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PADUKONE INSPIRED SUMMER LOOKS!



AstraZeneca

Ram Charan makes a splash in Chennai for Game Changer



The pioneer Hindus and Muslims should vote for BJP to bring Hyderabad into the mainstream. Lotus should bloom in Hyderabad. For 40 years, Razakars' representatives have been sitting in Hyderabad. Free Hyderabad from Razakars. Nobody needs to fear. Nobody has guts to touch even one person of Hyderabad -Amit Shah, Union Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Vax that failed to shield?

'Who would be responsible

A political row erupted on Tuesday over the issue of "side effects" of Covishield vaccine, with the Samajwadi Party alleging that the BJP took "com-

mission" from the manufacturer of the Covid jab

and the RJD accusing the Centre of administering

"wrong" vaccine to people of the country.

Who would be responsible for people dying of

heart attacks, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) asked

Modi over the issue and alleged that the PM has

played with the lives of people. "Is this Modi's guarantee?" UP Congress chief Ajay Rai asked.

The Uttar Pradesh Congress also attacked

for heart attack deaths'

PNS NEW DELHI/VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pharma giant's admission on side effects of its vax shakes up world

90% of Indians got Covishield jab

PNS NEW DELHI

In a revelation that has shaken many parts of the world which is yet to recover from the ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic, pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has admitted that its widely used vaccine 'Covishield' can cause Thrombosis Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), a serious condition suffered by some vaccine takers, with symptoms including blood clots and alarming platelet levels.

The company has claimed that Covishield causes TTS in "very rare cases". However, media reports suggest that it has downplayed the situation to stave off a flood of lawsuits. Going by legal challenges across the globe, AstraZeneca may have to eventually cough up millions of dollars in legal

At least 90% of Indians are vaccinated with the AstraZeneca shot, which is produced by the Serum Institute of India under a licence.

Eminent epidemiologist Dr Raman

Gangakhedkar has gone on record that the risk of rare side effects is the highest after the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but lowers with the second and is lowest with the third.

According to him, only seven to eight individuals out of every 10 lakh who received Covishield face the risk of experiencing TTS. "If a side effect has to happen, it will show up within the initial two to three months," Gangakhedkar added. Gangakhedkar, who was the face of

the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) during government briefings on Covid-19, said: "Within six months of the launch of the vaccine, TTS was recognised as a rare side effect of the adenovirus vector vaccine. There is nothing new or change in understanding of the vaccine."

British-Swedish AstraZeneca, along with Oxford, developed its Covid vaccine that is sold under brand names 'Covishield' and 'Vaxzevria', among others.

Continued on Page 2

6 cr in TG, 8.6 cr in AP got Covishield jabs

PNS HYDERABAD

As per the CoWin Dashboard, 174,94,17,978 doses of Covishield vaccine have been administered in India of total 2,20,68,66,587doses. Of these, nearly 6 crore doses of Covishield were administered in Telangana. Of the total 7,76,28,443 doses of all vaccines administered 6,02,97,519 are

Covishield in Telangana. Nearly 11,10,45,274 crore vaccines, including 8.6crore doses of Covishield, were administered in Andhra Pradesh.

Expert panel probe sought Plea in Supreme Court PNS NEW DELHI

A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Wednesday seeking constitution of a medical expert panel under the supervision of a retired apex court judge to examine any possible side effects and risk factors of the Covishield

EC bars KCR from campaigning for 48 hrs

CM: Khabardar PM, how dare you threaten me in TG?

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for threatening him, saying: "This Telangana is my village, my region. Will you threaten me here? Telangana society is not a blind one; nor is it an innocent one. Kabardar Prime Minister, you are trying to threaten me by coming from Gujarat to Telangana. I have seen it for the last 20 years. Will Revanth Reddy be afraid of your cases?"

Addressing the Korutla Jana Jatara public meeting on Wednesday, Revanth Reddy observed that Modi would meet the same fate as Nizam Nawabs if he wished to rule the nation by spreading fear. He reiterated that the upcoming elections were certainly between 'Gujarat domination and Telangana valor. Revanth Reddy said, "The Central

government gave donkey's eggs during the last 10 years of its rule and Modi brought donkey's eggs on Tuesday. Modi is seeking 400 seats to change the Constitution. The BJP is trying to threaten us by using Delhi Police."

Revanth Reddy said that AICC leader Rahul Gandhi took a decision on conducting caste census after speaking to intellectuals during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. He alleged that the Congress helped Dalits, tribals Revanth Reddy said, "The donkey's eggs during the last 10 years of its rule and Modi brought donkey's eggs on Tuesday. Modi is seeking 400 seats to change the Constitution. The BJP is trying to threaten us by using Delhi Police.'



AMIT SHAH'S DOCTORED VIDEO

CM's lawyer appears before Delhi Police

vations. But the BJP was trying to they would abolish reservations. destroy reservations. He dared BJP

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth

appear before the IFSO unit of Delhi

Police that is probing the case of a

Amit Shah's speech, a senior police

Revanth Reddy's lawyer appeared

Wednesday after summons were

doctored video of Home Minister

official said on Wednesday.

before the Delhi Police on

issued against the Telangana

Reddy has sought more time to

PNS NEW DELHI

and minorities by extending reser- to seek votes by admitting that

Congress chief and four members of

the Pradesh Congress Committee for

investigation on Wednesday at 10:30

allegedly posting the video on X.

am. The official, who requested

anonymity, said that Reddy has

Cell that is probing the case.

sought more time to appear before

the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic

Operations (IFSO) unit of the Special

Continued on Page 2

They were asked to join the

Polling time in TG extended to 7pm

The Election Commission on Wednesday reprimanded Bharat Rashtra Samithi president K

Chandrashekar Rao and barred him

from campaigning for 48 hours for

his 'objectionable' remarks against

bus yatra. Later, addressing people

at Mahabubad he said, "I need to end

the campaign before 8 pm. I am giv-

ing a call to all the BRS workers, I

am banned from campaigning for 48

hours. Then you should campaign

for 96 hours. EC won't put a ban on

The EC said his remarks at a press

conference in Sircilla on April 5 were

Revanth Reddy who abuses me."

KCR took the notices during his

PNS HYDERABAD

Considering the prevailing situation of hot summer and heat waves in the State, the Eelection Commission of India has increased the hours of poll in certain Telangana Assembly seg-ments of all 17 parliamentary constituencies.

Polling starts at 7:00 am and conclude at 6:00 pm across all parliamentary seats in Telangana. Elections are to be held in Telangana on May13.

violative of the provisions of the model code of conduct and its advisories. The English transcript of his statement provided by the EC in its order shows he used invectives

against the Congress which rules Telangana.

In his reply to a show-

cause notice issued by the poll authority, Rao had claimed that his

words were 'twisted.'

He also said the local

poll officials could not follow the local Telugu dialect.

The 48-hour ban of the former Telangana chief minister comes into force at 8 pm on Wednesday. After

ing for 48 hours in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. In his reply to a show-cause notice issued by the poll authority, Rao had claimed that his words were 'twisted' He also said the local poll

Congress leader Randeep Singh

Surjewala, KCR is the second politi-

cian to be banned from campaign-

officials could not follow the local Telugu dialect. The order served on him remind-

ed that Rao had violated the poll code in the past elections too.

While strongly condemning him, the Commission used its constitutional powers to ban him from campaigning.

A Congress leader had moved the poll panel against the BRS chief.

Hyd should be freed from Razakars: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that Hyderabad should be freed from Razakar by people casting their votes to BIP candidate Madhavilatha. He said that the Razakar has been representing Hyderabad for the last 40 years. He appealed to the people whether they may be Hindus or Muslims; they

should cast their vote freely. While participating in a road show in the Old City from Lal Darwaja Mahankali temple to Sudha Talkies on Wednesday night, Amit Shah said that there is no need to fear of anyone.

He said, "We will make Narendra Modi as PM for the third time. Ensure the victory of the BJP in 400 seats. No need to fear in Hyderabad. Nobody cares to touch others. Every voter should cast their vote on BJP's lotus button to ensure the victory of BJP candidate Madhavilatha.'



BRS leader Krishank arrested in forgery case

Undeclared emergency in State, says KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS leader Krishank Manne was arrested on Wednesday in a forgery case. This is in regard to the letter of Osmania University Warden declaring a holiday to hostellers due to water scarcity. He has been produced before the court. The cops claim the letter was manipulated. BRS filed a complaint with the EC over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy sharing a circular regarding

holidays in Osmania University. Over the same circular issue, a complaint was filed on Tuesday against BRS leader Krishank Manne in OU police station. BRSV also

lodged a complaint against CM Revanth Reddy in OU police sta-

Krishank was detained by the police earlier on Wednesday at Panthangi toll plaza. He was arrestunder IPC Sections 469,465,468,417,471,505 (1) (b) &

(c) IPC. His wife Suhasini Krishank questioned on the need to take him alone. BRS MLA KTR said, 'Krishank's arrest is atrocious and illegal! Krishank is the voice of people's movements, a symbol of Dalit consciousness and a reflection of

Continued on Page 2

High number of heat wave days in May: IMD

Above normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country in May, and a significantly high number of heat wave days is expected over the northern plains, central region, and adjoining areas of peninsular India, said IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Wednesday.

A prolonged and intense spell of heat wave scorched swathes of east, northeast, and southern peninsular India in April, prompting health warnings from government agencies and some states to suspend in-person classes in schools.

Five active Western Disturbances led to rain, thunderstorm, and hailstorms over north and central India at regular intervals in April, preventing heat waves, the India Meteorological Department's director general told a press conference.



IMD data shows that the heat waves in April this year were far worse than in 2023, the warmest year on record so far.

This trend is likely to continue in May, with around eight to 11 heat wave days predicted over south Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Gujarat and Telangana may record five-

regions, Mohapatra said.

The remaining parts of Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and some parts of Chhattisgarh, interior Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, north interior Karnataka,

seven heat wave days in the month,

Normally, the northern plains, central India, and adjoining areas of peninsular India experience around three days of heat waves in May.

Above normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country in May, except for most parts of northeast India, some parts of northwest and central India, and adjoining areas of northeast peninsular India where normal to belownormal maximum temperatures are likely, the IMD said. Above normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country except the northeast and some areas of northwest India, Indo-Gangetic plains, and the central region.

Normal rainfall (91-109 per cent of the long-period average) is predicted in the country in May.

HC serves notices to MLAs Kadiam Srihari, Tellam Venkat Rao

PNS HYDERABAD

The High Court has issued notices to MLAs Kadiam Srihari and Tellam Venkat Rao, who won the Telangana Assembly elections as candidates of the BRS party and later joined the Congress party. The High Court directed them to file a counter to this. On the other hand, following the orders of the High Court, the lawyer for the government handed over the disqualification petition against them to the Speaker's office. With the matter of these notices, turmoil started in Telangana politics. Kukatpally MLA and BRS leader KP Vivekananda wanted to disqualify Kadiam Srihari and Tellam Venkata Rao who won from the BRS party and later joined the Congress.

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | MAY 2, 2024



Parties gear up as election campaign reaches final stage

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

The Lok Sabha elections along with Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections have reached the final phase in the Telugu states as only 10 days are left for the election campaign. It may be recalled that the polling will be held in Telugu states on May 13. With the campaign of top-level leaders of all parties the political heat is beating the summer heat. Even though not able to read the public pulse in the Telugu states, the major political parties are confident of their victory in the elections.

In Telangana, the Congress, BJP and the BRS are fighting in the Lok Sabha elections. In Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress, TDP-led alliance consisting of Jana Sena and the BJP, the Congress are fighting in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Surveys conducted by various organisations on the elections in the Telugu states is creating confusion in the political parties.

In Telangana, the voice of surveys is almost the same about the Lok Sabha elections. But regarding Andhra Pradesh



organizations have revealed dif-

ferent opinions. Some organisa-

tions said that YSR Congress is

going to win in the Assembly

elections while some organisa-

tions said the TDP alliance is

going to win. Despite what the

surveys say, the fight between

the political parties in the Telugu

states has become interesting.

The top leaders of various polit-

ical parties are trying to divertt

the people towards their parties

with their campaign.

In Telangana, Chief Minister
A Revanth Reddy of the

Congress, BRS president K

Chandrasekhar Rao and from

the BJP, Prime Mnister Narendra Modi, Union Home

Minister Amit Shah, in addition

to local leaders are the key

campaigners. In Andhra

Pradesh, Chief Minister YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy, TDP pres-





The elections in the Telugu

states for BRS president KCR in

Telangana and for TDP presi-

Andhra Pradesh are very important, because personally, KCR and Chandrababu and also their parties' future is depended on the outcome of these elections. In Telangana, in the Lok Sabha elections, the fight is triangular between the Congress, BJP and the BRS. In Andhra Pradesh, in the Assembly elections and in the Lok Sabha elections also, the main fight is direct between the YSR Congress and the TDP

dent N Chandrababu Naidu in

Rahul, Priyanka to campaign in TG

Congress national leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are coming to Telangana to participate in the election campaign. Rahul Gandhi is coming on May 5 and will participate in a public meeting to be held at 11am at Nirmal in Adilabad Lok Sabha constituency On the same day, Rahul Gandhi will participate in Gadwal public meeting in Nagarkurnool Lok Sabha constituency. Rahul Gandhi would come again on May 9th to participate in Saroor

other hand, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi is coming to Telangana on a threeday tour. Priyanka Gandhi would come on May 6 and 7 and will go to Delhi on May 8 and will come back on May 9.Priyanka Gandhi would participate in the first public meeting at Yellareddy on May 6 at 11am. On the same day, Priyanka would participate in a second public meeting at 3pm at Tandur. On the same evening, Priyanka would participate in

If Revanth wants to wipe out traces of KCR, he has to demolish Yadadri: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS working pPresident KT Rama Rao said that Telangana itself should be eliminated if KCR's footprints are to be eliminated in Telangana.

KTR concluded that neither Chief Minister A should be demolished if Revanth Reddy nor his fore-KCR. KTR participated in Telangana itself should be lected Rs 30 lakh crore in the the May Day celebrations eliminated if we wants to name of cess in these 10 held at Telangana Bhavan eliminate KCR's traces in years. We are paying duty

and said, "After many struggles we achieved Telangana. Miracles have happened in the achieved Telangana. Revanth Reddy says he will wipe out signs of KCR. Yadadri temple, Secretariat, Ambedkar statue and Command Control Centre KCR's footprints have to be wiped out. Above all this,



Telangana. Because KCR is what Telangana is all about."

every day. The Centre says cess is for national highways. But toll is being collected on every national highway. They collect toll in one direction and cess in another direction. Modi has waived loans of Rs 14-and-a-half lakh crore to Adani and Ambani, even if they are big corporate." KTR challenged, "If Bandi Sanjay what I am saying is wrong, I will resign from the post of

Where was your respect for Constitution?



PNS ■ HIMMATNAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday questioned the Congress's respect for the Constitution and said Muslim women have suffered under its rule as he referred to the Rajiv Gandhi government overturning the Supreme

Court judgment in the Shah and ensured its implementation in Jammu and Kashmir by He said the Congress never removing Article 370 which dared to ban the practice of provided special status to the instant triple talaq due to vote-

bank politics. Hitting back at the Congress for claiming the BJP will change the Constitution in its third term in office, Modi said the opposition party could not implement the statute book in the entire country during its decades-long rule.

Addressing a rally in Himmatnagar town of north Gujarat in support of BJP's Lok Sabha candidates for Sabarkantha and Mehsana seats, the PM asserted he was committed to the Constitution erstwhile state.

"Congress leaders are now claiming the Constitution is in danger and reservation will be abolished. In reality, the Congress could not implement the Constitution in the entire country during its 70year rule. Our Constitution was not implemented in Kashmir...It was Modi who did it because Modi is committed to the Constitution,"

emphasised the BJP stalwart. Modi said it was his government which gave reservation rights to Dalits, tribals and

OBCs in Kashmir by implementing the Constitution there after removing Article 370.

"Modi works to protect the sanctity of the Constitution in every corner of India. Dalits, tribals and backward classes have already rejected the Congress. The BJP has the highest number of MLAs and MPs from these communities," he noted.

The PM hit back at the opposition INDIA bloc over its "BJP will change the Constitution" narrative and referred to the then-Congress government's decision to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling in the Shah Bano Case of

Continued from page 1

Normal to above normal rainfall is likely over most parts of northwest India, and some parts of central, peninsular and northeast India. Below normal precipitation is likely in the remaining parts of the country, the IMD said.

India saw two spells of heat waves in April — from April 5 to 7 and April 15 to 30.

Mohapatra attributed the prolonged heat wave spell over east, northeast, and south peninsular India in April to the absence of thunderstorms and persisting anticyclone at lower levels over the west central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining eastern coasts of

This caused the sea breeze to cut off over Odisha and West Bengal on most days, he said.

The IMD said south peninsular India recorded an average maximum temperature of 31 degrees Celsius in April, which was the second-highest

The mean temperature in east and northeast India was the highest since 1901, the weather office said.

The IMD chief said above normal maximum temperatures have become frequent over south peninsular India since 1980s. The region record ed 12.6 mm of rainfall in April, which was the fifth lowest since 1901 and the second lowest since 2001.

Mohapatra said the number of heat wave days this April was the highest in 15 years in Gangetic West Bengal and nine years in Odisha.

Odisha also experienced the longest heat wave spell (16 days) in April since 2016.

Amid the prevailing but weakening El Nino conditions, the IMD had earlier warned of extreme heat during the April-June period, coinciding with the seven-phase Lok Sabha elec-

Hundreds of thousands of voters had to cope with the searing heat when they stepped out to exercise their franchise in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections on April 26. Polling for 94 constituencies across 12 states will take place on May 7.

The weather office had earliwave days in different parts of the country in April against a normal of one to three days.

'MODI HATAO, DESH BACHAO'

Kharge: Unite to save Constitution, democracy

polls.

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday called on voters to follow the slogan 'Modi Hatao, Desh Bachao (Remove Modi, Save the Country), urging

them to unite to Constitution and democracy in the country by electing Congress candidates in the Lok Sabha

Kharge was addressing a public meeting here in favour of Congress candidates for the May 7 Lok Sabha polls, the second phase of polling in Karnataka.

Accusing Modi of inciting fights, Kharge said that while Modi "says Hindu-Muslim for everything, this (Yadgir) was a part of Nizam (Hyderabad) state. Hindus and Muslims have celebrated each other's that even your 'mangalsutra' festivals together. Many Hindus here had Muslim to Muslims.

names like Nawaz Reddy, among others.

While addressing a public meeting here, he said, "There were never fights (between communities) here. Modi has come to create a rift.

Rift is being created by Modi between people who were living together trusting

The Congress has an intention to do a caste census in the country,

Kharge said, adding, "It is to know how many graduates are there in a family, to know does the family have a land or not? What is their income? -- To know this we want to do a caste census.

"But, Modi is telling people that Congress wants to do an X-ray. He is saying that Congress wants to know about the extent of gold and land will be taken away and given

Expert panel probe...

Continued from page 1

It claimed that UK-headquartered pharmaceutical company Astra Zeneca has said that its vaccine against COVID-19, which was made under licence in India as Covishield, could cause low platelet counts and formation of blood clots in "very rare" cases.

The application, filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, also sought a direction to the Centre to compensate those who are severely dis-

abled or have died because of any side effects of the vaccine administered to them during Covid.

It claimed AstraZeneca has accepted a link between the vaccine and Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, a medical condition characterised by abnormally low levels of platelets and the formation of blood clots."After Covid-19, there has been increase in the cases of death due to heart attack and sudden collapse of persons. There have

> been number of cases of heart attack even in youngsters. Now, after the document filed in UK court by the developer of Covishield, we are compelled to think upon the risk and hazardous consequences of Covishield vaccine which have been administered to the citizens at a large number," the application said.

BRS leader Krishank arrested in forgerv...

Continued from page 1

saw emergency.' an undeclared emergency. The Congress-BJP will meet then rulers for their the matter and we will make sure justice will prevail," he

Krishank is arrested only because he questioned gully Congress party's failures and Delhi BJP's oppressions. Congress and BJP will pay a heavy price for their joint witch hunt. These dictatorial acts will be punished in Telangana people's court. Then, we

"Now, we are witnessing the same fate as faced by the onslaught on democracy. Our legal team is pursuing

CM's lawyer appears before Delhi...

Reddy's lawyer Saumya Gupta told reporters here that the handle through which the video was shared did not belong to Reddy.

That account is not owned by the Telangana CM," Gupta said after meeting the Delhi Police's investigating officer at the IFSO office in Dwarka.

The summons were issued to Reddy and four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee

Continued from page 1

Revanth Reddy said that the

BJP-led Central government

did not give additional Krishna

waters for the sake of Hyderabad

people. "Modi is seeking votes by

insulting Telangana". He said

CM: Khabardar PM...

(TPCC) members - Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Tasleem, Satish Manne and Naveen Pettem - under Sections 91 and 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). According to police sources, if a person is served notice under Section

a legal representative. Addressing an election rally in Nizamabad Lok Sabha con-

that he would present before the Delhi Police. BJP may have

CBI, ED and IT, but the

Congress has 4 crore people of

Telangana. He said he would not

be afraid of cases. He alleged that

Modi was trying to sell the

nation to corporate entities.

160/91 of the CrPC, the person

can either make a physical

appearance before the IO or send

stituency in Telangana on Wednesday, Reddy said a case has been registered against him in Delhi based on the complaint of the Union Home Ministry. "I questioned the BJP. When I did that, PM Narendra Modi

resorted to a vengeful attitude and registered a case against me in Delhi," he alleged. The notices had been hand-

and Home Minister Amit Shah

ed over by teams of Delhi Police's Special Cell to the Chief

Congress office at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday."You come to my state and threaten the CM, but the people of Telangana won't be

scared.... "Khabardar (be mindful) PM you may think that you can threaten by coming to Telangana. This is my place. This is my territory. You are threatening me on my soil," Reddy said at the rally on Wednesday. The Special Cell of Delhi Police had on Sunday registered an FIR after the İndian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), filed a complaint about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious ground in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Tithi: Navami: May 02 04:01 AM to May 03 01:53 AM Dashami May 03 01:53 AM to May 03 11:24 PM Nakshatram: May 02 03:11 AM Dhanishta: to May 03 01:48 AM Shatabhisha: May 03 01:48 AM to May 04 12:06 AM 1:48 PM to 3:23 PM Yamagandam: 5:53 AM to 7:28 AM 08:30 AM to 09:59 AM Varivam: 9:03 AM to 10:38 AM 04:00 PM to 05:31 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:38 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Sunny **Temp:** 42°° Humidity: 20% Sunrise: 5:50 AM

Sunset: 6:37 PM

Updated: May 1, 2024 5:00 PM

'Who would be responsible for heart...

Continued from page 1

UK-headquartered pharma giant AstraZeneca has admitted that in "very rare cases", its COVID-19 vaccine, which is known as Vaxzevria in Europe and Covishield in India, can cause a blood clotrelated side effect but the causal link is unknown, according to court papers being quoted in the UK

In India, the AstraZeneca UP's Etah.Dimple Yadav, wife by the Serum Institute of India.

Attacking the ruling BJP over the issue, SP national general secretary Shivpal Yadav said, "It has been exposed now that they have taken commission in vaccines too. Low quality vaccines and medicines were given to the people." Shivpal Yadav was talking to reporters in

of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, said people were "forcibly" administered Covid vaccines in the country.

"A donation of Rs 200-300 crore was taken (by the BJP) and they (company) were given permission to sell the vaccine. People were forcibly administered vaccines. The corruption in manufacturing the vaccine has come to the fore due to which people are

dying now," said Dimple Yadav, who is the SP candidate from Mainpuri Lok sabha seat.

"Akhilesh ji had said that we would not get the vaccine administered because till then the vaccine was not tested. Now, the number of heart attacks has increased in the country and people are suffering from serious diseases due to this haste," she told reporters in Etah.

Vax that failed to...

Continued from page 1

The vaccine was initially rolled out in 2021, amid millions of deaths due to Covid-19 across the world.

In 2021, the 'rushed rollout' was criticised by many in the scientific community and questions were raised about the propriety of rushing vaccine administration. In just three years, AstraZeneca faces class action suits over claims that its vaccine caused serious injury or death in dozens of cases.

For, in legal documents submitted to the UK High Court in February, the pharmaceutical giant accepted that its COVID-19 vaccine "can, in very rare cases, cause TTS".

"Ít is admitted that the AZ vaccine can, in very rare cases, cause TTS. The causal mechanism is not known," the company said in the document, world due to its grave implica-

Curiously, the company added in the document: "Further, TTS can also occur in the absence of the AZ vaccine (or any vaccine). Causation in any individual case will be a matter for expert evidence."

Lawyers for the pharma giant, in a letter of response sent in May last year, had previously contended: "We do not accept that TTS is caused by the vaccine at a generic level". Hence, the pharma giant's recent statement is seen as a 'confession'.

Medical claims against the company

According to media reports, the first case against the company was lodged by Jamie Scott, father of two, who was 44 when he received the vaccine. Ten days after the jab,

which has since shaken the Scott complained of tiredness and started vomiting. Soon after, his speech got impaired, and he had to be taken to the hospital, where physicians diagnosed him with a suspected case of Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VITT). Although he survived the ordeal, he was left with a per-

manent brain injury.

to Scott, 51 other cases have been lodged against the company, with victims and grieving relatives seeking damages estimated to be worth up to £100 million (\$125.36 million). Lawyers for the victims

Apart from the one relating

argue that the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine is 'defective' and that its efficacy has been 'vastly overstated'. AstraZeneca has strongly denied these

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ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

BITS Pilani Hyd hosts delegates from German institutions

Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, hosted a delegation from the University of Magdeburg and three esteemed German institutes - Heidelberg University, University of Cologne and Freie Universität, Berlin, at its premises on Wednesday for

academic partnership.

This visit prepared the grounds for further engagement and consisted of dialogues enhancing collaboration, especially in student mobility, joint research initiatives, dual/double degree programmes and faculty

exchanges.
Prof. Soumya Mukherji, Director, headed the BITS Pilani, Hyderabad campus delegation, which also included eminent faculty members and department heads. The key representatives of Magdeburg University included Prof. Jens



Strackeljan, Rector, and Dr Susanne Schmidt, Vice-Rector for Studies and Teaching.

Possible areas for cooperation were explored during the visit, comprising semiconductors, biosensors, humanities and social sciences, automotive engineering, and robotics, matching the emerging opportunities at the global level. The discussions have been of particular interest in the context of the establishment of Intel's 'Silicon Junction' in Magdeburg, which revealed good opportunities for cooper-

ation in semiconductor

research. Prof. Soumya Mukherji said, This will be a major step in collaboration and research, creating a strong bedrock for innovative research and transformative educational oppor-

We shall work towards cocreating solutions to some of the world's biggest problems while also empowering the next generation of scientists

and technologists."

Prof. Sanket Goel, Dean,
Research and Innovation and Professor of EEE, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad said, "Considering the huge initiatives to start CoE in semiconductors, IoT Sensors and AI domains, we are llooking forward to collaborate in terms of joint research and exchange visits." Prof. B Mishra, Associate

Dean, International Programmes Collaboration and Professor of Mathematics, said, "By delving into shared areas of research and education, this partnership will fortify our international ties, fostering innovation and advancing knowledge in key

TSHCL spent Rs 7,344 cr from 2019 to '24, reveals RTI

PNS HYDERABAD

A Right to Information petition has revealed that the Telangana government spent Rs 7,344.75 crore from 2019-2024 on housing.

In its response to an RTI filed by activist Kareem Ansari, the Telangana State Housing Corporation Limited (TSHCL) revealed that it spent the amount for welfare schemes. During 2019-2020, the expenditure was Rs 2360.71; during 2020-2021 the expenditure stood at Rs 2254.11 crore; during 2021-2022 the corporation spent Rs 969.29 crore; during 2022-2023, the expenditure was Rs 997.08 and in 2023-2024 it stood at Rs 763.56.

Speaking on the issue, Ansari said, "Generally, the Telangana government spent well under welfare schemes. However, the funds allocated to housing reduced drastically in the last three years."

HOME VOTING FROM MAY 3 TO 6

525 candidates in fray for 17 LS seats in State: CEO

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj said that 525 candidates are contesting for the 17 Lok Sabha seats in the State. Out of them, 425 candidates are male and 50 female.

On Wednesday, Vikas Raj spoke to the media at BRK Bhavan in Hyderabad where he said that from April 18 to 25 about 893 candidates have filed 1,488 nominations. Out of those, 428 nomination papers have been rejected and 100 candidates have withdrawn their nominations. From among the 525 candidates, a total of 125 candidates are independents.

"A total of 155 CAPF companies will be deployed for the election. Already, the first phase has come and second phase will come soon. In all, 60,000 police personnel, including uniformed batches from other services will be deployed for the election.

Adding to that, 20,000 personnel will be deployed from other states also," Vikas Raj mentioned.

Highest candidates are contesting from Secunderabad constituency with 45 and lowest is in Adilabad segment with 12 candidates. Seven constituencies require three ballot units (BU), nine constituencies require two BU and one constituency needs only one BU, which is Adilabad.

A total of 23,248 voters would franchise their votes at

their homes. Home voting wil be held between May 3 and 6. Vikas Raj requested the candidates to appoint the party's Booth-Level Agents (BLA) so they can follow the Booth Level Officers when they go for distribution of voter informa-

tion slips. Many of the candi-

dates have not appointed their

In all, 192 approvals have been given to the political parties for advertisements, 1,227 complaints have been received from the 1950 call centres and 5,232 permissions given through Suvidha.

A total of 3,32,32,318 voters are going to cast their vote for the Lok Sabha elections. Out of them, 1,65,28,366 are male voters, 1,67,01,192 are female and 2,760 are third gender voters. Among them, 9,20,313 are aged between 18 to 19 years, 1,93,754 voters are senior citizens and 5,27,486 are people with disabilities (PwD)

Cyberabad Police arrest notorious dating fraudster

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cybercrime sleuths in Cyberabad Commissionerate on Wednesday apprehended an accused named Megaraj Dinesh in a dating fraud and for extorting money from innocent public by creating fake social media IDs. He has created fake accounts in various dating applications. With the cheated money he spent in betting applications. Two cases have been against him in 2023 and 2024.

The fraudster created a user ID using a woman's profile with the name 'Swetha Shetty' in the 'QuackQuack' dating application and sent a request to the victim. The accused manipulated the victim as a woman and extorted Rs 4,09,200 under the guise of urgent needs.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of Cyber Crimes Shilpavalli advised citizens not to contact or share personal information to any others over the Internet.

Watch out for suspicious behavior such as professing love too quickly, refusing to meet in person or via video chat, or constantly asking for money.

If you've been a victim of a dating scam, don't hesitate to seek support from friends, family, or professional counsellors. It's important to address any emotional or financial repercussions.

The Commissioner of Police has appreciated B Ravinder Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Cybercrime, K Ravi Kumar, Inspector of Police, Cybercrime and other officers who were involved in identifying and arresting the wanted and notorious cybercrime offender.

Last date without late fee for TSICET extended

PNS HYDERABAD

In view of demand from the candidates aspiring for TSICET, Prof. R Limbadri, Chairman of Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), Hyderabad, has accorded approval for extension of last date without late fee for the Telangana State Integrated Common Entrance Test (TSICET-

Earlier, the last date for TSICET-2024 was scheduled till April 30 without any late fee for registration and submission of online application forms. Accordingly, the last date for registration and submission of online application forms of TSICET-2024 is extended up to May 7 without late fee.
Prof. T

Ramesh, Chairman, TSICET-2024 and Vice-Chancellor, Kakatiya University, and Prof. S Narasimha Chary, Convener, participated in the event.

Heatwave continues in TG; temp soars to 43.1°C in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

The heatwave continued to prevail in Telangana as Nalgonda recorded the highest maximum temperature of 46.6 degrees Celsius and Hyderabad recorded a maximum temperature of 43.1 degrees celsius; the Indian Meteorological Department -Hyderabad (IMD-H) said. As per the IMD H report on

May 1 dry weather prevailed over Telangana; on May 2, heat wave is likely to prevail over districts including Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtiyal, Rajanna Sirsilla, Karimnaga, Peddapally, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabd, Kamareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthi, Narayanpet Jogulamba\Gadwal.

On May 3, a prolonged heatwave is expected to prevail in Karimnagar, Peddpalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool and Wanaparthy. Other districts are likely to experience a

are likely to prevail in the state on May 4. On May 5, prolonged heatwave is likely to prevail over districts including Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtiyal. Rajanna Sirsilla, Kamareddy, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthi, Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal.

Telangana is likely tro experience light to moderate rains on May 6 and 7. As per the report of the Telangana State Planning and Development Society (TSDPS) dry weather is expected to prevail in Telangana from May 1-4. Areas under the Greater

Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) are likely to experience dry weather from May 1-4. The maximum temperature is expected to remain between 41-43 degrees while the minimum temperature is expected to remain

between 28-30 degrees Celsius.
Among areas under the GHMC, Kapra recorded a maximum temperature (43.5) follwoed by Saroornagar, Santoshnagar, Jubilee Hills, Charminar and Uppal (43) Khairatabad (42.9) and

TG DPH issues advisory against heatwave

elangana Director of Public Health on Wednesday issued guidlines amid the prevailing heatwave in the State. The public has been urged to stay hydrated, drink sufficient water as and when possible, even you are not thirsty. Use Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), and consume homemade drinks like lemon water, butter milk or lassi with some added salts, fruit juices etc; Carry water during travel Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables with high water content like water melon, musk melon, orange, grapes, pineapple, cucumber, lettuce or other locally available fruits and vegetables. The authority further stressed

on staying covered wear thin loose cotton garments preferably light colored; Cover your head: use umbrella, hat, cap, towel and other traditional head gears during exposure to direct sunlight: Wear shoes or footwear while going out in sun.

ECI seizes Rs 212 cr in cash and other items

PNS HYDERABAD

Since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has seized Rs 212 crore in cash, liquor, drugs and other items.

On Wednesday, Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj said that Rs 81 crore in cash, Rs 46 crore worth of liquor, Rs 26 crore worth of drugs and narcotics, Rs 30 crore worth of precious metals, Rs 27 crore worth of other items have been seized till May 1 in the State.

A total of 6,560 prohibition and excise cases have been filed, 287 NDPS cases, 309 IPC cases, 29 Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP) cases have been filed since the MCC came into force.

Officer (DEO) Ronald Rose said that as per the MCC rules the ECI seized Rs 1.89 crore and Rs 4.32 crore worth of other items from Tuesday 6 am to Wednesday 6 am. In 24 hours time 4,797.33 liters of liquor was seized and cases registered against six persons.

A total of Rs 21.57 crore in cash and Rs 13.76 crore worth of goods have been seized by various enforcement teams since the MCC came into force in the district.

In all, 261 cases have been registered and 258 people have been arrested after seizing 26,416.28 liters of liquor.

So far, 551 complaints about cash and other items have been received and resolved. FIRs have been registered against 354 people and 3068 licenced arms were deposited in the police sta-

electoralsearch.eci.gov.in

DCA seizes medicine over misleading advertisement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) on Wednesday seized 'Colinol-SPAS' tablets from a medical shop in Nampally for making misleading advertisements claiming it can treat disorders of menstrual flow, which is a contravention of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objec tionable Advertisements) Act,

During raids on Tuesday and Wednesday, the DCA officials detected 'Colinol-SPAS' tablets manufactured and marketed by Vivimed Labs Ltd, Kashipur, Uttarakhand. The label of the product made a misleading claim by indicating that it can treat 'spasmodic dysmenorrhea, menstrual disorders'.



Trainee IAS officers visit HMWSSB office

PNS HYDERABAD

As part of a two-day visit, 16 trainee IAS officers from Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand states, who are undergoing training in Mussoorie, visited the GHMC office on Friday to study best practices in the municipal corporation.

As part of the one-day orientation programme, a team of six trainee IAS of 2022 batch visited the Water Board on Wednesday. They learnt about the works and practices of the pumping with heavy motors as the final stage.

MD Sudarshan Reddy explained to them about the performance of the board, water supply to the city, Sewage Treatment Plants (STP), sewage treatment management and future plans and projects.

He elucidated about the

method of supplying drinking water through huge pipelines to the metropolis of Hyderabad. Apart from this, he explained about the process of water purification in different stages, chlorination and

PNS HYDERABAD

25-year-old accused Nagaraju Raghu Varma on Wednesday for portraying himself as a police offi-cer with fake police ID cards and kidnapping and extorting money from them by using illegal firearms in an organised manner in the limits of Madhapur

He was working as a recovery agent in the Bajaj company. He is a resident of Veeravasaram in Bhimavaram district of Andhra Pradesh and a native

The Madhapur police mentioned that he was an 'arms offender' as he had engaged in unlawful activities such as cheating the innocent people portraying himself as a police officer in the limits of

A total of nine cases have been filed against him since 2017 in Sanath Nagar, Panjagutta, RC Puram, Miyapur, KPHB and Madhapur.

PD act invoked against a fake police officer

A Preventive Detention order has been passed against police station.

of Tadepalligudem in West Godavari district.

Madhapur police station.

Defence Ministry announces interest-free loans for startups

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Announcing interest-free loans for young start-ups developing sub-system components, Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Giridhar Aramane said, "We will ensure our 16 companies support and extend interest-free loans along with Finance Ministry guaranteed support to ensure defence startups receive adequate funding with reduced capital costs.

T-Hub, India's startup incubator, has announced a boost for the domestic

defence and aerospace sector with the launch of the SIDBI-T-Hub funding programme and the signing of several strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with industry players. Unveiled during the National Defence and Aerospace Innovation Summit (DIAS), this initia-tive marks a step towards nurturing a powerful defence and aerospace solution hub in India. It highlights a firm commitment to driving innovation, encouraging collaboration and safeguarding national security. Addressing the gather-



ing, Aramane emphasised that defence procurement primarily prioritises local sourcing, with imports being exceptions that cannot be violated once approved.

He stressed the need for

innovation in supplying

equipment to the defence

months, more than 100 contracts have been signed for emergency procurements, many of which are exclusively designed, developed and manufactured by Indian companies. He also said, acquisitions

in the previous year (2022-2023) include high-end equipment such as tanks, combat kits and even smaller spare parts. Aramane highlighted that orders are placed following develop-ment and stated the government was committed to ensuring returns for domes-

Life conviction passed on rape convict

PNS HYDERABAD

A life conviction was passed to a rape convict on Tuesday as per POCSO Act in Meerpet police station.

The Fast Track Special Judge for expeditious trial and disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases, Rangareddy District at LB Nagar, convicted the accused Nagar, convicted the accused Pastham Ramulu (40) S/o Narasimha, R/o Lenin Colony, Meerpet, Colony, Meerpet, Rangareddy district, for life conviction and imposed a fine of Rs 82,000 and awarded a compensation to the victim of Rs 15,00,000.



DOCTORED VIDEO OF SHAH'S SPEECH

Revanth is accused No.1: Kishan

Union Tourism Minister and BJP State unit president G Kishan Reddy on Wednesday alleged that Chief Minister Á Revanth Reddy in his capacity as Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president posted Union Home Minister Amit Shah's deep fake video on Congress Party's official account.

Kishan Reddy made it clear that Revanth Reddy should own the total responsibility. He expressed the view that Revanth Reddy was the first accused in the case.

The Union Minister warned that they would not let off whoever it may be in a fake video issue. He said that they could make the accused "count the bars of the jail."

Kishan Reddy said, "Video morphing cases are also as serious as phone tapping cases.

SI suspended

for derelection

Multi-zone-1 Inspector

He reviewed the progress on the PDS rice cases during

his visit. He also reviewed the

PDS rice seized on April 20

under the limits of Tandur

police station limits. He placed SI Jagadish under sus-

pension on the charge of

dereliction to duty and on the

basis of several allegations

levelled against him.

of duty

PNS RAMAGUNDAM



BJP Telangana unit president G Kishan Reddy speaking to the media in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Two are criminal acts only. Congress has indulged in a fake campaign regarding reserva-tions and BRS has indulged in a fake campaign on making Hyderabad a Union Territory. People understood about these politicians' activities and

the same fate". While addressing the media on Wednesday at the State BJP office, Kishan Reddy alleged that CM Revanth

already BRS was out of power

and Congress would also face

Reddy threw the 6-guarantees to the wind spoke about the Constitution and posted morphed videos

Finding fault with Revanth Reddy for comparing Gujarat domination and Telangana valour, Kishan Reddy asked Revanth Reddy to tell whether he participated in the Telangana movement.

The INC means Italy National Congress, Kishan Reddy said.

Kishan Reddy alleged that

were sending suitcases to Delhi to collect money in the name

Kishan Reddy alleged that the people are ready to ensure the victory of Modi for the third time. However, Congress and BRS jointly indulged in venomous campaigns against the BJP. Revanth Reddy has adopted a soft attitude towards former chief minister K Cchandrashekar Rao's corruption. Both Congress and BRS are trying to obstruct the victory of the BJP using AIMIM as a middlemen. However, people won't believe Revanth Reddy's overaction, he was

Kishan Reddy said that Revanth Reddy believed that the Congress came to power because of him. The reality is that the people voted for the Congress out of anger against

SSC result: Khammam dist slips three ranks this year

PNS KHAMMAM

General of Police AV Ranganadh on Wednesday In Khammam district, out of issued orders placing Sub-Inspector K Jagadish of 16,541 students who appeared for SSC public examinations, Tanduru police station under 15,258 cleared the examinasuspension for showing dereliction of duty in checking the smuggling of the PDS rice. tions, achieving a pass percentage of 92.24.

The pass percentage among the boys was 90.53 as against the 94.06 per cent among the girls. In all, 1283 students have

In the SSC public exam results, Khammam district ranked 21 this year as against the last year's 18th rank.

Bhadradri-Kothagudem district improved its rank to 94.06 per cent as against the last

year's 78.53 per cent. The district improved its ranking to 26 as against the ranks off 29 and 30 secured by it in the last three

In all, 87 schools, including 57 government schools, in the district achieved 100 per cent result. A total of 70 students secured 10/10 GPA. Of all the private schools, one school got zero result during this year.

District Collector Priyanka Ala congratulated head masters, teachers and officials of the education department and the students who secured 10

Tribal Welfare Residential Schools under the

jurisdiction of the ITDA, Bhadrachalam have secured 91.11 result this year. The residential schools at Rama chandrunipeta, Karakagudem, Ankampalem, Bheemuni gudem, D Gollagudem, Parkulagandi, Regalla Thanda, Anantogu, Gangaram, Anantogu, Gangaram, Mamakannu, Markodu and Sambhuni gudem secured 100% result.

The social welfare hostel students at Aswaraopeta, Dammapeta, Gundala and Illendu have secured 100 per cent result.

The residential schools in Khammam region have secured 98.90 pass percentage.

Govt will issue ration cards soon: Ponnam

PNS SIRCILLA

Minister for Transport Ponnam Prabhakar has hinted that the State government would issue new ration cards to all the eligible people.

Participating as chief guest at the May Day celebrations held here on Wednesday, Prabhakar said that currently model code of conduct is in vogue. Once the code is lifted, the State government will fulfil all promises, he

The government has already implemented some of the guarantees like free travel for women by RTC buses and providing LPG cylinder at a subsidised price of Rs 500 for poor families, extending free power up to 200 units to the poor, the ceiling on Arogya Sri scheme has been doubled to Rs 10 lakh, he said.

The government has plans to extend Rs 4000 as pension per month to the aged under Asaraprogramme and will implement measures to issue new ration cards, he added.

If govt fails to waive farm loans by Aug 15, I will take steps'

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has made it clear that he is ready take "any step" if the State government fails to waive the crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers by August 15.

He was addressing the booth-level Congress party workers at the MNR Gardens here on Wednesday. He asked the party cadre to make efforts in Lok Sabha elections in the same way as they worked for his victory for the party in the recent Assembly elections and advised them to campaign in the mornings and evenings keeping the present harsh summer in mind.

He exhorted the party cadre to ensure that the Congress secures more majority than that of the Assembly election. He assured the party workers that houses would be built for them. He also promised the party workers to take steps for building a huge function hall at clock-tower X roads. Further, he said that an outer



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking at a meeting in Nalgonda on Wednesday

ring round around the town would be developed a cost of Rs 700 crore.

He also assured the government employee at village and mandal levels that their prob-lems would be resolved. He assured the gathering to complete the SLBC tunnel excavation work in three years to provide irrigation facility to fields.

MLC Kavita who gave the slogan "Sir, Car and Sircar" is cooling her heels in Tihar jail. A vote that was given to the BJP or BRS would mean dropping it in the River Musi, he

dupe the public with his resig-

nation drama, he said. Nalgonda LS candidate Kunduru Raghuveer Reddy, former minister Jana Reddy, former MLC Pula Ravinder, DCC president Sankar Naik, municīpal chairman B Srinivas

Reddy, vice chairman Abbagoni Ramesh Goud, MPP Vijayalakshmi, VanguriLakshmaiah, town Congress president GummulaMohan Reddy, Mahila Congress chairperson Madhavi, councillors, sarpanches, MPTCs and other important leaders were pre-

Harish Rao the liar is out to

Man held from Hyderabad for cheating women with promise of marriage

PNS HYDERABAD

The Mumbai police have arrested a man from Hyderabad for allegedly cheating a number of women of lakhs of rupees across several states after promising to marry them, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused would contact unsuspecting women on matrimonial sites and swindle large sums of money promising marriage, they said.
The man, identified as

Imran Ali Faiz Ali Khan, was apprehended by personnel of Mumbai's Pydhonie Police Station on Tuesday, an official

The crime came to light when a 42-year-old woman from the Pydhonie area lodged a police complaint against the accused for cheating her of Rs 21.73 lakh after coming across her profile on a matrimony site, he said.

Khan came in contact with the woman in 2023 through the matrimonial site and promised to marry her, said the official.

Between May and October 2023, he sought money from the woman under various pretexts. The woman paid him Rs 21.73 lakh on different occasions in cash as well as through

online transactions, he said. When he reneged on the promise of marriage, the woman lodged a complaint and subsequently a case was registered at the Pydhonie Police Station under IPC sec-

tions 406 (criminal breach of

trust) and 420 (cheating)

against the accused.

While investigating the case, the Mumbai police traced Khan's location in Hydarabad with the help of technical analysis and nabbed him from the southern city, said the official.

After interrogation, it came to light the accused had cheated several women in different states, including Maharashtra, using the same modus operandi, he said.

Khan faces at least eight cases in Hyderabad and two in central Maharashtra's Parbhani district, the official added.

Jagdish Reddy terms arrest of Krishank as 'kidnap'

PNS NALGONDA

Former Minister G Jagadish Reddy has expressed the view that Revanth Reddy has been shaking a like leaf following Delhi police serving to him

Addressing the media at the BRS office here on Wednesday, he alleged that BRS social media in-charge Krishank has been abducted by unidentified persons at Chautuppal.

He demanded that the state government respond immediately if he was taken into custody by the police. He threatened to lodge a complaint on the issue with the Election Commission.

He charged the police with foisting cases against social media and Youtube journalists and alleged that the police have been acting like



Former minister Jagadish Reddy speaking to the media in Nalgonda

the Congress workers.

The false cases have been slapped against BRS activists and they have been asked to meet ministers. Contractors are being threatened to stop He predicted that the

Congress rout in the forth-coming Lok Sabha elections. He demanded that the DGP immediately tender an answer on the whereabouts of Krishnak He dared Iana Reddy for a debate on the development in Congress

After KCR's Bus Yatra, the Congress leaders have been trembling with fear. He was confident when he said that the BRS is going to win 16 LS

He is ready for a debate with Jana Keddy on the development of Chalakurti in the last 35 years. If an opportunity is given to the Congress or the BJP in the elections, they would destroy Telangana, he said adding that KCR has the key for the ills of Telangana.

Justice Sirpurkar panel report on Disha case stayed

PNS HYDERABAD

A Single Bench of the High Court has issued a stay order on Justice Sirpurkar Commission's report on Disha case on Wednesday. It has ordered that no action would be taken against police officers as per the commission report.

Seven police officers have approached the court over the Sirpukar Commission report on Disha case. After hearing the arguments, the court has ordered a stay order on the Commission report.

It may be mentioned here that the Justice Sirpurkar Commission report mentioned that police have not followed the procedure and ordered criminal action against the police officers who had taken part in the

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Land Titling Act: Jagan hits back at Oppn

Says TDP responsible for inconvenience caused to pensioners

PNS ■ BOBBILI\ PAYAKARAOPETA\ ELURU

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has hit back at the Opposition for their smear campaign against YSRCP on the Land Titling Act. "They are spreading misinformation on the Land Titling Act. People were flooded with messages and IVRS calls regarding the same, and they are using every medium to tarnish Jagan's image. However, even in the remote villages, my true leadership qual-

ities are recognised." "The Act aims to provide land rights to individuals. The last time, the land surveys were conducted during British rule. Nowhere else in the country are land surveys being conducted on the scale we are witnessing, and over 15,000 surveyors operating across 15,000 Grama Secretariats. Due to past negligence, subdivisions were carried out without proper measurements, leading to difficulties for the public in proper-ty transactions and legal disputes with

revenue officials." Addressing the public in Bobbili, Payakaraopeta, and Eluru, CM Jagan highlighted the schemes implemented by the YSRCP government including Rs 2.70 lakh crore as DBT, providing 2.31 lakh government jobs and implementing 99 per cent of the promises made in the manifesto. "Government schools and children's education have changed like never seen before under the governance of YSRCP without bribes and discrimination.

In 59 months, revolutionary changes are taking place in Andhra Pradesh," "Kurukshetra battle is going to take

place in 13 days, and I request everyone to remember that these elections will decide the future of your house and the continuation of the schemes for the next five years. If you vote for Jagan in this election, all the schemes will continue, but if you vote for Chandrababu



all the schemes will be over.

"The old man (Chandrababu) brazenly uses statements like 'What if Jagan is killed tomorrow?', if we ask of mind this man is going through?" asked CM Jagan. "Grabbing chairs, backstabbing, lies, betrayal, and murders are the Chandrababu's politics," he

"Who killed his own father-in-law and many other important leaders like Vangaveeti Mohan Ranga, Dasarathram, and IAS Raghavendra of the TDP through conspiracies? Now, who is saying that there is nothing wrong with killing Jagan? That's what I am asking in front of you," said Jagan.

"Chandrababu, I will not die! In the that I have supported with various welfare schemes will save their leader," asserted the CM.

"Chandrababu prevented people from getting their pensions at home. Nowhere in the world is the politics so miserable than Andhra Pradesh because of Chandrababu," said Jagan.

Displaying the TDP's 2014 manifesto schemes," he added.

home with the signature of three alliance partner leaders, he said, Jagan is killed tomorrow: , it we conquestions like why people should vote for Chandrababu. But he is responding 25,000 deposit if a girl child is born under the Mahalakshmi scheme, and "Farmers' loan waiver of Rs 87,612, Rs 2,000 as unemployment benefits every month. Did any one of these things happen?"

pamphlet, which was sent to every

Further the promises of three cents of land, BC sub plan with Rs.10,000 crore, Women Protection Force, develop the State on par with Singapore, and hi-tech city in all the districts were not fulfilled by Chandrababu, said Jagan.

'Again they are back to cheating again with promises like Super Six. We are at war with people who lie and deceive

The Chief Minister asked the people last 59 months, the people of the State to vote for 'Fan' if they want the volunteers to deliver services at the doorstep, continue all the schemes without bribes and discrimination, and improve children's education, schools, and health

> Over 95 per cent of the population in the State has Aarogyasri cards and benefits from the medical insurance

Bandi warns Revanth against denigrating BRS and RSS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Karimnagar Lok Sabha candidate Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday warned Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of serious consequences if the latter continued to denigrate the BJP and RSS.

Sanjay said, "We will not hesitate to take legal action. The CM is enacting a drama with the fear that his Chief Minister post will snatched if BJP wins majority of seats. The drama of cancellation of reservations is part of Congress conspiracy. Congress was in power from 2004 to 2014. Why didn't the Justice Venkatachaliah Commission's report come out? If people are protesting about six guarantees... the cancellation of reservations is being dramatised to

divert the discussion".

While addressing a gathering at Karimnagar, Bandi Sanjay asserted that the BJP would sweep the election despite the drams being enact-



Bandi Sanjay Kumar

ed by the Congress. Congress and BRS are competing for the second position in Karimnagar. What did BRS candidate B Vinod do except writing letters? What Transport Minister was doing?

Bandi Sanjay organised a roadshow with Union Minister Murugan in Karimnagar. Bandi Sanjay alleged that CM Revanth Reddy got scared when it was concluded that BJP would win in Telangana. CM is talking in this manner because he is afraid of losing the CM seat if BJP wins.

BJP is in the habit of resorting to Goebbels' propaganda: Harish

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders and former minister T Harish Rao on Wednesday accused the BJP leaders of resorting to Goebbels propaganda. He cautioned the people against falling prey to the propaganda being unleashed by the BJP.

Harish Rao, along with BRS Sabha candidate MedakVenkatrami Reddy, undertook a door-to-door campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao alleged that fake videos were created from Dubbaka and released to mislead people. He appealed to the people not to fall prey to the Goebbels propaganda being unleashed by the BJP.

He said that the people were giving a rousing reception to Venkatrami Reddy in the constituency. He expressed the confidence that the BRS would score victory in Medak Lok Sabha con-



T Harish Rao

stituency Harish Rao demanded that the Congress government fulfil all the promises it made to the people ahead of Assembly elections. The government has been dragging its feet in implementing elections promises on the pretext of the Model Code of Conduct. He said that the BRS would launch an agitation if the government failed to imple-

ment the promises.

BJP distanced itself from manifesto release?

Manifesto promises copied from YSRCP and Congress

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The differences among the NDA allies – TDP, BJP, and JSP -- were exposed once again during the joint manifesto release on Tuesday, as the BJP leader's photo-

Chandrababu Naidu and JSP chief of it at all; it is just the Telugu Desam Pawan Kalyan were printed. Besides, the inordinate delay in releasing the manifesto led to another debate. BJP AP in-BJP leader who shared the dais; howev-

Party-Jana Sena manifesto. The manifesto release programme was delayed by around four hours. According

charge Siddharthnath Singh was the lone to reliable sources within the alliance, there was a significant reason for delay. Initially, er, he refused to hold the manifesto a large photo of PM Modi was placed brochure during the media conference. there. However, the BJP leaders criticised The message conveyed through the Chandrababu and Pawan, questioning graph was missing on the manifesto brochure. Photos of only TDP supremo the Bharatiya Janata Party is not a part wasn't part of the manifesto. release of the common manifesto is that why Modi's picture was there while he

Coast guard exam paper leak gang busted in Kota, 6 held: Police

With the arrest of six people, police in Rajasthan's Kota have claimed to have busted a gang that was allegedly involved in the Indian Coast Guard exam question paper leak incident. The arrests were made on Tuesday A care and making it. incident. The arrests were made on Tuesday. A car and mobile phones containing the question paper of the exam held on April 20 and April 22 as well as admit cards of aspirants were seized from the possession of the accused, police said. The gang used to charge

anywhere between Rs 10 and" Rs 15 lakh for leaking the paper and solving the questions through remote access, they added. The six accused were produced before a court on Tuesday and sent to police custody till May 5. On April 23, the Kota city police was tipped-off about suspicious people travelling in a car near the Rajrani Tower, IT Park. The police was also informed that the suspects were likely to be involved in the paper leak incident, Superintendent of Police (Kota city) Amrita Duhan said in a press release



Four children drown while bathing in Saryu Canal in UP's Bahraich

our children drowned while taking a bath in the Saryu Canal here on Wednesday, police said. The police identified the victims as Choini (10) her sister Mahi (14) along with Aanchal (12), and Rahul (13), residents of the same village. Kotawali Nanpara SHO Rakesh Kumar Singh said the children had gone to take a bath in

the Saryu Canal in front of the Gram Sabha Girdharpur. "While bathing, all the children

were swept away with the strong current of the canal," the SHO said Following this, the police rushed to the spot and fished out the bodies of Choini and Aanchal on Wednesday afternoon. Rahul was rescued by the divers from the canal but he

succumbed on his way to the hospital, he said. Mahi's body was also recovered later in the evening, he said The bodies were sent for postmortem. Further investigation is underway, he added



Woman with no cash in hand contests LS polls in Odisha

25-year-old woman with no cash in hand and a bank deposit of only Rs 20,625 is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Odisha's Koraput Lok Sabha seat, According to her affidavit. An art graduate, Pramila Pujari, was fielded by the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist). "I don't have enough money to compete with wealthy candidates in the fray, but my confidence is high. I will have an impact

in the election," Pujari said. A daily labourer by profession, she claimed that voters from her area would contribute to her campaign. Despite financial constraints, the SUCI(C) has arranged a vehicle for her campaign, Pujari said. "I will hold door-to-door outreach programmes and organise small gatherings across clusters of villages," she said. Pujari said she was associated with the party's student wing, the All India Democratic Student Organisation, since 2016



BJP will not remove quota, nor will it allow Cong to do so: Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Bharatiya Janata Party will never do away with reservations for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class, nor will it allow the Congress to do so.

Congress' tactic was to lie repeatedly, he alleged, and advised its president Mallikarjun Kharge not to speak lies for the sake of the "family" (referring to Nehru-Gandhi family) as eventually he would be blamed for its loss in the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking at a rally at Katghora town in Chhattisgarh in support of Saroj Pandey, the BJP candidate from the Korba constituency, Shah accused Congress of nurturing terrorism and Naxalism to win elec-

"Congress has one formula speak lies loudly, publicly and keep repeating them. They say if (prime minister Narendra) Modi gets majority

for the third term, he will scrap reservations. They circulated my fake video. We have been in power for ten years, Modi did not remove reserva-

tions, nor will he ever do it," the

BJP leader said. The PM used his majority in Parliament to scrap Article 370 and ban triple talaq, construct the Ram temple in Ayodhya and introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Act,

"I have come to give you Modi's guarantee that as long as there is even one BJP MP in Parliament, we will neither remove the reservation for STs, SCs and OBCs, nor will we allow the Congress party to do

so," the Union minister added.

Targeting Congress president Kharge over his statement at a rally in Janjgir-Champa on Tuesday, Shah said, "Kharge ji says, if Modi comes to power, the poor will be destroyed. I want to ask Kharge ji, didn't 25 crore poor people benefit when they were brought out of poverty? Isn't giving ration to 80 crore poor people beneficial for the poor? Didn't the poor

of 12 crore toilets, giving of gas cylinders to our mothers, providing tap water in their homes and treating seven crore peo-ple (through health insur-

Why the Congress president was lying for the family, he further said.

"Kharge ji, you do not know that they do not care for anyone.....As Congress suffers a defeat on June 4 (when results of the Lok Sabha elections will be announced), the brothersister duo will remain safe, but the 80-year-old Kharge ji will be blamed," Shah said, in apparent swipe at Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. If Modi gets another term as prime minister, Naxalism will be uprooted from Chhattisgarh in two years, the home minister vowed. Accusing the previous Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government of encouraging Naxalism, he said after the BJP came to power, 95

Prez Murmu pays obeisance at Ram temple in Ayodhya

PNS AYODHYA (UP)

President Droupadi Murmu paid obeisance and performed aarti" at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday. Before visiting the temple in the evening, Murmu took part in the Sarayu "aarti" and performed puja at the

Hanumangarhi temple here.
"President Droupadi Murmu had darshan and performed puja at Shri Hanuman Garhi temple, Ayodhya," the president's official X handle said in a post on the microblogging platform. Earlier in the day, the president was received at the Ayodhya air-port by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.

This was Murmu's first visit to Ayodhya since the newly-built Ram temple's consecration ceremony was held on January 22.



People don't know judges don't have weekend holidays: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said people who criticise that the apex court and high courts take long vacations don't understand that judges don't have holidays even on Saturdays and Sundays.

The observation came from a bench of justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said those who criticise that top court and high courts take long vacations does not know how judges work.

The issue of vacation came up after the apex court, which posted the West Bengal matter for arguments on Thursday, told both the sides that arguments be concluded before the apex court goes on summer vacation, which will commence from May 20.

'All those who criticise that Supreme Court and high courts are on long vacations, they don't know how judges work," Mehta told the bench when it was hearing a lawsuit filed by the West Bengal government that has accused the CBI of going ahead with its probe without securing the prerequisite nod from the state.

"People who criticise, they don't understand that we don't have holidays on Saturdays and Sundays.

There are other assignments, conferences," Justice Gavai

Mehta, who was appearing for the Centre in the West Bengal matter, told the bench that judges of the top court deal with 50-60 cases on a daily basis and they deserve vaca-

"It is the toughest job in the country," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was also appearing in the matter, said.

The bench said during vacations, the judges write judgements in cases heard by them. "Long judgements have to be written during vacations," the

bench observed. It said the judgement in the matter can then be written during the summer vacation. "People who do not know

the system, criticises it," Mehta

FIRING OUTSIDE SALMAN KHAN'S HOUSE

Accused 'ends life' in police custody

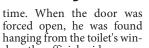
PNS MUMBAI

A 32-year-old man arrested in hanging from the toilet's winoutside Bollywood actor Salman Khan's residence here allegedly hanged himself in the police lock-up on Wednesday, an official said.

Anuj Thapan, the deceased, was accused of supplying weapons to the shooters who opened fire outside Khan's residence in Bandra on April 14 and arrested by the Mumbai crime branch.

He hanged himself with a piece of bedsheet in the toilet of the first-floor lock-up, located in the crime branch's building inside the police commissioner's office compound in south Mumbai, the official

The incident came to light at 1 pm when a crime branch official noticed that Thapan was in the toilet for a long



He was rushed to the nearby state-run Gokuldas Tejpal hospital where he was declared dead during treatment, the official said.

There were five other accused in the lock-up at the time of the incident. Two coaccused of Thapan in the firing case had been taken out for investigation, the official said.

Thapan and Sonu Kumar Bishnoi (32) were arrested by a crime branch team from Fazilka in Punjab on April 26. The two had allegedly supplied weapons to shooters Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta for firing at Salman Khan's residence.

As per the police, the duo visited Panvel near Mumbai on March 15 to deliver two country-made pistols and 38 live rounds to Pal and Gupta.



Leftist trade unions demand eight-hour workday

Wednesday demanded strict hour workday at a gathering to mark the International Workers' Day.

Left Front chairman Biman

the Shahid Minar grounds here, the unions emphasised the importance of maintaining an eight-hour workday for labourers, expressing concerns over potential efforts to extend daily working hours.

They advocated for preserving the dignity of labour by guaranteeing eight hours of rest, eight hours of recreation, and eight hours of work each day.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, CITU West Bengal state president Subhash Mukherjee urged upon workers to make informed choices in the Lok Sabha polls, stressing the need to halt the privatisation

of government entities. He emphasised the importance of generating employment within Bengal to prevent migration to other states

Congress leader Priyanka

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Leftist trade unions on

Bose was present at the flag hoisting ceremony at the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) state headquarters here on the occasion. During a congregation at

Himanta has 'secret understanding' with Ajmal: Priyanka PNS DHUBRI (ASSAM)

Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday alleged that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has a "secret understanding" with AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal just like the BJP has with AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi in Telangana, both aimed at defeating the grand old party.

Addressing an election rally at Balajan in Dhubri district, she alleged that "mafia raj" prevails in Assam and charged the CM with being involved in multiple scams in the state.

She also hit out at the BJP on the sexual abuse allegations against Karnataka MP Prajwal Revanna and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought votes for him and did not stop him from leaving the country.

She was campaigning for ongress Hussain, who is contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Dhubri, a bastion of AIUDF. He is locked in a triangular contest with sitting MP Ajmal and BJP-backed AGP candidate Zabed Islam, a former

"BJP and AIUDF have taken



local politics to a different direction. Both parties have a secret understanding. Assam CM, in an interview, said that Badruddin wanted him to be the CM from his heart," Vadra

Telangana by allying with Owaisi so that they could divide Congress votes. Wherever we are strong, Badruddin has put up AIUDF candidates only because he wants the BJP to win," she claimed.

any developmental work has been done by Ajmal in Dhubri despite being a Lok Sabha MP for three terms.

"He (Ajmal) himself says that he is a businessman. He is doing only business with you, not politics and service. Wherever he is seeing profit, he

They did the same thing in is going there," Vadra said, accusing Sarma of favouring Ajmal's perfume business by tweaking state policies.
"Both PM Narendra Modi

and Himanta are running governments for the billionaires. Modi, Himanta, Badruddin Aimal -- all are the same. They want elections to be four any issue other than people's issues," she claimed.

Lashing out at the BJP-led government in the state on the law and order situation, Vadra alleged, "There is a mafia raj in Assam. Mafias are operating in land, supari (betel nuts), sand, coal and various other sectors.

Bomb hoax at schools: IS angle suspected, Delhi Police to probe

PNS NEW DELHI

The anti-terror unit of Delhi Police has started investigations into the bomb threat email sent to over 130 schools in the Delhi-NCR region, as the initial probe hinted at a deeper conspiracy by a terror group during the Lok Sabha elections, officials said on Wednesday

A case has been registered under relevant sections of law for offences like conspiracy and threat by the Special Cell and a dedicated team formed to conduct the investigation, an offinational security. It needs a

deeper probe," the official said. In a scare of unprecedented scale, over 130 schools in the Delhi-NCR area received an identical bomb threat by email early Wednesday, triggering mass evacuations and searches as panic-stricken parents rushed to pick up their children.

The threat was declared a hoax as "nothing objectionable" was found during searches, the police said.

According to the police officer, the email ID from which the was sent is 'sawariim@mail.ru'. Sawarim is

"The matter is related to an Arabic word extensively used by the terror outfit Islamic State (IS) in their propaganda videos over the past several years, the official said.

"Kill them wherever you meet and drive them out of the places from which they drove vou. There are many explosive devices in the school...," reads the identical email sent to all schools

The officer said that the email also contained "aayate (verses) of the holy Quran".

The investigators are looking into the timing angle too as the country is in the midst of Lok

exciting to see how our blood

pressure scores can be used to

address more clinically relevant

questions in the future," last

author Helen Warren, a senior

lecturer in statistical genetics at

Queen Mary University of

"Our results provide new

London, said.

QUESTIONS EVM CREDIBILITY

Mamata raises concern over sudden rise in voter turnout

PNS FARAKKA/ BAHARAMPORE

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday criticised the Election Commission for the "delay" in releasing the final voter turnout figures for the initial two phases of the Lok Sabha polls.

She also expressed concern over the sudden increase in polling percentages during those phases

Addressing two back-to-back rallies in minority-dominated Malda Murshidabad districts, Banerjee accused Centre

neglecting the state as it has a high percentage of minority and backward communities.

The commission made public the voter turnout of the first two phases of polling, which were held on April 19 and April 26, on Tuesday evening.

According to the EC, a voter turnout of 66.14 per cent was recorded in the first and 66.71 per cent in the second phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

"The EC gave a figure of polling percentage immediately after the elections. But yesterday, I came to know about the sudden jump in final voter turnout by nearly 5.75 per cent, which is worrying. The

percentage has increased in places where voting was not in favour of the BJP. There are lots of doubts and the commission must address it," she said.

"There are apprehensions of manipulation of results by the BIP as several EVMs were missing for a long period," she said while addressing a rally at Farakka in Murshidabad dis-

The TMC supremo said the sudden spike in poll percentage is not just "disturbing" but also raises "serious

apprehensions about the credibility of EVMs". The details of EVM makers

should be made public by the Election Commission as the

BJP can stoop to any level to win elections," she said. Voting for the general elec-

tions is being held in seven phases, with the remaining phases scheduled for May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25, and June 1. The counting of votes will take place on June 4.

Both the TMC and the BJP have claimed that panic has set in the opposite camps sensing defeat in the first two phases.

Referring to BJP as a "Jumla" party only interested in "publicity" by making false promises, she said, "Did any citizen of this country get Rs 15 lakh in their bank account as promised during the 2014 election campaign?

Study examines genetic basis for blood pressure PNS NEW DELHI ent potential applications of genetic risk scores, so it will be

More than 2,000 regions on the human genome have been found to influence an individual's blood pressure and, in turn, their risk of developing hypertension, according to a new

research. Genomics is the study of an individual's entire genetic makeup, including the inter-relationships between genes, which are segments forming DNA that resides inside human cells.

Data from more than a million people were analysed to discover regions on the genome, including over a 100 new ones, linked to blood pressure. The international study, led by

London, UK, is published in the journal Nature Genetics.

"Our study found additional genomic locations that together explain a much larger part of the genetic differences in people's blood pressure. Knowing a person's risk for developing hypertension could lead to tailored treatments, which are more likely to be effective," first author Jacob Keaton, staff scientist at the National Human Genome Research Institute's

(NHGRI), US, said. Several of the newly discovered genome locations were found to be within genes impor-

tant for iron metabolism. The researchers said this



result confirmed previous findings that high levels of accumulated iron could contribute to developing cardiovascular dis-

High blood pressure is known to run in families, which

points to heredity. This means that a genetic component is involved in one developing the condition, in addition to environmental conditions, such as consuming diets high on salt, lack of exercise, smoking and

consistently high blood pressure can damage the heart and blood vessels, increasing a person's risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and other conditions. As part of their analysis, the

researchers calculated a polygenic risk score to predict an individual's blood pressure and risk for hypertension. The score is arrived at by considering all of the person's genomic variants conferring risk for hypertension. The team said the scores

ferences between people's blood pressure.
"We are making our poly-

reveal clinically meaningful dif-

genic risk scores data publicly available. There are many differ-

resources for understanding biological mechanisms and importantly new polygenic risk scores for early identification and stratification of people at risk for cardiovascular diseases, Patricia Munroe, a professor of molecular medicine at Queen Mary University of London,

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Scare visits schools

A bomb threat directed at nearly 100 schools in Delhi-NCR serves as a wake-up call for all of us

mid an unanticipated cloud of fear, nearly 100 schools in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) sent students home early Wednesday upon receiving a bomb threat via email. The police conducted thorough searches, but found nothing suspicious. The scare has sent shockwaves through the community, leaving parents, educators and students grappling with a harrowing reality: The threat of terror is no longer a distant concern but a chilling presence in our midst. The sanctity of schools, once regarded as a safe haven for learning and growth, has been compromised. As we confront this sobering reality, it is imperative that we do not succumb to despair but unite in resilience and resolve. Foremost, we must commend the swift response of school authorities and law enforcement agencies in addressing these threats. Their coordinated efforts have undoubtedly helped reassure people. More importantly, our intelligence agencies need to put their act together; they are the ones who should have seen it com-



ing. We do not have enough specific information to process at the moment and no clue about the intention or the identity of the perpetrator(s); we don't know if it was a real threat or just a mischievous element playing mind games, but such threats cannot be taken lightly, especially when human lives are at risk. The threat emails, reportedly emanating from a Russian IP address, were well-planned and coordinated. Shooting in the US schools is rather rampant; Indian schools are much safer and should stay that way. All we have to do is be vigilant.

Also, this small win should not lull us into complacency. We must remain vigilant and proactive in fortify-

ing the security infrastructure of our educational institutions. Beyond bolstering physical security, we must also invest in fostering a culture of vigilance and preparedness within our school communities. Educators play a pivotal role in equipping students with the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond to potential threats. Empowering students with safety protocols and encouraging open dialogue can go a long way in mitigating the impact of terror-induced anxiety. It is equally important that we address the root causes of such terror acts. Socio-economic disparities, marginalisation and ideological extremism often serve as fertile breeding grounds for radicalisation. By addressing these underlying issues through comprehensive social policies and inclusive education, we can strive towards building a more resilient and harmonious society. It is equally important to remain calm and not panic. In times of crisis, it is easy to succumb to fear and division. However, we must remember that our strength lies in our unity and resilience. Now more than ever, we must stand in solidarity with one another, refusing to be cowed by the forces of terror. Together, we can create a future where every child can pursue their education without fear and where schools are not battlegrounds but beacons of hope and enlightenment.



Participants during a State-level bullock cart race at Thegur, in Chikkamagaluru

Democracy, economics and governance

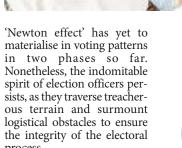


The confluence of elections, electioneering and the economy demands meticulous examination and rethinking to make the system work flawlessly

s India goes ahead with its 18th General Elections, the nation finds itself at a crossroads of democracy, economics and governance. The elections, spanning 44 days from April 19 to June 1, are poised to be the lengthiest in Indian history, reflecting both the enormity of the task at hand and the significance of the decisions to be made. Against the backdrop of a burgeoning economy, evolving political landscapes and pressing social challenges, the intersection of elections, electioneering and the economy warrants scrutiny. The magnitude of election expenditures provides a glimpse into the economic dynamics surrounding the electoral process. According to the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), the anticipated expenditure for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is staggering, surpassing Rs 1.35 lakh crore. This figure, more than double the amount spent in 2019, indicates to the monumental scale of electoral spending in the world's largest democ-

With a projected voter base of 96.6 crore, the per-voter spending is estimated at around Rs 1,400, signifying both the financial investment and the democratic imperative of ensuring widespread participation. However, it's orth noting that the Election Commission's expenditure is expected to constitute only a fraction of the total outlay, pointing towards the diverse economic activities spurred by the elec-

The Election Commission tirelessly strives to facilitate universal suffrage across the nation. Recognising the pivotal role of public figures in shaping civic consciousness, the Commission enlisted the famed actor Rajkumar Rao as its 'national icon' to galvanise youth engagement and voter turnout as the country approaches the general elections. s portraval of a dedicated poll officer in the acclaimed film 'Newton,' a poignant exploration of electoral challenges in a Naxalaffected region, resonated deeply with young voters. However, despite the cinematic depiction of electoral fervour, the anticipated



Electioneering acts as a catalyst for various sectors of the economy, fostering growth and employment opportunities across the spectrum. From hospitality and transportation to textiles and advertising, the ripple effects of political campaigns are palpable. As political parties vie for voter attention, rallies, events and promotional activities proliferate, injecting vitality into local economies and stimulating demand for goods and services. Moreover, the advent of digital campaigning has revolutionised the electoral landscape, with professional agencies employed to enhance brand visibility and engagement. The economic dividends of such strategies are evident, as digital platforms emerge as potent tools for political communication and mobilisation.

Amidst the fervour of electoral competition, political manifestos serve as blueprints for



ELECTIONEERING ACTS AS A CATALYST FOR VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, FOSTERING GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT **OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE** SPECTRUM

governance, delineating policy priorities and economic agendas. The contrasting visions articulated by major political parties underscore the divergent approaches to addressing pressing socio-eco-nomic challenges.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), buoyed by its track record and incumbent status, advocates for policy continuity and fiscal consolidation. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on infrastructure development and economic reforms, a BJPmajority Government is poised to prioritise private investment and fiscal prudence, thereby fostering economic stability and growth. Conversely, the Indian National Congress or INDI Block champions a progressive agenda focused on job creation, social welfare and agrarian reforms. Proposals such as Government-led employment initiatives, minimum support Alliance's commitment to inclusive growth and equitable development.

While political rhetoric often dominates electoral discourse, the economic imperatives transcending partisan lines merit attention. Issues such as

water scarcity, climate change and unemployment pose formidable challenges to India's socio-economic fabric, necessitating concerted action beyond the electoral cycle. The water crisis in cities like Bengaluru serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for sustainable resource management and climate resilience. Yet, the conspicuous absence of these issues from political manifestos is very disheartening. There is an urgent need for non-partisan dialogue and policy discourse on environmental sustainability and

socio-economic resilience. As India embarks on its electoral journey, the confluence of elections, electioneering and the economy offers both opportunities and challenges. While the democratic process catalyses economic activity and political discourse, the imperatives of inclusive and sustainable development tranprice guarantees and education scend electoral cycles. By tranloan waivers underpin the scending electoral exigencies and embracing a share of progress, India can realise its aspirations for a vibrant democracy and a prosperous future for all.

(The author is Delhi-based senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)

Post-poll path for infra financing!



VINOD BAHL

Modi 3.0 plans to bolster infrastructure creation post-election by expanding the infrastructure financing ecosystem

n the interim budget for FY25, infrastructure Loutlay was increased by 11.1 per cent to 11.11 lakh crore, including Rs 2.78 lakh crore for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and Rs 2.55 lakh crore for the Railway Ministry. Post-poll, the plan for a full-fledged budget for FY25 will look to raise Rs 25000 crore of finance through green bonds - higher than Rs 20000 crore raised through

green bonds in FY24. That going ahead private investment will be a big driver of infrastructure development, is evident from the National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) plan to raise USD 1 billion for its second Private Markets Fund (PMF). The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is likely to invest nearly USD 125 million. NIIF manages over USD4.9 billion of equity capital commitments across its four funds-Master Fund, PMF, Strategic Opportunities Fund and India-Japan

Fund. ed highways worth Rs 1.2 large portion of NHAI's Rs The MoRTH is looking to trillion through BOT. The 3.4 trillion debt within 5

raise a whopping Rs 60,000 crore in FY 25 through monetisation of Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) highways and NHAI InvIT. In FY 24, Rs 38334 crore was raised from ToT, InvIT and project-based financing. It is significant to mention that under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), an ambitious target of raising Rs 1.08 lakh crore has been fixed for FY25. The share of privately funded highways in the overall award of projects in FY25 is expected to meet the Government's target of 10

per cent. NHAI has drawn

up a plan to develop 53 list-

MoRTH had a healthy award project pipeline of over Rs 45,000 crore as of March 2024. Following the Government's push for private participation in high-İRB ways, Infra Development has committed to invest 10000-12000 crore in FY25, to add road capacity through Build Operate Transfer (BOT) mode. The recent modification in concession agreements, according to IRB, has bolstered investors' conbankability of projects. Further, the central Government is putting into place its plan to pare a large portion of NHAI's Rs

vears. This will free up NHAI's resources for development in the highways sector.

The energy sector is getting a big green private investment boost. REC Limited, a leader in the power sector in India has availed a SACE-covered green loan for IPY 60.536 billion to finance eligible green projects. In the power sector, besides the airport, Adani Enterprises is firming up its plans to plough USD 1 billion into these businesses. It is in advanced talks with several investors in the US and Europe to raise USD 1 billion for its Solar Panel business and Mumbai Airport. The company, which is enhancing its focus on green energy, raised USD 750 million through bonds in 2022.

The investors and Indian corporates engaged in infrastructure development are banking on political fidence by enhancing the and policy continuity for the fructification of the ambitious plan for infra financing push.

(The author is a veteran journalist; views are personal)

DOMESTIC TRAGEDY

Madam — Apropos the news article, 'Man gets life imprisonment for murdering teenage Indian wife in London," published on April 30, this is my response. The news of Sahil Sharma's sentencing for the murder of his wife, Mehak Sharma, is a heartbreaking reminder of the devastating consequences of domestic violence. The brutal act not only robbed Mehak's family of a beloved daughter but also shattered their sense of security and left them grappling with irreparable grief.

The fact that the tragedy unfolded within the confines of their own home, supposedly a place of safety, adds another layer of horror to the ordeal. Mehak's mother's poignant statement encapsulates the profound anguish and emptiness left in the wake of such a senseless loss. While the legal proceedings may offer some semblance of justice, they can never fully assuage the pain inflicted upon the victim's loved ones. It serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for greater awareness, support and intervention in cases of domestic violence to prevent similar tragedies

in the future. Aadhya Chawla | Chandigarh

GLOBAL IMPACT OF BHARAT

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Covid handling changed world's perception of India: EAM," published on April 30, this is my response. India's growth trajectory under the spotlight! External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reflects on India's changing perception abroad, citing COVID management and Chandrayaan-3 as game-changers. He highlights how decisions made domestically resonate globally, showcasing India's significance on the world stage. From bringing citizens home dur-Indian passport, India's actions garner international attention.

Jaishankar underlines India's technological prowess and socio-economic that initiates and sustains all life.

Technological deception

E ED



propos the news article, "Telangana CM summoned in Shah fake video case," published on April 30, this is my response. In today's complex political landscape, technology's role in shaping narratives is undeniable. The recent controversy surrounding doctored videos

advancements, attracting global interest in investment and exploration. The narrative shifts from India being a concern to being a source of support, showcasing its resilience and diplomatic agility. With a focus on domestic performance, Jaishankar emphasises infrastructure development and socio-political systems, which captivate foreign fascination. India's journey from a developing nation to a global player exemplifies its potential and allure on the international stage, echoing the sentiment that Bharat indeed matters.

Kabir Oberoi | Mumbai

DIVINE SYMBOLISM UNVEILED

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Astroturf | Mother calls for full alert against evil forces," published on April 28, this is my response. The intricate symbolism of the goddess's accessories ing crises to enhancing the value of the reveals profound insights into the cosmic order and human existence. The conch shell, echoing the primal sound of creation, signifies the source energy

of addressing misinformation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's acknowledgement of this issue highlights the importance of responsible information sharing in the digital age. However, the entanglement of political parties in this web of deceit further exacerbates the situation. The involvement of law enforcement, as seen with the Delhi Police's actions, signals a crucial step towards accountability. Yet, the broad-

of key political figures underscores the urgency

er implications of such manipulation on societal harmony cannot be overstated. Platforms like 'X' and social media giants must cooperate fully in identifying and curbing the spread of fake content. Ultimately, restoring trust in our democratic processes necessitates collective vigilance and decisive action against those seeking to sow discord through technological

Arya Sundaram | Chennai

Meanwhile, the lotus flower, emerging from murky waters unstained, embodies purity and detachment amid creation's diversity. The goddess's eight weapons, contrasted with her two creative symbols, underscore the perpetual struggle against malevolent forces. This juxtaposition reflects the omnipresence and potency of negativity, urging constant vigilance and defensive action.

Demons, depicted in surreal forms, serve as metaphors for internal and external threats, reminding us of the deceptive allure and insidious nature of evil. In essence, the divine imagery prompts contemplation on the balance between constructive creativity and vigilant defence in navigating life's complexities. It emphasises the importance of spiritual awareness and moral integrity in combating adversities while upholding the cosmic order.

Devansh Khatri | Jaipur

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRST COLUMN

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION CAN TRANSFORM SOCIETY

It's high time to introduce spiritual learning to save our future generations



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

All of us daily read, in newspapers, about one or the other major problem causing grave suffering to a large segment of society or mankind as a whole. These problems are classified as economic, social, political, racial, administrative, etc. and attempts are made to find solutions to them from the respective areas of human knowledge. The unjust treatment of industrial or farm labour, unfair treatment of undertrials, bride-burning, ill-treatment of women, inhuman treatment because of racial prejudices or casteism, bonded labour and abject poverty are only some problems on the long list, the top of which is the problem of armament race that threatens the very existence of humankind.

Economic and social reforms, diplomatic negotiations, political declarations and legal enactments are only some of the measures that have been adopted to solve these and other problems over the years. Even such an august body as the U.N. also has addressed itself to some of these problems through its various organs. Though all these various efforts have borne some fruit, the problems at the core remain unsolved and there has been no satisfactory and lasting solution to resolve them. The question, therefore, remains: "What are these problems due to and how can these be solved or eliminated?"

A thorough analysis would lead us to the conclusion that all these problems are directly and indirectly caused by the absence or lack of goodwill or good motives. People generally lay emphasis on creative intelligence, scientific development, courage and life full of pleasures but, it is usually forgotten that, if there is no good motive, science and intelligence may be used to promote means of mutual destruction, courage may be employed for killing and pleasures may be gained in evil ways. Hardly is it realised that if there were goodwill towards all, there would be no armament race, no racial prejudice, no bride-burning, no exploitation, no poverty and no injustice to the labour class, for goodwill is the very antithesis of all these.



Without goodwill, conferences end in bickerings, assemblies achieve nothing, resolutions are considered mere scraps of paper, economic remedies cannot prove effective and legal acts or social reforms cannot bring the desired change. The second factor essential to solving the problems of mankind is to consider the inherent worth of human personality. We must realise that every human individual is to be reverted and is not to be treated as a means for the gratification of the desires of another. No one has to be degraded, for another person's benefit, to the level of material goods and chattels or machines and tools or dolls and playthings but has to be regarded as a person. If this principle of giving respect to every being is applied in our daily lives, there would be no slavery, no bonded labour, no exploitation of the working class, no poverty, no brideburning and no ill-treatment of one by the other based on the difference in race, religion or caste.

The ultimate and lasting solution of problems lies, without doubt, in education that develops these two qualities in men and women and such an education cannot but be moral and spiritual. Trillions and Billions are spent every year by various Governments and non-Governmental agencies on solving social, economic, political, administrative and other problems without achieving the goal of ending exploitation of all sorts and thus ending class conflict, conflict, family conflict and other kinds of conflicts. This is mainly because we only talk of conflict resolution without real and practical moral and spiritual education. It's high time that the Governments and the people in power realise this and seriously do something about it & save our future generations from devastation.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)

Plug leakages in fertiliser subsidy



UTTAM GUPTA

The real reason behind the leakage is control of the MRP at an artificially low level. Dubious players have a huge incentive to divert and rake in the moolah



s part of the 100-day agenda of Modi 3.0, the Government intends to administer fertiliser subsidies more effectively and cut down on leakages and diversions to build on the success of neem-coated urea. It intends to conduct a pilot in a few districts on a modified version of the direct benefit transfer (DBT) that seeks to establish a linkage between the land holding of a farmer and nutrient consumption. A proposal in this regard mooted in 2020 is being resurrected. To make urea - a widely used fertiliser that supplies primary nutrient nitrogen or 'N' and constitutes nearly half of India's total fertiliser consumption - affordable to farmers, the Union Government controls its maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level unrelated to the cost of production/import and distribution, which is much higher. The excess cost over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer/importer as a subsidy which varies from unit to unit depending on its cost. The MRP of urea is kept unchanged (today's price is more or less the same as in 2002) even as all cost escalations are absorbed by raising the subsidy.

In the case of fertilisers supplying phosphate or 'P' and potash or 'K' which constitute the other half (call them non-urea fertilisers), there is a 'uniform' subsidy on a per nutrient basis for all manufacturers under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme. They are free to fix MRP but need to reduce it to the extent of subsidy. Even as the subsidy remains unchanged, rising costs mean ever-increasing MRPs. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC) - in consultation with states - assesses the requirement of fertilisers for each cropping season - kharif (April to September) and rabi (October to

The Department of Fertilisers (DoF) prepares an agreed supply plan to cover all the urea requirements from domestic production and import. The states allocate all of the urea arrivals and track disbursal up to the district level.

The DoF has developed a mobile and a web application - a mobile Fertiliser Monitoring System (m-FMS) that provides information

LEVEL, LEAKAGES ARE INHERENT IN ADMINISTRATION OF FERTILISER SUBSIDIES IS DESIGNED. THE GOVERNMENT MANUFACTURERS TO SELL FERTILISER AT A LOW PRICE — A PRICE IT THINKS FARMERS CAN

FUNDAMENTAL

on stock, sale and receipt of fertilisers till the last retail point. The total expenditure on fertiliser subsidy on both urea and non-urea fertilisers put together - is around Rs 200,000 crore annually. Now, when the Government talks of leakage and diversion, we are reminded of the Economic Survey 2015-16 which said as much as 24 per cent of the subsidy is spent on inefficient producers, 41 per cent is diverted to non-agricultural uses including smuggling to neighbouring countries and 24 per cent is consumed by larger, presumably richer farmers. That leaves a tiny 11 per cent going to small and marginal farmers who constitute the vast majority i.e. nearly 86 per cent of the total number of farmers.

At a fundamental level, leakages are inherent in the way the administra-THE WAY THE tion of fertiliser subsidies is manufacturers conditional upon data - on land holding, crops designed The Government asks manufacturers to sell fertiliser at a low price - a price it thinks farmers can afford. Having sold at this price, the latter claims from the former an amount equal to the excess of the cost of supply over it as a subsidy. The subsidy could have been given to the farmer directly say, by ASKS depositing the money in her bank account. But, for decades, successive Governments have preferred to route it through manufacturers. Having to deal with a handful of manufacturers instead of crores of farmers (that would have been the case if the subsidy were to be given to them directly), they have found this arrangement convenient. But, there is a big negative to it. Since the subsidy is embodied in the MRP (albeit low), the subsidised fertiliser product must reach the farmer and be used only for growing the crop. If it doesn't reach, then the benefit of subsidy is enjoyed by the person who grabs it.

After leaving the factory or the port (in case of imported stuff), fertilis-

ers travel a long distance moving by link the purchase of fertilisers with rails/roads to reach storage points in the district and further movement to retail outlets for sale to the farmers. In the initial years of the fertiliser pricing and subsidy scheme (it was introduced in 1977 for urea and

1980 for other fertilisers), manufac-

turers were given the bulk of the subsidy on the 'dispatch' of the material from the factory. In due course, the Government shifted to disbursing 95 per cent of the subsidy to urea producers and 85 per cent to producers of nonurea 'on receipt of material at a district's railhead point/approved godown' (balance 5 per cent/15 per

cent was paid on confirmation of

sales to farmers by states). In March 2018, the Government challenge. made disbursal of subsidies to The Government will need to have actual sales to farmers and these getting registered on point-of-sale (PoS) machines. But, this by itself offers no guarantee as a diversion can still happen at the retail level all the more because anybody - including non-farmers - can buy any quantity through PoS machines. All that he needs to do is to furnish his unique identity or Aadhaar num-

Meanwhile, in 2015, the Government issued an order mandating all manufacturers/importers to neem-coat all of the urea supplies. The logic was simple. Upon neem coating, it is rendered unfit for use in chemical industries; hence the manufacturers/dealers will have no incentive to divert. But, this would happen only when coating is done. This is where the rub lies. Policing of a mammoth quantity across the length and breadth of the country is well-nigh impos-

Now, apart from barring nonfarmers from purchasing subsidised fertilisers, the Government wants to

the size of the land the farmer owns. The motive behind this is to make sure that her purchase is capped at the quantum required for growing the crop only; and that she doesn't get away with excess and make money from selling at a much higher price (albeit for industrial use). The farmers' land/crop data will be loaded on her biometric card. When she goes to the retailer to purchase her requirement for the season, the PoS machine will register the number of fertiliser bags that correspond to the data embedded in the card.

The retailer will deliver this number, not what she demands orally. The idea has massive appeal. But, making it work poses a daunting

grown, nutrient status of the soil etc. on over 140 million farm households. Apart from ensuring 'full coverage, it will have to focus on the 'accuracy' of the data as well the 'accuracy' of the calculation as any incorrect figure or miscalculation could result in either shortfall or excess delivery of bags. Further, this data has to be updated on real realtime basis to account for the impact of changes in the weather/rainfall on fertiliser requirements. This apart, the Government is missing the woods for the tree.

The real reason behind leakage is control of the MRP at an artificially low level. When urea sells at onetenth the cost of supplying it, dubious players have a huge incentive to divert and rake in a moolah. They will do every bit to circumvent the rules resulting in the misuse of subsidies. The way forward is to end control on fertiliser prices and let the subsidy be given 'directly' to the farmers using DBT mode.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

The idea of rotating PMs is as ridiculous as it is impractical

INDIA bloc leaders face sharp criticism for it and are cautioned against the perilous consequences of such a move

eaders of INDI Alliance who are struggling to ✓save secularism, pluralism and the Constitution from the shackles of Fascist, Communalist and BJP should bear in mind that Indians are not village idiots. The move to have a new Prime Minister every year for the five-year tenure of the next Lok Sabha is a sure recipe for disaster. One is at a loss for words to explain what would happen to this country in the eventuality of M K Stalin, Supriya Sule, Mamata Mallikarjun Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav and Tejaswi Yadav become Prime Minister even for one day. The post of Indian Prime Minister is not name was Tarkeshwari Sinha. something that could be The modern Indian history.



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

cians who do not have any links with the grassroots-level electorate of the country. Indira Gandhi, who ruled the country for almost 15 years was a creation of the media Kharge/Rahul Gandhi, and she had an edge over others because she was a woman. There was a more competent woman at that time and her

much information about the lady, a postgraduate in economics from the London School of Economics who rose through the Congress cadre and became the deputy finance minister of the country during the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru. Sinha had no political godfathers and it was almost certain that she would have reached the top position if she had not earned the wrath of the Royal Family New Delhi. Even Indira Gandhi was not free from basic human natures like jealousy and inferiority complex. Sinha was the glamour girl of yesteryears and was at home in Hindi and Queen's English. With the passing away of Nehru, Sinha was left all alone played around as per the altered and tampered with by and there was no one to prop whims and fancies of politi- Left historians may not have up the lady who stood for free

enterprises while the Grand Old Party ended up as Nehruvians were pontificating mixed economy and socialism and crony capitalism. Many leaders in the undivided Congress party were the right persons for the top job. Over the decades, the Congress disintegrated and degenerated and the likes of Devkant Barooah and Arjun Singh emerged as power brokers and wheeler-dealers. We had Pranab Mukherjee, a politician and gentleman, whose erudition and leadership qualities were heads and shoulders above others.

But top leadership never trust-ed or liked Mukherjee, Madhava Rao Scindia, Rajesh Pilot or Jeetendra Prasada who were all right people for the right job. Congress became weaker by the day and the

a doormat for the likes of the DMK, RJD, AAP and even a letterhead organisation by the name of MDMK and its leader Vayyapuri Gopala Samy (Vaiko). Before the 1990s, Congress used to dictate terms to the above-mentioned outfits regarding the seats it would allocate to them. Now it is the other way round. Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family would decide the number of seats to be contested by the GOP from Bihar while the Samajwadi Party leaders would have the last word in the seats to be contested by it.

The roadshow held by Rahul Gandhi at Wayanad as a precursor to his filing nomination was a harbinger of the annihilation of the Congress Party. Rahul Gandhi, the

great-grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru who described the Muslim League as a dead horse in 1952, was forced not to display the party flag throughout the rally or even when he filed the nomination papers. That was the price dictated by the Sultans of Malappuram and the scion of Congress Party had no other option other than accepting their condition. One is reminded of the great

Malayalam novel Oru Deshathinte Katha (The Story of a Locale) written in 1971 by S K Pottekkat. This autobiographical novel was honoured with the Jnanapeetha Award in 1982 and remains one of the ten best novels written in Malayalam. This novel tells the story of Sreedharan and the village Athiranippadam where

he grew up. One of the characters in this great work is Kunhikkelu Melan, a scion of the Kelancherry Family, the locale's biggest and most powerful clan. This family-owned thousands of hectares of land, many hills, mountains and even forests. Kunhikelu Melan, born with a silver spoon in his mouth squandered the entire property for wine and women. When he was left with nothing other than the castle of Kelancherry, he started selling the doors and windows of the ancestral home to meet the expenses for his sundowners. "Doors and windows are installed to save the house from robbers and dacoits. If there is nothing valuable in the house, what is the use of doors and windows," Melan told the villagers when he was asked

why he was selling off the chat-

India needs a good, sincere and honest leader and we are willing to accept dictatorship to a certain level. Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, who enjoyed limitless power did not end up as despots. Richard Nixon, Margaret Thatcher, Charles De Gaulle, Francois Mitterrand and even Fidel Castro were loved by our Opposition leaders despite the aversion of these leaders to democracy and secularism. A politician should aspire for power. There is nothing abnormal in it. But he should have the ability and capability to occupy that position.

(The writer is special corre*spondent with The Pioneer;* views are personal)

Uttar Pradesh pips Tamil Nadu in monthly GST revenue collections

recording a 19 per cent increase in tax revenues in April. According to official data the GST collections in Uttar Pradesh grew 19 per cent to Rs 12,290 crore in April 2024, becoming the fourth largest contributor after Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. Tamil Nadu, which saw a 6 per cent rise in GST mop-up to Rs 12,210 crore in the month slipped to fifth place. Traditionally, GST collections in Tamil Nadu have been higher than

that in Uttar Pradesh which is the largest state in terms of population. In April 2023 Tamil Nadu's GST collection was Rs 11,559 crore while Uttar Pradesh's was Rs 10,320 crore. In March 2024, Tamil Nadu's collection was Rs 11,017 crore, compared to Rs 9,087 crore of Uttar Pradesh. In February too, Tamil Nadu's mop-up was higher at Rs 9,713 crore, against Rs 8,054 crore of Uttar Pradesh. In December 2023, Tamil Nadu's GST revenue stood at Rs 9,888 crore against Rs 8,011 crore of UP.

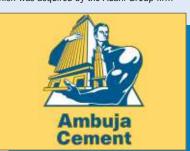


Ambuja Cements posts profit at Rs 1,525.78 cr; revenue at Rs 8,894 cr

dani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit at Rs 1,525.78 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2024. The company Anad clocked a net profit of Rs 763.30 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing. According to Ambuja Cements Ltd (ACL), the consolidated results for the quarter and the financial year ended March 2024, include the financial results of Sanghi Industries, which was acquired by the Adani Group firm

last quarter. Hence, the results "are not comparable with quarter and fifteen months ended March 31, 2023", it said. Its consolidated revenue from operations was Rs 8,893.99 crore during the quarter under review. It was Rs 7,965.98 crore in the

corresponding period last fiscal. ACL's total expenses were Rs 7,741.31 crore in the March 2024 quarter. During the quarter, its total consolidated revenue was Rs 9.127.45 crore.



Vedanta Group planning to invest US\$ 20 bn in 4 years: Agarwal

businesses in India over the next four years, its Chairman Anil Agarwal said on Wednesday. The investments will be focused on technology, electronics, and glass businesses apart from the other activities that the group is engaged in, Agarwal told reporters here. The billionaire from Bihar said he wants to play the role of a catalyst in

helping his home state grow, but said there is a need for a strong support from the policy front for it. He was speaking on the sidelines of an event where the mining-focused group announced to scale up its philanthropic activities. The group wants to take the total number of Nand Ghars, under which it takes care of children's nutritional requirements at the villages, to 25.000 over the next two years from the present 6,000, he said.





AE to open one-million sa feet campus in Gurugram

PNS NEW DELHI

Global payments company American Express on Wednesday announced it will open its nearly one-million square feet campus in Gurugram, Haryana. The company has additional facilities in Gurugram as well as in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Pune.

Its employees will begin moving to the new facility, located in sector 74A Gurugram, in phases, starting from the end of this month, the company said in a statement.

The campus reflects American Express' dedication to fostering a dynamic work environment, it said.

"American Express in India continues to develop incountry capabilities by leveraging our global expertise and local talent, fostering new opportunities and innovation for customers worldwide," said Sanjay Khanna, CEO and Country Manager, American Express, India.

'Record GST mop-up reflects robust eco, audit efficacy'

PNS NEW DELHI

The record Rs 2.10 lakh crore GST collection in April is a reflection of the robust economy and effectiveness of audit and scrutiny by the tax department, tax experts said on Wednesday.

The record mop-up also raises hopes for the next round of tax reforms after the new government comes to power, they added.

Experts said the collection is a testimony to higher self-compliance and better enforcement measures. Also, increased consumer spending on purchases of air conditioners and beverages to beat the summer heat has aided the record collection.

Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said these collections, which relate to transactions in goods and services during March 2024, could be the tipping point in the GST collection trajectory.

"While some part of the increased collections is attributable to the financial year-end upswing, it is also reflective of the significant improvements in GST compliance by businesses," Mani said.

PwC India Partner Pratik Jain said that with the next wave of GST reforms expect-



ed after the formation of the new government, the growth (in GST collections) may be further accelerated.

It may also enable the government to make bolder decisions like rate rationalisation or Lok Sabha polls. BDO India Partner & Leader (Indirect Tax) Gunjan Prabhakaran said the record GST collections have come on

the back of strong growth in

the panel's discussions after the

Experts said the collection is a testimony to higher self-compliance and better enforcement measures. Also, increased consumer spending on purchases of air conditioners and beverages to beat the summer heat has aided the record collection.

bringing other products, such as ATF and natural gas, under

A panel of state finance ministers is already examining the proposal for the rationalisation of GST rates and slabs. It is expected that there could be some forward movement in

mop-up from northern states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi etc.

"The GST collection in April month has traditionally been higher, given that it reflects the economic activity in March, which is the last month of the fiscal year," Prabhakaran said.

include central and state mopup, breached the Rs 2 lakh crore milestone in a month for the first time since the rollout of the unified tax system.

Goods and Services Tax collections grew 12.4 per cent to a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April. The revenue growth was aided by strong economic momentum and increased domestic transac-

There was a 13.4 per cent increase in April tax revenues from domestic transactions and 8.3 per cent from imports.

KPMG in India Partner & National Head (Indirect Tax) Abhishek Jain said the consistent growth in GST collection reflects upon the strong domestic economy, especially given the fact that growth on account of domestic transactions is 13.4 per cent as compared to imports, which is at 8.3%.

Nexdigm Senior Director (Indirect Tax) Sanjay Chhabria said the significant rise in domestic transactions can be attributed to consumer spending being focused on beating the summer heat, with purchases like air-conditioners, beverages, as well as increased travel during long vacations from schools and colleges.

India, Maldives hold talks to enhance trade cooperation

India on Wednesday said it looked forward to strengthening bilateral economic cooperation with the Maldives as its envoy held discussions with a senior minister of the archipelagic nation.

Mohamed Saeed, Maldives' Minister of Economic Development and Trade, met with Munu Mahawar, Indian High Commissioner to the archipelago nation on Tuesday.

The meeting comes weeks after India allowed the export of certain quantities of essential commodities for the year 2024-25 at the request of the Maldivian government and ahead of the May 10 deadline imposed by President Mohamed Muizzu for the complete repatriation of 88 Indian military personnel from his country.

"Minister@em_saeed met enhancing India-Maldives economic cooperation."
Earlier on April 5, display with Indian High Commissioner to Maldives, H.

E. Munu Mahawar, and discussed potential areas for trade & economic cooperation. @HCIMaldives," posted @HCIMaldives," posted Maldives' Ministry of Economic Development and Trade from its official X handle along with photos of the meeting. Soon after, the Indian High Commission responded: "We look forward to continued engagements with @MoEDmy for further

ing a strong commitment to supporting the human-centric development in the archipelagic nation, India said the request to allow export of certain quantities of essential commodities for the year 2024-25 was being done "under a unique bilateral mechanism" under which the quotas for each of these items have been revised upwards.

Adani Power Q4 net profit dips 48% to Rs 2,737 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Adani Power Ltd on Wednesday reported a 47.78 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 2,737.24 crore for the March quarter on account of increased expenses.

Its net profit was Rs 5,242.48 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 202223, the company said in an exchange filing.

During the fourth quarter, the company's total income was Rs 13,881.52 crore against Rs 10,795.32 crore a year ago. The expenses stood at Rs 10,323.58 crore in the period under review compared to Rs 9,897.60 crore in the year-ago period.

However, for the entire FY24,

the company's net profit almost doubled to Rs 20,828.79 crore from Rs 10,726.64 crore registered in FY23. In FY24, the company's income rose to Rs 60,281.48 crore against Rs 43,040.52 crore in FY23.

Its expenses increased to Rs 39,489.97 crore in FY24 from Rs 35,365.82 crore in the preceding fiscal

Domestic PV sales growth flat due to high base effect, elections

PNS NEW DELHI

Passenger vehicle sales in India kicked off on a flat note in new fiscal 2024-25 with 3.38 lakh units sold in April, impacted by high base effect and muted demand due to the ongoing general elec-

Dispatches of passenger vehicles from manufacturers to dealers were at 3,38,341 units in April 2024 as compared to

3,32,468 units in the same month last year, a growth of 1.77 per cent with major players Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai and Tata Motors reporting marginal growth in their domestic wholesales.

The flat growth witnessed in April is due to the high base that the industry had last year, coupled with the impact of ongoing general elections, Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales,

Partho Banerjee told reporters in a virtual interaction.

'We have started on a very high base this year...Right now the country is going



through elections and there is model code conduct...During the elections the markets are a little muted. Once elections are over, I think we will be seeing

a different market," he said. He further said, "Till the month of June I think things will be more or less like this and after June maybe we will see revival in the market."

Maruti Suzuki's total domestic passenger vehicle sales were

1,37,952 units compared to 1,37,320 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, Hyundai Motor India's domestic wholesales saw an increase of 1 per cent to 50,201 units last month from 49,701 units in the year-ago

> Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg said the PV industry's growth seen in April was a reflection of what was estimated in beginning of 2024 of about an over-

> all low single-digit growth. "It is more because of the high base effect of the last two years and not necessarily a slowdown," he said in a virtual interaction, adding the inquiry levels and booking were at similar levels to the last

With the improvement in the supply chain, the overall order book of the industry has reduced, Garg said.

Honda Cars reports 42% rise in sales at 10,867 units

PNS NEW DELHI

Honda Cars India on Wednesday reported a 42 per cent increase in total sales at 10,867 units in April. The company had sold 7,676 units in April 2023, Honda Cars India said in a

statement. Last month, the automaker sold 4,351 units in the domestic market and 6,516 units in overseas locations.

The company had registered sales of 5,313 units in the domestic market and export-

Behl said.

ed 2,363 units in April last year. "Our planned production volumes in April were lower due to the switchover of Elevate and City production to six-airbag standard variants and the dispatches were aligned accordingly," Honda Cars India Vice President (Marketing & Sales) Kunal

Markets may extend rally on strong domestic economy: Analysts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets may continue their winning run in May after registering gains in the past three months as investors' sentiment are upbeat amid India's promising growth prospects, the current government's potential re-election in the ongoing polls and robust participation from domestic

investors, analysts said. The 30-share BSE Sensex had declined 0.67 per cent in the month of January this year. However, markets charted a

strong recovery path from

February onwards. In February, the BSE benchmark climbed 1.04 per cent,

while it jumped 1.58 per cent in March. In April, the bellwether index advanced 1.12 per cent.

"Overall, the markets are anticipated to maintain their upward trend, backed by robust inflows and participation from both domestic institutions and individual

"Going forward, if the corporate earnings of the remaining companies display a positive sentiment then the markets are likely to continue their bullish sentiment," Arvinder Singh Nanda, senior vice-president of Master Capital Service

Ltd, said. "Positive market sentiment is anticipated to persist if the Middle East tensions lessen, earnings remain steady, and the Chinese economy continues to move towards resurgence,"

Nanda added. "Markets have surged to record highs due to various factors. Firstly, the positive market sentiment, driven by strong prospects for the Indian economy, has bolstered investors'

"Expectations of imminent rate cuts have further encouraged investors to buy Indian stocks despite recent corrections. We forecast the Nifty 50 to maintain a positive bias, considering historical trends of rallies during general election

years and projecting a gradual ascent," Suman Bannerjee, CIO of hedge fund Hedonova, said.

The BSE Sensex hit its alltime peak of 75,124.28 on April 9 this year. The index breached the historic 75,000 mark for the first time on the same day.

On April 10, the 30-share BSE benchmark settled above the 75,000 mark for the first

Maruti Suzuki expects revival of small car segment "The SUV segment's contribution has gone up to 53.6 per cent of total (passenger vehicle) industry as a result of which the contribution of the coll (sex) cogment has gone

Maruti Suzuki India expects a revival of the small car segment in the domestic market by 2026-end or 2027, after suffering from affordability issues and onslaught from SUVs, according to a senior company official.

The small car segment, which had once dominated the Indian total passenger vehicles market, accounts for less than 30 per cent at present.

The company is hopeful that the resurgence seen in the twowheeler market, which has also witnessed decline since 2018-19, will have a positive impact on small car sales as well.

"The SUV segment's contri-

53.6 per cent of total (passenger vehicle) industry as a result of which the contribution of the small (car) segment has gone down a little bit fur-

ther," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee said in a virtual inter-

There has been a "steep increase in the prices of hatchbacks" due to a variety of reasons, including regulations related to safety and emissions standards but the "affordability" of small car buyers has not increased to that extent, he added.



a drop in the contribution of the hatchback segment but our take is that this hatchback segment will again come back...we expect that, maybe by 2026-end or 2027 we will again be seeing a growth in the hatch segment and this market will revive," Banerjee said.

While affordability remains "major challenge" at the moment, he said the small car

the small (car) segment has gone down a little bit further," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee said in a virtual interaction.

segment can take positives from the revival seen in the two-wheeler sales. "There is a revival in the

two-wheeler segment. We have seen in the past that whenever there is a revival in the twowheeler industry, with a lag it comes to the four-wheelers also. That is why we are very hopeful that we are going to see an upside in the hatch segment," Banerjee added.

Iffco gets nod to launch 2 more nano tech fertilisers

IFFCO

PNS NEW DELHI

Fertiliser major introduced nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP, on Wednesday, said the central government has approved its two new products nano liquid zinc and nano liquid

copper for the launch. These two products would help in mitigating deficiencies of zinc and copper in agricul-ture crops and boost productivity.

In a post on X, Iffco Managing Director US Awasthi said, "IFFCO's Nano Technology-based innovations are making a mark on the agriculture sector. Glad to share that IFFCO's new innovation IFFCO Nano Zinc (Liquid)

and IFFCO Nano Copper (Liquid) has been notified by the Government of

> years FCO (Fertiliser Control Order) approval has been granted for both hese products. "Zinc is a cru-

India, @AgriGoI

for a period of 3

cial micro-nutrient for the enzyme functioning in plants and it is very important for plant growth and development. Zn deficiency in plants is one of the major concerns globally,"

Awasthi said. Similarly, he said, copper is required for many enzymatic activities in plants and for chlorophyll and seed production. Deficiency of copper can lead to increased susceptibility to diseases.

DGCA deregisters bankrupt Go First's 54 planes

PNS NEW DELHI

Aviation watchdog DGCA has deregistered all the 54 planes leased by Go First, days after a court allowed lessors to take back their aircraft from the

Bogged down by financial turbulence and engine woes, budget carrier Go First stopped flying in May last year and is undergoing an insolvency resolu-

bankrupt airline.

tion process. Foreign lessors that have leased planes to the airline had moved the court to take back the aircraft

Against this backdrop, the

Delhi High Court on April 26 directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to forthwith process the applications filed by the lessors for deregistration of 54 planes. The high court had also said the

> done in not later than five working days.

A senior official at the regula-

process shall be

Wednesday confirmed that all the 54 aircraft of the airline have been deregistered. Some of the notices deregistering Go First's aircraft were uploaded on the DGCA

CREATER HYDERASAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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Thursday May 2, 2024

Investing in skills by delivering opportunities in hospitality



SHIKHA DUGGAL

he Indian School of Hospitality and Sommet Education is delighted to announce a pioneering collaboration to unveil the Indian Talent Development initiative. The Sommet Education Foundation was in charge of this project. This initiative seeks to give youngsters chances for career advancement in the booming hospitality sector by investing in their skill sets.

Anouck Weiss, executive vice president of The Sommet Education Foundation, tells us exclusively about the initiative when we ask him about its progress. He begins, "The initiative was inspired by the urgent need to enhance skill development and employability among India's youth, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is in line with the goals of the Sommet Education Foundation, which are to inspire young people to pursue jobs in the expanding global hospitality industry and to empower them through education."

One of the industries that is expanding the fastest is hospitality, which offers plenty of job and career options. So, he fur-

ther adds, "One of the biggest issues facing society at the moment is youth unemployment and education. By eliminating injustice and discrimination, we hope to ensure that every one of our talents has the chance to realise their greatest

potential. Our employees' success shouldn't be based on their nationality, origin, or level of education."

The initiative, however, overcomes the difficulties faced by underprivileged people by offering scholarships to enroll in ISH's specialised culinary programs, according to Kunal co-founder of ISH. This immediate assistance removes financial barriers, and the partnership with Accor opens up more industrial opportunities by ensuring employment and practical training! The project deliberately seeks out people from different socioeconomic backgrounds to promote divergity and accidingly lighting. This extensive phances sity and social inclusion. This strategy enhances the diversity of viewpoints within the hospitality staff, in addition to promoting the growth of the sector. Through esteemed international relationThe Pioneer brings to

you The Indian Talent Development initiative, seeking to give young, opportunities in the hospitality industry, by connecting to Anouck

Weiss in this exclusive chat.

ships, such as those with École Ducasse and Les Roches, it considerably improves its training and immersive learning experiences. It also offers its culinary students access to top-notch knowledge and techniques, resulting in an outstanding culinary arts education. In a similar vein, their students will benefit from

state-of-the-art hospitality management training. Through these partnerships, sponsored students are guaranteed an international education, equipping them with the skills necessary to succeed as leaders in the world's hospitality sector. The initiative comprises pre-qualified employment contracts and three months of on-the-job training at Accor properties to guarantee a smooth transition from training to the workplace. This ensures that

students are well-prepared and confident!

Sponsored individuals are chosen based on their commitment to a hospitality vocation, potential, and financial necessity. To provide those selected the best chance of success, the selection procedure looks for persons who have a significant interest in culinary arts but lack the resources to pursue further study in the field. "All of the resources required for their studies, including tuition and access to cutting-edge facilities, will be provided to sponsored students. In addition, they will gain from practical training, industry professional mentorship, and an organised career path made possible by their network after graduation. The Sommet Education Foundation backs the project and counts on its extensive worldwide resources as well as long-standing dedication to and experience with high-quality training. It sets itself apart with 400 programs ranging from short-term hospitality vocational training to management and executive academic courses, spread across a global network of five highly regarded education insti-

tutions spread across ten countries.

This innovative method equips students to take the lead and succeed in the fast-paced hospitali-ty sector. Transversal curricula include sustainability and responsible tourism, and universities encourage students' and graduates' ethical behaviour. This promotes awareness and the adoption of sustainable practices in the worldwide hospitality industry.'

The initiative is expected to have a substantial, long-term positive impact on the prospects and stan-dards of India's hos-pitality industry. The program intends to assist in the expansion of the industry and improve its contribution to the econo-

my and community at large by developing competent professionals



Deepika Padukone inspired summer looks!

From beachy waves to straight and chic hairstyles, summer is all about experimenting and flaunting a menting and flaunting your beautiful locks for a fun reset. Deepika Padukone's hairstylist, Yianni Tsapatori shares a round-up of four iconic hairstyles inspired by Deepika Padukone.

Yianni Tsapatori shares, "My style has always been a bit different as my forte is playing around with natural textures and creating unique hairstyles that compliment various hair types. Throughout my professional hairstyling career, I have been extremely mindful of protecting hair health by using the right tools and technologies. The hair care range aligns with my professional ethos as it helps to create multiple looks without causing extreme heat damage to the hair. The four Deepika looks can be easily recreated in the comfort of your home with the airwrap multistyler. A must-have tool across seasons, and especially for some interesting spontaneous, minimalistic, and comfortable hairstyles during summer."

You cannot go wrong with versatile

and effortless loose waves. A trendy

and easy way to style your

hair whether you're heading

to a casual gathering or a for-mal event, this look effortless-

ly elevates your elegance.

To achieve this

Start with towel-dried

hair and attach the

Coanda smoothing dryer,

a multi-functional attach-

ment that quickly pre-

Select the drying mode and choose the high speed and high heat to pre-dry your tresses

Attach the firm smoothing brush to create

a smooth blow-dry finish.

Select the high speed and high heat to smoothen out the frizz.

Now apply your favourite hair styling prod-uct and divide your hair into sections for

effortless styling.

Attach the 30 mm long barrel to create

voluminous curls and waves in both direc-

tions. Set the airflow direction to curl out-

Wrap a section of your hair and hold it in

place until dry. Set the curl with a cold shot

for 5-10 seconds and slowly let go of the curl. Next, change the airflow direction for the

other sections of hair and repeat on the other

side. Now run your fingers through your hair for a tousled look and you are done.

Create beautiful, tousled waves to effortless

ly embody a classy, chic, and relaxed vibe. Pair with a black outfit and stunning jewellery for

an elegant look that's timeless and effortless-

Start with towel-dried hair and attach the

Attach the soft smoothing brush, known to

smoothing dryer. Select the drying mode and pre-dry the stresses to 70% dry.

wards from the left side of your face.

Old Hollywood Waves

To achieve this look:

pares hair for styling.

look:

Loose waves

Choose the medium speed and medium

heat. Smooth out frizz. Divide hair into 3 sections. Dived your back

hair section further into 5 parts. Attach the 40mm long barrel that will create voluminous curls and waves for longer

Change the airflow direction to the left and

choose the high speed and high heat.
Introduce the left section of your back hair to the barrel at mid-length and set with a cold shot for 5-10 seconds. Slide down to release

Change the airflow direction to the right

and repeat for the right section.

Set your curls with a fixing spray and gently loosen your curls for the final look.

Big, bouncy blowout

For a chic brunch with your friends, opt for a glamorous style with big, bold curls. Showcase your stunning curly hair by leaving it down and accentuating it with sparkling hair accessories such as a headband, tiara, or hairpins.

To achieve this look:

Start with towel-dried hair and attach the smoothing dryer and select the drying

Pre-dry your hair to 80% dry.

Attach the volumising brush, known to create a smooth blow-dry finish.

Choose the high speed and high heat and smooth from roots to ends in sections

until dry.
Attach the smoothing dryer that smooths

and hides flyaways.
Select smoothing mode and choose the high speed and low heat.

Start at the front left of the parting, glide from roots to ends, and repeat around the head. Add hair accessories such as stick-on pearls on a few front pieces of your hair to amp up your look.

Straight and chic

The classic straight, sleek hairstyle never goes out of style. Elevate this everyday look with the Airwrap multi-styler and keep your hair silky and frizz free until you wash it. Add hair accessories to add more flair.

To achieve this look:

Start with towel-dried hair and attach the smoothing dryer and select the drying mode. Pre-dry your hair to 80% dry

Attach the soft smoothing brush, known to create a smooth blow-dry finish. Choose the high speed and high heat and smooth from roots to ends in sections until dry.

Attach the smoothing dryer that smooths

and hides flyaways. Select smoothing mode and choose the high speed and low heat. Start at the front left of the parting, glide from roots to ends, and repeat around the head. Add hair accessories such as stick-on pearls on a few front pieces of your hair to amp up your look.

'I, to date, get anxious when my videos don't work'

TEIAL SINHA

versatile artiste and creator, Harshita Gupta has had quite a challenging journey with a lot of ups and downs, which has led her to where she's been today. Her career began as a radio jockey, and she is currently producing comedic con-Not something that she had preplanned; content creation had happened accidentally to her. Recalling her days back then, she shares, "I was a radio jockey, and there came this whole dig-

ital way where we started going digital, and my boss was like, 'You are supposed to do it', and it was around 2017. It was all about digital being the new shift and the new game. I was a very camera-conscious person because there were body issues and a lot more things in life ever since childhood." She was not comfortable, and the only reason she chose radio was that no one would have to see her. "I have to speak in an empty room. It was like a perfect setup for me. Now for me to come in front of the camera was like me opening up to the world. But then my boss said, If you want an appraisal, you'll have to do it. So it was like 50

percent of it was radio and 50 percent of it was digital. And that's how I started making videos in 2017. Obviously, I was unnoticed for three years, but the only thing was that I never gave up. Even when nobody was watching me, I was constantly making content."

As she went on to recall the days of her self-confidence, she shared, "I was in my school, and there were a lot of people who had commented on my body. There were a lot of nasty comments that I got to hear. These comments used to pinch me so much that I used to come home and cry. And because of that, you know, my confidence had gone so low. I was very confident in my talent, though. One of the reasons I chose radio was that I was confident. I can speak. I had content to speak. I just did-

n't want to show my face." In fact, this was just one of the examples. In another incident, she recalls, "There was this aunt of mine whose daughter had thyroid, and she passed on a comment and said, *Chalo koi toh hai,meri* beti ko competition dene. It was like, dude, what do you mean by that? You know, that thing literally went so deep in my mind that when I was asked to make a video, all these things just flashed back in my mind. It was like, what if I put

it on social media and people would say bad things about me? People will start saying it again in those com-ments on my post. but it was okay.

> It was then that she somehow accepted it and began doing intense workouts for two long years with a rigorous However, over time, she shares that it is through social media that she has gained immense confidence.

During her journey and transition from RJ to content creation, there was a day that actually brought her into a much bigger picture when one of the videos went viral. She recalls, "We generally say that virginity ki FD karaenge kya and mai pre-marital ke pro thi. I was like, it's okay to have sex before marriage, and the video was just about that. It went viral like crazy. I don't think there was even one meme page that took up that video, and everyone gave me credit. They all started tagging me, and within a day, I was stuck at 35k an year and posted that video. My follower count straight up went to 50k+ in a day, and after that video, my followers reached 85k in a day. I was like, If this is what you wanted to say, I would have made the video before itself.

Comedy has been something that comes very naturally to her. However, there have been times when she ends up having a creative block in her mind. Initially, "I used to get a lot of guilt when I used to take a break. And this happens to everyone because there is no creator who can work continuously without getting exhausted or having any kind of creative blockage. So for the first time, I experienced this creative blockage! I simply just panicked. I was like, 'This is my career, and how can I get a creative blockage?' 'How am I not getting the idea?' I should be getting the idea. This is my everyday work, but then I read about it and saw a few interviews. I saw that it's common that, as you know, creative people do get the blockage, they do get exhausted, and they do need a break. Initially, it took me a while to take a break. They said that I was going to lose those people and thought that people would stop liking me. I will not be able to create content. There is a lot of self-doubt that came in within me."

People say that numbers are not important to them. However, she, on the other hand, shares, "Numbers are very important. You go to a brand. They would obviously not prefer someone who has 10K followers and tell them that they make amazing content; nobody would even care about that creator. The people who were saving that numbers are not important the day they don't get the numbers would be the ones who sit and cry and get anxiety attacks, to be honest. It has happened to the best of us. I personally know a lot of friends who have experienced that. I still get anxious when my videos don't perform. It's been seven years now. I have, you know, accepted all these things and have moved on. It's all about accepting that you are having creative blockage, and then you can do things you know, like meet friends or go shopping. It's not about vou; at the moment, you can just not get anxious, saying, How is it going to happen? You just need a break."





what's brewing?

Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni dazzle crowd with It Ends With Us

ly anticipated drama *It*Ends With Us, starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, has finally arrived, and fans are giddy with anticipation. People have been waiting for the film's first look, or

least a teaser and trail-

er, ever since images of the couple's passionate kiss during

filming appeared on social media. The actor posted a number of stunning photos

For those who don't know,

it's the movie version of

Colleen Hoover's critically

acclaimed book of the same

name. The forthcoming drama

will be distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing, with Justin

serving as director. The film was produced by Saks Picture

Company, Wayfarer Studios,

and Columbia Pictures. Blake plays Lily Bloom, a 23-year-old

T-Hub, announced a significant boost for the domestic defence

and aerospace sector with the

launch of the SIDBI-T-Hub

Funding Programme and the signing of several strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with prominent industry players.

Unveiled during the National Defence and Aerospace

Innovation Summit(DIAS), this

initiative marks a pivotal stride towards nurturing a robust

defence and aerospace solution hub in India. It underlines a steadfast commitment to propel innovation, foster collaboration, and fortify

on Tuesday.

he first look at the high-florist who develops feelings for Justin's 30-year-old neurosurgeon, Ryle Kincaid. In addition to Blake Lively,

Hasan Minhaj, and Justin Baldoni, Jenny Slate will play important roles in the film.

Colleen Hoover's work is one of the most well-known, having sold over 8.6 million print copies in 2022. On Tuesday, Justin postcarousel of

images from the film on his Instagram account. The post contains the first glimpses of each character, the first of which features Ryle and Lily gazing longing-ly into each other's eyes.

Numerous likes and comments were left on Justin Baldoni's tweet, revealing Blake Lively and other cast members' first looks from their movie It Ends With Us. The release date of the movie has been disclosed by the actor/director in the post's caption. Though most fans have responded favourably to the first look post, those who have read the novel are shocked that he chose to play Ryle rather than Atlas.



ctor Fardeen Khan is happy to be back at work after a gap of 14 years, as it gave him an opportunity to silence his "inherent fears" and start afresh like a newcomer. After Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's sprawling period drama series on Netflix, which reintroduces the actor to audiences, Khan has two more films, Khel Khel Mein and Visfot, lined up for release. "It was very daunting to make that decision to come back. So much had changed in itself that I had inherent fears and apprehensions. But what kept me going and gave me encouragement was the warmth and love that I received. People who like my work—my audiences, my fans—they've been consistent with that over the years," Khan told in an interview. "I needed some time to myself after I lost my father. I had a bit of a health scare back then. Also, we were looking to have children. I just needed to take some time off, but believe me, it wasn't planned to be this long. When my daughter was born in 2013, my heart just melted, and I said, 'I would like to spend some time with her and enjoy being a father full time. Then my son was born," he added. Khan, who was launched by his father in the Hindi film Prem Aggan in 1998, was a star in the 2000s and worked in movies such as Jungle, Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya, Bhoot, Dev, No Entry, and Heyy Babyy.





Under the guidance of Priti Paul, Director, Apeejay Surrendra Group, Oxford Bookstores has been pushing all boundaries to encourage the publishing industry and celebrate the business of books. Standout cover design is an integral part of the success of a book, designers and illustrators play a vital role in helping a book become emblematic and create recall





Lifestyle announced the launch of Carrera Eyewear at its Begumpet store in Hyderabad. This marks the brand's debut at Lifestyle across India, inaugurated by the celebrated Australian cricketer and brand ambassador of Carrera - Pat Cummins. Cummins also made a special appearance at the Inorbit store, adding to the excitement surrounding

KLH Bachupally campus of KL Deemed to be University organised its inaugural VIWENTIAA 2024, the annual techno-cultural extravaganza, with resounding success, showcasing the vibrant culture of innovation and creativity among students, recently. Over two electrifying days, the event brought together over 400 students from different colleges, who immersed themselves in a whirlwind of activities, ranging from technical workshops and expos to hackathons and coding



ARCHIE

national security.















GARFIELD







ROLLO IS QUITE RICH---AND AT ROLLO HAD A HE'S A SPECIAL DOG PEDIGREED TIMES A'SHOW-OFF BUT SINCE HOUSE BUILT DOG LONG NAME FOR HIS THE 1940S-THE CAN'T BUY-

GINGER MEGGS







REALITY CHECK





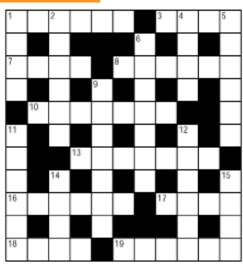
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DIFFICULTY RATING: *								

Rules

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 An eight-legged
- creature
- 3 Small mark
- 7 Opposite of succeed

17 Floppy

DOWN

18 Uncommon 19 An imaginary

 Not in danger 2 A frozen drip

4 Twosome

8 Well-mannered 10 Spectacles

fire-breathing monster

- 12 Enquiring 13 Largest
 - 14 Bitter-tasting
- 15 Twirl 16 A stringed instrument



5 One tenth of two

9 A drug used for

11 A precious metal

6 From another country

treating headaches

hundred

tollywoo 'Last few minutes of Aa Okkati Adakku will be high on emotions'

A fter a hiatus from comedy films, actor Allari Naresh is set to tickle the funny bones of audiences once again with his upcoming project, *Aa Okkati Adakku*. Directed by Malli Ankam and featuring Faria Abdullah as the female lead, the film marks a refreshing shift for Naresh, who has recently been associated with message-oriented movies. The movie is set to hit big screens on May 3.

In an interaction with the Hyderabad media, Naresh shed light on his journey and the inspiration behind his latest venture. Clarifying any connection to his father's film of the same name, he expressed, "We explored various titles, including 'Match Fixing', but given the comedic nature of the film, *Aa Okkati Adakku* felt most appropriate."

Reflecting on his career trajectory, Naresh noted the poetic irony of portraying a lead role in a film that shares its title with his debut as a child artist. "Life truly comes full circle," he remarked

with a smile. Delving into the storyline, Naresh revealed the premise of the film, which revolves around a settled protagonist facing marital pressure due to societal norms. He shared, "The hero in the movie is settled, but he fails to get marriage proposals because of age issues, and when people used to bug him about the marriage update, he would say, Aa Okkati Adakku and that's how we came up with the title."

"This was supposed to be released before Naa Saami Ranga, but it took some time. I shot parallelly for both films. I have been listening to stories from comedy genre films, but I wanted to do a full-length comedy film only if I liked the story because the audience perspective has changed over time. They are expecting witty stories. It was then that I came across this story," added the actor.

Discussing the evolution of comedy in cin-Naresh emphasised the

importance of aligning with audience expectations. "Comedy films today require witty narratives. In addition to comedy, this film also has a message about the scams that happen in the name of marriage. No one has discussed such a concept in movies so far. I got connected to the story and the message it says. It was based on a couple of incidents on how people were cheating each other in the name of marriage," he asserted, underscoring the film's unique blend of humour and social message on marriage scams.

While the film promises abundant laughter, Naresh hinted at a poignant climax, suggesting a deeper emotional resonance. He shared, "While the whole film will be high on entertainment, the last few minutes will be high on emotions. There are many people who want to get married, but there are also people who wish they

were not married. This film is for them." Naresh also shared insights into the casting process, revealing the deliber-

ate selection of

Faria Abdullah

ing lady to ensure on-screen chemistry and compatibility. "We were looking for a heroine who matches my height, and the chemistry must be good on screen. Even Malli Ankam wrote the story thinking of Faria Abdullah only."

As he returns to his comedic roots, Naresh expressed As he returns to his comedic roots, Naresh expressed his joy in reprising the genre, noting its recent resurgence with quality content. "Comedy films, when backed by strong content, continue to resonate with audiences," he affirmed, expressing optimism for the film's reception. Lastly, with *Aa Okkati Adakku*, Naresh aims to entertain audiences while delivering a subtle yet impactful message, staying true to his legacy of blending humour with social relevance.

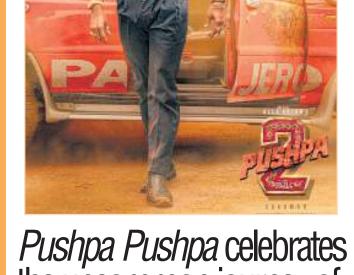
Actor Allari Naresh, all set to tickle the funny bones with Aa Okkati Adakku,

speaks to the

media here, as

venture.

he sheds light The video displays the power of brand on his journey week, setting and the the song puts inspiration world of behind his latest



Pushpa Pushpa celebrates the uncommon journey of a common man

st May, celebrated globally as International Labour Day, maino a special day this year as we welcome for celebration. *Pushpa*'s a new reason for celebration. *Pushpa*'s story of a common labourer ruled our hearts when he burst onto the screens with Pushpa The Rise and now he is back to rule as the celebratory song of 'Pushparaj' was released on Wednesday in six languages to become the new anthem of ambition. The lyrical video that gives glimpses of the film titled Pushpa Pushpa is already creating waves all over the internet.

Pushpa, which was teased in with the 'Hand of Pushpa' teaser, launched last audiences into a frenzy. The launch of Pushpa's stamp of authority on the entertainment with a scintillating hook step and brings alive the craze of 'Pushpaisms',

become pop culture since the release of Pushpa: The Rise. Icon Star Allu Arjun proves once again why he is the star who cuts across every language and every border across the nation and rules our hearts and minds.

Music director Devi Sri Prasad, who won a National Award for the music of Pushpa 1: The Rise, has again created a heart-throbbing number. The groovy tune of the song is definitely an earworm and is set to top the music charts for days to come. The lyrics and the upbeat music are no less than a catalyst for the audience's overwhelming anticipation for

the film's release. The song is released in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi Kannada, Malayalam, and Bengali. Devi Sri Prasad has roped in popular singers like Nakash Aziz, Deepak Blue, Mika Singh, Vijay Prakash, Ranjith Govind, and Timir Biswas to sing the respective versions of the song. The music of Pushpa 2: The Rule is released all over by T



Month of Madhu



n a tale that intertwines talent and lineage, Sukriti Veni Bandreddi, daughter of acclaimed director Sumukar, has secured the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Best Child Artist. Her stellar performance in the heartwarming film Gandhi Thatha Chettu has garnered widespread acclaim, culminating in

this illustrious recognition. Directed by her father, Gandhi Thatha Chettu has already left an indelible mark on the cinematic landscape, earning accolades at numerous film festivals. The narrative, rich with emotion and depth, promises to captivate audiences upon its imminent release for public view-

ing.
Sukriti is currently studying in



Grade 8 at the International School of Hyderabad. The film has been screened and awarded at many international film festivals in the past. At the Dubai International Film Festival and the Indian Film International Festival, Sukriti won awards in the Best Debutante Child Artist catego-

In a testament to the depth of talent within the industry, actor Naveen Chandra has been honored with the Best Actor award for his compelling portrayal in Month on Madhu. His nuanced performance resonated deeply with audiences and critics alike, solidifying his status as a formidable talent in the realm of cinema. Adding another feather to the cap

of excellence, director Ajay Bhupathi of Mangalavaaram fame has been lauded for his exceptional cinematography. His visionary approach behind the lens has elevated the cinematic experience, earning him esteemed recognition at the

Trailer for sci-fi thriller *Darshini* unveiled, set for May release

xcitement fills the air as the trailer for the much-anticipated science-fiction thriller *Darshini* was unveiled today. Produced by Dr. LV Suryam and directed by Dr. Pradeep Allu, this upcoming cinematic venture promises an enthralling journey into the realms of sci-fi. Starring Vikas and Shanti in lead roles, the film is set to nit theaters in May, eagerly awaited by fans of the genre. Under the banner of V4 Cine Creations. Darshini marks the maiden voyage into the film industry for its producers, who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience from their backgrounds as professors and scholars. Their dedication to the craft of cinema shines through in every frame of this ambitious project. The trailer unveiling ceremony was graced by senior producer KL Damodar Prasad, who shared his excitement about

on his encounter with the Darshini team two and a half years ago, he praised their passion and vision for bringing this sci-fi thriller to life. Lead actor Vikas, acknowledging the challenges faced during production, lauded the dedication of the director and his fellow colleagues, underscoring their collective efforts to deliver a compelling cinematic experience.

As the release date draws near, anticipation continues to build for *Darshini*, with industry insiders and fans alike eagerly awaiting its arrival on the silver screen. With a blend of comedy, emotion, and romance, this sci-fi thriller promises to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression in the annals of cinema.

Pradeep joins Ori Devuda as director for #AGS26

ollowing the blockbuster success of *Love Today*, actor Pradeep is set to charm audiances. set to charm audiences once again in his upcoming venture, #AGS26. Teaming up with the director of Ori Devuda, Pradeep is ready to captivate fans with his performance in this highly anticipated film. Presented by Kalpathi S. Aghoram, Kalpathi S. Ganesh, and Kalpathi S. Suresh, #AGS26 promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience for Telugu

movie enthusiasts. With Pradeep's dynamic energy and the director's vision, expectations are running high for this collaboration, which has been generating buzz among fans and industry insiders alike. As the excitement builds for #AGS26, fans eagerly await more updates on the project, anticipating another blockbuster hit from the Pradeep and Ashwath combo as they are ready to witness the magic unfold on the big screen!



Arambam trailer promises riveting cinematic experience



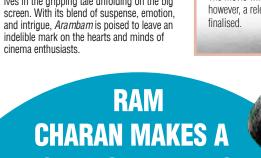
he anticipation surrounding the forthcoming emotional thriller *Arambam* has surged to new heights with the release of its captivating first look poster. Produced by Abhishek Viti under the esteemed AVT Entertainment banner, this cinematic venture is spearheaded by director Ajay Nag. Featuring a stellar ensemble cast including Mohan Bhagath, Supritha Satyanarayan, Bhushan Kalyan, Ravindra Vijay, Laxman Meesala, Bodepalli Abhishek, Surabhi Prabhavati, and more, *Arambam* presents a tale woven with intrigue and emotion, promising an immersive cinematic journey. Today marked a significant milestone as the makers unveiled the theatrical trailer, offering audiences a glimpse into the enigmatic world of *Arambam*. The

into a gripping narrative, following the journey of a bold young man as he navigates through the shadows of injustice and conspiracy, embarking on a daring escape from

captivity. With its rich visuals, compelling storyline, and powerful score, the *Arambam* trailer sets the stage for an enthralling cinematic experience. From the depths of confinement to the heights of liberation, the trailer introduces audiences to the pivotal characters and their intertwined destinies. Behind the scenes, the film boasts a talented crew, with Srinjith Yerramilli lending his musical prowess as the music director and Devdeep Gandhi Kundu capturing the essence of the narrative through

cinematography. As the excitement builds for the theatrical release, the makers of Arambam promise a thrilling treat for movie lovers, inviting audiences to immerse themse Ives in the gripping tale unfolding on the big screen. With its blend of suspense, emotion,

Standalone ctor Navdeep's astounding transformation into the character of Mouli has left fans in awe with its newly released video glimpse. The actor's remarkable transition is nothing short of extraordinary, promising an enthralling cinematic experience for audiences. In the glimpse, Navdeep's mass avatar as Mouli is a sight to behold, showcasing his dedication and versatility as an actor. The movie will soon grace theaters; however, a release date is yet to be





nseltown's heartthrob, Ram Charan, has landed in Chennai, stirring up excitement among fans as he gears up to shoot sequences for his much-anticipated film, *Game Changer*.

Sources close to the actor confirmed that Ram Charan reached Chennai for a two-day shoot of Game Changer, directed by S Shankar. Ram Charan made heads turn as he made his way through the airport on Wednesday exuding effortless charm in a casual ensemble. Sporting a crisp white shirt paired with *khaki* pants, he added a touch of flair with a stylish baseball cap, sunglasses, and trendy sneakers.

Game Changer is set to redefine the genre with its Telugu political action thriller narrative, featuring Ram Charan in a new avatar. Joining him on this exhilarating journey are a stella cast, including Kiara Advani, Anjali, S. J. Suryah, Jayaram, Sunil, Srikanth, Samuthirakani and Nassar. Helming this cinematic extravaganza is none other than visionary director

depth to the narrative is the creative genius of acclaimed filmmaker Karthik Subbaraj, known for his masterpieces *Pizza* and *Jigarthanda*. For Ram Charan and Kiara Advani, Game Changer marks a reunion on the silver screen, following their collaboration in the 2019 release Vinaya Vidheya Rama directed by Boyapati Srinu. With their undeniable chemistry and talent, audiences can expect sparks to fly once again as they share the screen in this highly anticipated venture.

S. Shankar, renowned for his groundbreaking contributions to Indian cinema. Addin



Coolie makers land in soup as Ilayaraja complains!

P enowned music composer Ilayaraja has taken legal action against the makers of the upcoming the violation of the Copyright Act of 1957. The notices also draw attenfilm Coolie for unauthorised use of his music in the title teaser. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, the film stars superstar Rajinikanth in the lead role.

The teaser for *Coolie* was recently unveiled by the producers, Sun Pictures. However, it has stirred controversy as it features a recreated version of Ilayaraja's iconic song Va va pakkam va from the film Thangamagan, without obtaining the composer's consent. In response to this infringement, Ilayaraja has sent copyright notices to Sun Pictures, highlighting

tion to director Lokesh Kanagaraj, accusing him of repeated instances of unauthoried use of copyrighted materi-

Sun Pictures is yet to respond to the legal notices from Ilayaraja, and the matter remains unresolved. Meanwhile, fans and industry insiders await further developments regarding this copy right dispute, which has sparked debate within the Tamil

SRH seek perfect chase against RR

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

erratic Sunrisers Hyderabad would look to fix their chasing troubles and get their campaign back on track when they host the high-flying Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

A lot more is at stake for the Sunrisers than the Royals, who have virtually qualified for the playoffs.

In ominous form till few days back, SRH dropped out of the top four on the points table after suffering back-to-back losses against wooden spooners Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings where they failed to chase down totals.

With five wins and four losses, the 2016 champions sit on the fifth spot with 10 points.

The Pat Cummins-led side's top and middle-order batters have failed collectively while chasing, forcing head coach Daniel Vettori to admit that the

idea of going all out with the bat in the second innings might not be the right thing to do.SRH have breached the 250-run mark thrice this season but all while batting first. In contrast, they haven't managed to chase a total in excess of 200 even once.

"We have been successful setting totals and now we have to look at how well we are in chasing," head coach Vettori had conceded after the loss to RCB. "We're pretty well-suited to chasing, but it hasn't really come off yet. So yeah, it is something (we need) to work on," skipper Cummins had said after he loss to CSK said after he loss to CSK.

SRH are too dependent on the explosive starts provided by Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma. And, while the duo gets going it's great but when they flop, SRH will want to do a better job at re-building their innings.

It's also about time Aiden Markram steps up and justifies his spot in the playing XI, having had an underwhelming



season thus far.Runaway leaders Rajasthan Royals, on the other hand, will look to continue their near flawless

run.
The inaugural edition's champions have shown then are perfectly equipped to compete anywhere.
They are perched atop the table with 16 points -- four points ahead of second placed Kolkata Knight Riders.
They are all but through to the knockout stage. The Royals

hey are all but through to the knockout stage. The Royals boast of a formidable top order, comprising Jos Buttler, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and skipper Sanju Samson, with all three of them in good nick.
The West Indian duo of

Shimron Hetymer and Rovman Powell and youngsers Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel have also shown they can hit

top gear. They have an equally potent bowling attack comprising Yuzvendra Chahal, the experienced Trent Boult, Avesh Khan and Sandeep Sharma.

THE TEAMS (FROM):

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan, Rovman Powell, Shubham Dubey, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Abid Mushtaq, Nandre Burger, Tanush Kotian, Keshav Maharaj.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee feels Lucknow Super Giants did not manage Mayank Yadav's injury well, suggesting that the young tearaway pacer was brought back to IPL action prematurely after being sidelined due to abdominal soreness.

The 21-year-old Mayank developed abdominal soreness during LSG's match against Gujarat Titans on April 7. That was his third IPL game, and he impressed one and all with his express pace and two Man-of-the-Match awards.

He made a comeback in LSG's win against Mumbai Indians in Lucknow on Tuesday but walked off the field without completing his fourth over after an injury scare.

LSG coach Justin Langer said the young pace sensation is feeling "sore in the same spot" that kept him out of action for almost three weeks, while captain KL Rahul that added Mayank had complained of slight pain in his sides.

blame on the LSG top management and medical

Mayank getting injured in first game on comeback has to directly be on LSG leadership: Lee



Lee, one of the game's most He said Mayank's initial the sidelines before being to even come right. We don't feared fast bowlers, laid the injury would have required four to six weeks to heal, much more than the time they're calling it, normally

brought back

four to six weeks to heal, "A side strain or whatever much more than the time period the youngster spent at takes at least four to six weeks to heal, "A side strain or whatever they're calling it, normally takes at least four to six weeks to heal, "A side strain or whatever they're calling it, normally who is pushing the limits of his body by bowling 150 after bowling the first ball of one day be invaluable."

know the depths of

kmph, that's not good management at all," Lee said in a JioCinema release.

"His first game coming back and getting injured, has to directly be on the leadership and the medical staff of the

Lucknow Super Giants." The 47-year-old Lee, who took 310 wickets from 76 Tests between 1999 and 2008, sympathised with Mayank, saying he should have got the right advice.

right advice.
"The only person who has to pay this price is this poor young guy Mayank, who is just electric. Everyone in the IPL has loved seeing what he's brought... You wish he got the right advice, so he doesn't have to go through and absorb this.
"Now, it's most probably

"Now, it's most probably going to mean that he's going to miss out on the World Cup if there's an injury that might come up."

his fourth over having taken one wicket for 31 runs. He was returning to action after

missing five games.

Mayank made a sensational start to the IPL by taking six wickets in his first to games before getting injured. He was later seen engaging in

a conversation with India and MI pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

Former India batter Suresh Raina said Mayank must have got some valuable insight on how to manage injury.
"It was a fantastic gesture

from Jasprit Bumrah to talk to the youngster. He has so much experience. When (Mayank) meets him, he will learn so much from Bumrah's words about looking after an injury. It's not easy to return from an injury and take wickets," Raina said.

"Team doctor Vaibhav Daga has worked with the BCCI before and helped Bumrah return to fitness as well. When Mayank bowls more with the red ball and white ball, I want to see him in Test matches when we play in Australia, England, or New Zealand.

"We haven't seen pace like this



Pandya and all other MI players fined for slow over rate offence against LSG

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya has been fined Rs 24 lakh after his team's second slow over-rate offence in the Indian Premier League during their match against Lucknow Super Giants here. All the other players, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match whichever is lesser.

MI lost the match by four wickets at the Ekana Stadium

a slow over-rate during Match 48 of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against Lucknow Super Giants on April 30, 2024," the IPL said in a statement. "As it was his team's second

fined after his team maintained

offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Pandya was fined INR 24 Lac.

"The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either INR 6 on Tuesday. Lac or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, Mumbai Indians has been Lac or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser," it added.

OTHER SPORTS

I want to be on that flight to Paris, says Krishan Pathak



Tom Lockyer is at peace

AP ■ LUTON (ENGLAND)

retire from the sport.

The Luton captain had a defibrillator fitted after collapsing during a game against Bournemouth in December. He had previously collapsed seven months earlier during a game at Wembley Stadium because he suffered

atrial fibrillation. The 29-year-old Lockyer, who recently became a father for **PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Krishan Pathak finds himself in a bizarre situation. He will have to battle it out with his friend and mentor PR Sreejesh for the lone goalkeeper's slot in India's hockey squad for the Paris Olympics.

In Olympics, a country can carry only a 16-member squad as against 18 players in other tournaments, and that restriction often forces the coach to sacrifice one goalkeeper to include another player in a different position. It happened in the Tokyo Olympics as Sreejesh did the custodian's duty during India's bronze-winning run, while Pathak watched the action from the gallery. But this time, Pathak is not ready to

give up the slot without a fight.
"The coach hasn't told us the team aim is to be ready 100 percent when

composition for the Olympics. My

the call comes. There is a healthy competition going on within the squad to earn a place in the Olympics-

bound team. "Every player feels that he can be part of that squad. I am no different, and I want to be on that flight to Paris," Pathak told PTI during the team's training camp at the SAI centre here. Pathak shares a deep connection with Sreejesh. In fact, the veteran was India's goalkeeping coach during the 2016 junior World Cup, where Pathak showcased his talent to a broader world for the first time.

The 27-year-old insisted that the competition for an Olympic berth has not affected their personal equation. "It's dream for me to work with and play alongside Sree bhai. We are very comfortable with each other. We share a lot of information, especially when one of us commits mistakes. We point that out to each other.



"Whenever I commit a mistake, he will come and tell me what went wrong and how to rectify it. Similarly, I will do that when Sree bhai makes a mistake. We have a great bonding between us - on and off the field," detailed Pathak.

Happy that the title is finally out:

The immediate assignment in front of

him is the FIH Pro-League matches, starting at Antwerp, Belgium from May 22. India will face some top-flight teams like Germany and Belgium in that tournament. Pathak wanted to assert his claim for an Olympic berth through some strong

outings in the Pro-League.

"We've played eight Pro-League matches in Ranchi and Rourkela. Now, we have some more Pro-League matches coming up ahead of the Olympics. We will meet some of those teams in the Olympics too. That familiarity will help us.

"As a goalkeeper, I will look to source as much knowledge from the Pro-League matches about our possible opponents in the Olympics," he

The Kapurthala man was all praise for Indian national team coach Craig Fulton, saying that the South African is helping the players to achieve their optimum potential ahead of the quadrennial showpiece.

When he spots a weakness, he starts working on it immediately. He hates wasting time. When we went to

Australia recently, our attack and defence were not working as we lost

with prospect of retirement

 $T^{om\ Lockyer,\ the\ Premier}_{\ League\ player\ who\ suffered}$ an onfield cardiac arrest earlier this season, says he is "at peace" with the prospect of having to

the first time, has not given up

hope of resuming his playing career. But he accepts that may not be possible.

"I've made no secret saying I would love to return to football, but ultimately it would have to come down to someone who's a cardiologist or a specialist who has done full research into what has gone on and if it could happen again, because we've got a little girl now and she takes priority," Lockyer told BBC Radio

"I would love to play football again, of course I would, it's my life but if it's the case that I can't, then I'm at peace with that as well.

$A^{\text{Grandmaster much before}}_{\text{the title was officially}} \\ \text{bestowed on her by FIDE}$

PTI ■ CHENNAI

recently, Indian chess player R Vaishali has revealed that there was a time she was unsure of being able to achieve the feat but managed to pull through owing to a good support struc-

Vaishali completed the requisite 2500 ELO points Llobregat Open tournament in Spain to become only the third Indian woman after Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli to become a GM.

However, the title was officially given to her only recently following the FIDE Council meeting during the Candidates
Tournament in Toronto last month. "After completing the (Women's GM) title, I knew it would be changed to GM someday. I did not think about the title so much," she told PTI

R Vaishali on officially becoming GM "Yeah, it took some time to get it official, but I'm happy that the

title is finally out. I was okay with it (the delay)," she added. The 22-year-old is basking in the glory of her solid performance in the Candidates tournament, where she won five consecutive games to finish ioint second. She became a Woman

Grandmaster in 2018 after completing her final norm dur-ing the Riga Technical University Open in Riga, Latvia. Having had to wait six years to finally earn the GM tag, Vaishali said she became a bit unsure of the GM tag after her ratings stagnated due to lack of com-



petition during the COVID 19 pandemic.

'In between, I could not play any tournament for two years due to the (COVID-19) pandemic. But, I was working throughout, trying to improve my game. I completed my

International Master (IM) cycle post-pandemic (in 2021)," she recalled.

"Although I was improving my game slowly, my rating became stagnant. There were some low moments when I felt I might not get the title, but people

believed in me and helped me to attain it," she said.

Vaishali is the elder sister of R Praggnanandhaa, the 18-yearold who has been making waves for quite a while. Together, they became the first brothersister duo to qualify for Candidates' event this year. Talking about her relationship with Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali stated, "We talk a lot about our games, which is natural since we have been playing together since our childhood.

"He helps me a lot with my game. It's great to have such a strong player at home with whom I can discuss more about the game at any time." When asked about the support she and her brother get from their parents, Vaishali described them as their "biggest strength". "Our parents are the biggest strength for both of us. My mother accompanies us to our tournaments on most of the occasions. She takes care of almost everything, and we just keep focusing on our game," she revealed.

"Our father takes care of things like logistics, planning and finances. In fact, both of them take care of most of our needs, which indeed helps us focus more on our game. Really grateful to them."

Away from chess, Vaishali is currently pursuing the PG Diploma course in Human Resource Management.

However, she has no qualms admitting that she has no academic aspirations and is focussed on professional chess with this month's Women's Masters in Norway being her next assignment.