

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer
 It is not possible to save KCR from the phone tapping case. The BJP is demanding a CBI probe into the phone tapping case to protect its ally BRS's chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Everyone saw how the BRS supported the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. In return, the BJP wants to save KCR. The BJP is trying to make BRS leaders join it by filing cases against them using the ED, the IT Department and the CBI.
 - Jeevan Reddy, Congress MLC

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Adani Group profit jumps 55%

'PERFORMING AT RAVINDRA BHARATHI IS MY FAVOURITE MEMORY OF HYD'

'My character in Gam Gam GANESHA'

DON'T MISS...

Private schools banned from...

District Education Officer R Rohini has passed an order stating that all the schools, especially private and unaided schools, in Hyderabad district not to sell uniforms, belts and shoes on the school premises on Thursday. This move aims to curb potential commercial activities within school compounds and ensure focus on educational priorities. All the Deputy Educational Officers and Deputy Inspector of Schools of Hyderabad District were directed to ensure that private school management i.e. State/CBSE / ICSE...

Final phase of Lok Sabha polls in 57 seats today, PM Modi in fray



PNS ■ VARANASI

Fifty-seven seats across seven states and the Union territory of Chandigarh will go to polls in the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha elections on Saturday that include Varanasi, from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term. Polling is scheduled in all 13 seats of Punjab and four of Himachal Pradesh, 13 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha and three seats in Jharkhand besides Chandigarh. Polling for the remaining 42 assembly constituencies of Odisha and bypolls to six assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh will also take place simultaneously. Other prominent candidates among the total 904 contestants in fray are Union minister Anurag Thakur, Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti and actor Kangana Ranaut.

Prajwal Revanna arrested upon ...

Prajwal Revanna, the suspended JD(S) MP facing sexual abuse allegations, was arrested on Friday upon his return from Germany, a month after he left the country in the wake of explicit videos of his alleged actions doing the rounds in Karnataka's Hassan. A special court in the city remanded him to police custody till June 6. In a clear messaging early in the day, a team of women police personnel 'welcomed' Prajwal Revanna upon his arrival here, as they were deputed to execute a warrant and take him to the CID ...

Country's talent pool in ...

Two innovators from India have won in two categories at the inaugural Global Prompt Engineering Championship in Dubai, collectively taking home two-thirds of the million-dollar prize pool, and spotlighting India's growing talent pool and global influence in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The competition, which attracted the brightest minds from around the world, saw Aditya Nair win in the 'Literature' category and Ajay Cyril win in the 'Coding' category, earning them international ...

Rohit Sharma hopes for...

Marvelling at the newly-constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium here, India skipper Rohit Sharma underlined the need for his team to get acclimatised to the pitch and conditions quickly ahead of their T20 World Cup opener against Ireland on June 5. However, Rohit and company will get a chance to check the nature of the pitch and overall conditions when they face Bangladesh in a warm-up match here on Saturday. It's also India's lone training game ahead of the ICC...

Telangana sizzles as temperatures touch 47.1°C

The Telangana witnessed a severe heat wave on Friday with some areas of the state experiencing temperatures soaring to 47 degrees Celsius. Mancherla, Khammam and Kothagudem recorded above 47 degrees Celsius. Peddapalli and Mancherla recorded the highest temperature of 47.1°C followed by Bhadradi Kothagudem with 46.9°C, Nalgonda and Khammam with 46.8°C and others. Hyderabad along with Jogulamba Gadwal and Nagarkurnool, recorded 43°C. Narayanpet recorded the lowest temperature of 42.8°C. The Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDDS) said that Nirmal, Suryapet,

Indian economy grows at 8.2% in FY24, fastest globally

India's economy grew by 8.2 per cent in the fiscal year that ended in March, cementing the country's position as the fastest-growing major economy in the world, boosting credentials of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government ahead of ending of mammoth, weeks-long general elections.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth was 7 per cent in the previous 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023) fiscal, according to Statistics Ministry data. The Reserve Bank of India has forecast that the economy will expand by 7 per cent in the current fiscal year, outpacing global growth that's forecast to reach 3 per cent in 2024.

Avian influenza: Centre asks states to be vigilant

The Centre has asked all states to be vigilant for any unusual deaths amongst the domestic birds and poultry, and share the information with the Animal Husbandry Department immediately so that public health action can be initiated as per the national action plan for Avian influenza. A joint advisory issued on May 25 by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying stated that in 2024, four states -- Andhra Pradesh (Nellore),

RS 700-CR 'SHEEP SCAM'

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested a Chief Executive Officer and a former OSD of the then Minister for Animal Husbandry, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, in the Rs 700 crore sheep distribution scheme scam. Continuing the investigation into the sheep distribution scheme scam, the ACB arrested two officials on Friday, exposing the involvement of high-ranking individuals in the racket. The arrested individuals are Sabavath Ramchander, a former Chief Executive Officer of the Telangana State Livestock Development Agency and

BJP DOUBLES DOWN ON EXPOSING PHONE-TAPPING
'Book culprits, give case to CBI'

Won't give up protests until all those involved are punished: Laxman

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD



Demanding that the TG government hand over the phone tapping case to the CBI, the BJP declared that they would not give up their fight until all the culprits are punished. The BJP staged a dharna at the Indira Park Dharna Chowk on Friday under the leadership of Rajya Sabha Member Dr K. Laxman demanding that the government should take action against the phone tapping culprits. Addressing the dharna, Laxman said that Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy should hand over the phone tapping case to the CBI so that Revanth Reddy does not become a history-less person in the history of Telangana.

"Realising the Congress's deception, the people of Telangana have endorsed the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP will win more seats than the Congress in Telangana. Revanth raised KCR's corruption during the Assembly elections. He also said the Congress will recover the money looted by KCR through the Kaleshwaram Project and the Dharani Portal.

BJP wants CBI probe only to protect KCR: MLC Jeevan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy said that the BJP is demanding a CBI probe into the phone tapping case only to protect BJP's friendly party BRS's chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Surprisingly, the BJP staged a dharna demanding that the state government hand over the phone tapping case to the CBI, he said. "Everyone saw how the BRS extended its support to the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. In return, the BJP wants to save KCR. We have been receiving reports on the Kaleshwaram Project from Central teams during the last five months. The government has ordered a judicial commission to investigate the Kaleshwaram scam. The BJP is trying to make BRS leaders join it by filing cases against them by the ED, the IT department and the CBI.

BJP diverting attention from the Cong's unfulfilled promises: Niranjan Reddy

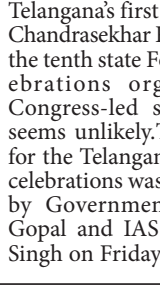
Former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy condemned the BJP's protests over the phone tapping case and accused the party of diverting attention from Congress's unfulfilled promises. He said that there is 'collusion' between the Congress and the BJP in Telangana and pointed out that while they are adversaries at the national level they are cooperating locally. He asked why the BJP is not demanding the implementation of the Congress's six guarantees, including farm loan waivers and support for farmers.

Konda: Inaction would mean Congress and BRS on the same page

The BJP candidate in the Chevella Lok Sabha constituency, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, said that one can consider the Congress and the BRS are one if the Revanth government refuses to take action against phone tapping culprits. He said that he is going to send a letter to the Election Commission appealing to it to disband the BRS for illegally tapping the phones of political adversaries. Addressing the BJP dharna demanding that the state government should arrest phone-tapping case culprits,

TG Formation Day celebrations sans KCR?

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD



Telangana's first Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's attendance at the tenth state Formation Day celebrations organised by the Congress-led state government seems unlikely. The official invite for the Telangana Formation Day celebrations was delivered to KCR by Government Advisor Venu Gopal and IAS officer Arvinder Singh on Friday. Venugopal said that they had invited KCR as per the CM's instructions. "Along with the invitation card, we delivered a letter from the Chief Minister to KCR. KCR responded positively," he said. The 10th Formation Day of Telangana will be different from earlier occasions, with both the ruling Congress and the main Opposition BRS vying with each other to celebrate it in a befitting manner. The BRS is planning to celebrate



Formation Day at the Telangana Bhavan in KCR's presence. The BRS has also announced plans to celebrate Formation Day with three-day-long festivities.

The BRS will take out a candle-light rally from the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park to the Amara Jyoti Memorial built by the BRS government to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the Telangana movement. The main celebrations will be held on June 2 at the BRS headquarters 'Telangana Bhavan.'

HUMAN-TRAFFICKING
Minister inspects Shishu Vihar, consoles rescued kids

SAMUEL JOSHUA ■ HYDERABAD



Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Women and Child Welfare Minister Dr Danasari Anasuya Seethakka inspected the Shishu Vihar at Yousufguda and consoled the rescued human-trafficked children on Friday. Rachakonda Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi and his team arrested a human-trafficking gang transporting 16 children from different parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The police also informed that there are more individuals linked to the trafficking racket and assured to identify them, stating there more children were yet to be identified. The children's health was checked by the doctors after they were rescued.

Minister Seethakka congratulated Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi and his team for rescuing the children and ensuring their safety at Shishu Vihar. She affirmed future coordination with police and child welfare officials to protect children and women, with strict action against human traffickers.



Upon inspecting the Shishu Vihar, Seethakka stated that the children's family details should be collected; they should receive counselling and be reunited with their families. She advised that childless couples interested in adoption should follow the legal adoption process, including examining the adoptee's family status and conducting proper investigations, which should be completed within 120 days as per guidelines.

The Women Child Welfare Minister also warned against illegal adoption to avoid financial and mental difficulties. She said that the child trafficking racket in Hyderabad is unacceptable and that the

Telangana government will take strict action against trafficking. Minister Seethakka congratulated Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi and his team for rescuing the children and ensuring their safety at Shishu Vihar. She affirmed future coordination with police and child welfare officials to protect children and women, with strict action against human traffickers. Seethakka also tweeted, stating that kids handed over to Child Welfare Committee will be the responsibility of the Committee till police identify their biological parents. Women Child Welfare Department Secretary Vakati Karuna, Commissioner Nirmala Kanti Wesley and Joint Director Sunanda were present at the inspection.

KCR behaved like a king when he was in power: Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao behaved like a king when he was Chief Minister. He gave the impression that he was all in all when he was Chief Minister, Mahesh said.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Friday along with TPCC Senior Vice-President Mallu Ravi, Mahesh said that Congress rule will be as per the aspirations of the people. People are not in a position to believe KCR and his son KTR anymore. "Why should KTR object if there is a martyrs' statue in the state emblem?" he asked.

Mahesh asked whether KCR had convened all-party meetings at least once in his 10-year-rule. He said that henceforth there would not be any dictatorial rule in the state. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will take decisions only after discussing them with everyone. The government is ready to make changes in the state



emblem as per the aspirations of the people, he said.

He said the TG government will invite the families of martyrs and honour them. The government has been thinking that those who sacrificed their lives for Telangana must be honoured. He said that every individual who participated in the Telangana movement would be invited.

Mahesh said that the KCR family exploited the Telangana sentiment and gained big. Making it clear that the Congress government will not go back on featuring the Martyrs' Memorial in the emblem, Mahesh said the gov-

ernment will move forward as per the aspirations of poets and artists.

Criticising BRS leaders for making the selection of music director MM Keeravani an issue, he asked where was the Telangana sentiment when KCR made Chinna Jeeyar Swamy sit on his CM's seat.

"Why did KCR make Andhra singer Ramakrishna sing Ande Sri's Jayajaya Telangana then? Keeravani was selected not by the government but by Ande Sri," he said.

He asked what about Andhra architect Anand Sai, who redesigned Yadagirigutta when KCR made Yadagirigutta

Yadadri.

"What about the BRS government's brand ambassadors Rakul Preeth Singh, Manchu Laxmi and Samantha? Didn't KCR remember Telangana when he appointed them? Did KCR remember Telangana when he ate fish curry at RK Roja's residence? Did KCR remember Telangana when he invited AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy while constructing the useless Kaleshwaram Project?" he asked.

Mahesh asked KTR to explain why he tweeted when Keeravani won an Oscar award.

"Why didn't they remember Telangana when they gave lands to Sharada Peetham? Didn't KCR didn't remember Telangana when he removed Telangana from his party name? Did KCR remember Telangana when he gave contracts to AP contractors?" he asked. He said the emblem's idea did not come from the CM or Ministers Uttam or Bhatti. It is the aspiration of the people, he said.

Avian influenza: Centre asks...

Continued from page 1

Maharashtra (Nagpur), Kerala (Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Pathanamthitta districts), and Jharkhand (Ranchi) -- have already reported outbreaks of Avian influenza in poultry.

"Given that Avian Influenza (H5N1) infection is highly pathogenic and has the potential to be transmitted to humans, it is imperative to take all necessary measures to minimize and prevent the spread of this infection," the joint advisory said. The Avian Influenza virus (bird flu virus) is normally maintained in circulation in nature among mainly migratory birds and is known to cause outbreaks among domesticated poultry birds probably due to spill over events when migratory birds come in contact with poultry, it said.

The H5N1 is the main Avian influenza virus that has caused multiple outbreaks among poultry globally. Both types of viruses (HPAI and LPAI) may occasionally affect other mammalian species, including humans.

KTR blames Congress for killing thousands in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing it of being responsible for the hardships faced by the people of Telangana in their quest for statehood.

His attack comes in the context of the Congress government planning to feature the Martyrs Memorial in the Telangana state emblem logo instead of the Charminar and the Kakatiya Thornama.

In a statement on 'X' on Friday, KTR said, "Who is responsible for the martyrdom of thousands in Telangana? Who is responsible for the construction of the Martyrs' Memorial?"

He pointed to the Congress government and its misdeeds. KTR recalled the 1952 incident at the City College where students protesting for the creation of a separate Hyderabad State were fired upon resulting in six deaths. "Who opened fire on these students? It was the Congress government," he asserted.

Criticising the Congress, KTR said, "Who shot and



killed 370 Telangana youth during the first phase of the movement in 1969-71? Again, it was the Congress government."

He also mentioned 1971 Parliament elections in which the Telangana Praja Samithi won 11 out of 14 seats. "Who made this party disappear after its victory? The Congress government," KTR said.

He accused the Congress of suppressing the democratic aspirations of Telangana's people.

"Who suppressed Telangana when people expressed their democratic aspirations in a way not seen anywhere else in the country? The Congress government," he stated.

Indian economy grows at...

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister termed the FY24 growth rate as just a trailer of things to come. "The Q4 GDP growth data for 2023-24 shows robust momentum in our economy which is poised to further accelerate. Thanks to the hardworking people of our country, 8.2% growth for the year 2023-24 exemplifies that India continues to be the fastest growing major economy globally," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the "remarkable" growth rate will continue in the third term of Modi.

The growth is mainly driven by good showing by the manufacturing sector, though the farm sector recorded deceleration during the fiscal as well as fourth quarter (January-March 2024).

According to the data, India's economy recorded 7.8 per cent in the January-March period, the slowest in the four quarters of FY24. It was 8.6 per cent in October-December 2023, 8.1 per cent in July-September 2023 and 8.2 per cent in April-June 2023.

Kaleswaram panel's gathering of public opinion ends, probe to begin soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The gathering of public opinion on the Kaleswaram Project concluded on Friday. Justice Chandra Ghoshe, Chairman of the Kaleswaram Judicial Commission, is set to arrive in Hyderabad on June 6 to commence the next stage of the investigation.

The commission has received numerous reports and complaints which will be the first order of business upon Justice Ghoshe's arrival. These documents will undergo a thorough examination to identify potential issues regarding the project. After this, the commission is expected to issue summons to individuals from the second week of June. Among those likely to be called are engineers, ENCs and former officers who were involved in the Kaleswaram Project. They will be required to provide detailed info about their roles and the project's execution.

State Anthem needs broader consultations: Praveen

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr RS Praveen has raised concerns over the lack of consultation regarding the Telangana State Anthem and Emblem.

In a statement, he expressed disappointment over the decision-making process, highlighting the need for wider discussions involving local poets and artists.

He said that while Ande Sri's desire to have good music for his song 'Jaya Jaya He' is commendable and Keeravani's talent as a music director is unquestionable, the process lacked inclusivity.

Reacting to Prof. Kodandaram Reddy's statement that it is important who wrote the song 'Jaya Jaya He' and there is no need to discuss who sang it, he said the poet wanted good music for his song and so Keeravani was chosen.

Praveen in a tweet on X emphasized that when the Chief Minister approved

Andeshree's song as the state anthem it became the property of the people of Telangana and is not just Andeshree's personal asset. "This elevation to state anthem status warranted broader consultations," he said.

"The demand for a Telangana state emerged due to oppression. The state song, conceived during this movement, should have seen extensive discussions, starting with the Chief Minister. If poets and artists from Telangana had been consulted to improve the song it would have been better," he said.

He said that the people of Telangana had taken to the streets in the past thinking that their talents were suppressed.

"We have many talented individuals like Sudhakar Ashok Teja, Ravi Kalyan, Vandemataram Srinivas, Mittapalli Suresh, Somanna, Nalgonda Narsireddy, Deshapati, Adesh Ravi, Rasamai, Mogilayya,

Pasunoori, Gidde Ramnarasimha, and many others. Many feel that these people were not even consulted. If our government doesn't recognize their talents, who will?" he questioned.

Praveen also criticised the Congress government's decision-making process regarding the Telangana State Emblem stating that these decisions were made without any discussions.

"There should be extensive discussions on cultural matters. These are connected to our sentiments. People seek solace in their cultural symbols everywhere," he added.

In his statement, Praveen expressed a desire to see people like Siripuram Yadaya, Venugopal Reddy, Ishant Reddy, Bhojya, Sai Kumar, Srikanthachari and Kishtaiah alive today to witness and contribute to these discussions. "This is my personal opinion," he concluded. "Let the people of Telangana decide what is good for them."

'Book culprits, give case...

Continued from page 1

However, Revanth has been maintaining silence on KCR's corruption and scams after coming to power," Laxman said.

He said that KCR misused the Intelligence network to make his power permanent and tapped phones to purchase voters and to defeat his opponents in the by-polls.

Laxman asked why the Congress government is not arresting the remaining culprits although those arrested have given their statements. "Why is the Revanth Reddy government not taking action?" he asked.

He said the KCR government resorted to phone tapping violating the Telecom Regulatory Authority's rules and without the Centre's permission.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been saying that he too is a victim of phone tapping but he is not taking any action, Laxman pointed out.

He said it looks like the Congress leadership has entered into a secret deal with KCR and

added that Revanth should prosecute phone-tapping case culprits if he subscribes to any values. Laxman asked the CM to clarify whether he would surrender to the Congress high command in the phone tapping case.

Laxman said the KCR government filed false cases against senior BJP leader BL Santosh. Shockingly, KCR filed cases against BJP leaders to save his daughter Kavitha from the Delhi liquor scam case, he said.

Laxman said that the BRS engaged in cheap politics and warned the CM that he would face the same fate as BRS leaders if he tried to protect BRS leaders in the phone tapping case. He said the BRS will merge with the Congress after Parliament elections.

BJP diverting...

Continued from page 1

"Farmers are suffering due to the agricultural crisis, but their cries are ignored by the BJP," he stated.

He highlighted the difficult situation of farmers, who are facing severe hardships due to inadequate government support and poor procurement policies. He criticised the Congress for failing to deliver on key promises like farm loan waiver and ensuring that MSP and bonus are paid for procured paddy. He also questioned the BJP's silence on these issues and accused the party of not holding the Congress accountable.

He called on the BJP to focus its protests on 'genuine' issues affecting the people like water scarcity, electricity supply for irrigation and comprehensive

support for farmers.

Niranjan suggested that the BJP should prioritize the implementation of social welfare schemes rather than engaging in 'political theatrics.'

He also demanded an inquiry into the Centre's use of Pegasus spyware on opposition leaders and asked why the BJP has not followed up on this issue.

After coming to power, the Congress has failed to deliver on its promises, he said, adding that crop procurement has been inadequate and that farmers have suffered due to unseasonal rains. He asked why the BJP has not demanded the implementation of these promises and urged the BJP to demonstrate genuine concern for public issues like farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, and support for women and the unemployed.

Konda: Inaction would mean...

Continued from page 1

ishweshwar said that the BRS government had engaged in phone-tapping much before 2017. He remembered that Revanth Reddy is also a victim of BRS's phone tapping.

One can consider the BRS and the Congress are one if Revanth refuses to take action against those behind the phone tapping. It is not good for the state government to remain silent even after knowing who the suspects are, he said.

Vishweshwar demanded that the state government should order a comprehensive inquiry into the phone-tapping case.

BJP wants CBI...

Continued from page 1

It is not possible to save KCR from the phone tapping case. BJP leaders are saying that BL Santosh was implicated in the conspiracy to buy MLAs, but why could they not prove it? The BJP's sincerity is understandable," Jeevan said.

He said that the BJP made the BRS its firm ally and asked the BJP and the BRS to stop their dramas. In another press conference, Parigi MLA Rammohan Reddy said that it is surprising that the BJP is demanding a CBI probe instead of having faith in the state government. The 'Telangana police have a good image in the nation and it is not proper for the BJP to insult such an organisation,' he said. He asked the BJP to order a CBI probe into the Apple company's

message if they want to punish KCR. He said the police are carrying out a comprehensive probe into the phone tapping case and the culprits will be caught soon. The BJP may be fearing that the real culprits may get exposed. So the BJP is staging dharnas to protect KCR and KTR, he said.

"Where is the need for the CBI when the state police are conducting a comprehensive inquiry into it? BJP leaders don't have faith in the police or the BJP wants to blackmail in the name of the CBI inquiry," he said. Why did the BJP fail to conduct a CBI inquiry into the phone tapping case as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had filed complaints with the Centre earlier? But the Centre ignored Revanth Reddy's complaints, he said.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Navami
May 31 09:38 AM to Jun 01 07:24 AM
Dahshami: Jun 01 07:24 AM to Jun 02 05:04 AM
Ekadashi: Jun 02 05:04 AM to Jun 03 02:41 AM
Nakshatram: Uttara Bhadrpad: Jun 01 04:48 AM to Jun 02 03:16 AM
Revati: Jun 02 03:16 AM to Jun 03 01:40 AM
Rahukalam: 8:59 AM to 10:36 AM
Yamagandam: 1:51 PM to 3:28 PM
Varjyam: 02:28 PM to 03:57 PM
Gulika: 5:44 AM to 7:22 AM
Amritakalam: 10:46 PM to 12:16 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:39 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 39°
Humidity: 37%
Sunrise: 5:41 AM
Sunset: 6:47 PM
Updated: May 31, 2024 5:00 PM

TG Formation Day celebrations...

Continued from page 1

Although the CM has invited KCR to the main official function, the latter is not likely to attend it. KCR will address the event being held at the Telangana Bhavan. This is the first Telangana Formation Day after the BRS lost power to the Congress. While the Congress is going all out to organise a grand celebration by inviting its top leader Sonia Gandhi, the BRS

has also lined up a series of events to mark the occasion. Ever since Telangana came into existence in 2014, both the Congress and the BRS have been claiming credit for its formation.

While the Congress says that it was the initiative of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) which realised the long-cherished dream of the people of Telangana, the BRS maintains that the credit goes to its leader K.

Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), who led the mass movement, forcing the Congress-led UPA government to carve out the state.

In every election held after 2014, the Congress projected Sonia Gandhi as the 'Mother of Telangana' who heard the people's voice and fulfilled their aspirations. Its leaders tried to impress upon the people that she created Telangana despite knowing well that the Congress will

suffer politically in Andhra Pradesh. During the recent elections, the CM and other Congress leaders had urged the people to bring the Congress to power to show their gratitude to Sonia Amma (mother) for giving them a separate state.

It's no wonder that after coming to power the Congress decided to invite former party chief, Sonia Gandhi, to the main event being held on June 2.

Telangana sizzles as temperatures...

Continued from page 1

In the GHMC area, Malakpet recorded the highest temperature of 43.6°C followed by Charminar, Musheerabad, Amberpet and others recording 43°C. Khairatabad recorded the lowest temperature of 42.1°C. The entire city recorded temperatures of above 42°C. The TSDPS said that Telangana will witness rainfall from June 1 to 7. "Light to moderate rain

or thundershowers are expected at some places during the week with isolated heavy rain on June 2 and 3. Overall rainfall deviation is expected to be near normal during the week," the TSDPS said in its weekly report.

This is due to the Southwest Monsoon which set in over Kerala on May 30. The TSDPS said that conditions are favourable for the advance of the Southwest Monsoon into some more areas of Karnataka,

Tamil Nadu, Southwest and the central Bay of Bengal, the remaining parts of the northeast Bay of Bengal and Assam and Meghalaya and some areas of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim in the next two or three days.

Maximum temperatures are expected to range from 38 degrees Celsius to 41 degrees Celsius, while minimum temperatures would range from 25 degrees Celsius to 28 degrees Celsius.

Private schools banned from selling uniforms to students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

District Education Officer R Rohini has passed an order stating that all the schools, especially private and unaided schools, in Hyderabad district not to sell uniforms, belts and shoes on the school premises on Thursday. This move aims to curb potential commercial activities within school compounds and ensure focus on educational priorities.



District Education Officer R Rohini

All the Deputy Educational Officers and Deputy Inspector of Schools of Hyderabad District were directed to ensure that private school management i.e. State/CBSE / ICSE running in Hyderabad district should not sell uniforms, shoes and belts on the school premises. As per the court orders, the sale of books/note books/stationery at the school counter, if any, should be on a non-commercial, no-profit-no-loss basis.

Also, all the Deputy Educational Officers were directed to constitute mandal-level committees to monitor the private schools regularly and ensure that private school

management i.e. State/CBSE/ICSE running in Hyderabad district do not sell uniforms, shoes and belts on the school premises. These committees will help ensure compliance with the regulations and uphold the quality of education provided in these institutions.

Moreover, if any school management violates the guidelines, strict and appropriate action will be taken against them. The officials concerned were directed to promptly implement the orders and furnish compliance reports without delay.

Parents divided on DEO's freeze order

Following the order passed by District Educational Officer R Rohini, which prohibits schools from selling uniforms, shoes and belts, many parents pointed out that the order has been issued very late as majority of schools sold most of the items, especially books at double the price, while a few supported the order. According to the Hyderabad School Parents Association, already 90 per cent of books are sold at double the rate. As in CBSE and ICSE schools, the new academic year began in the month of March. There is no use of issuing an order now, as only a few days are remaining for the schools to open. "Why is this order only for Hyderabad district but not to complete Telangana private schools?" the parents questioned. Asif Hussain, President of Telangana State Parents Association said, "Despite the order being issued

very late, parents appreciate the government move. The parents have given a representation long back in regards to fee regulation and charging of extra money on books, uniforms and everything from the school itself. Finally, the Commissioner accepted our representation and passed the order. The State government has not regulated the fee structure for a long period. As a result, the private school managements raise their fees to a greater extent (80-90 per cent) leading to greater burden on parents in clearing the fees. There is a kind of mafia running in the education sector. But with the implementation of this order, 80 per cent of fees collected from uniforms, shoes, belts and books will be removed. I request the government to implement the order very strictly. If this order is violated, we, along with parents, will move the High Court to resolve this issue."

DEOs told to encourage kids to engage in planting seedlings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSCPCR) on Friday addressed the Principal Secretary of School Education Department to communicate the instructions to all District Educational Officers to motivate the school children to engage in seed collection during summer and go for seedling on the onset of monsoon. The aim of this initiative is to make the children sensitive to nature, build ownership and make them responsible to protect the environment; However, the immediate output will be increased in greenery and availability of fruit-bearing trees in the neighbourhood.



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The commission believes that many children would have actively engaged in seed collection during the summer and will be back to school; Hence, it is essential that the children should be guided appropriately by the school administration through proper hand-holding process, to enable them to choose right locations and to go for seedling. Since the monsoon is anticipated very soon, it has directed the Principal

Secretary of School Education Department to send a follow-up communication to all District Educational Officers to issue directions to both the government and private education institutions.

Also, it will honour the top 10 best performing education institutions from each district with a certificate of appreciation

for their outstanding contribution. It has directed the DEOs to send the list and best photographs of this activity of top 10 institutions of their district to the Commission with intimation to the Director & Commissioner, School Education Department, TG by June 30, 2024 to Tsbala112@gmail.com.

KTR blames Cong for martyrdom of TG people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao (KTR) has launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing it of being responsible for the sacrifices and hardships faced by the people of Telangana in their quest for statehood.

His attack comes in the face of Congress government planning to put up a martyrs memorial in Telangana logo instead of Charminar and Kakatiya Thornam.

In a statement on X on Friday, KTR questioned, "Who caused the martyrdom of thousands in Telangana? Who is responsible for the construction of the Martyrs' Memorial?" He pointed to the Congress government, highlighting several instances of alleged misdeeds. KTR recalled the 1952 incident at a city college, where students protesting for Hyderabad State as a separate entity were fired upon, resulting in six deaths. "Who opened fire on these students? It was the Congress government," he asserted.

ACB nets 13 govt officials in a day; Chief calls it 'watershed day'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Anti-Corruption Bureau is on roll in Telangana as it nabbed 13 government officials of various departments in one day.

ACB chief CV Anand described it as a watershed day. He said on X, "Today was a watershed day -13 officials

of various departments like irrigation, Transco, police, animal husbandry got caught in traps or arrested in ongoing cases and that too at fairly senior levels". Two officers were nabbed in the Rs 700crore sheep distribution scam. Three officials in irrigation department were nabbed for demanding bribe net for

demanding and accepting the amount of Rs 1,00,000 for building NOC. Three officials from TGSPDCL were nabbed as they demanded and accepted the amount of Rs19,00,000 to process a bill settlement of Rs 2,11,421 for a 3-PH 25KVA DTR and LT line pole erection. Two cops in Kushaiguda were nabbed for

accepting bribe amount of Rs 3,00,000 to close a case. The bribe amount was accepted through L Upender, private person. Earlier this week, the police officers of Telangana ACB conducted raids at 12 Regional Transport Authority offices on Wednesday disguised as lorry drivers to uncover corruption."

NTPC concludes Swachhta Pakhwada

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) southern region headquarters on Friday concluded its fortnightly observation of Swachhta Pakhwada with a closing ceremony at its office at Kavadiyuda. The fortnightly observation witnessed various activities pertaining to creating awareness among the masses for the need to have a clean and sustainable environment.

Employees as well as family members participated in various activities like plantation of saplings, Prabhat Bheri, awareness talks, painting competition, essay-writing, slogan-writing among others. They also undertook a cleanliness drive at Charminar in collaboration with the GHMC. A painting competition was organised among the students of Govt Upper Primary School, Mekalamandi where the students took part in it.

Chief Minister pays tributes to Archbishop Thumma Bala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy paid tributes to the mortal remains of Archbishop Thumma Bala at St Mary's School, Secunderabad on Friday. He said, "Thumma Bala rendered yeomen services in building a strong society. The Archbishop spread the message of peace, religious harmony and provided education to the needy. I have a special affinity with Thumma Bala. The Archbishop blessed me during 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 2023 Assembly elections. With his blessings, a people's government has been formed in the Telangana State."

He said that Thumma Bala's death left his followers in a deep grief. "Everyone appreciated the Archbishop's services and we should move forward with the inspiration of the message of revered Thumma Bala," the CM said.

Meanwhile, BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao condoled



the death of Hyderabad Archbishop Thumma Bala. "Deepest condolences to the relatives of Thumma Bala." On this occasion, KCR recalled his acquaintance with the Archbishop.

KCR said that Thumambala, a resident of Warangal region, had sacrificed his life for the service of Christ. He said that Thumambala has risen to the highest level in spiritual service.

Born on April 24, 1944 in Narmetta, Warangal district, he

was installed as the second Bishop of Warangal on November 17, 1986 by Pope St John Paul II. He served there for almost 25 years. Later, he was appointed as Archbishop of Hyderabad on March 12, 2011 by Pope Benedict. He retired as Archbishop in 2020 and was resting at Divya Jyoti Nilayam in Karunapuram, Hanamakonda district. He had been suffering from illness for some time and passed away on Thursday evening.

Cops from Kushaiguda held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two police officers from the Kushaiguda Police Station, identified as Bhaik Shafi and G. Veera Swamy, were apprehended by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Ranga Reddy unit on May 31, 2024, at 12:45 pm.

The officers were caught red-handed while demanding a bribe of Rs 3,00,000 from complainant Singireddy Bharat Reddy, a resident of Kushaiguda. The bribe was facilitated through a third party identified as L Upender, also from Kushaiguda. The bribe was solicited in exchange for closing a case registered against Reddy under Sections 447, 427, and 506 of the Indian

Penal Code at the Kushaiguda police station.

The accused officers thereby performed their public duty improperly and dishonestly. The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of L Upender, who was caught facilitating the transaction. Chemical tests conducted on Upender's fingers yielded positive results.

All three accused individuals, including Shaik Shafi, sub-inspector of police and G Veera Swamy, circle inspector, both from Kushaiguda police station, along with L Upender, were arrested and will be presented before the 1st Additional Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at the court in Nampally, Hyderabad.

Irrigation dept staff in sting

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant crackdown on corruption, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Hyderabad city unit-2 apprehended high-ranking officials from the Irrigation department and a surveyor from the MRO office, Gandipet, during a sting operation on May 30.

The arrested individuals include K Bhansi Lal, executive engineer, K Karthik, assistant engineer, and H Nikhesh Kumar, assistant engineer, all from the office of Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Ranga Reddy, situated at Red Hills, Hyderabad. Additionally, P Ganesh, surveyor from the MRO office, Gandipet, was also taken into custody.

The operation unfolded when the accused were caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs 1,00,000 from complainant Bommu Upendranath Reddy, a resident of Nekkampur, Manikonda, Ranga Reddy district. The bribe was solicited in exchange for expediting the

processing and forwarding of a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) permission file for a construction project.

Initially, the accused officers demanded Rs 2,50,000 as a bribe, of which they had already accepted Rs 1,50,000 as an advance. Additionally, P Ganesh demanded and accepted Rs 40,000 for conducting a survey related to the construction project.

During the operation, Rs 65,000 was recovered from K Bhansi Lal, while Rs 35,000 was seized from H Nikhesh Kumar. Chemical tests conducted on the fingers of both these officers yielded positive results.

All four accused individuals have been arrested and are being presented before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at the court in Nampally, Hyderabad. The case is currently under investigation.

The ACB urges the public to report any instances of bribery or corruption by contacting their toll-free number 1064, ensuring swift action in accordance with the law.

OU signs MoUs for stepwells restoration, biogas unit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University (OU) has signed two Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with the Society for the Advancement of Human Endeavour (SAHE) and Saahas, (NGOs) and Ahuja Engineering Services Pvt. Ltd to promote sustainability and heritage preservation on campus.

The collaboration focuses on restoring three historical step-

wells located within the OU campus: Adikmet stepwell, stepwell near the University Education Block and the stepwell near the Mechanical Engineering Block.

The objectives of this partnership includes restoration of the stepwells' architectural features, rejuvenation of the stepwells themselves, development of the surrounding areas based on SAHE's proposed plans and securing necessary funds for the restoration

project.

The second MoU involves Saahas, another NGO dedicated to solid waste management, and Ahuja Engineering Services Pvt. Ltd. (AES). This tripartite agreement aims to establish a two tonnes per day (TPD) biogas unit within the OU campus. Saahas, established in 2001, will leverage its network to secure Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding for the project while AES, a waste management

engineering company which will provide the biogas unit technology and equipment. Additionally, they will commission the unit and offer operational support for six months before handing it over to OU.

The Osmania University team for the signing ceremony included Prof. P Laxminarayana, Registrar, OU, Prof. B Reddy Naik, OSD to VC and others while SAHE was represented by Kalpana Ramesh and Venkatesh.

TSCAB turnover increases by 225.97% in 10 years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The business turnover of the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB) has increased by 225.97% over the past 10 years since the formation of Telangana.

Speaking at a press conference at the TSCAB headquarters on Friday, Chairman Konduri Ravinder Rao stated that both the State Cooperative Bank and District Cooperative Banks have shown significant growth since the split of the joint Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank and the formation of TSCAB in 2015.

Ravinder Rao credited this success to an innovative approach in administration, human resources and technology. He noted that TSCAB is now the leading cooperative



TSCAB is now the leading cooperative bank among the 34 cooperative banks in the country and serves as a role model. He highlighted that the Telangana State Cooperative Bank and all District Cooperative Banks in the State are fully computerised

bank among the 34 cooperative banks in the country and serves as a role model. He highlighted that the Telangana State Cooperative Bank and all District Cooperative Banks in the State are fully computerised.

Ravinder Rao emphasised that NABARD has helped expand the business of many

cooperative societies in the State with the support of TSCAB, making them financially stronger.

He said a common HR policy implemented with the State government's help provided job security to over 3,000 team members working in primary cooperative societies where Telangana is one of only two

states in the country to implement this policy.

Ravinder Rao also noted that regular recruitment for the State Cooperative Apex Bank and District Cooperative Banks is conducted by the IBPS. The recruitment process is transparent and since 2012, a total of 3,385 staff members have been appointed in TSCAB and District Cooperative Banks.

Upon concluding the conference, Chairman Ravinder Rao and Vice-Chairman Gougidi Mahender Reddy announced their resignation.

In response to the resignation of TSCAB Chairman and Vice-chairman, KTR posted a tweet, stating, "Their resignation and lack of leadership will be a huge loss for the cooperative sector in the State."

Women MSMEs are better at cost optimisation: Study

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Based on a study, it was found that women-owned MSMEs excelled in cost optimisation, income growth and loan repayment compared to those owned by men. This suggests that the social benefits of economic growth can be maximised if women business owners are given equal opportunities.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO) held an MSME-focused event called 'Navigating to Success: The MSME Way' at the National

Institute of MSME, Yousufguda on Friday.

Director General for National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Dr S Glory Swarupa addressed the gathering, noting that out of 60 million MSMEs in 2016, 8 million were women-led. Several FLO members, including women business owners, participated in the event.

Kinara Capital's MSME Insights Report 2024 showed that women-owned MSMEs hired 11% more women employees than those owned by men.

Dr Swarupa also referred McKinsey Global Institute,



Chairperson of FLO Priya Gazdar seen felicitating Dr S Glory Swarupa

which estimates India could boost its GDP by \$0.7 trillion by bringing more women into the workforce by 2025. The World Bank reports that India could increase annual GDP

growth by 1.5 percentage points by getting 50% of women into the workforce.

Chairperson of FLO Priya Gazdar announced that FICCI FLO is entering a knowledge exchange collaboration with NI-MSME, a pioneering institute supporting MSMEs for over 62 years. This MoU will be signed during an MSME conclave FLO organised in the city on June 24, 2024, she added.

Priya highlighted a significant 75% increase in women-led SMEs in the last financial year, from 4.9 lakh units to 8.59 lakh units, showcasing the flexibility of women entrepre-

neurs.

FLO Hyderabad launched a Digital Ready Reckoner, a detailed compilation of MSME schemes relevant to women entrepreneurs. The Ready Reckoner, accessible to FLO's 12,000 members across 24 regional chapters pan-India, will be updated quarterly for continued relevance and accuracy.

The FLO's focus this year is on including more women at all business stages and societal levels in the MSME sector to benefit from the various schemes and subsidies offered by the MSME Ministry, Government of India.

Cases against KTR, other BRS leaders for visiting Charminar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS issued a statement saying that police cases were filed against BRS leaders by Revanth Reddy's government. The BRS statement said, "The Congress government has filed cases against BRS leaders who protested against the government's attempts to remove the Kakatiya Kala Thoranam and Charminar symbols from the Telangana official logo."

Charminar police filed cases under Section 188 against BRS leaders KT Rama Rao, Ponnala



Lakshmaiah, Padma Rao Goud, Maganti Gopinath and others for protesting at Charminar.

The police registered cases against BRS leaders, including former MP Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar, MLC Baswaraju Saraiah, former MLAs Vinay Bhaskar,

Nannapaneni Narendra, Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, Hanmakonda ZP Chairman Sudhir Kumar, Khammam - Warangal - Nalgonda Graduates MLC candidate Rakesh Reddy and former KUDA chairman Yadav Reddy, for holding a media conference and protesting at the Warangal fort.

Additionally, "We are not afraid of such petty cases," the BRS leaders stated, adding that they will not remain silent if there are attempts to disrupt Telangana's culture, identity and heritage.

Revanth: Tapping into negotiables for maximising gain

Unlike democracy, totalitarianism features a total lack of privacy. In communist dictatorships and in countries ruled by tyrants and dictators, there is no expectation of privacy -- an essential element of human dignity. No judge, lawyer, politician, legislator, government official, leader of civil society, journalist, celebrity, business person, or private individual has been exempt from mass surveillance by the Orwellian Big Brothers ruling such countries.

News reports of confessions made by high-ranking police officers of the Telangana Police, who are currently under interrogation for large-scale illegal phone-tapping during the earlier government led by Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), make one wonder if a 'supreme leader' like Stalin, Saddam, or Kim Jong-il was ruling Telangana until a few months back. The BRS regime's brazen disregard of citizen's fundamental rights and the rule of law is beyond shocking. The fact that the KCR-led administration put even High Court judges under surveillance leaves no doubt that the former Chief Minister made a travesty of the Constitution and the independence of the Judiciary. Though the scale of the mass surveillance unleashed by the KCR government was unprecedented, reminding one of the Emergency days, the handling of the case by the current Congress government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has raised serious questions. Instead of expanding the investigation and interrogating the former Chief Minister and former ministers named by the confiding offi-

The only plausible conclusion is that Congress and the BRS both understand that the outcomes of the investigations are negotiable. All that is needed is to finalise the terms and conditions, which could be political, financial, or both.

cers, the Revanth Reddy government limited itself to investigating mid-level police officers and creating a media sensation through selective leaks. Revanth Reddy's recent taunt aimed at KCR, his son Taraka Rama Rao, and nephew Harish Rao -- both ministers in the earlier government -- asking why they were not demanding a CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) probe into the mass phone tapping case exposes the Chief Minister's game plan to use the

scandal purely for political leverage. Firstly, the Chief Minister's taunt emphasises that KCR and his family are more comfortable with the state government under Revanth Reddy probing the case, instead of letting the CBI do the job. It also highlights that Revanth Reddy knows the BRS leaders' preference for a state agency probe. It raises the question of how it matters for KCR and his family members, reportedly behind the illegal surveillance pro-



KISHORE POREDDY

gram, whether the state or the central agencies investigate the matter. To answer this question, one has to examine the earlier behaviour of the Congress government towards alleged scams perpetuated by KCR and his government, be it the financial irregularities in the

Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) or the TSPSC (Telangana State Public Service Commission) question paper leakages, to name a couple, reveal the same pattern. Heavy noise about massive corruption and illegalities by the previous government, followed by assertions of strenuous action that spares none, eventually ending up with dilatory tactics and limiting investigations to low-level bureaucrats. The only plausible conclusion is that the Congress and the BRS both understand that the outcomes of the investigations are negotiable. All that is needed is to finalise the terms and conditions, which could be political, financial, or both. Unlike the other alleged scams committed by the earlier government, the incentives for the Congress Chief Minister to arrive at a negotiated settlement on the phone-tapping scandal

are two-fold. Since multiple Congress leaders were under surveillance, pursuing the case to its logical conclusion may reveal illegalities committed by some of his own party's leaders. Also, during the note-for-vote scam, in which Revanth Reddy himself is an accused, there have been rumours that KCR used illegal phone tapping to snare him, and if records of those tapping, if they exist, come out, it could create problems for the Chief Minister himself. Additionally, the Chief Minister believes there is nothing to gain from taking any case of corruption or illegality by the earlier government to its logical conclusion to serve justice and reestablish the rule of law. It is much more advantageous to use the misdeeds of the earlier government and political opponents as negotiating chips

and to keep them in control. Given the Congress' slim majority in the Assembly coupled with multiple challengers Revanth Reddy faces from within the Congress to the Chief Minister seat, and KCR's track record of splitting the Congress in the state, it would be advantageous to keep BRS under control using these cases as leverage. The saddest aspect of the entire phone-tapping episode is that reportedly, the family members of the Chief Minister too were victims of the illegal surveillance. Even in such a case, if the CM prioritises political calculations over ensuring justice to the victims, can there be any hope of this government serving justice in cases where the commoner is a victim? (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

PM's meditation at Vivekananda Rock Memorial criticised

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC senior vice-president G Niranjan alleged that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has caused the severe problem to pilgrims who come in thousands every day to have Darshan of Vivekananda rock Memorial by holding a 45-hours meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari. Modi should apologise to pilgrims, he demanded. In a statement issued on Friday, Niranjan asked how did the memorial organisers



give permission to Modi ignoring the problems of the pilgrims? Pilgrims who came to Kanyakumari from different places in the country and abroad had to go back without visiting the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. He said that it is once again proved that Modi does not care or bother about the convenience of people except his personal ends. It is interesting how Modi has done 45 hours of meditation irrespective of public sufferings. God knows whether it is Dhyana or pre-tension, he said.

BRS decries Modi's remarks

'No one knew Mahatma until film Gandhi'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks, where he stated that the world did not know about Mahatma Gandhi until the release of the film "Gandhi" in 1982. "It is tragic and unfortunate that today, Nathuram Godse, who assassinated Gandhi, is being venerated, while Prime Minister Modi is presenting Gandhi as if he is introducing him to the world anew," Niranjan Reddy lamented. "It is a sad day when those with narrow-mindedness and ignorance are guiding our nation," he added. His comments came in response to



Singireddy Niranjan Reddy

Prime Minister Modi's controversial statement and serve to remind the public of Gandhi's already well-established global legacy long before the 1982 film. Highlighting the global

recognition of Gandhi long before the film, Niranjan Reddy cited Albert Einstein's famous words about Gandhi: "Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth." He also referenced British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who, after India's independence, acknowledged underestimating the power of Gandhi's nonviolent struggle. Churchill had noted that if the British had understood the immense public support behind Gandhi's methods of non-violence, they might have tried to eliminate him physically. "These words from Einstein and Churchill are

recorded in history and known globally. Gandhi influenced the course and outcomes of global struggles. Many nations and leaders have recognised Gandhi's principles as the right approach over violent methods for achieving change," Reddy stated. He mentioned Nelson Mandela, who led the long struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Mandela, who endured 27 years of imprisonment, credited Gandhi's methods for South Africa's eventual freedom, calling Gandhi their guide. He also recalled US President Barack Obama's visit to India, where Obama addressed the Indian Parliament and called Gandhi an inspiration.

Spurious BT cotton seed racket busted, three suspects arrested

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

In a recent crackdown, the Special Operations Team (SOT) Maheshwaram Zone, in coordination with Madgul Police, apprehended several individuals involved in procuring and selling banned BT-III loose cotton seeds. Acting on a tip-off, three suspects were nabbed on May 26, at New Brahmanapally Village, Madgul Mandal, for unlawfully acquiring these seeds from Annapureddy Malla Reddy of Sundarapuram village, Keshampet Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, and misleading farmers with false promises of higher yields. Under the charges of Section 420 (cheating), 120 (B) IPC, Section 7 of the EC Act 1955, and Section 15(1) of the EP Act 1986, the arrested individuals were identified as Duggipudi Mar Reddy, Allam Vinod Kumar, and Allam Mar Reddy, among others. Further investigations led to the arrest of two more suspects, Annapureddy Malla Reddy and YN Sathyapal Reddy on May 30. The accused, the officials said, confessed to having procured banned BT-III seeds from Kondapu Naidu of Mudhol, Karnataka State, and sold

them to unsuspecting local farmers, resulting in financial gain through fraudulent means. Authorities seized various items from the arrested individuals, including banned BT-III cotton seeds weighing approximately 1,000 kilograms, five smartphones, an electric weighing machine, and a Swift DZire car bearing registration number TS-06-EG-3779, collectively valued at Rs. 35,00,000/-. In light of these developments, the Rachakonda Police Commissioner, Dr. Tarun Joshi, commended the efforts of the SOT-Maheshwaram Zone team and Madgul police personnel for their diligent work in combating illicit practices that jeopardize the interests of farmers and agricultural integrity. He emphasized the importance of public vigilance in reporting illegal activities to uphold the sanctity of the agricultural sector and promote sustainable development. The successful operations were conducted under the direct supervision of CP Tarun Joshi, and the guidance of K. Muralidhar, DCP-SOT, highlighting the commitment of justice and safeguarding community interests.

Police arrest 11 persons on charge of stealing GI wire from YTPS plant

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Police arrested 11 persons on charge of theft of galvanised iron wire from YTPS power plant at Damcherla and recover from them booty worth Rs 1.49 crore. The police claimed to have seized galvanised iron wire, a car, two motorbikes and an auto-rickshaw. The state government's prestigious YTPs project in Damaracharla is under construction and the necessary equipment has been stored on the YTPS premises. The BHEL and other construction companies have been engaged in construction activity.



Nalgonda Superintendent of Police Deepti speaking at a media conference in Nalgonda on Friday

As part of the investigation, Miryalaguda Rural Circle Inspector Veerababu, Vadapalli sub-inspector Ravi, Vemulapalli sub-inspector Vijay Kumar, Madugulapally sub-inspector Shobhan Babu and Vadapalli staff and CCS head constable Vishnu under the supervision of Miryalaguda DSP Rajasekhar

Raju cracked the case. A special team had been formed and has been investigating for the past week and has cracked these three cases and arrested the following accused. The arrested are Sheikh Mohammed, Sheikh, Kambala Ashok, Sheikh Razzak, Mohammad Afroz,

Muhammad Jani, Manda Srinu, father: Ramulu, Manda Mahesh, father: Ramulu, Manda Nagendra Babu, Amit Kumar Bhardwaj and Ravindra Prasad. The accused will be produced in the court and further investigation of the case will be done by the police.

Collector assures farmers of adequate stocks of seed

Dasari Hari Chandana said special teams have been formed to check spurious seeds

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Nalgonda district Collector Dasari Hari Chandana said on Friday that there are adequate stocks of seeds in the district and farmers need not worry about the availability of seeds. On Friday, she held a review meeting with agriculture officials at the conference hall at the Collectorate here. She said that adequate stocks seeds have been made available in all mandals in the district and there is no shortage and farmers need not worry. She said that the seeds in the package should be purchased only from licensed dealers in the district and if it is noticed that loose seeds are being sold, the officials should be informed.



Nalgonda Collector Dasari Hari Chandana holding a review meeting in Nalgonda on Friday

comprising police, officials of the Agriculture Department and Revenue have been formed at the field level to check spurious seeds. She appealed to the farmers not to buy seeds from unauthorised dealers. She warned that strict action would be taken against any dealer who misled farmers and sold loose seeds. "We have already registered a case under the Preventive Detention Act against those selling spurious seeds in Miryalaguda and Saligauram mandals through our teams and seized the seeds. Additional Collector Purnachandra Rao, District Agriculture Department Officer Shruvan and Assistant Director of Information Department Venkateshwarlu were present.

2.60 lakh tons of paddy procured from Medak dist



PNS ■ KAUDIPALLI

Medak Collector Rahul Raj on Thursday said that 2.60 lakh tons of paddy has been procured from farmers of the district till Wednesday. The money in lieu of the procurement of the paddy from the farmers would be deposited in their bank accounts soon. The farmers have been asked not to worry as there were no forecast of rain for the next two or three days. Later, he visited the Jeelugaseeds outlet of the district cooperative marketing society in Naksanpalli and visited the ZP high school in Tuniki village. Tahsildar Anjaneyulu, assistant director agriculture Punyavati, mandal education officer Buchha Naik, RI Sri Hari, agriculture officer Swapna, agriculture extension officer Rajasekhar Goud and others were present on the occasion.

Administration will ensure that the green fodder crops seeds are supplied to the district fully. So far, 4000 quintals of Jeelugaseeds have been procured. The money in lieu of the procurement of the paddy from the farmers would be deposited in their bank accounts soon. The farmers have been asked not to worry as there were no forecast of rain for the next two or three days. Later, he visited the Jeelugaseeds outlet of the district cooperative marketing society in Naksanpalli and visited the ZP high school in Tuniki village. Tahsildar Anjaneyulu, assistant director agriculture Punyavati, mandal education officer Buchha Naik, RI Sri Hari, agriculture officer Swapna, agriculture extension officer Rajasekhar Goud and others were present on the occasion.

Fire in dump yard causes frequent accidents on the national highway 365

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The thick smoke rising from the municipal dumping yard near Chandanapally has been blanketing national Highway 365 - Nakrekal, Arvapally, Tungaturthi, Mahbubabad, Nasampet and Mallapalli, posing a danger to vehicle users. The dump yard of Nalgonda

municipality is located seven kilometres away from Nalgonda town, but located within 50 meters of drinking water resources. Udhaya Samudram balancing reservoir and beside National Highway 365. The garbage in the dump yard catches fire frequently sending dense columns of smoke into the air. With the smoke blanketing

the national highway, drivers of vehicles are forced to halt their journey till the smoke is cleared. Garbage being collected from 42 wards in Nalgonda is dumped in the dump yard. The municipal officials have no clue as to why the waste in the dumping yard is catching fire very frequently. Traffic on the national highway has increased significantly.

Accidents are happening frequently at the dump yard. With thick smoke blanketing the highway, drivers are confused resulting in accidents. The smoke often reduces the visibility leading to accidents. A youth, identified as P Sai Kumar, met with an accident thrice at this place. The poor visibility due to smoke has led to the accidents.

SERC to host 21st IEEE international conference from June 4

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Software Engineering Research Center (SERC) at International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIITH) will be hosting the 21st edition of the IEEE International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA) 2024. ICSA is the premier venue for practitioners and researchers interested in software architecture, in component-based software engineering, in quality aspects of software, and how these relate to the design of software architectures. Y Raghuram Reddy from SERC, IIITH and Prof. Nenad Medvidovic from the University of Southern

California, USA are the general chairs of ICSA 2024. Dr. Romina Spalazese from Malmo University, Sweden and Dr. Heiko Koziol, ABB Corporate Research, Germany are the Program co-chairs for the conference, while Dr. Karthik Vaidyanathan and Dr. Raman Saxena (SERC) are the local organisation chairs. The conference is scheduled to be held from June 4 to 8 at the IIIT Hyderabad campus. ICSA is coming back to India after 16 years. The keynote speakers for the conference are Prof. Paola Invernardi, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy, Dr. Ipek Ozkaya, Software Engineering Institute and others.

Advocates thank CM for releasing Rs 7cr for renewing mediclaim

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Advocates of Telangana State thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for providing Rs 7 crore to renew the Mediclaim policy for the year 2024-2025 maintained by Telangana State Advocates Welfare Trust. As per the GO issued on Friday, "Government has sanc-

tioned an amount of Rs 7 crore to the Telangana State Advocates Welfare Trust so as to enable the said Trust to continue the Health Insurance Scheme and Group Accidental Policy to the Advocates during the present year 2024-2025 and in the G.O. 2nd read above the Finance Department have issued BRO for an amount of Rs. 7,00,00,000/-

(Rupees Seven Crores only) under plan during the Budget Estimation 2024-2025. The expenditure sanctioned in para (1) above shall be debited to the Head of Account, "2014-ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, 800-Other Expenditure, 25-STATE SECTOR SCHEMES, 07-Assistance to Associations and Organizations, 310 Grants in

Aid, 312-Other Grants in Aid". A Ananthan Reddy, advocate and Telangana State Bar Council Member said, "We also request the Chief Minister to grant Rs100 crore to Telangana State Bar Council for the welfare schemes of advocates as assured to grant every year. Thanking the Hon'ble Chief Minister for his liberal approach towards Advocates".

INDIA CORNER

Srinagar Airport operations halted for an hour after bomb threat

Flight operations at the Srinagar International Airport had to be halted for an hour on Friday after a bomb threat as the authorities took preventive measures, officials said. The Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Srinagar Airport received a bomb threat on an Air Vistara flight from New Delhi, prompting a response from the authorities, including the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which is responsible for the security at the airport, the officials said. They said a threat call was made to the airport around the noon about the flight, which had 178 passengers onboard. Immediately after the flight landed at the airport, it was directed towards an isolation bay and the passengers and the crew were evacuated, they added. A thorough search of the plane was carried out, and bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs were also deployed to check any suspicious items, they said.



Five TMC workers injured after bombs hurled by ISF supporters

At least five Trinamool Congress workers were injured after bombs were hurled at them allegedly by ISF supporters at Bhongore in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, police said on Friday. Bhongore's Indian Secular Front (ISF) MLA Nawsad Siddique, however, dismissed the allegations and said that the TMC workers hurled bombs at ISF supporters but their own party men were injured in the incident. Bhongore under Jadavpur Lok Sabha constituency will go to polls in the last phase on Saturday. The incident took place when the TMC workers were returning home on Thursday night. The injured TMC workers were admitted to a state-run hospital in Kolkata. State minister Aroop Biswas, Jadavpur's TMC candidate Saayoni Ghosh and party legislator Saikat Molla visited the injured persons at the medical establishment.



Noida: Ola rider who fled with customer's belongings held after gunfight with cops

An Ola bike taxi rider was held following a gunfight with the police here a day after he allegedly fled with a woman's bag containing an iPhone and laptop among other valuables, officials said on Friday. The 34-year-old accused, identified as Pramod Singh, was shot in the leg during the gunfight with the cops on a service lane between metro stations of Sector 51 and Sector 76 near Spectrum Mall late Thursday night, they said. In her complaint, Adheera Saxena, who lives in a high-rise society in Noida Extension, alleged that the incident took place near the Sector 52 metro station when she got off the bike taxi and was in the middle of completing the payment of the trip on Wednesday evening. "Two days ago, a woman had booked an Ola bike to come to a location in the Sector 49 police station area but the bike rider had snatched and fled with her belongings," Additional DCP Manish Mishra said.



SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

Prajwal Revanna arrested upon return, remanded

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna, the suspended JD(S) MP facing sexual abuse allegations, was arrested on Friday upon his return from Germany, a month after he left the country in the wake of explicit videos of his alleged actions during the rounds in Karnataka's Hassan.



A special court in the city remanded him to police custody till June 6. In a clear messaging early in the day, a team of women police personnel 'welcomed' Prajwal Revanna upon his arrival here, as they were deputed to execute a warrant and take him to the CID office for interrogation. After evading summons and staying out of the country for a little over a month, the 33

year-old grandson of JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda landed here past midnight from Germany's Munich, only to be arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) minutes later and whisked away for questioning. He was later produced before the 42nd Additional

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate K N Shivakumar, who heard the remand application and objection argument from Prajwal's advocate. He later remanded Prajwal to police custody. The NDA Lok Sabha candidate from Hassan, facing allegations of sexually abusing several women, was arrested

after completing the due process, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said. Prajwal's advocate Arun G said the former was extending full cooperation to the SIT probe and cautioned against any media trial in the case. "Prajwal Revanna landed around 12.40-12.50 am from Germany's Munich. As there was an arrest warrant against him, SIT accordingly arrested him and took him into custody," Parameshwara said. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "...naturally he should have cooperated to the arrest. His immigration papers were cleared and he was brought out (of airport). As he had a diplomatic passport, things happened easily. After completing all the due process, he was arrested," he added.

DELHI HEAT WAVE

Arrangements made for water, grains for birds, small animals on SC premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhi registers record-high temperatures amid the blistering heat wave sweeping the city, arrangements have been made on the Supreme Court premises for adequate water for birds and small animals. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud directed that vessels with water and grains be placed on the premises for birds and small animals such as squirrels, an apex court official said. Chief Justice Chandrachud had earlier identified the places where such facilities were to be arranged, he said. The Chief Justice also directed the officials concerned to ensure constant supply of water and food at these places, he added.

AKHILESH TO SP WORKERS

Be 'vigilant' against BJP's 'lies' and 'exit polls'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW (UP)

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday asked his party workers, candidates and office-bearers to remain "vigilant" against the "lies" of the BJP and "its exit polls." In an appeal in Hindi on X, Yadav wrote, "Today I am making an extremely important appeal to you. All of you should remain fully alert, vigilant and cautious during the voting tomorrow and also in the days after the voting, till the counting of votes is over and you receive the certificate of victory. Do not get misled by the BJP." In the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections, polling will be held in 13 Lok Sabha seats of Uttar Pradesh on June 1 between 7 am and 6 pm. Yadav went on to allege that the BJP will start spreading lies once the polling is over on



Saturday. "Actually I am making this appeal because the BJP people have made a plan that as soon as the elections are over tomorrow evening, they will start getting their 'media group (media mandali)' to say on various channels that the BJP has got a lead of around 300 seats, which is completely false," Yadav wrote. He went on to caution the party workers to not believe any such claim and alleged that the BJP can "rig the counting".

"In such a situation, the question will arise in your mind that what will the BJP get by lying for two-three days when the INDIA alliance government is going to be formed. In answer to this, let me tell you that by spreading such lies, the BJP people want to demoralise all of you, so that your enthusiasm is reduced and you people do not remain alert and active on the day of counting," he said. Taking advantage of this, the BJP can rig the counting in connivance with some corrupt officials, he added. Yadav went on to remind the workers about the poll rigging in the Chandigarh mayor election. "Remember, those BJP members who can have the audacity to rig the Chandigarh mayor election in front of the cameras installed by the court, can resort to any kind of fraud to win the election.

Fate of 62 poll candidates in HP to be sealed today

PNS ■ SHIMLA

After a two-month-long campaign, the fate of 37 candidates for four Lok Sabha seats and 25 nominees in six Assembly bypolls in Himachal Pradesh would be sealed in voting machines on June 1. The high-pitched campaign in the hill state, filled with rancour and insinuations, ended with two rallies of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Badnar and Mandi and a roadshow of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Solan on Thursday. Leaders and workers of political parties swarmed across the state for door-to-door canvassing in a last-ditch attempt to woo the voters. Besides the elections to the four Lok Sabha seats of Hamirpur, Mandi, Kangra and Shimla, bypolls are being held in six Assembly segments -- Sujampur, Dharamshala, Lahaul and Spiti, Barsar, Gagret and Kutlehar. The six Assembly seats fell vacant following the disqualification of Congress rebels for defying a party whip to vote in

favour of the government during the budget. These legislators voted for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Rajya Sabha polls on February 29, later joined the saffron party and are contesting the bypolls on BJP tickets from their respective Assembly segments. Targeting the rebels, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu dubbed them as "bikau" (sold out) and "kale naag" (snakes) and called upon the voters to punish them. Besides holding big rallies, leaders of political parties also held "nukkar" (corner meetings, especially in the constituencies where Assembly bypolls are being held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha election. BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Mandi and Bollywood actor Kangna Ranaut and Congress candidate and state Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh hogged the limelight due to controversial and pungent remarks made against each other.



Mumbai hoarding collapse: Structural engineer remanded

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A Mumbai court on Friday remanded in police custody till June 5 a structural engineer arrested in connection with the May 13 hoarding collapse that killed 17 persons in Ghatkopar. Structural engineer Manoj Sanghu was produced in the magistrate court after he was arrested by the Crime Branch on Thursday. Sanghu, who was empanelled by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), had given a stability certificate to the hoarding, which crashed onto a petrol pump after gusty winds and unseasonal rains lashed the city on May 13. Ego Media Private Limited had erected the hoarding on a plot in the possession of the Government Railway Police (GRP). Sanghu is the second person to be arrested in the case. Police had earlier arrested Ego Media Private Limited director Bhavesh Bhide, who is currently in judicial custody. Bhide and others were charged under Indian Penal Code sections 304-2 (when there is knowledge that death may be caused by one's act), 338 (endangering life or personal safety of other) and 34 (common intention). The police have now added IPC section 120B (criminal conspiracy) to the FIR.

Missing NEET aspirant traced, had travelled across India in 23 days

PNS ■ KOTA

A NEET aspirant, who went missing from Kota on May 6, was traced by his father at a railway station in Goa. With just Rs 11,000 in his pocket, the 19-year-old spent the days travelling on trains, often ticketless. Rajendra Prasad Meena had raised the money by selling his books, mobile phone and two bicycles, his uncle said. A day after taking the competitive medical exam, Meena on May 6 sent a text message to his parents saying that he did not want to study any further and was leaving home for five years, police had said. Meena said that he had Rs 8,000 with him and if he need, he would contact his family. The NEET aspirant's family has alleged that the Kota police



did not take any efforts into tracing the youth. Kota police did not even step out of the city to look for the boy and showed negligence in technically tracking him, Meena's uncle Mathura Lal told PTI on Friday. He said that the family formed four teams, each comprising three family members, in search of the youth since the day he had gone missing, he said. According to his family, after performing badly in his NEET exam, Meena sold his phone and left Kota on May 6. He boarded a train to Pune, where he stayed for two days. In Pune, he purchased a second-hand mobile phone for Rs 1,500, got a sim using his Aadhaar Card and then went to Amritsar where he visited Golden Temple. Thereafter he headed to Vaishno Devi in Jammu, Lal said. The uncle alleged that if Kota police made efforts, then they would have traced him in Pune when the boy got a sim, which was linked to his Aadhaar Card. From Jammu, Meena went to Agra and saw Taj Mahal, then boarded a train to Jagannath Puri Dham in Odisha.

Celebrity chef Shipra Khanna unveils her latest culinary masterpiece 'Sinfully yours - just desserts'

PNS ■ MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA)

Renowned celebrity chef and Award-winning author, Shipra Khanna, launched her highly anticipated book 9th cookbook, "Sinfully Yours - Just Desserts" at a glittering event held at the prestigious Taj Lands End. The event was graced by culinary luminaries, including the esteemed Padm Shri Chef

Sanjeev Kapoor as the chief guest and celebrated food critic Rashmi Uday Singh as the moderator. Chef Rohit Sangwan also contributed his insights, adding to the evening's enriching discourse on culinary arts. "Who doesn't like homemade, healthy, and delicious desserts! From classics to gluten-free, vegan options, there's something for every sweet lover. 'Sinfully Yours - Just Desserts' is a tantalizing collection of dessert recipes that promises to take readers on a delightful journey through the world of sweet indulgences. With her signature style and flair, Shipra Khanna has curated a book that is both a feast for the eyes and the taste buds, perfect for dessert enthusiasts and home bakers alike who are sure you will love the book! Makes for a perfect gift as well! Happy cooking!"

As Patna heads to polls, migrant voters return

PNS ■ PATNA

"Every vote counts... this is a crucial election," asserts Sheema Fatima, an assistant professor in Mumbai, who like several others has come home to Patna to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha polls on June 1. Some planned their travel well in advance and landed in the city a few days ago while others arrived Friday morning or will be reaching during the day to participate in the "festival of democracy." The district of Patna has two parliamentary constituencies -- Patna Sahib and Pataliputra -- both of which will go to polls along with six other seats in the state in the seventh and final

phase of the general election. "They say it is a festival of democracy and in many ways, it is. But it is an important exercise that allows you to express your voice, in line with the values of citizenship and participatory democracy," the assistant professor at the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai, said. "Every vote counts," Fatima, who arrived in Patna a few days ago, said. "This is a very crucial general election. And it is important to vote, so I am here... I have been out of Patna for a long time for higher education and then work. I had come to vote in the general election in 2019 and the 2020 Bihar Assembly polls as well,"



she told PTI here. Fatima will be exercising her franchise along with her mother in the Patna Sahib constituency on Saturday. The BJP's incumbent MP and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad is seeking a second term from the crucial Patna Sahib seat, while the INDIA bloc has fielded Anshul

architect who moved to Gurugram last year for work, arrived here on Friday morning. "I had booked train tickets in advance," he said, adding, "It's just one vote but I hope it will add to the collective effort to make my city better where development and heritage preservation will go hand-in-hand and not just blind concrete construction we are seeing today in Patna." For Sinha, education, health and sensitive urban planning are the key issues in this election. Several others who have also arrived in the city to take part in the election largely concurred that "if we don't vote, we have no right to crib about governance issues".

HC judge first in Goa to execute 'living will'

PNS ■ PANAJI

Justice M S Sonak of the Bombay High Court on Friday gave his consent for an 'End of Life Care (EOLC)' will at a function here as Goa became the first state in the country to operationalise the Advance Medical Directives (AMD) facility. The judge, who serves on the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court, became the first to execute what is commonly known as 'living will'. A person can give directions about his or her end-of-life treatment choices by executing

such a document. Dr Sandesh Chodankar and Dinesh Shetty served as witnesses and Dr Medha Salkar, Chief Medical Officer at the Directorate of Services Goa was present as a gazetted officer at the function held on the high court premises near Panaji. Speaking on the occasion, Justice Sonak congratulated all the stakeholders who made the implementation of AMD possible in the state. With this, Goa became the first state in the country to implement and operationalise the living will facility in the

true letter and spirit of the Supreme Court's directives, the judge noted. He also appealed people to understand the intricacies of living wills and make an informed decision. The function was organized by the Goa branch of the Indian Medical Association and Goa State Legal Services Authority. A booklet on Advance Medical Directives was released on this occasion. Justices Valmiki Menezes and Jitendra Jain were also present along with former IMA Goa chief Dr Shekhar Salkar.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

High and dry

The Delhi Govt is out to fine people wasting water. But is it doing enough at its own end?

Summers in Delhi are particularly harsh due to the combination of extremely high temperatures, hovering around 50 degrees Celsius, and frequent heatwaves that exacerbate the already intense heat. Compounding these problems is the deficiency in civic services, which leaves the residents high and dry. The city's urban heat island effect, where concrete retains and radiates heat, makes the environment significantly hotter. The rural areas in the hinterland, particularly those towards the west, bear the brunt of hot westerlies coming in from the Rajasthan desert. During this season, water shortage becomes a critical issue as demand peaks while supply dwindles, making it difficult for the residents to stay hydrated. Additionally, the high demand for electricity to run air conditioners, coolers and fans often overwhelms the power grid, resulting in frequent power cuts, thus increasing health risks. Summer also brings poor air quality due to dust storms and increased vehicular emissions which, when combined with the



heat, can lead to respiratory problems and other health issues. There are several reasons for Delhi's woes. Though nothing much can be done about the fire raining from the skies, the management of resources such as electricity and water can be done in a better manner. Every year, the Delhi Government blames Haryana for not releasing its share of water, but no one wants to find a long-term solution. Besides, many parts of Delhi, especially East Delhi, lack sufficient green spaces, which are essential for providing shade and cooling the environment. It is a sad commentary on Delhi Government that more than 22 per cent water bodies of Delhi have been stolen.

Earlier records suggest that Delhi had over 1,000 water bodies which served as buffers and provided water and coolness. To address this issue, the Delhi Government has announced a fine of Rs 2,000 on those found guilty of wasting water. So, in a way, the city Government is putting the onus for water scarcity only on its people. Home to over 20 million people, Delhi is experiencing unprecedented water shortages. The rising temperatures have led to increased water consumption, putting immense pressure on the already strained water supply system. Residents are facing erratic water supplies, with many neighbourhoods receiving water only a few hours each day. The fine targets a range of activities considered wasteful, including washing cars with hosepipes, watering gardens excessively and leaving taps open. While the intention is commendable, several factors question its practicality and effectiveness. How will the Government find the culprits and who will define water wastage? Besides, the Government is being harsh on people who are already braving the heat despite electricity and water scarcity. Instead, the Government could have issued a warning for wasting water and arranged for water tankers in areas badly hit by water scarcity. For now, only the weather gods can save the Capital.

PICTALK



Children of a school offer prayers during a 'havan' for relief from the heatwave, in Jammu

India and Bangladesh: A tale of two books



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Two recently published books provide in-depth examinations of pivotal South Asian political landscapes

I have just finished a book pertaining to election-related data in India and another to Bangladesh and its ties with this country. Chambers Book on Indian Election: Facts (Hachette, India) authored by Kingshuk Chatterjee and Surbek Biswas, an academic and a senior journalist respectively, goes beyond statistics. Figures are integrated into a narrative that encompasses the country's political and electoral journey since the time of the British Raj and the elections held during it. Post-Independence, it dwells on the functioning of institutions like the Parliament, State legislatures and the judiciary, placing figures in context of an unfolding account of electoral battles, their results and the underlying political currents running throughout the country. It is a heaven-sent for not only scribes but political party functionaries, activists, poll-forecasters, to name a few, who scramble for data with the advent of elections, and, of course, scholars and researchers, hunting for information at all times for doctoral theses or other projects. Interspersed with the narrative are interesting pieces of not generally remembered information, such as Gian Singh Rarewala being the first non-Congress chief minister of any state in India. He became chief minister of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) at the head of a United Front Government on April 22, 1952. It is a book worth keeping on the shelf.

Transformation, Emergence of Bangladesh and Evolution of India-Bangladesh Ties (Knowledge World and Indian Council of World Affairs), is by a distinguished former officer of the Indian Foreign Service, Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty. It traverses a long time-span from the pre-historic period to the present. While providing an illuminating account of the historical circumstances shaping Bangladesh's emergence and cultural, religious, social and political ethos, the narrative contains several avoidable errors. For example, Chakravarty says that Siraj-U-Doula (the last independent nawab of Bengal) was tortured and brutally killed in prison by



Mir Madan, Mir Jafar's son. Siraj was killed on July 2, 1757, under orders from Mir Miran, Mir Jafar's son. Mir Madan fought loyally for Siraj in the battle of Palashi and died in combat.

Again, Chakravarty writes, "The Hindu College in Calcutta came up in 1817 CE and the Serampore College in 1819 CE. The Serampore missionaries also introduced Bengali periodicals and newspapers like 'Deek Darshan' and 'Samachar Darpan', which were vehicles for campaigning against 'Sati'. The Bengali 'Bhadralok' class was created with such activities."

The emergence of the Bhadralok was a much more complex phenomenon. In Elite Conflict in a Plural Society: Twentieth Century Bengal, J.H. Broomfield has described the Bhadralok as "A socially privileged and consciously superior group, economically dependent on landed rents and professional and clerical employment." The factors contributing most to their rise were the Permanent Settlement (1793), which created a class of zamindars and rentiers, the spread of English education, the expansion of British administration which created opportunities for Indians in the bureaucracy and the establishment of a judicial system, networks of medical administration and engi-



ITS STUMBLING NOTWITHSTANDING, THE BOOK PROVIDES MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION AND INSIGHTS INTO THE EMERGENCE OF BANGLADESH AND THE EVOLUTION OF INDIA-BANGLADESH RELATIONS WITH THEIR STORMY AND SUNNY INTERLUDES

neering services, which led to the rise of the professions.

All this deserves mention because Muslim Bhadralok, emerging in the wake of their Hindu predecessors, played an important role in Bangladesh's liberation struggle and its post-independence politics. While the two leading political parties, Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), are led by Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, both Bhadramahilas (women Bhadralok), the leaders of the organisational layers below them are mainly Muslim Bhadralok.

Its stumbles notwithstanding, the book provides much useful information and insights into the emergence of Bangladesh and the evolution of India-Bangladesh relations with their stormy and sunny interludes. It also provides an exhaustive account of Bangladesh's increasingly contentious internal politics. The book's narrative ends before elections to the country's National Parliament on January 7, 2024, which were boycotted by the BNP and which the AL won securing 224 out of the 300 seats in contest.

Sheikh Hasina, however, has to grapple with the adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine War and the increasing spread

of fundamentalist Islam in Bangladesh. The first has led to discontent against her Government. The second, which threatens the secularism embedded in Bangladesh's constitution, led to the rise of terrorist outfits resorting to violent acts, the most outrageous of which was the attack on the Holy Artisan Bakery, a restaurant in a posh Dhaka neighbourhood, in which 20 persons, including an Indian, were killed, on July 1, 2016. Sheikh Hasina has squelched the terrorist outfits but has to deal with kid gloves organisations like Hefazat-e-Islam preaching fundamentalist Islam.

Her ascent to power for the second time as prime minister in 2009, initiated a continuing friendly chapter in India-Bangladesh relations. Nevertheless, pressures on both countries are many and neither can take things for granted. Chakravarty's narrative is enriched by his ringside view of events both as India's Deputy High Commissioner (1999-2002) and High Commissioner (2007-09) to Bangladesh. His book needs to be read, over and over again, by all those interested in India-Bangladesh ties which, in turn, have an important bearing on South Asian geo-politics.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRAGIC BUS ACCIDENT IN JAMMU

Madam — Apropos the news story "21 killed, 47 injured as bus falls into gorge in Jammu," published on May 30, this is my response. Reading about the tragic bus accident in Jammu, where 21 lives were lost and 47 people were injured, is truly heartbreaking. The accident occurred when a bus carrying pilgrims skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge, highlighting once again the perils of road travel in treacherous terrains. The grief expressed by Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha resonates with the deep sorrow felt by all.

The details are chilling: a failed negotiation of a blind curve, an oncoming speeding car and a catastrophic fall of 150 feet into the gorge. The prompt response by the rescue teams and the efforts to provide immediate medical assistance to the injured are commendable, yet the loss remains profound. This incident underscores the urgent need for enhanced road safety measures and stricter regulations to prevent such heartbreaking occurrences in the future. My thoughts and prayers go out to the affected families.

Arjun Desai | Chandigarh

RBI DIVIDEND BOOSTS GDP

Madam — Apropos the news story "Record RBI dividend at 0.6 per cent of GDP may not be sustained Fitch," published on May 28, this is my response. The above alluring cum enticing and burning news from the stable of RBI that the same has declared record-high supernormal dividend growth by the central bank is simply a win-win situation for both duo viz. Apex Bank of India and the Government of India. Furthermore, the same news by the US (United States) credit rating agency cum giant Fitch Ratings Inc. will give a nitro boost to the economic growth GDP (gross domestic product) of our country. Furthermore, the above-mentioned spectacular news is a source of pride for the RBI, a bourse country Government and its citizens.

Delhi's water crisis worsens



Apropos the news story "Mad scramble for water in several areas as Delhi grapples with a severe shortage," published on May 30, this is my response. The water crisis in Delhi has reached alarming levels, with residents in areas like Chanakyapuri struggling to secure necessities. Despite Government measures to curb water use, such as banning potable water

for car washing, the situation remains dire. The sight of people scrambling with empty buckets and climbing atop water tankers underscores the desperation.

Deepak Srivastava and Janki, long-term residents, express frustration over the lack of consistent water supply, blaming political parties for neglecting basic needs in favour of electoral gains. The severe heatwave exacerbates the issue, with temperatures nearing 50 degrees Celsius. The Delhi Government's emergency actions, including inspections at car service centres, offer some hope, but the fundamental problem persists. Videos of the crisis shared on social media highlight the stark reality: in 2024, in India's capital, access to water will remain a daily battle for many. This calls for urgent, sustainable solutions from both local and national authorities.

Vihaan Verma | Jaipur

Additionally, the above awesome cum uber-cool news has become a burning topic among both the masses and classes. Moreover, from now on, after enjoying the windfall dividend of the central bank, the Government of India will keep a close tab on RBI stock. Additionally, after giving oh-so-uber cum oh-so-uber supernormal dividend growth, the RBI will again work day and night to deliver more and more windfall dividends to the Government of India. Additionally, the above news has received a red-carpet welcome from both print media and electronic media.

Harminder | Lucknow

PRAGGNANANDHAA'S TRIUMPH

Madam — Apropos the news story "Norway chess: Praggnanandhaa claims maiden classical win over Carlsen, takes sole lead," published on May 30, this is my response. Reading about Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa's remarkable victory over world number one Magnus Carlsen in the Classical format is truly thrilling.

This win is particularly significant because it marks the first time Praggnanandhaa has defeated Carlsen in this format, after several previous encounters in faster game versions. At just 18 years old, his achievement underscores his incredible talent and positions him as a leading contender in the Norway chess tournament, ahead of seasoned players like Fabiano Caruana and reigning world champion Ding Liren.

Praggnanandhaa's strategic play, especially using the less-favoured Sicilian Kann opening, demonstrates his deep understanding and innovative approach to the game. Meanwhile, the women's section also showcases the prowess of Praggnanandhaa's sister, R Vaishali, who leads her group. This family of chess prodigies is making significant waves in the chess world, promising an exciting future for Indian chess.

Arnav Patel | Ahmedabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Economic growth raises sustainability concerns

As Indians embrace a culture of 'wants' over 'needs,' there's a growing urgency to address the unsustainable patterns of consumption

Over time, India has shown remarkable progress in GDP growth rates. It currently ranks fifth surpassing the United Kingdom in 2022 and with its promising performance, is expected to overtake Japan by 2025. Amidst the celebration of becoming the fourth largest economy, a worrisome aspect is the rising consumption level of the huge population and its alarming impact on sustainability. Consumption is the driving force behind prospering economic growth. It has a multiplier effect as investors respond to positive consumption by increasing production and hiring more workers, who in turn, spend more, further boosting economic activity.

Consumerism is dominating the world and India is no exception indeed. The estimates of average Monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) according to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, 2022-23 reveal a 33.5 per cent increase by urban households since 2011-12, reaching ₹3,510, while rural India's MPCE increased by 40.42



per cent to ₹2,008. India's consumption story reminds us of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a psychological theory proposed by Abraham Maslow (1943), wherein there is a transition from psychological needs comprising necessities to security to esteem and self-actualisation needs. A noteworthy phenomenon of this shift from 'needs to wants' is the unlimited nature of the latter and the subsequent and alarming wastage of resources.

High consumption can have alarming repercussions on sustainability and long-term economic and social welfare. Foremost, it leads to resource depletion, which may be non-renewable and therefore irreversible, causing scarcity, higher costs and potential financial instability. Environmental degradation is another externality of excessive consumption which includes pollution, deforesta-

tion, biodiversity loss and waste production. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, 2020-21 Annual Report, the total quantity of Solid waste generated in the country is 160038.9 tonnes per day (TPD), out of which 79956.3 TPD (50 per cent) of waste is treated and 29427.2 (18.4 per cent) TPD is landfilled. 50655.4 TPD which is 31.7 per cent of the total waste generated remains ironically unaccounted for. Besides, high consumption also leads to increasing use of fossil fuels and products with large carbon footprints, significantly contributing to climate change.

Given large income disparities in India, even the benefits of high consumption are not evenly distributed. While some people and regions may experience significant economic growth, others may be left behind, exacerbating further economic inequality. While at one end consumption is essential for economic growth, at the same time it is threatening long-term sustainability. To ensure that high consumption contributes to sustainable eco-

nomical growth, we need to encourage consumption patterns that are environmentally friendly and socially responsible. This can be achieved through rampant education, incentives and regulations.

We need to radically work towards investing in renewable resources to reduce the environmental impact of high consumption. The Government needs to implement policies and regulations that encourage sustainable practices and mitigate the negative impacts of high consumption. This includes environmental regulations, carbon pricing and incentives for green technologies. We also need to develop diverse economic activities that do not solely rely on high consumption levels.

By sensibly managing consumption and prioritizing sustainability, it is possible to achieve economic growth that benefits society while preserving the environment for future generations.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi; views are personal)



KAJLEEN KAUR



FIRST COLUMN WITNESSING THE DIVINE PRESENCE

There are multiple instances where the Supreme manifests itself



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I was watching 'pran pratistha' of Lord Rama's Deity in the new temple constructed at the birthplace of the Lord. As the ceremony progressed, I began to notice subtle changes in the Lord's expression; He was coming alive. I was amazed, but I couldn't fail to notice the change as it happened. My experience was corroborated by the sculptor, who made this idol. He admitted that what he had sculpted was a lot different, meaning that the expression he had given was quite sober. By the way, pran pratistha is a transformative act of bringing the idol to life. This manifestation is nothing amazing. God appears even in person. The following five true life stories will exemplify this. The first one chosen is when Lord Krishna appeared as Draupadi was being attempted to be disrobed in the royal court of Dhritarashtra. Draupadi in desperation prayed for help by chanting — "Krishna, Krishna, Krishna". The Lord appeared and provided endless sarees to save Draupadi from humiliation. The second incident chosen is when Surdasa falls into a ditch, him being blind. He attempted to get out but failed. He called for help, but no one came. The place was deserted. His worshipable Lord knew that His true devotee needed help. He came and saw Surdasa sitting down and singing bhajan completely oblivious of the sorry situation he was in. Lord asked him, "Why are you not trying to get out?" Surdasa replied, "I did and failed. I realised that only you could help me." The Lord gave Surdasa His hand and helped him to come out. There is a famous bhajan when Surdasa implores the Lord not to leave him.



The third incident happened a few years back. A close relative of mine was sitting in a temple near her home deeply engrossed in thought. A babaji appeared in front of her. He spoke to her, "You are greatly troubled by the behaviour of your in-laws. Don't worry. You will suffer a certain disease, he named it, due to the stress caused by it. But it will be cured; will not make you suffer much. Before this relative could react, this person had gone away. That disease did trouble her but came under control soon. This relative is a sincere devotee of God.

The fourth example is related to a friend of mine. He is a staunch devotee of God. Over the last few decades, he has made enormous spiritual progress. He is in his late nineties and still going strong. His wife passed away recently after a brief illness. He tried to prevent it by chanting a mantra. He also hoped that she would get an excellent birth next time. As he was overdoing it, God arranged for an aged lady to come to his house. She informed him that his wife would pass away on the fifteenth day. He was shocked. By the time he gathered his wits, she was gone. Was she God Himself or a person chosen by God? The last example is of an American. He had become very rich, but he was neither peaceful nor happy. Intrigued, he had to find the reason. Was material wealth not the solution to all our problems and he had plenty of it? He started visiting various churches but got no satisfactory answer. Disappointed, he decided to come to India - the spiritual capital of the world. Same result here also with bogus gurus trying to manipulate him. Highly frustrated, he was sitting down on a bench on the bank of the Ganges in Haridwar. He was in deep thought when someone tapped him on his shoulder. He opened his eyes and saw a saintly person standing in front of him. He said, "Don't be so sad. Take shelter of God. And the best way is to follow God's instructions as detailed in the bona fide scriptures. Buy a copy of the Bhagavad-Geeta." When he opened his eyes, the saintly person was not to be seen. Can we have similar experiences with God? Yes, we can. God is always quite forthcoming. We just have to qualify for it. How do you do that? It is simpler than what you can imagine. Do spiritual practices, which suit your nature. For example, I do 'darshan' and 'naman', chanting, thanking and praying regularly. Once a certain amount of spiritual credits has been accumulated, God gets active in our lives, (The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Recycle nutrients to mitigate fertiliser crisis



NANDULA RAGHURAM

Many elements crucial for life on Earth are depleting rapidly due to disrupted biogeochemical cycles caused by human activities

If you think carbon is bad enough, other essential elements that sustain life on Earth are also crossing the planetary boundaries of sustainability, as their natural 'biogeochemical' cycles are broken by human activities. For about ten thousand years before the 'green' revolution, farmers grew crops without fertilisers by combining legume-based crop rotations and livestock farming. Legume crops and some soil microbes fixed atmospheric nitrogen, while livestock manure and urine enriched the soil with nutrients such as compounds of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulfur (S), carbon (C) and even micronutrients. But modern cropping in India shifted away from legume-based crop rotations and relies heavily on NPK fertilisers rather than manures, costing the Indian govt over Rs. 2 lakh crores per year in subsidy.

As livestock farming moved away from crops and intensified as peri-urban dairies, manure and urine mostly find their way to our ground and surface water bodies. The release of untreated dairy or domestic and other wastes has reduced the Sahibi River in New Delhi to a wastewater drain (Nazafgarh drain), which along with the Shahdara drain heavily pollutes the river Yamuna, apart from releasing noxious gases into the air.

The nutrient cycles have thus become cascades causing nutrient pollution, but the good news is that some pollutants are nutrients in the wrong place and can be brought back. Unfortunately, less than 30 per cent of the fertiliser nutrients supplied as fertilizers are harvested as crop yield and the remaining add to the growing pollution. In water bodies, the accumulation of these nutrients supports unwanted algal growth causing eutrophication and death of fish and other useful aquatic and marine species. This destroys the ecosystem and the livelihoods of people who depend on fishing, tourism and other ecosystem services. In our coastal areas, algal eutrophication progressively causes green tides, brown and eventually red tides and even the accumulation of poisonous species. The reversal of these trends can rebuild water economies and support the livelihoods of millions. Nitrogenous compounds from fertilisers, manures, urine and sewage also cause air pollution as ammonia or nitrous oxide. Ammonia contributes heavily to particulate matter pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) by combining with NOx gases (nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide) emitted from fuel or residue burning for power, transport industry, or waste disposal. Over a million deaths per year are attributed to PM2.5 alone in India, while some attribute up to 7 per cent of all deaths to PM2.5, as India has the largest number of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5. These figures call for drastic measures to control air pollution in general and PM2.5 in particular, but it needs not only curbing pollution from fuel burning but also restoring the nutrient cycles in agriculture and waste management.

While a fraction of livestock manure is recycled for cropping in India, urine recycling is nearly nonexistent. If we recycled all the 15 kg per animal per day of manure produced by 200 million cattle, its 5 per cent NPK nutrients amount to 1,50,000 metric tons. This is much more than our average daily fertiliser consumption, which is about 1,37,000 metric tons. Add to this about 3 per cent of nutrients lost from 15-20 litres of cattle urine per animal per day totalling



WE ALREADY KNOW THAT AT LEAST HALF OF THE CURRENTLY RECOMMENDED FERTILISER DOSES CAN BE REPLACED WITH FARMYARD MANURE WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF CROP YIELD

1,20,000 metric tons. Technologies and best practices are available from Europe and elsewhere to maximise nutrient retention and recycling from manure and urine. We already know that at least half of the currently recommended fertiliser doses can be replaced with farmyard manure without any loss of crop yield. It not only saves a lakh crores but also reduces the environmental footprint of fertilisers, manures and agriculture itself.

Similarly, over 55,000 metric tonnes of nutrients equivalent to 40 per cent of our fertiliser consumption are lost daily from over 150 billion litres of wastewater produced per day in India. This is because of our abysmally low wastewater treatment capacity of about 27 per cent. Most sewage treatment plants (STPs) exist only in the cities and only a few of them work. Fortunately, some metropolitan cities like Delhi and Hyderabad are rapidly expanding their STP capacity to become 100 per cent wastewater treatment capable in a year or two and some other big cities in India are following suit. However, they vary in their efficiency of nutrient removal, which must be addressed immediately to ensure that the purpose of treatment is fully realised and that the treatment plants become resource plants by selling the recovered nutrients.

There is a growing emphasis worldwide on preventing the wastage of nutrients and recycling them. The most notable among them is Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity at its 15th Conference of Parties in 2022: It seeks to "Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services considering cumulative effects, including (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use". In Europe, where extensive recycling

of livestock manure and urine is already in practice, the new buzzword is the so-called RENURE (recovery of nitrogen from manure) policy of the European Commission (2024). As such proposals are debated to ensure that they contribute to overall sustainability objectives in the European context, it is important to note the policy attention that the recovery and recycling of nutrients has garnered. In the meantime, a Swedish fertiliser company, Ragn-Sells, has patented a process to recover nutrients from wastewater and convert them into industry-grade fertilisers and spun off a company easyming.se to launch it in Europe within a year. If India can set up such units attached to our STPs, they can hugely reduce the economic and environmental costs of earlier fertiliser technologies, generate green jobs.

Delhi alone produces about 3330 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of wastewater, far over the installed and operational treatment capacities of the city's 38 STPs (CPCB, 2021). The Delhi Government has set its target to achieve 100 per cent wastewater treatment by 2025 and increase the reuse of treated wastewater from 12.5 per cent to 60 per cent with the proposed utilisation of 197 MGD, 112 MGD and 10 MGD treated sewage for drinking purposes, irrigation and rejuvenation of water bodies respectively (CPCB, 2021). We conducted some studies on the wastewater nutrients and their recovery/recycling potential in several STPs of the national capital, aided by the University's memorandum of understanding with the Delhi Jal Board.

They were funded by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Global Wastewater Initiative and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management. Our studies found that the current level of removal of phosphatic nutrients in various STPs of Delhi varies between 35-74 per cent and 14-93 per cent for nitrogenous nutrients. Except for the Akshardham STP, which oper-

ated at the higher end of the range, most of the other STPs we studied were closer to the lower end of the range, indicating the huge scope to improve nutrient recovery. A similar study will be undertaken in Hyderabad soon, in association with agricultural scientists who will also test the crop performance and estimate the amount of commercial fertiliser that can be saved by recycling nutrients recovered from wastewater.

Such efforts will hugely improve the quality of treated water for various uses and also relieve the water crisis looming over India's metropolitan cities. In Delhi, the nutrient-depleted water is also critical to expediting the rejuvenation of the water bodies of Delhi, as the quality of treated water currently used is not good enough to revive the heavily eutrophicated water bodies.

As for the recycling of nutrients removed from wastewater, currently, there are huge piles of nutrient-rich sludge in the backyard of every working STP. They need to be developed and marketed as alternatives to fertiliser by building necessary market linkages and supply chains as needed.

This is already happening to some extent in Hyderabad but needs to be scaled up further to clear the inventory. An important task is to find ways to pre-process the sludge to minimise the heavy metals, plastics and other undesirables we found coexisting with nutrients in the sludge in Delhi. Overall, on a national scale, if we recover and recycle the 84 per cent of nutrients lost in wastewater for agriculture, up to forty per cent of our national fertiliser consumption can be saved. In economic terms, these savings are equivalent to the entire R&D budget of the Government of India.

(The writer is a Professor and Head of, the Centre for Sustainable Nitrogen and Nutrient Management School of Biotechnology, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi; views are personal)

Haryana is driving towards progress and prosperity

Haryana is emerging as a beacon of economic prosperity and social development, embodying the vision of 'Viksit Haryana for Viksit Bharat'

Haryana embodies courage and strength. Modi, who has savoured Haryana's spirit, has led with vigour for ten years. Seeing Rafale jets soar in Ambala skies today is a proud moment for all of us. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently said at the major rallies in Ambala and Sonapat, highlighting the opposition's deceitful intentions and reaffirming the BJP's dedication to Haryana's development. In his second mega rally in Sonapat, Modi shed light on the Congress party's past misdeeds and their desperate attempts to regain power. In another incident earlier this month, Haryana stood on the cusp of an emotional milestone. In a display of unprecedented support and



KIRIT P SOLANKI

enthusiasm, former Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, led a mega rally at Ganaur, Sonapat, endorsing Lok Sabha candidate Mohan Lal Badoli. The event, attended by over 15,000 fervent supporters, marked a significant moment in Haryana's political landscape. Manohar, renowned for his progressive policies and transformative governance, was warmly received by the crowd,

underscoring the deep-rooted admiration and trust he commands among the populace. His rally served as a testament to the enduring popularity of Manohar's leadership and the impactful strides taken by the 'double engine Government' in the State. The Modi-Manohar effect has been instrumental in spearheading numerous initiatives aimed at propelling Haryana towards economic prosperity and social development. Under their stewardship, Haryana has emerged as a magnet for investments and a hub of opportunities, embodying the vision of 'Viksit Haryana for Viksit Bharat'. The rally, infused with patriotic fervour and untiring support, emphasised the staunch resolve of

Haryana's electorate to chart a path towards progress and prosperity. As the political landscape evolves, Manohar's rally stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of visionary leadership and the collective determination to realise a brighter future for Haryana and the nation at large. From bolstering transparency in Government job recruitments to empowering the youth through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, the State has witnessed a paradigm shift under the astute leadership of Manohar Lal Khattar. The establishment of all-women police stations, initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and a surge in infrastructure projects underscore the Government's untiring commitment to holistic

development. Haryana's rise as an investment destination is nothing short of spectacular, with exports soaring and MSMEs mushrooming across the State. In the textile and apparel sector, Haryana's prowess shines through, with a significant contribution to India's exports. With over 35 per cent of carpets and 20 per cent of garments manufactured in the State, Haryana is cementing its position as a textile powerhouse. The strategic alignment with national initiatives like the PM Gati Shakti Yojana and the establishment of industrial parks exemplify Haryana's proactive approach towards economic prosperity. The State's healthcare infrastructure has received a significant boost, with the establishment

of medical universities and skill development centres catering to the evolving needs of the populace. The number of medical colleges has surged from 6 in 2014 to 15 and the number of MBBS seats has increased from 700 to 2185. Moreover, the number of PG seats in medical colleges has grown from 289 to 1006. The State has further enhanced nutritional outcomes for children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating mothers through the POSHAN Abhiyan. In agriculture, schemes like PM-KISAN and PM Fasal Bima Yojana have provided a safety net for farmers, ensuring their livelihood security. Today, PM-KISAN has benefited over 20 lakh farmers in

the State with assistance of over Rs. 5,000 crore. Haryana plays a pivotal role in India's journey towards becoming a global nutrition hub. There are ambitious plans that include promoting the State's coarse grains like jowar and millet on the international stage, the implementation of the world's largest warehouse project and the creation of specialised clusters over the next 5 years. Also, there are plans for a revolutionary drone initiative in farming, empowering mothers and sisters with drone pilot training to harness the latest technology in agriculture. Cultural preservation and promotion have been integral to Haryana's development narrative, with initiatives like the PM Vishwakarma Yojana

fostering artisanal traditions and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' fostering cultural exchange. The State's rich heritage is being showcased through initiatives like the Anubhav Kendra Jyotisar and the development of archaeological sites like Rakhli Garhi. The 'double engine Government' has proven instrumental in leveraging resources for comprehensive growth, be it in agriculture, infrastructure, or education. Prime Minister Modi emphasised, The dawn of a new era, led by visionary leadership and fueled by the aspirations of its people, promises a brighter tomorrow for the State and the nation at large. (The writer is a Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha; views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

Key infra sectors growth rises to 6.2 per cent in April

Eight key infrastructure sectors' growth rose to 6.2 per cent in April on healthy expansion in the production of natural gas, refinery products and electricity, according to official data released on Friday. The production of eight sectors grew by 6 per cent in March. The growth of these core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 4.6 per cent in April 2023. The official data showed that fertiliser output recorded negative growth in April. The production growth of coal, steel and cement slowed down to 7.5 per cent, 7.1 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively against 9.1 per cent, 16.6 per cent and 12.4 per cent in April 2023, respectively. The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the country's Index of Industrial Production (IIP).



Tesla recalling more than 125,000 vehicles to fix seat belt system

Tesla is recalling more than 125,000 vehicles to fix a seat belt warning system that may increase the risk of an injury in a collision. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said that the recall includes certain 2012-2024 Model S, 2015-2024 Model X, 2017-2023 Model 3, and 2020-2023 Model Y vehicles. The seat belt warning system is supposed to provide audible and visual seat belt reminder signals to drivers to alert them that their seat belt isn't fastened. The NHTSA said that on certain vehicles, the audible and visual seat belt reminder signals were not going off at the time they were supposed to, which doesn't comply with federal safety requirements. The NHTSA said that as of Tuesday, Tesla had identified 104 warranty claims that may be related to the condition. The company isn't aware of any collisions, fatalities or injuries that may be related to the condition.



Gold rises Rs 50; silver declines Rs 500

Gold prices gained Rs 50 to Rs 72,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday in line with firm trends in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,850 per 10 grams in the previous session. However, silver prices plunged Rs 500 to Rs 95,500 per kg. It had settled at Rs 96,000 per kg on Thursday. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 72,900 per 10 grams, up Rs 50 against the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the overseas markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US\$ 2,341 per ounce, up US\$ 2 from the previous close. Gold rose slightly on Friday, aided by disappointing US first-quarter GDP data that suggested a downturn in the US economy, Gandhi said. However, silver were quoting lower at US\$ 31.20 per ounce. In the previous session, it had finished at US\$ 31.65 per ounce.



Adani Group profit jumps 55%

Eyes US\$ 90 bn investment over next decade

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Adani group saw a 55 per cent profit surge in the fiscal year ended March 2024 as the apples-to-airport conglomerate is back on an expansion spree and eyeing a US\$ 90 billion capex over the next decade.

Emerging from a damning report of a US short seller, which hit market value of its listed companies, Adani group in 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) fiscal focused on containing debt, reducing founder share pledge and consolidating business in core competencies.

This helped net profit surge to Rs 30,767 crore for the group's listed companies in the fiscal from Rs 19,833 crore a year ago, according to exchange data and analysts.

The 5-year CAGR (compound annual growth rate) for profit growth was 54 per cent.

EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) rose 40 per

cent to Rs 66,244 crore despite a 6 per cent fall in the revenue. "Total group EBITDA grew 40 per cent year-on-year in FY24 (5-year CAGR of over 27 per cent), group raised fresh funds from equity/debt/strategic investors, promoter increased stake in group companies and group Mcap rebounded," Jefferies said in a note. "The group is back on an expansion spree and eyeing US\$ 90 billion capex over next decade."



Group leverage was at a multi-year low, the US-based brokerage said. "Net debt at the group level (8 companies plus debt related to cement business acquisition) remained stable at Rs 2.2 lakh crore in FY24 vs Rs 2.3

lakh crore in FY23 vs Rs 2.3 lakh crore. Net debt/EBITDA improved materially to 3.3x FY24 EBITDA vs 5x year-on-year," it said.

Adani Ports and Adani Power saw a drop in net debt in FY24. Increase in leverage for Adani Enterprises and Adani Green was on the back

of new capex projects undertaken by companies.

In FY24, the group's flagship Adani Enterprises commissioned an ingot wafer unit as part of solar module manufacturing, wind turbine facility and copper smelter. Adani Cement completed the Sanghi Cement acquisition while promoters infused more funds in the company.

Adani Ports acquired Gopalpur port, Adani Power commissioned 1.6 GW Godda power plant, Adani Green added 2.8GW renewable energy capacity and commenced operations of solar power project in Khavda, Gujarat, and Adani Energy Solutions put up 1,244 circuit kilometers of transmission lines.

Sebi slaps Rs 2.5 cr fine on TIL, former officials over misdeeds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.5 crore on TIL Ltd and three former officials for indulging in fictitious purchase and sales leading to over-statement of sales and revenue for 2019-20 and 2020-21.

The fine needs to be paid within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order.

Individually, the regulator has levied a fine of Rs 1 crore each on TIL and Sumit Mazumder, who was the chairman and managing director at the time of the violation. He is also one of the promoters of the company.

Besides, a penalty of Rs 25 lakh each has been imposed on then CEO Ramesh Aggarwal and former CFO Shibaditya Ghosh. In its order, Sebi noted

that the modus operandi followed by TIL was that it had issued fictitious invoices in the past financial years, which were subsequently cancelled in the next financial years by the issuance of credit notes and re-invoiced on the same day without proper documents to increase the sales turnover or trade receivables so as to maintain the credit facilities availed from the banks.

CCPA fines coaching institute Maluka IAS for misleading ads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on coaching institute Maluka IAS for making misleading advertisements, the government body said on Friday.

The CCPA found that Maluka IAS concealed important information about the courses taken by students it claimed had cleared the prestigious Indian Civil Services exams in its advertisements.

The institute's ads claimed "120+ selections in UPSC CSE 2022" and "Guaranteed Prelims & Mains", but did not disclose that only two of the 136 successful candidates had taken paid courses, while the remaining 134 students had enrolled in a free interview guidance programme, an official statement said.

The consumer regulator said the advertisements violated provisions of the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 related to misleading advertisements by "deliberately concealing important information".

Canara Bank board approves fund raising of Rs 8,500 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Canara Bank on Friday said the board of the bank has given approval for raising Rs 8,500 crore through bonds to fund business growth in 2024-25. The decision in this respect was taken in a meeting held on Friday. The board of the bank has approved raising Capital through Basel III Compliant Additional Tier I Bonds to the extent of Rs 4,000 crore subject to market conditions and necessary approvals, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. Besides, it approved raising funds through Basel III Compliant Tier II Bonds to the extent of Rs 4,500 crore, it said.

'Maharashtra attracted highest FDI for second consecutive year'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Friday said the state has attracted the highest foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country for the second consecutive year.

Quoting a latest report from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Fadnis said that after becoming number one in attracting FDI in 2022-23, Maharashtra repeated the feat in 2023-24.

As per the data released by DPIIT on May 30, he said, Maharashtra has received more FDI this time than last year. "It takes courage to walk the talk, act and prove yourself; but mere jabbering

State	FDI Inflow (US\$ Billion)	FDI Inflow (US\$ Billion)	FDI Inflow (US\$ Billion)
Maharashtra	1,25,101	1,18,422	1,18,422
Uttar Pradesh	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Andhra Pradesh	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Tamil Nadu	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Karnataka	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
West Bengal	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Odisha	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Madhya Pradesh	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Rajasthan	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Chennai	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Delhi	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Goa	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Haryana	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Kerala	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Madhya Pradesh	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Uttarakhand	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
West Bengal	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Other States	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422
Total	1,18,422	1,18,422	1,18,422

takes no courage," he said in a post on X. The deputy CM said in the financial year 2022-23, the

state received FDI worth Rs 1,18,422 crore, while it jumped to Rs 1,25,101 crore in 2023-24.

The investment in this financial year is more than double the total investment received by Gujarat, and more than the combined sum of second-ranked Gujarat and third-ranked Karnataka, he claimed.

Maharashtra, which lagged behind in attracting investment during MVA (Maha Vikas Aghadi) tenure, has once again risen to top position for two consecutive years, he said. The DPIIT report, shared by Fadnis on X, says Maharashtra received Rs 1,14,964 crore foreign investment in 2021-22, while Karnataka got Rs 1,63,795 crore.

Govt urges over 100 corporates, unicorns to set up incubation centres for mfg sector startups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has urged over 100 corporates, including Tata, Hyundai, and Apple, as well as unicorns to set up incubation centres for manufacturing sector startups, an official said on Friday. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has shared a handbook with the companies on corporate incubation and acceleration.

"We have requested over 100 corporates to have their manufacturing incubators. We have requested companies such as Tata, Hyundai, and Apple as well as unicorns. As we are lacking

in this space and we have taken internal goal of creating 50 such entities in near future," the official said. The National Council for Cement and Building Materials has already set up the centre. Developing a strong manufacturing base is an essential activity for any nation as it promotes innovation and competitiveness, boosts employment, livelihoods and standards of living, and strengthens self-reliance and economic stability.

Startups and entrepreneurs in the nation have been playing a significant role in shifting global value chains to India by creating and innovating domestically.

Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial posts over 200% rise in FY'24 net profits

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services Pvt Ltd (Dvara KGFS) has reported a 230 per cent rise in its net profit after tax for the year ending March 31, 2024, at Rs 47.53 crore.

The city-based firm registered a profit after tax of Rs 14.36 crore in the corresponding period of the last financial year.

The total income during the year ending March 31, 2024, grew by 47.93 per cent to Rs 565.11 crore, from Rs 382.01 crore registered in the same

period of last year.

Commenting on the financial performance, Dvara KGFS Managing Director and CEO LVLN Murty said, "We are delighted with the strong financial results achieved in FY'24 and stay ever committed to bettering our operational efficiency and customer-centricity."

"The remarkable growth in our Gross Loan Portfolio and profitability metrics underscores our dedication to financial inclusion and creating sustainable impact.

Auditors need to ask questions to ensure fin statements are true, fair: NFRA chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Emphasising the importance of financial integrity, audit regulator NFRA's chief Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey on Friday said auditors should ask questions from a company's management to ensure that the financial statements are true and fair.

He also said that audit committees of companies should read the disciplinary orders

passed by the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) as there are many lessons that can be learnt from them.

The watchdog has been taking steps to improve the overall audit quality as well as acting against erring auditors.

Speaking at a conference organised by industry body Assocham in the national capital, Pandey said financial

integrity has become more important than ever for the country's corporates and that audit committees are at the centre of the high quality financial reporting framework, which is a key element for sound corporate governance.

He noted that audit committees must read the NFRA's disciplinary orders and there are a number of lessons to be learned.

Nothing personal against Burmans; working in best interest of Religare: REL Chairperson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) Chairperson Rashmi Saluja on Friday said she has nothing personal against Burmans who are locked in a battle with the management for control of the financial services firm, triggered by an open offer bid.

Burmans, who hold around 25 per cent of REL through four entities -- MB Finmart, Puran Associates, VIC

Enterprises, and Milky Investment and Trading Co -- announced an open offer on September 25, 2023, to acquire a 26 per cent stake from public shareholders.

Soon after the open offer bid, Burmans complained to capital market regulator Sebi for violation of insider trading rules by the chairperson and appointment of board of her choice. Refuting all charges, Saluja said, "We have had fantastic relationship with all

the shareholders including Burmans for the last 6 years. They have invested in the company looking only at the progress and how the management has worked in the last 6 years."

She stressed that as an executive chairperson, she would be very happy to find a solution in the best interest of the organisation.

"This is going to be totally based on concerns that has been raised by the board

should be put to the rest...whatever the way forward comes, it will be in the best interest of the organisation. We want the share price to go up, we want the value to be unlocked as early as yesterday," she said.

I have nothing personal (against Burmans). I am here in capacity of executive chairperson for last 6 years. I have nothing against anybody...if they want I cannot stop...I have no grudges.

'Kotak Bank's credit profile will improve over next 12 months'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kotak Mahindra Bank will be able to improve its credit and funding profile over the next 12 months despite some impact on growth and profitability because of the RBI's restriction on onboarding new customers online, S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Nikita Anand said on Friday.

In April, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from issuing fresh credit cards and boarding new customers online. Anand said S&P's base case assumption is that the bank should be able to manage the impact on its credit profile and the lender has made significant progress on tech enhancement in last 18

months, which includes the hiring of senior level executive like the Chief Technology Officer.

However, it will take time for the bank to implement the changes highlighted by the RBI and conduct a comprehensive external audit to address the RBI's concerns, she said.

"Nonetheless, it remains an overhang on the bank's credit profile over the next 12 months or so... We believe the next 12 months or so, we should be able to remove the negative adjustments and the bank should be able to manage the credit profile in general and funding profile in particular, notwithstanding some impact on growth and profitability," Anand said in a webinar.

Country's talent pool in spotlight

Victory of Indian innovators at AI championship in Dubai

PNS ■ DUBAI

Two innovators from India have won in two categories at the inaugural Global Prompt Engineering Championship in Dubai, collectively taking home two-thirds of the million-dirham prize pool, and spotlighting India's growing talent pool and global influence in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

The competition, which attracted the brightest minds from around the world, saw Aditya Nair win in the 'Literature' category and Ajay Cyril win in the 'Coding' category, earning them international praise.

Nair produced a compelling short story in record time using AI, winning the literature category at the Global Prompt

Engineering Championship. "Putting a 10-minute timer on each round definitely was the most challenging aspect of



the competition. In addition, we had to get an output that was of a very high quality, which has made me a faster prompter as a result of the championship," Nair, who currently works in AI innovation, said. "I was very happy to participate in the competition. This experience opened my eyes to the real

potential of this innovative technology. I urge everyone to work on upskilling themselves through continuous learning

level playing field in AI. Cyril, a product leader at Etisalat (e& enterprise, a telecommunication company), won the coding category at the Global Prompt Engineering Championship. Although primarily a product and business strategist rather than a developer, Cyril's passion for new technologies and proactive engagement with AI contributed to his success.

Cyril has led the development of innovative products in IoT, Smart Homes, Cloud Platforms, and AI at major global companies, such as Tata Communications, Airtel, and Etisalat. Since relocating to Dubai in 2019, he has been committed to driving forward the frontiers of technological innovation in the region.

Vedanta posts 2nd highest ever consolidated EBITDA

PNS ■ LONDON

Vedanta Resources, the parent company of India-listed mining group, posted its second highest ever consolidated EBITDA of US\$ 4.7 billion for FY24, a year which its chairman Anil Agarwal described as 'pivotal year' that will result in "a strong Vedanta."

Revenue (before special items) for the year at US\$ 17.1 billion was 6 per cent lower than US\$ 18.1 billion of the previous year "primarily driven by lower output commodity prices primarily of aluminium, zinc and bauxite, partially offset by higher volume at aluminium, copper

and iron ore business," the conglomerate said in a statement on its website.

It posted the second highest ever consolidated EBITDA of US\$ 4.7 billion, 2 per cent higher year-on-year (FY 2023: US\$ 4.6 billion). "This was mainly due to softening of input commodity prices coupled with strategic cost savings, one time arbitration award in oil and gas business which is partially offset by slip in commodity prices primarily of aluminium, zinc and bauxite and strategic hedging gain recognised in previous year."

The group posted an adjusted EBITDA margin of 32 per cent, up 315 basis points.

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June 1, 2024

'Performing at Ravindra Bharathi is my favourite memory of Hyd'

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Meet Priya Gazdar—after 35 years in Hyderabad, she firmly considers herself a true Hyderabadi. While not a resident of the city, she is from Kothagudem, the headquarters of The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). Her journey to Hyderabad began with her post-graduate studies, which led to her career and marriage, firmly establishing her in the city she now considers home. When she thinks about Hyderabad, she envisions a warm home.

The new chairperson of the FICCI FLO Hyderabad Chapter enjoys this city, and to her, it has given her a sense of freedom and security, which she values. She has always been picky about who she spends time with, so she has never been a fan of huge groups. She has always felt comfortable going to study or dance courses on her own. Even now, living in the city, she has never felt threatened. With many of her family members living in Bangalore, she is well aware of the traffic difficulties there. In comparison, traffic congestion in Hyderabad is far more bearable.

She begins, "Growing up in my little community was a fantastic experience, particularly in the early 1990s. We had outstanding educational institutions, but chances were restricted. This prompted all of us to travel to the neighbouring city, Hyderabad. Although my hometown will always have a special place in my heart, I've now made Hyderabad my home, and the energy of city life is incredibly energising."

City has benefited her in a variety of ways; she studied to be a chartered accountant but didn't like it from both sides of the table. She says, "I resigned and began to consider what to do since I didn't want to go back to one more day of numbers. When I first expressed an interest in advertising, everyone assumed I was qualified or overqualified. But I was able to open my door, and after several years, it is now a leading brand management company in the city, and I am grateful to Hyderabad for providing me with all of these possibilities."



Back with another story of Hyderabad being home, *The Pioneer* interacts with Priya Gazdar, who hails from Kothagudem, as she speaks of her fondest memories in the city, how she considers herself a true Hyderabadi, and more.

She didn't want to leave Hyderabad because her family was in Delhi and Mumbai, and she didn't want to miss out on opportunities, but it took her six months of work to get her foot in the door, and the Hyd city was very nice to her. She had her dance guru here for bharatanatyam classes, which she would practice until 9 p.m. and drive back on her small scooter.

"I like everything about Hyderabad's greenery. There is no need to find a location to walk, swim, or cycle because they are all nearby. The kindness of the people here makes you feel right at home; whether you speak Telugu, Hindi, or English, communication is never a problem. Hyderabad, with its overall development, is a wonderfully balanced city to live in."

Her family lived in Hyderabad, and so she never preferred to relocate to Delhi or Mumbai. She has many fond recollections of visiting Hyderabad with her father throughout the vacations. She recalls the long road trip that took them around four and a half hours to reach the city. They would remain for two days, and every time they drove by Ravindra Bharathi, she adds, "My father would point to it and tell me that if I was really talented at dancing, one day I'd give a solo performance there. That became my little fantasy, and I'm glad to report that I made

it happen. Performing at Ravindra Bharathi is my favourite memory of Hyderabad, and it has a special place in my heart."

She is now the Chairperson of the FLO Hyderabad Chapter, and it gives her immense delight to contribute back to society and provide chances for others. She got married and had her kid in Hyderabad, so it actually feels like she has built a family here. She says, "These moments are invaluable to me, and they have shaped my life in the most beautiful ways."

As a tourist to Hyderabad, she describes the city as "a magical place." "I enjoyed shopping, buying clothes, and going to Ravindra Bharathi. However, after starting my articleship and working for various companies, I chose to shift my career path. Hyderabad is a city of opportunities where you can follow your ambitions and be who you desire. It's like having the finest of both worlds in one location." There are numerous locations, and she believes it has a strong culture, both classical and old, as well as contemporary and future. These two features converge in Hyderabad!

Alternatively, she dislikes the fact that the pipeline was dug up again after only a month of being laid. Sometimes rubbish is not picked up, and when it rains, traffic is high, resulting in extended travel times. However, they are infrequent occurrences. The drainage system, like any other city, might be improved.

HOUSE OF LIES

A mystery that leaves you guessing

TANISHA SAXENA

Plot: Albert Pinto is dead, and that too on his birthday. Investigators Rajveer Singh Choudhary (played by Sanjay Kapoor) and Abhay (played by Rituraj K Singh), along with officer Sashi (played by Ssmilly Suri) from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), interrogate the guests—Albert's wife Ragini, brother Anthony, sister-in-law Aastha, lawyer Karan Sinha, doctor Fernandis, friend Col. Verma, and house help Zaid—and try to uncover the many layers of complexities.

The plus: There are some intriguing real-life references to cryptocurrency, the Enforcement Directorate, and homosexuality in the film. These elements could have been significant strengths of the story. However, amidst the film's shortcomings, their potential remains unexplored.

The minus: *House Of Lies* fails to deliver on its promising premise, stumbling through a convoluted plot and underwhelming performances. The cast, despite their efforts, struggles to breathe life into their characters. Sanjay Kapoor's portrayal feels disjointed, while Rituraj K. Singh's Abhay lacks depth. Ssmilly Suri's officer Sashi fails to make a lasting impact, contributing to the film's overall lack of engagement.

In recent times, whodunits have become a go-to genre for filmmakers, particularly on streaming platforms. The formula often involves setting up a murder investigation amidst a web of suspects to craft an engaging murder mystery. While some films succeed in this, others fall short. Unfortunately, *House Of Lies* falls victim to this trope! While the screenplay avoids clichés and predictable twists, it fails to sustain interest. The film's attempt to explore complex relationships and motives falls flat, leaving viewers indifferent to the outcome.

Technical aspects: The film's technical execution mirrors its narrative shortcomings. The cinematography, though visually appealing in certain segments, lacks consistency, which detracts from the immersive experience. The editing feels choppy, disrupting the narrative flow. The background score, which could have been used to build tension, fails to leave a lasting impression. The one-hour and seventeen-minute runtime feels overly lengthy. There's no chase scene to maintain the excitement. The geographical setting of the film is unclear, with only a few scattered scenes showing the sea or hills. It's bizarre. If the plot falters, at least the technical aspects like the background score, geographical setting, or precise editing could serve as a cohesive element. However, in *House Of Lies*, nothing works.

Verdict: *House Of Lies* had the potential to be a gripping whodunit, but it falls short due to its convoluted plot and underwhelming performances. The film's attempt to delve into complex themes remains underdeveloped, leaving it unable to engage its audience fully. Despite its promising premise, the film ultimately feels like a missed opportunity in the crowded landscape of streaming whodunits.



Director: Saumitra Singh
Creator: Simran Kaur Suri

Produced by: Kali Movies Private Limited and Sebhariya Pictures

Starring: Sanjay Kapoor, Rituraj K. Singh, Ssmilly Suri, Hiten Paintal, and Ajitesh Gupta

Streaming on: Zee5

Rating: 1.5

THE CULINARY TREASURES OF TELANGANA

Telangana cuisine is a symphony of flavours, textures, and aromas. Beyond the vibrant ingredients lies a hidden world of traditional utensils, each playing a vital role in crafting these culinary masterpieces. Let's delve into the enduring legacy of Telangana's heritage!

1. Rathi Chippa: This stone vessel, also called *Kal Chatti*, is a true multi-tasker in Telangana kitchens. Its exceptional ability for slow cooking makes it ideal for delicious *dals* and *sambar*, allowing flavours to develop deeply. These hand-carved utensils are also used to store food.

2. Uruli: A round vessel, crafted from food-grade bronze by skilled artisans in Kerala, blends the beauty of a handi with the functionality of a *kadhai*. Perfect for a variety of dishes, the *uruli* adds a touch of authenticity to Telangana favourites including the delectable fried okra cooked with mustard, cumin, onions, and tomato.

3. Murukku mould: This is a simple must-have implement for crispy *murukku* or *janthikalu*. The secret lies in the small *jalis* that the batter gets pressed through.

4. Attukal: Known by different names

such as *Sil Batta* and *Kal Batta* across India, this humble grinding stone transforms whole spices, grains, and dals into fragrant pastes and powders. Grinding chutneys on *Attukal* gives it a rustic charm and creates fond memories of home cooking.

5. Matthi Patra: This traditional pot, crafted from natural clay, is perfect to make Andhra style chicken curry. The clay's unique properties help retain moisture for flavourful dishes with an explosion of flavours. These pots also retain essential nutrients, making the meal wholesome and nutritious.

6. The magic of cast iron: Telangana cuisine celebrates cast iron cookware. These sturdy pots and pans are the reason for their, soft, crisp-edged *dosas*, melt-in-your-mouth *halwa*, and *gunta pongadalu*.

These unique utensils allow home cooks to create delicious, authentic flavours with a distinct cultural identity, elevating cooking to a different level and telling stories of Telangana heritage.

(The author, Mitesh Lohiya, is the director, sales and marketing, of Gold Drop.)





The world of chess witnessed an extraordinary event as the 5-year-old chess prodigy Ishani Chakkilam solved 104 checkmate-in-one-move puzzles in just 9.23 minutes at the local My Home Abhra apartments. Ishani's grandfather and Cigniti Technology Chairman C.V. Subramanyam, along with Konda Surekha, Minister of Telangana State, and British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen, were present at the event.

The 10th edition of PharmaLytica, organised by Informa Markets in India, commenced at HITEC Hyderabad, focusing on redefining the pharmaceutical industry in the post-COVID era. The expo offered a unique platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions covering the full spectrum of pharma machinery and packaging, lab analytical and cleanroom solutions, and pharmaceutical ingredients.



The summer camp conducted at GD Goenka School, Hyderabad under the guardianship of Shiva Ganga Group of schools, in May 2024 concluded with a great success. Chairman Shiva Kumar Thota and Managing Director, Nivedita Thota congratulated students and the entire team. This 30-day program provided students with an excellent opportunity to make the most of their summer vacation.

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2024, Indian Dental Association deccan branch Rotary Club of Jubilee Hills and Department of Public health dentistry jointly organised an awareness walk at KBR park in Banjara hills. The walk was flagged off by Dr. Rajesh Reddy, MLA Nagarkurnool and President Telangana State Dental Council.



The Telangana Chef's Association celebrated its 5th anniversary in a gala day-long event in Hyderabad. The full-day event kicked off with an inaugural ceremony attended by chief guests Chef Vijaya Bhaskaran, General Secretary, IFCA, from Chennai; Gareth Wynn Owen, Deputy High Commissioner, British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad; and Ramachander Poodipeddi, Investment Promotion & FDI; Oxford Visiting Fellow; CUHK Ambassador; and B-School guest lecturer, among the rest.

FROM BEAR GRYLLS TO NICK AND AARON CARTER, DON'T MISS THESE EXCITING RELEASES

Prepare for an exhilarating array of releases coming your way this June on discovery+.

FALLEN IDOLS: NICK AND AARON CARTER

Fallen Idols: Nick and Aaron Carter examines the events surrounding the famous family, including a deep dive into the sexual assault allegations against Nick Carter and the circumstances that led to Aaron Carter's tragic death.

Streaming: 31st May 2024 onwards

PEOPLE MAGAZINE INVESTIGATES: SURVIVING A SERIAL KILLER

In this new series, survivors take back the narrative by sharing the disturbing yet empowering accounts of how they escaped the clutches of a serial killer. Survivors, their loved ones, and law enforcement come together to piece together the emotional, shocking, and exclusive stories that finally brought serial killers to justice.

Streaming: 19th June 2024 Onwards

HIDDEN FRONTIERS ARABIA WITH REZA PAKRAVAN

Reza Pakravan sets out to explore unexplored and hazardous terrain in order to discover the mysteries of the powerful Arabian Peninsula. While there, he does strenuous physical tasks in order to research long-forgotten mysteries, extinct animals, and breathtaking locations that are rarely seen by humans.

Streaming: 3rd June 2024

I Survived Bear Grylls

The survivalist turns the tables on America's "armchair adventurers" by creating challenges that will test their smarts, physicality, and their ability to adapt and do whatever it takes to survive. They take on extreme, gross and hilarious challenges straight from Bear's twisted mind, and the winner takes home \$10,000.

Streaming: 3rd June 2024 onwards

THE LAST SECRETS OF HUMANKIND

The film documents the latest scientific discoveries through prehistory in Asia, which are still unknown to the wide public while incorporating the latest techniques of animated 3D films. A true melting pot of our planet's history, China, because of its past, is revealing a new chapter of the history of mankind.

Streaming: 24th June 2024

MUD MADNESS

Cameras capture the extreme world of Big-Tire UTV mud racing, including custom vehicle builds, challenging courses, deep-rooted rivalries, intense action, and a wild social party scene.

Streaming: 18th June 2024

SIX SCHIZOPHRENIC BROTHERS E1&2

An account of the Galvin family of Colorado Springs, Colo., and how schizophrenia ripped through their family, affecting six of 12 siblings.

Streaming: 26th June 2024 onwards

OUTCHEF'D S1

Food Network star Eddie Jackson surprises amateur home cooks with the challenge of a lifetime: to go head-to-head in an intense, one-round cookoff against the most competitive, acclaimed and intimidating celebrity chefs in the world. To even the odds, the home cook only needs ONE VOTE from a panel of random tasters to walk away with the \$5,000 prize.

Streaming: 2nd June 2024

MILF MANOR SEASON 2

Eight older women from cities across the United States leave their homes and travel to a paradise destination for a chance to find love.

Streaming: 6th June 2024 onwards

GHOST ADVENTURES S20

An anthology of stories dealing with four individuals who experience bizarre and unexplainable supernatural events in their respective lives.

Streaming: 14th June 2024 onwards

KUMBH MELA

Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful gathering on the planet. In this unique documentary, viewers are taken behind the scenes to find human stories and to get a closer look at the logistics of the famous event. The narrative also traces the history and folklore of the centuries-old fair.

Streaming: 11th June 2024

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



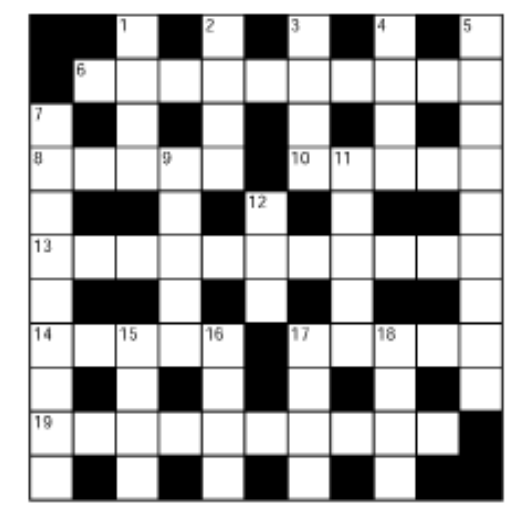
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

- 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

- Transport for someone who cannot walk
- With nothing in it
- The outside ends of something
- Vanished
- Opposite of outer
- The country with Tokyo
- In all places
- Annoy or bother someone for fun
- A play
- Secret agent
- Require
- Sunbeams
- A boy's name
- Meat from a pig

DOWN

- A large boat
- Extremely
- A throbbing pain
- The sound of an explosion
- The leader of the USA
- Large-lettered words above items in a newspaper



'My character in Gam Gam Ganesha is a departure from my usual 'boy next door' image'

RAMYA SREE

The three much-anticipated movies, *Gangs of Godavari*, *Bhaje Vaayu Vegam*, and *Gam Gam Ganesha*, have been released in theatres on Friday. Amongst the buzz around all three, Anand Deverakonda starrer *Gam Gam Ganesha* has got even more hype because the actor's last release, *Baby*, gained an unexpected response at the box office, giving him the biggest hit of his career.

Anand, known for his diverse roles, plays the lead role in this movie, co-starring Pragathi Srivastava and Nayan Sarika. This comedy-action thriller, produced by Kedar Selagumshetty and Vamsi Karumanchi under the banner Hy-Life Entertainment, marks the directorial debut of Uday Shetty, who promises an entertaining cinematic experience with *Gam Gam Ganesha*.

Anand Deverakonda shared insights into the movie and its making in a quick interview with us, where he shared, "After *Middle Class Melodies*, during the lockdown, I began planning my next venture. That's when I came across the script for *Gam Gam Ganesha* by director Uday Shetty. The script's premise, revolving around greed, fear, and conspiracy, intrigued me, reminiscent of the crime comedies I enjoy watching."

Speaking about the challenges, and the film's journey, Anand explains, "The shooting faced delays due to various factors, including the second wave of COVID-19 and logistical issues. Despite setbacks like the collapse of our set due

to heavy rains, we persevered and completed filming."

Known for his relatable characters, Anand embraces a new dimension with *Gam Gam Ganesha*. He shares, "Unlike my previous roles, this character is energetic, hyper, and comedic. It's a departure from my usual 'boy next door' image, and I'm excited for audiences to see this different side of me."

Director Uday Shetty's vision brings the story to life; as Anand affirms, "Uday has crafted an engaging screenplay featuring fifteen main characters, ensuring a captivating narrative. His direction brings out the best performances from the cast, making *Gam Gam Ganesha* a promising venture."

Anticipation for *Gam Gam Ganesha* is high, fuelled by positive reactions from test screenings. Anand expresses confidence in the film's appeal, particularly in a theatrical setting, where the genre thrives.

Beyond *Gam Gam Ganesha*, Anand reveals his passion for diverse roles and action-packed projects. With an exciting lineup ahead, including collaborations with esteemed banners and directors, Anand's journey in Telugu cinema continues to evolve.

Gam Gam Ganesha promises to be a roller-coaster ride of laughter, action, and intrigue, offering audiences a much-needed dose of entertainment this summer.



is a departure from my usual 'boy next door' image'

WITH THE HYPE AROUND HIS LATEST FLICK, *GAM GAM GANESHA*, ACTOR ANAND DEVERAKONDA, WHO PLAYS THE LEAD ROLE IN THE FILM, SHARES SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO THE MOVIE, AND SOME BTS OF THE MAKING.

Jai Bolo Krishna song from Ashok Galla's next out now

As part of musical promotions, the makers of Superstar Krishna's grandson and superstar Mahesh Babu's nephew Ashok Galla's second movie, *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*, have come up with the second single, *Jai Bolo Krishna*. This song with divine vibes was released on the occasion of Superstar Krishna's birth anniversary.

As the title suggests and the visuals indicate, *Jai Bolo Krishna* is a Janmashtami special song where the protagonist, along with his batch, is seen celebrating the festival. Bheems Ceciroleo scored a captivating foot-tapping number with energetic beats. As the lyrics penned by Raghuram advocate, the protagonist is an adamant youngster.

Swarag Keerthan lent vocals, and he brought extra energy to the song with his superb singing. Yash Master has done the choreography, and Ashok Galla's dances are cool and elegant. The visuals looked vibrant. The grandness was witnessed all through. This is going to be another chartbuster song from the film's album.

The film directed by Arjun Jandhyala of *Guna 369* fame is a family and action entertainer laced with spiritual elements. Creative director



Prasanth Varma of *HanuMan* fame provided the story for the movie, while popular writer Sai Madhav Burra penned the dialogue. Somineni Balakrishna, an NRI (film distributor), is producing the movie as *Production No. 1* of Lalithambika Productions. Nallapaneni Yamini presents it.

Alongside Rasool Ellore, Prasad Murella is the lensman for the movie, which is mounted on a large scale with a grand production design. Tammiraju is the editor of the movie. The makers will soon announce the film's release date.

'You don't need to depend on male counterpart to have a successful film these days'

Actor-politician Khusbu Sundar, who has produced Tamil horror comedy *Aranmanai 4*, wants to explore stories like *Darlings*, *Badhaai Ho*, and *Crew* as a producer. *Aranmanai 4*, starring Tamannah Bhatia and Raashii Khanna in the lead, has earned around Rs 100 crore at the box office. Sundar believes such movies still lack the multiplex audience in the South, but those are the stories she wants to explore in the future.

"I am not the kind of producer who would say that I am making only women centric films. I would love to do something like *Darlings*, *Badhaai Ho*, or *Crew*. But unfortunately, we still don't have that kind of multiplex audience in south India as yet. That's going to take some time. When *Badhaai Ho* was made in Tamil, it bombed. It didn't

do well," Sundar told PTI in an interview. *Aranmanai 4* is directed by her filmmaker husband, Sunder C, a noted name in Tamil cinema, who also directed the previous installments of the film.

Sunder, who debuted as a child artist with the Hindi film *The Burning Train* and featured in movies such as *Meri Jung* and *Deewana Mujhsa Nah*, shifted base to the south and found widespread fame by starring in *Dharmathin Thalaivan*, *Vetri Vizhaa*, *Chinna Thambi*, *Pandithurai*, and *Annaatthe*.

As a producer, she said, her sensibilities are "very commercial," but she is careful about the way women are represented in these stories.

"You don't have to show a woman in a bad light. You don't need to do something on screen that says, 'Okay, it's fine for a woman to be in an abusive relationship and say it's part of your life'. No, I'm not going to advocate that. But otherwise, I love making commercial films. I'm not here to make a very preachy film," she said. Having spent close to four decades in the film industry, Sunder is happy to note the shift that's taking place when it comes to women coming forward and backing commercially viable projects.

"There is a huge shift in the kind of films being made. Yes, we still do have heroes, where you think that the films are being sold only on a hero's name, and a heroine can play a very minuscule role in the film. But it's brilliant to see that women can carry the film entirely on their shoulders and still give it a hit. You don't need to depend on a male counterpart to have a successful film. The content is the basic hero of the film. And I think that shift is brilliant," she added.

Aranmanai 4 also stars Ramachandra Raju, Santhosh Prathap, Kovai Sarala, Yogi Babu, VTV Ganesh, Delhi Ganesha, and K S Ravikumar in pivotal roles. The franchise revolves around a large family, who return to an ancestral property (a palace) to sell it off, only to discover some supernatural elements in the palace. It started with *Aranmanai*, which was released in 2014, and was followed by two sequels: *Aranmanai 2* (2016) and *Aranmanai 3* (2021).

Produced by Sunder's production house, Avni Cinemax, and A C S Arun Kumar's Benz Media, the Hindi version is slated to release in theatres on May 31.



MAHESH BABU'S HEARTFELT MESSAGE TO HIS 'NANNA' ON LATE ACTOR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Telugu actor Mahesh Babu shared a heartfelt note on Friday as he remembered his late father and legendary actor Krishna on his 81st birth anniversary. Mahesh shared a throwback picture of his father when he was young, along with an emotional note.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Mahesh Babu shared a note that read, "Happy birthday Nanna... you are deeply missed, and will always live on in every memory of mine! (sic)."

Have a look at Mahesh Babu's post here. Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna Murthy, aka Krishna, passed away on November 15, 2022, after he suffered a cardiac arrest. He was 79. His untimely demise left a huge void in the entire Telugu industry.

Mahesh Babu, who was close to his father, often speaks about him. In January, at a pre-release event for his film *Guntur Kaaram*, the actor turned emotional as he remembered his dad. He said, "Sankranti is always special to me. It was more special for my Nanna Kirishna. All my Sankranti releases have been blockbusters, and let's do a hit this time as well. A huge hit."

Mahesh said that his father used to call him and talk about his film's box office collection, and he would always wait for that phone call.



In remembrance of his late father, Mahesh has founded the Superstar Krishna Educational Fund. This initiative is a tribute to his father and will provide scholarships to 40 needy students. The education will range from school to a post-graduate degree.

On the work front, Mahesh Babu's last release was *Guntur Kaaram* co-starring Sreeleela. It is currently streaming on Netflix. He will be seen in *SSMB 29* by SS Rajamouli. It is one of the most-anticipated films. The project is currently in the pre-production stage. The writing has also been completed, and except for Mahesh Babu, the rest of the cast is yet to be finalised.



Trailer of Music Shop Murthy captures the right nuances

The team is excitedly anticipating *Music Shop Murthy*, directed by Ajay Ghosh, to open in theatres on June 14. The enthusiasm surrounding the film, which is written and directed by Siva Paladugu and produced by Harsha and Ranga Rao Garapati under the Fly High Cinemas brand, has only grown as a result of the theatrical trailer was released on Friday.

The trailer begins with *Music Shop Murthy*, played by Ajay Ghosh, taking center stage as an alternative DJ for a function. This sets the tone for an engaging story that explores Murthy's transformation from a modest music store owner in his village to an aspirant DJ. The main plot revolves around Murthy's battle to follow his

love of music in spite of obstacles from his own family. His youthful friend Chandini Chowdary is by his side, providing vital assistance in his pursuit of achievement. With its glimpse into Murthy's inspirational journey, the trailer makes viewers feel a connection to his character and eager to see his victories on screen.

With an exceptional performance, Ajay Ghosh demonstrates his versatility in capturing the nuanced emotional nuances of Murthy's character. Chandini Chowdary's representation lends complexity to the narrative, while seasoned performers like Aman, Amit Sharma, Bhanu Chandar, and Dayanandh Reddy contribute significantly in their various roles.

Dhruva Sarja's action venture Martin all set to release on Oct 11

The time has come to touch your heart with this movie of dreams. On the occasion of action prince Dhruva Sarja's 36th birthday, the makers have announced that *Martin* is scheduled to be released on October 11, 2024.

"*Martin* is not just a movie for us; this is the dream project. We have made this movie with the great passion of giving the biggest action venture at Pan India level from Kannada, but the time to reach the goal is approaching," said the makers. Uday Mehta and Suraj Uday Mehta have invested in the production of *Martin* at a cost of Rs 200 crore under Vasavi Enterprises and Uday K Mehta Production.

The film *Martin*, which the entire Indian film industry is looking forward to, has been made by director AP Arjun, with a story and screenplay by action king Arjun Sarja. Cinematographer Satya Hegde is the eye of Uday Mehta's dream project. Tollywood legend music director Mani Sharma has composed the wonderful songs, and the background score is by *KGF* and *Salaar* fame Ravi Basrur.

With the hard work of hundreds of technicians, the movie *Martin* is ready to celebrate.



RAGHU THATHA, STARRING KEERTY SURESH, WILL HIT CINEMAS ON AUG 15

The release date for the Keerthy Suresh film has finally been announced. On August 15, *Raghu Thatha* will release on large screens.

The makers revealed on Friday that the film is planned to hit large screens on August 15, in time for India's Independence Day. Hombale Films, the production company behind the popular Kannada series *KGF* and *Salaar*, is supporting the movie. Their entry into Tamil cinema will come with *Raghu Thatha*.

Raghu Thatha is written and directed by Suman Kumar in his directorial debut. He is known for his work in

Farzi and *Guns & Gulaabs*, among others. *Raghu Thatha* is touted to be a comedy entertainer, and the makers of *Raghu Thatha* released a new poster.

"#*RaghuThatha*, Kayalvizhi's heart-warming adventure is coming to theatres near you. Get ready for a hilarious, emotional, and empowering rollercoaster ride! #*RaghuThatha* releases on August 15, 2024! I can't wait for you guys to watch this!" Keerthy Suresh wrote while sharing it. The poster shows Keerthy decked up in a silk saree and adorned with jewellery, with supporting characters posing behind.



ROHIT SHARMA HOPES FOR QUICK ACCLIMATISATION OF NY PITCH AHEAD OF T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Marvelling at the newly-constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium here, India skipper Rohit Sharma underlined the need for his team to get acclimatised to the pitch and conditions quickly ahead of their T20 World Cup opener against Ireland on June 5.

However, Rohit and company will get a chance to check the nature of the pitch and overall conditions when they face Bangladesh in a warm-up match here on Saturday. It's also India's lone training game ahead of the ICC marquee event.

The warm-up match is important from India's perspective because their matches will start at 10.30 AM local time and the players need to get used to day-time matches after playing under lights in the IPL for the last two months.

"We're looking to understand the conditions more importantly (before the tournament proper) as we haven't been here before," Rohit told ICC.

The Mumbai-based skipper emphasised the need for his side to get into a "rhythm" before the real action starts, and he wanted to use this side game as a



springboard. "We will try and make the most of the conditions, get used to what it's going to be like on June 5 when we play our first game," he added. The challenge for the Indians will be to adapt to the drop-in turf here, something they don't come across very often in international cricket. "It's just about getting into that

rhythm of getting the feel of the ground, pitch and stuff like that," he said. Rohit was part of the first batch of India cricketers to arrive here on May 26, along with Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel. Moving beyond the match

and routines, Rohit also found time to take in the beauty of the venue. "It looks beautiful. It's quite an open ground. When we come here and play our first game, I just can't wait to feel the atmosphere in the stadium," he said. "It's a decent capacity as well. Hopefully it's gonna be a good one." Rohit hoped that fans will

through the venue for their matches. "People in New York will be very interested in coming and watching the World Cup, as it is happening for the first time here. "I'm pretty sure all the fans across various teams are quite excited and looking forward to this tournament. And also as players (we) can't wait to get

started," he noted.

WORRY FOR BANGLADESH: Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto too appreciated the excellent construction here, but he would not have forgotten Bangladesh's shocking series defeat against the USA a few days back.

The United States, largely constituted by expat players, scored a stunning 2-1 win over Bangladesh in a three-match T20I series at home last week, signalling that they are no mere pushovers.

Hence, Shanto might be hoping for a quick turnaround against formidable India, even though it's a warm-up match at this scenic stadium. "To be very honest I wasn't expecting anything like this but we all followed on social media how the wicket looks like, how the ground would be, and we are very excited as to what is going to happen here," said Shanto.

The 25-year-old top-order batter then gushed over the venue.

"It's unbelievable. I think it's crazy. I mean we all saw on the internet there was nothing (three months ago). Now, it looks like a proper stadium and feels great," he said.

The Eastern grandstand (in particular), I didn't expect it to be like this," he added.



India eye redemption as big ticket cricket touches base in America

PTI ■ NEW YORK

There will be the usual favourites, the mavericks, the chokers and also the unpredictable minnows — the script is familiar for a World Cup but the scale would be unprecedented when the T20 showpiece, featuring a record 20 teams, spearheads cricket's audacious charge into the American market starting here on Saturday.

While India would be eager to shed the baggage of near-misses, Australia would like to add another chapter to their tale of domination. For the likes of Pakistan and West Indies, the primary target would be to keep in check their tendency to implode at the most inopportune time.

Defending champions England and South Africa too will be a force to reckon with, especially the latter. Given the presence of match-winners like Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Quinton de Kock and Kagiso Rabada, the Proteas seem primed to get rid of the chokers' tag.

It will be a ground-breaking event not just because of the sheer size of the draw but also for the fact that it officially marks cricket's big-ticket entry into the USA, which will host 16 of the 55 matches to be played across 29 days.

The remaining 39 games will be held in the West Indies, including the Super 8 stage, the semifinals and the final on June 29. Besides the obvious favourites on paper, the likes of Afghanistan can also never be counted out to upset the apple cart at the most unexpected time.

There are plots within plots that will unfold in the course of next one month. And perhaps one of the most intriguing would be the one involving India, a team that looks so

destined for an ICC trophy but has somehow managed to fall short after the 2013 Champions Trophy triumph. Rohit Sharma's reputation as captain will definitely be on the line this time. Considering the unparalleled resources and depth that the sport's powerhouse has, most experts find it difficult to pinpoint India's trophy drought at the word stage over the past decade.

Rohit's predecessor Virat Kohli ended his tenure as the most successful Test captain but a global trophy eluded him.

Now Rohit is carrying that baggage of not winning a world title with India finishing runner-up in two ICC events over the past 12 months, including the juggernaut-ending loss to Australia in the ODI World Cup final at home. Their outdated approach in the previous two T20 World Cups cost them dearly but they are unlikely to repeat those mistakes in the Americas.

The recently-concluded IPL showed how the batters are pushing boundaries and India's high-profile line-up needs to follow that risky path.

India may not have the same batting firepower as compared to some of the rival teams but as pitches in the Caribbean are expected to be spin-friendly, they surely have all bases covered.

Rohit and Co. are scheduled to play three games at the makeshift facility here including the blockbuster clash against Pakistan on June 9.

Drop-in pitches will be used at the brand new facility with all teams entering unfamiliar territory.

India, however, will have the advantage of playing a warm-up game against Bangladesh at the same venue on June 1 before they take on Ireland in their opening league game on June 5.

Pooran, Powell make fifties as WI hammer nine-man Australia by 35 runs

PTI ■ PORT OF SPAIN (TRINIDAD)

Effort by Nicholas Pooran and Rovman Powell helped West Indies outpunch a nine-man Australia by 35 runs in their warm-up match ahead of the T20 World Cup here.

As it happened in their first training match against Namibia, the Aussies fielded only nine players against the Windies. Selector George Bailey and head coach Andrew McDonald filled the remaining two spots while fielding.

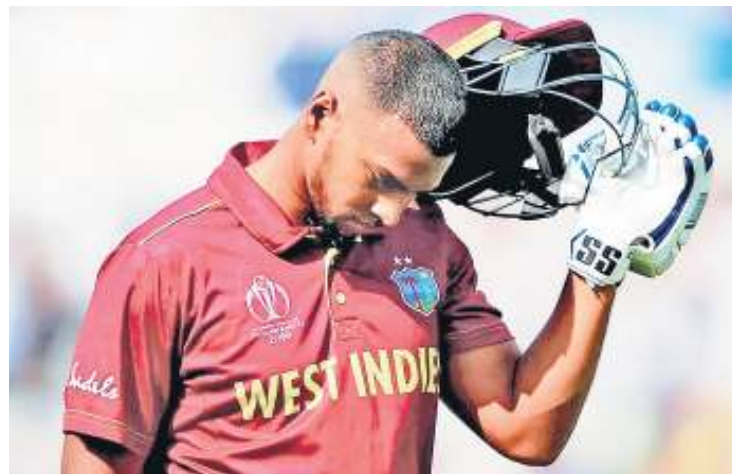
Batting first, West Indies rode on fifties by Pooran (75, 25b, 5x4, 8x6), skipper Powell (52, 25b, 4x4, 4x6) and an unbeaten 47 off 18 balls by Sherfane Rutherford (4x4, 4x6) to raise 257 for 4 in 20 overs. In reply, Josh Inglis (55, 30b, 3x4, 4x6) led Australia's reply and there were a

39 (22b, 4x4, 2x6) by Ellis and numerous 20s as Australia finished at 222 for seven.

Earlier, Australia had Tim David, Josh Hazlewood, Adam Zampa, Nathan Ellis and Ashton Agar as bowlers, and all went for plenty.

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh, recuperating from an injury, refrained from bowling, though he later batted. West Indies innings was built around fine partnerships between Pooran and Johnson Charles (40), who milked 90 runs for the second wicket and a 63 for the unbroken fifth wicket between Rutherford and Shimron Hetmyer (18).

The absence of skipper Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Cameron Green and Travis Head was felt as they are yet to join the squad. They are spending a few extra days at



home after a taxing campaign in the recently concluded IPL. **NAMIBIA BEAT PNG:** Namibia

defeated Papua New Guinea by three runs under the DLS method. Batting first, PNG were restricted to

109 for seven in 20 overs, and Namibia were 93 for six in 16.5 overs when the skies opened up in Tarouba. But they were three runs ahead in the DLS calculations at that stage.

At Dallas, the match between the Netherlands and Canada was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

BRIEF SCORES

West Indies: 257/4 in 20 overs (Nicholas Pooran 75, Rovman Powell 52; Sherfane Rutherford 47 not out; Adam Zampa 2/62) beat Australia: 222/7 in 20 overs (Josh Inglis 55, Nathan Ellis 39; Gudakesh Motie 2/31) by 35 runs.

Papua New Guinea: 109/7 in 20 overs (See Bau 29; David Wiese 2/8, Ruben Trumblemann 2/15) lost to Namibia: 93/6 in 16.5 overs (Jan Frylinck 36, JP Kotze 30; Alei Nao 2/9, Assad Vala 2/14) by 3 runs (DLS)



Lamichhane to miss T20 World Cup after US denies visa to Nepalese leg spinner

AP ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's ace leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane was ruled out of the Twenty20 World Cup on Friday after his US visa application was rejected for a second time. The Nepalese government and its cricket authorities took up Lamichhane's case after his visa was first rejected last week. The Cricket Association of Nepal said in a statement that "despite taking necessary initiatives ... The US Embassy has expressed its inability to give travel permission (visa) to national player Lamichhane to play the World Cup."

The Nepalese cricket association suspended Lamichhane after he was arrested in 2022 over an accusation of the rape of an 18-year-old woman. He was found guilty in January this year but was acquitted on appeal because of "lack of evidence" and the cricket association allowed him to resume playing cricket. Nepal, placed in Group D, opens its T20 World Cup campaign against the Netherlands on June 7 in Dallas before taking on Sri Lanka at Lauderhill, Florida on June 11.

Warm up game opportunity to check Indian players' rhythm

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Yashasvi Jaiswal will aim to add his bit to the combination conundrum with a handy contribution while Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj need to put their best foot forward during India's only T20 World Cup warm-up game against Bangladesh ahead of their tournament opener on June 5.

With all 15 cricketers being regular playing XI members of their respective IPL franchises, the team is certainly not short on game time but an assortment of 15 high-calibre players and finding that perfect combination will be key to ending India's 13-year global trophy drought.

In the warm-up game, it is expected that save for Virat Kohli, who is expected to touch down some time before the practice game, all other 14 players will be given a go as it doesn't

have an official status. It will be an opportunity to check everyone's rhythm after most of the core team members enjoyed a two-week break.

There will be two areas where skipper Rohit Sharma and outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid need to take a judicious call. Even if Jaiswal is in good nick, how to fit him in the side will be an issue as it would mean keeping a power-hitter like Shivam Dube out of the playing XI.

It is a foregone conclusion that Jaiswal might have to sit out as it would not only allow Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to open but could also open the door for Dube at the back end of the tournament.

"Shivam Dube is a six-hitting machine. He can be the 'x-factor' in the T20 World Cup. But if Shivam has to be in the XI, then you can't play Yashasvi. Rohit has to take that



call and I prefer both pace-bowling all-rounders in the XI. If Shivam plays, he can take on the opposition wrist spinners in the latter half," Suresh Raina, one of India's premier T20 batters of his time, said on Friday when asked about a possible combination.

The second teething problem for India would be to find Jasprit Bumrah's opening pace-bowling partner. Both Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj have blown hot and cold in the IPL and their form has left a lot to be desired.

RP Singh, one of the heroes of India's inaugural edition victory, feels that Hardik Pandya's four overs will be very important. Besides, he feels that Arshdeep should be the second frontline pacer on the newly-laid drop-in track.

Talking about the length to be bowled on the tracks in the US during an early morning start, he felt

variations will be important, which make Arshdeep a better bet compared to Siraj.

"As per my understanding, there should be a bit of slowness in the wicket. So, the ideal length will be somewhere around just short of good length. There will not be a lot of swing for the bowlers but the bowlers with variations, not only yorkers but also slower ones, leg and off cutters..." RP replied to a PTI query during a promotional event in Delhi.

"These deliveries will be utilised a bit more by Arshdeep, so the success rate will be automatically higher for him and that's what I understand the wickets in the US," he explained.

Against Bangladesh on a slowish track, it would also be a challenge for the middle-order as to how they deal with Shakib Al Hasan and Mahedi Hasan apart from questions asked by cutter master Mustafizur Rahaman.

Mitchell Marsh will not bowl in T20 WC opener against Oman: Coach McDonald

PTI ■ BARBADOS

Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh will not bowl in their T20 World Cup opener against Oman on June 6 and will play only as a batter as he continues his recovery from a hamstring injury sustained during the IPL, said head coach Andrew McDonald on Friday. Marsh played both the World Cup warm-up games against Namibia and co-hosts West Indies in Trinidad, scoring 18 and 4 respectively.

But the pace-bowling all-rounder did not field for the full bowling innings in either games, with Matthew Wade taking over captaincy duties in his absence. "For Mitch, (the warm-up games) was

about ticking off where his body was at," McDonald told cricket.Com.Au.

"He fielded more overs tonight (in the warm-up against Oman) than he was able to move more freely, so he's building a little bit of confidence there. It looks as though he's all set for the first game," he added.

Marsh played just four matches for Delhi Capitals in the recently concluded IPL following a right hamstring niggle and he flew back to Australia in the last week of April to continue his recuperation.

"The second part is just when the bowling comes back online... It won't be the first game," said McDonald. During the second warm-up



game against the West Indies, nine-man Australia lost by 35 runs, with the absence of skipper Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Cameron Green and Travis Head, who are yet to join the squad, being felt by the Kangaroos.

The Australian players who took part in the IPL flew back home to be with their families and were exempted from the warm-up fixtures.

"It was by design, in terms of when we were getting people back after the IPL; we were well aware we weren't going to get the squad together until the first of next month," said McDonald. "We've got some things in place where we'll bring the

group together, we'll work through our plans leading into Oman and there's a bit of space between that game and (playing) England."

Australia will play arch-rivals and defending T20 World Cup champions England here on June 9. "We feel as though we have plenty of time to bring that group together. It's a familiar group, they've played a lot together. If they hadn't played a lot together then the prep might have looked different," the coach added.

"We feel comfortable though as they know how to play with each other. It will just be finalising the XIs for the games, and the balances that we want. We've got plenty of options.