

Jagan's 'Memanta Siddham' from...

After the resounding success of the regional 'Siddham Sabha', YSRCP Supremo and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is poised to launch an extensive poll campaign with the 'Memanta Siddham' Yatra on March 27, commencing from Idupulapaya, Kadapa District. MLC and CM's tour program coordinator, Talasila Raghuram, convened a press conference to elaborate on the details of the Yatra. "The significance of this yatra cannot be overstated, as Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will commence his ..

-PAGE: 3

Exposure to artificial light at...

People being continuously exposed to outdoor artificial light at night may be at a higher risk of having a stroke, a new research reviewing more than 28,000 adults in China has found. The researchers said the excessive use of artificial light for enhancing visibility at night has resulted in about 80 per cent of the world's population living in light-polluted environments. The team, including researchers from Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China, assessed the adults' exposure to ...



Adani Ports to acquire 95%...

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Tuesday announced the acquisition of a 95 per cent stake in Gopalpur Ports in Odisha from Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Orissa Stevedores Ltd at an equity value of Rs 1 349 crore. In Gopalpur Ports, Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) firm SP Port Maintenance Pvt Ltd has a 56 per cent stake and Orissa Stevedores Ltd (OSL) has a 44 per cent stake. Gopalpur Port is an allweather deep-water berthing port with a capacity of 20 million tonnes per annum .. -PAGE: 8

SAFFRON Lotus wilting under dissension

Veerraju, GVL, Satyakumar & Vishnuvardhan Reddy skip crucial meet presided over by AP BJP chief Purandeswari

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Cracks are surfacing within the Andhra Pradesh BJP, as senior leaders conspicuously absent themselves from a crucial office bearers' meeting following the announcement of six Lok Sabha candidates for the 2024 elections by the BJP high command. The discontent among state BJP leaders stems from the perceived favouritism in candidate selection, exacerbating existing ten-

sions within the party. The absence of four prominent BJP leaders at the State office bearers' meeting, chaired by party chief D Purandeswari, has ignited speculation and gossip within the saffron party ranks. The meeting, crucial for strategising the forthcoming elec-tions, highlighted the growing divide among party members.

Maganti Babu to join YSRCP?

The BJP's decision-making process has been contentious, as the party grapples with accommodating leaders amidst an alliance with the TDP and Jana Sena Party for both Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. With a limited number of seats allocated under the alliance agreement, dissatisfaction among BJP ranks was inevitable.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP)

appears to be facing a big setback in the combined West Godavari

district, with senior leader

and former MP Maganti

Babu reportedly con-

sidering leaving the

TDP to join the

YSRCP



favouritism in candidate selection, exacerbatin g existing tensions within the party. elections.

Reports indicate a visible schism within the Andhra BJP, with factions taking sides with either with the TDP or BJP. While Tuesday's meeting saw the presence of AP Election

Padmanabham, who recently joined the YSRCP. Through Padmanabham, YSRCP officials

have approached Maganti Babu,

YSRCP.

persuading him to join their

party, according to sources within the

Speculation has



the Andhra BJP, with factions taking sides with either with the TDP or BJP.

Criticism within the BJP ranks focuses on the perceived nepotism in candidate selection, with five out of six Lok Sabha seats awarded to defectors from other parties, and a disproportionate allocation favouring a specific community, further exacerbating discontent.

In-charge Arun Singh and national joint general secretary Shiva Prakash alongside contestants, the absence of Somu Veerraju, GVL Narasimha Rao, Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, and

Satya Kumar underscored the brewing dissent. Notably, these leaders were denied party tickets, fueling resentment.

number six, after medical examina-**Continued on Page 2** tions," an official said.

BRS MLC Kavitha sent to Tihar Jail

SHE DUBS IT 'POLITICAL LAUNDERING' CASE

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha has been taken to Tihar Jail, following a Delhi court's order on Tuesday remanding her in judicial custody till April 9 on the ED's plea that, if released, the "highlyinfluential" arrestee was likely to influence witnesses and tamper with evidence.

The 46-year-old BRS leader was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a Delhi excise policy-linked money-laundering case on March 15. She has been in the custody of the central probe agency for 10 days.

Prior to the hearing, Kavitha said, "This is not a case of money laundering but a case of political laundering. One accused has already joined BJP. Another accused was given ticket by BJP. The third accused gave Rs 50 crore to the BJP in the form of electoral bonds. I will come out clean. No question of becoming approver". She said that she might be jailed temporarily.

is permitted to have home-cooked She was taken to Tihar Jail from food, a mattress, slippers, clothes, Rouse Avenue Court in a jail van in bedsheet, blanket, books, pen, paper, the evening. She has been kept in jail wear jewellery, and take medicines.

Prior to the hearing, Kavitha said, "This is not

a case of monev

laundering but a case of

political laundering. One

accused has already

joined BJP. Another

accused was given ticket

by BJP. The third accused

gave Rs 50 crore to the

BJP in the form of electoral bonds."

According to a court order, she



Ex-CBI director sees YSRCP moles in AP BJP

BJP embroiled in 'ticket sale' row

Audio clip of BJP-TDP leaders' negotiation over Adoni seat for Rs 3 crore goes viral

didate for the Adoni Assembly seat. It has come to light that BJP leaders have extended an offer to for-Amid internal disagreements regarding the distribution of seats to party mer TDP MLA Meenakshi loyalists, the Andhra Pradesh BJP Naidu, who expresses a DWM

the party

contemplates fielding

Satya Kumar from the

assembly seat, while

Somu may be urged to

contest the assembly

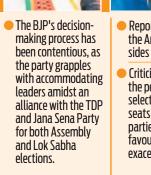
elections from the

Anaparthi

constituency.

Dharmavaram

BJP chief Kunugiri Neelakantha's brother (also a BJP leader) and the nephew of former TDP legislator Meenakshi Naidu, is circulating on social media. In the recording, the speaker suggests that Purandeswari has sought Rs 3 crore for the seat, and if the aspirant





Mumbai Indians will aim to land the killer punch after fluffing an easy run-chase in their opener when they meet a dangerous Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday Five-time champions MI had a lot going for them in their tournament opener against the Guiarat Titans whether it was the incisive spells from pacer Jasprit Bumrah. Dewald Brevis' impactful knock or Rohit Sharma's fireworks at the top of the order. But MI. who have built a reputation of slow starters over the ... -SPORTS

Close associates of Maganti Venkateswara Rao, commonly known as Babu, have revealed that discussions have taken place between some YSRCP leaders and Maganti Babu, with offers of important roles within the party.

PNS KUPPAM

PNS ELURU

Maganti Babu has a longstanding relationship with Mudragada

During an interaction with the youth

in the Kuppam Assembly constituen-

cy, TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu

criticised Chief Minister, YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy, for what he sees as

mere lip service to the Handri-Neeva

project. Despite visiting the project

site last month, Naidu argued that

Jagan has failed to take any concrete

steps to advance its development,

branding the entire endeavour as a

theatrical spectacle for political gain.

unemployment among the youth in the

state, Chandrababu Naidu pointed out

the absence of any District Selection

Highlighting the pressing issue of

been rife over Maganti Babu's potential departure from the TDP, yet neither TDP officials nor Babu's supporters have issued any denial. Babu has been actively engaged

Jagan playing drama over Handri-Neeva project

Committee (DSC) activity in the past

five years, coupled with a dearth of job

opportunities. He lamented the dis-

mantling of initiatives by the TDP

aimed at establishing world-class

knowledge centres and generating

employment, attributing the setback to

the policies of the YSRCP government.

Naidu was in jail.

in politics for the past two years, participating in programmes when

sy surrounding ticket allocation for upcoming elections. An audio clip depicting a conversation between TDP and BJP leaders, bargaining over the Adoni Assembly seat, has sparked considerable uproar within political circles.

PNS KURNOOL

As part of the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP seat-sharing agreement, BJP has nominated Parthasarathy as its can-

Naidu expressed concern that the

lack of viable employment options has

led the youth to resort to consuming

inferior-quality liquor, allegedly distrib-

uted by Jagan Mohan Reddy's admin-

istration. Moreover, he accused the CM

of facilitating widespread access to

marijuana at affordable rates, effective-

ly legitimising its consumption across

In a bid to address the unemploy-ment crisis, Naidu pledged that the TDP would create 20 lakh job oppor-

tunities for the youth within five years

of assuming power. Additionally, he

promised a monthly stipend of 3000

rupees for unemployed youth once his party was back in governance.

the State.

finds itself embroiled in a controverdesire to contest from the Adoni constituency. Allegedly, BJP leaders have proposed that the seat would be allotted to him if he pays Rs 3 crore. These negotiations purportedly

PNS GUNTUR

occur with the tacit approval of the BJP chief, Purandeswari.

A viral audio clip, purportedly a phone conversation between Kurnool

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan has

donated Rs 10 crore to his party. He

presented the cheque for the

amount to party treasurer AV Ratnam and State general secretary

K Nagababu at the party's state

Asserting that this contribution

stems from his hard-earned income,

Pawan Kalyan emphasised his com-

mitment to supporting not only his

party but also various spiritual and

social initiatives. He reiterated his

dedication to the cause by citing his-

torical parallels, mentioning the

contributions of figures like Motilal

office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday.

Pawan donates Rs 10 cr to Jana Sena

transferred to Aluru in Kurnool district. The emergence of this audio clip is significant amidst allegations that

agrees, the seat would then

Purandeswari has demanded substantial sums of money in exchange for Assembly or Lok Sabha

tickets within the party. The BJP leadership has yet to respond to these allegations.

Nehru to the freedom struggle.

During the event, Pawan Kalyan

highlighted the importance of finan-

cial support for the party's election

campaign, envisioning a brighter

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director, M Nageswara Rao, sparked controversy on Tuesday with his comments, cautioning the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regarding alleged infiltration by members of the YSR Congress Party president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, within the State unit of BJP.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Nageswara Rao asserted that until recently, BJP leaders and members in Andhra Pradesh had been vocally critical of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its leadership.

"It is no secret that numerous BJP figures have affiliations with YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, actively working against TDP president Chandrababu Naidu and the TDP, often resorting to derogatory language," he highlighted.



LIC world's strongest insurance brand: Report

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance steel frame were visible protrud-

Insurance 100 2024. The report said that LIC's brand value remains steady at US\$ 9.8 billion, accompanied by a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an associ-

ated AAA brand strength rating. in the global rankings, with Ping Following LIC, the rankings highsecond strongest brand, experiencfollowed by NRMA Insurance, respectively, it said.

which saw an 82 per cent rise in brand value to US\$ 1.3 billion, according to a statement by Brand Finance Insurance. From a vantage point near the entrance to the bridge, jagged remnants of its

> ing from the water, with the on-ramp ending abruptly where the span once began.

Notably, Chinese insurance brands maintain dominance

An leading with a 4 per cent light Cathay Life Insurance as the increase in brand value to US\$ 33.6 billion, followed by China ing a 9 per cent increase in brand Life Insurance and CPIC defendvalue to US\$ 4.9 billion, closely ing their 3rd and 5th positions,

Cargo ship hits Baltimore's key bridge, bringing it down

PNS BALTIMORE

A container ship rammed into a major bridge in Baltimore early Tuesday, causing it to snap in a few places and plunge into the river below. Several vehicles fell into the chilly waters, and rescuers were initially searching for at least seven people.

Two people were pulled from the waters under the Francis Scott Key Bridge, one in serious condition, according to Baltimore Fire Chief James Wallace.

The cargo ship appears to have crashed into one of the bridge's supports during the middle of night when traffic would be expected to be lighter, according to a video posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. The vessel caught fire, and thick, black smoke billowed out of it. "Never would you think that



you would see, physically see, the Key Bridge tumble down like that. It looked like something out of an action movie," said Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott, calling it "an unthinkable tragedy.

The fire chief said authorities "may be looking for upwards of seven people" but said that number could change. It was not clear if the two rescued were included in the seven.

Sonar has indicated that there are vehicles in the water, where the temperature was about 47 degrees Fahrenheit (8 degrees Celsius) in the early hours of Tuesday, according to a buoy that

Crew of ship are Indians: Company

PNS NEW YORK

future for the state.

The entire 22-member crew of the cargo ship that struck a major bridge in Baltimore early Tuesday, causing it to snap and plunge into the river below are Indians, the company said.

According to the vessel information provided by the Synergy Marine Group, the crew was "All Indian, 22 in total". The "Dali" has a capacity of 10,000 TEU and onboard Units: of 4,679 TEU.

collects data for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Earlier, Kevin Cartwright, director of communications for

Grace Ocean Private Ltd owns the vessel and the ship's movement was outbound from Baltimore to Colombo.

Owners and managers of the Singapore-flagged container ship "DALI" report that the vessel collided with one of the pillars of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, Baltimore, whilst under pilotage with two pilots onboard, at approximately 01:30 local time on March 26, ship management company Synergy Marine Group said in a statement.

the Baltimore Fire Department, told The Associated Press that several vehicles were on the bridge at the time, including one the size of a tractor-trailer truck.





vijayawada 02



Main parties gear up to intensify poll campaign

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Amidst the looming general elections in Andhra Pradesh, the State is witnessing a surge in political activity as key party leaders gear up for rigorous campaigning. Chief Minister and YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu have unveiled their election strategies, igniting anticipation among the populace.

Chief Minister Jagan is set to embark on a 21-day bus yatra named 'Memantha Siddham', marking the commencement of his election campaign. Simultaneously, Nara Chandrababu Naidu is prepared to kickstart his electoral journey under the banner of 'Prajagalam'. The synchronised initiation of public engagements by both leaders has captured the attention and anticipation of the

people across the State. With the upcoming elections

Ex-CBI director...

Expressing scepticism about

the BJP's recent alliance with the

questioned how BJP members in

Andhra Pradesh would reconcile

TDP, the former CBI director

their deep-seated animosity

towards the TDP and sever ties

with Jagan. "Overcoming these entrenched hostilities to collabo-

Jana Sena Party members for the

Nageshwar Rao called upon

Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

Shah, and BJP national president

Union Home Minister Amit

JP Nadda to issue stern warn-

ings to any individuals suspect-

success of all three parties' can-didates poses a significant chal-

lenge," he remarked.

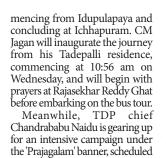
rate effectively with TDP and

Continued from Page 1



perceived as vital by both the YSRCP and TDP, ambitious victory targets have been set, prompting detailed planning to secure success at the polls, including the finalization of candidates representing each party. While TDP, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Jana Sena Party have come together as an alliance, YSRCP has opted for an independent contest once again.

Having already conducted sig-nificant public gatherings, YSRCP, led by CM Jagan, is poised to reconnect with the masses through the bus journey, com-



from the 27th to the 31st of this month. The campaign will span multiple constituencies each day, including Palamaneru, Nagari, Nellore rural, Raptadu,

Shinganamalai, Kadiri, Srisailam, and Kurnool, with additional focus on Chandrababu's constituency, Kuppam. Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan is also poised to launch his election campaign from Pithapuram on the 30th of this month. The campaign will commence with a visit to the local temple, followed by meetings with key leaders and interactions with local intellectuals.

As the state braces for the elections, the political arena anticipates heightened activity in the days ahead, with leaders fervently seeking the support of the electorate.

YSRCP nominates Budi Muthyala Naidu for Anakapalli Lok Sabha seat PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a calculated strategic manoeuvre, the YSRCP has revealed its contender for the Anakapalli Lok Sabha seat, setting the stage for a riveting electoral battle. Deputy Chief Minister Budi Muthyalanaidu emerges as the party's choice, injecting a fresh dimension into the forthcoming polls.

YSRCP's decision to unveil its Anakapalli MP candidate comes after the party had already revealed its nominees for 175 MLA and 24 MP seats. The delay in announcing the Anakapalli candidate underscores the party's careful consideration, particularly regarding its commitment to allocate the seat to a candidate from the BC (Backward Classes) community. The eventual selection of Budi Mutyala Naidu Koppula, representing the Koppula Velama social group, aligns with this commitment. reflecting a strategic balancing act on the part of the party. Budi Muthyalanaidu's entry



into the electoral fray brings with it familial ties, as his daughter is contesting for the Madugula seat, further consolidating the party's position in the region.

This move signifies a depar-ture from the previous MP's tenure, introducing a fresh face to represent the constituency. The decision-making process within YSRCP was undoubtedly influenced by the alliance dynamics, particularly with the BJP securing a foothold in the Anakapalli constituency. The BJP's nomination of CM Budi Muthyalanaidu's entry into the electoral fray brings with it familial ties, as his daughter is contesting for the Madugula seat, further consolidating the party's position in the region. This move signifies a departure from the previous MP's tenure, introducing a fresh face to represent the constituency.

Ramesh added another layer of complexity, prompting YSRCP to carefully weigh its options before making the final announcement.

date from the same social background as the outgoing MP underscores YSRCP's strategic calculations, particularly given the significant voter base in the West. Budi Muthyalanaidu's candidacy from the Koppula Velama group adds an element of intrigue to the electoral narrative, further intensifying the

competition for the Anakapalli Lok Sabha seat. Despite speculation regarding YSRCP's potential inclination towards candidates from other demographics, the selection of Budi Muthyalanaidu reflects the party's strategic calculus aimed at maximising electoral prospects.

As the electoral fervour continues to build, the Anakapalli Lok Sabha seat emerges as a focal point of interest, poised to shape the broader political landscape in the upcoming elections.

The preference for a candi-

TDP struggles to find a candidate for Vizianagaram Lok Sabha seat

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) finds itself in a challenging position as it strives to secure the Vizianagaram Parliamentary constituency, with the Turpu Kapu community's discontent looming large. The allocation of Assembly seats has sparked dissatisfaction among the Turpu Kapu community, with only four out of seven constituencies within the MP segment desig-

TDP is considering fielding a Furpu Kapu lea as its

The TDP is considering fielding a Turpu Kapu leader as its MP candidate. However, this move presents its own set of challenges. With only one candidate finalised for the Gajapathinagaram constituency, the decision for Cheepurupalli remains pending, Local political intricacies, including upper caste dominance in various constituencies, further complicate the party's efforts to ensure community satisfaction.

caste leaders, highlighting potential backlash from the community. Rao's focus on his constituency and the reluctance of Cheepurupalli TDP in-charge Kimidi Nagarjuna to contest the

Reflecting on past defeats in the region, a senior TDP leader emphasises the party's need to prioritise the interests of the

rpu Kapu community to

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

MLA

In the run-up to the upcoming general elections, Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathi Raju, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate for Vizianagaram, has unveiled ambitious plans for the development of the constituency.

Speaking exclusively to The Pioneer, Aditi outlined her vision to prioritize civic amenities across all divisions, extending her focus to the outskirts of Vizianagaram with plans for expansion on all sides.

Raju's blueprint for Vizianagaram encompasses crucial aspects of infrastructure. with a primary focus on road ritv d

electricity provision, and dedicated water supply. These initiatives, she asserts, are pivotal for the prosperity and advancement of the constituency's populace. Her commitment to tackling these pressing issues arises from a deep understanding of the challenges con-

fronting Vizianagaram. Despite facing defeat in the 2019 general elections to YSRCP nominee Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy by a margin of 6,417 votes, Aditi remains undeterred, prepared to contest against him once more. She exudes confidence in her capacity to effect positive change, aligning herself with the TDP's steadfast dedication to

draws inspiration from her father's legacy, who previously represented the Vizianagaram constituency, attributing the region's developmental strides to his leadership. She views her candidacy as a continuation of this legacy, committed to building upon the foundation laid by

Aditi unveils vision for Vizianagaram Engaged in rigorous doorto-door campaigns across all wards, Raju is buoyed by the enthusiastic reception received underscores the resonance of her campaign pledges and reflects the electorate's aspira-Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathi set the stage for a dynamic conthe realization of her vision,

from constituents regarding the TDP's 'Super-Six' assur-ances. This endorsement tions for tangible improvements in their daily lives. With the electoral battle intensifying, Raju's propositions for civic progress and infrastructure development in Vizianagaram test. Voters eagerly anticipate heralding a promising future

nated to upper castes. To address these issues, the

MP elections add to the party's dilemma. Additionally, Gedela

of acting as moles or s teurs for Jagan within the Andhra BJP, emphasizing that the success of the NDA relies on securing a majority of assembly and Lok Sabha seats.

He stressed, "It is imperative for the BJP's central leadership, particularly Modi, Shah, and Nadda, to rein in these alleged moles of Jagan within the Andhra BJP and rally them to work wholeheartedly towards the success of all NDA candidates contesting assembly and Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh."

It's worth noting that former Narasapuram MP K Raghu Ramakrishna Raju also accused Somu Veerraju of acting as a mole for the YSRCP within the state BJP, hindering his chances of securing a party ticket for the Narasapuram LS seat.

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Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
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	to Mar 27 04:15 PM
Swati:	Mar 27 04:15 PM
	to Mar 28 06:38 PM
Rahukalam:	12:21 PM to 1:52 PM
Yamagandam:	7:48 AM to 9:19 AM
Varjyam:	10:25 PM to 12:10 AM
Gulika:	10:50 AM to 12:21 PM
Amritakalam:	09:08 AM to 10:55 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham	: NIL

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny Temp: 38°° Humidity: 55% Sunrise: 6:06 AM Sunset: 6:20 PM

Updated: March 26, 2024 5:00 PM

Use Suvidha portal to obtain permission for meetings: CEO

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena requested that the Suvidha portal should be used to obtain prior approval for the meetings, rallies, processions, door-to-door campaigns, distribution of leaflets etc. in the context of the implemen-

tion, he said. tation of the model code of He said that ECI has conduct for elections in the designed the Suvidha Portal state. For this, the application

for filing online nominahas to be made 48 hours in tions, affidavits and online applications for grant of advance through the Suvidha prior permissions. A meetapp or directly to the coning is being held under the cerned returning officer. Permissions are granted chairmanship of the CEO in the state secretariat with the within 24 hours of applica-

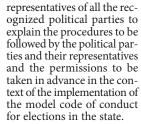
Maganti Babu to...

Continued from Page 1

Previously serving as a minister in Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's Cabinet, Maganti Babu later joined the TDP and secured a parliamentary seat from the Eluru constituency in the 2014 elections. His father, Maganti Ravindranath Chowdary, was also a prominent leader in the district. Expressing a desire to contest the Eluru parliamentary seat once more, Maganti Babu was denied a ticket by Chandrababu Naidu.

Instead, the TDP nominated Putta Mahesh Yada, the son-inlaw of Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, under the BC category. Discontented with this decision, Maganti Babu conveyed his dissatisfaction to his followers, hinting at a potential departure from the TDP. His followers expressed disappointment, stating that Naidu did not consult Babu before nominating a BC leader for the Eluru MP ticket.

Reliable sources suggest that Maganti Babu may formally join the YSRCP during the current week, with the possibility of an announcement in the presence of Jagan Mohan Reddy. In light of this development, Naidu, currently on a visit to Kuppam, will reportedly hold discussions with Maganti Babu to address his concerns and attempt to retain him within the TDP fold.



Additional CEO MN Harendhira Prasad along with representatives of Aam Aadmi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, BJP, CPI (Marxist), Indian National Congress, National People's Party, TDP, YSRCP and other parties participated in this meeting.

Lotus wilting... Continued from Page 1

Criticism within the BJP ranks focuses on the perceived nepotism in candidate selection, with five out of six Lok Sabha seats awarded to defectors from other parties, and a disproportionate allocation favouring a specific community, further exacerbating discontent. Former state BJP chief Somu Veerraju's disappointment at the rejection of his candidature echoes sentiments of disapproval within the party. Amidst speculations, the party contemplates fielding Satya Kumar from the Dharmavaram assembly seat, while Somu may be urged to contest the assembly elections from the Anaparthi constituency.

r thei

Pawan donates... Continued from Page 1

He expressed gratitude towards individuals from various walks of life who have contributed, ranging from labourers setting aside a portion of their earnings to retirees donating from their pensions.

Pawan Kalyan clarified that his donation of Rs 10 crore to the Jana Sena Party comes after fulfilling his tax obligations from his earnings in the film industry. The event was attended by prominent party members including JSP vice-president B Mahendra Reddy and national spokesperson Vemulapati Ajay Kumar, among others

candidate. However, this move presents its own set of challenges. With only one candidate finalised for the Gajapathinagaram constituency, the decision for Cheepurupalli remains pending. Local political intricacies, including upper caste dominance in various constituencies, further complicate the party's efforts to ensure community satisfaction.

TDP leaders express concerns Former MLA Kala Venkata about fielding non-local and upper-

BRS MLC Kavitha...

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, Kavitha had requested the court to let her have home-cooked food in view of her health problems. "She will be kept in a separate cell which will be shared by two other female inmates," a jail official said.

Kavitha is the third politiarrested in another money

Srinubabu, a prominent figure within the AP Backward Classes avoid political setbacks. Association, has expressed will-Balancing internal aspirations, ingness to contest from Vizianagaram, offering a potential solution. In a surprising turn of events, Narsapuram MP K. Raghu Rama

after failing to secure a BJP ticket

for his constituency. However, local

cal leader after Aam Aadmi

Party's Manish Sisodia and

Sanjay Singh, who are lodged

in Tihar jail after being arrest-

community expectations, and electoral viability presents a formidable challenge for the TDP as it navigates the complex political landscape of Krishna Raju has expressed inter-Vizianagaram. est in contesting from Vizianagaram

The party's ability to address these challenges will be crucial in determining its electoral success in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

laundering case, is lodged in jail number seven. Officials said Tihar's Jail number six lodges female inmates. Around 500 inmates are lodged in this jail.

"The timings for tea, hav-ing food and watching televied in the excise policy-linked money laundering case. While sion will be the same for her Sisodia is lodged in jail numas other inmates," an officer said, adding she can access ber one, Singh is in jail number two. Another AAP leader the books in the Tihar jail Satyendar Jain, who was library, which is for all inmates.

Several oppn leaders defect to YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The ruling YSRCP witnessed a series of highprofile joinings from the opposition alliance, notably from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP), on Tuesday. The grand gathering took place in the presence of the party president and Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Gorumuchhu Gopal Yadav, the TDP in charge of the Eluru Lok Sabha constituency, made a notable switch to the YSRCP, solidifying the party's position. The event unfolded at the Camp Office in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Accompanying Yadav were prominent YSRCP candidates including Karumuri Nageswara Rao from Tanuku Assembly constituency, K Abbaiah Choudary from Denduluru, and Karumuri Sunil, contesting for the Eluru Lok Sabha seat. Another sig-

nificant defection came from the Rajampet constituency, where Ganta Narahari, the TDP in charge, decided to align himself with the YSRCP. This move was also sealed at the Camp Office with Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. PV Mithun Reddy, the YSRCP regional coordinator, and Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy, contesting for the Ongole Lok Sabha seat, were present during the event.

Adding to the momentum of defections, a former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), Angurui Lakshmi Siva Kumari of Payakaravupeta, joined the YSRCP fold. This significant move was made official at the Camp Office in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, with YSRCP regional coordinator PV Mithun Reddy witnessing the transition.

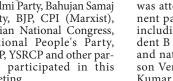
Additionally, Venkatagiri Assembly con-stituency's senior TDP leader, Dr Mastan Yadav, decided to shift his allegiance to the

YSRCP, a move indicating the growing support for the ruling party. The ceremony took place in the presence of Chief Minister YS agan Mohan Reddy, PV Mithun Reddy, and N. Ram Kumar Reddy, the YSRCP candidate from Venkatagiri.

The wave of defections extended to Vijayawada, where several former TDP corporators and Jana Sena leaders opted to join the YSRCP. The event was marked by the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Camp Office. Notable personalities making the switch included Ganduri Mahesh, Nandepu Jagadeesh, Kokkiligadda Deva Mani, Kosuru Subrahmanyam (Mani), Gorantla Srinivasa Rao, and Bathina Ramu. Among those present to welcome the new entrants were Vijayawada MP Kesineni Nani, MLA Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao, MLC Ruhulla, and Vijayawada East YSRCP candidate Devineni Avinash.

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Security stepped up at Inter-state checkposts

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In preparation for the upcoming general elections, an Inter-State Borders Coordination meeting was conducted between district-level officers from the NTR district of Andhra Pradesh and the Survapet district of Telangana. The gathering took place at the Ramco Cement Learning Centre meeting hall near the Chillakallu Toll Plaza in

Jaggaiahpet. NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao, Police Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata, Suryapet District Collector S Venkata Rao, and SP Rahul Hegde participated. The agenda centred on fostering collaborative efforts to thwart illicit transportation of cash, liquor, and other valuables across the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana borders.

An inspection of the Garikapadu Check Post, serving as the inter-state checkpoint between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, was conducted to evaluate surveillance measures. Discussions during the meeting revolved around strategies to curb the inter-state



checkpoints in the district.

ious departments.

smuggling of money, liquor, narcotics, gold, and other valuables.

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao highlighted the bolstered security measures implemented at inter-state and interdistrict checkpoints in anticipation of the general elections. He underscored the imperative of stringent vigilance and dedicated attention to all checkpoints.

Furthermore, Dr Rao emphasised the continuity of all preventive measures orchestrated by the district administration, in conjunction with the support of various departments including police, forest, revenue, commercial tax, GST, and banks, among others, until the conclusion of the elec-

the positive collaboration received from the NTR district tions. He stressed the significance of cooperative endeavours between Suryapet and administration during the 2023 assembly elections. SP BK NTR district administrations Rahul Hegde underscored the to ensure peaceful elections pivotal role of Ramapuram X and adherence to guidelines stipulated by the Election Road and Dondapadu Cross Commission of India (ECI). points, highlighting their inte-Commissioner Kanthi Rana gration with the Control room Tata of NTR District Police and the election control room for enhanced operational effilauded the significance of the inter-state borders coordinaciency.

In addition to the key offition meeting in curbing illegal cials mentioned, the meeting transportation between the NTR and Suryapet districts. He was attended by NTR district disclosed plans for further joint collector Dr P Sampath augmenting the number of combined check posts, inter-Kumar, Nandigama RDÔ A Ravindra Rao, Kodad RDO Ch state check posts, and other Suryanarayana, NTR District ADCP and Police Nodal Assuring full cooperation from Suryapet district, Officer M Krishna Murty Naidu, LDM K Priyanka, and Collector Venkata Rao cited other dignitaries.

Endowments Commissioner visits Durga Temple PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Commissioner of the Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department, S Satyanarayana, visited the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The temple authorities accorded

him a warm welcome. C o m m i s s i o n e r Satyanarayana was accompa-nied by temple Executive Engineer KVS Koteswara Rao and other officials. Vedic scholars blessed the Commissioner at the Veda Ashirvachanam Mandapam on the temple premises. EE Koteswara Rao also presented Sesha Vastram, Laddu Prasadam, and Durga Devi's portrait to him.

Meanwhile, Durga Temple Executive Officer (EO) KS Rama Rao inspected the ongoing development works at the temple, including the elevated queue complex and Kanaka Durga Nagar parking area. He instructed the contracting agencies involved to complete all these works within the stipulated time.

బస్సు యాత్ర ົງລູງວ නුණාබාවබ්රෝ වසරංජ mg

Memanta Siddham' from today

The route of the yatra will cover several pivotal loca-

1:30 pm.

27 మార్షి 2024 | 1వ రోజు

PNS VIJAYAWADA

After the resounding success of the regional 'Siddham Sabha', YSRCP Supremo and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is poised to launch an extensive poll campaign with the 'Memanta Siddham' Yatra on March 27, commencing from Idupulapaya, Kadapa District. MLC and CM's tour program coordinator, Talasila Raghuram, convened a press conference to elaborate on the details of the Yatra. "The significance of this

yatra cannot be overstated, as

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will commence Potladurthi," stated MLC Talasila Raghuram.

సుర్మపురాళ్లపల్లి

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The highlight of the yatra his journey by paying tribute will be a public meeting to his late father, former Chief Minister Dr YS Rajasekhar scheduled at 4:30 pm on the Reddy at YSR Ghat in Proddutur bypass road, where Idupulapaya at 1:00 pm. Subsequently, the CM will Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy will address the gathembark on the yatra by bus at ering

"After the public meeting, the yatra will proceed to the night camp situated on the tions including Kumarunipalli, Vempalli, Sarvarajupeta, VN Palli Allagadda bypass road of Nandyala district, passing through Sunnapurallapalli, (Kamalapuram), Duvvur, Jillela, Nagalapadu, Gangireddypalli, Urutur, Bodhanam, Rampalle Cross, Y e r r a g u n t l a and Chagalamarri," ad (Jammalamadugu), and MLC Talasila Raghuram. and Chagalamarri," added

Federal Skill Academy empowering graduates

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Federal Bank continues to expand its footprint in Vijayawada with the inauguration of a new branch in Kanpur, furthering its commitment to both business and community development. The newly established branch also serves as the regional office, catering to the needs of the local people.

Speaking on the initiative, Jaya Shekhar Reddy, Regional Head and Deputy vice president, emphasised the bank's commitment to empowering graduates who may be facing unemployment post-graduation. "Federal Bank is proud to leverage its CSR funds to establish the Federal Skill

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Academy, which serves as a beacon of hope for unem-ployed graduates," stated Reddy. "With a total of six skill In a move to combat potential drinking water shortages, District Collector Dr A. academies already operational Mallikharjuna has called for across the country, the establishment of the seventh acadimmediate action from conemy in Vijayawada Kanuru cerned officials Visakhapatnam. With the looming threat of low rainfall underscores our dedication to providing meaningful opportunities for the youth." and increased demand during The Federal Skill Academy the summer months, Dr invites all graduates in Mallikharjuna stressed the

Vijayawada to take advantage of its training programs and explore new avenues for personal and professional growth. Together, the Federal Bank and the Federal Skill Academy aim to unlock the potential of every graduate, fostering a brighter future for the community.

STEPS TAKEN TO ADDRESS POTABLE

WATER SHORTAGE IN VIZAG

urgency of advanced planning and coordination among varrepairing essential infrastructure such as bores, motors, and During a crucial review meeting held alongside GVMC pipes, while also launching awareness campaigns to pro-Commissioner CM Saikanth mote responsible water usage, Varma, the Collector emphaparticularly in rural areas. sized the imperative of preven-Commissioner CM Saikanth Verma outlined ambitious tive measures to safeguard water resources. This includes plans to source water from

multiple locations across the district, including Eleru, Godavari, and Rayapudi. Notably, a groundbreaking proposal to pump water from Eleru to Mehadri Gedda aims to significantly augment the daily water supply, addressing the anticipated surge in

Prasad and Jamalaiah said that farmers are finding it hard to

repay their debts and the

moneylenders will double the

interest rate. As of now, around

Rs.900 crore is due from the

government. The largest

amount is due to Srikakulam

followed

district, Rs.150 crore,

added.

Vizianagaram

(Rs.70 crore) and

Parvathipuram

Manyam (Rs.48

crore), they

Further, they

pointed out that

the State govern-

ment had assured the

farmers of clearing all bills

by

demanded.

Peyyala

also present.

Surendranath Benarji, V Azad,

A Prasad, M Narasimha Rao, V

Ratnagiri, Venkata Ratnam,

Bhogeswara Rao, Ch Yugandhar and others were

Naga Raju,

demand during the summer

season. Key officials from various departments, including rural water supply, Zilla Parishad, GVMC Water Supply, and Water Resources, were present at the meeting, highlighting the collaborative effort underway to tackle the impending water crisis. With a comprehensive strategy in place, authorities are optimistic about ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply to both urban and rural areas of Visakhapatnam. These proactive measures signify a united front in confronting the challenges posed by water scarcity, providing reassurance to residents amidst the approaching summer season.

'Samskritika Sirulu' empowers disabled individuals

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A two-day dance extravagan-za titled "Dance Festival-Samskritika Sirulu," orchestrated by renowned dance master Pakki Manzoosha, unfolded as a captivating experience geared towards the mental enrichment of approximately 80 disabled individuals at the Asha Jyothi Handicapped Welfare Society an NGO in Hanuman Junction. The event was organised under the auspices of Arunodaya Kala Samiti of Vijayawada at Pavana Bhavani Kalyana Mandapam in Appanaveedu, Eluru district.

The festival showcased a melange of classical and folk performances, igniting the artistic prowess. Among the within 21 days after procure-ment, but failed to fulfil the mesmerising acts were the Ganesh Kowtham Kuchipudi dance by Niveditha Sree from promise. As a result, the Vijayawada, Swagatha Nrutyam by Varsha Institute of moneylenders who provided Swagatha investments for agricultural Dance from Hyderabad, activities are pressing the farmers for money. The govern-Annamacharya Keerthanament should take the steps to Vachenu Alamelumanga by pay the bills immediately after disciples of Arunodhaya Kala selling the paddy, they Samithi, Vijayawada, Thandava Nrutyakari by AP Rythu Sangham leaders Nataraj Dance Academy, Gannavaram, Ayigirinandini by Tanvitha from Vijayawada, M Yallamanda Řao, M Uma Maheswara Rao, G Ramu, H

Bhamakalapam by Lakshmi Sahasra from Hyderabad, Paras Thillana by Pilli Varsha from Hyderabad, and folk dance by Abhinaya Natyalaya from Vijayawada.

Distinguished guests graced the occasion, including Ambati Madhu Mohana Krishna, president of the AP Film Chamber of Commerce, who lauded the role of Indian arts in enhancing health and fostering inclusivity for individuals with disabilities. Mareedu Madhavi Latha, director of Asha Jyothi Handicapped Welfare Society, who presided over the event, commended the young per-formers' talents in Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam, urging parents to nurture their chil-

Paddy dues will be cleared in two or 3 days, farmers assured

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Department Commissioner H Arun Kumar has assured the farmers that the pending dues for the Kharif paddy procurement will be cleared within two or three days. He added that the department has already taken steps to complete the payments for the pending bills.

He made this promise after the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham staged a protest in front of his office at Kanuru near Vijayawada on Tuesday. AP Rythu Sangham president G Eswaraiah, general secretary KVV Prasad, and AP Tenant Farmers' Association general

secretary P Jamalaiah participated in the protest, along with the farmers

The Kharif paddy procurement ended three months ago. Since then, the government has not credited bills into their bank accounts. With the Rabi season set to end on March 31, the government is still not serious about the pending bills. As a result, the farmers face severe problems in starting the Kharif agricultural activities.

During the protest, the farmers raised slogans demanding to clear the dues. Later, Commissioner Arun Kumar spoke with the farmer leaders and assured them of clearing the pending bills within two

Authorities suspect that a

short circuit led to the fire. Fire

Services Department officials

said they received the informa-

tion about the fire at around

9 a.m. The fire spread rapidly

due to petrochemical prod-

ucts. An official said advanced

equipment were pressed

into service and

foam compound

was used to douse



in

Farmers, under the aegis of the AP Rythu Sangham, staging a protest at the Civil Supplies Department headquarters at Kanuru on Tuesday, demanding that the government clear the dues of paddy procurement.

days. However, he refused to ment started in receive the representation as the afternoon. the election code of conduct is Later, AP Rythu Sangham leaders Eswaraiah, in force. The process of bill pay-

Fire in Vijayawada oil refining facility

NO

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A major fire erupted at an oil refining facility on the out-skirts of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. No casualties were reported. Dense smoke enveloped the Kanuru area after the fire broke out at the facility.

Five fire engines rushed to the scene and brought the fire casualties under control. No casualties were were reported reported as there as there was was no one on the premises. According to

no one on the premises police, the incident occurred at a facility



into grease.

PNS VIJAYAWADA where crude oil is processed

The Muslim United Front and the Muslim JAC Guntur have demanded that the Congress party give tickets to 50 persons belonging to the Muslim community in the 2024 Parliament elections. President of MUF and MJAC, Mohammed Kaleem said they wrote a letter to Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC president and INDIA chairman, seeking 50 MP tickets for Muslim minorities.

He further said that all the political parties that are part of the INDIA combine are announcing their candidates for the Lok Sabha seats, and the Congress party has also

munity expects that at least 50 Muslim candidates will be fielded on behalf of INDIA at the national level. There are 27 Muslim members in the 17th Lok Sabha. Muslim organisations want INDIA to take the responsibility of making at least 50 in the 18th Lok Sabha.

"Muslims feel that there are not many people from their community among the candidates announced by INDIA," Kaleem said. "It is reasonable to give a chance to 50 Muslims in the INDIA combine, which is an alliance of about 26 or 27 parties. Except

are in power in the rest of the southern States. The Congress party is in power in Karnataka and Telangana. In these two States, at least four parliamentary seats should be given to Muslims on behalf of the Congress

In Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry also, INDIA should allocate at least six seats to Muslims.

"At least 10 seats should be allocated to Muslims in the rest of the southern States and in AP, the Congress should allocate majority seats to Muslim, Christian and Dalit communities in the elections," he demanded.

dance and music.

Former chairman of the Child Welfare Committee (Krishna District), BVS Kumar, extolled the innate artistic abilities nurtured through dance, while the guest of honour, senior journalist K Kalyan Krishna Kumar, and educationalist K Ramaa Gayatri, who represented Empower and Excel (USA) organization, emphasised the event's significance in bringing joy to disabled children.



INDIA bloc urged to allot 50 MP tickets to Muslims released four lists. He said the Muslim com-

Commissioner made

the announcement

following AP Rythu

Sangham protes

the fire. He said there was no NOC for the Port City keen on conservation of Olive Ridley turtles' facility from fire services. Police

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

magnificent The City of Destiny is making a concerted effort to safeguard endangered Olive Ridley turtles during their nesting season. The Greater Visakhapatnam Tuesday. "It's about safeguard-Municipal Corporation (GVMC), led by Commissioner ing the delicate ecosystem our city depends on. We need every-CM Sai Kant Varma, has one's help to ensure the continunveiled a multi-pronged conued existence of these Olive

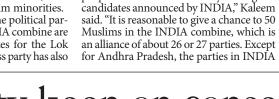


Ridley turtles."

The plan leverages the existing Eco Blue programme, part of the broader Eco Vizag environmental initiative. Eco Blue uses beach cleaning machines to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of Visakhapatnam's beaches. This focus on cleanliness goes beyond aesthetics - it's vital for preserving the natural habitat that Olive Ridley turtles rely on. Recognising the turtles' nesting cycle (October/November to May),

Commissioner Varma said that the GVMC will implement targeted manual cleaning operations on critical nesting grounds like Ramakrishna Beach, Sagar Nagar, Kapuluppada, and Pedanagamayyapalem. These meticulous cleaning efforts aim to minimise disruptions to nesting and create optimal conditions for hatching success











Democracy will shine if the House represents more parties

f rulers are not democratic, people opt for change! Participants in the electoral process would do well to remember this always. Ruling parties often make tall claims for PIN POINT ensuring their comeback, thinking they are indis-pensable for the all-round development of the state. They pose as if they are the best rulers the

state has ever witnessed. They base their assessment on the welfare measures taken up for the masses, who constitute a vital chunk of their vote bank. That does not mean people want to see the same person occupy the seat of administration again and again. If they want change, they will simply vote for another party to arrest certain undesirable tendencies.

At the same time, a person

🖌 cannot be written off as a loser basing on the latest verdict given by the 6 people. For example, Kamaraj Nadar, a towering personality on the Îndian political screen and former chief min-

ister of Tamil Nadu was defeated in the Virudh Nagar Assembly constituency at the hands of a rival from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in the elections of 1967. The DMK then swept the polls in TN for the first time, bringing curtains down on

the Congress rule in the state. Shocked at his defeat, Kamaraj later learned from the dominant section of voters they had simply decided to try the 'young man' who was in the electoral fray against Kamaraj! Kamaraj was famous for setting up of thousands of schools and

Shocked at his defeat, Kamaraj later learned from the dominant section of voters they had simply decided to try the 'young man' who was in the electoral fray against Kamaraj! Kamaraj was famous for setting up of thousands of schools and providing mid-day meals for children across the state, despite facing financial crunch.

providing mid-day meals for es of the electorate. children across the state, despite Today, many sections in facing financial crunch. Besides, he had adopted visible society remain as vote banks only, without getting their due austerity measures during his tenure as the chief minister. share in the power structure. The utmost that various parties Such integrity is lacking among do is to set up corporations ostensibly for the welfare of most of today's politicians. 'Change' can be choice for every caste in society. It is a difthe people to strengthen ferent matter that those corpodemocracy. In fact, it is the rations lack real power. responsibility of people to Members of down-trodden

RATNA KUMAR M Senior Journalist

strive to get an opportunity to contest the elections. But they seldom make it.

The current alliance of three opposition parties, Telugu Desam Party, Bharatiya Janata Party and Jana Sena Party, has paved the way for more represections of society, who work sentation on the part of polit-



The situation worsened in the next House, which witnessed no representation of any political party other than the ruling party and the principal opposition. The YSRCP

stormed to power in AP by bagging 86% of the seats in the 175-member AP Legislative Assembly. The principal opposition, TDP, won only 23 seats. One seat was won by the Jana Sena Party (JSP) headed by film actor Pawan Kalyan and even that lone member shifted loyalties to YSRCP. Now, with the coming together of TDP, JSP and BJP in

AP, there may be relatively more representation in the House following the 2024 elections. There is a guaranteed rep-resentation of sorts, considering that JSP and BJP are contest-ing 23 and 10 Assembly seats respectively with the support of organisationally strong TDP. Despite power sharing, the

three parties in the alliance would not hesitate to question the establishment on public

tion of 11 registered political parties in the Legislative Assembly in 2004. That is, the Congress, TDP, TRS, MIM, BJP, CPI, CPI(M), BSP, Samajwadi Party (SP), Janata Party, CPI-ML-New Party, CPI-ML-New Democracy had representation in APLA then. SP, Janata tion in APLA then. SP, Janata Party members joined their parent party - the Congress later. The ruling party, with 180+ seats, and the principal opposition, with comfortable numbers, and with the presence of other parties, then House had a very good composition that could spread the fragrance of democracy.

It may be mentioned here

that, in the history of Legislative

Assembly in the erstwhile

undivided state of Andhra

Pradesh, there was representa-

Action taken on complaints received through cVIGIL: DC

ensure that rulers discharge

their functions as per the wish-

PNS BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector Sumit Kumar has said that action has been taken on most of the complaints received through the cVIGIL app and directed the officials of all departments to work efficiently to conduct elections transparently and impartially.

The Collector held a meeting with the election officials here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that various systems were made available to the people to make complaints. He said that all this would help people exercise their right to vote freely and fearlessly.

The Collector said that for the smooth completion of this most important election process, for the strict implementation of the election rules, and for continuous monitoring of the election process, an election control room has been established with various departments. Collector Sumit



Kumar said that the complaint cell is playing an important role in the election control room which was established immediately after the announcement of the elec-

tion schedule.

The Election control room consists of C-VIGIL, Call Center, 1950 Helpline and other departments, he said, stating that the complaints and requests received by the respective departments are being scruti-nized and immediate action is being taken on them by the concerned author-ities. He said that so far, the complaints and requests received by various departments have been resolved in a large number.

for different political parties,

The Collector said that the C VIGIL App is a great opportunity for people to complain about irregularities as fast as possible and with evidence to implement the code of conduct of elections. He said that any citizen can download this recently available app from the Google Play Store to their mobile. He asked the people to complain about any issue through C VIGIL, to take a photo or a 2-minute video

of the relevant complaint in the window and upload it live.

Mizoram Governor exhorts students to improve technological skills

PNS BHIMAVARAM

Mizoram Governor K Haribabu said that education plays a vital role in the development and exhorted engineering students to enhance their technological skills.

The Governor participated in the 44th Annual Day celebrations of SRKR Engineering College as chief guest here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occa-sion he underlined the need for setting up skill development centres in engineering colleges to impart technical training to the engineering students.

He said that India is using the highest volume of data in the world, adding that India has achieved a lot of development and information revolution in the country.

He exhorted the engineering students to gain expertise in



any discipline to get a lucrative institutions should change the job. He also asked the students syllabus according to the marto observe the research being ket requirements. He highcarried out in the DRDA by the lighted that the Central governscientists and strive hard to ment has initiated providing serve in the organization. He solar generation to one crore emphasized the need to develop non-conventional energy resources to reduce the import revealed that electricity could of crude oil. be generated from bamboo

He said that educational

suggested that research should be carried out to generate electricity using agriculture produced. Governor Haribabu exhorted the students to come out with innovative concepts to establish industries. The Governor released a postal stamp of college founder late Sagi Ramakrishna Raju on the occasion.

SRKR Engineering College president Sagi Prasad Raju said that SRKR Engineering College was established in 1980 and the College was developed as one of the institutions which has high standards in the country. College Correspondent Sagi Ramakrishna Nishant Varma, honorary chairman P Krishnam Raju, director Dr M Jagapahi Raju and principal KV Murali were among those who were present.

TDP activist killed PNS CHITTOOR as car hits bike

PNS CHITTOOR

A Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activist was killed and another critically injured when the motorcycle on which they ing car at Aniganuru village in Ramakuppam mandal on Tuesday. Police said that the two TDP activists attended the Telugu Desam party chief N Chandrababu Naidu's programme. When they were going back to their native vil-

lage, a car hit their bike killing Chalamaiah (32) instanta-neously. Another TDP worker Nagabhusanam was critically injured and he was admitted to the PES hospital.

police checked the car in which

The police seized silver articles weighing 14 kg from a marriage party at the bypass road at Yadamari village on Tuesday.

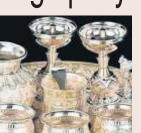
Police said that the police started conducting checks of failed to produce the required vehicles after the notification documents, the police seized was issued for elections. The silver ornaments

14 kg silver articles seized from a marriage party

being taken to be given to the bride in Nellore. Since they

Meanwhile, the elders in the a marriage party was going to Nellore from Bangalore. The marriage party told the media that they were taking silver police found silver ornaments ornaments as part of marriage weighing 14 kg. The silver ornaments were traditions to present to the bride.

However, the police did not listen to their version and seized all the articles. They condemned the seizure of ornaments of a marriage.



Examine applications received through Suvidha portal: DC PNS ELURU

District Collector V delay. Venkatesh

households in the country.

He said that scientists

produced in Mizoram and

nized immediately and permits should be issued without any For the approval of the per-

has

Naidu visited the injured activist Nagabhusanam in the hospital.

ily member Chalamaiah. Naidu assured of all help to the two families.

Meanwhile C

He inquired with the doctors about his condition. Naidu also consoled the fam-

handr

PNS ONGOLE

Prakasam district SP P Parameswar Reddy has said that Rs 1,79,95,000 cash and gold weighing 214 grams have been seized in the district so

In a statement here on Tuesday, the SP said that Rs 1,79,95,000 cash, 214 grams of gold jewellery, 1872 litres of illicit liquor and 80.3 grams of drugs had been seized so far in the district and the election code of conduct is being implemented strictly, adding that 18

check-posts were set up at the important places where checking of vehicles are conducted constantly.

The SP said that 426 elec-

Rs 1.79 cr in cash, 214 g gold seized so far

toral offenders and 887 rowdy villages.

sheeters were bound over and All needed steps were taken to conduct elections in a peaceroute march was conducted by the central forces at the probful atmosphere and in a transparent manner, the SP stated. lematic and most problematic

The police discharge duties impartially and are fully prepared to conduct elections peacefully, he added. "At present, 887 out of 1031 rowdy sheeters, have been bound over under security sections within the police stations of the district, while the remaining 144 rowdy sheeters have been ordered to complete the bindover process expeditiously," the SP told the officials.

The SP said that taking prior permission to organize rallies and public meetings is mandatory for the political parties as the model code of conduct is enforced. The SP asked people to complain to cVIGIL on violation of the model code of conduct.

directed the officials to mission request received examine applications received through the Suvidha online through the Encore portal expeditiously and take action at the earliest.

The Collector held a teleconference here on Tuesday with the returning officials and nodal officials. Speaking on the occasion, the

Collector directed the officials to examine the application received through Suvidha Porter and issue permissions at the earliest.

He said that through the gal traffic of cash, liquor and Suvidha portal, launched by the Election Commission of India as a single window system for processing all election permits, requests made by political parties or candidates seeking permission for election campaigns should be scrutithis regard.

Film writer Kona consoles Geethanjali's family

PNS GUNTUR

Popular Telugu cine writer Kona Venkat consoled the family members Geethanjali who allegedly committed suicide unable to digest



humiliation and trolling on social media.

Kona Venkat went to their house in Tenali on Monday. He consoled the husband and two daughters of Geetanjali. He assured them of all help. He handed over Rs 50,000 financial assistance to the bereaved family. He also assured of taking care of the daughters of deceased Geetanjali.

Kona Venkat lamented that social media trolling cast the life of Geetanjali. He demanded the government to bring stringent new laws to check social media trolling.

It may be mentioned here that the AP government had given a house site to Geetanjali. On the occasion, Geetanjali spoke to a YouTube channel expressing her buoyancy on being allocated a house site. She also extolled the Jagan Mohan Reddy government for allocating a house site to her.

Her interview went viral on social media. However, some social media activists trolled her and humiliated her which allegedly forced her to end their life by jumping from a running train. Her controversial death created a sensation and racked the state.

Waltair Railway Division hits Rs 10,000 Cr revenue landmark

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing the Rs. 10,000 crore revenue mark for the first time in its history. This accomplishment was reached five days ahead of the financial year's closure, solidifying the division's strong performance. Saurabh Prasad, Divisional Railway Manager, commended the collective efforts of the team.

He designated March 26, 2023, as a historic date for the Waltair Division, highlighting the unwavering dedication and tireless work ethic displayed by the entire workforce in achieving this remarkable feat.

The achievement reflects a growth exceeding 10 per cent compared to the previous financial year (2022-23). This



success is attributed to a multipronged approach, including prioritising customer-centric strategies, fostering seamless coordination with patrons, optimising operational efficiency, expanding capacity, upgrading passenger amenities, and implementing efficient crew management practices

Despite encountering various challenges such as natural calamities, security concerns, ongoing infrastructural expansion projects, and safety modernisation initiatives, all wings of the Waltair Division demonstrated exceptional performance, contributing significantly to this historic accomplishment

SFI's Polycet coaching classes from April 1

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Student Federation of India (SFI) NTR district committee is set to conduct free coaching for Class 10 students who are preparing for the Polytechnic Common Entrance Test (Polycet), at the SRR & CVR Government College at Machavaram in Vijayawada. The coaching will be starting on April 1.

SRR & CVR Government Degree College Principal Dr K Bhagyalakshmi unveiled the free Polycet coaching programme poster on Tuesday. The SFI Vijayawada city committee has provided students free coaching facilities for the past 10 years.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Dr Bhagyalakshmi lauded the SFI for organising various activities which will be useful for the students in future,



SRR & CVR Government Degree College Principal Dr Bhagyalakshmi unveiling the poster of free Polycet coaching classes organised by SFI, on the college premises in Vijayawada on Tuesday

besides conducting agitations against many issues which students face. She assured the leaders of the SFI that the college would support its initiatives

SFI NTR district secretary Ch Venkateswara Rao said that senior teachers will handle the coaching classes. Also, they will

provide free study materials. He said many of their students had achieved good ranks in the Polycet earlier and got seats in government polytechnic col-

SFI leaders Sk Zahida, Bhargav, B Madhav, T Praneeth, Manikantha, Santosh and others were present.

system, the officer concerned should examine the permissions received by the nodal officers of various departments

them

and take necessary action. In this regard, returning officers, nodal officers and concerned officers should work in coordination, he told

Static surveillance teams

and flying squad teams should intensify checking against ille-

gifts against the code of con-

duct in the context of elections,

he instructed them adding

that there should be no laxity

anywhere. The Collector told

the relevant returning officers

to conduct the inspections in



nation 05

11-year-old girl raped, murdered in Surat; two men arrested

n 11-year-old girl, who went missing a week ago, was raped and later murdered in A Surat district of Gujarat, police said on Tuesday. Two persons, originally hailing from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, were arrested in connection with the gruesome crime, they said. The victim went missing from her house on March 18 after which the police filed an FIR under Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 363 (kidnapping) on a complaint and formed

multiple teams to locate her. Superintendent of Police (Surat Rural) Hitesh Joysar said. On March 23, the girl's semi-naked body was found dumped in shrubs near the locality where she lived, he said. Doctors later confirmed the girl was raped before being murdered, Joysar told mediapersons. "To solve the crime, more than 15 police teams were formed which surveyed over 600 houses and nabbed two suspects who later confessed to having committed the crime," he said



Medication errors key challenge to patient safety: Study

recent study, conducted by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH), Ahas highlighted medication errors as the key channed to patient out of the Abab Ahas highlighted medication errors as the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the Ahaspitals. The NABH is a constituent of the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the has highlighted medication errors as the key challenge to patient safety in the Indian medication errors highlighted by it include improper labelling and dosage miscalculations, faulty medical devices, high rates of healthcare-associated infections

and compromising patient safety. According to the study findings, around 58 per cent of the nurses reported feeling pressured to compromise patient safety over the efficiency of hospitals while 35 per cent of them complained of inadequate staff, and 32 per cent acknowledged poor patient safety culture for ineffective patient safety. The doctors echoed similar concerns, with 18 per cent of them claiming to be pressured to compromise on patient safety over efficiency



Origin of butter chicken: Daryaganj moves Delhi HC

estaurant chain Daryaganj has moved the Delhi High Court against certain allegedly Restaurant chain can year and by the proprietors of Moti Manai in all interview on the defamatory remarks made by the proprietors of Moti Mahai owners have filed a lawsuit issue of the origin of "butter chicken". The Moti Mahai owners have filed a lawsuit the origin of "butter chicken" and "d claiming that their predecessor, Late Kundan Lal Gujral, invented "butter chicken" and "dal makhani". They have also accused Daryaganj of "misleading people" on the origin of the

two dishes. However, the owners of Moti Mahal have asserted that the remarks in question were an "editorial perspective" and cannot be attributed to them. Justice Sanjeev Narula asked the proprietors of Moti Mahal to submit an affidavit, affirming their effort to distance themselves from the statement in articles that have been published. In an application filed in the lawsuit, Daryaganj has raised concerns regarding the "defamatory" statements in the article -- first published in the "Wall Street Journal."



PM MODI DIALS BELGIAN COUNTERPART **Discusses West Asia**, **Russia and Ukraine peace**

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke with his Belgian counterpart Alexander De Croo and agreed to enhance cooperation and support for early restoration of peace and security in West Asia and the Russia-Úkraine conflict.

During the telephone call, Modi also congratulated De Croo on the successful hosting of the First Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels last week. After the conversation, Modi

tweeted, "Spoke to Belgium PM @alexanderdecroo. Congratulated him on the success of the First Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels. Exchanged views on strengthening bilateral ties; advancing India-EU Partnership under Belgian Presidency; and cooperation on regional and global issues.

De Croo also put out a tweet saying, "Called prime minister @narendramodi to



PNS NEW DELHI

Hours after the Congress dubbed the Centre's Atal Pension Yojana as a "poorlydesigned scheme" that "hoodand coerces peopl into participating in it, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday hit back at the grand old party accusing it of "hoodwinking" people in the name of vote bank politics. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Atal pension scheme is a "fitting representation of the Modi Government's policy making: headline management, with few benefits actually reaching the people". His attack came after a media report claimed that nearly one of three subscribers who dropped out of the Centre's pension scheme for unorganised sector, did so because their accounts were opened without their "explicit" permission. The report cited a recent sample study by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). "The 'flagship' Atal Pension Yojana is a very poorlydesigned scheme, a paper tiger that needs officials to hoodwink and coerce people into participating in it. It's a fitting representation of the Modi Government's policy making: headline management, with few benefits actually reaching the people!" Ramesh said in a post on X.

PNS NEW DELHI

has found.

environments.

People being continuously

exposed to outdoor artificial

light at night may be at a high-

The researchers said the

excessive use of artificial light

for enhancing visibility at night has resulted in about 80



tion and support for early discuss the conflicts in #Ukraine & #Gaza and protectrestoration of peace and secuing shipping lanes in the Red rity in the West Asia region and Sea. We also talked about our Russia- Ukraine conflict", growing commercial relations adding they also exchanged #semiconductors #pharmaceuviews on global and regional ticals #greenhydrogen and the developments. It said Modi and De Croo upcoming royal trade mission

reviewed the excellent relations to India In a statement, the Prime between India and Belgium. Minister's Office (PMO) said "They discussed ways to furthe two leaders "agreed upon ther strengthen the bilateral the need to enhance cooperapartnership in diverse sectors

"Spoke to Belgium PM @alexanderdecroo Congratulated him on the success of the First Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels

Modi tweeted.

including trade, investment, clean technologies, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, green hydrogen, IT, defence, ports, among others," the statement said.

The two leaders affirmed commitment to further bolster the India EU Strategic Partnership under the ongoing Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Indian-origin mathematician Subramaniam dies in US PNS NEW YORK

Dr T N Subramaniam, an eminent mathematician of Indian origin and creator of Route One company & server for General Motors, passed away in Michigan on Tuesday. He was 76. Subramaniam, who migrat-

ed to the US in 1979, was renowned in academic circles in India and the US. He leaves behind him a rich

legacy of mathematical models and theories for the world of maths. He taught Maths at Philadelphia university for some years and then shifted to Oakland where he taught for several years. Later, he founded the Route One company for the automotive manufacturing company, which handles autofinancing for all GM cars and GPS systems. He was the architect of the server for the site for

General Motors in Troy, Michigan, in the US. The then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi also met him personally while on tour and

encouraged him to be innovative and do things that the country could be proud of him.

ITS CIVILISATIONAL IMPRINT IS STILL VISIBLE IN THE REGION India has long, distinguished maritime tradition: Jaishankar

PNS MANII A

India has a long and distinguished maritime tradition whose civilisational imprint is still visible in this region, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday as he hailed the docking of an Indian Coast Guard ship here signified the deepening of bilateral ties with Manila.

Jaishankar, who is in the Philippines on the second leg of his three-nation tour, made the remarks during his visit to the Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Samudra Paheredar' during the vessel's port call to Manila.

"My visit and the ship's presence signifies the deepening India-Philippines relations," he said. "India has a long and distinguished maritime tradition, whose civilisational imprint is still visible in this region. Today, our Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific Vision have given it a more contemporary form," the minister said.

He said that another noteworthy development is the



Indo-Pacific maritime domain

awareness initiative of which

both countries are members

that is aimed at fostering coop-

eration on a wide range of

maritime activities and issues.

the commencement of ASEAN-

India maritime exercises. As sea-

faring nations, this is a strong bilat-

eral bond between us," he said.

He said that the ship's pres-

way, signifies a deepening part-

nership, he added.

"The cooperation between the Coast Guards of our two nations was facilitated by an understanding of enhanced maritime cooperation that was reached last year," he said, adding that he was glad to note that specialised training courses in Índia have commenced.

'We value the presence of the Philippines in the search and rescue and pollution response exercises which have been conducted by the Indian Coast Guard. The visit of this pollution control vessel to the Philippines is significant because it highlights the shared challenges that we face in that

domain," he said. "Like-minded countries of "Our collaboration with the ASEAN is a vital aspect of those endeavours ... We have also seen the Indo-Pacific should be doing more with each other," he said. "May it promote greater cooperation between our countries and may promote greater cooperation within the region ence in Manila happens to and may it instill a greater coincide with his own bilateral sense of maritime interest and visit. And each, in their own responsibility, particularly in the younger generations," he added.

Courts can't stop people from engaging in political activities: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has missed his application seeking quashed the bail condition withdrawal of the bail condiimposed by the Orissa High Court on a man that he shall not create any untoward situe involved in anv polit-

breach the fundamental rights of the appellant and no such conditions could have been imposed," the apex court said in its March 22 order.

"We, therefore, quash and et aside the

AS IMD PREDICTS A HARSH SUMMER EC asks state poll officers to ensure key facilities

PNS NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has sought "strict compliance" of its directive of providing assured minimum facilities at polling stations, including ·inki nσ water

(NDMA) to minimise the oral rehydration salts (ORS) impact of the impending heat

wave. In a letter sent out to its CEOs on March 16, the day it announced schedule for the Lok Sabha elections, the EC reminded them about its ear-

for their own use as well as for any voter needing the same due to heat-stroke. "A hand bill on 'Dos and

conditions," the instruction said.

longer spells of heatwave

The commission has cited IMD to note that there is a high probability of above Don'ts' in case of heat stroke normal temperatures during summer season, "which may translate into stronger

the high court.

tion which said that he "shall ation in public and shall not

The high court had dis-

ical activity, saying it will be involved in any political activities, directly or indibreach his fundamental rights. A bench of Justices B R

Gavai and Sandeep Mehta passed the order on a plea filed by Siba Shankar Das, a former Mayor of Berhampur Municipal Corporation, against the January 18 order of

rectly". The condition was imposed by the high court while ordering his release on bail in

August 2022. We find that the imposition of such condition would

imposed by the high court, to the extent the same is extracted above," it said.

Das had approached the high court seeking modification of the condition imposed by it in the August 11, 2022 order while directing his release on bail.

shade and medical kit, for the Lok Sabha elections in the backdrop of the IMD predicting a harsh summer.

It has also shared with its state chief electoral officers a set of 'dos and don'ts' issued by the National Disaster Management Authority

lier set of instructions on assured minimum facilities at polling stations.

According to the June 2023 instructions on assured minimum facilities, which have been circulated afresh, during summer, every polling party shall be supplied with

may be prepared and supplied to each of the polling parties.

An appeal to the electors especially during months of may be issued to carry wet March to June, 2024". Lok Sabha elections will be towels to protect themselves against dehydration and also held in seven phases from advise women electors to April 19 to June 1 for which nearly 11 lakh polling staavoid bringing children along with them to polling sta-

tions are being set up across tions during hot weather the 543 constituencies.

DELHI CM DIRECTS OFFICIALS FROM ED CUSTODY There should be no shortage of free medicines at Mohalla Clinics

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has issued directions from ED custody to address shortage of medicines and diagnostic tests at mohalla clinics and hospitals in the national capital, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Tuesday.

This is the second direction issued by the chief minister from ED custody.

Later in the day, Bharadwaj said a session of Delhi Assembly has been called on Wednesday.

Tomorrow is the session of

inform the status of free medicines and free tests in hospitals and mohalla clinics and if there is any deficiency, then come up with a complete plan to correct it. So that I can inform the assembly," he said in a post on X in Hindi.

Sharing details of the chief minister's order, Bharadwaj told a press conference that healthcare in Delhi has always

been Kejriwal's priority. He said Kejriwal believes that even though he has been arrested, people of Delhi should not face any problem in getting free tests and medicines in government hospitals and

"Even though he is in cus-

Delhi Assembly. The Chief mohalla clinics. Secretary has been ordered to

tody, he is worried about the health of the people of Delhi. He has received information that medicines and free diagnostic tests are not available at

many mohalla clinics and hos-

pained to know about it.

health department will act immediately to address the issues," Bharadwaj said. He said Kejriwal is concerned that a poor patient should not suffer because of this.

"In Delhi, lakhs of people are fully dependent on free medicines in government hospitals as they cannot afford to buy them. Some people need lifelong medicines such as those suffering from diabetes and blood pressure. There are some

kidney patients who need dialvsis," he said. Last week, the AAP nationpitals. The chief minister is al convener, who is in ED's cus-

tody till March 28 in the Delhi "He has issued a direction to me to address the issues. The excise policy case, issued directions to Water Minister Atishi to address the water and sewer issues in some parts of the city.

At that time, sources had said the matter of issuing directions while being in custody will be looked into by the ED to ascertain if it is in line with

the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court's order issued to the agency and Kejriwal during his custody period.

At a meeting of legislators, councillors and office bearers of the AAP on Sunday, it was resolved that Kejriwal will continue to run the government from jail.

Orders CBI probe into death of Manipuri woman

SC DISMISSES DELHI HC VERDICT

PNS NEW DELHI

Unresolved crimes tend to erode public trust in the institutions which have been established for maintaining law and order, the Supreme Court has said while direct

ing a CBI probe into the death of a 25-year-old Manipuri woman who was found dead under mysterious circumstances in her rented house in south Delhi in 2013.

discovered on May 29, 2013 by

the landlord of the tenanted

premises who alerted the Police

Control Room at 11 am on the

same day. The cause of death

could not be ascertained in the

The FIR was registered at the

Malviya Nagar police station

against unknown accused per-

sons under Section 306 (abet-

ment of suicide) of the Indian

Penal Code (IPC). The investi-

gation was transferred to the

Malviya Nagar Crime Branch,

and pursuant to representations

by her cousins, offence under

Section 302 (murder) of IPC

post mortem report.

of the deceased woman filed a petition in the Delhi High Court praying for direction for the investigation to be given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The high court dismissed the

was added. Later, two cousins

plea saying the investigation has been carried out by the investigating agency seemingly without any bias and nothing has emerged on record if the landlord Raj Kumar and his brother-in- law Amit Sharma were

having strong connection with

any politician to influence the investigation.

The deceased woman's cousins Awungshi Chirmayo and Thotreithem Longpinao challenged the high court order in the apex court, which in 2019 constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to monitor the investigation.

The SIT in its report concluded that the woman had committed suicide by consuming some poison or medicine, though the viscera reports did not reveal the presence of any common poison or medicine in the Exhibits.

satellite images that mapped light pollution. Cases of stroke were confirmed by the hospital medical records and the er risk of having a stroke, a new research reviewing more than 28,000 adults in China

Their analysis after following up the participants over a six-year period showed that 1,278 people developed cerebrovascular disease, including 777 ischemic (clot-caused) stroke cases and 133 hemorrhagic (bleeding) stroke cases.

per cent of the world's popu-lation living in light-polluted The team, including light at night were also found researchers from Zhejiang to have a 43 per cent increased University School of Medicine, risk of developing cerebrovas-China, assessed the adults' cular disease compared to exposure to residential outthose with the lowest levels of

door nighttime light using death certificates, they said.

The people with the highest levels of exposure to outdoor

exposure. "Our study suggests that higher levels of exposure to outdoor artificial light at night may be a risk factor for cere-



Exposure to artificial light at night may increase stroke risk

brovascular disease," said Jian-Bing Wang, a researcher in the department of public health and department endocrinology of

Children's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou, China.

Therefore, we advise people, especially those living in urban areas, to consider reducing that exposure to protect themselves from its potential harmful impact," said Wang, one of the corresponding authors of the study published in the journal 'Stroke'.

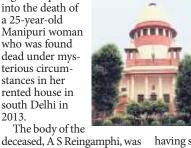
Continuous exposure to artificial light from fluorescent, incandescent and LED sources can suppress the body's ability to produce melatonin -- the sleep-promoting hormone, thereby disrupting the 24-hour internal clock and impairing sleep, the

of

the

researchers said "We need to develop more effective policies and prevention strategies to reduce the burden of disease from environmental factors such as light as well as air pollution, particularly for people living in the most densely populated, pol-luted areas around the world,"

said Wang. While light pollution has been previously studied to increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, the researchers said this was one of the first studies to explore the relationship between exposure to light pollution at night and the potential risk to brain health and stroke.



VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 27, 2024

he pioneer

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Much ado about nothing

Arvind Kejriwal governing from jail may look unconventional, but it is not unconstitutional

elhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is keeping his word so far: That he would rule the Capital from behind bars upon being arrested in the multicrore liquor scam. The issuance of Government orders from prison, however, has sparked a controversy. His political opponents, including the BJP, are raising concerns about the influence of criminal elements within the Government apparatus. The saga began when Kejriwal, also the national convener of AAP, was incarcerated following his alleged involvement in the liquor scam. Despite being in jail, he continued to issue orders related to governance matters in Delhi. This is unprecedented as no serving Chief Minister has ever been jailed. While Kejriwal's supporters argue that his actions demonstrate a commitment to his responsibilities, critics point to the broader implications of a jailed politician running a Government. BJP leaders have wasted no time in alleging that this development is emblematic of the pervasive influence of criminal elements. The BJP leaders



assert that allowing individuals facing serious criminal charges to wield power from jail sets a dangerous precedent. Moreover, they argue that it raises questions about the efficacy of the justice system in curbing such abuses of power.

On the other hand, AAP supporters claim the BJP's allegations are aimed at tarnishing their party's image. They maintain that Kejriwal's actions are within bounds of his duties as Chief Minister and emphasise his commitment to serving the people of Delhi. Furthermore, they contend that Kejriwal's governance from jail reflects the resilience and determination of a leader who refuses to be deterred by legal challenges. In reality, the entire

controversy is unfounded. If the Constitution permits an individual to retain a constitutional position while under judicial custody, it logically follows that they have the right to govern from wherever they are. Given its lack of prudence, it might appear unconventional, but it aligns perfectly with the constitutional framework of India's political system. Unlike Laloo Yadav and Hemant Soren, Kejriwal chose not to comply with the establishment's expectations by resigning and instead remained in his post. Additionally, being in judicial custody alone does not constitute a conviction or indictment, regardless of the strength of the allegations, and thus holds no legal validity. In the wake of the controversy surrounding Kejriwal's governance from jail, the next logical step for him would undoubtedly be to pursue avenues for securing bail. For a sitting Chief Minister to be in jail is an extraordinary circumstance, and Kejriwal's legal team will likely be working diligently to secure his release at the earliest opportunity. Amidst the heated exchange of accusations and counter-arguments, the broader implications of this controversy cannot be ignored. It highlights the complex interplay between politics, law enforcement and the justice system in India. As the debate rages on, it remains to be seen how this controversy will shape the political landscape in Delhi and beyond in the days to come.



A showdown of arch-rivals



06

pinion

KALYANI SHANKAR

This electoral battle is shaping up to be a multi-party contest, primarily between the ruling BJP-led NDA and the INDIA bloc

ho will win the 2024 Lok Sabha polls? The election scene has become clear after the Chief Election Commissioner announced the poll schedule last week. They will begin next month and end on June 4, when the results will be announced.

It will be a multi-party contest, with the ruling BJP-led NDA alliance and the opposition coali-tion of the INDIA bloc being the primary contenders. Meanwhile, alliances are being built and major parties have announced the candidates. Party hopping and secret deals are also going on. Prime Minister Modi aims to perform a hat trick. Currently, it is a one-horse race, with the BJP dominating and the opposition

parties trailing behind. The Opposition INDIA coalition comprises 26 parties. They have formed a pre-poll alliance to challenge the BJP. It aims to field a single opposition candidate against the BJP in the upcoming elections. The Opposition suffered two consecutive defeats in 2014 and 2019, significantly damaging its image. It needs to conect with voters, including millennials.

Congress, leading the Opposition, is a 138-year secular party that used to represent marginalised groups like SCs, STs, OBCs and Muslims. It has been weakened since the eighties, with the rise of regional satraps and today, it is a mere shadow of its former strength. It lacks leadership.

After the 2014 and 2019 defeats, Congress now claims it is committed to social justice and empowering India's poor, oppressed, Dalits, farmers, youth and women with its five guarantees: Yuva Nyay, Bhagidaari Nyay, Naari Nyay, Kisan Nyay and Shramik Nyay.

The Opposition mainly aims to challenge Modi by consolidating anti-BJP votes and offering incenves. This strategy worl ed for Congress in recent Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana Assembly polls, which Congress won. Congress hopes to gain from the BJP's anti-incumbency buffering sops and freebies. They also highlight Rahul



Gandhi's recent Bharat Jodo Yatras, which was meant to connect with the people. To succeed, Congress must raise bread-and-butter issues such as inflation, joblessness and social discord to engage with young voters who play a decisive role in elections. They

must show an alternate strategy to appeal to them. Simultaneously, some powerful chief ministers of state-level parties dominate their states, making it a tough fight for Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in these areas. 2019, the BJP and its allies secured only 45 per cent of the votes. The remaining 55 per cent were up for grabs for the INDIA bloc. Although no national leader matches Modi's popularity, some influential regional leaders can sway voters in their respective regions. This is particularly true for West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The biggest challenge for the coalition is to project a single leader against Modi. Unfortunately, there is an ego

and compelling storyline, except for its commitment to safeguarding the Constitution and democratic values. However, voters are more concerned about basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. For instance, Sonia Gandhi's Aam Admi slogan in 2004 resonated well with the masses. Low-income people generally live paycheck to paycheck and may not relate to abstract political concepts.

The Congress Party is still WITH BOTH SIDES clinging to its glorious past and failing to acknowledge the RAISING THEIR current scene. As the second-PITCH, THE 2024 largest Party, Congress automatically expects to lead the ELECTIONS WILL SEE coalition. It has been losing its A NO-HOLDS-BARRED leaders to the BJP and a steady flow of these leaders demor-NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN, alises the Party. The Opposition needs a solid AS THIS WILL DECIDE counter to the BJP's propagan-THE FUTURE OF THE da and religious narrative. The BJP has grown since 1980; **OPPOSITION** today, it is the biggest Party in India. It has a strong organisa-AND THE tion with unlimited money power.

AGGRESSIVE BJP The Party seeks votes in the secret to success is a divided name of the Prime Minister The BJP has a better chance of winning this time. The BJP's lucky mascot is Modi. His supporters consider him a doer due to the implementation of various measures. These include the Triple Talaq, CAA,

revocation of Article 356 in Jammu and Kashmir and the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The BJP highlights its achievements in the last decade and various welfare initiatives to attract voters. The continuity has helped Modi achieve his agenda. Modi has gained international recognition over the past ten years and ensured India's position at the high table, which excites his supporters.

On the negative side, the Opposition claims that the Modi Government has been targeting Opposition leaders and harassing them with Government probe agencies. The BJP poaches on other parties, lawmakers, and leaders. It has absorbed many secondrung leaders who chose to find better prospects in the saffron Party With both sides raising their

pitch, the 2024 elections will see a no-holds-bar negative campaign, as this will decide the future of the Opposition and the aggressive BJP. Modi's opposition. As long as this continues, Modi will continue to win. The Opposition must chant the mantra of unity to win or even improve. (The writer is a popular columnist; views *are personal)*

clash among the coalition partners, which makes it difficult to agree on someone. Secondly, the BJP boasts a strong organisation with immense financial and political power. The Opposition doesn't seem to have a solid

Water, an elixir of life and an agent of peace



Ineffective water management practices contribute to water scarcity by water loss, inefficient allocation and degradation of water resources

resources.

Tater is an indispensable factor in the survival of humanity on this planet. For everything related to humans, we have one or other alternative. But for water, there is no alternative. Water is essential for life, playing a critical role in various bodily functions and processes. Science and religion have a consensus on one point. The first life on the planet originated in water. Water is often referred to as the "elixir of life" because it is essential for all living organisms' existence and survival. Without water, life as we know it would not be possible. All our civilizations and international co-operations have taken place through water bodies.

But the recent water shortage plaguing the silicon city of India, Bengaluru, has sent shocking waves among the city dwellers, who, despite having financial stability, are finding it difficult to get water for their daily use. If it's Bengaluru today, it will be in other cities shortly. According to a recent United Nations report, multiple zones within India's Indo-Gangetic basin have surpassed a critical level



of groundwater depletion, with the entire northwestern region projected to face significantly diminished groundwater resources by 2025.

Groundwater depletion building, the Government should see that they have occurs when the water extraction rate from aquifers proper working rainwater exceeds the recharge rate, harvesting facilities. leading to a decline in Access to safe drinking water groundwater levels over time. In the Indo-Gangetic basin, excessive groundwater pumping for irrigation, urban water supply, and industrial use has resulted in the widespread depletion of aquifers. The conversion of agricultural lands to high-rise commercial buildings also affects proper recharging.

Ineffective water management practices contribute to water scarcity by exacerbating water loss, inefficient allocation, and degradation of water resources. Over-extraction of groundwater, inefficient irri-

gation techniques, leaky dis- nomic growth and job cretribution systems, and inadation. In regions where water equate conservation meais already scarce or shared by sures all contribute to the mismultiple parties, disputes over management of water water allocation, usage rights, and infrastructure develop-

Urban planners should leave ment can arise, leading to tena "water buffer space" within sions and conflicts. In India, every 1 km radius for proper we have seen severe conflicts recharging of the groundwa-ter. For this, they should conover water sharing in the states of Karnataka, Tamil struct beautiful artificial lakes Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra that harvest rainwater and and Andhra Pradesh. More recycled water. Similarly, in such tensions will erupt in every household or high-rise future when water scarcity increases.

> The developments in science and technology can artificially produce anything related to human life, including food products or even human babies; however, research to date has not made it possible to produce water artificially. Hence, we need to maintain the natural water balance on this planet without disturbing it. In the current pace of mental degradation being carried out by humans, it would be very difficult to regenerate water if it gets depleted.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced

LETTERS 긔

KEJRIWAL CANNOT BE CM

Madam - Apropos news article "After Kejriwal, AAP Sealed," published on March 24, this is my response. As far as Arvind Kejriwal is concerned, he will have to stay out of politics for a long time. Aam Aadmi Party leaders may claim that Kejriwal will remain the Chief Minister. Still, now it will be almost impossible for Arvind Kejriwal to remain in the post of Chief Minister. Delhi state holds a special position. Here the Lieutenant Governor has unlimited powers. The Lieutenant Governor comes under the Central Home Department. In such a situation, if Arvind Kejriwal does not resign, he will certainly be dismissed in the future. The arrest of Kejriwal will have an impact on the election campaign of Delhi and Punjab. AAP is playing the victim card but the public must repeatedly criticise it.

That means the entire opposition is currently on the defensive on the issue of corruption. Kejriwal has committed a huge strategic and legal mistake by not responding to ED's nine summonses. He has to bear the brunt of this at the time of the Lok Sabha elections. If he had gone to the ED office for questioning in November itself, he would have been arrested today. One does not have to see this day. Even if ED had arrested him in November, he could have got bail after four to five months as it happened in the case of Sanjay Raut. The leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party made serious mistakes in the case of Arvind Kejriwal. Govind Rao Rotti | Vijayapura

REGULATE REUSED COOKING OILS

Madam - In commercial settings like restaurants, it's common practice not to discard oil after a single use. Unfortunately, with deep frying, failure to regularly change the oil can lead to the generation of trans fats through repeated reheating, potentially causing inflammation in the body as per health experts. Unhealthy oils can adversely affect mainly heightening the risk of cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes.

The parched IT hub



propos news article "Zero Water Day Night in Bengaluru," published on March 25, this is my response. Bengaluru is known as the garden city of India. It had more green patches earlier. It had more lakes. Nearly 80 per cent were greenery patches. Now things have changed. Water scarcity was guite unknown to the people of this city since the perennial Cauvery River flows here. Now due to the advent of IT corrider, the city has become a concrete jungle. People have migrated in large numbers to Bengaluru. Also, the change in the climatic conditions and

accumulation of visible and invisible granules, altering the oil's composition and introducing neo-formed compounds (NFCs) over time. This process diminishes the oil's nutritional quality. FSSAI lacks regulations or definitions for reused cooking oils, often leading food safety officials to rely on visual cues such as colour or appearance. Therefore, FSSAI must frame regulations for reused cooking oils.

Vijaykumar H K | Raichur

MONEY MANAGEMENT IS AN SKILL

Madam - Everyone continually works hard to accumulate wealth and lead a luxurious lifestyle, and money is the source of all these pleasures. Although making money is not a particularly tough chore for everyone, how one manages their finances is what counts. In numerous instances, individuals who were fortunate enough to inherit wealth but lacked financial man-Repeated heating of oil also leads to the agement skills have become mired in debt;

failure of monsoon rains have resulted in acute water scarcity. Water is more misused here than purposefully used. Even tanker supply by the Corporation is seen as inadequate. Private suppliers fleece the people taking advantage of the situation. The storage in the reservoirs is far below the demand.

Not only in Bengaluru but in other places of the state the situation is grim. Places like Raichur, Bellary and Mysore are reeling under water scarcity. Hyderabad, Chennai, Coumaote, Ooty, Delhi and Gurgaon are no exceptions. The Government should identify water storage lakes and desilt them periodically. Rainwater harvesting should be done on a war footing. Our forefathers saw potable water in rivers and lakes. The next generation saw it in the wells. We now see water in bottles. Our future generation will see it in capsules may ring true if we don't act now. We must sustain judicious water management else the situation will become disastrous.

Sravana Ramachandran | Bengaluru

conversely, those who began from nothing and were fortunate enough to possess sound money management skills have seen their wealth increase threefold.

A quotation reads, "Money moves from those who do not manage it to those who do." Money management is very underrated but still, a very crucial skill to be learned although these skills are already built in the people of our country giving the right direction to these skills can add fuel to the fire. People should be taught money management skills like saving, investing and maintaining personal finances. This will help them to enjoy life to the fullest and have emergency funds on hand. It will also help them to become financially independent and lead balanced lives when they move abroad for college or a job.

Lisha Gera | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

and adequate sanitation is a basic human right and is essential for preventing waterborne diseases and maintaining health and hygiene. Without sufficient water, people cannot meet their basic

drinking, cooking, and sanitation needs, jeopardising urbanisation and environtheir health and well-being.

Water is a key driver of socioeconomic development, supporting various sectors such as agriculture, industry, and tourism. Water infrastructure investments, water-based

industries, and water-related services contribute to eco-*Studies; views are personal)* VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 27, 2024

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FIRSTCOLUMN LIFE SHOULD BE A PRECIOUS JOURNEY

In the rush to meet obligations, do we overlook beauty around us?



RAVI VALLURI

ife is something very precious, a divine gift given to us by God or nature. Do humans realise how high-priced is it? When we wake up in the morning, aren't we in a tearing hurry to accomplish all the unfulfilled tasks of yesterday?

Do we spend some quality time embracing nature, take a few deep breaths, spend moments in solitude and feel the silence encompassing us? Are we grateful for our existence or do we mechanically hit the gym and head for the kitchen to have the mandatory morning cup of coffee?

Yes, for sure morning exercise like a walk, a jog, or executing the chores are essential, but it is equally important to slow down the pace of life and become grateful to the Universe for its vastness and its exquisite grandiose geometry.

Pierce Brosnan, who wielded guns and gals with remarkable felicity once remarked, 'I realise how precious life is, probably because I've seen how it can be taken away.' As the cloud moves across the sky, so do moments in our lives. We need to be in harmony with our thoughts and actions and also realise the ephemeral nature of events.

Once, a student approached his Master and complained that he could not meditate as his body ached, he felt distracted or asleep and was extremely disconcerted. The wise man smiled and merely said that this would pass. After some days, the tutee was in an ecstatic mood and apprised his teacher that the meditation was wonderful and he had had an experiential feeling. He could observe stillness in the mind; see a shimmering light and experience levitation. The Master merely smiled and added that even this would pass.

Life should be treated as a celebration and as a precious gift since it is fleeting and transitory.



The sacrosanct premise of life therefore should be to focus on its truly celebratory nature and savour its prepossessing moments. For all this to happen, we need to increase our prana/energy levels manifold. We derive energy from food, breath and rest provided to the body and by maintaining a calm and meditative mind. These sutras or tenets are imparted during the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living However, the prana/energy level needs to be sustained to nurture the precious moments of life. Humans have to treat their minds and bodies as sacred. Early morning blues can be combatted with warm lime water laced with honey. It is efficacious for the human body to have a few glasses of this elixir of life. A sattvic diet helps in increasing prana levels and also in meditation. The purpose of yoga is not just performing physical exercises but to ultimately do pranayama and meditation. This helps assuage the mind so that we are in a position to recognise and appreciate life's precious journey.

Conspiracy theories abound for terror attack-



analys \$ 07

A cloud of speculation surrounds the Moscow terror attack; allegations range from claims of internal collusion to Ukrainian complicity, supported by the West

n the end, neither these corrupt politicians nor the manifestos of these inhuman actions, but unarmed civilians will have to pay the price. Over a hundred unarmed civilians were mercilessly killed by those brutal assailants, while hundreds more were wounded in Saturday's terrorist attacks on the outskirts of Moscow. Conspiracy theories, as in many other cases, are deepening. Some say it was an inside job orches-trated by certain parties to gain sympathy. Second, Ukrainians planned it with the help of Western intelligence agencies. Third, this was perpetrated by extremists. Consequently, conflicting yet interesting reports are emerging from all sides.

Though these warning messages sound fishy, the amount of intelligence activities in the region certainly emphasises recent detailed reports on CIA activities in Ukraine published by The New York Times, stating that the US and UK were in Ukraine long before the war. "At the end of 2021, Putin was considering whether to launch a full-scale invasion. He met with the head of one of Russia's main spy services, who told him that the CIA, together with British intelligence MI6, controlled Ukraine and turned it into a staging ground for operations against Moscow."

However, it is interesting to note that in this brutal attack, terrorists who targeted concertgoers at Moscow's Crocus City Hall not only successfully executed the operation, but also managed to evade capture and attempt-ed to cross the border located over three hundred kilometres away. Later, according to Russian media, all four attackers were apprehended by Russian security forces. A man detained on suspicion of involvement in the Crocus City Hall attack has reportedly confessed to being promised a reward of 500,000 rubles, according to Russian journalist Margarita Simonyan. The alleged killer stated in a video posted by her, 'I shot down people at the Crocus for money; [I was promised] about 500,000?

Strangely, Russia was attacked by the THEORIES OR ANY Islamic State, or more accurately, accord-ing to Western media outlets, by ISKP. The Islamic State-Khorasan Province is a regional branch of the Islamic State terrorist group active in South-Central Asia. At the beginning of this month, on March 7, the FSB stated that it had stopped an ISKP cell from carrying out a terrorist attack tar-geting a synagogue. "On the territory of the Kaluga Region, a stop was put to the activity of Wilayat Khorasan, a cell of the Afghan branch of the international terrorist organisation Islamic State, which is banned in Russia, whose members were planning to commit a terrorist act against one of the Jewish religious institutions in Moscow," the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) said in a statement to the state-run TASS news agency What is fascinating is that almost all Western countries currently supplying arms, personnel, and other vital support, including precious intelligence, to Ukraine for its fight against Russia, were issuing early warnings about such brutal terrorist attacks. On March 7 and 8, several foreign embassies in Russia warned their citizens about the threat of terrorist attacks in Moscow. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow posted a security alert late on March 7, stating, "The embassy is monitoring reports that extremists have imminent plans to target large gatherings in Moscow, including concerts, and U.S. citizens should be advised to avoid large gatherings over the



next 48 hours." The Finnish Foreign Ministry urged its citizens on Saturday to avoid public gatherings in Moscow over the weekend, following the US warning about possible terrorist attacks in Russia. The US Embassy further stated that it is actively monitoring reports indicating that "extremists have immediate intentions to target large gatherings in Moscow." After the US warning, the UK

issued a similar advisory advising UK citizens to avoid travelling to WHATEVER THE Russia due to the risks and terror-CONSPIRACY ist threats. The British Foreign Office recommended against all travel to Russia. Germany, Latvia, and Estonia also urged their citizens OTHER GROUND and those with dual citizenship not REPORTS THAT to travel to Russia shortly. These advisories essentially highlight the CAME TO THE reliability, effectiveness, and capa-PUBLIC DOMAIN bility of Western intelligence agencies in the region

from unknown sources, a practice strictly prohibited, Haram, according to Islam.

Meanwhile, in his address to the nation, President Putin asserted, "All perpetrators, organisers, and masterminds of this crime will face fair and inevitable punishment, whoever they may be and whoever directed them. I emphasise once more: we will identify and bring to justice every individual who stands behind these terrorists, those who orchestrated this atrocity, this assault against Russia and our people." Whatever the conspiracy theories or

any other ground reports that came to the public domain after this horrific terrorist attack, one thing is certain: Russia indeed has internal security loopholes, and enemies are capable of sneaking through their system. It is clear that, according to Western pre-warnings of the attacks leading us to presume that these

fect democracies". This paradox can only please a mind accustomed to duplicity but will never overcome common challenges such as normalising the global supply chain and achieving peace while mitigating the burning risk of a possible nuclear attack. The most powerful nations, despite engaging in dirty politics to reaffirm their supremacy, will never hesitate to engage in anything contradictory to their preaching. Nevertheless, determining whether

this attack was carried out by ISKP or another group influenced by various integrated parties is a matter that requires verification. However, this attack has the potential to inspire other terrorists in countries facing genuine threats from IS, ISKP, and other extremist factions. We cannot underestimate the importance of security in the forthcoming Indian elections and ISKP's direct threats against China and its investments in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other places. In early September 2022, the ISKP published its most comprehensive critique of China to date, belittling the Belt and Road Initiative and calling on Muslims to take up arms against "red atheists whose hands are soaked with the blood of innocent Uyghur Muslims." Ironically, the tone of these threats is very similar to how the United States evaluates its competitors. Should we take lightly what the Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump repeatedly referred to as the president as 'Obama and Hillary Clinton are as ISIS cofounders'? Sometimes, political jokes, rhetoric and blabbering play a very important role in understanding the context of our day-today life and its reality. (The writer, a journalist, expresses *personal views which are* independent of any institutional affiliations)

Physical sciences, till recently, were all about matter and particles. However, newer studies reveal the mysteries of science have transcended the boundaries of matter and dwelled on waves and their patterns. Waves connect us to science and also to people.

While acknowledging the precious nature of life, we need to harness the potential further by choosing a passion. This is an outlet from the dreary ho-hum of life and we can appreciate the droplets on the petals, a nest built on our roof or a koel bird singing mellifluously.

In this age of a wired world, humans need to break the chains of tech bondage and develop a harmonious dwelling place where people care and share making life a truly momentous journey.

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

AFTER THIS However, it is important to pay HORRIFIC TERRORIST ATTACK, ONE THING IS CERTAIN: RUSSIA INDEED HAS INTERNAL SECURITY LOOPHOLES AND

ENEMIES ARE CAPABLE OF THROUGH ITS

SNEAKING cial services?" mysteries behind the attack but also SYSTEM for preventing its recurrence. This distinctive IS attack contradicts its

brutal attacks were pre-planned to attention to the argument made by execute during the recently concludthe Ukrainian Defence Authority on ed election where Putin marked the the attack: "The behaviour of the highest percentage of any elections criminals is also an important facsince 2000. This signalled which side tor. They fled, although such attacks the majority of Russians were standing on, while the West kept repeatare characterised by suicides with the victims and the voicing of ing the same mantra of authoritardemands, or at least reasons. ianism. On the other hand, can the Ukrainian President go for an elec-Accordingly, the criminals wanted to survive. But how did they cover tion and prove the same, despite a distance of more than 300 kilomeremaining in power by manipulating the constitutional clauses? tres without being noticed? Why, having prepared so thoroughly, did However, Ukrainians, alarmed by they not do the simplest thing—buy the election, launched a risky invaa few spare cars to change on the sion to halt voting in Russian borway? Was it because they were guarder areas, particularly in Belgorod city and its region. During the threeanteed security by the Russian speday operation, Ukraine killed 11 civilians with drones and rockets These questions are undoubtedly crucial not only for unravelling the

and injured 82, including nine critically. Among the casualties were an election official and a thirteenyear-old girl, whose father was previous behaviours; typically, IS seriously injured.

members launch attacks to become Ironically, most Western nations martyrs. However, in this instance, with imperfect democracies expect they attacked to obtain "money" their enemy countries to be "per-

Controversial issues reignite India-Lanka relations

The contentious issues of Katchatheevu and Sethusamudram resurface amid Tamil Nadu's election fervour

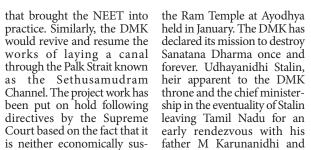
The schedule for the General Election 2024 has been announced and the State of Tamil Nadu is full of rattle and brouhaha over non-issues. The ruling DMK which has been maintaining silence over issues like the provision of drinking and irrigation waters and the fate of the State's fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy have dusted and taken out age-old topics for use as campaign materials in the election. A cursory glance over the election manifesto of the DMK drafted under the chairmanship of M K Kanimozhi, the late Karunanidhi's daughter by his third wife Rajathi, makes the reader doubt whether Tamil Nadu is a part of India or not.



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

DMK's election manifesto is to make Tamil Nadu a NEET-free State. This means that admission to the undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the State's medical colleges would be free of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, the selection system ordered by the Constitution Bench of cross the sea in their mission the Supreme Court. It was the to same Maa Sita from the cus-UPA Government (2004tody of the Ravana. This is 2014) in which the DMK was being seen as the Dravidian's

One of the salient points of the the second largest constituent reply to the Pranaprathista of this 285-acre uninhabited islet Lanka counterpart Sirimao



declared its mission to destroy Sanatana Dharma once and forever. Udhayanidhi Stalin, heir apparent to the DMK throne and the chief ministership in the eventuality of Stalin leaving Tamil Nadu for an early rendezvous with his father M Karunanidhi and tainable nor commercially ideological father Ramasamy viable. The only motivating Naicker, have declared time and again that Sanatana factor behind the revival of Sethusamudram Channel is Dharma is more dangerous that the DMK Government than Covid and Cancer and would be able to demolish the should be banished from the Ram Sethu, a stone structure face of the earth. Yet another promise made by believed to have been built by the army of Lords Ram to the DMK is the retrieval of

Katchateevu, a small islet

handed over to Sri Lanka by

the Government of India in

1975. The decision to secede

to Sri Lanka in 1975 was taken after a series of discussions involving top-level diplomats of Sri Lanka and India including G Parthasarathi, a close aide of Indira Gandhi. Katchatheevu is an uninhab-

ited islet in the Palk Strait. The islet once used for pearl farming was strategically important for fishing activities and was owned by the Raja of Ramnad and later became part of the Madras Presidency after the delimitation of Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait during British rule between the then Governments of Madras and Ceylon. In 1921, both Sri Lanka and India claimed this piece of land and the dispute remained unsettled.

The agreement signed by Indira Gandhi and her Sri

Bhandarenaike in 1975 and 1976 says that with the establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zones by the two countries, India and Sri Lanka will exercise sovereign rights over the living and non-living resources of their respective zones. The fishing vessels and fishermen of India shall not engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone of Sri Lanka, nor shall the fishing vessels and fishermen of Sri Lanka engage in fishing in the historic waters, the territorial sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India, without the express permission of Sri Lanka or India, as the case may be, according to the agreement. The agreement made it clear that Katchateev belongs to the territory of Sri Lanka.

From 1976 to 2008, the DMK and its leader Karunanidhi were silent over Katchateevu. It was a case filed by AIADMK general secretary J Jayalalithaa in 2008 that made Karunanidhi take up the issue as part of his political oneupmanship. When the case came up for hearing, the then chief justice R M Lodha asked Mukul Rohatgi, the then attor-ney general, what were the possibilities of retrieval of Katchatheev. "If you want Katchatheevu back, you will have to go to war to get it back," Rohatgi told the Court. In another development, the Coast Guard in an affidavit filed by it in Madras High Court said that it was the Tamil Nadu fishermen who violated the International Maritime Boundary Line and fished in

Sri Lankan territorial waters. Sinha Ratnatunga, a respected editor of a popular newspaper in Sri Lanka said that more than 600 fishing boats from India cross over the IMBL and carry out bottom trawling in the island's territorial waters violating all norms. The bottom trawling using purine nets destroys the entire marine wealth in the Sri Lankan waters. The demand for the retrieval of Katchatheev is with an ulterior motive. The Dravidians do not want a cordial relationship between India and Sri Lanka. Should Lanka too end up as the Maldives? asks R R Wijayabalan, who is one of the best friends of India in the island nation.

(The writer is special correspondent with the pioneer; views are personal)



Money 08

Rupee jumps 33 paise to close at 83.28 against US dollar

he rupee recovered from all-time low level and appreciated 33 paise to close at 83.28 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday on decline in the US dollar and positive Asian currencies. Forex traders said weak domestic markets and surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.33 against the greenback. The unit hit an intra-day high of 83.26

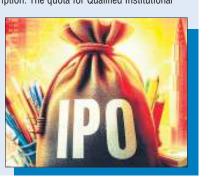
and a low of 83.37. The local unit finally settled at 83.28 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 33 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee depreciated 48 paise to settle at an all-time low of 83.61 against the American currency. Forex and equity markets were closed on Monday on account of Holi. Market analysts said, for the domestic unit, record forex reserves provide a cushion, enabling the Reserve Bank to mitigate the rupee's downside. India's forex reserves increased by USD 6.396 billion to USD 642,492 billion for the week ended March 15, the Reserve Bank said on Friday



SRM Contractors IPO subscribed 3.56 times on Day 1 of offer

he initial public offer of SRM Contractors received 3.56 times subscription on the first day of bidding on Tuesday. The IPO received bids for 1,54,35,840 shares against 43,40,100 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The category for noninstitutional investors got subscribed 6.26 times while the portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) attracted 3.54 times subscription. The quota for Qualified Institutional

Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 1.57 times. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of fresh issue of up to 62,00,000 equity shares has a price range of Rs 200-210 a share. SRM Contractors mopped up Rs 39 crore from anchor investors on Friday. The firm is an engineering construction and development company engaged primarily in the construction of roads (including bridges), tunnels, slope stabilization works and other miscellaneous civil construction activities in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, as per its website



YouTube removes 2.2 mn videos in India over violation

ouTube removed over 2.25 million videos in India between October and December 2023 for the violation of its community guidelines, with the country topping the list of video takedowns ahead of nations like the US and Russia. Singapore with 1,243,871 video takedowns ranked second on that list and the United States (788,354)

was placed third, according to YouTube's data on video removals by the country/region of unload Indonesia ranked fourth (770,157), while for Russia the number

of video takedowns stood at 516.629. as per YouTube's Community Guidelines Enforcement report that provides global data on the flags YouTube receives and how the Googleowned platform enforces policies Globally, during the period (Q4 2023) YouTube removed over 9 million videos for falling foul of its community norms. More than 96 per cent of these videos were first flagged by machines rather than humans.



'India needs to double down on electronics manufacturing'

PNS NEW DELHI

India has slowed down on the manufacturing front and needs to double down on electronics manufacturing services (EMS)designing, manufacturing, testing components and assemblies for original equipment manufacturers, Tata Electronics Chairman Banmali Agrawala said.

During a conversation with Vinav Ramesh, COO at the Foundation for Economic Development, Agrawala said India has gone 'slow' on the manufacturing front and needed to ensure that the sector,



ate better-paying jobs. "Our share in the global trade in manufacturing is negligible, so there is ample room for growth. Electronics, on its own, has a global trade worth USD 5 trillion. Given the pace of digitalisation the world over, it is only going to grow, and this is something India should be after," Agrawala said, adding that India's domestic consumption is not going to be

enough to be able to achieve sustained economic growth. "We have to have the world



as our marketplace," he said. Agrawala further said the government should continue to work with the sense of urgency they have shown so far and

ensure that the enabling infrastructure for manufacturing is in place.

¹It's not just the quantity but also the quality of power and water supply that matters. This makes the difference; the logistics in terms of connectivity to airports, proximity of airports, because the components industry moves through air. The government would do well to ensure this enabling infrastructure is in place. A lot of this is in the domain of state

governments," he added. He further said that this is going to be a people-heavy operation.

Govt initiatives, growing investment to create more job opportunities: CEA

PNS NEW DELHI

Various initiatives from the government and growing investment are going to create more job opportunities during the decade, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said on Tuesday. The last decade of the cen-

tury was marked by a decline in capital formation in the economy and moderation in credit growth, he said at an are in good shape and hiring (is event here.

"Hopefully, those things are showing improvement)," he a thing of the past. Non food said. credit growth is now running close to 20 per cent, balance sheets of companies and banks said, employment in agricul-ture declined by 15 lakh, man-

ufacturing and services added 37 lakh jobs each and the construction sector generated 19

lakh jobs, he said. 'This trend we hope will continue in the future, as indicated by the robust gross value added growth in manufacturing and construction sectors," he said.

Talking about various government initiatives for job creation, Nageswaran said, skill development, provision of 12 per cent contribution of employers towards EPFO by the government, New Education Policy, and important structural reform in Apart from these, he said,

undertaken.

the government has invested in physical infrastructure facilitating industrial and manufacturing growth, and generating employment in those sectors and restoring the health of financial institutions such as banks and non-banks.

Speaking about areas of improvement, he said, there is a need to make regulatory and tax policy implementation regimes less onerous, less cumbersome, less coercive, and also less predatory. It is still not easy in India to

close business in India, he human development have been said

Tendulkar-backed company to invest Rs 5,000 crore for semiconductor facility in Maha nuclear physicist Anil Kakodkar

PNS MUMBAI

RRP Electronics, a company backed by former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, on Tuesday announced an investment of Rs 5,000 crore for a semiconductor facility in Maharashtra.

The investment will be done over the next five years, the company said in a statement. Contributions from Tendulkar in the overall investment or details of other shareholders were not disclosed by

the company. The statement said on March 23, a 25,000 square feet facility e satel

and the company's founder, chairman, promoter and chief executive Rajendra Chodankar. It is an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility and plans are

afoot to establish a comprehensive research and development centre and have an expanded setup encompassing multi-line OSAT and a fab foundry, the statement said. "Embarking on a journey

of innovation, RRP Electronics pledges an initial investment of Rs 5,000 crore over the forthcoming five years, h equal vigour a ment earmarked for phase II," the statement said.

India's CAD dipped to US\$ 10.5 billion in October-December: RBI

PNS NEW DELHI

India's current account deficit declined to USD 10.5 billion or 1.2 per cent of the GDP in October-December quarter from USD 11.4 billion in the previous three months and JSD 16.8 billion a year back, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Tuesday.

Net FDI inflow at USD 8.5 billion during April-December 2023 was lower than USD 21.6 billion during April-December 2022, it said.

Also, accretion of foreign USD 11.1 billion a year ago. exchange reserves (on a BoP The merchandise trade basis) was at USD 6.0 billion in deficit at USD 71.6 billion was October-December (third lly higher than USD 71.3 billion during the third quarter of current financial year that ends on March 31) quarter of 2022-23.



compared to an accretion of Services exports grew by 5.2 per cent on a year-on-year basis on the back of rising exports of software, business trav

helped cushion the current account deficit. In the financial account,

Quoting 2021-22 data, he

foreign direct investment recorded a net inflow of USD 4.2 billion, more than double of net inflow of USD 2.0 billion

Foreign portfolio investment recorded a net inflow of USD 12.0 billion in the quarter, higher than USD 4.6 billion a year back. External commercial borrowings to India recorded a net outflow of USD 2.6 billion in October-December as compared to a net outflow of USD 2.5 billion a year ago.

Non-resident deposits corded a higher n

Sensex, Nifty snap 3-day winning run on selling in IT, banking shares

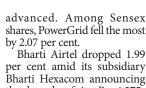
PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 361 points on Tuesday, snapping its three-day gaining streak due to selling in index major Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and IT shares amid mixed global trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex

declined by 361.64 points or 0.50 per cent to settle at 72,470.30 with 20 of its components ending in the red and 10 in the green. During the day, it fell by

Bharti Airtel dropped 1.99 per cent amid its subsidiary Bharti Hexacom announcing

468.91 points or 0.64 per cent to 72,363.03 points. The broader Nifty of NSE eclined 92.05 points or 0.42 per the launch of its Rs 4,275 r 0.42 per crore IPO on April 3 at cent to 22,004.70 as 30 of its constituents dropped and 20 share.





Mumbai was unveiled in the presence of Tendulkar, retired receipts increased both sequentially and from a year ago that

USD 3.9 billion than USD 2.6 billion a year ago.

a price band of Rs 542 to Rs 570 per

Gold falls Rs 100; silver slumps Rs 250

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold price fell by Rs 100 to Rs 66,850 per 10 grams in the domestic market on Tuesday amid weak trends in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at Rs 66,950 per 10 grams in the previous session.

In addition, silver also slumped by Rs 250 to Rs 77,500 per kg. In the previous trade, it had closed at Rs 77,750 per kg. "Spot gold prices (24 carats)

in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 66,850 per 10 grams, down by Rs 100 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi,



Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,173 per ounce, down by USD 4 from the previous close.



as we look ahead to more eco-(PCE) and core-PCE on Friday.



In the overseas markets, spot

"Gold is seen stuck in a range

nomic data and the central bank action on the interest rates, some caution is seen in the market ahead of the US GDP data on Thursday and personal consumption expenditures



year, with 26,200 Indians travelling to the country, Tourism Australia said on Tuesday. Moreover, India has also sig-

nificantly improved its ranking to be the fifth largest inbound market for Tourism Australia in 2024, from seventh in 2019. "In January we did extreme-

ly well with 26,200 Indians travelling to Australia, compared to 24,700 during the same month

FRONT-RUNNING CASE

SEBI bans two persons from securities market for 3 years; slaps Rs 77 lakh fine

PNS NEW DELHI

SEBI on Tuesday barred two individuals from the securities market for three years and imposed a penalty of over Rs 77 lakh on them for their involvement in front-running.

Front-running refers to an illegal practice in the stock market where an entity trades based on advanced information from a broker or analyst before the information has been made available to its clients.

Those restrained by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) are -- Rohit Mankotia, who was employed in Radico NV Distilleries, and his mother Shila Devi. Further, Mankotia was on deputation to Sapphire Intrex Ltd (Big Client) and his work is related to tech-



nical analysis of stocks for Sapphire. Sapphire is the pro-moter of Radico Khaitan Ltd (RKL) and held 33.95 per cent equity shares of RKL, as per Sebi order.

Additionally, the two persons have been directed to disgorge Rs 38.8 lakh within 45 days and the same will be credited into the Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).

In its 65-page order, Sebi found that Mankotia while having access and possession of information about impending

trades of the Big client, executed trades in NSE equity segment and NSE equity derivative seg-ment from the account of his mother Shila Devi based on impending orders of the Big client. Shila Devi aided and abetted Mankotia in implemen-

tation of such a scheme as she did not raise any objection to use of her account for the purpose of front running and accordingly, they committed fraud and violated the provisions of PFUTP Regulations.

This came after Sebi conducted an investigation into trading activities of the two individuals during the period from July 2021 to June 2022 (investigation period) to ascertain any violation under the PFUTP (Prohibition

of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade

Practices) rules.

in 2019, a growth of 6.07 per cent. "If we calculate from February 2023 till January 2024, the total number of Indians visiting Australia has crossed the 4,00,000 arrivals milestone to reach 4,02,200," Tourism

Australia Country Manager -India and Gulf - Nishant Kashikar told PTI. This growth in footfalls is

mainly due to Tourism Australia's joint endeavours with its airlines, key distribution partners, and over 5,000 Aussie

Specialist Agents in India to drive consideration and conver-



INDIAN FOOTFALLS TO AUSTRALIA SURGE

sions, he said. and Mumbai has gone up to 28 flights per week from 8 flights in 2019," said Kashikar. "The number of airlines connecting New Delhi, Bengaluru

Also, the electronic lodge ment of visa application, which has made the visa application process easy and more convenient, helped in more Indians visiting Australia, he said.

Moreover, the travel trend has completely changed for Indians after the Covid-19 pandemic as there is a generational shift with the age of travellers going down, also the attitude of Indians have become more splurging and people have become globetrotters wanting to attend festivals, sporting events, concerts among others, Kashikar noted.

"This resurgence of Indian tourists to Australia is a testament to the resilience and rebound of international travel, particularly from one of our most valued markets. "This is a clear indicator of the strong desire for travel and exploration among the Indian travellers, who are drawn to Australia's unique landscapes, wildlife, and the multicultural vibrancy of our cities

Going forward in 2024, we expect the same momentum to continue from India," he added.

Adani Ports to acquire 95 per cent stake in Odisha's Gopalpur Port for Rs 1,349 crore

to APSEZ at an enterprise

synergy with our existing ports

and strengthen APSEZ's pres-

ence on the East Coast,"

tion.

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Tuesday announced the acquisition of a 95 per cent stake in Gopalpur Ports in Odisha from Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Orissa Stevedores Ltd at an equity value of Rs 1,349 crore.

In Gopalpur Ports, Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) firm SP Port Maintenance Pvt Ltd has a 56 per cent stake and Orissa Stevedores Ltd (OSL) has a 44 per cent stake. Gopalpur Port is an all-weather deep-water berthing port with a capacity of 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) situated in Ganjam district of Odisha.

In a regulatory filing, APSEZ said that it has entered into definitive agreements to

acquire the entire 56 per cent shareholding of SP Group and a 39 per cent stake of OSL in Gopalpur Port Ltd (GPL). OSL will continue as a JV partner with a 5 per cent stake, the filing added.

APSEZ said the equity consideration for a 95 per cent stake is Rs 1,349 crore, with an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore, subject to closing adjustments.

In addition to the enterprise value stated above there is a contingent consideration of Rs 270 crores estimated to be payable after 5.5 years, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions as agreed with the sellers, it added. Along with deferred payments, total enterprise value is Rs 3,350 crore.

In a separate filing, SP Group informed that it has agreed to sell its stake in Gopalpur Port



APSEZ said.

value of Rs 3,350 crore, as part "The acquisition of Gopalpur of its deleveraging strategy Port will allow us to deliver more integrated and enhanced with planned asset monetisasolutions to our customers," "Acquisition of Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL) will drive APSEZ managing director Karan Adani said.

Adani added that its location will allow APSEZ unprecedented access to the mining

hubs of Odisha and neighbouring states and allow us to expand our hinterland logistics footprint.

The port had recently signed up with Petronet LNG to set up a greenfield LNG regasification terminal

In FY24, GPL is estimated to handle about 11.3 MMT cargo (up 52 per cent Y-o-Y) and earn a revenue of Rs 520 crore (up 39 per cent Y-o-Y). The estimated EBITDA will be Rs 232 crore (YoY growth of 65 per cent).

"In our view, the Gopalpur Port is all set for strong growth and margin expansion in FY'25 with opportunities already identified for achieving higher operational efficiencies and infra debottlenecking, implying further value accretion for APSEZ shareholders," APSEZ said.



what's brewing?

When SRK took Farah Khan in his van, she cried for an hour, and you may guess why!

horeographer and filmmaker Farah Khan discussed her close friend Shah Rukh Khan's attendance before, during, and following her pregnancy. In an interview, Farah discussed conceiving through IVF while she was in her forties and how Shah Rukh was the first person outside the family to learn she was expecting triplets. She stated that they were shooting Om Shanti Om when she conceived, and Shah Rukh tried to make her feel at ease on set.

In a recent interview with the Nova IVF Fertility YouTube channel, Farah stated that she would undergo artificial insemination both before and after the shoot. The clinic, she explained, was more than an hour away from the scene. After the first setbacks, she would cry back to the set, and Shah Rukh realised something was wrong once.

"For the first five-six months, there were only lows because they were retrieving eggs and planting them, and I don't know how many times I must have gone under general anesthesia. The first time I went to the doctor, I was so sure that I was pregnant, but I literally got my period in office. So I used to be sobbing back to the shoot.

One day, in the middle of the day, I got a call from the doctor, and she said it had not happened this time. We were shooting a comic scene, and Shah Rukh knew something was wrong because I was going to cry. So, he called for a break and took me into his van, where I sobbed for an hour."

Farah stated that Shah Rukh was the first person she informed about her pregnancy after her mother. "I said, 'I have to tell you something'. He looked at me and said, 'Are you pregnant?' We still had to finish *Darde-e-*Disco, and every time he'd remove his shirt, I would throw up. He would keep a bucket next to me. He was very sweet; he ordered this lazy boy couch instead of the director's chair, so that I could lie down with a mic and shout at people."

Farah also shared that on the day she gave birth, around 30 people jammed the delivery room because the hospital where

she was admitted had not seen a triplet birth in decades. On the same day, Shah Rukh stopped by to congratulate her.

Bilities. The creators are adamant that if the plot fails, they will be wait for Krigh 4 never seems to end. It has been with the superhero picture to go on floors in 2025. "Dugge' has summer. Both Rakesh Roshan and he want to deliver a story that will exceed expectations," said the source, adding that the produc-ers intend to begin shooting in 2025. will exceed expectations," said the source, adding that the produc-will exceed to begin shooting in 2025. ers intend to begin shooting and then rejected a number of possi-"The team has explored and then rejected. The wait for Krrish 4 never seems to end. It has been a nor the release of Krrish 3 and The wait for Krrish 4 never seems to end. It has been more than a decade since the release of Krrish 3, and fare continue to wait. While there have been several more than a decade since the release of Krrish 3, and fans continue to wait. While there have been several claims about the start of shooting for the Hrithik Roshan claims a new source suggests that Krrish 4 will eventually film, a new source suggests that Krrish 4 will eventually hit screens in 2025. hit screens in 2025. screens in 2025. According to a source, Hrithik is keen to com-plete the storyline for Krrish 4 by this summer,

Arnold

FUN

WHIMAD ST

Schwarzenegger is

recuperating

from surgery

 $A_{\rm Schwarz}^{\rm rnold}$

enegger is allegedly recovering after surgery to implant a pacemaker. The 76-year-old actor revealed the news during an appearance on his *Arnold's Pump Club* podcast.

"I have some personal news to share. Last Monday, I had surgery for a pacemaker and became a little bit more of a maker and became a little bit more of a machine," he announced. Schwarzenegger said that talking about his health publicly "goes against so much of my upbringing in Austria," but he still wanted to be transparent.

"First of all, I want you to know I'm doing great! I had my surgery on Monday, and by Friday, I was already at a big environmental event with my friend and fellow fitness crusader Jane

Anne Hathaway opens up about her miscarriage during Off-Broadway play

Anne Hathaway, who is receiving critical accolades for her next film, *The Idea of You*, has experienced both personal and professional ups and downs. Anne, like her current rom-com. which challenges gender norms, spoke openly about her troubles in an interview. The star also discussed a terrible period in her life when she had a miscarriage. Anne explained in her 2019 Instagram post that she had a miscarriage in 2015. She was shooting a onewoman off-Broadway production called Grounded at the time. The actor admitted that she kept it a secret and told her friends when they saw her backstage. Anne stated, "The first time, it didn't work for me. I was performing a play and had to give birth on stage every night. It was too much to contain when I was on stage pretending everything was normal."

"I had to keep it authentic; else...So, having been on the other side of it, where you have to have the grace to be happy for someone, I wanted to let my sisters know, You don't have to always be graceful. I see you, and I am with you."

Fonda," he said, adding that Fonda is

someone who is "healthy" and "looks

fantastic.""Nobody would ever have thought I started the week with a

surgery. I want to thank my whole team

at the Cleveland Clinic. All of the doc-

Same all

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In 2019, the actor announced her second pregnancy by posting a photo of her baby bulge with the message, "It's not for a movie...For those struggling with infertility

bilities. The creators are adamant that if the plot fails, they will bilities. The creators are adamant that if the plot fails, they will not continue with it. That's why they've spent months looking for the proper plot to continue the superhero's adventure, for the plot the

lar. "That's life with a genetic heart issue. But you won't hear me complaining," he said. He said that he is healthy today because he is "diligent and staying in touch with my doctors and listening to them." He also revealed that his mother, who did not get the valve replacement surgery, died in 1998."I had my valves replaced for the first time in 1997, which required open heart surgery. They told me both valves would last 12 to 15 years," he said. Schwarzenegger had to then undergo surgeries to get both replaced again in 2018 and 2020. Schwarzenegger went for a normal checkup in March before going to the Arnold Sports Festival. Based on his results, his doctor told him a pacemaker was needed. He was set to film season two of FUBAR after that. "I can't do my serious training in the gym for a while, but I will be 100 percent ready for FUBAR tors and nurses took amazing care of me next month," he said.

ARCHIE







to install a pacemaker...

CALVIN AND HOBBES





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strip

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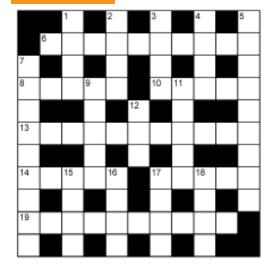


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18 Yours and mine

SOLUTION

🟓 the pioneer Jayawada

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Wednesday March 27, 2024

Embracing the richness of timeless rhythm with 'Wridangam'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

he Mahindra Percussion Festival is back with it's second edition, bigger than ever for two exciting days instead of just one. The festival, which has an impressive lineup of regional musicians, strives to revitalise Indian street culture and percussion traditions. Anantha. R. Krishnan, a remarkable figure in the music industry, was one of the gifted musicians with whom we had an intimate conversation. He began his musical career on the 'Mridangam', the primary drum of the Carnatic style.

"Mridangam playing in my family has sort of been a generational legacy," he tells us in this exclusive interview. "It so occurred that my great-granduncle and my grandfather were two of the most wellknown figures from the foundations of 'Mrindangam'. That's a sign of my family history and the way the 'Mridangam' is ingrained in me. To the readers' surprise, nevertheless, I had no intention of playing the 'Mridangam' before—just because it's in my family's tradition!"

As the interview takes an emotional turn, the maestro shares that there was a phase in his life when he had to go through a grief period in his life when his

"Suddenly, it was like stepping into his shoes! Someone must do it. I returned as soon as I could to India. I thought it would be wrong to ignore the fact that my grandfather had a group of individuals who relied on him somewhat. They all believed that I was now the primary provider. There was a slight bias in the odds! I was in the spotlight all of a sudden," he recalls.

He studied the basics of the Mridangam under his uncle, Shri. R. Ramkumar, before starting formal instruction under his grandfather at the age of five. He is the grandson and disciple of the renowned Mridangam master, Shri. Palghat R.

Raghu. The Indian classical musician keeps dropping intriguing tidbits. "When working with the biggest names in the music business, I find that it matters more to me to understand how they view the music industry than how widely recognised they are in the media. Sound is God! I find my spirituality in music; it's my reli-gion. I feel the vibes. I also receive criticism from others, but I take it well. To be honest, I don't use that for anything."

At the age of seven, he gave his debut at a concert, and before he turned twenty, he played with a select group of Indian classi-cal artists, including Mandolin Srinivas, Prof. T.N. Krishnan, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Dr. KJ Yesudas, and Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna. We were curious to hear about a few of his standout performances from his esteemed global music tours! The winner of the Best Mridangist Prize remarks, "My granddad was the subject of a little documentary that was posted on YouTube. We made it in celebration of his 80th birthday, and someone discovered an extremely unique footage!

Even though I couldn't remember seeing this clip, I was imitating my granddad on stage." The best thing, he tells us, is that he is currently a faculty of percussion at A.R. Rahman's KM Music Conservatory in Chennai

"The dopamine after giving a fantastic musical show is to go to my music

conservatory immediately, and nothing can negate it because someone needs my time. After giving it some thought, I also realised that I should be a part of this con-servatorium since it also keeps me away from the conceit that comes with being a musician. And now to give "vidya"—I also learned that I have to be very modest. There are intelligent, keen people out there! Meeting them is also helping me develop as an instructor."

Most remarkably, he has been awarded the category's Best Mridangist Prize by the Music Academy, Madras, the premier

organisation for advancing classical Indian music. five times. As part of the

National Endowment of the Arts initiative to increase cultural awareness in the United States, he received the State of the Arts Award from the New Jersey government twice, in 1997 and 1998. He studies tabla with Ustad Zakir Hussain as a special

interest student as well! He performed as a featured soloist on the Miles from India tour, which was nominated for a Grammy and debuted in Town Hall, New York City. The tour featured jazz greats Ron Carter, Dave Liebman, Lenny White, Ndugu Chancler, and Pete Cosey, and it featured the music of the great Miles Davis performed on Indian instruments. So, "I was

just staring wide-eyed at my Grammy participation

the entire time. Not to come across as corny, but I am genuinely very appreciative of my profession." He received invitations to play at *EXPO 2000* in Hanover and the *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* in Berlin, Germany in 1999 as part of the Millennium celebrations. He performed at the illustrious Sadler's Wells *Music Festival* in London one year later. He performed the groundbreaking New Jazz Meeting for *SWR 2*, a national radio station in Baden Baden, in the fall of 2006, at the invitation of British experimental guitarist Fred Frith. Rudresh Mahanthappa sent an

invitation to him in October 2007 so he could play with Samadhi at the Festival of the Firsts in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Anantha. R. Krishnan, a rare occurrence in the world of music, who began his musical journey with the 'Mridangam', transmits The Pioneer into the world of divine harmony through his music, in this exclusive chat, about his journey, music, and more.

COMPARISON: THE THIEF OF JOY

TEJAL SINHA

o matter how skilled you are, how excellent your grades are, or how gorgeous you are, there will always be someone who is better than you and appears to be having a better life. But how determine who is greater? And why should the

the accomplishments of their peers may find it difficult to connect with people on a real level.

Personality: Unhealthy comparing habits have the potential to negatively alter a child's personality over time. It could result in a persistent need for approval, a fear of failing, or a propensity to gauge one's value more by extraneous characteristics than by fundamental ones.

· Encourage students to practice gratitude for their own accomplishments and blessings. Create a safe space for students to express their feel-

judgment.

ings of inadequacy or insecurity without fear of

Family is the first place where we receive messages from significant others. It provides us with feelings of adequacy and inadequacy, acceptance and rejec-tion. Even before children can speak, people make evaluations of them. The earliest months of life are full of messages that shape the self-concept.

Dive into the captivating history of impressionism

mpressionism was a major movement in painting and music that emerged most-Ly in France in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Impressionist painting refers to the work created between 1867 and 1886 by a group of artists who shared

or Monet, Sisley or Pissarro," Renoir said at the end of his life.

SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE

The venue of the 1874 exhibition -- in the tudio of photographer Felix Nadar reflected the strong influence cameras had on the movement. Impressionism came of age at the same time as still photography, with tripods and cameras being set up next to painters' easels. Some artists dabbled themselves. Degas was an amateur photographer and Paul Cezanne used photographs as studies for some of his works. Monet's "Boulevard des Capucines" was painted from Nadar's balcony, with the blurred silhouettes of the crowd capturing the influence of early photographs.

fact that someone is better than you in any given sector detract from your happiness?

As humans, undeniably, we do have this inherent habit of comparing ourselves with others. Comparison is a double-edged sword; the way it will impact you depends on your perception of it. Sadly, most of us fail to use comparison to boost ourselves or grow our strengths!

We would rather end up demeaning our-selves, feeling miserable, and lowering our selfesteem, confidence, and whatnot. And this comparison starts from the day one is born.

Sakshi Maheshwari, clinical psychologist at Niyama Digital Healthcare, clearly points out that parents start looking at other children and comparing how pretty their kid is or how quickly other kids are achieving their milestones. "As children grow a little older," she says, adding, "They also start having these desires to own identical toys or backpacks as their buddies. As children become older and reach school, almost every time their grades and performances are compared by the teachers, we never get to see when that comparison starts choking them every day. With the advent of social media, easy access to surmount information, and ever-changing trends, this generation of teenagers has especially become more susceptible to being hit by comparison, to the point that some of them fall into a trap of anxiety, depression, and even have thoughts of suicide. I have come across so many teenagers during my therapy who come with issues of low self-esteem, deteriorating self-confidence, and no one to confide in. They feel so pressured by their caregivers' expectations of doing good that they forget to explore, feel happy, and feel excited."

However, unhealthy comparisons can have a significant negative effect on a young person's development, particularly on their mental well-being. Smitha Rahul, a rehabilitation psychologist, student counselor, academic coordinator, and psychology lecturer at St. Claret P.U. College, examines a few consequences of these harmful comparisons:

Mental health: This never-ending loop of comparison can erode general mental health and lead to unfavourable thought patterns.

Confidence and self-esteem: Unhealthy comparison frequently leaves one feeling less confident and worthless. People who constantly compare themselves to the unattainable standards that other people set for them may internalise emotions of inadequacy and failure, which can lower their self-esteem.

Behaviour: Harmful comparisons may lead to the display of behaviours like perfectionism, avoiding difficult situations, or looking to other people for approval. These behaviours may impede a child's ability to grow and develop personally and may be maladaptive. Social skills: By encouraging rivalry, resentment, and jealousy, comparison can have a detrimental effect on interpersonal relationships. Students who are always comparing themselves to others or who are jealous of

It is to no surprise that students frequently compare themselves to one another. But how do these harmful comparisons affect a student's life? The Pioneer speaks with specialists and provides a full examination

for a feature story.



COMBATTING THE EFFECTS OF UNHEALTHY COMPARISON

- Encourage students to recognise when they are comparing themselves to others excessively.
- Help students identify and appreciate their own unique strengths and talents.
- Encourage students to set goals based on their own aspirations and values, rather than trying to measure
- up to others' standards. Foster an environment where students support and celebrate each other's successes rather than viewing
- them as threats. Teach students to challenge negative thoughts and
- beliefs about themselves. Social media can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy by showcasing curated and often unrealistic portrayals of others' lives. Encourage students to limit their time on such platforms and focus on real-life con-

nections.

Deanna Fugle, a licensed counsellor working at JAIN International Residential School (JIRS), highlights the same as she shares: "The amount of time parents allow their children to cry before attending to their needs communicates, nonverbally to the children over a period of time. just how important they are to their parents. The parents' method of handling infants speaks volumes."

Children learn what they live with: If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. Listening is the first step in tackling any situation and getting a solution to it.

Offering unrequested advice: Sometimes parents believe that when students bring problems up, they are seeking advice, which isn't true, but they actually want a listening ear. Advising is an appropriate response, but not when it's unrequested.

Passing judgment is usually not encour-aging to hear: "You know". It's your own fault. You really shouldn't have done that. This type of response suggests that the lis-tener is playing judge rather than walking in your shoes.

An important aspect of authority versus submission problems is when and how parents exercise discipline and adminis-ter punishment. Scolding appears to be the most frequent form of punishment, and comparing their children with others or with their peers is harassing and damages the growth of children both physically and mentally.

Parents are also important as comrades for adolescent children. Another role is that of the mother or guide. When the

parents do not fulfill their roles, the adolescents may feel let down and fall prey to unhealthy influences outside the home.

On a concluding note, Nandini Ghatak, Principal of Modern High School International, shares that it is inherently human to measure ourselves "up" with people who are apparently doing "better" or are seeming-ly "smarter." However, "this kind of comparison makes young teens feel a sense of self-deprecation, and in the long term, it is highly likely that they will end up as adults who lack self-worth. Constant comparisons to other "better performers" contribute significantly to making adolescents feel incapable, frustrated, and thereby unhappy about who they are and what they have accomplished. Young adolescents wanting "glass skin," "eight-packs," or "zero sizes" are often pushed into making uninformed and risky decisions detrimental to their physical and mental well-being. Parents and teachers ideally should be encouraging young children to focus on self-improvement instead of engaging in unnecessary comparisons."

similar methods and techniques. The most notable aspect of Impressionism in painting was an endeavour to properly and objectively depict visual reality in terms of fleeting effects of light and colour. In music, the goal was to express an idea or emotion through a wash of sound rather than a precise formal structure.

As the art world marks 150 years since Impressionism burst onto the canvas in a blurry riot of colour, here are five littleknown facts about the wildly popular movement.

WALLPAPER PATTERN

Impressionism was never meant as a compliment. While today works by artists such fetch eye-popping sums at auction, reviews after their inaugural 1874 exhibition in Paris were scathing. "A preliminary drawing for a wallpaper pattern is more fin-ished than this seascape," wrote critic Louis Leroy about Monet's "Impression Sunrise". It was Leroy who coined the name for the movement, intended as an insult. But the epithet stuck, and came to represent a revolutionary movement that no longer set out to accurately depict the world but to offer fleeting impressions of it's beauty.

FREEDOM IN A TUBE

John Goffe Rand, a relatively obscure US painter, had a key influence on the movement when he had the idea of putting ready-to-use paint in small tin tubes. It may seem obvious today but for artists in the mid-19th century, the innovation made it significantly easier to take painting outside the studio.

Before, artists seeking the great outdoors carried their paints in pig bladders sealed with string, which had the unfortunate tendency to burst. Equipped with tubes, artists could sit for hours on the banks of the Seine, in a garden or a field and capture the fleeting plays of light and colour. "Without tube painting, there would have been no Cezanne

THE MUSE WHO PAINTED

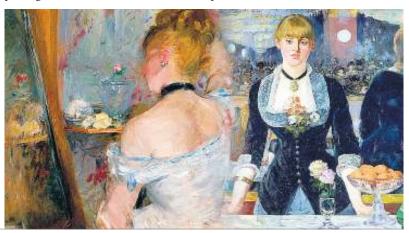
Impressionism was dominated by men but the inaugural 1874 "Anonymous Society of painters, sculptors, engravers, etc" includ-ed one woman -- Berthe Morisot. Her paintings drew little attention at the time but Morisot -- today celebrated as an artist in her own right -- was a famous face on canvas, as the muse of her brother-in-law, Edouard Manet.

Manet, for his part, always refused to be identified with the Impressionist movement, though he had a huge influence on it and is widely considered one of its key painters.

MONET, ARTIST AND PATRON

Cezanne holds the record for the most expensive Impressionist painting ever sold at auction but in the beginning he struggled to shift any at all. His luck changed at the 1874 exhibition, with his dark, tormented "The Hanged Man's House" finding a home. Two decades later, when he had his first solo show in Paris, a curious thing happened -- he sold three paintings before the gallery even opened.

A mysterious stranger turned up and asked if he could take a sneak peek. After inspecting each piece closely, he picked three and handed over a wad of cash without haggling. It was only after he had left that the buyer was revealed as Monet, not only an Impressionist star but also an early patron.





VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | MARCH 27, 2024

sports 11



MI, SRH LOOK TO MAKING WINNING COMEBACKS

PTI HYDERABAD

Mumbai Indians will aim to land the killer punch after fluffing an easy run-chase in their opener when they meet a dangerous Sunrisers Hyderabad in the

lot going for them in their tournament opener against the Gujarat Titans, whether it was the incisive spells from pacer Jasprit Bumrah, Dewald Brevis' impactful knock or Rohit Sharma's fireworks at the top of the order.

But MI, who have built a reputation of slow starters over the years, could not manage 48 runs off 36 balls with seven wickets in hand. With the 10-team event being more competitive than ever before, Mumbai cannot afford more lackadaisical such performances going forward. In his first game as Mumbai captain, Hardik pushed himself down the order at number seven to accommodate the likes of Tim David and Brevis higher up. Considering he batted much higher for the Gujarat Titans last year, there is a case for him to bat higher up the order.

Opener Ishan Kishan, back to action after a long break, could

only last four balls against GT. With the T20 World Cup in mind, his performances will be tracked closely and have added significance. He needs to be at his best with the bat and behind the stumps to make the national squad.

Indian Premier League here on
Wednesday.Hardik will also be expecting
an improved performanceFive-time champions MI had afrom spinners Shams Mulani and Piyush Chawla.

They face SRH on their home turf and the Pat Cummins-led side showed against Kolkata Knight Riders what they are capable of. The big-hitting Heinrich Klaasen almost got them over the line from a hopeless situation though the rest of the batters put up below

par performances. The opening duo of Mayank Agarwal and Abhishek Sharma has shown promise but would also need to be consistent if SRH are to do well in the competition.

SRH have invested heavily in pinch hitter Abdul Samad and it is high time he delivers on the promise.

The seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar was Andre "Russelled" on Saturday night and will look to bounce back strongly. "Tough job in cricket to bowl

to someone like him (Russell). It's one of those ones which goes one way or the other. Who would have thought we



would have got that close? Unfortunately, a bit too much. Lots to be encouraged by. A couple of points to work on also," Cummins said after the narrow loss at Eden Gardens.

SQUADS: Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Jasprit Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan, Anshul Kamboj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shivalik Sharma, Romario Shepherd, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Vishnu Vinod, Nehal Wadhera, Luke Wood, Suryakumar Yadav.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins (c), Abdul Samad, Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram, Travis Head, Wanindu Hasaranga, Marco Jansen, Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Glenn Singh, Sanvir Phillips, Klaasen, Heinrich Agarwal, T. Natarajan, Anmolpreet Singh, Mayank Markande, Upendra Singh Yadav, Umran Malik, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Shahbaz Ahmed, Jaydev Unadkat, Akash Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanyan.

Mahipal adds depth to RCB batting **Rachin, Dube power CSK to** 206/5 against Gujarat Titans PTI BENGALURU

On a balmy Monday night, Mahipal Lomror gave Royal Challengers Bengaluru two tantalising options — an 'Impact Player' who can yank the match away from the opposition and a potential successor to Dinesh Karthik, their designated finisher who is playing his last IPL season.

Lomror, who replaced Yash Dayal during the chase of 177 as Ímpact sub, made an eightball 17 and assisted Karthik (28, 10b) in knocking off 47 runs in 22 balls that powered RCB to a four-wicket win over Punjab Kings

But his maiden foray into the world of 'Impact Players' taught Lomror how "weird" that role could be, particularly because of its hurried nature.

To be honest, it



as the No. 8 finisher, similar to Lomror has been quietly what Lomror did against PBKS upskilling himself at nets once at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. the RCB top brass conveyed On the other 10 occasions, it their decision

too with a first-ball boundary off left-arm pacer Curran. But Lomror soon bettered that effort against Arshdeep. On the third ball of the 18th over

PTI CHENNAI

Rachin Ravindra started With a bang and Shivam Dube finished with a flourish as Chennai Super Kings posted a commendable 206 for 5 against Gujarat Titans in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Rachin made full use of the Powerplay, racing to 46 off 20 balls while Dube, a nightmare for spinners, then used his long levers to whack 51 in only 23 deliveries to increase the challenge of GT batters by manifold. Dube's innings had as many as five sixes.

In between, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's chiselled 46 off 36 balls also was a significant contribution in another impactful batting performance by the team on a hard bouncy track that was on offer.



Impact Player) was quite weird when I went into bat. The Impact Player rule is such that vou have to be ready as you can get a call at any time to go in," said Lomror in the post-match press conference.

However, the 24-year-old said the RCB management had communicated the possibility of him being used as the substitute player against Punjab.

"As the name suggests, you have to make an impact on the game from the word go. The management had discussed it last night. They told me: 'If we are chasing, we might use you down the order.' So mentally, I was prepared."

During the IPL 2023, RCB had availed the 'Impact Player' option in 12 matches out of 14,

was either a bowler or a top/middle-order batter who walked in as 'Impact Player.' However, Rawat could not make the desired impact as he could score only 16 runs off 27 balls in those two games.

Perhaps, that failed experiment prompted the RCB thinktank to give that duty to the big-hitting Lomror in this IPL.

The Rajasthan-born player, who ioined Roval Challengers ahead of IPL 2022 from Rajasthan Rovals, was ready for the grind too as it was his best chance to get a place in the eleven. This is what the team manage-

ment wants me to prepare for. They are very clear because we have a really strong batting lineup, and this is the only place where they can use me,"

"Earlier, I used to bat up the order, and that gave me more balls to bat. But now as an Impact sub, there's not going to be many balls to play. So, whenever I'm going into nets, I just try and hit boundaries from the

very first ball," he offered. But polishing the skills against your own teammates or local trundlers at nets is quite different from what a batter gets in a

real match situation. Lomror, though, aced the test against proven performers like Arshdeep Singh and Sam Curran at a stadium with an unusually gripping pitch that made shot-making a tricky

proposition. He, however, reduced the equation to 43 off 21 balls and thereby the pressure on Karthik

he smoked the left-arm quick over the cow-corner for a six and in the next ball pulled him for a four through backward

square leg. That over had started with RCB needing 36 runs from 18 balls and three balls later it became a more comfortable 24 runs from 14 balls.

Lomror was not hesitant to give a slice of credit to his senior partner Karthik for keeping his pulse against racing.

"I think batting with him makes things really easy. He has some 15-17 years of experience in IPL. He was telling me to stay calm and focus on the next ball, not to get overexcited or not to get too aggressive," he said.

The apprentice has certainly left the master a beaming man.

Not to forget CSK's Rs 7.60 crore recruit Sameer Rizvi (14 off 6 balls), who pummelled Rashid Khan (2/49 in 4 overs) for two sixes to mark a memorable IPL debut. Rachin, who has already

become a darling of the CSK fans, enthralled all and sundry with his audacious stroke-play. While he missed stroke-play. While ne missed out again on a half-century but team's 'spiritual skipper' Mahendra Singh Dhoni would be all smiles knowing that his choice was perfect to the T.

The three sixes - a flick

behind the square and one over long-on off the normally profligate Umesh Yadav and one off Azmatullah Omarzai were hit with so much disdain that it did put Gujarat Titans in a spot.

There were some crunchy cover drives as well as Ravindra let his skipper Gaikwad breathe a little easy at the other end.

Finally, it was GT's 'Go-To' bowler Rashid, who drew the first blood but more because work from of smart Wriddhiman Saha, who

removed the bails in a flash becoming Saha's third victim after the Black Caps opener with the gloves, trying to pull lost his balance and moved Spencer Johnson, only to end out of his crease trying to whip the delivery.

Saha's next stumping was way easier as Sai Kishore shortened the length and drew Ajinkya Rahane out of his crease for an indiscreet loft. The ball deviated enough and the keeper completed

mere formality. Gaikwad wasn't as fluent as Rachin to begin with but in his five boundaries and a six, he oozed class before

up edging one behind the stumps. After that it was Dube, who just plonked his front-foot and bludgeoned Sai Kishore

for two monstrous sixes and also sent Johnson's delivery soaring for a maximum. Dube had the composed

Daryl Mitchell for company, who also chipped in with an unbeaten 20-ball 24 in a stand of 57 runs for the fourth wicket in 5.5 overs.

loud noises and then you're

"But it was beautiful. It's an amazing experience to just be another person on the road

back in it all again.

PTI BENGALURU

Not just a marketable name to promote T20 cricket, he's still got the game. This was the subtle message Virat Kohli sent out amid unfounded chatter surrounding his place in the side ahead of the World Cup's debut appearance in the United States.

Kohli, who is back after a twomonth paternity break, scored a match-winning 77 off 49 balls for Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday night against Punjab Kings and deservedly walked away with the player of the match honours.

"I know my name is nowadays quite attached to just promoting the game in many parts of the world when it comes to T20 cricket. But, I've still got it, I guess," said the 35-year-old father of two in the

post-match presentation. His comments came in the backdrop of never-ending speculation media surrounding the team's composition for the big event to be jointly hosted by the USA and the West Indies starting June 1.

Former players like Kevin Pietersen have asked whether Kohli would make the Indian squad purely on merit or for being a megastar who will pull

My name these days is attached to just promoting T20 cricket but I have still got it: Kohli

in fans. Kohli averages over 50 in the format and has a strike rate of 138.15.

On Monday night, hallmark of Kohli's classy knock was the way he stepped out to dispatch the fast bowlers over the extra cover boundary. The former India captain has

nothing left to prove but he realises the need for constant evolution in T20 format.

"Well I mean you have to (make additions to your game)," he said when asked about going aerial against the pacers on the off-side.

"People know I play the cover drive pretty well so they're not going to allow me to hit gaps and with guys like KG (Kagiso Rabada) and Arshdeep (Singh) as well, he's tall. So, I mean, if they're hitting length, vou have to create some momentum in the ball.

"And once vou're closer to the ball, you kind of negate the bounce that's going to happen. You meet it earlier. So, I mean, you have to come up with a game plan here and there and try to keep improving your

IPL NEU 民们 RuPa RuPav Angel PARK 1.11 NEU TATA ch.ev NEU Pay TY IC AngelO Pay Punch.ev ch.ev FAN Punc Pay recognised on the streets was TWO MONTHS: Kohli had

game," he explained at the post-match presentation. IT WAS SURREAL NOT TO **BE RECOGNISED** FOR

TWO MONTHS: Kohli had his second child. The long missed the five-match Test break allowed him to spend series against England as he was overseas for the birth of much needed quality time with his family and not being

something that he enjoyed the most.

"We were not in the country.

and not be recognised and just carry on about life that normally people would on a daily basis," he said. We were at a place where people were not recognising us. Just time together as a family, just to feel normal for Kohli is also forever grateful to the loyal and passionate RCB fans who keep backing the team that is yet to win the IPL. two months. For me, for us as a family, it was a surreal "It's been going on for years and you know, people talk

experience. "Of course, having two kids, things become totally different from a family perspective. So just the ability to be together, the connections that you make with your older child, it's amazing.

"I mean, I couldn't have been more grateful to God for the opportunity that I got to spend time with my family." For Kohli, not being mobbed

is a luxury and he loved every bit of his time away from the limelight. "And yeah, just the place that

we were in, I was telling the guys (RCB teammates) that when we came back, the voices back home felt that much louder.

"I couldn't look up because I was just not used to being called my name for two And then months. immediately you hear these

about a lot of other things when you play sport. The achievements, the stats, the numbers. Look at the end of the day when you look back you're not going to think of the numbers and the stats. "It's the memories that you create. Famously, Rahul bhai (India head coach) in the change room nowadays says exactly the same to us. When

you play, you play your heart out because you're going to miss these times when you're with your friends in the change room playing in front

of fans. "So the relationship that's happened organically over so many years it's something that I can never ever forget. Just the love and the appreciation and the backing I've received for so many years that's been amazing," Kohli added.



Vijayawada | Wednesday March 27, 2024

🃂 the pioneer

Kaliyugam Pattanamlo actor Vishva Karthikeya: I like people who give negative feedback

K. RAMYA SREE

Reddy has recently informed us in an interview that his upcoming film Kaliyugam Pattanamlo film has a good message for the youth and that he wrote the story taking inspiration from the events that happen in real life. Now, we have the lead actor of the film, Vishva Karthikeya, talking about the film, a unique crime thriller produced by Nani Movie Works and Raamaa Creations, all set to hit the big screens on March 29.

Also, starring Ayushi Patel as a female lead, it is safe to say that this film is about a bunch of passionate movie lovers all set to taste their

luck in the industry. Vishva wants to create a name for himself in the industry by showing that he can do any kind of role; he chose the film as his role has different shades. While his previous films

irector Ramakanth

and Jai Sena belong to different genres like comedy, melodrama, and commercials, this film has a very new point besides Vishva Karthikeya, thrilling and suspenseful elements, which attractwho is coming up with ed him to come on board the project. While he doesn't want to reveal at the his next film, Kaliyugam Pattanamlo, gets candid with

moment that his role has two shades or if he plays a dual role, Vishva informed us, "My character will be very new in the movie. We have done many workshops for this character. We have done workshops for each emotion, such as how to behave when one is angry and how to react when one is anxious. This

movie also has a motherly sentiment. There seems to be a new genre for every two to three scenes. It will appeal to all sections of the audience. It stands out in my career." This movie has a key concept that focuses on let-

Kalaposhakulu, Allantha Doorana, and Jai Sena belong to different genres like comedy, melodrama, should be raised. Children grow up the way their parents raise them. Nurturing makes children good and bad. Every human being has a psychic feeling. But parenting can reduce it." Vishva also confessed that he was initially not interested

in listening to the story, but he was impressed by the way it was narrated by his director, Ramakanth Reddy. "The way it was narrated with the tight screenplay. I couldn't figure out what was going on until the climax. A storyboard has also been prepared beforehand. Our director has a very clear vision. I simply did what he told me to," told the actor, adding that

I simply did what he told me to," told the actor, adding that the entire film was shot in live locations without erecting any sets. He is also happy that Annapurna Banner has come for-ward to release the film in Telugu-speaking states. Although the film is getting good feedback from fellow actors and others from the industry, the actor had an inter-esting thing to say, which was: "I like people who give neg-ative feedback more than people who give positive feedback. We can learn from negative feedback."

Moreover, he also has an Indonesian project in the pipeline, which will see his *Kaliyugam Pattanamlo* co-star play the female lead. Having said that, Vishva concluded the interview by saying he wants to create an impact in the industry and that 'whatever Vishva does will have a good message'.



Manjummel Boys to entertain the Telugu audience on April 6

Aking inspiration from a real event that occurred back in 2006, the Malayalam survival thriller movie Manjummel Boys, which tells the story of a bunch of pals hailing from Kochi, made history by becoming the first Malayalam film to amass Rs 200 crore in the global market. The film, directed by Chidambaram S. Poduval and featuring Soubin Shahir, Ganapathi, Khalid Rahman, and Sreenath Bhasi in the lead, was an instant hit among the Malayali audience. The film received a landslide Pan India production house Mythri Movie Makers is bringing

this Indian box office sensation to the Telugu audience. The production and distribution company acquired the Telugu rights, and they have now announced the release of the movie in AP and TS on April 6 as a summer attraction.

The Telugu version is presented by Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar Yalamanchili. Shyju Khalid cranked the camera, while

PRASHANTHI HARATHI ROOTING TO RETURN TO TOLLYWOOD SOON

K. RAMYA SREE

ctress Prashanthi Harathi, with her stint in films like *Pellam Oorelithe* and *Indra*, has gained a good fanbase for herself in a very short time; however, she could not enjoy all the atten-tion that she was getting from the industry at that time as she got married and moved to America with her family, where she started a Kuchipudi dance school named Omkara

school named Omkara. However far one might go, passion always draws them to do what they love the most. The same is happening with Harathi, as she now wants to return to Tollywood with some good projects. The actress was in Hyderabad, and she interact-

ed with the media here on Tuesday, where she expressed that she is now making a re-entry in the industry as there is more exposure to acting now with the advent of OTT and more.

She expressed, "In most movies, we remember some characters who are more important to the story than the heroine. For example, look at the character of Sunil's wife that I played in Pellam Oorelitheshe is very innocent. Still, the innocent wife character is what she is known for. I want to be pivotal in such stories and act in important roles. There is a lot of innovation in movie content compared to the past. Web series and movies are innovative. If I get good character offers like this, I want to act in OTT web series and short films along with movies. I am available in Hyderabad for good work now."

of opportunities with web series and OTT content. Seeing these opportunities, I felt that I should come back to Tollywood. I want to showcase my passion as an actress," she expressed. She also runs a dance school in the US, which has been receiving great response from the people there. Harathi shared that it was her wish that our dance forms reach the future generation as well, and she started the dance school with the same ambition.

Actor

The Pioneer, sharing some

details about the upcoming

film, the key concept of

the film, and

more.

"I have been teaching 'Kuchipudi' dance to children interested in classical dance. Children there do not know Telugu. I used to explain the meaning of classical dance songs in English. My daughter Tanya learned Kuchipudi dance from me. With our daughter Tanya, we made a music video titled *Telugu Culture*. The music video was conceptualised and produced by noted director V.N. Aditya. Tanya is now 16 years old. "Our family has no objection to sending Tanya to the film industry if there is a good oppor-tunity suitable for her age."

Actress Prashanthi Harathi, who is all set to make her re-entry in Tollywood, speaks to the Hyderabadi media here, sharing her feelings on the comeback, teaching

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Banita Sandhu commences shooting for *G2* in Bhuj

Banita Sandhu, known for her stellar performances in films like October, Sardar Udham, and Adithya Varma, is gearing up for an exhilarating new adventure as she begins shooting for G2 in Bhuj, Gujarat. The eagerly anticipated seguel to the 2018 hit Goodachari promises to be an electrifying cinematic experience, and Banita Sandhu is thrilled to be a part of it. G2 marks Banita's first pan-India project, set to be released in multiple anguages, showcasing her versatility to audiences nationwide Expressing her excitement about the project, Banita has earlier stated, "This is my first pan-India film, and I'm

Sushin Shyam provided the music. Vivek Harshan is the editor, and Ajayan Chalissery is the production designer.

Manjummel Boys will be released in Telugu with the same title.

"There were only movies and serials then. There were no OTTs. Now, young actors are getting a lot

Kuchipudi dance, and more.

visionary team. It is a role done before, and I can't wait for audiences to see me in a completely fresh avatar. Working on this movie will be a creative delight for me." Banita Sandhu's foray into the international arena has been met with resounding acclaim, setting her apart as a talent to watch on the global stage. Joining Banita in this exciting endeavour is her co-star Adivi Sesh, who warmly

welcomed her to the G2

anticipation for an amazing collaboration. The

camaraderie between the two actors promises to

oring an extra dimension to the sequel, enhancing the overall viewing experience for the audience.

As shooting commences in Bhuj, anticipation for *G2* continues to soar, with fans eagerly awaiting updates and alimpses from behind the

scenes.

world, expressing

so excited to collaborate

with such an incredible.

Nani to strengthen Tollywood ties with UK

ctor Nani is known for making unique films that not only appeal to the youth but also the family audience. From his debut film to the latest *Hi* Nanna, he is one actor in Tollywood who has a huge fan base from all sections and categories of the audience. While the actor is busy with his huge line-up of upcom-

ing films, British Deputy Commissioner of the Telugu States, Gareth Wynn Owen, met Nani in his Hyderabad office to discuss strengthening UK links with Tollywood. Sharing the pictures, Gareth wrote on his X handle: "Absolute pleasure to meet @NameisNani to talk about his career behind and in front of the camera and how we can strengthen UK links with #Tollywood."

He also asked netizens to suggest to him some movies about Nani that he must watch. To this end, many netizens began to tell him to watch Hi Nanna, Ashta

Chamma, Jersey, and others. That being said, the exact discussions from the meeting have not yet been revealed. However, his fans are very happy that Nani will only make Tollywood even more proud of this tie-up.

JANHVI KAPOOR FINISHES *DEVAR*

Billywood diva Janhvi Kapoor seems to be becom-ing a Tollywood favourite now with impressive looks in tra-ditional attire, be it in *Devara* Part 1 or the launch of RC 16. While the actress is making her Tollywood debut with Devara alongside Jr. NTR, she already bagged her second film opposite anoth-er big star of South cinema, Ram Charan.

As we recently mentioned, Janhvi Kapoor was in Goa shooting for *Devara*, which also includes a song. She posted on Instagram stories on Tuesday, announcing that she had wrapped up shooting for the film. Sharing a picture of a sunset from Goa, the actress wrote: Sharing the picture, the actress wrote "Can't wait to come back and be #Thangam again. #Devara." As the first look poster for the actress suggests, Janhvi plays a village belle in the movie, directed by Koratala Siva. The film, which is almost done with its shooting, will release in theatres on October 10 this year.



Vijay Antony's Love Guru offers a lighthearted, engaging story

Actor Vijay Antony became very popular among the Telugu audience after the massive success of his film Bichagadu. It was after that film that the actor began to release most of his films in Telugu. He is making his first romantic film in his career now. Titled Love Guru, the film stars Mrinalini Ravi as the female in this Vinayak Vaidyanathan directorial. Being released by Mythri Movie Distribution in Telugu states, the film had its trailer released on Tuesday in Telugu. In the trailer, Priya, the girl, is shown as someone who, unable to defy her father, grudgingly consents to an arranged marriage. When it comes to marriage, she does, however, place certain requirements on her potential spouse. A young man who likes Priya and, out of love, accedes to all of her demands is the protagonist of the novel. He quickly learns that after marriage, they provide difficulties, despite his one-sided devotion and acceptance of her rules. Insinuating that Love Guru will be appealing to both young and family audiences, the trailer offers a lighthearted and engaging perspective on whether he really knows how to love his wife. The film will be released in the theatres of the Telugu-speaking states on April 11.

PRITHVIRAJ SUKUMARAN AS THE MYSTERIOUS MAN BEHIND THE MASK IN *BADE MIYAN CHOTE MIYAN*

Celebrated as one of the most gifted and powerful performers in Indian cinema, Prithviraj Sukumaran is widely known for his versatility and brilliant big-screen portrayals. Currently gearing up for his next film, Aadujeevitham (The Goat Life), the actor

is all set to win audiences with his devilish avatar in the action thriller Bade Miyan Chote Miyan. Present at the film's trailer launch on Tuesday, he essayed the character of Kabir and received immense love for his voice-over and presence in the trailer. Introducing Prithviraj Sukumaran as the mysterious man behind the mask in the film's trailer, co-star Akshay Kumar said at the launch, "You will become his fan after watching him in the film." Written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar and produced by Ali Abbas Zafar, Jackky Bhagnani, Vashu Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Himanshu Kishan Mehra under the banners of Pooja Entertainment and AAZ Films Bade Miyan Chote Miyan also stars Sonakshi Sinha, Manushi Chhillar, Alaya F, and Ronit Roy in pivotal roles. The film is scheduled to hit screens on Eid, April 10, 2024.