


QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

Ration rice was distributed as the 'akshintalu' of Ayodhya Ram Mandir. How can akshintalu be distributed without Prana Pratishtha? The BJP mixed turmeric locally and distributed the akshintalu. I am challenging Kishan Reddy and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy. Can you take an oath on Bhadrachalam Lord Shri Ram and say that the akshintalu came after the Prana Pratishtha?

- Revanth Reddy, TG Chief Minister **P2**



Talks between India and China going on 'well':
Rajnath



UNLOCKING 'SECRETS' WITH SCRUPULOUS RESEARCH



Aghora look by Raamz creates revolution in T'WOOD



DON'T MISS...
Huge demand for AP route buses...

In view of the Assembly and Parliament elections in Andhra Pradesh on May 13, there is a heavy demand for the buses from the city for AP settlers. In the 11 routes of Andhra Pradesh services from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), more than 67 per cent of seats have been reserved on May 10. More than 74 per cent seats were booked on May 11. On the same date, Lok Sabha elections will be conducted in Telangana, due to the fact that there are no chances to provide additional bus services to those AP route services. Due to...

-PAGE: 3

Kerala's coastal hamlets witness...

Amidst warning of a 'Kallakkadal' phenomenon in coastal areas of the state, several places in Kerala have been witnessing high tidal waves and intense sea incursion since Saturday night. 'Kallakkadal' is a phenomenon of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in coastal areas. A number of houses were damaged and roads were flooded as massive waves hit the shores in many coastal hamlets. Sea water gushed into houses forcing residents to shift to safer places in Anchuthengu and Poonthura areas of...

-PAGE: 5

India has unexplored opportunities...

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett said that the Indian market has "unexplored" opportunities which his conglomerate holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, would like to explore "in the future". Buffett's remarks came at Berkshire's annual meeting on Friday when Rajeev Agarwal of DoorDarshi Advisors, a US-based hedge fund that invests in Indian equities, asked him about the possibility of Berkshire exploring in India, the world's fifth-largest economy. "It is a very good question. I am sure..."

SRH eye consistency in must win IPL...

A confident Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to produce a dominant show against a frail Mumbai Indians outfit and move up in the Indian Premier League points table when the two teams clash here on Monday. Placed fourth in the IPL points table with 12 points in 10 matches with six wins and four losses, SRH will be desperate to produce an all-round show and make improvements especially in their bowling department. The Pat Cummins-led side is in the midst of an intense battle between multiple teams...

-SPORTS

Quotas won't go, asserts Amit Shah

Says BJP will ensure quotas for SCs, STs & OBCs



Home Minister Amit Shah addressing an election rally in Kagaznagar on Sunday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reservations for SC, ST, OBCs would not end as long as there is even one BJP MP in Parliament, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

Shah, who addressed election rallies at Kagaznagar and Nizamabad in Telangana, said Congress fights elections on the basis of lies and referred to the grand old party's campaign that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would end quotas if BJP is given 400 seats in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress said Modi would scrap reservations if he gets a majority, but Modi has been having a full majority for the last 10 years, he said.

Continued on Page 2

Lashes out at Revanth over fake video, 'RR tax'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for posting a fake video. "My video was morphed. Revanth Reddy, this doesn't look good. You make a fake video and then say the Delhi police is targeting me. If you make a fake video, what else will happen," he said. Amit Shah campaigned at Nizamabad. "The Congress has made Telangana its ATM. India has GST, but in Telangana, the Congress is imposing its RR Tax, the Rahul-Revanth Tax, and they are sending the money to Delhi."

Continued on Page 2

Rahul asks Modi to remove 50% cap on reservations

Promises Rs 1.3 lakh yearly to poor TG women

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove the 50 per cent limit on reservations and said that the Congress if elected to power would hike the overall quota percentage above 50 per cent.

Addressing an election rally at Nirmal in the Adilabad Lok Sabha constituency on Sunday, he said that Modi is 'against' reservations and wants to end it.

"Modiji should tell the country that he will remove the 50 per cent barrier because this is what the Congress is going to do. Modi has never said that he will remove the 50 per cent limit on reservations," he said.

Stating that the 'biggest issue' before the nation is increasing reservations beyond 50 per cent, he said the Congress in its manifesto has promised to remove it to do justice to OBCs, Dalits and tribals.

The Congress leader reiterated his allegation that the BJP and the RSS want to scrap the Constitution and end reservations.

"This election is a battle between two ideologies. On the one hand, the



Rahul Gandhi in an election rally held at Nirmal on Sunday

Stating that the 'biggest issue' before the nation is increasing reservations beyond 50 per cent, Rahul said the Congress in its manifesto has promised to remove it to do justice to OBCs, Dalits and tribals.

Congress is trying to protect the Constitution while the BJP and the RSS want to finish off the Constitution and take away the

would be in addition to the Rs 2,500 per month women in Telangana are receiving.

"The Mahalakshmi scheme is being implemented in Telangana and women are getting Rs 2,500. Women in Telangana will get Rs 1.3 lakh yearly. Rs 1 lakh from the Centre and Rs 30,000 yearly from the state government as per the Mahalakshmi scheme," he said. However, the scheme has not been implemented in Telangana so far.

Alleging that Modi made youth 'unemployed', he said the Congress has promised 'Pehli Naukri pakki' for youth. He said that like MGN-REGA, graduates will get a right to jobs. Pointing out that there are 30 lakh vacancies in government service across the country, he said that people with a university degree and diploma holders will be given jobs for a year with a stipend of Rs 1 lakh per year. If the candidates perform well in a year they will be absorbed in their respective departments.

Terming it as the world's first scheme of its kind, he said that India will have the best-trained workforce in the world.

Continued on Page 2



Police detain 160 for obscene dance in pub

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Banjara Hills Police detained around 160 persons during a raid on a pub on May 4 where obscene dances were being allegedly held.

After receiving a tip-off, the Commissioner's Task Force (West Zone) raided 'After 9', a pub on Banjara Hills Road Number 14.

"The pub management had hired around 40 women from different states to dance at the pub and attract customers," the police said.

Two managers, a cashier, one DJ, five bouncers, 131 male customers and 32 women were taken into custody after the raid.

Before this, the Commissioner's Task Force (North Zone) raided Urvasi Bar and Restaurant in Begumpet, where the management had allegedly hired women to engage in 'indecent behaviour with customers.' The bar's license was also suspended.

The police also issued notices as per CrPC Section 41A and released them.

Telangana movement not yet over, says KCR

The Congress government has earned a lot of ill will in the last four months

He said that whenever the next Assembly elections are held the BRS will win resoundingly. "Rythu Bandhu is given at the time of cropping and not at the time of procurement."

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana movement is still going on, BRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao said.

He was addressing BRS cadres during his Bus Yatra in Veenavanka in Huzurabad on Sunday.

"The Telangana movement is not over. Telangana has to be reconstructed. The Congress government has earned a lot of ill will in the last four months," he said.

He said that whenever the next Assembly elections are held the BRS will win resoundingly.

"The people have accepted that KCR has given them everything but they thought the Congress will give more. Now you can see what happens if you become greedy. Victory and defeat are natural. Politics should not be based on them," he said.

Reacting to the CM's statement to deposit Rythu Bandhu funds in the bank accounts of all farmers by May



KCR said that it is unfortunate that industries are facing power supply problems. "We focused on bringing investments to our State."

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

9, KCR said, "Rythu Bandhu is given at the time of cropping and not at the time of procurement."

He said that it is unfortunate that industries are facing power supply problems. "We focused on bringing investments to our State. I came to know that a company with an investment potential of Rs 1,000 crore left Telangana for Tamil Nadu and that the Aluminum and plastic industries are unhappy with the power holidays and are planning to shift to other states. Why did it happen in the last five months? Why did the water and electricity disappear," he said.

Ration rice was given as akshintalu, says Revanth



'Muslims understand Congress, INDIA bloc using them as pawns'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that Rahul Gandhi misled the people of Telangana during his public meeting in Nirmal.

Rahul claimed that every woman in the state receives Rs 2,500 monthly from the Congress government.

KTR mocked Rahul, labelling him an unwitting politician who gets easily duped by local leaders like Revanth Reddy. He accused Rahul of merely reading a script filled with lies drafted by local Congress leaders. Rahul also falsely said in his speech that eld-

Revanth to Amit: Will I be arrested for questioning you?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reacted to Amit Shah's statement over sharing a doctored video on reservations.

Addressing a meeting in Chevella Parliament constituency the CM said, "They filed cases against me with the Delhi Police for questioning the cancellation of reservations. Today Amit Shah is saying that if I go against them and question us he will send the police and arrest us. I am asking Amit Shah and Modi. Will you fight on issues or will you send the Delhi Police to arrest us if we ques-

tion you. I want to tell Modi and Amit Shah that you may not know Revanth Reddy. In these 10 years, there was one Ghajini in the Gajwel farmhouse. He filed cases and sent me to jail. But I never feared. With the help of Congress karyakartas we defeated the BRS. If you don't know, ask KCR what kind of person I am since you hold talks in the dark." He said that in this election the possibility of quota cancellation is hanging like a knife on the neck. "Reservations are going to be cancelled and SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities are going to be made the 'slaves' of Adani and Ambani.

'Rahul endorsed Cong's fake promises'



erly people are given Rs 4,000 as pension, girls get 10 grams of gold during marriage, college girls get scooters and farmers receive bonuses for crops. KTR asked people whether they had received these things as

claimed by Rahul. He warned Rahul not to underestimate the intelligence of Telangana people and declared that they wouldn't believe his lies. KTR suggested that Rahul should verify whether the current Congress CM, Revanth Reddy, will remain with the Congress after the parliament elections.

He reminded Rahul that Revanth opposes the Congress line on issues like the Adani group and the Gujarat Model and added that Revanth very often supports Prime Minister Modi instead of Rahul Gandhi.

Continued on Page 2

Fierce campaign ends for third phase of LS poll

Polling tomorrow in 92 seats across 11 states and UTs

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The high-octane campaign for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections that saw the BJP-led NDA and the INDIA bloc fiercely attacking each other on issues like reservations and sexual harassment charges against JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna concluded on Sunday evening in 92 seats spread over 11 states and Union Territories.

The stakes are significant for the BJP in this round as the party had in 2019 won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, that will go to polls on May 7.

led the BJP charge, asking the Congress to give in writing that it will not hand over the quota for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to Muslims.

The Congress and its allies accused the BJP of trying to tamper with the Constitution and do away with reservations. The principal opposition party, which has promised to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations, also asked the BJP to clear its stance on the issue.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge along with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra focused on issues of social justice, unemployment, "injustice" to farmers and alleged favourable treat-

ment to select businessmen.

The BJP leaders targeted the Congress over wealth redistribution and inheritance tax issues and accused it of pursuing appeasement politics, while Rahul Gandhi reiterated Congress' commitment to conduct a caste census and economic survey if voted to power.

Over 1300 candidates, including around 120 women, are in the fray. Among the bigwigs are Union ministers Amit Shah (Gandhinagar), Jyotiraditya Scindia (Guna), Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar), Parshottam Rupala (Rajkot), Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad) and SP Singh Baghel (Agra).

Former Madhya Pradesh chief ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan



(Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Raigarh) have also returned to the Lok Sabha electoral fray this time. The fate of former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and Badruddin Ajmal (Dhubri) will

also be decided on May 7.

Several members of Mulayam Singh Yadav's family are also contesting in this phase in Uttar Pradesh.

PHONE-TAPPING CASE

Big developments expected after Lok Sabha polls

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

The current Lok Sabha elections in Telangana are gradually reaching the climax and on par with this the investigation into phone-tapping case reaching the climax. Political circles are expecting big developments in the phone-tapping case after the Lok Sabha elections.

The accused officials reportedly revealed the name of 'peddayana' in the police investigation. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also hinted that action will be taken in the phone-tapping case after the Lok Sabha

elections. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and former MP Madhu Yashki Goud also hinted that the names of BRS president and former chief minister KCR and BRS working president and former minister KTR would be included as A1 and A2 respectively in the phone-tapping case.

At the same time, the BJP is also bringing pressure on the State government to take action against the accused in the phone-tapping case. The BJP is also accusing KCR of being behind the phone-tapping case.



Monday Mirchi

BUREAUCRATS-TURNED-STRATEGISTS
Politicians, when in power, get to pick and choose bureaucrats; usually from among those who are pliable, competent and known for unthinking obedience. But it is vice versa when they are not in power, with the sole criterion for babus to latch on to netas being proximity to power centres or potential power points. In an interesting development, some retired bureaucrats have turned strategists for politicians in Telangana. Aspiring candidates too are keen on engaging the services of bureaucrats with hands-on knowledge of things that matter at the hustings. What is even more interesting is that such in-demand officials have no qualms about the party they are working for. A little bird told us that a senior official, who had ruled the roost in the erstwhile K Chandrasekhar Rao regime, is now a strategist for a Congress candidate. Well, now the discussion in bureaucratic circles is whether it is backstabbing or making the most of available opportunity. One good thing in this cat and mouse game is that bureaucrats are getting a chance to pick their new boss and get back at their ex-boss.

PHONE TAPPING CASE A FIGHT AMONG OFFICIALS AS NETAS STEP BACK
The high-profile Telangana phone-tapping case, which at one point saw netas spit venom on one another with explosive charges, seems to have been relegated to a fight within babudom now, with ex-officials and current ones battling it out as scapegoats while political leaders have stepped back in a puzzling anticlimax. The latest statements of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and ex-CM K Chandrasekhar Reddy about it have taken official circles by surprise. Revanth Reddy has called it an issue concerning officials as (arrested DSP) Praneeth Rao and others had destroyed vital pieces of evidence, following which a complaint was raised by the officials concerned. Thus, the issue of phone tapping came out, and so the CM expects officials to give him further information after due enquiries. KCR, on his part, has said that what happened concerned the Home Department and that, as then CM, he had nothing to do. Likewise, on the Kaleshwaram project officials are being made bakras, with ex-CM KCR going on record that he could only 'suggest' (designing, design changes or whatever) and not go beyond officials. Having moved heaven and earth on the 'graft' involved in the construction of Kaleshwaram project, Revanth is now saying that officials must decide on repairing the reported damage and restoring the project. All told, a bureaucrat commented that political parties are making bureaucrats scapegoats in the face of elections.

PLACEMENT RECORD IF IT HAPPENED BEFORE 9 DEC 2023
Regime change won't let sleeping dogs lie. Likewise, when a skeleton tumbles out of the closet, timing it is important. No wonder, these days clarifications being issued by the government, including those by senior officials, subtly push the blame on the previous government. Press notes in particular specify the date, if the matter pertains to something that happened before December 9, 2023. For instance, in the recent Rohit Vemula issue, DGP Ravi Gupta issued a press note and mentioned that the closure report relating to the case had been prepared before November 2023. The final closure report was officially filed on 21 March, 2024. Officials may want to alter the chronology but what happened is that on 2 March 2024 Ch Sreekanth was posted as ACP Madhapur. On 18 March 2024, ACP took up the investigation and the same day he got permission from the Commissioner of Police to close the case for lack of evidence. Now, who should take the blame: BRS govt, the new ACP, the CP or the Congress govt?

MOST BUREAUCRATS ARE WEATHERCOCKS
Politicians may readily believe bureaucrats, but bureaucrats need to be wary of netas from whom they get carte blanche. Upon regime change, most babus simply shift their loyalty to the new dispensation without prejudice to their misdeeds in the past with carte blanche from above. The ramifications of the TG phone tapping case have proved how politicians cannot expect bureaucrats to shield them when things go awfully wrong. Normally, if bureaucrats face any problems, politicians in power who had given them a lift go to their rescue. Once these politicians lose power and are in trouble, they cannot expect payback from the once-trusted bureaucrats. For, by default, most bureaucrats automatically switch their loyalty upon regime change. Some bureaucrats do indulge in irregularities hoping to get benefits while in service or after their retirement. But such bureaucrats are not many.

-- Yours truly

'Muslims understand Congress, INDIA bloc using them as pawns'

PNS ■ SITAPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Muslims now understand that the Congress and INDIA bloc are using them as pawns, asserting that the community is also coming to the BJP after seeing the development done by it. Addressing a rally in support of the BJP candidate in Dhaurahra, Modi also said that the poor and those belonging to the SC, ST and OBC communities have distanced themselves from the Congress and the opposition alliance, and come to the BJP. "Politics of appeasement has become compulsory for the existence of 'shehzade' of SP and Congress," he said in an apparent attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president

Akhilesh Yadav. "Muslim community also understands that the Congress and INDI alliance have made them pawns," Modi, said adding that the Muslim community is also coming to the BJP after seeing the development done without any prejudice. The PM was accompanied by Dhaurahra MP Rekha Verma, MP from Lakhimpur Ajay Mishra, BJP state president Bhubendra Chaudary and party's candidate from Sitapur Rajesh Verma. In Dhaurahra, the BJP has fielded incumbent Rekha Verma. She is pitted against Anand Bhaduriya of SP and Shyam Kishore Awasthi of BSP. Polling in Dhaurahra is scheduled on May 13 in the fourth phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

BJP govt brought peace & development to India: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The people decided to vote for a strong, corruption-free, stable government in 2014 by voting for the BJP, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said during a 'Meet the Press' organised by the Telangana State Union of Working Journalists at Basheerbagh on Sunday. "Before the BJP took over in 2014, there were many cases of irregularities, corruption and nepotism engineered by the Congress. Most Congress Ministers were corrupt and were subsequently



sent to jail for corruption. After the BJP came to power in 2014, there were many cases of irregularities, corruption and nepotism engineered by the Congress. Most Congress Ministers were corrupt and were subsequently

Priyanka to drive Cong campaign in Rae Bareilly, Amethi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will spearhead the Lok Sabha poll campaign in Rae Bareilly and Amethi, and camp in these parliamentary constituencies in Uttar Pradesh from Monday to ensure the party's victory in the two high-profile seats, according to sources. Ending days of suspense, the Congress on Friday announced that Rahul Gandhi will contest the Lok Sabha elections from Rae Bareilly, the constituency held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades, and Kishori Lal Sharma, a close aide of the Gandhi family, will fight from Amethi.



Rahul answers why he always wears white T-shirt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Why does Rahul Gandhi always wear a white T-shirt? The Congress leader has not one but two reasons -- it conveys 'transparency' and 'simplicity'. Gandhi answers several such light-hearted questions in a more than two-minute video released by the Congress on its social media channels. In the video captioned "A

day campaigning in Karnataka. Some light rapid fire questions and some very illustrious company", Gandhi also talks about his take on the importance of ideology. "In my view, you cannot go as a large organisation towards power without a clear understanding of the ideology. We have to convince the people of our ideology which is pro-poor, pro-women, plural, treating everybody equally," he says.

Fierce campaign...

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister Modi, who addressed two rallies in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday and later visited Ram temple in Ayodhya, lashed out at the "dynastic politics" of the Samajwadi Party and the Congress saying while the opposition alliance partners work only to benefit their own families, he is building a better future for the nation's next generations. Referring to himself and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said, "We don't have children. We are working for your children." With the BJP bagging Surat unopposed, 25 seats in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat will go to polls on May 7, besides 11 seats in Maharashtra, 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh, the remaining 14 of

the 28 in Karnataka, seven in Chhattisgarh, eight in Madhya Pradesh, five in Bihar, four each in Assam and West Bengal, and all two in Goa. The Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (2 seats) will also go to polls in the third phase while the election in the Anantnag-Rajouri seat has been put off to the sixth phase due to logistic reasons. Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have targeted the BJP over allegations of sexual harassment against Prajwal Revanna, Hassan MP and leader of the JD(S) - an ally of the BJP. The BJP has attacked the Congress over the alleged failure to "contain anti-national activities", incidents of 'Love Jihad' and 'appeasement politics'.

Ration rice was given as akshintalu, says Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that ration rice was distributed as the 'Akshintalu' of Ayodhya Ram Mandir. He asked how Akshintalu could be distributed without Prana Pratishtha and that they had mixed turmeric locally and had distributed the Akshintalu. "I am challenging Kishan Reddy and Konda Vishveshwar Reddy. Can you take an oath on Bhadrachalam Lord Shri Ram and say that the Akshintalu came after the Prana Pratishtha," he said.



"For you God is vote and Lord Ram is seats. For you, Hanuman Jayanthi might be a show of power. The BJP who uses God for politics are Nakli (fake) Hindus," he said during his street corner meetings in Chevella. "KCR looted TG in the name of the Mother of Telangana for

"We believe in Lord Ram and we are like Hanuman, a sevak of Lord Rama. God should be in the temple. Devotion should be in the heart. Only such people are true Hindus," he said. He said the BRS uses the Telangana Tali sentiment while the BJP uses the Ayodhya sentiment.

10 years. Father built a farmhouse on 1,000 acres in Gajwel. Son built a farmhouse costing Rs 1,000 crore in Janwada. They put up TVs and papers and earned thousands of crores. Do you ever remember Dalits, tribals and weaker sections? Are jobs provided to the unemployed? Modi who insulted Telangana has no right to ask for votes in 'Telangana,' he said.

'Rahul endorsed...

Continued from page 1

KTR campaigned in Malkajgiri on Sunday by conducting roadshows in LB Nagar, Uppal and Musheerabad drawing large crowds. He reminded Hyderabad residents of the uninterrupted power supply and adequate drinking water during KCR's rule. He urged voters to support the BRS in the parliament elections if they believed KCR's rule was better than that of the Congress government. He said that if the BRS secures 10 to 12 LS seats, KCR will become the focal point of state politics and would raise people's issues both locally and in Delhi.

Big developments...

Continued from page 1

In an interview to the national media, reacting to a question, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that there was no political impact of BRS MLK K Kavitha's arrest in the Delhi liquor scam in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. CM Revanth opined that if KCR had been arrested there would be some political impact. That means CM Revanth was scared about political impact in the crucial Lok Sabha elections if any action is taken against KCR before the elections. CM Revanth is waiting for the completion of Lok Sabha elections to take further

action in the phone-tapping case. The investigation into phone-tapping case is also coming to a conclusion. In the election campaign, KCR and Revanth Reddy exchanged serious allegations against each other. Though KCR accepted the phone-tapping during his regime, he denied the government involvement in this issue. But the accused in this case have named KCR being behind in the phone-tapping issue. At the same time, CM Revanth said that the government will not spare anyone in the phone-tapping case and the responsible persons must go behind the bars.

KCR ridicules Rahul over Rs 2,500 aid for BPL women

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao ridiculed Rahul Gandhi for making the false claim that the TG Congress government is giving Rs 2,500 as financial assistance per month to BPL women. He asked people if they are getting Rs 2,500 and when they said no, he said that Rahul is saying that it is being given. "We made Jagtivala a district. The TG government will now scrap the district. We made a reservoir for a flood canal here. We filled the ponds and



schemes of KCR are being scrapped," he said. Attacking the BJP, he asked where is Ache Din, Amrit Kaal and Beti Pado. "The value of the Rupee fell sharply against the US Dollar. The Modi government has not benefited any community," he said. "The BJP won four MPs and has not done even four rupees work for TG. The BJP MP Arvind who won here has not done anything. Why should we vote for him? Everything is fake under Modi's rule at the Centre. Young people should think. The future is yours.

farmers survived. Why did they dry up the flood canal? Within five months, the entire state has been brought to a standstill. They won't care for beedi workers, weavers, Gouds and students," KCR said. "All

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Trayodashi: May 05 05:42 PM to May 06 02:40 PM
Chaturdash: May 06 02:40 PM to May 07 11:41 AM
Nakshatram: Revati: May 05 07:57 PM to May 06 05:43 PM
Ashwini: May 06 05:43 PM to May 07 03:32 PM
Rahukalam: 7:26 AM to 9:02 AM
Yamagandam: 10:37 AM to 12:12 PM
Varjyam: 11:54 AM to 01:21 PM
Gulika: 1:48 PM to 3:23 PM
Amritakalam: 03:32 PM to 04:59 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:38 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 42°
Humidity: 35%
Sunrise: 5:48 AM
Sunset: 6:38 PM
Updated: May 5, 2024 5:00 PM

Quotas won't go, asserts...

Continued from page 1

The prime minister did not use the advantage (majority seats) to scrap reservations but only to remove Article 370, end triple talaq, ban the Popular Front of India (PFI) and construct a Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said. "They want to say that we will end reservations. I give you a Modi guarantee today. As long as there is even a single BJP member in the country's parliament, we will not let Dalit, Adivasi, OBC reservations end," he said. Referring to the case over his doctored video being circulated on social media, Shah alleged that Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also forwarded the video. On Reddy's allegation that the Delhi police are after him (in the case of doctored

video), Shah asked as to what else would happen if a fake video is made. Observing that Muslim reservation is not Constitutional, he said the BJP would scrap it when it forms government in Telangana and would increase the quotas for Adivasis and Dalits. The Congress curtailed the reservations of OBC, ST, SC and gave to Muslims, he said. PM Modi removed triple talaq but Congress leader Rahul Gandhi says his party, if it comes to power, would bring triple talaq again, the BJP top leader alleged. The Congress wants to run the country as per Muslim personal law, he claimed. The senior BJP leader also alleged that AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and

Rahul Gandhi did not attend the Ram Temple consecration despite being invited for fear of their vote bank. He said the vote bank of Congress and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi is the same. There are two camps in the present elections - NDA led by PM Modi and the 'Indi alliance' led by Rahul Gandhi, he said. While there is Modi, who works tirelessly and even celebrates Deepawali with soldiers, there is "Rahul Baba who goes to Bangkok, Thailand for holiday with a slight increase in temperatures," he said. Alleging that the BRS and Congress are scared of Owaisi, Shah questioned whether Congress or BRS could save Telangana from Owaisi.

Lashes out at...

Continued from page 1

He said that if Arvind wins a second time, the headquarters of the Turmeric Board will be in Telangana. "Modi banned the PFI to ensure India's security. Asaduddin Owaisi opposed this ban, but let me tell him, no matter how much you resist, organisations like the PFI will not be able to operate in India, and that's the decision of the BJP. Naxalism will be completely wiped out from this country if Modi becomes the PM again," Amit Shah said. He recalled that during Congress rule, India was facing the constant threat of terror attacks and bombings. "The Modi government conducted surgical strikes after the terror attacks in Uri.

Rahul asks Modi to remove...

Continued from page 1

He said that privatisation of the public sector, the Agniveer scheme and contract employment were aimed at ending reservations. He said Congress will do away with the contract system and provide permanent jobs. He reiterated that if voted to power, the Congress would conduct a caste census, which would redefine the country's politics. He said that Backward Classes constitute 50 per cent of the country's population. There are 15 per cent Dalits, eight per cent tribals, 15 per cent Muslims and 5 to 6 per

cent poor in the general category. "They are over 90 per cent of the population but they have no place in any institution," he said. He said after the caste census, 90 per cent of people will know what their share is. "We will find out what is the wealth of Backwards, Dalits, tribals and the poor. This will be the beginning of new politics in the country," he said. Stating that Adivasis have the first right over land he said the Congress government in Telangana will resolve their land issue. He promised that their rights would be protected. Rahul said the Congress

wants to form a government of the poor, farmers, backwards, Dalits and tribals at the Centre. Alleging that the BJP is spreading 'hatred', he said the Congress had defeated them in Telangana. "They make brothers fight each other. They spread 'hatred' wherever they go. We share 'love' and give dignity," he said. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that for the first time, the Congress has fielded a woman as its candidate in Adilabad. He appealed to the people to elect Athram Suguna with a majority of over one lakh votes.

Huge demand for AP route buses from city for AP polls

CHITHALURI REVANTH
HYDERABAD

In view of the Assembly and Parliament elections in Andhra Pradesh on May 13, there is a heavy demand for the buses from the city for AP settlers. In the 11 routes of Andhra Pradesh services from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), more than 67 per cent of seats have been reserved on May 10. More than 74 per cent seats were booked on May 11.

On the same date, Lok Sabha elections will be conducted in Telangana, due to the fact that there are no chances to provide additional bus services to those AP route services. Due to the heavy demand for the bus services from Hyderabad, the TSRTC has written a letter to



the APSRTC to run more buses from Hyderabad to various places in AP.

In one of the AP routes, more than 2,500 seats were reserved from the MGBS to Vijayawada on May 10, 3,093 were booked on May 11, 1,549 seats booked on May 12, and 2,143 seats booked on May 13. Due to the Lok Sabha elec-

tions in Telangana, the Election Commission of India (ECI) asked the TSRTC to provide some buses to transport equipment and officers on the polling day. Along with that there will be a huge demand to the northern Telangana districts on the poll day. So, there are chances that the TSRTC may not provide additional

buses to some routes of AP.

In the booked percentage, Kanigiri route is top with more than 98 per cent on May 11, 84 per cent on May 10 and 88 per cent on May 12. In the Ongole route, more than 84 per cent of offered seats have been reserved on May 10, 96 per cent on May 11, more than 81 per cent of seats reserved by the people on May 12.

People have booked more than 78 per cent of seats from Guntur and MGBS route on May 10. On May 11, the booked percentage increased to 93 per cent. Voters are looking at private bus services also. It is learnt that due to the holidays on Saturday (May 11), Sunday (May 12), and Monday (May 13), software and other sector employees are going to their constituencies along with their families.

Man held for duping job aspirants of Rs 46.19 lakh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime unit of the Hyderabad Police arrested a man for duping job aspirants of Rs 46,19,000.

The accused was identified as S Mahesh, a resident of Bengaluru, who posted advertisements on social media platforms offering jobs in multi-national companies to job-seekers and duped them of their hard-earned money.

"When job aspirants contacted, Mahesh conducted interviews and afterwards issued fake appointment letters by taking huge amounts and cheated them," said the police. The police seized three mobile phones from Mahesh.

TEMPERATURE SOARS TO 46.8 IN TELANGANA Study finds urban heat islands concentrated in a few city areas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A research conducted by Hyderabad Urban Lab has found that Urban Heat Islands are concentrated in a few areas in Hyderabad.

As per the research, these areas are concentrated in the northwestern, western, southern and southeastern regions of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). In the northwestern areas, they are located in Patancheru and Bandlaguda wards, while in the western area, they are located in the Gachibowli ward.

The Urban Heat Islands (UHIs) are also concentrated in the Mailardevally ward of the southern region and BN Reddy Nagar, Hayathnagar and Mansoorabad wards of the southeastern regions of the GHMC.

They are identified based on the analysis of March 2024 data. UHIs are areas whose land surface temperature is higher when compared to the surrounding areas. These are created due to heavy urbanisation and anthropogenic activities such as dense urban liv-



ing without green spaces. Due to the increase in Urban Heat Islands, it is contributing to the rising temperatures in Hyderabad. On Sunday, Jagtiyal recorded the highest maximum temperature of 46.8 degrees Celsius. Hyderabad recorded a maximum temperature of 43.8.

Among districts Jagtiyal was followed by Karimnagar (46.8), Nalgonda (46.7), Nizamabad (46.4) and Macherial (46.3). As per a report by the Telangana State Planning and Development Society (TSDPS), light to moderate showers are expected in isolated parts of Telangana from May 8. The maximum temperature in the State is

expected to remain between 42-45 degrees Celsius whereas the minimum temperature is expected to remain between 27-30 degrees.

Areas under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) are likely to experience dry weather until May 8. The maximum temperature is expected to remain between 41-43 degrees while the minimum temperature is expected to remain between 28-30 degree Celsius. Among areas under the GHMC, Chandanagar and Qutbullapur recorded the highest maximum temperature (44.5), followed by LB Nagar and Khairatabad (43.8), Kapra, RC Puram (42.9).

Madhapur CI celebrates birthday on Cable Bridge, DCP orders an inquiry

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Madhapur Circle Inspector Malleth participated in a birthday celebration on the Madhapur Cable Bridge, against police orders. As the photo has gone viral on the social media, Madhapur DCP G Vineeth ordered a detailed inquiry into the matter and said action will be taken based on the findings of the report.

After a young man lost his life, the police had announced that if anyone halts on the bridge, which causes inconvenience, it would be a punishable offence and a fine of Rs 1,000 would be imposed against them.

The images show Madhapur SHO G Malleth, along with others, celebrating a birthday by cutting a cake on the Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge. The photos of the cel-



Madhapur CI Malleth seen celebrating his birthday on the Cable bridge.

ebrations have gone viral on social media and raised many questions. On reacting to them, Madhapur CI Malleth said, "One photo of a birthday celebration circulating in the media. That is not on the main road of the cable bridge. It is on the footpath."

DGC releases Rs 4.27 cr of seized cash to people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

District Election Officer (DEO) Ronald Rose said that out of 153 cases of more than Rs 50,000 seizures, the District Grievance Committee (DGC) was ordered to release Rs 4.27 crore of 146 cases. The money was released to those who have shown relevant documents to the DGC.

In all, 153 cases of Rs 5.61 crore have been recommended to the DGC, wherein 146 cases have been solved.

The DEO said that Rs 66,55,000 of four cases of seized cash exceeding Rs 10 lakh has been referred to the Income Tax and Commercial Tax departments. Money of Rs 66,49,000 has been seized by the Income Tax department.

He said that cash and other items worth Rs 51,04,015, which were seized in 10 cases related to Secunderabad Assembly Cantonment were



recommended to the DGC, wherein Rs 15,99,800 of seven cases has been released to those who have shown proper evidence. Rs 35,04,215 cash related to the three cases has been referred to the Income Tax department.

People can contact the Chairman of Grievance Committee through 9618888110 and Committee Convenor Sarath Chandra on 9177872240 for enquiry related to the seizure.

Meanwhile, Ronald Rose said that various enforcement

teams in the district seized Rs 18.52 lakh, and Rs 1.10 crore worth of material items, 77 liters of liquor were seized in 24 hours from 6 am on Saturday to 6 am on Sunday.

Since the MCC came into force, a total of Rs 22.03 crore and other items worth Rs 17,80,37,539 have been seized by various enforcement teams. Along with that, 26,654 liters of liquor have been seized by the excise department and 282 cases have been registered and 282 people have been arrested.



KTR helps Padma Shri awardee Kinnera Mogulaiah

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister KT Rama Rao has financially assisted Padma Shri awardee Darshanam Mogulaiah, popularly known as Kinnera Mogulaiah, on Sunday. KTR had assured him that after a video went viral on social media, where he was doing masonry work, and said he was not getting pension from the government.

But the government also responded that he is getting a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 since June 2021, without any halt. Along with them, the BRS government awarded him with Rs 1 crore in June 2022. On the day his name went viral on May 3 also, he got Rs 10,000 in his account. With the awarded money of Rs 1 crore, he used it for his children's mar-

riages. Later, he bought a piece of land in Turakymjal and started constructing a four-floor building but that construction work also stopped because he ran out of funds.

Mogulaiah said that the government has not provided 600 yards of land which assured to him a few years back. It is been learnt that after the government announced the land, the officials showed the land in an area. But he asked the officials to provide the land in a city. Due to that the allotment of land has not taken place.

Other than the government, people from film industries also gave him lakhs of rupees. Actor Pawan Kalyan gave Rs 2 lakh, Posani Krishna Murali gave Rs 1 lakh and on May 5, former minister KTR gave money to assist him.

Mahila Cong chief Sunita demands arrest of Revanna

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reacting to the sex scandal which took place in Karnataka wherein Prajwal Revanna is said to be the accused in a sexual harassment and abduction case, Sunita Rao, President of Mahila Congress, demanded the arrest of Revanna, son of Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara and grandson of former PM HD Deve Gowda, during a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday.

Sunita Rao said, "It is the BJP leaders who attack women in the country and sexually abuse them. Revanna's father and son are involved in a heinous sexual harassment incident. Why no action was taken against BJP leader Prajwal Revanna? Prime Minister Amit Shah, who fled to Germany knows this.

They are sexually assaulting women while shouting slogans of Beti Padhao Beti Bachao. Revanna should be arrested."

Congress claims video of Jeevan Reddy slapping woman is fake

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reacting to the video of T Jeevan Reddy slapping a woman after expressing her intention to vote for the flower symbol, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chairman Sama Ramohan said the video is fake.

Senior Congress leader and party candidate from Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency T Jeevan Reddy was shown slapping a woman when she expressed her intention to vote for the 'flower' symbol for the upcoming May 13 election, during a campaign in a village within the Armur Assembly segment.

This video was widely circulated on social media platforms.

Reacting to the video, Sama Ramohan said, "After BJP's defeat, false campaigns are being made in the State by its party members.

The BJP members created fake videos against Jeevan Reddy where it shows Jeevan Reddy slapping a woman. Jeevan Reddy's words are being edited and shown with confidence.

On another day, it was also advertised that the Chief Minister died after falling under the canal. BJP would do anything to avoid this kind of propaganda."

TCEI to host Wedding Planners Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI), Regional Events Industry Association, announces the third Edition of the South Indian Wedding Planners Congress (SIWPC) 2024, along with the third TCEI SIWPC GLOBAL and the 7th TCEI

Events Excellence Awards 2024. The event is scheduled for June 18 and 19, at the Hitex Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad.

This event aims to promote Hyderabad as a premier global wedding destination. The formal announcement was made by chief guest TG Srikant and Alla Balaram Babu, president of TCEI.

World Laughter Day fete organised

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The members of ABC Laughter Club organised the World Laughter Day celebrations at Public Garden, Nampally on Sunday.

They voiced concerns about healthcare and advocated for laughter's therapeutic benefits. Encouragingly, they urged more individuals to join the club for enhanced well-being.

SV Satyanarayan, president, Venkata Chary, vice-president, Patha Narendar, general secretary and other members participated in the event.

ECI should focus on all polling booths, says Asaduddin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday said the Election Commission of India should focus on polling booths across Telangana and not just Hyderabad to ensure free and fair election.

Addressing a gathering, the Hyderabad MP said, "The Congress has called for attention on constituencies including Karwan, Chandrayan gutta, Charminar, Bahadur pura and Goshamahal during voting."

"If there has to be a free and fair election, then polling

booths across all constituencies must be paid attention to," Owaisi added.

"If the focus is merely on 720 polling booths under Hyderabad, what about those in Secunderabad, Karimnagar, Adilabad and Malkajgiri? Is the BJP not insulting the people of Hyderabad by stressing attention on polling booths in the city?," the MP asked.

"If they are bothered about free and fair elections, they must concentrate on the whole State, why are people of Hyderabad being singled out?," Owaisi further questioned.

"If you want to go after us, please do. It doesn't matter," the AIMIM chief concluded.

'Prakash Purab' of Guru Teg Bahadur organised with devotion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 403rd Prakash Purab (birth anniversary) of Ninth Sikh Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib who made supreme sacrifices for the country at the altar of dharma and spread the message of peace and communal harmony across the world, was celebrated with religious fervour and devotion by offering prayers to Guru Granth Sahib at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Sitafalmandi, Secunderabad on Sunday.

The event was organised under the aegis of Prabandhak Committee, Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (GSGSS), Sitafalmandi, Secunderabad with hundreds of Sikh devotees and other communities participated in the "Vishaal Deewan" (mass congregation) at Sitafalmandi Gurudwara Sahib by offering prayers to Guru Granth Sahib (holy scripture of Sikhs).

The GSGSS Sitafalmandi, Prabandhak Committee president, S Pratap Singh Osahan and general secretary S Jaswinder Singh and other



committee members said that the congregation began at 10.30 am and continued up to 3.30 pm. It was marked by the recitations of Gurubani Keertans and Kathas (holy hymns) by renowned and reputed Ragi Jathas (Sikh preachers).

Well-known Ragi Jathas, Bhai Jaspal Singh from Delhi, Bhai Jagdev Singh, Head Granthi of Gurdwara Sahib, Secunderabad and other reputed Ragi Jathas who were specially invited for the occasion recited Gurbani Keertans and delivered Gurbani Vichar (sermons) that stressed on imbuing the high values of life and communal harmony for which

Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib strove.

They also throw light on the teachings of Sikh Gurus who stood for national integration, peace, brotherhood and communal harmony. They asked devotees to follow the teachings of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib which are very relevant these days.

After the culmination of the congregation, the traditional Guru Ka Langar (free community kitchen) was served to all the devotees where devotees sit in the same row with great discipline promoting the feelings of togetherness, fraternity and concern for fellow human beings.

INTERNATIONAL FEMALE RIDERS DAY

Equipping women for adventure and independence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Empowering women on International Female Riders Day, professional trainers teach and train women to ride scooters and motorcycles in the city. Royal Brothers, a bike rental company, and Moto Business Service India Private Limited (MBSI), a subsidiary of Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd, Japan, have teamed up and introduced "RB For Women" in Hyderabad for the second time.

This collaboration aims to empower women by promoting motorcycling as more than just a mode of transportation but as a symbol of adventure



RB For Women" in Hyderabad for the second time.

and independence. According to RB, the programme has seen active partic-

ipation from hundreds of women over the past three years, showing a growing inter-

est and commitment towards its objectives. The launch of the 8th edition, which aims to train around 100 women, marks a positive step towards equipping women with valuable skills and prospective job opportunities.

The RB informed, this detailed training covers all aspects of riding, including safety protocols and provides women with safety gear and access to various motorcycles for practice. The event saw personalised guidance and support from professional trainers in a safe environment. They also plan to expand the initiative further,

providing more women with the opportunity to learn motorcycling skills.

Co-Founder & CEO of Royal Brothers, Abhishek Chandrashekar said, he was excited about the launch and thanked MBSI for their partnership. He also highlighted the empowering experience of learning to ride a motorcycle, aiming to provide access to millions of Indians without vehicle ownership. With over 5,000 two-wheelers available for rent in 20 plus cities across 8 states, Royal Brothers ensures a seamless booking experience through its mobile app and website.

Situation changes for worse in Telangana: Harish Rao

The change Congress promises to bring turns out to be a nightmare

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Former minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader T Harish Rao on Sunday expressed the view that the situation in Telangana has changed for the worse. The state is witnessing power cuts and burning out of farm motors.

During the campaign in Sircilla, Harish Rao recalled that the BRS government had ensured uninterrupted power supply to the farmer sector and also other sectors. When K Chandrashekar Rao, known as KCR, was in power, there were no power cuts in the State. "Now power cuts have become the order of the day. Motors fitted to pumpsets are getting



Former minister T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting in Sircilla on Sunday

burnt out bringing tears to the eyes of the farmers. Farmers are forced to spend a lot of money for the repairs of the motors" he pointed out.

Apart from it, the Congress government for the reason best known to itself has stopped the supply of KTR kits to

acute drinking water scarcity and cropped withered away due to lack of water for irrigation, he said.

Harish Rao took Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to task for using abusive language against BRS leaders.

The former minister said the government failed to invest support under Rythu Bandhu in time. It would be useful if the money is provided to farmers at the outset, he said.

Exhorting the people to defeat the Congress and BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, Harish Rao stressed the need to ensure the victory of BRS nominees to make the voice of the people of Telangana heard in Parliament.

Rs 3 lakh seized from individual

PNS ■ BOATH

In the intensified searches conducted by the police, Rs 3 lakh unaccounted for money was seized on Saturday at the police check post near Ghanpur.

The cash was seized from a person who is heading for Nirmal from Maharashtra state. As he could not give any satisfactory answer to the question on the source of funds, the police have seized the cash.

SI Ramu and other police personnel were present during the inspection.

BJP intensifies campaign in Chevella constituency

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Konda Sangeetha Reddy, BJP Lok Sabha candidate from Chevella constituency Konda Visveswar Reddy's wife, has been actively campaigning for her husband's victory in the Chevella Lok Sabha constituency by organising a series of rallies at several gated communities in Madhapur, Serilingampally Assembly segments.

Sangeetha Reddy addressed meetings emphasising her husband's accessibility and commitment to addressing people's concerns. She added that Visveswar Reddy is easily accessible to people and works actively to address their problems. She expressed optimism that victory of her husband in Chevella would go a long way in solving the prob-



Konda Sangeetha Reddy on the campaign trail in Chevella constituency

lem being faced by people in the constituency.

Sangeetha Reddy urged the public to consider May 13 not merely as a holiday but as a crucial day to exercise their voting rights. She called upon everyone to actively participate in the democratic process by casting their votes in support of the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) and Konda Expressing her faith in Narendra Modi's leadership, Sangeetha Reddy criticised the Congress party for failing to deliver on its promises despite coming to power with six guarantees. She reiterated the need for a strong BJP presence to ensure the country's growth and development.



Leopard spotted in Ibrahimpatna forest area

PNS ■ MEDAK

Forest beat officer Nagarani, basing on the footage captured on camera trap in the forest, urged people to remain alert as a leopard is on the prowl in Ibrahimpatna forest area under Chegunta mandal of Medak district.

She appealed to the people to not to venture out into Ibrahimpatna forest area for any reason.

She appealed to villagers, especially those who reside in Bonala Govindapur, Kistapur, Pulimamidi, Chittojipalli, Rukmapur, Rampur and Kanyaram to be alert and not to venture into the forest.

The footage depicted that the leopard visiting forest nursery for drinking water. The authorities also spotted the spotted deer in the forest.

Battle royale on cards in Chevella constituency

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In the heart of Ranga Reddy district, Chevella Lok Sabha constituency is witnessing a tough battle between three wealthy candidates. With the BJP hoping to transform the pink fort into a lotus paradise and the Congress attempting to maintain its dominance, this election has attracted unprecedented interest.

The significance of Chevella, a blend of rural and urban areas boasting an international airport and IT industries, lies not only in its diverse voter demographics from Telugu States but also from the northern regions. Muslims make up around 15 per cent, Mudirajs 15 per cent, Madigas 15.71 per cent. Muslims and Mudirajs are seen as critical in determining election results. However, voter behavior and political strategies have not followed expected patterns, as demonstrated by elections since 2009. Candidates in the past had won the elections with a narrow margin.

Former Union Minister S Jaipal Reddy won this seat in 2009 and had not run for reelection since. Konda Visveswar Reddy, the present BJP candidate, won on the BRS ticket in 2014. In the 2009 elections, there was a stiff contest between the Congress and the



From left to right: Gaddam Ranjith Reddy (Congress), Konda Visveswar Reddy (BJP), Kasani Gnaneshwar Reddy (BRS)

TDP with Congress candidate S Jaipal Reddy defeating Jitender Reddy by 18,532. A polling rate of 64.5 per cent was recorded here. It is worth noting that the difference in votes between the two candidates is only 1.7%. Ranjith Reddy, the current Congress candidate, who contested on the TRS ticket defeated Konda Visveswar Reddy, the current BJP candidate, in the 2019 parliamentary elections.

The three contenders, all millionaires, include Konda Visveswar Reddy of BJP with assets worth Rs. 4,490 crore, Gaddam Ranjith Reddy of Congress with Rs. 869.77 crore, and Kasani Gnaneshwar of BRS with Rs. 520.70 crore. Despite their differences in

party affiliations, they share a common goal of clinching victory in Chevella.

Ranjith Reddy, the incumbent MP who recently switched from BRS to the Congress, is banking on both traditional Congress supporters and Muslim votes.

Meanwhile, Visveswar Reddy, representing BJP, is leveraging the charisma of Prime Minister Modi, targeting BJP cadre and Modi supporters in urban areas while relying on personal connections in rural segments. On the other hand, Gnaneshwar, former chairman of the joint Ranga Reddy Zilla Parishad, is focusing his efforts on BC voters, confident of their support in securing victory.

SUBSIDIES TO OLD CITY YOUTH

Cong LS candidate from Hyd promises 5,000 jobs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress candidate for Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat, Mohammed Sameer Waliullah on Sunday pledged 5,000 jobs and subsidies to 50,000 unemployed youth of the Old City.

Waliullah said, "According to a recent survey the unemployment rate in Hyderabad stood at an alarmingly high 21%, with rates skyrocketing to 45% among those aged 20 to 24. Telangana was already governed by the Congress, which was poised to form the government at the Centre. Given these favourable conditions, Sameer believed that curbing unemployment was achievable."

Following a rally from Kishan Bagh



"The Congress party's national manifesto, the 'Congress Nyay Patra', promised one year of job guarantees for all graduates and diploma holders, which would benefit thousands of young people from the Old City," he explained. Additionally, the Congress government in Telangana had proposed creating skill universities to enhance youth employability.

Addressing the media, the Congress candidate highlighted the party's creating jobs locally and facilitating employment for Old City residents in other parts of Hyderabad. He believed that a significant portion of the budget would be spent on economic empowerment, including self-employment schemes.

Female baby rescued from being buried alive

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

In a bit dispose of an unwanted baby, a female baby was found buried alive at Urugonda under Damera mandal of Hanamkonda district on Saturday.

However, a tanker driver noticed some thing moving underneath the soil and dug carefully and to his shock the newborn baby girl. With the help of the MNRGS workers, he shifted the baby to a hospital where doctors save her.

According to the locals, the Hyderabad-Bhupalapatnam national highway widening works are under way. In the process, a water tanker driver

daily fetches water from a water storage facility adjacent to the national highway. While filling the tanker with water, he noticed a baby moving her hands and legs in the soil. He carefully removed the soil only to find a female baby with a very weak pulse. The alert driver with the help of the NREGS workers present there saved the baby's life.

On learning about the incident, the police rushed to the spot and took steps to shift the baby to a private hospital near Damera X roads. After providing the first-aid there, the baby was shifted in 108 Ambulance to MGM Hospital. The doc-

tors at MGM Hospital describe the condition of the baby as stable.

Since the child being the female, the parents might have resorted to get rid of the baby, the police suspect.

The police have been investigating the case from all possible angles. They have been checking the CCTV footage in Urugonda, Oglapur and other areas.

The medical officials told the police that the baby was born in the eighth month. With the help of the ASHA workers in Damera, Atmakuru, Sayam petmandals, the police have procured the list of pregnant women.

BJP leader offers to fund cadre's trip to Ayodhya if party candidate wins

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

BJP Telangana State executive member Bangla Lakshmi Kant Reddy has made a bumper offer to the party leaders that he would take them to Ayodhya by air at his own cost provided they ensured the victory of DK Aruna in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Aruna is the BJP candidate from Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituency.

As May 13, the election date, is drawing nearer the parties have been trying to woo the voters as well as the party leaders to encourage them to work more efficiently. Campaign has been stepped up in the state by

parties with leaders offering various incentives to the party leaders.

Once DK Aruna got elected, he offered to take Mandal presidents of the BJP, presidents of the booth-level party units to Ayodhya by air spending from his pocket.

Therefore, he asked all party workers and leaders to sweat it out during the campaign for the next seven days to ensure that the saffron flag flutters over Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituency.

The BJP leaders and activists felt attracted by the offer and stepped up the campaign for the victory of Aruna, the BJP national vice-president.

Key to check rising temperatures lies in expanding green cover

PNS ■ MIRYALAGUDA

Temperatures up to 46 degrees Celsius are being recorded at many places in Telangana. It is attributed to indiscriminate cutting down of trees, growing pollution levels in atmosphere, no scope for seepage of water into the ground as all roads in villages are being converted into CC roads, increased use of the plastics and so on.

Because of increased pollution poisonous gases like carbon-di-oxide, methane, nitrous oxide and so on are being released into atmosphere leading to prevalence of the global warming phenomenon. Because of it, the day temperatures are increasing year after year.

Converting country roads

into CC roads gives no scope for the water to seep into the layers of the earth. In addition, indiscriminate digging of bore wells has led to ground water table receding further and further. This has been one of the factors for increasing temperatures.

In undivided Nalgonda district several highways have been built. As a result, the road side trees have been cutdown. Experts indicate that at least 5% of the forest cover has been depleted.

In the name of development, even hillocks are being razed to the ground. As a result, ecological inequilibrium has set in.

To control the global warming, saplings should be planted and they should be careful-

ly nursed. The people should reduce the use of plastics. They should reduce their dependency on personal transport and utilize the public transport. Soak pits should be built at homes and offices to catch every drop of rain that is incident in a given region and channelize it into the sub-soil.

A lover of the environment Ravula Srinivas of the town has said that the only solution to reduce the global warming impact is to grow trees liberally. Otherwise, the sustenance of the posterity would be in danger. He claims to be creating awareness among the people to grow trees and offered to supply plants free of cost to those who come forward to plant the saplings.

Congress, BJP MPs failed to bring single Navodaya school to Telangana: Vinod Kumar

PNS ■ SIRCILLA

BRS Lok Sabha candidate from Karimnagar B Vinod Kumar on Sunday criticised the Congress for delaying the implementation of the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

During the four-month rule of Congress, the water crisis arose.

Because of the inefficiency of the Congress government, it brought in its wake drought to the state. The benefit under the Rythu Bandhu scheme should be extended to farmers at the time of sowing the seeds, but the Congress provided the benefit when the farmers are ready for harvesting the crop, he observed.

He campaigned in Chandurti and Vemulawada Assembly segments on Sunday seeking support of the voters to him.

In the Lok Sabha elections, the people should vote for development, he said claim-



BRS candidate for Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency B Vinod Kumar speaking at a meeting in Vemulawada on Sunday

ing to have brought Rs 1000-crore Smart City project to Karimnagar during his previous stint as MP of Karimnagar.

In new site of Telangana, the BRS developed the state in many respects. When KCR was the CM, 33 districts were carved out of the existing 10 districts to facilitate greater decentralization of the administration. RythuBandhu was the brain-

child of KCR, who coined the scheme to rule out problems to the farmers in raising funds to raise the crops. No other state government extends input subsidy to the farmers in the country, he said.

Sitting MP of Karimnagar. Bandi Sanjay of the BJP did not speak in the Lok Sabha at least once in support of Telangana. He did not bring at least one temple or a school

to the constituency, Vinod said claiming that he was instrumental in bringing the national highways to the constituency.

The 4 BJP MPs and three Congress MPs have failed to bring at least one Navodaya school for Telangana, he said.

He claimed that the government gave 334 acres of land to Kondagattu Hanuman temple. Only BRS has love for the farmers. Only BRS has love for the farmers, he said claiming to work closely with any government that is likely to be formed at the Center after the elections and assured the people to always remain accessible to them.

He assured the youth of Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency to bring Skill Development Center of international standards to the constituency for their benefit. Therefore, he appealed to the youth to think before they exercised their right to franchise.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

CID BOOKS TDP LEADERS FOR 'SMEAR' CAMPAIGN

NAIDU A-1, LOKESH A-2

Action taken in pursuance of EC orders for alleged dissemination of false information against Jagan govt over Land Titling Act

- YSRCMP MLA Vishnu's complaint led to the FIR
- Allegations include IVR calls spreading misinformation
- Investigation initiated under IPC sections

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The AP Crime Investigation Department (CID) has registered a case against TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and party general secretary Nara Lokesh, among others, for their alleged involvement in disseminating misleading information regarding the Land Titling Act.

Acting on the orders of the Election Commission of India, the CID has formally filed a criminal case, designating Naidu as A-1 and Lokesh as A-2.

The complaint was lodged by YSRCMP MLA Malladi Vishnu from Vijayawada, prompting the CID to take action. The FIR, lodged at the CID Police Station in Mangalagiri, cites various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

INDIA CORNER

Woman delivers child inside hostel bathroom in Kochi

Days after a suspected victim of sexual assault tossed her newborn infant on a street in Kochi, killing the infant, another woman was found to have given birth in the bathroom of a city hostel, the police said on Sunday. The 22-year-old woman from Kollam, who works in a company here, delivered the child inside the bathroom of a private hostel on Sunday morning, and the matter came to light after her hostel mates forcefully opened the door as she was locked inside for a long time, the police said. "We were informed by the hostel authorities. We immediately shifted her and the child to a nearby hospital. They both are safe now," they added. Police said that her family has been informed and a close friend of hers also reached the hospital. The hostel mates were unaware of the pregnancy. In a similar incident that had shocked Kochi on May 3, a 23-year-old woman who had concealed her pregnancy, delivered a baby in the early hours of Friday in her apartment bathroom, and allegedly threw the newborn on the street in front of her flat complex located in a posh residential area.



Jawan posted at international border commits suicide

A 57-year-old BSF jawan serving at a post on the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by hanging from a tree, police said. Mukund Deka, who hailed from Assam and recently reported to duty after holidays, was posted at the Babliyanwala post. Police said the reason behind his alleged suicide is yet to be ascertained and an investigation has been launched which will reveal why he took the extreme step. Police said the Babliyanwala BSF post is located about 140 km from Jaisalmer where Deka was posted as a constable. His body was found hanging from a tree on the post's premises by other jawans this morning and they informed the police. A team from the Tanot police station reached the spot to investigate the matter and the body was brought down and taken to the Ramgarh hospital mortuary, officials said.



25-year-old woman killed as robbers target car in MP

A 25-year-old woman was killed and her husband injured after they were attacked by robbers in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city, police said on Sunday. The incident took place in the city's Madhotal area when a couple was travelling in a car on Saturday night, an official said. Four persons on two motorbikes waylaid the couple's car and attacked them after windows glasses were rolled down, Madhotal police station in-charge Vipin Tamrakar said citing the complaint. Two persons hit Shubham Choudhary (28), who was at the wheel, on the head. The other two robbers snatched the jewellery and purse of his wife Reshma Choudhary. When Reshma resisted, the men throttled her with her saree. They left the spot after she became motionless, he said. She was rushed to a government hospital where doctors declared her dead, the official said.



Talks between India and China going on 'well': Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The theatisation process in the military is making progress as consensus is emerging among the three services on the ambitious initiative, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in first clear remarks reflecting forward movement in the mega reform initiative.

In an exclusive interview, Singh said the talks between India and China are going "well" for the resolution of the eastern Ladakh border row and hoped that a solution to the standoff will be found.

Singh also said that India has been developing infrastructure along the frontier with China at a rapid speed, and asserted that the country's borders will remain safe.

"The talks are going on well," he said on the India-China military dialogue on the eastern Ladakh row, declining to elaborate further considering the sensitive nature of the matter.

Asked whether he was hopeful of a positive outcome and an

"The talks are going on well," he said on the India-China military dialogue on the eastern Ladakh row, declining to elaborate further considering the sensitive nature of the matter. Asked whether he was hopeful of a positive outcome and an end to the nearly four-year face-off between the two militaries, Singh shot back: "If there was no hope, then why to have talks."



end to the nearly four-year face-off between the two militaries, Singh shot back: "If there was no hope, then why to have talks."

"They (the Chinese side) also have hope and that is why they are holding the talks," he said.

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points.

Broadly referring to military

reforms, Singh said the armed forces are committed to the theatisation initiative because it will integrate the capabilities of the three services and ensure better utilisation of resources.

Under the theatisation model, the government seeks to integrate the capabilities of the army, air force and navy and optimally utilise their resources for wars and operations.

"The theatisation process has started. There has been progress on it. Consensus is emerging on it among the three

services as it will ensure better utilisation of resources and enhance the military's overall capabilities," the defence minister said. Singh declined to provide a timeline for rolling out the theatre commands and said it took close to 20 years in certain countries where theatisation plan was implemented.

"We are working on it," he said, refusing to share more details on the mega project.

As per the theatisation plan, each of the theatre commands will have units of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and all of them will work as a single entity looking after security challenges in a specified geographical territory under an operational commander.

The original plan entailed setting up around six new theatre commands.

At present, the three forces have a total of 17 commands.

Under the theatisation plan, the defence ministry initially planned to create an Air Defence Command and a Maritime Theatre Command.

IAF CONVOY ATTACK

Several people detained for questioning, search on for terrorists

PNS ■ MENDHAR/JAMMU

Several people were detained for questioning on Sunday as a massive search operation for terrorists behind the Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district entered the second day, officials said.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Anand Jain and senior officers of the Army and intelligence agencies visited the ambush spot in the Surankote area. The Army also conducted aerial surveillance using a helicopter, they said.

Five IAF personnel were injured in the attack on Saturday evening near Shahsitar and one of them later succumbed to injuries at a military hospital.

The officials said a well-coordinated joint operation by the Army and the police was underway in many areas, including Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai and Sheendara Top, to



neutralise the terrorists.

The attackers are believed to have fled to a forest after the attack, they said.

Besides AK assault rifles, the terrorists also used a US-made M4 carbine and steel bullets to cause maximum casualties, the officials added.

The IAF has identified the fallen hero as Corporal Vikky Pahade and expressed condolences to his family.

"The CAS (Chief of Air Staff) Air Chief Marshal V R

Chaudhari & all personnel of Indian Air Force salute the braveheart Corporal Vikky Pahade, who made the supreme sacrifice in Poonch sector, in the service of the nation. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand firmly by your side in this hour of grief," it posted on 'X'.

The officials said teams of the Army's Para Commandos were also pressed into service in the search operation.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Anand Jain and senior officers of the Army and intelligence agencies visited the ambush spot in the Surankote area. The Army also conducted aerial surveillance using a helicopter, they said.

There has been no "contact" with the terrorists yet, they said, adding that several people were detained for questioning in connection with the attack, the first major incident in Jammu region this year.

The officials said checking of vehicles has been intensified across the district which is going to polls in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha election on May 25. Poonch is part of the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency.



AICC spokesperson Radhika Khera resigns over 'injustice' in party

PNS ■ RAIPUR

AICC spokesperson Radhika Khera on Sunday resigned from the party claiming that criticism over her visit to Ram Lalla in Ayodhya culminated in the denial of justice to her in the incident that happened at the Chhattisgarh Congress office.

Khera, the AICC's communication and media coordinator for Chhattisgarh, posted her resignation letter addressed to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on her 'X' handle.

"For every Hindu, the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram holds great significance. While every Hindu considers his life successful just by seeing Ram Lalla, some people have been opposing it. The party to which I have given more than 22 years of my life, while working with full honesty right from NSUI to AICC's media department," she stated.

"Today I have to face such intense criticism because I could not stop myself from visiting Ram Lalla in Ayodhya. The criticism to this noble work reached such a level that justice was denied to me in the incident that happened with me in the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress office", Khera added.

Khera stated she was resigning from the primary membership of the party and her post.

Notably, an argument took place between Khera and Chhattisgarh Congress' communication wing chairperson Sushil Anand Shukla on April 30 in the party office in Raipur over the visit of senior leader Pawan Khera the next day, party sources had said.

A video purportedly of Khera had gone viral in which she claimed that she was insulted.

PM Modi changed culture of politics: Nadda

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the culture of politics in India forcing all parties to talk about development. Nadda was addressing a programme in Bhubaneswar where the BJP's manifesto for the Odisha assembly elections was released. "PM Modi has changed the culture of politics, as a result of which all the parties are now forced to talk about development," he said. Nadda



claimed that during the Congress regime, manifestos were just a formality before the elections. "But after Modi came to power in 2014, manifestos have gained importance. People are taking them as serious documents," he

said. "Even those who released the manifesto did not take them seriously earlier," Nadda said, stating that for the BJP, the promises made in the manifesto were commitments to the people. He said suggestions of lakhs of people from different parts of the state were taken into consideration for preparing the manifesto. He claimed that while the BJP focuses on the commitments it makes in the manifesto, for its opponents, the focus is on the politics of casteism, regionalism and nepotism. He said India had

become the fifth largest economy in the world and would climb to the third spot "under PM Modi's leadership in the NDA's third term". This is Nadda's second visit to the state in the last eight days. He had addressed an election meeting in Bhubaneswar on April 28. PM Modi is scheduled to arrive in Bhubaneswar in the night. He will address election rallies in Bhubaneswar and Nabarangpur on Monday, Odisha will vote for its 147-member assembly and 21 Lok Sabha seats simultaneously, in four phases, starting on May 13.

Performance of NCP (SP), allies to give new direction to country: Pawar

PNS ■ BARAMATI

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday asserted the performance of his party and its allies in Maharashtra will provide a new direction to the country. Addressing a rally on the last day of Lok Sabha poll campaigning in Baramati, the veteran leader sought to strike an emotional chord with the people and said till the time everyone is together no one can touch Baramatikars. Baramati is witnessing a tight contest between Sharad Pawar's daughter and incumbent MP Supriya Sule and Sunetra Pawar, wife of her cousin and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. It will go to polls on May 7.

35 naxalites surrender in Dantewada

PNS ■ DANTEWADA

A total of 35 Naxalites, three of them carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 3 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Sunday, a senior police official said.

A 16-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy are among those who turned themselves in before the police, he said.

These cadres were tasked with digging roads, felling trees to block roads and putting up posters and banners during shutdowns called by Naxalites, the official said.

Of the surrendered Naxalites, Baman Kartam (39) was the Jiyakodta Panchayat Militia Platoon Commander of the outlawed Maoists organisation, while Bhima Kunjam (28) was the Aranpur Panchayat CNM president,



Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said. Chetna Natya Mandli (CNM) is a cultural wing of Maoists.

Woman Naxalite Kumme Lekam (35), who carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh, was the Hurrepal Panchayat Krantikari Mahila Adivasi Sangthan (KAMS) president, he said.

"They were part of Bhairamgarh, Malanger and Katekalyan area committees of the Maoists in south Bastar. They said they were impressed

by the police's rehabilitation drive 'Lon Varratu' (return to your home) and disappointed with the hollow Maoist ideology," Rai said.

These Naxalites will be provided facilities as per the government's surrender and rehabilitation policy, the official added. With this, 796 Naxalites, including 180 carrying rewards, have so far joined the mainstream in the district under the police's Lon Varratu campaign launched in June 2020, officials said.

Sandeshkhali 'mistruth' spread by BJP using money: Mamata Says PM should stop shedding crocodile tears

PNS ■ BOLPUR (WB)

Alleging that the "mistruth" about Sandeshkhali was spread by the BJP using money, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop "shedding crocodile tears" as the "conspiracy hatched by the saffron party" has come to the fore with the unravelling of a recent sting. The TMC on Saturday



released a video on social media, in which a man, who claimed to be a BJP mandal president in Sandeshkhali, was heard saying that Leader of the

Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, was behind the "whole conspiracy". In the purported video, the authenticity of could not be independently verified by the PTI, the man was heard saying that Adhikari had asked him and other BJP leaders of the area to "instigate three-four local women to level allegations of rape against three TMC leaders, including Shajahan Sheikh".

Kerala's coastal hamlets witness sea incursion

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amidst warning of a 'Kallakkadal' phenomenon in coastal areas of the state, several places in Kerala have been witnessing high tidal waves and intense sea incursion since Saturday night.

"Kallakkadal" is a phenomenon of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in coastal areas.

A number of houses were damaged and roads were flooded as massive waves hit the shores in many coastal hamlets.

Sea water gushed into houses forcing residents to shift to safer places in Anchuthengu and Poonthura areas of Thiruvananthapuram.



At several places, local people had to pay extra vigil to protect their fishing equipment, kept on the shores, from the high tidal waves.

Besides Anchuthengu, Poonthura and Muthalappuzhi hamlets in

Thiruvananthapuram, sea incursion was reported in Mundakkal and Alappadu areas in Kollam district, Purakkad in Alappuzha and Kodungallur and Perinjaniam in Thrissur district and so on, local people said.

Meanwhile, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on Sunday continued to place the southern coasts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu under Orange Alert warning as part of the "Kallakkadal" phenomenon.

In its latest alert, the agency warned that the southern coasts of Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu comprising Kanyakumari and Tuticorin regions are likely to experience rough seas and sea surge due to extremely strong waves of 0.5 metres to 1.5 metres till 11.30 pm tonight as part of the phenomenon.

INCOIS, the Central agency that issues weather warnings for fishermen in the country,

advised people to safely moor their fishing vessels in the harbour. It also warned fishermen not to venture into the sea in small boats and vessels after 8 pm on Sunday.

Authorities advised people to continue their caution and avoid trips to the beach and completely stay away from activities at sea. The term 'Kallakkadal' literally means a sea that comes suddenly like a thief.

INCOIS has earlier said that the swells result from strong winds in the southern part of the Indian Ocean at certain times, and that they occur suddenly without any particular indications or warning which is why it is named 'Kallakkadal'.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Nepal plays the hardball

Nepal is flexing its muscles by depicting Indian territories on its currency notes

In a recent development that has stirred regional tensions, Nepal has included certain disputed territories in its new currency notes. The move not only challenges India's sovereignty claims but also signals a significant alignment shift towards its northern neighbour, China. This seemingly innocuous act of updating currency notes has escalated into a diplomatic standoff and the growing influence of external powers in the region. The inclusion of the disputed territories, namely Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, has sparked outrage in India, with officials condemning Nepal's actions as a violation of bilateral agreements and provocative steps that can further deteriorate the relations between the two countries. India has urged Nepal to respect sovereignty, return to dialogue and refrain from unjustified assertions. Earlier the relationship between New Delhi and Kathmandu became strained following Nepal's release of a political map in mid-May 2020, which incorporated territories like Lipulekh,



Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, previously depicted in India's November 2019 map. At the heart of the dispute lies historical ambiguity and differing interpretations of border demarcations. While Nepal claims that the territories rightfully belong to it based on historical treaties and cartographic evidence, India maintains control over these regions, citing its historical precedents and strategic imperatives. The dispute has simmered for decades, occasionally flaring up but never fully resolved.

The present move by Nepal has a lot to do with its new political leadership which is deliberately leveraging its proximity with China to browbeat India.

Besides, many other issues have also cropped up which have been a cause of concern for Kathmandu. India's Agniveer policy has also not gone down well with Nepal. What makes Nepal's move particularly noteworthy is its perceived alignment with China. Over the past few years, Nepal-China relations have strengthened considerably, fuelled by mutual economic interests and strategic cooperation. China has invested heavily in Nepal's infrastructure projects, including roads and telecommunications networks, enhancing connectivity between the two countries. Furthermore, Nepal's participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has deepened its economic dependence on Beijing, providing an alternative to traditional ties with India. Against this backdrop, Nepal's decision to incorporate disputed territories in its currency notes could be interpreted as a strategic gesture signalling its independence from Indian influence. It is indeed a reason to set off alarm bells in New Delhi and it should take some immediate steps to stop the drifting away of Nepal and becoming part of Chinese hegemony. It would be India's loss if Nepal also walked the Maldives' path. It is time to leverage historical India-Nepal ties and convince the new leadership that China is only going to use Nepal and suck it dry as it did many other nations.

PICTALK



Anganwadi workers take part in a voting awareness campaign ahead of the polling for Lok Sabha elections, in Jalaun PTI

Mastering self-leadership during work from home

As work dynamics evolve towards multi-location, knowledge-driven autonomy, employees' proactive task management is essential

While some suggest that work from home (WFH) offers greater autonomy, leading to increased family time and reduced commuting, others argue that it blurs the boundaries between work and home, potentially diminishing productivity. The co-location of work and home during WFH blurs the traditional separation between the workplace and the family domain. This integration can exacerbate conflicts between work and home responsibilities, resulting in heightened levels of job dissatisfaction, anxiety and disengagement from work.



As individuals possess finite personal resources such as energy and attention, focusing on one role often depletes resources for another. For instance, individuals working from home full-time may frequently transition between work responsibilities and home duties, such as pausing work to attend to childcare or household tasks. These transitions can further strain individuals' capacity to effectively manage both work and personal responsibilities. Boundary theory has become increasingly relevant in the context of WFH. Expanding upon this theory, it is observed that employees are more likely to transition between different roles on days when they are telecommuting compared to when they are physically present in the office. When employees work from home, both their work and home roles converge within the same physical space, creating a unique dynamic.

According to boundary theory, the nature of these role transitions can significantly impact conflicts between work and home domains. Certain types of role transitions may facilitate the blending of work and home responsibilities. For example, interrupting work to attend to familial duties, such as picking up children from

school, can lead to conflicts arising from the home encroaching upon work time (home-work conflict). Subsequently, resuming work after attending to such responsibilities may trigger conflicts stemming from work encroaching upon home life (work-home conflict).

Organisations play a pivotal role in supporting employees by offering flexibility, particularly on days when they work from home, thereby assisting them in managing conflicts that arise when their work and home roles intersect. However, relying solely on organisational support may not offer a comprehensive solution. The concept of self-leadership becomes invaluable during periods when employees face challenges arising from the blurred boundaries between work and home, particularly on remote workdays. The considerable expansion of remote and hybrid work in the aftermath of the pandemic underscores the importance for employees to proactively manage their responsibilities. Although remote work was not unprecedented,

its widespread adoption during and following the pandemic has been unmistakable. Evidence suggests that diverse remote work arrangements, encompassing hybrid models and full-time remote setups, are poised to remain prominent in the future of work. While remote work has revealed advantages such as increased flexibility and job satisfaction, its implementation has also presented new hurdles. These include diminished managerial support, which can dampen professional creativity, hinder the willingness to share new ideas and diminish confidence. The complexities of remote work, ranging from varying locations and home working conditions to frequent interruptions and diminished focus, emphasise the importance of self-leadership in today's professional realm. Moreover, in the remote work setting, there is a heightened need for adaptability and the ability to navigate challenges independently, which harmonises with the fundamental tenets of self-leadership. (The writer is associated professor, HR&OB, FIIB; views are personal)

Delhi school bomb hoax reflects rancor



PRAFULL GORADIA

The extremists might be unaware that their malicious actions could jeopardise the safety of their community. It falls upon the responsible segment of the community to rein in the extremists

The bomb hoax received by up to 285 schools in and around Delhi, reflects the burning anger among extremists. Although the threatening message from a Quranic text was dispatched from a Russian electronic source, evidentially, the email identities were sent from Delhi, most probably from Indians. The email was most offensive to quote; "Did you real think that there would be no answer for all the evil you have done? Since childhood, the fire of jihad has been lit in our hearts, we have become this fire, Inshallah who preside over just retribution". The extremists may not realise that their nefarious activity can endanger the safety of their community. It is for the responsible section or the community to control the extremists. If they think that it is for the law-and-order authorities only to deal with such mischief, they are mistaken. The police and others can do so only much and no more. In short, it is not their function to protect the goodwill of the responsible section of the minority. If they do not do so, the Indian people almost would gain the impression the responsible section is also somewhat sympathetic towards the extremists' activity.

Remember Partition is not a forgotten chapter of India's recent history. Pakistan and Bangladesh are standing minarets of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Two Nation Theory whereby Hindus and Muslims cannot coexist in the same country. Hardly any Hindus have been allowed to remain in Pakistan, wherein Bangladesh non-Muslims are reducing in numbers by the week. Mohandas Gandhi told Dr Syama Prasad Mookherjee and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur the day before he was assassinated that India was a secular country because the division was a territorial and not religious one. This may have been a kind human gesture to protect the minority, but it was not the truth. Most Hindus, do not believe that it was not a division based on religion. The Hindu heart believes that it was the final settlement between Hindus and Muslims. Yes, Jawaharlal Nehru, Gandhi



and their followers are free to hold their views but that era has passed and a new age has dawned in India.

Following in step with the moving train of time is wise and not getting stuck in the mud of the past. Here, it is also wise to remember that Europe no longer welcomes emigrants and the USA is reportedly slow and shows of much reluctance. The only open space appears to be Africa. One of the loud messages of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza is that emigrants are no longer welcome even in a West Asian country, whether Egypt, Jordan or any other. No neighbour has lifted their fingers toward the trigger for saving the Gaza Heights. One reminded of the ghazal by Talat Mahmood "Jayein to Jayein Kahan". Mughal emperor Akbar understood clearly even as a boy it could be easy to rule India if he made Hindus who were 95 per cent of his empire safe, happy and well-treated. As a sign of his impartiality between religions, he went, for Muslims to the extreme extent of not performing sunnat or circumcision on his son Salim who rose to become Jahangir,



PARTITION IS NOT A FORGOTTEN CHAPTER OF INDIA'S RECENT HISTORY. PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH ARE STANDING MINARETS OF MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH'S TWO NATION THEORY, WHEREBY HINDUS AND MUSLIMS CANNOT COEXIST IN THE SAME COUNTRY

This Islamic king, if he were not emperor, would have been accused of being a murtad; or apoState, fit for the death penalty. His eventual innovation was called Din-e-Ilahi. By implication, he was replacing Islam with a synthetic religion that would include people of all faiths. In practice, not a great deal happened but it was a gesture especially to the Hindus, how much he was prepared to go forward to placate their sentiments. This was not the end of his vision but in a way only the beginning. He abolished the vexatious; jaziya tax which Hindus had to pay to receive protection from the State. Whenever he conquered a Rajput territory Akbar offered the Hindu prince his territory back under the Mughal suzerainty, provided the prince was prepared to align with and even fight for the empire. That indeed was a generous gesture by not dispossessing the Rajput of the kingdom completely and ensuring him of a place in the empire. He often offered to marry a princess of the principality. If his hand was accepted, he did not ask the lady to convert to Islam. There was no better way of touching the

hearts of the Rajputs. In recorded history, no Muslim conqueror was this generous. In contrast, Aurangzeb was the opposite. He went down to desecrating and demolishing Hindu temples like Vrindavan, Mathura and Banaras. Humiliating Hindus and breaking their hearts was the preferred point in his agenda. To many, it would seem that being emperor and ruling Hindu India was merely his pastime. Alamgir Aurangzeb's vicarious cruelties extended much beyond the demolition of temples. When he brought down the Kashi Vishwanath temple at Banaras, he left the western gate of the Hindu edifice as it was, so that every worshipper would be reminded of what the Mughals had done. When he desecrated the Govind Dev temple at Vrindavan, he demolished the top two floors only, leaving the bottom two for the Hindus to see and feel the humiliation. What benefit could such conduct bring to a ruler? Only Aurangzeb could have known. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLITICAL DIATRIBE

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Modi's advice to RaGa: 'Daro mat, bhaago mat'" published on May 5, this is my response. Contesting from Wayanad as well as Rae Bareilly is "cowardice" of "Shehzada" indeed. Still, contesting from Vadodara as well as Varanasi was an act of "supreme bravery" by a certain "Hindu Hriday Samrat"! Relentless stalking of the much-maligned "Pappu" and consistent character assassination of him provide direct testimony of who is in relentless fear of Rahul Gandhi! If Sonia Gandhi's adoption of the Rajya Sabha route proves her "escapist" mindset; hope this very same formula applies to S. Jaishankar to Ashwini Vaishnava also! Lots of thanks for shedding a deluge of tears for the "atrocities" upon women in Sandeshkhali; but please let at least a single teardrop make an appearance for the spine-chilling gangrape murder and forced cremation of the Dalit girl in Hathras, murder of the little Kathua girl after gangrape and torture for days within a temple, mass gangrape and murder of women in 2002 Gujarat and gangrape and murder of Kuki women in Manipur after getting paraded naked! A Constitutional representative claimed that Hindus are "second class citizens" in Bengal, implying which community is "first class." This is blatant communalism in our diverse democracy.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

RAHUL'S STRATEGY

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Rae Bareilly's new battlefield," published on May 4, this is my response. Gandhis have ended weeks of suspense with a twist and chose Rae Bareilly over Amethi for Rahul Gandhi, there is no doubt Rae Bareilly is a safer seat than Amethi in the current electoral context. Putting Kishori Lal Sharma in Amethi, who is an old Congress loyalist and served both Amethi and Rae Bareilly in

Pakistan on Indian elections



Apropos, "Pak wants Rahul as PM to weaken Govt. Modi," The Pioneer, May 3, this is my response. Whatever may be the political rhetoric of PM Modi linking the Congress party to Pakistan, the fact is that the latter desperately wants the Modi-led NDA Government to lose in the ongoing elections for many reasons. In contrast to the Congress party's soft approach against terrorism sponsored by Pakistan, the

Modi Government's zero-tolerance stance has triggered the surgical strike on the Balakot, the den of terrorists, in retaliation to the Pulwama attack in 2019. The abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir by the Modi Government has rattled Pakistan and it even failed to garner the support from the international community on the matter.

Add to this, the NDA Government's categorical stand to not initiate the talks to break the logjam between India and Pakistan as long as the latter aids and finances the terrorists to target India has put Pakistan in a disadvantageous position, even as it is embroiled in the economic turmoil - while it badly needs the trade with India. In these contexts, Pakistan strongly believes the BJP Government under Modi has severely jeopardised its machinations to target India and its interests as well.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

Gandhi's absence, has in a sense provided a cakewalk to the Smiriti Irani. It will be after 25 years that there are no Gandhis in the fray from Amethi. Gandhi's not contesting from either of these seats would have been a bad political message and would have shattered the confidence of Congress workers. In the eventuality of Rahul Gandhi winning both Wayanad and Rae Bareilly, he has to leave either of the two and it would be better if he retains Wayanad to concentrate on the 2026 Kerala assembly elections and leave Rae Bareilly for his sister Priyanka Vadhra to contest in the by-poll. With this strategy, Gandhi would be able to revive the Congress in Uttar Pradesh because, without any Gandhi at the helm, Congress could not expect to revive itself in the State.

Bal Govind | Noida

Madam — Apropos to news report, "Woman staffer files complaint against Bengal Governor," published on May 3,

this is my response. A Raj Bhavan employee who works in the telephone room and stays at the residential quarters on the campus itself, complained of molestation against West Bengal (WB) governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday evening, introducing an element of the unprecedented in Bengal politics and pitting the Trinamool Government and the governor's office in direct conflict in the middle of an election season. It's important to investigate the allegations against Bose carefully. A central agency should investigate under a Supreme Court judge. If the TMC Government is found to be trying to defame him, it should be scrapped. If there is any truth to the allegations, the Governor should also be punished. The truth must be revealed and the innocent must be treated with full dignity.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

ALLEGATION RESPONSE

Madam — Apropos to news report, "Woman staffer files complaint against Bengal Governor," published on May 3,

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN SUDARSHAN KRIYA: A KEY TO A PEACEFUL LIFE

A transformative path overcoming addiction with redemption



RAVI VALLURI

Some years ago, while I was posted at Gorakhpur, an Art of Living devotee happened to read my maiden book, *The Matter of the Mind*, wherein I narrated the efficacy of the Sudarshan Kriya technique and how it extricated me from the cesspool of alcoholism. Today by the grace of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya I am sober. The devotee connected me to a psychiatrist and soon along with two other faculty members, we began conducting courses for alcoholics and drug addicts at a rehab centre. They were around 40 and we were three. Some looked menacing, others disenchanted, a few engulfed by ennui. But in our arsenal was the potent cassette of Sudarshan Kriya enveloped with the divine benediction of Gurudev.

We began with gentle warm-ups. This was followed by pranayama and finally Sudarshan Kriya. A few hardened addicts attempted to derail the Kriya. But the febrile minds gradually settled as the rhythms of Soham resonated in the dingy hall.

Meaning of Sudarshan Kriya

The unique breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya is the fulcrum of the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living. Su means proper, Darshan implies vision and Kriya is a purifying action.

Through the actions of our breath, we appreciate a proper vision of who we are. It is momentous to understand that nature runs on a rhythm. For instance, the sun rises and sets at a particular time, similarly, seasons arrive and exit at predetermined times.

Our emotions, feelings and thoughts are all cast in the symphony of rhythm. We are unable to distinguish between cacophony and symphony in this frenetic pace of life which is cannonaded by innumerable thoughts. When sounds are harmonised by the syllable of Soham we can term it as magical music.



Enlightenment is not accruing anything providential but harmonising our whole being rhythmically. During the breathing process participants feel varied sensations, emotions, laughter and weeping among others. Chanting "Soham" to match one's breath with a Guru's guidance is a relaxation technique that releases stress and promotes relaxation. Studies show that it can improve heart rate, cognitive function, breathing patterns and calmness in both mind and body. It may also have positive impacts on the endocrine system and potentially prevent Alzheimer's disease. This technique increases the body's energy levels.

This wonderful knowledge and wisdom have triggered humaneness to blossom. Every cell and particle of the body overflows with jollity and life is abundant with the glow of love and the body becomes the wick. Love and belongingness become a natural process of our inner being if practised unfailingly.

Several practitioners feel they can practice the breathing technique at home. But that is only walking half the path. It is indispensable and paramount that one must practice the technique daily and attend the follow-up once a week, where a certified Art of Living teacher plays the chant of Soham in Gurudev's voice as it reinvigorates the body and mind. One should also be wary of imitations available on YouTube these days. Breath is the very kernel of our very existence.

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

Consequences of illusionary conspiracy



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

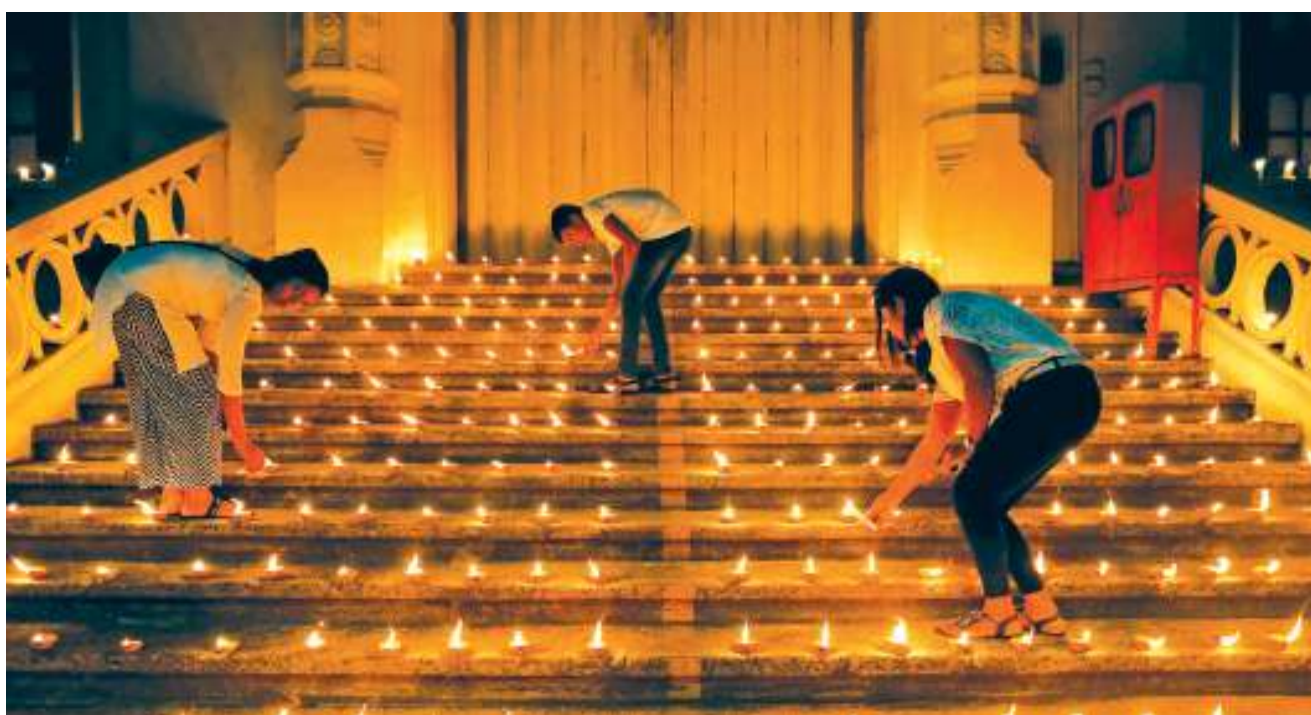
The wounds from the Easter Sunday Massacre linger, but within Sri Lankans' resilience lies a beacon of hope, illuminating a path forward amidst profound despair

After the Easter attack tragedy, there arose a chorus, delving into the search for a "mastermind" behind the barbaric attack. Known as the Easter Sunday Massacre, on 21st April 2019, eight suicide bombers detonated themselves, targeting selected places in Colombo and Batticaloa, resulting in the deaths of over 260 innocent people and injuring hundreds more. A former Attorney General, a key figure in this discourse, ignited speculation by suggesting a possible hidden agenda. However, his evasion of the court and avoidance of investigators seeking clarification on his previous Statements only intensified suspicions. Politicians, social activists, journalists and even ordinary citizens unwittingly propagated a conspiracy theory based on prejudices and unverified media reports.

From my perspective, this conspiracy theory inadvertently served a unique purpose amid the chaos and irregularities. It acted as a temporary balm, diluting the rising tide of animosity against Muslims and briefly restoring social equilibrium. Without it, the nation risked a recurrence of the 1983 ethnic riots, albeit on a larger scale. Yet, as the conspiracy theory gained traction, it altered the societal psyche, fostering normalcy among diverse ethnic groups, albeit with attempts by some to exploit the situation. What remains lamentable is that this theory misled the public and squandered an opportunity to establish a socio-legal framework for preventing future occurrences.

During my conversation with Malith Jayathillake, former National List Member of Parliament and head of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security appointed by then-President Maithripala Sirisena, the overlooked reality became stark. The report he presented in February 2020 outlined proposals for formulating and implementing laws to ensure national security, eradicate new terrorism and extremism by fostering unity among races and religions. Regrettably, this invaluable contribution by lawmakers was largely ignored. Jayathillake dismisses the notion of a conspiracy behind the attacks, recognising instead a meticulously planned suicide mission inspired by the ideology of the Islamic State.

Concurrently, Dr Ameer Ali from Murdoch University's School of Business and Governance dispels conspiracy notions, attributing the attack to subsequent political manipulation. Yet, in probing the roots of extremism, he identifies a turning point in 1977 when the country embraced the free market. Within certain segments of the Muslim communities, exclusivism emerged, alienating inclusivism and sowing the seeds for the proliferation of extreme ideas within the societal fabric. In the aftermath of the tragedy, about a month later, I engaged in an interview with Jonah Blank, a Principal Investigator and Senior Political Scientist for RAND Corporation. Blank astutely highlighted two critical aspects of the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka. Firstly, he emphasised that the attack was a result of political negligence rather than being solely classified as an intelligence failure by various parties. Secondly, Blank pointed out that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) did not choose Sri Lanka; rather, Sri Lankan extremists opted for allegiance to ISIS. Addressing the ongoing political crisis in the country, Blank remarked, "When the



AMID THIS TURBULENT PERIOD, THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTER MASSACRE SERVES AS A DISTRESSING REMINDER OF THE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO LEARN FROM THE PAST AND FORTIFY THE NATION AGAINST POTENTIAL THREATS

nation's two top officials are locked in open conflict, they can't cooperate to ensure the safety of the citizens." Despite my interview with Blank becoming a talking point in various media circles and social groups, rational arguments and factual information struggled to counter the persistence of conspiracy theories.

Complicating matters further, a full four years following the tragic incident, a British television channel not only fuelled baseless speculation but later begrudgingly admitted to a shocking lack of substantial evidence backing the allegations. These unfounded claims stemmed from a lone source purportedly recruited by a United Nations agency, casting a dark shadow over the entire narrative.

Amidst the discourse, I observed a political theatre unfolding, overshadowing the much-needed societal discussion. Those involved seemed more focused on accusing one another rather than earnestly seeking the truth. In the last five years since this barbaric attack, committees appointed by the President and Parliament have conducted investigations, producing lengthy reports. However, there is a noticeable absence of dialogue about future threats and the potential aftermath.

The tragic events unfolded against the backdrop of a nation grappling with its political identity and leadership struggles. Blank's insights into political negligence shed light on a systemic issue that extended beyond intelligence failures. Sri Lanka's socio-political terrain, marred by internal conflicts and power struggles, created an environment ripe for extremist ideologies to take root. The intricate web of political discord, coupled with a failure to prioritise national security, laid the groundwork for the devastating Easter Sunday attacks. As the media frenzy surrounding conspiracy theories intensified, genuine efforts to understand the

root causes of the attack were drowned out. Blank's observations about the political crisis resonated deeply, underscoring the importance of unity among leaders during times of national peril. However, the cacophony of blame-shifting and finger-pointing persisted, hindering the nation's ability to address the multifaceted challenges posed by this emerging social phenomenon.

Amid this turbulent period, the fifth anniversary of the Easter massacre serves as a distressing reminder of the collective responsibility to learn from the past and fortify the nation against potential threats. The committees' findings, though crucial, must be more than backdated analyses; they should serve as a foundation for proactive measures and policies to safeguard Sri Lanka's future. The narrative must evolve beyond the immediate aftermath to address the lingering societal scars and instil a renewed sense of resilience and preparedness.

After spending nearly five years immersing myself in a myriad of materials and conducting extensive interviews with numerous sources on this heinous crime, I am compelled to acknowledge the absence of any substantive facts supporting conspiracy theories. Instead, what emerges is the chilling reality of negligence and deliberate ignorance in addressing extremism and the imperative need for robust deradicalisation efforts. I opt to accentuate the triumph of our adversaries—a triumph exacerbated by the gross negligence and underestimation displayed by defenders of national security and political stability.

Our genuine focus must now pivot resolutely towards preventing the recurrence of such crimes and sculpting a secure future for our nation, a nation that has too often lived amidst violence rather than peace, grappling with both internal and external threats. The repercussions of the Easter massacre extend

far beyond the economic sphere, infiltrating into an unprecedented degeneration of societal values.

Regrettably, as we mark the fifth anniversary of the attacks, a pressing and profound necessity emerges for a narrative shift—one that moves beyond unsubstantiated accusations aimed at specific individuals. We must transcend the cycle of blame and retrospective scrutiny, opting instead for thorough approaches that delve into the underlying causes of extremism, fanaticism and terrorism regardless of ethnic or religious affiliations. This calls for a holistic approach, encompassing not only the reinforcement of intelligence and security protocols but also the fostering of a society that celebrates inclusivity, empathy and constructive discourse.

The journey toward healing and rebuilding necessitates a sincere effort from all corners of society. Ultimately, the aftermath of the Easter Sunday bombings underscores the resilience of the Sri Lankan people in the face of immense adversity. Looking forward, it is paramount to harness this collective strength and channel it into comprehensive strategies. These must not only confront immediate threats but also lay the foundations for a future characterised by security and harmony.

The lessons distilled from this tragedy should propel the nation towards a collective commitment—a commitment to unity, understanding and the prevention of recurring horrors. Otherwise, in a society where the majority languishes in a deep slumber, indulging in unproven conspiracies and scapegoating a select few, we will only rouse from our stupor when the next tragedy inevitably befalls us.

This is the second part of the article on five years of Easter attack in Sri Lanka. concluded (The writer is a Sri Lankan journalist. Views are personal)

Pakistani YouTubers: The art of subtle propaganda

As consumers of digital content, it is crucial to discern between genuine discourse and agenda-driven narratives

Today's warfare is increasingly characterised by information warfare tactics. Social media serves as an ideal weapon for conducting modern conflicts where the battle for narratives and perceptions plays a crucial role in shaping outcomes. In this digital context, the emergence of Pakistani YouTubers has garnered significant attention in India over the past five years. Their channels span various genres from reaction videos to those featuring interactions with common people in Pakistan and podcasts and discussions on geopolitics. However, a closer look reveals a subtle yet concerning trend in their content. Initially, these YouTubers sought to attract Indian viewership by praising India



SULAGNA MOHANTY

unabashedly. They lauded India's policies and economic growth and even expressed admiration for Prime Minister Modi and the BJP. Their narratives echoed sentiments of unity and regret over the partition, portraying India's economic liberalisation in the 1990s as a commendable move. This strategic approach garnered them millions of Indian subscribers. Even edu-

cated Indians appreciated such rare, seemingly sane views and analyses from Pakistani youth.

At first, it was perplexing to witness the sudden change in tune from Pakistan, a country historically marred by animosity towards India. Suddenly, Pakistani YouTubers were singing praises for Jawaharlal Nehru as the best Prime Minister and socialism as the ideal policy for India. This abrupt shift raised eyebrows, especially considering Pakistan's track record of hostility towards India over the past 70 years. So, it begged the question how was it that Pakistanis have only now discovered virtues in Indian leaders and policies that they previously overlooked or actively opposed? But still, these

YouTubers were embraced by Indians with open arms, evident from the predominance of views and comments on their videos from India.

However, as time passed, their mask began to unravel. Channels focusing on geopolitics gradually began to push their agenda subtly. Considering Pakistan's precarious economic situation, these YouTubers advocated for the resumption of trade with India which was halted by their Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2019 as a protest against India's decision to revoke Article 370 in Kashmir. They openly criticised Imran Khan's decision, labelling it as foolish given the adverse impact it had had on Pakistan's economy. However, recently when the

Indian Government did not reciprocate to the India-Pak trade agenda, these YouTubers' tones shifted dramatically towards anti-India and pro-China propaganda. Suddenly, they started painting India as a regressive Hindu country with an authoritarian Government where minorities as well as the democracy are allegedly in grave danger. Now, they consistently invite guests onto their channel providing them with a platform to perpetuate anti-India and anti-Indian narratives.

It is striking how these Pakistani YouTubers seldom address the pressing issues within their own country. They seem conspicuously silent on the plight of minorities particularly the violence perpetrated against them.

While they are quick to produce videos condemning alleged injustices against Muslims in Palestine and India, they conveniently overlook similar atrocities within Pakistan.

Some YouTubers remain silent on the oppression of Muslims in China, despite evidence of human rights abuses against Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. This raises questions about the sincerity of their activism and suggests geopolitical influences on their narrative.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that these Pakistani YouTubers also openly criticise their Government and army, a rarity in Pakistan where dissent against the establishment is often met with severe repercussions. This raises suspi-

cions about their affiliations, true intentions and ulterior motives behind their digital presence. One cannot help but wonder if these YouTubers are planted by some foreign agencies to serve as mouthpieces for their agenda.

Here, the concern is that many Indian youths, unaware of this shift, continue to consume their content, inadvertently perpetuating the agenda. Many Indian intellectuals and geopolitical experts have begun to criticise these YouTubers for their manipulative tactics. Interestingly, this manipulation is not only limited to India but has been extended to Bangladesh too as these podcasters churn out videos portraying the 1971 war as a mistake. They label West Pakistan's attempt to

suppress and colonise East Pakistan as evil and this new narrative aims to attract Bangladeshi viewers first and subtly push their agenda later.

In the era of information, overload critical thinking is our best defence against manipulation. Hence, it is imperative to recognise and address this subtle propaganda and analyse the content the Indians consume. As consumers of digital content, it is crucial to discern between genuine discourse and agenda-driven narratives.

Everyone needs to realise and understand that India stands for peace and brotherhood but not at the expense of its national security.

(The writer is an academician; views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

UPSIDA revenue hits record Rs 1,359 crore in FY'24

Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) has recorded an operating revenue of Rs 1,359 crore in financial year 2023-24 -- the highest ever for the public sector undertaking in UP, according to an official release. "This achievement marks a doubling of revenue compared to financial year 2018-19, indicating a robust trajectory towards industrial growth in the state," the government release said. Kanpur-headquartered UPSIDA has made significant strides in realizing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of transforming Uttar Pradesh into an industrial powerhouse, the statement said. Moreover, UPSIDA's strategic emphasis on bolstering infrastructure in industrial zones to attract investors resulted in a fourfold increase in infrastructure development expenditure. This allocation soared from Rs 104 crore in FY 2017-18, to Rs 415 crore in FY 2023-24, it said. UPSIDA's CEO Mayur Maheshwari said the authority is committed to expanding Uttar Pradesh's industrial landscape. "UPSIDA is also doing significant work in the area of land allocation.



Mahindra Finance reports 10% drop in net profit at Rs 619 crore

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has reported a 10 per cent decline in standalone profit and tax to Rs 619 crore for the January-March quarter of 2023-24. The non-banking finance company also said that in a fact-finding assessment of the fraud in its Aizawl branch during the quarter identified 2,887 loan accounts as potentially fraudulent in nature. "These loans had an outstanding net recoverable balance of Rs 135.9 crore as of 31st March 2024, which have been fully provided," Mahindra Finance said in a regulatory filing. The NBFC, which last month delayed disclosure of its financial statement due to fraud at one of its branches in the north-eastern states, said that the fraud relates to retail vehicle loans disbursed by the company and is a case of extreme collusion between the company's employees, with segregated duties, and external parties including vehicle dealers and bank employees. The fraud involved forgery of KYC and other asset-related documents leading to the embezzlement of company funds.



Godrej Properties to launch housing projects worth Rs 30,000 crore

Realty firm Godrej Properties plans to launch residential projects worth Rs 30,000 crore this fiscal across major cities to achieve 20 per cent growth in sales bookings amid strong demand, its executive chairperson Pirojsha Godrej said. In an interview, Pirojsha said, "We have given a sales bookings guidance of Rs 27,000 crore for the current fiscal, a 20 per cent growth from high base in 2023-24." In the last fiscal, the company's sales bookings jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527 crore, from Rs 12,232 crore in the preceding year. This is the highest sales reported so far by any listed entity for FY'24. Pirojsha said the housing demand continues to be strong, especially for reputed brands. "It (2023-24 fiscal) was a great year overall, whether you look at launches, sales, collection from customers, business development, deliveries of projects, cash flow and profit. We are really excited to see the kind of momentum in the business." He expected housing demand to sustain in the coming years.



India, Ghana agree for early operationalisation of UPI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Ghana are working to link their payment systems - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems (GHIPSS) respectively to permit users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers on a reciprocal basis.

The two countries have also delved into discussions regarding the possibilities of a Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Transformation Solutions; Local Currency Settlement System and the opportunities offered by African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

"They agreed to work expeditiously towards the operationalisation of NPCI's



The two countries have also delved into discussions regarding the possibilities of a Memorandum of Understanding on Digital transformation Solutions; Local Currency Settlement System and the opportunities offered by African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)

(National Payments Corporation of India) UPI on Ghana's GHIPSS within a period of 6 months," the Department of Commerce said on the social media platform X

(formerly twitter).

India's UPI has already reached countries including Singapore and the UAE.

Talks are also on with Nigeria for the same.

These issues were discussed during the visit of a seven-member Indian delegation led by Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Amardeep Singh Bhatia to Accra, Ghana on May 2-3.

NPCI International has recently announced its partnership with Bank of Namibia to support them in developing a UPI-like real-time payment system in the African nation. The bilateral trade between India and the West African nation Ghana has increased to US\$ 2.87 billion in 2022-23 from US\$ 2.6 billion in 2021-22.

REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned REC Ltd on Sunday said it has received RBI's approval to set up a subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat.

The proposed subsidiary will engage in a range of financial activities as a finance company within GIFT, including lending, investment, and other financial services, a company statement said.

According to the statement, REC Ltd, under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for setting up a subsidiary in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

India urges ADB not to overlook its focus on growth

PNS ■ TBILISI

India on Sunday urged the Asian Development Bank (ADB) not to overlook its focus on reduction of remaining poverty while promoting sustainable growth for the member nations in the Asia Pacific region.

Making intervention at the Board of Governors Business Session at the 57th Annual Meeting of ADB, India's Temporary Alternate Governor Vikas Sheel said the bank has played a critical role in facilitating measures of faster economic development, reducing poverty and promoting regional cooperation while effectively addressing the challenges and delivery of global public goods.

"We note with concern that economic growth and dealing with the remaining poverty do not find a place in the

enhanced focus areas of the ADB in the review of its Strategy 2030. We urge ADB not to overlook the ADB's charter mandate on growth and shared prosperity," he said.

He assured India's continued support to work towards accelerated inclusive and sustainable growth in Asia and the



Pacific.

Due to ongoing general elections in India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who is Governor on the board of the ADB could not attend the meeting.

Observing that ADB is expected to grow bigger, bet-

ter and bolder in line with the New Delhi declaration of the G20, Sheel said, it can thus play a much bigger role in addressing the ambitious climate agenda.

"Based on the detailed recommendations made by the Independent Expert Group, appointed under India's G20 presidency, we are happy to note that ADB is proactively implementing recommendations of IEG to live up to the aspirations of being the trusted development partner of the fast-growing economies of Asia and of transforming itself into a climate bank," he said.

A bigger and bolder ADB can produce better results if it transforms its business processes such as moving away from isolated and smaller individual projects-based funding towards multi-year transformation, and strategic and programmatic funding approaches.

Met coal imports from Russia jump nearly 3-fold in last 3 yrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Imports of metallurgical coal from Russia have spurted around three-fold in the last three years to around 15.1 million tonnes in 2023-24 mainly due to lower prices while the same from Australia have declined, according to a research firm.

Russia's share in India's metallurgical coal imports of 73.2 million tonnes (MT) has risen to around 21 per cent from around 8 per cent in 2021-22, research firm Big Mint said in a statement.

The import of metallurgical coal, which includes coking coal and pulverised coal injection (PCI), from Russia, stood at 5.1 MT, accounting for 8 per cent of India's total imports of 65.6 MT of the commodity in

2021-22. Metallurgical coal imports from Russia rose to 11.3 MT in 2022-23, accounting for 16 per cent of 69.9 MT met coal imports in that year.



In 2023-24, met coal imports from Russia were 15.1 MT or 21 per cent of total met coal imports of 73.2 MT.

Australia, a major supplier of met coal to India, saw a decline in the commodity's exports to India. Australia supplied 50.7 MT of met coal

in FY22, or 77 per cent of the total imports of India. Met coal shipments dropped to 42.2 MT in FY22, while market share also declined to 60 per cent. In the last fiscal, met coal imports from Australia dropped further to 40.4 MT, resulting in a market share of 55 per cent.

Iron ore and metallurgical coal or met coal are essential ingredients in steel production. India is dependent on imports to meet its domestic demand for met coal.

According to BigMint analysts, "cost-benefit" is the main reason for the rise in imports of metallurgical coal from Russia. Imports from Russia are costing less to domestic steel players because of low prices, a BigMint analyst said.

Three cos set to drive primary mkt with Rs 6,400 cr IPO blitz

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The primary market is gearing up for significant activity this week, with three companies - Blackstone-backed Aadhar Housing Finance, healthcare tech firm Indegene and travel distribution firm TBO Tek -- poised to float IPOs aiming to collectively raise nearly Rs 6,400 crore.

Before that, JNK India garnered Rs 650 crore through its initial share-sale last month.

Since 2004, there hasn't been a single IPO launch during May in the last four general election cycles. Typically, the April to June period during these years has been slow for the primary markets due to election uncertainty, said Mahavir Lunawat, Managing Director, Pantomath Capital

Advisors.

However, this trend has changed now with the launch of three mainboard initial public offerings (IPOs) next week.

Samir Bahl, CEO of Anand Rathi Advisors said that the new trend is a positive sign indicating the maturing of the



Indian capital markets and confidence in India's long-term growth story irrespective of political developments.

The three-day IPO of Indegene will open for sub-

scription on May 6, while that of Aadhar Housing Finance and TBO Tek will be launched on May 8.

Out of the total IPO size of Rs 6,393 crore, the OFS (Offer-for-Sale) component accounted for a significant Rs 4,233 crore.

Pranjal Srivastava, Partner Investment Banking at Centrum Capital, said that the primary market momentum continues due to overall positive economic sentiments, bull run in secondary markets and strong flows.

The Rs 3,000-crore IPO of Aadhar Housing Finance is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore and an OFS of Rs 2,000 crore by promoter BCP Topco VII Pte Ltd, an affiliate of Blackstone Group Inc.

Corporate earnings, global trends to guide trading in markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing fourth quarter earnings season, global factors and macroeconomic data would guide the trends in the equity markets this week, analysts said.

Markets would also take cues from trading activity of foreign investors, rupee-dollar trend and movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude.

"Domestically, the next batch of Q4 earnings reports will drive stock-specific movements, Hero MotoCorp, Larsen & Toubro, BPCL, State Bank of India, Eicher Motors and Tata Motors are some of the big names in the list and the next phase of voting," said Praveesh



Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

PMI data for the services sector will also influence trading in the equity markets.

Industrial production data for March is scheduled to be announced on Friday.

"On Monday markets will react to the US employment data and Q4 results of companies like Dmart and Kotak Bank," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

WORLD BANK BUSINESS READY REPORT

Govt working on to push ranking

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the World Bank planning to come out with its first Business Ready report in September this year, the commerce ministry has started working on the international trade topic in detail to further push India's ranking, an official said.

Business Ready (B-READY) is the World Bank's new flagship report benchmarking the business environment and investment climate in most economies worldwide.

The report assesses the regulatory framework and public

services directed at firms, and the efficiency with which regulatory framework and public services are combined in practice.

The first B-READY report will be launched on September 25, 2024.

The Business Ready report is replacing the World Bank Group's earlier Doing Business index. In 2020, the World Bank decided to pause the publication of its Doing Business report following a

number of irregularities regarding changes to data in previous reports.

The new focuses on 10 topics covering the lifecycle of a firm in the course of starting, operating, or closing or reorganizing its activities.

The topics are Business Entry, Business Location, Utility Services, Labor, Financial Services, International Trade, Taxation, Dispute Resolution, Market

Competition, and Business Insolvency.

Over the next three years, the project will grow to cover about 180 economies worldwide annually, starting with 54 economies in 2023-24, 120 economies in 2024-25, and reaching 180 economies in 2025-26.

"Concerned ministries are working on their respective topics, the commerce ministry is working on the international trade part. We are preparing the replies to all the questionnaires under this subject. The aim is to push India's rankings," the official said.



'Home loan outstanding up by Rs 10 L cr'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Credit outstanding to the housing sector rose by nearly Rs 10 lakh crore in the last two fiscals to reach a record Rs 27.23 lakh crore in March this year, according to RBI's data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit'.

Experts from banking and real estate sectors attributed this growth in housing credit outstanding to a strong revival in the residential property market post-COVID pandemic on pent-up demand.

According to the data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on sectoral deployment of bank credit for March 2024, the credit outstanding to the housing



(including priority sector housing) stood at Rs 27,22,720 crore in March 2024, up from Rs 19,88,532 crore in March 2023, and Rs 17,26,697 crore in March 2022. The data also showed that the credit outstanding towards commercial real estate stood at Rs 4,48,145 crore in March 2024. It was at Rs 2,97,231 crore in March 2022.

According to reports from various property consultants, housing sales and prices have surged significantly in the last two financial years.

When contacted, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist with Bank of Baroda, said the high growth in home loans can be attributed to the housing boom seen across all segments.

In particular, Sabnavis said the affordable housing segment has witnessed an uptick due to the government push.

"There was also some pent up demand for buying homes in the last two years following COVID which is getting reflected here," he said.

Sabnavis said the home loan

growth would remain robust, but might taper down to 15-20 per cent due to a higher base.

Commenting on the RBI data, Samir Jasuja, CEO and MD of PropEquity, a leading real-estate data and analytics company, said the rise of housing loans outstanding is primarily due to the significant increase in the quantum of properties launched and sold in the last two fiscal years.

"Major Tier-1 cities have witnessed high rates of price appreciation ranging between 50-100 per cent since FY 2021, which has contributed to an increase in average loan size per property," he explained.

India has unexplored opportunities: Warren Buffett

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Billionaire investor Warren Buffett said that the Indian market has "unexplored" opportunities which his conglomerate holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, would like to explore "in the future".

Buffett's remarks came at Berkshire's annual meeting on Friday when Rajeev Agarwal of DoorDarshi Advisors, a US-based hedge fund that invests in Indian equities, asked him about the possibility of Berkshire exploring in India,



Buffett, 93, said Berkshire has a great reputation around the world. He said, his Japanese experience has been fascinating enough.

the world's fifth-largest economy.

"It is a very good question. I am sure there are loads of opportunities in countries like India," he said.

"The question, however, is whether we have any advantage

or insights into those businesses in India or any contacts that will make possible transactions that Berkshire would like to participate in. That is something a more energetic management at Berkshire could pursue," the co-founder, chair-

man and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway said.

Buffett, 93, said Berkshire has a great reputation around the world. He said, his Japanese experience has been fascinating enough.

"There may be an unexplored or an unattended opportunity...but that may be something in the future," he said about India.

Buffett said the question is if Berkshire has some kind of advantage in pursuing those unattended opportunities, particularly against people who are

managing other people's money and getting paid based on assets.

During a Question and Answer session, Buffett answered several questions related to some of the key investment decisions taken by Berkshire Hathaway lately.

Decidedly reducing stake in Apple was one of the key topics. Buffett clarified that it had nothing to do with the long-term view on the stock and Apple will probably remain one of their largest holdings despite the recent slowdown.

Thermal power plants have 68% of normative coal stocks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 184 thermal power plants with a total generation capacity of 211 GW have 68 per cent of normative coal stock levels amid rising electricity demand due to soaring temperatures in the country.

According to the Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) May 3 daily report, 184 plants, that are monitored by the CEA, have 47.78 million tonnes of coal



stocks against the normative level of 70.55 million tonnes.

This assumes significance in view of power ministry projections that peak demand will be 260 GW during this summer. The peak power demand was

at an all-time high of 243 GW in September 2023.

Peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day rose to 224.18 GW in April 2024 as against 215.88 GW in April 2023. The highest supply in a day has already touched 223.84GW on May 3, 2024, which is higher than 221.42 GW recorded in May 2023. The peak power demand met was 219.37GW on May 1 and 222.03GW on May 2 this year.

UNLOCKING 'SECRETS' WITH SCRUPULOUS RESEARCH

Bringing some BTS behind the making of the much-appreciated documentary *The Secrets of Buddha Relics*, *The Pioneer* connects with the director and producer, sharing some insights on the same.

TEJAL SINHA

Asthiyon Ki Rahasyamayi Khoj—*The Secrets of Buddha Relics* explores the greatest mystery, which has been streaming on Discovery + Originals, bringing the origins, cultural significance, and mystical tales surrounding the relics of Gautam Buddha. *Secrets of the Buddha Relics* follows the previous two incredibly successful series, *Secrets of Sinoli* and *Secrets of the Kohinoor*. The show, developed by writer/director Neeraj Pandey, produced by Shital Bhatia, co-directed by Raghav Jairath, and hosted by actor Manoj Bajpayee, dives into Gautam Buddha's final days.

The Pioneer gets on a quick call with the director, Raghav Jairath, and producer, Shital Bhatia, to go through the BTS of making the series. During this, we realised that research was integral to the series and the *Secrets* franchise.

A THREE-AND-A-HALF-YEAR RESEARCH

Raghav Jairath: "After we did the *Secrets of Sinoli*, we explored other topics and had about 10 research ideas and topics that we were looking at, which takes a great deal of time. For *Buddha Relics*, we began the research three to three and a half years ago. After that, Neeraj Sir

had an extreme closeness to *Buddha Relics*. He inspired us to work on this documentary. It was just two years before we started our entire focus on this documentary, where we had to start with the original textbooks that were closest to that time. During this, we realised that everybody knows the story of Gautam Buddha's life, but very few know the story of his last three months. What got us closer to the documentary was the fact that relics had never been formed before this. That took us towards the story, and if you see, in today's time, Gautam Buddha never travelled in Bihar and never out of India, but you find his sutras and relics all over."

BEING CAREFUL OF THE CONFLICTING VIEWS

Shital: "The research on such subjects is extremely difficult and sensitive at the same time because there are so many conflicting views. If you are getting to the bottom of the story, figure out the right way of presenting it because you can easily hurt someone's sentiments. We have to be extremely careful that we don't take sides, and we need to bring it out as close to reality as possible.

Raghav: "It was extremely challenging, but we zeroed in on the right experts who have spent enough time on this subject. They are the main ones who have been researching this for the past two to three decades, and so on. Once we spoke to them, they become our guiding force. But there are a lot of conflicting facts because Buddhism in today's time has three versions. We have different stories. We decided to tell the story that was closest to history.

CREATING ENTERTAINMENT VS. FACTUAL PROJECT

Raghav: "Anything factual can be told in an entertaining way. I think conducting research in the right manner is something we have been striving for. You can tell anything in the right manner; you just need to find the right method, and that comes with the right timing and guidance.

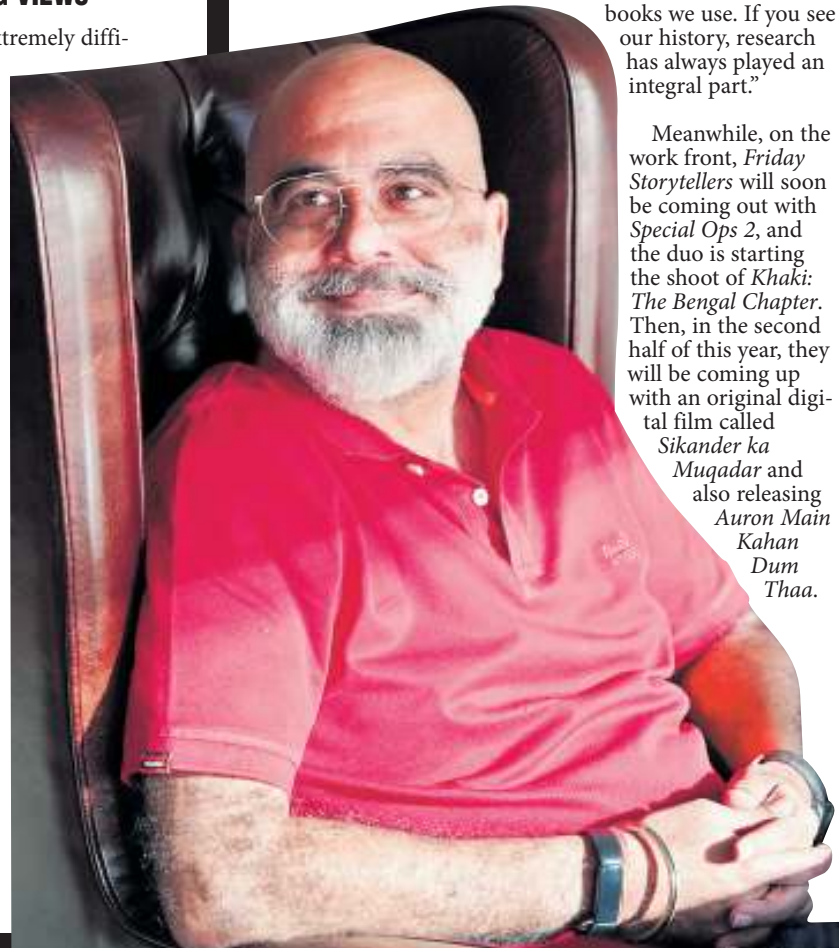
PROJECTS LIKE THIS COME WITH A HIGHER RISK

Shital: "I've never looked at subjects like this as risky or not. We look at content that excites us and tells the story."

A STORY WITH AN INDIAN HISTORY COMES WITH A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Raghav: "You are absolutely right. It is a very big responsibility, and we are constantly checking the facts. People come back to it, the education system starts using it, and a lot of schools have gotten in touch with us from the first documentary itself that we can play in the school's auditorium. It becomes a very big responsibility for our expert panels, research teams, and the books we use. If you see our history, research has always played an integral part."

Meanwhile, on the work front, *Friday Storytellers* will soon be coming out with *Special Ops 2*, and the duo is starting the shoot of *Khaki: The Bengal Chapter*. Then, in the second half of this year, they will be coming up with an original digital film called *Sikander ka Muqadar* and also releasing *Auron Man Kahan Dum Thaa*.



Legacy of modern timelessness

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Where the essence of individualised style reigns supreme, transcending the fleeting whims of passing trends, the launch of Spring-Summer Collection 24 of Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur is viewed as the famous hub of specially designed *Bandhgala*s, with his name being inked into the pages of Indian style history.

The "Rathore Look" encapsulates class and great taste that mirror grand colourfulness accumulating an Indian as well as a global customer base of the most prominent.

He says, "The Spring-Summer Collection 24" draws inspiration from personalised dressing rather than following trends. It emphasises recycling and reinventing classic styles for a timeless appeal, with a focus on versatility for different occasions. The collection merges traditional and contemporary elements, offering a variety of silhouettes and colours chosen for their timeless elegance and adaptability."

He preserves the heritage and embraces modernity in his collection. Handcrafted



elegance at Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur: each stitch reveals years of painstaking detail and classic style. Every piece of clothing is carefully thought out and chosen, exhibiting a well-balanced blend of traditional techniques and modern design elements. "With meticulous attention to detail and a dedication to tailored design solutions, it envisions and selects pieces that reflect the individual style and comfort. Through the seamless integration of classic methods and contemporary design features, it provides a bespoke journey that is both immersive and personalised."

Excellence in fashion is where celebrity and artistry combine to create a remarkable, bespoke, elegant tapestry. "We've had the honour of dressing some of the most famous people in the world for more than thirty years. The designs are adorned by several Bollywood and Hollywood stars. At RRR, we've had the privilege of crafting personalised ensembles for notable figures like Amitabh Bachchan, Saif Ali Khan, Anil Kapoor, Duchess of York Sarah Fergusson, Diljit Dosanjh, and many others over the past three decades. Each encounter has left a lasting impression. The iconic *Jodhpur Bandhgala*, a timeless classic, not only holds global recognition but also stands as a wardrobe staple for gentlemen, transcending seasons and settings; it remains a cornerstone of my vision and collections."

Prioritising personalised style over fads, he says, he breathes new life into classic fashion, creating lasting charm suitable for various events. "The Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur SS 24 collection seamlessly merges traditional and modern elements, presenting a wide array of styles and colours meticulously selected for their timeless appeal and versatility. Additionally, their dedication to sustainability shines through its use of eco-conscious materials and ethical production methods, showcasing a thoughtful approach to fashion," signs off the designer.

Celebrated designer Raghavendra Rathore, who recently launched his Spring-Summer Collection, gets candid with *The Pioneer*, sharing some details about the collection, crafting designs for the biggies of the industry, and more.



Fostering community through compassion

the United States of America International University in recognition of her exceptional dedication and service to public welfare. Despite her young age, Miss Naidu's influence has crossed borders, gaining her recognition from countries all over the world.

During the event, she was given the opportunity to address the British Parliament, delivering a moving speech about her goal and vision for a better world.

Furthermore, a moving two-minute cinematic presentation shed light on Naidu's journey and the transformative influence of her work.

Her journey exemplifies the power of compassion and the significant impact that individuals, regardless of age, can make on society. As she continues her journey to promote good change and improve communities around the world, her legacy will inspire future generations to follow in her path.

Although unable to attend owing to parliamentary commitments, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak personally invited Miss Naidu to a special high tea, expressing his appreciation for her remarkable work and dedication. In his heartfelt greeting, Prime Minister Sunak stressed that the honorary doctorate is a testament to Naidu's remarkable skill and unshakable dedication to public service.

"This award is a testament to Kalasha Naidu's extraordinary dedication and remarkable contributions to society," remarked Prime Minister Sunak. "Her tireless efforts have touched the lives of countless individuals across the globe, and her achievements serve as a beacon of excellence in the field of public service. I am personally delighted to extend this invitation to Naidu and look forward to celebrating her accomplishments over high tea and a tour of the Parliament."



Recently, the United Nations Global Peace Council (UNGPC) held a historic ceremony in the majestic Palace of West Minister, also known as the House of Lords or the London Parliament, to award the prestigious title of "Globally the Youngest Social Worker" to Kalasha Naidu. She was acknowledged at the occasion for her remarkable contributions to worldwide public service.

Naidu received an Honorary Doctorate from the United Nations General Assembly and



what's brewing?



● Karthik



Shiznay 2024 was organised as part of the TKR Educational Society's college fest to commemorate the university's 22nd annual day festivities at Meerpet, Hyderabad. Popular singer and composer Karthik sang live in concert on the second day, and performed top Telugu hit songs.



● Mytri



● Meghna



● Shruti and Tanvi



● Bharadwaj



● Venkataswara Rao, Sreehari and Ravichandra



Indian film director and producer Tammareddy Bharadwaj, along with other dignitaries, attended the animal theme sculpture exhibition, which is currently being held at Chitramayee State Art Gallery in Madhapur. The exhibition, which is going to end on May 13, is designed to be a dialogue between natural elegance and human creativity.



● Ramana Reddy



Tim Hortons announced its much-anticipated entry into the vibrant city of Hyderabad with the opening of its newest location. The store was launched in Inorbit Mall in HITEC City.



Fernandez Foundation marked the International Day of the Midwife with celebratory events held at Fernandez Stork Home (Banjara Hills) and Fernandez Hospital (Bogulakunta). The foundation, hosted senior consultants from Fernandez Hospital, alongside parents, healthcare professionals, and seasoned midwives.



Vision IAS conducted a seminar on UPSC preparation strategy by their students who secured All India rank: Navneet Anand (AIR Rank: 499, UPSC CSE 2023) and Harshit Srivastava (AIR Rank: 521, UPSC CSE 2023). In this session, both shared their inspiring journeys with the aspirants and offered them strategies for managing time effectively, developing practical study plans, and maintaining motivation throughout their preparation journey.



Guru Nanak Institutions (GNITC and GNIT) organised its 23rd Annual Day Celebrations at its campus in Hyderabad. Dr. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), National Board of Accreditation (NBA), National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and former chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), along with other dignitaries, attended the event.



As a part of its move to constantly work towards removing misconceptions around HIV in society, Hope for Life, along with Epic Systems India Pvt Ltd, organised a special summer camp at Desire Society in Hyderabad. During the camp, nutrition kits, school bags, stationery kits containing 25 varieties of millets, and school bags (with inner wear, sanitary napkins, dental soaps, and millet mix) were distributed to around 200 HIV patients from areas including Sangareddy, Sadashivpet, Medak, Rangareddy, Medchal, and Niloufer.



Founder and director of Meru International School, Meghana Gorukanti Jupally, inaugurated the 2nd Meru Aevksha Day Care Center, ensuring a bright future for the children of construction workers.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



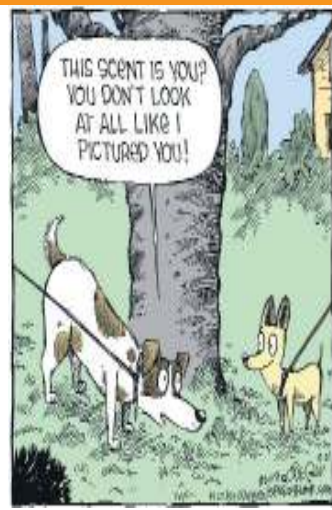
GARFIELD



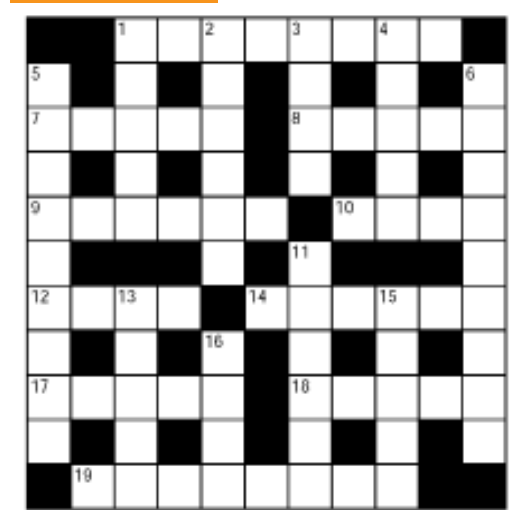
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



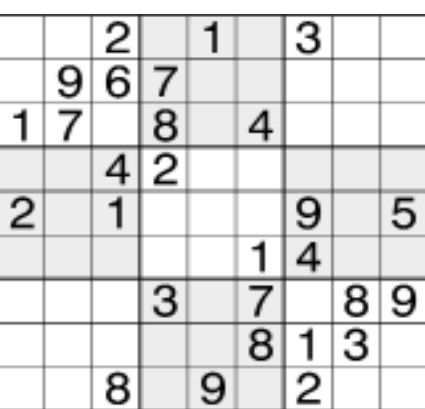
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

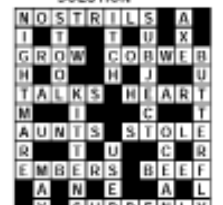
- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- Beard
- Movements of the sea caused by the moon's pull on the Earth
- A sour oily fruit from a tree
- One of the continents
- An alcoholic drink
- Look at something for a long time
- Me
- A type of small bird
- A clothing size
- A chart of months and days

DOWN

- Broader
- A six-legged creature
- Round handle
- Lift up
- People not known to you
- Extremely frightened
- An eye's cover
- A striped animal
- Mistake
- A joint in the leg



GINGER MEGGS



Aghora look by Raamz creates revolution in T'wood

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Raamz, also known as Raamz, started his career in fashion in Hyderabad before transitioning into the acting business. He is well-known for his work designing costumes for Tollywood celebs. His creations frequently combine modern aesthetics with classic southern workmanship! He was born in Razole, a town in Andhra Pradesh. A self-taught designer, who started out creating costumes for movies in south India also created the sets for around twenty different films. *Enthiran*, starring Rajinikanth, is amongst his best creations.

For our Tollywood segment, it was only fitting to interview this self-made designer, who starts out by saying, "Our Tollywood movies served as a huge inspiration to me from my childhood itself. I'm not kidding! Call me a movie buff, but I noticed the kinds of clothes that our celebs in Tollywood were sporting. I joined the Tollywood film industry, but I'm a costume designer now, to feed my inner *keeda!* I now admire the way the celebrities in the Tollywood industry dress."

The costume designer-turned-actor, in the exclusive video interview, knowing some insider information shares, "I can only say that I find 'school' in Tollywood films. My mentors are the directors and actors who I have been working with up to this point. Since the film director is the one who pitches the idea in the end, I didn't see the necessity of investing money in a fashion school. Thus, why waste money? In actuality, when I first started learning about fashion and styling, my wife was of huge help. The unstoppable partnerships of today are a result of the way we approach superstars. Let's celebrate with a toast."

Raamz, along with his wife, have dressed actors like Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati, and Nagarjuna over the years, after gaining their big break with Sukumar's 2007 film

Jagadam. He has also contributed to Rajinikanth's *Robot* as a designer!

Well, moving ahead, he shares, "You may say I'm a bad student, but I eventually realised that education won't benefit me in the long run. I should work in the creative industry! I went now in order to comprehend South fashion. Before starting to work on celebrity costumes, it was crucial for me to learn the distinctions between a worldwide, Indian, and local designer. What even does the term 'aesthetics' entail in the context of fashion? I had no idea. I realised what aesthetics were when Amitabh Bachchan donned one of my fashion couture pieces."

Isn't it a dream come true when one gets to work with the megastars of the industry? So was he! Starting his work in the film business, working with Chiranjeevi, he recalls, "Thanks to my wife's viral look that she made for him a few years back. It was referred to as his 'best look' upon entering the motion picture business. Is that even possible to imagine? He especially expressed his gratitude to us through his daughter. And how could I forget my work on the movie *Akhanda*, in which I gave the lead actor, Nandamuri Balakrishna, an *Aghora* look? That turned out to be a recent trend as well! The director approached me and explained how my appearance contributed to the movie being a revolution during the pandemic."

Speaking further on his involvement in Telugu feature films, he emphasises, "The reason I was able to get these films, *Pachhis* or *Fighter Raja*, is the quantity of successful directors I have previously collaborated with. Additionally, technicians were helpful! I became overly excited about scouting film ideas for me to act in while working as a costume designer." A detailed discussion about the costume designer-turned-actor's next film, *Fighter Raja*, will be covered in our upcoming exclusive interview, so stay tuned!

Raamz, well-known for his work in the Tollywood industry, gets candid with *The Pioneer*, sharing his formative days in the industry, working with legendary superstars of the South, creating revolution with NBK's *Akhanda* look, and more.



Teja Sajja unveils trailer for Getup Srinu's *Raju Yadav*

Jabardasth fame Getup Srinu is making his debut as a lead actor with wholesome entertainer *Raju Yadav*, which marks the directorial debut of Krishnamachary. K. Prashant Reddy and Rajesh Kallepalli, together, are producing the movie under the banners of Sai Varunavi Creations and Charisma Dreams Entertainment. The previously released teaser and songs got superb response. As the makers are planning to release the movie soon, they have come up with the theatrical trailer. Super Hero Teja Sajja unveiled the trailer.

The trailer opens with the incident that led to all the grief in the life of *Raju Yadav*. While fielding on the cricket ground, he is hardly hit by a ball, and because of this, he can't move his facial muscles. He will always be seen with a smiley face, which brings him all the troubles. Doctors suggest an operation that requires a lot of money. He moves to Hyderabad and takes up a cab driver job to earn money. Fortunately, he finds a girl who loves his smile very much. Unfortunately, she too leaves him.

The story of the movie is based on real incidents, and director Krishnamachary made it an out-and-out entertainer. Getup Srinu is exceptional in the titular role. He makes us smile and miserable in different situations. Ankita Kharat played the female lead.

Sai Ram Uday of D.F.Tech impresses with his camera work, whereas Harshvardhan Rameshwar's background score is one of the major highlights. The production design is adequate for the genre of the movie. *Raju Yadav* is scheduled for its worldwide release on May 17.



SALAAR: PART 1 to release in Japan on July 5

Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire is scheduled to hit Japanese theaters on July 5, the makers have announced.

Directed by Prashanth Neel and produced by Hombale Films, the Telugu movie stars Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in the lead. Production house Hombale Films shared details about the Japan release of *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire* on its official Instagram page on Saturday.

"Indian action entertainer *Salaar* will be hitting Japanese audiences on July 5th! #Salaar #Prabhas," the banner said in the post.

Besides Telugu, *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire* was also released in Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi on December 22. It has grossed around Rs 700 crore at the worldwide box office. Set in the fictional city of Khansaar, the film revolves around two friends, Deva (Prabhas) and Vardha (Prithviraj). It also stars Shruti Haasan, Eshwari Rao, Jagapathi Babu, and Sriya Reddy.

Salaar: Part 2 - Shouryanga Parvam, its follow-up, is under development. The National Award-winning Kannada film *777 Charlie*, starring Rakshit Shetty, is also set to be released in Japan on June 28.



INDIAN 2 RELEASE STANDS POSTPONED

The eagerly awaited release of *Indian 2* starring the legendary Kamal Haasan, is set to ignite cinema screens with anticipation and excitement. Initially speculated to hit theaters in June, recent reports indicate a slight shift in plans, with sources now suggesting a July release.

While an official announcement is yet to be made, enthusiasts eagerly await confirmation from the makers regarding the revised release date. With expectations running high, fans are bracing themselves for an immersive cinematic experience.

Behind the scenes, the film's production team is diligently working towards completion, with one song sequence remaining to be shot. Once this final piece falls into place, anticipation is expected to skyrocket as promotional activities roll out one by one.

As the countdown begins for the release of *Indian 2*, cinephiles across the nation are poised on the edge of their seats, eagerly awaiting further updates and the official announcement of the film's much-anticipated premiere date.

SURIYA WRAPS UP DUBBING FOR KANGUVA

In a significant development for the highly anticipated film *Kanguva*, actor Suriya has completed dubbing his portions, marking a milestone in the production's journey. The news comes as a testament to the progress made by the cast and crew, signaling a step closer to the film's much-anticipated release.

With Suriya's dubbing completed, the focus now shifts to the extensive post-production phase, which is expected to span over three months. This crucial stage will involve intricate work in computer graphics (CG), visual effects (VFX), and animation, aimed at enhancing the cinematic experience and bringing the director's

vision to life with precision and finesse. *Kanguva* is poised to make a mark on a global scale, with plans for its release in an impressive 32 languages. This ambitious endeavour underscores the film's universal appeal and the anticipation surrounding its arrival among audiences worldwide.

As excitement mounts and anticipation builds for the release of *Kanguva*, fans and cinephiles alike are eagerly awaiting further updates and glimpses into the cinematic marvel that awaits. Stay tuned for more exclusive insights and announcements as the journey towards the release of *Kanguva* unfolds.



Amitabh Bachchan wraps up shooting for *Vettaiyan*

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he has finished shooting for the Tamil film *Vettaiyan*, fronted by Rajinikanth. The movie is directed by T.J. Gnanavel of *Jai Bhim* fame and backed by Lyca Productions. Bachchan, who last worked with Rajinikanth in the 1991 film *Hum*, shared the update on the project on his personal blog.

"Another day at work comes to an end, and the end too of this project, for me... But ever the dissatisfaction of a doubt, when in reflection, whether the work done was to satisfaction and whether there shall be an opportunity to have another try to redo and maybe improve the previous. There is ever the apprehension that the Production or the

Director may not give you another chance... but as you reminisce at night, it disturbs you and you wonder... So a request has been made and there is promise that the opportunity to redo and improve shall be given... but let us see... (sic)" the 81-year-old wrote alongside a series of pictures from the film set in Mumbai. *Vettaiyan*, billed as an entertainer with a message, marks Rajinikanth's 170th feature film. It also stars Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh, Manju Warrier, and Dushara Vijayan in key roles. Anirudh Ravichander is attached to compose the music for the movie, produced by A. Subaskaran of Lyca Productions.



Taapsee eyes two more releases this year

After *Dunki*, Taapsee Pannu is all set to grace the silver screen with not one but two exciting releases in 2024. Following the success and critical acclaim of *Hasane Dillruha*, audiences are eagerly anticipating her upcoming ventures, *Phir Aayi Hasane Dillruha* and *Khel Khel Mein*, each promising a unique cinematic experience.

In *Phir Aayi Hasane Dillruha*, Taapsee reunites with Vikrant Massey in the much-anticipated sequel to the gripping thriller. The first installment left viewers spellbound with its intriguing plot and stellar performances, setting high expectations for its sequel. With Taapsee leading the cast, the film is poised to deliver another thrilling ride filled with suspense and mystery, making it a must-watch for fans of the genre.

Adding to the excitement is *Khel Khel Mein*, an ensemble film featuring Taapsee alongside industry veterans Akshay Kumar, Fardes Khan, and Vaani Kapoor. Scheduled for release around Akshay Kumar's birthday on September 6, the film has already begun generating buzz among fans. Promising a delightful blend of entertainment and intrigue, *Khel Khel Mein* showcases Taapsee's versatility as an actor, further solidifying her reputation as one of Bollywood's most talented performers.

Following her recent success in *Dunki*, Taapsee continues to challenge herself with diverse roles across genres. While *Phir Aayi Hasane Dillruha* keeps audiences on the edge of their seats with its gripping narrative, *Khel Khel Mein* offers a refreshing take on comedy and drama, showcasing Taapsee's prolific range as a performer. With these two exciting projects on the horizon, Taapsee is poised to entertain audiences once again with her exceptional talent and unwavering dedication to her craft.

CAPTURED IN A SWEET MOMENT:

Newly-wed Mega Prince Varun Tej and Lavanya Tripathi shared an adorable gaze during their recent vacation.





SRH EYE CONSISTENCY IN MUST WIN IPL CLASH AGAINST FRAIL MI



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Confident Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to produce a dominant show against a frail Mumbai Indians outfit and move up in the Indian Premier League points table when the two teams clash here on Monday. Placed fourth in the IPL points table with 12 points in 10 matches with six wins and four losses, SRH will be desperate to produce an all-round show and make improvements especially in their bowling department. The Pat Cummins-led side is in the midst of an intense battle between multiple teams who are bidding for spots in the final four, with Rajasthan Royals (16 points), Kolkata Knight Riders (14 points) and Lucknow Super Giants (12

points) placed above SRH. Chennai Super Kings (5th with 10 points) and a resurgent Delhi Capitals (6th with 10 points) are breathing down SRH's neck, a scenario that would force the 2016 winners to shrug off any rust and get ready for an intense mid-table battle. If a two-paced pitch at the Wankhede Stadium for the previous clash against KKR was an aberration, the free-flowing SRH batters would look to make merry and pile up a huge score as they have done several times this year. The pitches here generally are batting-friendly and short boundary lengths at this venue make scores in excess of 200 a norm, but the MI-KKR contest played out on a sluggish surface last Friday

challenged the batters to dig deep. SRH would be high on confidence having pipped the table-toppers RR by just one run in their previous outing, a game in which their bowlers pulled off a thrilling win. Travis Head (396 runs), Abhishek Sharma (315) and Heinrich Klaassen (337) remain the enforcers in SRH's batting but South African Aiden Markram would be keen to make a big score of his own, having had a mixed run so far. Nitish Kumar Reddy (219 runs) has emerged as one of the most promising players for SRH in last few games which takes a significant amount of pressure off the key batters. T Natarajan's (15 wickets) accuracy would be handy for

SRH as the left-arm pacer is chasing Mumbai Indians' Jasprit Bumrah (17) for the purple cap. Five-time winners Mumbai slipped to the bottom of the pool again when Royal Challengers Bengaluru trumped Gujarat Titans on Saturday night. With only three wins in 11 matches, MI's challenge is all but over and there is only "pride and name" left to play for by their own admission. However, all is not lost as MI's key India players for the upcoming T20 World Cup, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya would remain in focus for their individual form. Rohit's all-out aggressive approach has not yielded many big scores whereas the world number 1 T20 batter

Suryakumar would be eyeing consistency after a fine half-century against KKR a few nights ago. India vice-captain Pandya has been consistently on the receiving end due to his ordinary form with both bat and ball and also his on-field decisions as MI skipper. The all-rounder, however, would be keen to make amends and put an end to the criticism that he has been facing ever since this IPL edition got underway. **TEAMS (FROM)** **Mumbai Indians:** Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Dewald Brevis, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, Gerald Coetzee, Tim David, Shreyas Gopal, Ishan Kishan (wk), Anshul Kamboj, Kumar Kartikeya, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Mohammad Nabi, Shams Mulani, Naman Dhir, Shivalik Sharma, Romario Shepherd, Arjun Tendulkar, Nuwan Thushara, Tilak Varma, Harvik Desai (wk), Nehal Wadhwa, Luke Wood. **Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaassen (wk), Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Nitish Reddy, Shabbaz Ahmed, Pat Cummins (c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T Natarajan, Mayank Markande, Umran Malik, Anmolpreet Singh, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Umpendra Yadav (wk), Jhathavedh Subramanyam, Sanvir Singh, Vijayakanth Vijayakanth, Fazalhaq Feroqi, Marco Jansen, Akash Maharaj Singh, Mayank Agarwal.

Leader Siraj regains swing, aggression as RCB, India hopes rise high

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The change in Mohammed Siraj's fortunes has played a critical role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's late surge in this IPL, and the pacer's good run might also have put the Indian thinktank at ease ahead of next month's T20 World Cup. In the latest show of his metamorphosis, Siraj wrecked Gujarat Titans with a two-wicket burst in the Power Play, grabbing the wickets of Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha. Siraj's figures at that stage was a superb 2-0-9-2, and as someone who is marked to share the new ball with Jasprit Bumrah in the ICC showpiece, it's certainly a shot in the arm for the national team as well. RCB assistant coach Adam Griffith, who has worked with Siraj for the last five years, placed that transformation to him "swinging the ball again." "He's the leader of our group. He's played a lot for India in the last few years and has done really well. It's not just him bowling well. It's his aggression, his body language, him taking the batters on to try and get wickets is such an important part of what we're trying to do. "Having him up and going, swinging the ball again, bowling with good pace, and being aggressive is so important to us," said Griffith in the post-match press meet here on Saturday after RCB defeated GT by four wickets. The Royal Challengers bowling unit's performance - a collective economy rate of 10.28 and 45 wickets - was the

worst in this season of IPL. In a way, it was Siraj's responsibility to inspire the rest of the pack as the leader and he did put his hand up. Perhaps, the nine-day break he was given between April 12 and 20 refreshed his mind and helped him regain his sharpness. The match he missed in the interim was the one in which Sunrisers Hyderabad racked in an IPL record of 287 for three in Bengaluru. Griffith explained the thought process behind giving some leisure time for Siraj. "He's like any other player when they are fatigued. It's very important to give them that break. That's just as important as the training component, sometimes even more important." "He is a rhythm bowler - his run-up is so important to what he does. So, we want him fresh and running in hard," he said. Post his return from the break, Siraj played four matches against Kolkata Knight Riders, SRH and two against GT. While RCB lost by one-run against the Knight Riders in a high-scoring match, they won the other three. In those three matches, Siraj had figures of 4-0-20-0, 4-0-34-1 and 4-0-29-2. Griffith said Siraj has found a good balance between off-time and preparation. "He knows his body really well. He knows what he needs to do to prepare and every now and then we might need to give him a little bit of a push in that direction. "I've been with him now for five or so years, so I can tell when he's going well and when he needs a rest," he added.



CSK pacer Matheesha Pathirana returns to SL with hamstring injury

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' Matheesha Pathirana's outing in the ongoing IPL is all but over as the pacer will return to Sri Lanka to recover from a hamstring injury. The right-arm slinger played six matches in this IPL, picking up 13 wickets at an economy of 7.68. "Chennai Super Kings wishes Pathirana a quick recovery," the CSK stated in a media release on Sunday. Pathirana last played for CSK during their 78-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, where he bowled two overs and picked up the wickets of Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaassen. Pathirana missed the match against Punjab Kings at Chennai on May 1 with England pacer Richard Gleeson replacing him. The unavailability of Pathirana is a big setback to CSK as their bowling stocks have dwindled drastically in the last few days. Pace bowling all-rounder Deepak Chahar too is set to miss the remainder of the IPL with a niggle he sustained during the match against Punjab at Chepauk.

OTHER SPORTS

Indian men's 4x400m team fails to finish World Relays heat race

PTI ■ NASSAU (BAHAMAS)

Second leg runner Rajesh Ramesh spilled out due to cramps as the Indian men's 4x400m team failed to finish its heat race at the World Athletics Relays here on Sunday, during round one of Paris Olympics qualifications. The Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh, Muhammed Ajmal and Amoj Jacob was hoping to book a Paris ticket with a top-two finish in heat number four, but in a utter heartbreak, Ramesh left the race midway while clutching his left leg. Anas had already run the first leg. "The men's 4x400m relay team had a good start. Muhammad Anas

clocked 45.93 seconds in the first leg, but the second runner -- Rajesh Ramesh -- fell down due to cramps in leg muscles at the first bend," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said in a statement. Ramesh had run the mixed 4x400m race three hours before the men's event. India will have another chance on Monday during round two of Olympics qualifications where all the other teams which finished outside top-two in their respective heats on Sunday will try their luck for another shot at the Paris Games. The teams are expected to be divided into three heats and top two from each of them will book Paris ticket.



The same quartet had set an Asian record of 2 minutes and 59.05 seconds at the 2023 Budapest World Championships. India had failed to get past the heat round in the Tokyo Olympics. India also failed to make the Paris Olympics cut in women's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m relays on the first day of qualifications. Both the Indian teams of mixed 4x400m and women's 4x400m will have to wait for Monday's round two of Olympics qualifications. In the mixed 4x400m event, the Indian quartet of Rajesh Ramesh, Rupal Chaudhary, Avinash Krishna Kumar and Jyothika Sri Dandi ran a poor race to finish sixth in heat number two with a time of 3

minutes and 20.36 seconds. Later, the Indian quartet of Vithya Ramraj, M R Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi and Subha Venkatesan finished fifth in heat number one with a time of 3 minutes and 29.74 seconds. The top two teams in each of the four heat races here qualify for the Paris Olympics to be held from July 16 to August 11. The remaining teams in all the heats will compete again on Monday in another qualification round for another six Paris Olympics spots. The format is the same for all the five relay races -- men's and women's 4x100m, men's and women's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m -- being held here.

Ronaldo scores his 4th hat-trick of Saudi Pro League season

AP ■ RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his fourth hat trick of the Saudi Pro League season as Al-Nassr thrashed Al-Wehda 6-0. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner now has 32 league goals this season, two short of Abderrazak Hamdallah's record tally of 34 back in the 2018-19 campaign, with four goals still to play. Ronaldo opened the scoring in Riyadh in the fifth minute after intercepting a poor clearance from goalkeeper Munir Mohamedi. Seven minutes later, the former Real Madrid and Manchester United star grabbed his second, heading home a cross from Marcelo Brozovic. Early in the second half, Ronaldo's shot from just inside the area secured his hat trick in Al-Nassr's seventh successive win. His fellow Portuguese star Otavio also scored as did Senegal forward Sadio Mane and Mohammed Al-Fatih. The win moves nine-time Saudi Arabian champion Al-Nassr to nine points behind leader Al-Hilal.

Vivaan bows out in shoot-off as Indian trap shooters disappoint in Baku WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian trap shooters failed to enter the title round of the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Baku after Vivaan Kapoor bowed out 2-3 in a shoot-off with Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Matthew John Coward-Holley of Great Britain.

Vivaan shot 120 in qualification round to get into a three-way shoot-off for the sixth and final qualifying spot with Ireland's former junior world champion Ian O'Sullivan, besides Coward-Holley. While Ian missed his very first shot to exit first, Vivaan kept fighting only to miss his third

shot as Coward-Holley nailed all three targets to go through. Vivaan had to settle for the seventh place. Besides Vivaan, Prithviraj Tondaiman (score 117, rank 24th) and Bhowneesh Mendiratta (score 116, rank 39th) also had a disappointing outing in men's trap event.

China wins Uber Cup for 16th time, beats Indonesia 3-0 in final

AP ■ CHENGDU (CHINA)

China underlined its supremacy by beating Indonesia to win the Uber Cup for the 16th time on Sunday. China, which lost the final to South Korea in Bangkok two years ago, routed Indonesia 3-0, playing its first Uber Cup final since 2008.

Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei provided China with a perfect start when she defeated Gregoria Mariska Tunjung 21-7, 21-16. The Chinese pair of world No. 1 Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan then outplayed Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti and Ribka Sugiarto 21-11, 21-8 for a commanding 2-0 lead. Teenager Ester Nurumi fought



hard for Indonesia before He Bingjiao recovered to win 10-21, 21-15, 21-17. "Last time it was a shame that we couldn't win the Uber Cup, so over the last two years we were always ready, and we were playing at home," said He. Later on Sunday, both nations will meet in the Thomas Cup final. It is for the first time since 2012 that the same countries will be playing in both the men's and women's finals.

Verstappen ties Prost's record with 6th pole winning run to open an F1 season

AP ■ MIAMI GARDENS

Max Verstappen inched closer to a third consecutive win at the Miami Grand Prix by continuing his long domination of Formula 1 qualifying. The three-time reigning F1 champion won his seventh consecutive pole, but first at Miami, where Verstappen failed to earn the top starting spot in the first two races around Hard Rock Stadium, yet still won them both. "I don't know what it is, every single year we come here I find it extremely difficult to be consistent with the car feeling, with the tire feeling over one lap," Verstappen said. "I think we did OK. It's not the most enjoyable lap of my career, but we're on pole and that's the most important."

The pole-winning run tied Verstappen with Alain Prost in opening the season with six consecutive poles. Prost did it in 1993. "Good start," Verstappen radioed his team. "Let's keep it going." Verstappen opened Saturday with a win in the sprint race and ended the day with his 38th career pole. The Red Bull driver turned a lap at 1 minute, 27.241 seconds to best the Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr. And will lead the field to green on Sunday for the first of F1's three races this year in the United States. Verstappen has won four of the first five F1 races this season. Sergio Perez, Verstappen's teammate at Red Bull, qualified fourth and was followed by McLaren teammates Lando



Norris and Oscar Piastri, who were likely disappointed after upgrades brought to Miami has the team hoping to move closer to competition with Red Bull and Ferrari. Mercedes drivers George Russell and Lewis Hamilton qualified sixth and seventh and were followed by Nico Hulkenberg of Haas and Yuki Tsunoda of Red Bull's junior team. It was a terrible session for Tsunoda teammate Daniel Ricciardo, who was having a decent weekend until he failed to advance out of the first qualifying group. Ricciardo was strong in Friday qualifying for the sprint race and finished fourth in the warm-up race Saturday. He qualified 18th in the 20-driver field but will start last because he

must serve a three-spot grid penalty earned in F1's last outing, in China. It was also a poor qualifying day for American driver Logan Sargeant of Pompano Beach. At his home track, and while his job with Williams is in clear jeopardy, Sargeant qualified 17th. "Are we in? Please tell me we are in," he radioed his team in hopes he'd advanced out of the first group. When told he was eliminated, the 23-year-old replied, "that's a shame." Kevin Magnussen of Haas is under FIA investigation for unsportsmanlike behavior for how he raced earlier Saturday in the sprint race. Magnussen was penalized three times in the sprint race and said after that all were fair.