in Delhi University. Drawing from my own experiences, I grasped the essence of such characters. Ultimately, my character embodied independence, strength, and fierceness, reflecting the ethos of the movie." Stepping onto the set, her anticipation mingled with excitement as she found herself seated beside Diljit Dosanjh himself. She expressed, "As I stepped onto the set, I found myself seated beside a gentleman. Being a huge fan of Diljit, I couldn't help but feel curious about meeting and working with him. However, as I glanced at the person beside me, I didn't immediately recognise him. It dawned on me that I was actually sitting next to Diljit Dosanjh himself! His transformation for the role was remarkable; his appearance, with his altered hair, beard, and demeanour, was a far cry from the vibrant persona I was accustomed to seeing on stage and social media." In person, Diljit exuded a quiet demeanour, displaying humility and a focused, disciplined attitude. He was genuinely interested in conversing with her, treating everyone around him as equals with no airs or pretense. It was a pleasant surprise for her to witness this stark difference between his real-life persona and the characters he portrays on screen! Throughout her career, she has often found herself in similar roles, like playing a Kashmiri girl in *Laila Majnu* and *Tanav*. However, the role in *Chamkila* marked a significant departure, prompting her to actively

ly seek out diverse characters in both theater and on platforms like YouTube. Meanwhile, in the realm of comedy collaborations, she found a new partner in Kullu for a Netflix project, leading to an unexpected wave of success. She reveals, "I have a close relationship with many comedians, often collaborating with them on YouTube and for various brands. However, I hadn't previously worked with Kullu. The Netflix project marked our first venture together, and it exceeded all expectations." *Tanav season 2* is on board! As we go ahead with this chat, sharing her excitement Sahiba says, "I'm absolutely buzzing with excitement for the release of *season 2*. The technical team behind this show, hailing from Afghanistan, has truly been extraordinary. We embarked on an extensive filming jour-

ney, spending two months in Kashmir, a month in Dehradun, and also shooting in Mumbai. Being from Kashmir myself, every moment spent filming *Tanav* took me back to my roots. And then there's Sudhir Mishra sir—what a genius! A National Award-winning director with an illustrious career filled with remarkable films. Working alongside someone of his calibre is nothing short of magical." In her debut as a sports anchor during this electrifying IPL season, she reflects on the exhilarating journey, as she unfolds, "This was an entirely new venture for me, stepping into the realm of sports anchoring for the very first time. And what an initiation it was, coinciding with the kickoff of the IPL, a tournament beloved by all of India! The weight of responsibility was palpable as I took on this role, especially considering the immense popularity of the IPL. I'll admit, there were moments of stress and doubt initially, wondering how I would fare. However, once I dove into it, I found myself absolutely loving the experience. One of the most remarkable aspects of this journey has been the opportunity to interact with cricket legends. Hosting alongside icons like Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, and Sunil Gavaskar has been nothing short of surreal. The exposure and learning curve has been tremendous, opening up a whole new career avenue for me." But amidst the glitz and glamour of the cricketing world, she has also gained a newfound appreciation for the pressure and scrutiny that cricketers endure. "Cricket holds a special place in my heart, dating back to my childhood. Knowing how deeply it resonates with people in India, I was eager to step into the world of cricket anchoring," signs off the talented star.

Sahiba Bali, a multifaceted personality, who was recently seen in the Diljit Dosanjh, and Parineeti Chopra-starrer *Chamkila*, gets candid about getting onboard for the film, her experience working with Diljit, and more.



Traditional ayurvedic methods to effectively combat mumps

The Pioneer of Poly Scientific Ayurveda (PSA) states that traditional Ayurvedic methods, which restore the balance of 'doshas', can help in comprehensively managing the disease. India has witnessed a significant decrease in mumps, one of the most common childhood diseases, since the introduction of the vaccine in 1967. However, the discussion on mumps has resurfaced in 2024, with various Indian states witnessing a surge in the number of cases this year. According to news reports, Kerala, the southernmost state in India, has reported 15,637 cases of mumps. A surge in mumps cases has also been reported in other Indian states including Maharashtra, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Medical experts cite incomplete protection following vaccination, waning immunity, and intensive crowding as some of the key reasons for this resurgence of mumps cases. Meanwhile, highlighting the need for a holistic approach towards the effective management of mumps, and data scientist Dr. Ravishankar Polisetty says that the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda can be effectively used to tackle the recent surge in mumps cases. "Mumps is a severe viral infection that mainly affects children. In the classical texts of Ayurveda, mumps is referred to as 'Kamamulaka' and 'Rasputana', which occurs primarily due to 'doshic' imbalances and systemic disharmony within the body. The irregularity in 'Vata dosha' results in the spread of toxins in the body, while inflammation associated with 'Pitta' contributes to infection, and 'Kapha dosha' is mentioned as the reason for swelling. The accumulation of these 'doshic' imbalances can even lead to complications such as orchitis or meningitis," says Dr. Polisetty. He adds that by perfectly blending the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern medicine, we can devise a comprehensive plan to tackle mumps. However, it is crucial that people understand their 'Vata-Pitta-kafa' fingerprint and then only proceed with the holistic solutions under the guidance of a doctor instead of home remedies and hearsay.

TREATMENT AND RELEVANCE OF PSA

Dr. Polisetty says that the treatment of mumps in Ayurveda primarily focuses on restoring 'doshic' balance, eliminating toxins, and strengthening immunity through proper diet, herbs, Panchakarma, and lifestyle adjustments tailored to individuals' body type and symptoms. He says that PSA offers the scope for merging traditional remedies like Neem with modern scientific medicine, which can effectively cure conditions like mumps.

"Neem's bitter and astringent taste, along with its cooling potency, makes it ideal for pacifying 'Pitta' and 'Kapha' imbalances. Its bioactive compounds, including azadirachtin and quercetin, exhibit antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties crucial for mumps treatment. It integrates Neem into treatment plans alongside conventional antiviral medications, resulting in rapid symptom relief, reduced viral load, and prevention of complications like orchitis and oophoritis," he explains.

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

The approach underscores tailored practices based on individual 'dosha' predominance, lifestyle choices are pivotal for the recovery and management of mumps. Adequate rest and stress management techniques to conserve energy and support immune function are also suggested as remedies. "It is said that customised breathing techniques, like 'Sheetali' and 'Anulom Vilom', will help in balancing 'doshas', while tailored yoga asanas, such as 'Balasana' for 'Vata', 'Paschimottanasana' for 'Pitta', and 'Surya Namaskar' for 'Kapha', can address specific body imbalances. This personalised approach promotes effective healing and faster recovery from mumps, enhancing the overall well-being of the patient," adds Dr. Polisetty.

EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

The doctor says the prioritisation of evidence-based practices in Ayurveda is pivotal for its integration into mainstream healthcare. "Establishing a robust evidence base requires a multifaceted approach. 'Dosha' modelling in animals, genomic studies, proteomics or metabolomics, epigenetic research, and clinical trials are key elements that need to be considered under this approach," he adds. Dr. Polisetty also believes that evidence-based practices will help cement Ayurveda's position in global healthcare, aligning with the Union Government's vision of integrating traditional and modern medicine effectively for holistic healthcare.

PUBLIC TRUST AND CREDIBILITY

The Ayurvedic expert also underscores the need for rigorous scientific research, including clinical trials and standardised treatment methods, to build credibility for Ayurveda. By promoting educational initiatives like integrating Ayurveda into medical curriculum and hosting public awareness programs, understanding of Ayurveda can be strengthened. "We need to encourage proper collaborative efforts between Ayurveda and conventional medicine. Strict quality control and regulatory measures will also promote credibility while leveraging technological advancements effectively can increase accessibility. Moreover, sharing success stories and documenting traditional knowledge will help Ayurveda gain broader acceptance," concludes Dr. Polisetty.



LISTINGS

LSAT—India 2024 registration window open

The LSAT—India™ May registration window is now open and will be accepting registrations until 2 May 2024. Designed by world leaders in law school admissions, the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), and delivered by Pearson VUE, the LSAT—India™ is one of the leading law school entrance examination for prospective candidates seeking to secure a place at institutions across India. Eighteen institutions across the country accept LSAT—India™ exam scores. Test scheduling is available now and will close on 2 May 2024, and the exam will be conducted in multiple slots from 16 - 19 May 2024. Prospective candidates should visit www.lsatinia.in to register and schedule their exams.

Dhanuka introduces powerful insecticide 'LaNevo'

Leading agrochemical company Dhanuka Agritech Limited unveiled two groundbreaking products – the powerful insecticide 'LaNevo', and the bio-fertilizer 'MYCORe Super', designed to revolutionize crop protection and yield enhancement in agriculture. 'LaNevo' marks a strategic collaboration with Nissan Chemical Corporation, Japan, further strengthening Dhanuka's insecticide portfolio. LaNevo offers dual benefits with a unique mode of action for enhanced crop protection against sucking and chewing pests. It is designed to minimize resistance development and, promoting healthier crops and higher yields.

Inorbit Mall Cyberabad blooms into spring splendor

Prepare for an unforgettable April at Inorbit Mall Cyberabad, where excitement awaits with a variety of events, exclusive offers, and the latest collection. Earlier during the weekend, the mall organised a tote bag painting workshop on April 20 and 21 to celebrate World Earth Day, promoting sustainability and environmental awareness. But that's not all, the stunning spring décor, is now live at the mall and is sure to transport you to your favourite holiday spot. Not only is it splendid, but every bit of it is totally Insta-worthy. The experiential spring décor is adorned with enchanting butterflies, vibrant spring flowers, and alluring garden elements - offering numerous photo ops that are perfect for your feed. A mall visit is never truly complete without some retail therapy, check out the latest spring-summer collection at Shoppers Stop, Lifestyle, H&M, Pantaloons, Max, and more. Additionally, don't miss out on checking out our newly added brands Rareism, Spykar, and Guess!

Westside launches its 233rd store in Hyd

Westside has inaugurated its newest store in Hyderabad with an aim to inspire fashion enthusiasts. Located at Westside Hyderabad, GS Centre Point, Punjagutta, Hyderabad- 500082, this store is spread across 36,288 sq ft. With a conscious effort of making style simple for every moment, it will feature most of Westside's brands across apparels, accessories, cosmetics, footwear, and HOME - all conveniently available at one location! The new store seamlessly embodies the brand's vision of delivering an extraordinary retail experience, providing customers with contemporary and modern fashion trends at an exceptional value. It is committed to offering a seamless shopping experience, with meticulously arranged and clutter-free displays that highlight the newest fashions. With distinctive style, the brand embraces innovation and refreshes their collection every three weeks on Friday.

Effective waste management by HDFC

Celebrating World Earth Day and its theme of Planet vs. Plastics, HDFC Bank Parivartan, the CSR initiative of HDFC Bank, has unveiled a unique 26-foot by 6-foot wall mural created by young students. The mural is made of upcycled plastic bottle caps and marks the commencement of its solid waste management project in partnership with the Waste Warriors Society in Barwala, Dharamshala. Unveiled on World Earth Day, the mural aims to raise awareness about the adverse effects of unregulated waste disposal, especially on fragile ecosystems such as the Himalayas, while also fostering a mindset of innovative waste upcycling. This prioritizes the importance of recycling and recovery of the plastic waste in the overall economy of plastics. Effective waste management is one of the most critical interventions that can help address the glaring issue of plastic pollution, especially in rural regions.

KRAFTON and ZeptoLab officially announce the launch of the game in India

Having chartered the top place since its soft launch earlier this month, KRAFTON India, in collaboration with ZeptoLab, has today announced the official launch of Bullet Echo India. This exciting top-down shooter mobile game is made especially for Indian gamers, offering an immersive experience with special features just for the Indian community. Bullet Echo India is a multiplayer PvP tactical top-down shooter game where players team up, strategise, and fight in action-packed battles to be the last team standing. Like a battle royale.



PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

Bigg Boss Telugu fame Rathika Rose, along with other fashion models, graced the inauguration of Sutraa Lifestyle Exhibition. The expo, which will end today, is being held at Hotel Taj Krishna in Banjara Hills.

Sruthi Chakravarthi, a software engineer, recently made waves in the world of beauty pageants by clinching the coveted title of Mrs. India 1st Runner-Up 2024. The prestigious event, presented by Bharat24 and organized by the Glaman and Group, unfolded in the picturesque city of Jaipur in Rajasthan.



Lanka Special Steels Limited (Lanka SSL) introduced its flagship international brands, "Lanka Special Steels Poultry 300" and "Lanka Special Steels Premium 100". These products target niche markets in India, particularly in the poultry and fencing sectors. During the opening of the Hyderabad office, S.D.R. Arudpragasam, Chairman of E.B. Creasy Group, emphasised on the global expansion for diversification.



The Telangana Poultry Breeders Association organised a press meet to share the issues on Maize supply by Telangana Government through MARKFED to the Poultry Farmers and Breeders of Telangana State.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



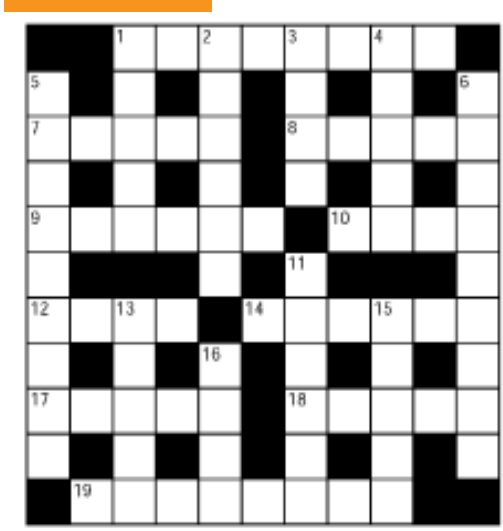
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

2	3	7	9	6	1	5	4	8
1	4	5	3	8	2	7	6	9
9	8	6	7	4	5	3	1	2
8	1	2	6	9	3	4	7	5
4	7	3	1	5	8	9	2	6
5	6	9	2	7	4	8	3	1
3	2	4	8	1	9	6	5	7
6	9	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
7	5	8	4	2	6	1	9	3

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

- Long pants
- Correct
- Untrue
- Someone who lives alone, keeping away from others
- Costing nothing
- Shortly
- Thief
- Lift up
- Think the same way
- Huge

DOWN

- A large wild cat
- Get
- Out of danger
- Draw a straight line with this
- A large group of musicians who play together
- Practised
- A root vegetable
- A smelly vegetable
- Destroys by fire
- Expensive



GINGER MEGGS





Sundeep Kishan, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina's film launched

Sundeep Kishan, basking in the success of *Ooru Peru Bhairavakona*, is all set to mark his milestone 30th film with director Thrinadha Rao Nakkina in a joint production by Ak Entertainments and Hasya Movies. The production house, known for consecutive hits like *Samajavaragamana* and *Ooru Peru Bhairavakona*, aims for a hat-trick with this upcoming project, billed as a wholesome family entertainer. Razes Danda will produce the film, with Balaji Gutta serving as the co-producer. The grand launch of *#SK30* took place on Tuesday amidst much fanfare. Renowned personalities from the industry graced the event, with Vijay Kanakamedala initiating the muhurtham ceremony by switching on the camera and Dil Raju sounding the clapboard for the first shot, directed by Anil Sunkara. Writer Prasanna Kumar Bezawada, a key collaborator in Thrinadha Rao Nakkina's successful journey, is onboard *#SK30* as the story, screenplay, and dialogue writer, promising another mark entertainer from the duo. The film will feature young and talented technicians, with Leon James composing the music, Nizar Shafi handling cinematography, and Brahma Kadali serving as the art director. Expect a unique characterisation for Sundeep Kishan in *#SK30*, different from his previous roles. Notably, veteran actor Rao Ramesh will play a crucial role in the film, which is set to commence shooting soon. The makers say that *#SK30* promises to be a significant milestone in Sundeep Kishan's illustrious career.

It's official! Bobby Deol onboard #NBK109

The much-anticipated film *#NBK109* has added another stellar talent to its roster with the welcoming of the versatile actor Bobby Deol. Known for his dynamic performances and impactful portrayals, his inclusion in the project promises to elevate the cinematic experience to new heights. While we have already informed you about the actor's inclusion in the cast, the makers made the announcement official on Tuesday, saying: "THE HUNTER ENTERS. Team *#NBK109* welcomes aboard the terrific actor *#BobbyDeol*."



#NBK109, which features the legendary actor Nandamuri Balakrishna in the lead role, has been generating significant buzz in the industry and among fans. Bobby's entry into the project adds to the excitement surrounding the film, hinting at an engaging narrative.

Director Boyapati Srinu, renowned for his gripping storytelling and high-octane action sequences, is at the helm of *#NBK109*, ensuring an adrenaline-packed cinematic journey for viewers. His collaboration with the accomplished team behind the film suggests a blend of powerful performances, captivating visuals, and immersive storytelling.

With him joining the ensemble cast, which includes seasoned actors and promising talents, *#NBK109* is poised to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impact. As production progresses and details about his role emerge, anticipation for this exciting venture continues to soar.

and compelling character dynamics, emerge, anticipation for this exciting venture continues to soar.

Kanguva added to the list of most expensive films in Indian cinema

The unveiling of the teaser for *Kanguva* by Studio Green and Suriya Sivakumar has set social media ablaze, garnering widespread attention and excitement. This highly anticipated film has captured the imagination of audiences nationwide with its captivating craft, visionary storytelling, and thrilling background score. The teaser offers a glimpse into the world of *Kanguva*, featuring superstar Suriya as the Mighty Warrior and Bobby Deol in an antagonist role, sparking immense anticipation for the film's release. What sets *Kanguva* apart as one of the year's most ambitious projects is its staggering budget, reportedly exceeding Rs 350 crore. This makes it one of the most expensive Indian films to date, underscoring the dedication and passion of its creators. Directed by Siva, *Kanguva* traverses two distinct eras - Pre-Historical and present-day -

showcasing a visual spectacle that promises to captivate audiences. The teaser's rich visuals, expansive cinematography, and grand scale highlight the meticulous craftsmanship behind the project.

unwavering support, elevating the film to Hollywood-level standards. *Kanguva* promises a raw and visceral visual experience, blending human emotions with never-before-seen action sequences.

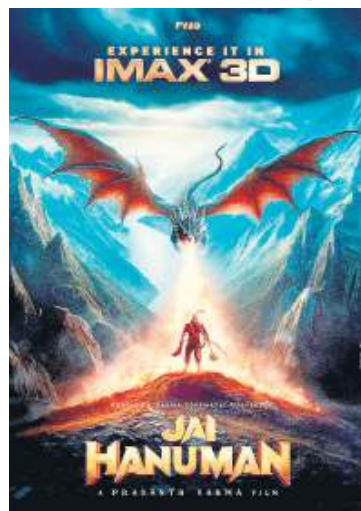


Cinematographer Vetri Palanisamy's work and the musical score by Devi Sri Prasad add depth and intensity to *Kanguva*, further enhancing its appeal. With top distribution partnerships in place, Studio Green is gearing up for a massive global release in the second half of 2024.

Studio Green, renowned for producing blockbuster hits like the *Singam* series and *Teddy*, has spared no effort in ensuring that *Kanguva* reaches global standards. Producer K.E. Gnanavel Raja's commitment to delivering high-quality cinema has solidified the film's reputation as a monumental cinematic endeavour. The teaser showcases director Siva's expansive vision, brought to life by Studio Green's

The teaser for *Kanguva* has set the stage for an epic cinematic journey, offering audiences a glimpse into a world filled with action, drama, and breathtaking visuals. As anticipation builds, fans eagerly await the film's release, which promises to redefine Indian cinema on a grand scale. The makers are eyeing a release date in the second half of this year.

New poster from Prasanth Varma's Jai Hanuman promises epic adventure



Celebrating Hanuman Jayanti, visionary director Prasanth Varma from the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe (PVCU) unveiled an exciting new poster for his upcoming film, *Jai Hanuman* on Tuesday. This epic adventure serves as a sequel to the Pan India sensation *Hanu-Man* and promises to elevate the cinematic experience to new heights.

The newly released poster showcases Lord Hanuman standing valiantly on a cliff, armed with a mace, ready to face a fiery dragon—a first-ever depiction of dragons on the Indian screen. Prasanth Varma's creative vision hints at an immersive experience with cutting-edge VFX and technical brilliance.

Jai Hanuman is set to captivate audiences in IMAX 3D, offering a larger-

than-life spectacle. The film's pre-production commenced on the historic day of the Ayodhya Ram Temple inauguration, underscoring its significance and scale.

Anticipation is high for this magnum opus, featuring a stellar cast and top craftsmen, as Prasanth Varma continues to push creative boundaries in Indian cinema.

As the team celebrated the 100-day milestone of *Hanu-Man* on Tuesday, fans eagerly awaited further details about the release and production of *Jai Hanuman*, promising an unforgettable adventure on the big screen.



Makers confident about Seetha Kalyana Vaibhoga success

The much-anticipated film *Seetha Kalyana Vaibhoga*, produced by Rachala Yugandhar under Dream Gate Productions and directed by Satish Paramaveda, is set to hit theaters on April 26. At the grand pre-release event, MLA G. Madhusudhan Reddy expressed confidence in the film's success. The event, graced by esteemed guests including Yaata Satyanarayana, Vijay Kanakamedala, and actor Ramana Reddy, saw enthusiastic participation from the film's cast and crew. Speaking at the event, MLA G. Madhusudhan Reddy shared his optimism, remarking, "As the title suggests, *Seetha Kalyana Vaibhoga* promises to be a feel-good film. I am hopeful that this movie will achieve great success and bring recognition to its talented lead actors. Producer Rachala Yugandhar, my friend, deserves to reap substantial profits from this venture. I extend my best wishes to the entire team for a successful release." Director Satish Paramaveda shed light on the film's narrative, drawing parallels with the

epic Ramayana and emphasising its relevance for contemporary audiences. "Ramayana imparts wisdom on life's journey. Through *Seetha Kalyana Vaibhoga*, I aim to portray the emotional struggles faced by women, delivering an informative yet engaging experience. This film will resonate with families, particularly those with daughters," stated Satish.



The film's leading actors, Suman Tej and Garima Chouhan, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work on such a meaningful project. Suman Tej lauded director Satish for his guidance and commended Garima

Chouhan for her portrayal of the pivotal role of Seetha. Among the other notable personalities who shared their insights were Vijay Kanakamedala, producer Satyanarayana, and musician Charan Arjun, who contributed to the film's music. *Seetha Kalyana Vaibhoga* promises to deliver a captivating narrative infused with traditional values, resonating with audiences across generations.

Prabhas donates Rs 35 lakh to Telugu Film Directors Association

Actor Prabhas has once again demonstrated his philanthropic spirit by donating Rs 35 lakh to the Telugu Film Directors Association Welfare Fund. This generous contribution was announced during the celebration of Director's Day at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad on May 4. Director Maruthi, speaking at the Director's Day event, unveiled Prabhas' substantial donation, which received resounding appreciation from association members present at the event. Addressing the gathering, Director Maruthi

emphasised the significance of unity within the association, urging members to stand together for mutual support and progress. Maruthi, currently engaged in the shooting of Prabhas' upcoming film *The Raja Saab*, highlighted Prabhas' consistent support and generosity towards industry causes.

Prabhas' latest donation reaffirms his reputation for benevolence and solidarity within the film fraternity. His financial aid to the Telugu Film Directors Association Welfare Fund will undoubtedly

facilitate essential welfare initiatives, benefiting directors and their families. The celebration of Director's Day served as an occasion to acknowledge Prabhas' charitable gesture and to inspire greater collaboration and camaraderie among industry professionals. Prabhas' contribution exemplifies the spirit of mutual support and community welfare prevalent within the Telugu film industry.



Sai Durgha Tej unveils Padamati Kondallo's first look poster

In an exciting announcement, actor Sai Durgha Tej revealed the first look poster of Sridevi Creations and Winvita Entertainments' upcoming film *Padamati Kondallo*, showcasing vibrant visuals and raw energy that hint at a compelling narrative. Directed by the visionary Naresh Penta, who also helms the film's music, it promises to push creative boundaries under the dynamic production of Jayakrishna Durugadda. The film boasts a talented ensemble cast led by the fiery Anuroop Katari,

portraying a role filled with intensity and conviction. Joining him are actors Yashasvi Srinivas, Sravya Reddy, Murali Krishnam Raju, and others. *Padamati Kondallo* is poised to be a unique cinematic experience, weaving together themes of passion, courage, and determination. As the project unfolds, expect more updates and insights into this exhilarating journey. The release of the first look poster marks an exciting step forward for *Padamati Kondallo*, setting the stage for what promises to be a captivating addition to the world of Telugu cinema.

STANDALONE:



The Telugu Film Directors Association has announced plans for an extravagant celebration of Director's Day on May 4, coinciding with the birth anniversary of renowned director Dasari Narayana Rao. The event, which will take place at Hyderabad's iconic LB Stadium, promises to be a star-studded affair, with participation from esteemed directors and industry members alike. During a curtain-raiser program held recently, details of the event were unveiled, including the official website and logo of the Director's Day celebration.

Prathinidhi 2 release postponed

The highly anticipated film *Prathinidhi 2*, featuring Nara Rohit in the lead role as a journalist, has announced a postponement of its release date. This sequel, which will take a brief pause before unveiling a new and exciting premiere date. The official handle for the film, assured fans that the delay is temporary and promised to reveal the updated release date soon. Despite this setback, enthusiasm remains high among movie enthusiasts eager to witness Rohit's performance in this captivating role. The decision to reschedule the release is likely driven by strategic considerations related to film distribution and market dynamics.

SEERAT TO SHAKE IN LEG IN VIJAYA BHASKAR'S USHA PARINAYAM

Seerat Kapoor is set to dazzle audiences with a special mass dance number in K. Vijaya Bhaskar's upcoming film *Usha Parinayam*, marking a significant milestone in her career. The talented actress, known for her exceptional dancing skills displayed in hits is gearing up to elevate the bar with this eagerly anticipated dance sequence. News of Seerat Kapoor's involvement in this special song has ignited excitement across social media platforms. A source from the film's set confirmed, "Seerat Kapoor is on board to shoot the biggest mass dance number of her career. After delivering impressive dance performances in previous films, Seerat is now set to showcase her talents in a song filled with catchy hook steps and a vibrant desi vibe." Director K. Vijaya Bhaskar personally selected Seerat for this special song, impressed by her dancing prowess. Rehearsals are currently underway, with the shoot scheduled for the coming week. *Usha Parinayam* promises to be a wholesome family entertainer, further enhancing the anticipation surrounding Seerat Kapoor's electrifying performance. The film marks the debut of Vijaya Bhaskar's son, Sree Kamal, in a leading role, alongside Tanvi Akaanksha as the female lead. The ensemble cast includes esteemed actors such as Vennela Kishore, Sivaji Raja, Aamani, Sudha, Anand Chakrapani, Rajitha, Balakrishna, Surya, and Madhumani, ensuring a captivating cinematic experience. Seerat Kapoor shared her excitement on social media with a rehearsal selfie, captioned "Rehearsal ready! Wish me luck." With expectations soaring and anticipation mounting, *Usha Parinayam* promises to deliver a spectacular cinematic extravaganza!



Hero Heroine to be shot in 35 diverse locations!

Pernera Arora's upcoming film, *Hero Heroine*, is set to commence shooting from 10th June in Hyderabad, marking an exciting new chapter in cinematic exploration. The entire production team and technicians have already arrived in Hyderabad and are actively engaged in location scouting. The film promises to showcase unusual and unexplored locations that will offer a fresh and captivating experience for audiences. Ramoji Film City, will play a pivotal role in the narrative, serving as a backdrop for key sequences. With a total of 35 diverse locations, including outdoor spots and real settings, *Hero Heroine* is set to capture the essence of various cultures. To authentically depict Bihar's ambiance, a dedicated set is being constructed within Ramoji Film City, where local dances will be recorded and choreographed. Adding to the film's creative flair, a fusion song blending modern and traditional dance styles is in development under

the supervision of Divya Khosla. The cinematography will be elevated using cutting-edge equipment such as Alexa LF and Sony Venice cameras paired with Signature Prime lenses, alongside advanced lighting setups like the Sky Panel X. To ensure authenticity and linguistic accuracy, the actors are undergoing rigorous language training in Telugu to master their dialogues. Additionally, an esteemed acting studio in Hyderabad will collaborate with the production, incorporating its students and professors into the project and serving as a workshop hub for actors.





Pant captaincy under lens as DC eye improved bowling effort against GT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant's leadership skills will be under scrutiny as a struggling Delhi Capitals would seek a much-improved performance from their bowlers when they take on an inconsistent Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Wednesday.

It was not an ideal homecoming for Pant as after two consecutive wins, DC slumped to a 67-run loss against a marauding Sunrisers Hyderabad at home on Saturday. The loss saw DC slip to the eighth position with three wins and five defeats. They very well know they can't afford to falter if they want to keep their play-off hopes alive.

Against SRH, Pant erred in his decisions a few times, starting from the toss as he misjudged the dew factor at the Arun Jaitley Stadium and decided to bowl first.

Pant's decision to hand the second over to Lalit Yadav, was even more contentious as SRH were off to a blazing start, scoring a record 125 for no loss in the powerplay. On the personal front, Pant wasn't

in his element as he struggled for timing en route a painstaking 44 off 35 balls while chasing a mammoth score.

To chase a target of 267, a team needs its openers to fire from ball one but Prithvi Shaw and David Warner haven't been too successful.

Young Jake Fraser-McGurk smashed 65 off just 18 balls to keep DC in the hunt but he lacked support from the other end, even though Abhishek Porel (42 off 22) tried his best.

DC bowlers were taken to the cleaners by SRH and they need to pull up their socks.

Left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed's, whose career has been dogged by inconsistency, decision to employ short stuff in the opening over completely backfired.

With short boundaries at the Kotla, DC bowlers need to pitch it up.

Pace spearhead Anrich Nortje has been completely off-colour this season and DC would be desperately hoping veteran Ishant Sharma returns after missing the last game due to a back spasm.



Kuldeep Yadav has been DC's best bowler in the season so far with 10 wickets from five games at an economy rate of 7.60. But he didn't have a very good outing against SRH.

Even though he had the highest number of dot balls (8) among DC bowlers, he also conceded the maximum numbers of sixes -- 7.

GT have also been equally inconsistent under new skipper Shubman Gill. But the three-wicket win over Punjab Kings in their last game has helped the former champions move up slightly in the pecking order at sixth spot from four wins and as many losses.

They would be hoping to continue the winning momentum to scale up the leaderboard and be in contention for a play-off berth.

The onus would be on Gill to lead from the front.

The likes of Sai Sudharsan, David Miller and Azmatullah Omarzai also need to let their willow do the talking while Rahul Tewatia would look to continue his pyrotechnics towards the end stage of their innings.

On the bowling front, the likes of veteran Mohit Sharma, Noor Ahmad and Rashid Khan will be expected to deliver the goods.

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, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Praveen Dubey, Khaleel Ahmed, Sumit Kumar, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk.

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Wriddhiman Saha, Sai Sudharsan, Shahrukh Khan, Matthew Wade, Kane Williamson, Azmatullah Omarzai, Abhinav Manohar, Rashid Khan, Vijay Shankar, Rahul Tewatia, Spencer Johnson, Kartik Tyagi, Joshua Little, Darshan Nalkande, Noor Ahmad, Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore, Mohit Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Umesh Yadav, Sushant Mishra, Sandeep Warrier, Sharath BR, Manav Suthar.



You need big heart when bowling at the death: Sandeep

PTI ■ JAIPUR

You have to have a big heart when bowling at the death while trying to execute your plans, insisted Rajasthan Royals medium pacer Sandeep Sharma after recording the ongoing IPL season's best bowling performance.

Bowling after a three-week injury layoff, the 30-year-old Sharma wreaked havoc in the Mumbai Indians camp with a splendid 5 for 18 on Monday.

"In this year's IPL, batters are going big and with the impact player rule, there is an extra batter so the games are high-scoring. You have to have a big heart while bowling at the death and try to execute your plans and bowl good balls," he

said after RR's nine-wicket win over MI.

Sharma, who started off as a new-ball exponent in the IPL, has been tasked to bowl the death overs by the Royals in the three games that he has played this season.

"Even today you ask me where I feel comfortable, I'll say it's with the new ball. With the old ball, you have to adapt and evolve as a bowler," he said.

Sharma returned to the RR playing XI after recuperating from a side strain that kept him out for close to a month.

"I was working hard towards my fitness for the last three weeks. I had two practice sessions before the game, my main focus was to execute the variations that I did tonight."



Against MI, Sharma's scalps included the dangerous Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, the big hitting Tim David, Ishan Kishan and Gerald Coetzee.

He took three wickets in the final over, restricting MI to 179 despite a 99-run stand between Varma and Nehal Wadhera.

"If you're bowling at the death, it can go both ways. Sometimes, you go for runs, and when you're lucky enough you end up getting a wicket. When we started, the wicket was low and slow. My plan was to keep bowling those cutters and it came off nicely tonight," he said.

MI OPTIMISTIC DESPITE LOSS TO RR: Mumbai Indians fell to their fifth loss of the season but young batter Nehal Wadhera remained optimistic about the five-time champions' chances of qualifying for the playoffs.

"MI need to win all their games from here and we need to tighten our socks. We need to raise our game and figure out where we have been going

wrong or where we have been going right so that we can rectify our mistakes whenever we return," Wadhera said after the match.

The 23-year-old, who smashed a splendid 24-ball 49, pointed out that MI aren't new to being involved in a mid-table muddle, having risen from the proverbial ashes time and again.

"We have been in such a situation in earlier seasons as well, and we have, you know, upped our game from there and qualified.

"So, we are optimistic even right now. We will continue the process we are following and win the games for the team. We win as a team, and we lose as a team," Wadhera added.

That door is now closed: Narine rules out T20 World Cup amid purple patch in IPL

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former West Indies bowling all-rounder Sunil Narine, who is having a terrific IPL season, won't be reversing his retirement decision for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA, insisting that the "door is now closed".

The 35-year-old last played for the West Indies in a T20 International in August 2019 before retiring from international cricket in November last year to focus on franchise T20 leagues around the world.

But owing to his sensational form with both bat and ball for Kolkata Knight Riders this IPL season, attempts were being made to convince Narine to reverse his decision for the T20 World Cup.

"I'm truly flattered and humbled that my performances recently have moved many people to publicly express their wish for me to come out of retirement and play in the upcoming T20 World Cup," Narine wrote in Instagram post.

He asserted that he has made peace with his decision and will be supporting the team from home. "I have made peace with that decision and

whilst I never wish to disappoint, that door is now closed and I will be supporting the guys who take the field in June for West Indies.

"Guys who have worked hard over the past few months and deserve to show our wonderful fans that they are capable of winning another title. I wish you all the best," he added.

Narine, who has been a key member of KKR since 2012, is seventh on the list of leading run-scorers in the ongoing IPL season, having scored 286 runs, including an unbeaten century against Rajasthan Royals last week -- his maiden T20 ton.

With the ball, the off-spinner is KKR's joint-leading wicket-taker with nine scalps at an average of 22.11 and an economy rate of 7.10.

Narine's purple patch has compelled West Indies captain Rovman Powell to encourage the spinner to come out of retirement for the home World Cup.

"For the last 12 months, I've been whispering in his ears, he's blocked out everyone. Asked (Kieron) Pollard, (Dwayne) Bravo, (Nicholas) Pooran, hopefully before they select the team, they can crack his code," Powell had said last week.

We have got a little bit of improving to do, both with bat and ball: Warner



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals opener David Warner has no qualms in admitting that the team is left with no option but to win all their remaining matches to stay in the reckoning for a play-off berth in the ongoing IPL.

Having lost five out of their eight matches, DC will be desperate to turn things

around when they take on Gujarat Titans here on Wednesday.

"We're not where we want to be for the team's sake. We'd like to win a few more games. But we've got to win the next remainder to obviously compete in the finals.

"So for us, it's about doing as best as we can. Hopefully, we can play each game like we did against Gujarat," Warner said

during a media interaction.

The seasoned campaigner from Australia added, "We've got a little bit of improving to do, both with bat and the ball. If we can minimise the totals, it would be great. And then if we bat first, try and put a big total on the board and defend it."

Warner further highlighted that DC have a dangerous bowling attack that bowled out GT for 89 in their first leg match.

"Cannot fault the way the guys are training and preparing. It's just sometimes in the games that the execution isn't there. And we know when we take wickets up front and early, we're a very dangerous bowling attack."

Asked about two youngsters in the team who have impressed him this season, Warner said, "Jake's (Jake Fraser-McGurk) been very good. We know he's always had the talent. Abhishek Porel has been outstanding as well.

"Abhishek wasn't even going to play in the first game, but we'd lost early wickets and then came in as an impact player.

"I think he had nine balls or something and he got 30-odd runs. That changed the game and then the other day as well, he played very well. He is going to be a very good player," he concluded.



Jaiswal batted with maturity against MI, played cricketing shots: Lara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Impressed with the maturity shown by Yashasvi Jaiswal, West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara said the youngster's knock against Mumbai Indians was well put together as he perfectly balanced taking his time with shots while still maintaining a high strike-rate.

Jaiswal ended a barren run by his lofty standards with his first ton of this IPL to power Rajasthan Royals to a nine-wicket win over MI here.

"Yeah, beautiful. But the fact of the matter is, he's taking his time, looking at the ball right from up at the back, and he's playing cricketing shots. He's got all the stuff, he doesn't have to worry about it," Lara said on Star Sports Cricket Live.

Jaiswal struck nine fours and seven sixes to make an unbeaten 104 from only 60 balls, a knock which was replete with powerful shots on the leg side and crispy drives.

"And when you do get on top of the bowlers, that's when you take it back, because that's what I love about Yashasvi.

"It was well put together, great cricketing shots, he's managed throughout the innings, and anyone knows, if you're chasing such a good total, at Jaipur and you bounce through the innings, you're soon as going to get there.

"So he's shown a lot of responsibility, a lot of maturity, and I'm very happy to have him back."

Medium pacer Sandeep Sharma starred with the ball of RR. He wreaked havoc in the MI camp with the ongoing IPL

season's best bowling performance -- 5 for 18.

"Very, very big impact, and also mentioned the fact that he went unsold a couple of years ago, and came in as a replacement player, and this man is cherishing every moment he has out in the middle."

Sharma had gone unsold at the auction two years ago. RR signed him as a replacement for Prasad Krishna and the 30-year-old is repaying the faith.

"Every cricketer in India wants to play in the IPL, and they want to play continuously, and that disappointment of not being selected in an IPL auction, he's now repaying Rajasthan Royals for their belief in him, he is a true professional."

"I've watched him over the years, he's not express-paced, he's not, you know, one of the boys that, you know, everyone talks about, but he gets the job done every time he goes out in the middle, and he's just that consummate professional that every team likes to have in their ranks," Lara said.

With the win, RR consolidated their top spot and inched closer to the playoffs and former Australia skipper Aaron Finch lauded Sanju Samson's leadership skill.

"He's leading the side unbelievably well, you can see how calm RR are when they're under pressure. And the only game they lost was when they had that meltdown against GT right at the back end of the game, so they've been so clinical right throughout this IPL and a lot of credit has to go to Sanju for that," Finch said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Once we got Hasaranga that meant we could not go for Yuzi: Mike Hesson

Letting go of Yuzvendra Chahal is something Royal Challengers Bengaluru could regret for the longest time and the franchise's former director of cricket, Mike Hesson on Tuesday insisted they failed to retain the leg-spinner due to a miscalculation at the last IPL auction.

On Monday, Chahal scripted history by becoming the first player in IPL to have taken 200 wickets.

"Yuzi is one I will be frustrated with until I have finished my career and probably beyond. He is an outstanding bowler. I guess when it comes to every cycle, you have got to decide who you are going to retain.

"It was one of those things where if you only retain three players, you give yourself an extra 4 crore in the auction. That potentially gave us the chance to get both Harshal and Yuzi," Hesson told former India batter Robin Uthappa on Jio Cinema. Hesson said Chahal's name came pretty late in the auction and by that



time, the franchise had already bought ace Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga.

"... Then the order of the auction came up and Yuzvendra Chahal was at no. 65. Because we had retained that many players we were going to get bullied. After Yuzi there was no other spinner we were interested in. "We were obviously interested in Hasaranga as another option if we did not get Yuzi. So we bid for him upfront and then once we got Hasaranga that meant we could not go for Yuzi," he added.

In 153 matches, Chahal has taken 200 wickets at an average of 21.60, with the best figures of 5/40. He has taken six four-wicket hauls and a five-wicket haul in his IPL career.

Chahal reached the milestone during the match against

Mumbai Indians in Jaipur on Monday. Hesson served as the franchise's director of cricket from 2019-2023.

Meanwhile, former Australia pacer Brett Lee praised RR seamer Sandeep Sharma for returning excellent figures of 5/18 against MI and said picking a five-for in a T20 match is equivalent to scoring 120 runs with the bat.

"They say a 4-fer is worth 100 runs in a T20, so a 5-fer for a bowler is definitely worth 120 for a batter, it's quality bowling... To pick up 5/18 in his comeback game, just makes you feel like you are part of the team again. "It will do a lot for his confidence. You can see in the list of TATA IPL 2024's best figures and he's sitting pretty on it."

Lee on lavished praise on Chahal for picking his 200th IPL wicket.

"What a very special moment. You think about all the hard work. A great way to bring in your 200th dismissal in the TATA IPL, a catch off your own bowling, very special, well done. I have a feeling, gentleman, there's many more to come," Lee said.