

QUOTE OF THE DAY
 the pioneer

"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


P4

Strong ASEAN can play vital role in Indo-Pacific



5

RELIANCE UNDERLINES ITS COMMITMENT TO VIKASIT BHARAT



8

Hero Heroine to be shot in 35 diverse LOCATIONS!



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DON'T MISS...
CEO writes to EC to take ...

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Kumar Meena has recommended to the Central Election Commission (CEC) for action against Chandrababu Naidu. Earlier, the YSRCP leaders filed complaints with the CEO many times against Chandrababu Naidu stating that the Opposition leader had been time and again making inappropriate comments on CM Jagan Mohan Reddy at public meetings in the ...

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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 ...

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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...

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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



Naidu promises 10L interest-free loans

Says TDP-led NDA in AP committed to 3 free LPG cylinders & 'Super Six' prog

PNS ■ GAJAPATHINAGARAM

TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday promised to ensure equal importance for women along with men in all legislative bodies once the TDP-led NDA forms the government in the State following the ongoing elections. During an interaction with women in Gajapathinagaram of Vizianagaram district, Naidu also committed to providing Rs 10 lakh interest-free loans for all DWCR groups. Criticising Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for his alleged failure to address basic needs such as clean drinking water, Naidu

accused him of prioritising the doorstep delivery of alcohol and drugs instead. Naidu emphasised that the State's progress hinges on removing CM Jagan from power and asserted that the TDP is the key to creating lasting assets and fostering development across all sectors.

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Repeal of Land Titling Act promised

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Jagan terms Oppn '420 Gang'

Asserts his govt's welfare schemes helped everyone's dreams take wings

- Jagan highlighted the government's implementation of over 40 schemes tailored to the aspirations of the underprivileged.
- Chief Minister underscored the significance of the upcoming elections beyond mere political representation.
- Jagan contrasted his proactive approach with the lack of initiatives under the previous regime.



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 during their tenure. Now, they seek to thwart the progress supported by the YSRCP govern-

ment," 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'.

Continued on Page 2

Intelligence DG, V'wada CP transferred

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Election Commission has transferred two more senior IPS officers in the State. The EC issued transferring orders on Tuesday transferring Intelligence DG PSR Anjaneyulu and Vijayawada Commissioner of Police Kanti Rana Tata. In the orders, the EC has mentioned that the two officers should be given posting orders which are not related to the election activities. It is also suggested that two new officers should be immediately appointed in their place.



SEC well-equipped to ensure free and fair polls

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AP student dies in Kyrgyzstan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic incident, a Telugu student hailing from Andhra Pradesh died in an accident at a waterfall in Kyrgyzstan. Dasari Chandu (20), a resident of Anakapalli district, lost his life after encountering snow-related mishaps at the waterfall. Following the conclusion of his examinations at the university where he was pursuing his medical studies, Chandu embarked on a trip to a waterfall on Sunday accompanied by fellow university mates. Despite the caution exercised by Chandu and his friends from Andhra Pradesh, he got trapped in the snow, leading to his death. A native of Madugula village in Anakapalli district, Chandu was the second son of Bhima Raju, a local entrepreneur. Having ventured to Kyrgyzstan a year before to pursue his MBBS degree, Chandu's dreams were abruptly cut short by this tragic incident.



No relief yet again

Court extends judicial custody of Kejri, Kavitha

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 Kavari 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.

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215% rise in PK's assets

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. **COMPLAINT TO EC** 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.

Continued on Page 2

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,

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.

Silver prices dive by Rs 2,300



KCR predicts YS Jagan's victory in AP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtira Samithi chief and former TG chief minister K Chandrashekar 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 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."

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."



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Visakhapatnam East to witness a nail-biting showdown

YSRCP's MVV Satyanarayana challenges TDP's dominance

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In what promises to be a nail-biting electoral showdown, the Visakhapatnam East constituency is set for a clash between two formidable political heavyweights. The looming question on the minds of pollsters and citizens alike is whether the ruling YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) MVV Satyanarayana can shatter the winning streak of the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) Velagapudi Rama Krishna.

Velagapudi, a seasoned politician and a three-time victor representing the opposition party, boasts an impressive record of clinching victories in 2009, 2014, and 2019 in the Visakhapatnam East constituency. His stronghold over the area is undeniable, having consistently secured the trust of the electorate. The Vizag East seat holds particular significance as it was among the assembly constituencies won by the TDP in the 2019 elections, during which the YSRCP swept through other parts of Andhra Pradesh.



YSRCP's candidate M.V.V. Satyanarayana, a prominent film producer with substantial assets, presents a formidable challenge to Velagapudi. Satyanarayana, who previously emerged victorious in the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha constituency, now aims to replicate his success at the assembly level.

Pradesh. However, the ruling YSRCP has been making strategic moves to penetrate the constituency, especially among the backward classes, by appointing leaders from the Yadava community to prominent positions.

Yet, recent developments have added twists to the electoral narrative. Akkaramani Vijaya Nirmala, one of the Yadava community leaders appointed to a key position, has defected from the YSRCP to join the TDP, potentially shifting the dynamics of support in Bheemili, Gajuwaka, and Visakhapatnam East and South constituencies. Adding further complexity, Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, who had previously contested against Velagapudi Rama Krishna and lost, has now aligned himself with the Jana Sena party, a member of the NDA alliance, throwing his support behind Velagapudi in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, YSRCP's candidate M.V.V. Satyanarayana, a prominent film producer with substantial assets, presents a formidable challenge to Velagapudi. Satyanarayana, who previously emerged victorious in the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha constituency, now aims to replicate his success at the assembly level.

Jagan: YSRCP opposed to VSP privatisation

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Chief Minister Jagan of Andhra Pradesh reiterated the staunch opposition of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) to the privatisation of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP).

Speaking before the commencement of the 'Memantha Siddham' bus yatra, CM affirmed that his government has consistently pressured the Union government against privatisation, standing firmly in support of the plant workers. Leaders of the Visakhapatnam Steel Protection Committee met with CM Jagan at his camp office in Yendada, where he reaffirmed the government's unyielding stance. CM Jagan emphasized that it was the YSRCP government that initially championed the cause of the steel plant workers, being the first to voice concerns to Prime Minister Modi and passing a resolution in the assembly against privatization.

SEC well-equipped to ensure free and fair polls

Command Control Room plays vital role in monitoring the situation

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State Election Commission is maintaining constant vigil through the Integrated Command Control Centre (CCC) to ensure the upcoming general elections on May 13 are conducted with integrity, fairness, and impartiality, free from any illegal practices such as voter coercion. The CCC facility, located at the State Chief Electoral Officer's office, is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for seamless connectivity, enabling strict monitoring and control of violations, liquor smuggling, and seizures.

Of the 424 checkpoints situated across inter-state borders and within the state, monitoring of vehicle movement is active at approximately 358 checkpoints (84.4%) via web-casting from the CCC centre. As a result, assets including cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals,



Since the announcement of the election schedule, assets worth over Rs 141 crore have been seized statewide, marking nearly twice the value of assets confiscated during the 2019 elections, setting a new record in the state's electoral history.

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena leads efforts to ensure effective performance, with a focus on real-time monitoring of news broadcasts, prompt action against negative coverage, and strict adherence to the electoral code of conduct at all levels.

and other items valued at over Rs 141 crore have been confiscated statewide since the announcement of the election

schedule. This marks nearly twice the value of illicit assets seized during the 2019 elections, setting a record in the state's

electoral history. Stringent measures have been implemented to curb the unlawful transportation of liquor, aiming to prevent any undue influence on voters. Surveillance via web cameras at liquor factory godown entry and exit points, along with GPS tracking of vehicles transporting liquor to warehouses, shops, bars, or other establishments, is conducted from the CCC.

The movement of flying squad teams, approximately 1,680 vehicles operated by sectoral officers, and DGT vehicles used for EVM transportation are monitored via GPS tracking from the centre, ensuring strict adherence to the code of conduct at the ground level. Special attention is given to news broadcasts on popular Telugu electronic channels, with immediate action taken against any negative election coverage.

Repeal of Land Titling Act promised

PNS ■ PATHAPATNAM

TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu said that if the Land Titling Act comes into force the people have no security on their lands and promised to rescind the legislation immediately after the TDP-led NDA comes to power.

Addressing a public meeting at Pathapatnam, Naidu promised to complete the remaining works of the Polavaram project with the cooperation of the Centre. He assured the government employees of setting up a better Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and clearing all the pending dues to them.

He promised to control the prices of all products immediately after coming back to power and said that the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) would be strengthened to get better benefits and facilities for all the Girijans in the State.

He promised to come to the rescue of the Vamsadhara displaced and clarified that the alliance is only for the welfare and benefit of the State and termed the Jana Sena chief, Pawan Kalyan, as a real hero even in real life. He is confident that the BJP is coming back to power at the Centre and made it clear that the alliance is for the benefit of employment for



the youth, for the security of women and the welfare of the farming community.

The majority of the daily-wage labourers are from the Srikakulam district, he said and stated that Srikakulam Colonies exist even in cities like Hyderabad, New Delhi and Vijayawada. "The immediate need is to employ in the district to check these migrations. If proper education is provided to the youth this is possible and they will get employment in this area itself," he said. Maintaining that the suicides of farmers have risen alarmingly in the past three to four years, Naidu said this is because the farming sector is hit hard in the YSRCP rule. "Immediately after we come to power Minimum Support Price (MSP) will be provided for all the farm products and crop insurance will be implemented," he stated.

Voter awareness meet galvanises civic engagement

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a concerted effort to bolster civic engagement and fortify democratic principles, the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), in collaboration with the Press Information Bureau and CBC Andhra Pradesh, organized a highly successful voter awareness conference at Government Visakha Mahila Degree College. The event, which centred on the systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Program (SVEEP), witnessed

significant participation from citizens and dignitaries alike, all advocating for active electoral involvement.

Chief guest Rajinder Chaudhary, Additional Director General (Andhra Pradesh) of PIB, delivered a stirring address, emphasizing the fundamental importance of civic engagement in bolstering India's democratic ethos. Chaudhary's impassioned plea resonated with attendees as he urged all eligible individuals to register as voters and exercise

their democratic prerogative, highlighting the pivotal role of initiatives like SVEEP, spearheaded by the Central Election Commission.

In line with efforts to bolster voter registration, K. Rama Rao, SVEEP District Nodal Officer and Deputy Director of the District Social Welfare Department shed light on ongoing campaigns aimed at fostering voter awareness across the district. Rao stressed the imperative for every eligible citizen to enroll as a voter,

reiterating the collective responsibility to uphold the democratic fabric through active participation.

Amidst discussions on amplifying voter turnout, CBC Assistant Director Shafi Mohammed underscored the crucial role of youth in enhancing electoral engagement. Mohammed urged young citizens to champion democratic values and elect accountable governance, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to elevate voting percentages.



Campaign intensifies amid defections galore to YSRCP

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

With the general election in Andhra Pradesh looming ever closer, political parties are intensifying their campaign efforts amidst a landscape reshaped by a flurry of candidate migrations across party lines. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, leading the charge for the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), has launched the Memantha Siddham Bus Yatra, extending invitations to leaders from rival parties to join the YCP ranks.

In a significant development during CM Jagan's stay at the MVV City Condominium complex in Yendada, several leaders from various parties formally joined the YSRCP alliance. Notable

among them are former Mayor Pulusu Janarthana Rao, 65th Ward President VS Prakash Rao, Upadhyaya Kshudu Karri Govind, Karya Darshi Gollapally Govind, Varaprasada Reddy, and Sampath Kumar from the TDP.

Addressing the newly joined members from the BJP, TDP, and Jana Sena Party, CM Jagan urged them to dedicate themselves to ensuring the party's victory in the upcoming election. The youth wing leader ANR extended a warm welcome to the new members, encouraging them to actively contribute to the party's mission. The event witnessed the participation of YCP Gajuwaka MLA candidate Gudivada Amarnath and several other YCP leaders.

Rain likely in north Andhra

PNS ■ GUNTUR

A cyclonic circulation has formed over south interior Karnataka and its neighbouring regions, influencing the weather pattern.

In Andhra Pradesh, the lower troposphere is dominated by North Easterly/South Easterly winds.

Over the next three days, light to moderate rainfall is likely at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra



Pradesh. Meanwhile, isolated areas in Rayalaseema may experience heatwave conditions over the next five days, with similar conditions anticipated in South Coastal

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
VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 37°C
Humidity: 32%
Sunrise: 5:55 AM
Sunset: 6:34 PM
Updated: April 23, 2024 5:00 PM

Jagan terms Oppn...

Continued from page 1

He labelled the opposition coalition in Andhra Pradesh as the 'Chandra mukhi 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. Enumerating women's welfare schemes like Asara, YSR Zero Interest Scheme, YSR Cheyutha, Kapu Nestham, and EBC Nestham, CM Jagan contrasted them with the

absence of such initiatives during Chandrababu's tenure.

Providing insights into infrastructure development, CM Jagan outlined achievements including the allocation of house titles to 31 lakh women beneficiaries, the construction of 21 lakh houses, the establishment of medical colleges, ports, fishing harbours, village ward secretariats, clinics, Rythu Bharosa Kendras, industrial corridors, and nodes, with investments exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore.

CM Jagan also criticized Chandrababu Naidu's unfulfilled promises, particularly regarding farm loan waivers and the retrieval of farmers' pledged gold, highlighting the disparity between rhetoric and action.

215% rise in PK's...

Continued from page 1

In addition to these issues, Pawan Kalyan faces a considerable debt of Rs 65.76 crore, juxtaposing his financial prosperity with significant liabilities. Furthermore, his income for the fiscal year 2022-23 experienced a notable decline from the previous year, suggesting potential fluctuations in his financial status.

Despite his burgeoning assets, Pawan Kalyan's political journey has been marked by challenges, including eight criminal cases primarily related to provocative speeches. His previous electoral attempts in 2019 yielded no success, with defeats in

both Assembly seats he contested. These hurdles underscore the complexities of navigating the intersection between fame, wealth, and political aspirations.

Amid the nomination process, instances of opposition alliance members violating election protocols, such as the 100-m rule at the Returning Officer's office, further highlight the contentious nature of electoral campaigns. The altercation involving activists breaching the office adds to the charged atmosphere surrounding Pawan Kalyan's candidature, reflecting broader tensions within the political landscape.

Naidu promises...

Continued from page 1

Expressing satisfaction with the enthusiastic response women in Gajapathina garam, Naidu asserted that women's empowerment is a core value of the TDP. He urged them to elect Kaliseti Appala Naidu for the Lok Sabha seat and Konpalli Srinivas as the NDA candidate for the Assembly by a significant margin.

Highlighting the DWCRA system's role in empowering women economically, Naidu vowed to reinforce the program upon returning to power. Recalling various schemes introduced during the TDP's tenure, Naidu envisioned a future where women enjoy equal representation alongside men in legislative bodies.

Lamenting the steep rise in commodity prices since CM Jagan assumed office, Naidu blamed him for incidents like the sale of counterfeit liquor leading to the loss of lives, including those of women. He decried the increase in crimes against women during the past five years under the current administration.

Assuring the implementation of promises like providing three free cooking gas cylinders per household, Naidu reiterated his commitment to uplift women through initiatives like the 'Super-Six' programme. He said that the TDP-led NDA government would focus on creating assets and generating employment opportunities for the youth over the next five years.

No relief yet...

Continued from page 1

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-scraped Delhi excise policy 2021-22, while the ED is investigating the money laundering aspect

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Will Kodali make it for 5th time?

Meka Rangaiah Appa Rao is the only politician to win MLA seat 5 times in Krishna



DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
■ VIJAYAWADA

Historically, the Krishna district has witnessed remarkable electoral feats, notably the late former MLA from Nuzvid, Meka Rangaiah Appa Rao, who secured an unprecedented five consecutive wins, establishing a significant milestone in the region's political landscape. However, since then, no sitting MLA has managed to replicate such a feat in the erstwhile Krishna district.

In the upcoming general elections, the spotlight is on the sitting MLA and YSRCP candidate Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao, popularly known as Nani, who is vying for his fifth consecutive victory from the Gudivada constituency. His bid to secure a fifth consecutive win has stirred discussions, as no leader in recent memory has achieved this milestone in Krishna district politics.

The late Meka Rangaiah Appa Rao's historic five consecutive wins from the Nuzvid Assembly segment, spanning elections from 1952 to 1972, remain unparalleled in the annals of Krishna district's political history. While several leaders have clinched four consecutive victories, the elusive fifth win has remained out of reach.

Kodali Nani's electoral journey has been impressive, securing victories in the last four elections from the Gudivada constituency. Initially elected twice on the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ticket in 2004 and 2009, he later switched allegiance to the YSRCP, winning in 2014 and 2019 under its banner.

As the senior MLA in the district gears up for another electoral battle, attention is drawn to the challenge posed by TDP's Venigandla Ramu. The historical precedent in Krishna district, where leaders have faltered in securing a fifth consecutive win, adds intrigue to the upcoming contest.

Former Minister Chanumolu Venkata Rao's five-time representation of the Mylavaram constituency, albeit with intermittent victories, underscores the rarity of consecutive triumphs in the region. Similarly, the electoral trajectories of former ministers Devineni Nehru and Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, though illustrious, fell short of the elusive fifth consecutive win.

The impending election in the Gudivada segment has become a focal point, with speculations rife about Kodali Nani's chances of breaking the long-standing political sentiment by securing his fifth consecutive victory. The outcome of this contest will undoubtedly shape the political landscape of Krishna district.

65 nominations filed in NTR, Krishna districts on Day 5

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The fervour surrounding the filing of nominations for the Parliamentary Constituencies (PC) and Assembly constituencies (AC) in the NTR and Krishna districts escalated on the fifth day. A total of 65 nominations were submitted for the Vijayawada and Machilipatnam Lok Sabha segments, along with the other 14 assembly constituencies in these districts on Tuesday.



Gudivada TDP candidate Venigandla Ramu submitting his nomination papers to the Returning Officer on Tuesday.

Notably, there were no nominations filed for the Vijayawada Lok Sabha, while seven sets of nominations were filed for the Machilipatnam LS.



On behalf of JSP Machilipatnam Lok Sabha candidate Vallabhaneni Balashowry, his son Anudeep submitting the nomination papers to the RO and Collector DK Balaji in Machilipatnam on Tuesday.

Dr S Dilli Rao, the Returning Officer and Collector for the Vijayawada Lok Sabha segment disclosed that 27 nominations were filed for the seven assembly constituencies in the district. Among these, five candidates submitted their nomination papers for the Vijayawada West assembly constituency, including YSRCP's candidate Shaik Asif who filed two sets of nominations.



Jai Bharat National Party Vijayawada-West candidate Pothina Venkata Rama Rao filing the papers at the RO office at the Tahsiladar's Office at Bhavanipuram in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Other candidates who filed nominations include Pothina Venkata Rama Rao from the Jai Bharat Party, M Bhushan Raju from BSP, N Sai Babu from Navaranga Congress Party, and Shaik Kaza Vali from the Indian Muslim League, each filing one set of nominations.

Further, four nominations were filed for the Vijayawada East, and three for the Mylavaram assembly constituency. Meanwhile, two candidates filed nominations for the Tiruvuru segment, with YSRCP's Nallagatla Sudharani being one of them. Seven candidates submitted their nominations for the Jaggayyapet assembly constituency.

Moreover, five nominations were submitted for the Vijayawada Central assembly constituency, with notable entries including TDP's Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao and his wife Bonda Sujatha. TDP candidate Tangirala Sowmya filed another set of nomination papers for TDP Nandigama.

In the Krishna district, Jana Sena Party (JSP) candidate and sitting MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry submitted nomination papers before the Returning Officer and Collector DK Balaji. Balashowry's son Vallabhaneni Anudeep submitted two sets of nomination papers on his behalf. Additionally, four other candidates filed five sets of nomination papers before the RO.

Seven nominations were filed for the Gannavaram assembly constituency, including entries from CPM candidates Kallam Venkateswara Rao and Tellakula Venkata Lakshmana Swamy. Furthermore, single nominations were filed for the Pedana, Pamarru, and Penamaluru assembly segments.

In the Gudivada segment, TDP's Venigandla Ramu submitted nomination papers. Additionally, seven sets of nominations were filed for the Machilipatnam assembly constituency, with YSRCP candidate Perni Vaka Sai Krishna Murthy submitting three sets of papers. Three candidates also filed their nominations for the Avanigadda assembly constituency.

Sunkara Padmasree refuses to contest Assembly poll

Cong leader says party leadership finalised her name for Vijayawada East without her knowledge

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) working president Sunkara Padmasree has refused the party's offer to contest to the Assembly from Vijayawada East. However, she desires to contest from the Vijayawada Lok Sabha constituency. In the recent announcement by the All India Congress Committee (AICC)'s Central Election Commission (CEC), she was the candidate for Vijayawada East.

that she has decided to work for the victory of the party candidate.

She said that due to various reasons, the Congress party did not consider her name for the Vijayawada Lok Sabha constituency. The party has finalised Valluru Bhargav as the candidate for Vijayawada Lok Sabha seat, she added.



"Without my knowledge, the Congress leadership finalised my name for Vijayawada East. I have no intention of contesting as an MLA candidate. However, I had expressed interest in contesting from the Vijayawada Lok Sabha segment," she said.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, Sunkara Padmasree said that the AICC leadership announced her name for Vijayawada East without approaching her. She clarified that she has no interest in contesting as an MLA candidate. However, she said

Yarlagadda to file papers today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In response to a direction from the Returning Officer (RO) and Krishna district Joint Collector, Geethanjali Sharma, TDP candidate for the Gannavaram assembly constituency, Yarlagadda Venkata Rao, has rescheduled the submission of his nomination papers. Rao will now present his nomination papers at the RO office in Gannavaram on April 24.

Originally slated to file his nomination on April 25 as per the pre-arranged schedule, Yarlagadda Venkata Rao's plans were altered due to an overlapping request from the incumbent MLA and YSRCP candidate, Dr Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan, who also sought per-

mission to file his nomination on the same day. Responding to this situation, RO Geethanjali Sharma proposed a change in dates for both candidates.

In light of this development, TDP candidate Yarlagadda Venkata Rao addressed the media in Gannavaram on Tuesday, announcing his intention to submit his nomination papers before RO Geethanjali Sharma on April 24.

Additionally, he declared plans for a sizable rally in the Gannavaram assembly constituency ahead of the nomination filing. Expressing his perspective, Rao acknowledged that while he had initially applied for nomination submission on April 25,

the simultaneous request from MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan led to the RO's apprehensions regarding potential law and order issues arising from concurrent rallies by both candidates.

Furthermore, Gannavaram's Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jai Surya, engaged in discussions regarding the nomination filing scheduled for April 25. Surya highlighted the challenges posed by simultaneous rallies and urged the RO Geethanjali Sharma to consider advancing the date to April 24.

He called upon party leaders and candidates to actively participate and ensure the success of Rao's nomination program on the revised date.

Krishna, NTR dists excel in SSC results

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna and NTR districts have excelled in the results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Public Examinations held in March. Both districts have improved their Class 10 pass rate by around 15 per cent. School Education Department Commissioner S Suresh Kumar and SSC Board Director D Devananda Reddy released the results in Vijayawada on Monday.

Krishna district recorded a pass percentage was 90.05 per cent while NTR district registered 88.76 per cent pass. These two districts stood in 11th and 13th positions, respectively.

As many as 21,169 candidates appeared for the SSC Public Exams held in March, of which 19,011 students passed. Meanwhile, 27,899 students appeared for the Class 10 public exams, of whom 24,763 passed. Of them, 12,420 were boys and 12,343 were girl students. The pass percentage is 88.76.

After releasing the SSC results, Krishna District Educational Officer (DEO) Tahera Sultana met District Collector DK Balaji. He appreciated the Education Department's effort in increasing the pass percentage.

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DC urges citizens to exercise their franchise

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector and election officer Dr A. Mallikarjuna has emphasised the significant power bestowed upon citizens by the Constitution through their right to vote, likening it to a potent weapon for safeguarding democracy. In a message broadcasted via All India Radio, he urged all eligible voters to fulfil their civic duty by participating in the election festivities scheduled for May 13.

Addressing various aspects of voter awareness, Dr. Mallikarjuna stressed the importance of understanding the nuances of voting, including the home voting system and facilities available at polling stations. He highlighted the necessity for the younger demographic, particularly those in the age bracket of 18-19, to actively engage in the electoral process, asserting that their participation is pivotal in shaping the democratic landscape.

With approximately 60,000 first-time voters set to exercise their franchise in the district, Dr Mallikarjuna underscored the importance of youth enthusiasm. He reassured the public of robust arrangements at the 1,991 polling stations, with special provisions for the elderly and differently-abled individuals, including separate queue lines and home voting facilities.

Furthermore, the District Collector elaborated on the meticulous preparations made to ensure voter comfort, especially amidst the summer season, with provisions such as shami-anas, drinking water, and medical assistance at polling centres. Stringent enforcement of the election code was emphasised, with actions taken against violations and arrangements made for emergency service workers to vote through postal ballots.

Dr. Mallikarjuna elucidated the diverse acceptable forms of identification for voting, emphasising the accessibility of voting rights to all eligible individuals, even in the absence of an EPIC card. Voter information slips will be distributed five days prior to polling day to facilitate a smooth voting process. The Collector appealed for maximum voter turnout, aiming to surpass the previous election's 67 per cent polling rate. He urged citizens to perceive their vote as a crucial instrument in upholding democracy, alongside other pillars such as the judiciary and media.

Dr. Mallikarjuna also mentioned the importance of voter education in English medium. He said that if poor students are being given laptops, the opposition is spreading false propaganda. He said that it is understood from the results that SC/ST/Minority children who have studied in Gurukul schools are progressing well in education. He recalled that earlier the TDP had provided only Rs 15 lakh under the foreign education scheme but Jagan's government is providing abroad education in the top 200 universities across the world regardless of the cost and the opposition pro media is hell-bent to false propaganda, pointed out Kishore Babu.

The opposition pro media was intentionally spreading lies against the YSRCP and CM Jagan, he said adding people like Chandrababu, Lokesh, Pawan Kalyan, and Purandeshwari are creating confusion among the people through false propaganda during public meetings.

He said that the people have already decided to give a big win to Jagan Mohan Reddy and see as the Chief Minister again. The leaders of the respective parties should recognize the truth and act accordingly.

YSRCP is a pro-poor party: Ravela

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and YSRCP leader Ravela Kishore Babu said that only Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has paved the way for the poor and weaker sections to a higher level in society and made them stand on their own feet.

Speaking to the media at the Tadepalli party central office, Kishore Babu said that the slogan of Na SC, Na ST, Na BC, Na Minority by CM Jagan has touched the hearts of the people. So far, Telugu Desam and other parties have seen these poor and weaker sections only as a vote bank. YS Jagan's government is pro-poor and has stood by Dalits and the down-trodden communities, and asked people to stand by CM Jagan. He said that Ambedkar's dreams can be fulfilled only with CM Jagan and said that if the people who have got better benefits through these welfare schemes and are on the path of development are standing by CM Jagan.

He said that the people have already decided to give a big win to Jagan Mohan Reddy and see as the Chief Minister again. The leaders of the respective parties should recognize the truth and act accordingly.

Kishore Babu said that government schools are transformed on par with corporate institutions and impart quality education in English medium. He said that if poor students are being given laptops, the opposition is spreading false propaganda. He said that it is understood from the results that SC/ST/Minority children who have studied in Gurukul schools are progressing well in education. He recalled that earlier the TDP had provided only Rs 15 lakh under the foreign education scheme but Jagan's government is providing abroad education in the top 200 universities across the world regardless of the cost and the opposition pro media is hell-bent to false propaganda, pointed out Kishore Babu.

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NAREDCO elects new executive committee

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

G Haribabu, national president of the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), said that NAREDCO acts as a bridge between the real estate industry and the government. He said that the aim is to create an environment that promotes the growth of the real estate sector. The swearing-in ceremony of the new executive committee of the Central Zone of NAREDCO was at Vijayawada on Monday. Lakshmi Group CEO Sandeep Mandava has taken charge of the 20-member executive committee.



On this occasion, Haribabu said that NAREDCO is trying to reduce the gap between the industry and the government through advisory and consultation processes. He said that NAREDCO plays an active role in designing key policies and reforms affecting the sector through coordination and cooperation among the members of the real estate sector.

NAREDCO State president G Chakradhar said that there is a need to coordinate more with the respective governments to solve the problems faced by the real estate sector. General secretary Sitaramaiah said that if the real estate sector is to develop, the Central and State governments have to simplify the rules.

Sandeep Mandava, who took charge as the new president of the Central Zone of NAREDCO, said that necessary steps will be taken to strengthen the sector. It has been revealed that the real estate sector means creating wealth for the society and they will coordinate to change the attitude of the governments. NAREDCO will try to progress with the coordination of the Central and State governments.

M. Rambabu and Sarath Kumar have been elected as executive vice-presidents, Sadineni Venkata Ramana as general secretary, Potla Venkata Krishna as treasurer, G Hariprasada Reddy as executive secretary, M Ganesh Kumar and Ch Venkateshwarlu as vice-presidents, P Rajakumar and Ratna Kumar as secretaries.

Srinivasa Rao, Srinivas Mehr, Suresh, Srinivas, Krishna Kishore, Venu Madhav, Chaitanya, Viswanath, Malleswara Rao and VV Reddy took oath as executive members. NAREDCO State secretary Kiran Paruchuri, election officer Koneru Raja Shekhar and others participated in the programme. Gadde Rajalingam will be the honorary chairman of NAREDCO Central Zone.

Summer spl yoga camp begins

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao inaugurated a summer special yoga camp organised by the Amaravati Yoga and Aerobics Association at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada on Monday.



NTR District Collector Dr Dilli Rao performing yogasana at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada.

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 enjoying 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



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M D RATNA KUMAR Senior Journalist

(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

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 millionaire 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 his 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!

SST teams should play a vital role in polls: SP

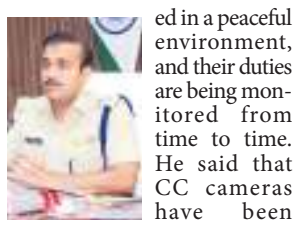
PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal has asked the Static Surveillance (SST) teams to play a vital role in peacefully conducting elections and intensifying vehicle checks.

The SP held a video conference with the SST teams and other election officials on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the SP explained to the SST teams how to perform their election duties, the procedure for conducting vehicle inspections, dealing with the public and other duties.

The SP said that the duties being performed by the SST teams are very important for the general elections to be conducted



in a peaceful environment, and their duties are being monitored from time to time. He said that CC cameras have been installed at every check post in the district and the vehicle checking conducted by the SST teams is continuously monitored from the district control room.

The SP said that police personnel and revenue officers have been appointed so that the SST teams can perform duties for 24 hours in three shifts in each check post. Every vehicle should be checked thoroughly at the checkposts. While conducting vehicle checks, they should treat motorists and people with courtesy and seize illegally transported liquor, cash, gifts and other promotional items.

"If cash is found more than Rs 50,000 and campaign materials are found worth more than Rs 10,000 while checking vehicles should be seized and handed over to the officials concerned," he told them.

Stating that the seized cash should be handed over to the District Grievance Cell, the SP said that the persons, from whom the cash is seized, should be informed how to contact the District Grievance Cell officials to get back the seized cash and other items after producing the relevant documents.

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Two killed as lorry knocks down scooter

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Two persons, including an infant, were killed and another was injured when a lorry knocked down the scooter on Chirala-Vetapalem road in the wee hours on Tuesday.

Police said that a speeding lorry knocked down the scooter on which the deceased was going towards Kothapalem village. The deceased were identified as Bodu Subba Ravamma (45) and one-year-old Anvita. Both the deceased were killed instantaneously and they belonged to Chinnaganjam village. One woman who was driving the scooter was critically injured in the accident.

The police shifted the bodies to the GGH in Chirala for postmortem.

'Let us make Kakinada ganja-free city'

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Telugu Desam Party Kakinada city MLA candidate Vanamadi Kondababu appealed to the voters to elect him to make Kakinada city 'ganja-free'.

Addressing an election meeting at Sanjaynagar here on Tuesday, he said that During the YSRCP regime, Kakinada was converted as a 'hub for ganja'. "We should make Kakinada city as ganja-free. Please elect the candidates of alliance in the coming elections. We will develop Kakinada city and make it a 'ganja-free city'," Kondababu stated.

Recalling that the Kakinada city was developed under the 'Smart Cities' programme, Kondababu deplored that Kakinada was lagging in development now. Those who are in the top position in the government, are indulging in scams and extending patronage to



ganja smugglers to earn easy money, he slammed. Nowadays the youth are getting addicted to ganja, he lamented and emphasized the need of taking concrete steps to curb the ganja menace.

Launching a scathing attack against YSRCP MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekar Reddy, Kondababu lashed out that the latter did not do anything for the development of

the city. "If the TDP-BJP-JSP alliance is voted to power, the city will be developed on all fronts, and at the same time, all welfare schemes will also be implemented, if voted to power," he promised. The alliance, if formed by the government in the state, will focus on generating employment in a big way, he assured.

Meanwhile, over 200 families joined the TDP in the pres-

ence of Kondababu. They were admitted into the party by wrapping scarves. Constituency observer Vissamshetty Lakshminarayana, city TDP president Mallipudi Veeru, former mayor Sunkara Pavani BJP city president G Satyanarayana and a host of other leaders were among those who took part in the election campaign.

Rs 2.58 cr worth of gold, silver seized

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

The Static Surveillance Team (SST) seized gold jewellery and silver ornaments worth Rs 2.58 crore while being transported in a container van at Pottilanka in Kadiyam mandal on Tuesday.

South zone DSP M Ambika Prasad told the media that the Static Surveillance Team conducted a checking of vehicles at the Pottilanka check-post on the national highway.

When the team checked a container van, they found gold jewellery and silver ornaments worth Rs 2.58 crore and seized them as they failed to show relevant documents. He said that the SST seized 3.347 kg of gold jewellery and 1.209 kg of silver ornaments.



False roof collapses at Mopidevi temple

PNS ■ MACHILIPATNAM

The false roof of the dining hall collapsed in the famous Subramanyeswara temple at Mopidevi village on Tuesday.

Official sources said that the false roof of the massive dining hall was caved in at around 8 am. The dining hall was inaugurated by Endowment Minister Kottu Satyanarayana in December 2023. The officials engaged workers to remove the debris from the dining hall.

The dining hall was constructed spending lakhs of rupees but the roof collapsed within four months. Since the



mishap took place in the early morning, no one was hurt. If the mishap had taken place at

around noon, many devotees would have suffered injuries, a devotee told the media.

The contractor did not construct the dining hall with quality material and that is why it collapsed within four months, some devotees alleged while talking to the media.

The Subramanyeswara Swamy temple at Mopidevi village is one of the famous temples in the state and thousands of devotees throng to the temple to have darshan of god every day.



Officials told to intensify vigil in AP-TG areas

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh directed the officials to intensify vigil at the AP-TS border areas and work in a coordinated manner to conduct elections in a peaceful atmosphere.

Collector Prasanna Venkatesh held a video conference with the officials here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector told them to work as coordinately as they worked during the Godavari floods.

The Collector said that better results can be achieved with coordinated efforts. Strict measures should be taken to prevent the movement of voters carrying with cash more than the prescribed limit and liquor across inter-state borders, he told them adding that intensified surveillance should be laid at the border areas.

He said that people living in Kukunur, Velerupadu and Jeelumilli mandals have relatives with the people living in the villages that were located in Telangana state. Their movements should be regulated 48 hours before the polling, he told them. There should be information between the officials of

the border districts of the state about what kind of seizure took place during the inspections.

Collector Prasanna Venkatesh ordered the forest department officials to install trap cameras to detect the movement of anti-social elements in the forest area. He instructed them to develop a network that can respond immediately when major incidents occur anywhere in the district.

SP Mary Prashanthi directed the police officials to take steps to curb illegal transportation of cash and liquor and intensify the checking of vehicles, especially, at the border areas. She said that eight checkpoints were set up at the AP-Telangana border areas, adding that two more integrated checkpoints are being set up.

She instructed the police officials to lay a strict vigil on the movements of Maoists in the wake of a major encounter in Chhattisgarh recently. DRO D Pushpamani, SEB Joint Director N Suryachandra Rao, commercial department DD D Srilakshmi and Excise Superintendent Parameswaran were among those who attended the meeting.

CEO writes to EC to take action against Naidu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Kumar Meena has recommended to the Central Election Commission (CEC) for action against Chandrababu Naidu. Earlier, the YSRCP leaders filed complaints with the CEO many times against Chandrababu Naidu stating that the Opposition leader had been time and again making inappropriate comments on CM Jagan Mohan Reddy at public meetings in the State. The CEO has issued notices to Chandrababu regarding 18 complaints.

In the notices given to Chandrababu Naidu asking him to give an explanation based on the complaints of the YSRCP leaders, he answered only some of them and did not respond to others.

CEO Meena, who was not satisfied with the answer given by Chandrababu, opined that it is basically against the model code of conduct. The video clips given as evidence by YSRCP have been thoroughly examined. In this context, Mukesh Kumar Meena has written a letter to ECI Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar to take further action against Chandrababu.

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a Bharat Rashtra 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, 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 posts of power selfishly left the party," KTR said.

"Praveen Kumar joined the BRS at a time when the party was facing problems. Praveen came to the BRS despite being given a chance by the Congress. If he could do so many good things as an official, how much more can he do as a public representative," he said.

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 Atheeq 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)(i)(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.

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.

The incident occurred in Odedu 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 Odedu to Garmillapalli village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district. The work was delayed due to a change of contractor, lack of funds and other reasons.

Matrimonial fraudster held in Hyderabad

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 Vamsi. Their community transitioned from the Shaadi.com application to WhatsApp, where Krishna Vamsi, 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 discussions 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 Vamsi 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 Vamsi deceived her in the name of marriage by luring about Rs 1.80 crore and went uncommunicated.

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, wherein 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.

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata 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?"

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.

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.

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 Jawaharlar 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.

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 rehabilitating 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-



ue 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

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



PRAFULL GORADIA

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, mausoleums, 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 Kannauj 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: Tihar", published on April 21, this is my response. The revelations about Arvind Kejriwal's health present a perplexing narrative. On one hand, the Tihar jail 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

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN THE MYSTERIES OF AFTERLIFE

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

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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 Rowlatt 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 Rowlatt 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 Rowlatt Act urging for a peaceful participation in Hartals (strikes), economic boycott and non-cooperation. The anti-Rowlatt 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 Kurrichan. 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 Gautam 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

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 temperature was at 1.6 degrees Celsius (3.01°F) above the 1880-1899 period.



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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

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.

Shipping regulator issues 'urgent advisory' to recruiting agencies

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

WEST ASIA TENSIONS



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

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

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'

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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.

what's brewing?

Richa Chadha & Sanjay Leela Bhansali's ode to classic art unveils in *Heeramandi*



harbour a profound love and respect for classic art forms, ranging from music to dance to the cinematic craft itself. His signature style, characterised by grandiose sets and extravagant song sequences, has always resonated with me."

Renowned for his larger-than-life cinematic visions, Sanjay Leela Bhansali has crafted unforgettable movie moments with his meticulous attention to detail and grandeur.

Meanwhile, in a recent interview, Sanjay Leela Bhansali was seen sharing interesting anecdotes about *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. He said,

Actress Richa Chadha opens up about her profound bond with renowned filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, highlighting their shared appreciation for traditional art forms and their collaborative journey in the world of cinema.

Speaking about their unique relationship, Richa Chadha shares, "Sanjay and I share a deep connection as old souls who

"Because I have always wanted to be lost. This is the biggest set I have made in my life. Because it's really that walls have been pushed way beyond what I thought. I would never be able to push as a child which I thought it was. So I feel I have started enjoying and understanding more and more

as my filmmaking has progressed. I have started enjoying creating walls at a distance and further and further. But I never want to dictate. I feel I have set it. The audience will find what they want to see. A lot of times people have criticised that we have so much to see that for the first time, we miss the essence of the scene."

Helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* is an eight-part series that is scheduled to launch across 190 countries on Netflix on 1st May.



BIGG BOSS 17 fame Khanzaadi reveals Badshah asked her to leave HipHop!

In a recent Instagram live session with Bohemia, *Bigg Boss 17* sensation Khanzaadi candidly discussed her emotional journey in the music industry, revealing a moment of demotivation triggered by a discouraging comment from rapper Badshah in the reality show *MTV Hustle*.

During the conversation, Khanzaadi reflected on a pivotal encounter with Badshah, where he allegedly advised her to steer clear of the hip-hop genre. Recounting the incident, she expressed feeling deeply disheartened by his words, admitting that it led her to question her worthiness in the industry.

Khanzaadi shares how she felt after hearing Badshah's disheartening words, she says, "Though Badshah complimented me as beautiful, he told me to leave the hip hop genre. He told me

that I should try my hand at Pop music. Although I felt like I was not deserving at the moment, but at least they could have motivated me to pursue this path. I could have learnt it in months, or a year. After all this, I locked myself in my room and started writing songs.

Every day, I used to wake up and listen to music. Now, I have a written total of 15 songs."



Yuvika & Prince expecting their first baby?

Yuvika Chaudhary and Prince Narula, who became enamoured with one other while residing in the *Bigg Boss* house in the 9th season of the show, appear to be sharing the wonderful news that they are expecting a child.

Yes, it appears like Prince and Yuvika, who dated for a while before getting married in 2018, are growing their family. Talk about Yuvika becoming pregnant has gone too far in the rumour mill.

After Prince Narula appeared in Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiya's podcast, which went viral, there were rumours that they were expecting. During their conversation on the show, Bharti jokingly questioned Prince about their future plans for a child. "When is Golla coming?" Bharti inquired of Prince, referring to her child. "Very soon," declared Prince. The rumours that they were expecting their first child have been circulating ever since.

The fact that Yuvika is pregnant has become common knowledge to their admirers. After five years of marriage, the couple is reportedly expecting their first child, according to numerous claims that have surfaced online. Yuvika received congratulations from admirers and well-wishers on her pregnancy in one of her regular social media updates. Nevertheless, the couple has not offered any confirmation.

'These stuntmen risk their lives and limbs for us actors'

Emily Blunt and Ryan Gosling have paired up for the action comedy of the year! Full of action, humour and romance, Universal Pictures (distributed by Warner Bros. Discovery) with director David Leitch, is all set to release their blockbuster big screen watch, *The Fall Guy* in theatres on 3rd May. After two high intensity trailers, fans of old-school action romance are looking forward to the adrenaline filled film this summer. Produced by Universal, Leitch's 87North Productions and Ryan Gosling's Entertainment 360, the film follows stuntman Colt Seavers and his eventual return to the big screen. He navigates the mystery behind a big missing movie star and winning back the love of his life.

Emily Blunt as Jody Moreno speaks about her experience of working with David Leitch and Gosling on the film; Blunt says, "I just love David's movies; I love the flare and the madness of them. And I'm such a huge fan of Gosling! Also, the idea of it being a love letter to movies and to these stuntmen who risk their lives and limbs for us actors—literally taking the fall for us—was so appealing. Plus when I signed on, the part of Jody Moreno was still being written and developed, and so they brought me completely into the creative fold and I got to build my character with them, which was really amazing."

The Fall Guy is the ultimate blockbuster three in one package. Catch the sizzling love letter to romance, action and comedy, available in English and Hindi, in theatres 3rd May 2024.



Emma Corrin pops up as villain in *Deadpool* and *Wolverine*

With the recently unveiled trailer, fans who were wondering who *Deadpool* and *Wolverine* would team up with received their answer. Emma Corrin appears as the main antagonist of the movie, which will feature a reunion between Hugh Jackman's iconic character Wolverine and Ryan Reynolds' character in *Deadpool*.

For the first time in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Cassandra will appear in Shawn Levy's *Deadpool* sequel. Cassandra is the wicked twin sister of Professor Charles Xavier, the X-Men patriarch generally portrayed by Patrick Stewart in the X-Men films and later the MCU. She is regarded as one of the most formidable X-Men villains alongside the likes of Apocalypse and Mister Sinister.

Charles Xavier and



was still inside the womb, Charles protected himself by using a psychic blast, which caused their mother to miscarry and left Cassandra's body stillborn.

But she quickly put herself back together and vowed to vanquish Charles Xavier and his X-Men.

In the comics, Cassandra is most known for leading an army of Sentinels to invade the mutant nation of Genosha and massacre 16 million mutants, even killing the powerful Magneto in the process. The ongoing animated series *X-Men '97* also featured a narrative centered on the Genosha holocaust. But, Mister Sinister was exposed as the mastermind behind the same at the conclusion of the most recent episode, sparing Cassandra's MCU debut for *Deadpool* and *Wolverine*.

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CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



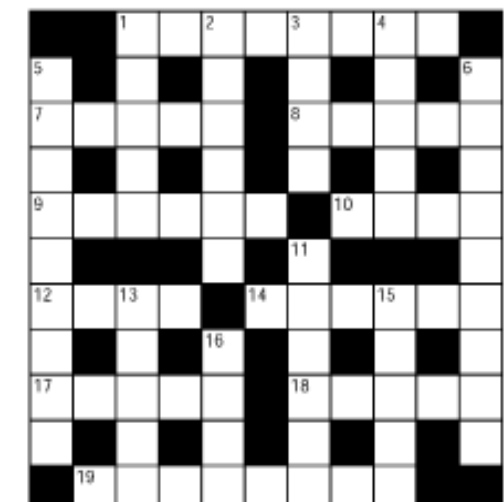
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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2	3							
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Yesterday's solution

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

4 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



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 fall 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.

"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.

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.

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.





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.



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.

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 Wadhwa.

"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 Wadhwa 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," Wadhwa 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," Wadhwa added.

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 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

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

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



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



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. Ramesh 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.

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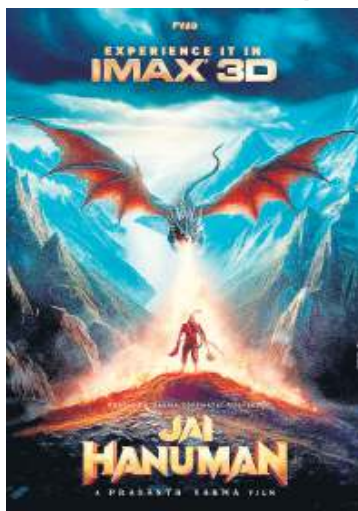
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New poster from Prasanth Varma's *Jai Hanuman* promises epic adventure



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 mammoth 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.



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 gathering. 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.

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.



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

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. The teaser for *s* 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.

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.

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!

Pernara 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.

