

The BRS is more relevant than both these parties. It is their delusion. They think that the BRS is not in the race. The BJP will win either a seat or no seat in Telangana. But we are going to win more than a dozen seats. It's neither INDIA nor NDA. There is nothing like INDIA. Mamata Banerjee and everybody is out. It is the regional parties which are fighting the BJP. They will emerge as a strong force.

- K. Chandrasekhar Rao, BRS Chief



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There will be 'jungle raj' in country if INDIA bloc comes to power:
Shah

ARROUSHIKHA DEY 'HUMBLED' AS THE SHAMLESS PREMIERES AT CANNES

Kartikya's Bhaje Vaayu Vegam musical journey begins
SOON

DON'T MISS...

Ensure 65% voting in...
 Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Raj said that to increase the voter percentage in the city, the ECI has undertaken various awareness programmes in the last three months. He requested the people to work hard to ensure that 60 to 65 per cent voting takes place in Hyderabad. The CEO started a rally for the free bike taxi rides rally at a meeting organised by the Rapido at LB Stadium on Monday. District Election Officer Ronald Rose said that as on Sunday, 479 out of 571 voters have...

Genetic defects cause cerebral...
 Genetic defects underlie about a fourth of Chinese children affected by cerebral palsy, and not a lack of oxygen at birth as previously thought, new research has found. Cerebral palsy is a disorder affecting one's ability to move. It is the most common motor disability in children, with symptoms emerging in infancy and early childhood. The disability is sometimes also associated with autism and intellectual deficiencies. Birth asphyxia, or receiving insufficient...

Tourism Ministry launches new...
 Seeking to strengthen the country's presence in the Middle East tourism market, the Tourism Ministry is participating in the Arabian Travel Mart 2024 being held in Dubai from May 6 to 9, officials on Monday said. Highlighting lesser-known destinations, the ministry also launched the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign at the Mart. The campaign went live on Monday and social media handles of 'Incredible India' have already shared a teaser and some glimpses of this...

Must win game for DC
 Delhi Capitals would require Rishabh Pant's killer instinct and Jake Fraser McGurk's unbelievable flair in their bid to stay alive in the IPL playoff race when they square off against a rampaging Rajasthan Royals in a must-win game here on Tuesday. The Capitals have been inconsistent so far, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games. While winning the remaining three games is a must for Pant's men, even that will only take them to 16 points which might not be...

'KHALISTANI POLITICAL FUNDING'
 Delhi LG recommends NIA probe against Kejriwal

Delhi LG recommends NIA probe against Kejriwal

Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena has recommended an NIA probe against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on a complaint that his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) allegedly received political funding from the banned terrorist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice', Raj Niwas sources said on Monday.
 The AAP rejected the charge and alleged that the recommendation is "yet another conspiracy" against Kejriwal at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It called the LG "an agent" of the (BJP).
 The LG's move came against the backdrop of indications by the

DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE
Delhi court denies bail to BRS leader Kavitha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 A court here on Monday dismissed the bail applications filed by BRS leader K Kavitha in corruption and money laundering cases being probed by the CBI and ED in connection with the alleged excise policy scam.
 Special Judge for CBI and ED, Kaveri Baweja, dismissed the applications, saying prima facie there appeared to be sufficient material against the accused.
 "In the light of the discussion, the material on record and the seriousness of allegations against the accused, this court is not inclined to admit the applicant on bail at this stage..." Though she was not being



BRS finding it difficult to get bail for its leaders

The BRS legal cell is facing difficult times as it is unable to get bail for its leaders. The legal cell is ill-prepared to meet the challenges the party is going to face. MLC Kavitha couldn't get bail as the Delhi court denied it again in both the CBI and ED cases. The BRS boasts of having the best legal brains fighting for her. KCR's daughter is unable to get bail and now they can't get bail for their social media convenor Krishank Manne who has been arrested. Krishank's bail petition will be heard on Tuesday even though it was supposed to be heard by Nampally court's 4th Sessions Judge. As the 4th Sessions Judge was not available, the case was transferred to the 6th Sessions Judge and then to the 3rd Sessions Judge due to the latter's illness. Then it was transferred to the 7th Sessions Court as the 3rd Sessions Court Judge was on leave.

ED raids J'khand minister's staff; recovers Rs 25-cr cash



PNS ■ RANCHI
 The Enforcement Directorate on Monday claimed to have recovered an estimated Rs 25 crore "unaccounted" cash and several official documents during searches on the premises of a domestic help of a secretary of Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam, official sources said.
 A cache of more than Rs 3 crore cash was separately seized by the central agency from some other premises being searched in the state as part of a money laundering investigation linked to the state rural development department, the sources said.
 The ED has been probing this case since last year and has arrested a former chief engineer of the state rural development department. Videos and photos shared by the sources showed officials of the agency emptying wads of currency notes from large bags in a 2BHK flat located at Gadikhana Chowk here. As many as eight note-counting

Warranty period is over for Modi's guarantees: Revanth

Says that the BRS is now a dead snake

- "Even though Modi has been in power for 10 years why hasn't Kishan Reddy completed the Amberpet Bridge?"
- The Outer Ring Road and the international airport were constructed during Congress rule



CM Revanth campaigning in support of party candidate Danam Nagender on Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the "Warranty period is over for Modi's Guarantee," while campaigning in Amberpet on Monday.
 Campaigning for Danam Nagender, the CM said that it is his responsibility to make Danam Nagender a Union Minister by convincing Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.
 "Even though Modi has been in power for 10 years why hasn't Kishan Reddy completed the Amberpet Bridge? If there is a flood in Hyderabad city not even a paisa is given to the poor by the Centre. Even if Kishan becomes an MP again, Hyderabad and Amberpet will get nothing."

Govt sanctions Rs 15.81 cr for crop loss

□ 15,246 farmers to get compensation
 The Telangana government released Rs 15.81 crore to 15,246 farmers as compensation for crop losses in around 15,814 acres in 10 districts due to untimely rains and hailstorms. Crops were damaged in 10 districts between March 16 and 21 and officials requested the government to release Rs 15,81,40,750 as a one-time measure to provide a relief of Rs 10,000 per acre to farmers. Nearly 9,107 farmers were affected in Kamareddy, Nizamabad, Siddipet, Sircilla, Medak, Adilabad, Nirmal, Mancherla, Karimnagar and Sangareddy will also get Rs 10,000 as compensation.

Govt releases Rythu Bandhu funds

The Telangana government released Rythu Bandhu funds on Monday. The funds meant to help farmers to invest in crops were deposited by the Agriculture Department in the bank accounts of farmers. The Revanth Reddy government had released Rythu Bandhu funds only to farmers owning less than five acres. On Monday, funds were released to farmers with more than five acres of cultivated land. The government allotted around Rs 2,000 crore for Rythu Bandhu and the Agriculture Department disbursed it to farmers. During its Assembly election campaign, the Congress had said that immediately after coming to power they would give Rs 15,000 per acre as crop investment assistance to rice farmers as per the Rythu Bharosa scheme. However, as Rythu Bharosa procedures have not been completed, the government is continuing the Rythu Bandhu scheme of the BRS government. The CM made it clear that the money would be deposited in the bank accounts of farmers by May 9.

Everything BJP & Congress say is trash: KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that everything the BJP and the Congress says is trash and that people shouldn't believe it.
 "Prime Minister Modi has 150 slogans and not a single one has been implemented. Acche Din did not come but Sachche Din did. It is not Sabka Vikas but Sabka Satya Nash. The BJP won in Nizamabad but what has it achieved," he said.
 KCR said that if Modi crosses 210 LS seats that would be a big deal. A coalition government would come to power at the Centre, he said.
 Speaking during his Bus Yatra at Nizamabad on Monday, KCR said,

KCR said that if Modi crosses 210 LS seats that would be a big deal. A coalition government would come to power at the Centre.



AIMIM, BRS, Cong following Muslim League agenda, alleges Nadda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
 The AIMIM, the BRS and the Congress are following the Muslim League's agenda and is working on the lines of the Tablighi Jamaat, BJP President JP Nadda said. He said that these parties want to disturb social harmony.
 Targeting the Congress he said the party is trying to come to power by hook or by crook through fake promises, fake slogans, vote bank politics and by using criminals.
 The BJP President was addressing a public rally in Peddapalli.



"We have seen Congress rule and we must remember the corruption, policy paralysis and indecisiveness that marked their rule. The

education of students. Revanth is saying Gujarat model. Does it mean Godhra model where you burn people alive? The BJP should be defeated here," he said.
 "I am also a Hindu but KCR is the soul of the people of Telangana. Dividing people in the name of religion is not good. They are troubling me that I am against Modi. My daughter has been arrested. But I will not bow down. So far the BRS has defeated the BJP in TG," KCR said.

FAKE VIDEO CASE
Another notice to TG Congress leaders



PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Delhi Police on Monday said that it has sent another notice to four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) members to join the probe after they skipped the first summons in connection with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's fake video case. In another development, the police sent a laptop and mobile phones, seized from national coordinator of the Congress' social media team Arun Beereddy, for forensic examinations, officials said. According to a police officer, the notice has been served for the second time to the four TPCC members - Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Tasleem, Satish Manne and Naveen Pettem.
 Last week, they had skipped their first notices which were sent to them under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as the video was uploaded and shared from their social media accounts, the officer said.
 Officials said except for TPCC president and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's lawyer, no one has appeared before the police as of now.

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams set to fly into space for a third time today

PNS ■ WASHINGTON
 Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams is ready to fly into space for the third time on Tuesday as the pilot aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in its first crewed test flight.
 Boeing's Starliner will blast off for the International Space Station from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
 Starliner will carry Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station, marking what could be a momentous and long-awaited victory for the beleaguered Boeing programme.
 The scheduled lift-off is set for 22:34 local time on Monday (8:04 am IST on Tuesday).
 "We are all here because we are all ready. Our friends and family have



"We are all here because we are all ready. Our friends and family have heard about it and we've talked about it and they are happy and proud that we are part of the process to fix it all," the BBC quoted Williams as saying.

heard about it and we've talked about it and they are happy and proud that we are part of the process to fix it all," the BBC quoted Williams as saying.
 The mission has been delayed for several years because of setbacks in the spacecraft's development.
 If it is successful, it will become

the second private firm able to provide crew transport to and from the ISS, alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX.
 Such a scenario — with both SpaceX's Crew Dragon and Starliner flying regularly — is one for which the US space agency NASA has long waited.

"Design and development is hard — particularly with a human space vehicle," said Mark Nappi, vice president and Starliner programme manager at Boeing, during a Thursday news briefing.
 "There's a number of things that were surprises along the way that we had to overcome. ... It certainly made the team very, very strong. I'm very proud of how they've overcome every single issue that we've encountered and gotten us to this point," Nappi said.
 "This is history in the making," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said of the upcoming Starliner mission during a March 22 news conference. "We're now in the golden era of space exploration."



Will raise daily MGNREGA allowance to Rs 400: Rahul

PNS ■ KHARGONE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said loans of farmers will be waived and the daily allowance under the MGNREGA scheme will be raised from Rs 250 to Rs 400 soon after the party government is formed at the Centre post elections.

Addressing a campaign rally at Segan under Khargone Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh, Gandhi

alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made up his mind to alter the Constitution and eventually scrap it.

"Soon after coming to power at the Centre, the Congress government will waive loans of farmers and raise the MGNREGA allowance from Rs 250 to Rs 400 per day," he said.

Congress has fielded Poral Kharth and Narendra Patel from Khargone (ST) and



Khandwa Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively. "This election is being fought

for saving the Constitution, reservations, and also the Jal, Jungle, and Jameen of tribal people, and public sector," Gandhi said.

PM Modi wants to give all these things to 22-25 billionaires including Adani, he alleged.

He said the INDI alliance government will deposit Rs 1 lakh into the accounts of poor women to make them lakshatis.

BRS pledged Malkajgiri to BJP, says CM Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the BRS had pledged the Malkajgiri Parliament constituency to the BJP.

He said that the BRS is not contesting the LS elections, so they have fielded a puppet.

Campaigning in Uppal and in Cantonment on Monday, Revanth said, "For 20 years from 2001 to 2021 Eateela Rajender was with KCR and destroyed Telangana. You have parted ways and now you are fighting, but that is not for the people. Did you ever come to Uppal while being a minister for 10 years? Ask the people of Malkajgiri to vote on what you have done for them. You have no right to ask Malkajgiri people to vote for you,"



Revanth said, "Eateela Rajender and KCR are not different. They are two sides of the same coin. If KCR is looting in the name of Kaleshwaram, Eateela released funds as Finance Minister. If Santhosh Rao was drawing crores during the time of Corona, as Minister of Health Eateela Rajender facilitated it. Rajender, you are the one who gave money to

thieves. Have you forgotten? You are grabbing lands around Hyderabad. Are you not?" Revanth said.

Why didn't you question when Gaddar was insulted? Did you complain to Amit Shah or Modi about KCR's corruption? Eateela should decide whether he will be on the side of the BJP which will scrap reservations or on the side of SCs, STs and BCs," he said.

'Vote for Cong, choose progress'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



The Congress candidate in the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency, Mohammed Waliullah Sameer, has urged voters to seize the opportunity for change. He said that the AIMIM and the BJP have failed to deliver and presented Congress as the best choice for the city's future. Sameer was speaking to the media ahead of a major roadshow in the Yakutpura segment of the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency on Monday along with senior Congress leaders like Charminar in-charge Mujeebullah Shareef, Bahadurpura in-charge P. Rajesh, Chandrayangutta in-charge Boya Naresh and Yakutpura in-charge Ravi Raj and other leaders.

Warranty period...

Continued from page 1

It was during Congress rule that the city developed and turned into a cosmopolitan city," he said.

He said that the Outer Ring Road and the international airport were constructed during Congress rule.

"Amberpet means V. Hanumanth Rao and vice versa. It is my responsibility to ensure that the next Bathukamma festival is conducted in Amberpet Bathukamma Kunta. INDIA will certainly come to power at the Centre and Rahul will be the Prime Minister. Elect Daman Nagender with a majority of one lakh. It is my responsibility to make Nagender a Union Minister," the CM said.

Revanth said that the BRS is now a dead snake.

EC TELLS POLITICAL PARTIES

Remove fake content within 3 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday directed political parties to remove fake content from their social media platforms within three hours of such content being brought to their notice.

In the directives for responsible and ethical use of social media, the commission also asked the parties not to impersonate another person or post content that is derogatory towards women or publish or circulate deepfake videos.

"Whenever such deepfake audios/videos come to the notice of political parties, they shall immediately take down the post but maximum within a period of three hours and also identify and warn the respon-



sible person within the party," the poll body said.

Recently, deepfake videos featuring Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and actors Aamir Khan and Ranveer Singh posted on certain social media handles were taken down and criminal complaints filed.

The commission also warned the parties against the misuse of artificial intelligence-based tools to create deepfakes that distort information or propagate misinformation and emphasised the need to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

"Taking cognisance of certain violations of MCC (model code of conduct) and the extant legal provisions by political parties/their representatives while using social media for election campaigning, the commission today has issued directions to political parties for responsible and ethical use of social media in election campaigning to ensure level playing field among all stakeholders," an Election Commission statement said.

Hyd collapsing under Congress misrule: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Attending a roadshow held in the Serilingampally, Rajendra Nagar and Maheshwaram Assembly segments of the Chevella LS constituency BRS Working President KTR criticised the Congress for failing to fulfil promises made during Assembly elections.

Warning voters to hold the Congress accountable, he said, "Revanth Reddy, who is cheating people with his lies, will come to his senses if the Congress loses Lok Sabha seats," KTR said that they had

attracted hundreds of IT companies to Hyderabad, but after just four months of Congress rule, companies are leaving Telangana due to bad governance. This threatens the real estate sector and can potentially lead to mass unemployment, he said.

"The people in Greater Hyderabad wanted KCR to be the CM. That's why not even a single seat was given to the Congress in Greater Hyderabad," KTR said.

He urged those who believe in good governance and think that they would have been bet-



ter under KCR rule to vote for the 'Car' on May 13. Handing over 10 to 12 LS seats would enable KCR to control state politics within six months, he said. He also criticised Modi for

failing to deliver on promises made during earlier general elections like depositing Rs 15 lakh in the bank accounts of every person and doubling farmers' income.

He asserted that 'NaMo' does not mean Narendra Modi but rather it is synonymous with deceiving people. KTR accused the BJP of scrapping ITIR and neglecting Hyderabad during floods.

Accusing the BJP of 'stoking' tensions between religions, KTR said the BRS government was following an inclusive approach.

93 seats, over 1,300 candidates, 17.24 cr voters

Third phase of Lok Sabha polls today

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Voting will be held in 93 constituencies spread over 11 states and Union Territories on Tuesday in the third phase of Lok Sabha polls, with stakes being high for the BJP which had won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, in the last election.

Over 1,300 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).

As many as 17.24 crore

people, including 8.39 crore females, will be eligible to vote and 1.85 lakh polling stations manned by 18.5 lakh officials have been set up.

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, five in Bihar, four each in Assam and West Bengal, and all two in Goa.

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (2 seats) and nine seats in Madhya Pradesh, including Betul where elections were deferred, will also go to polls on Tuesday.

Another notice to TG Congress...

Continued from page 1

The police on Friday arrested Beereddy, a native of Telangana's Hyderabad, who handled the "Spirit of Congress" account on X. He has been sent for judicial custody after three days of interrogation in police custody.

"We have sent his gadgets, mobile phone and a laptop for forensic examinations. It is suspected that he had uploaded

the video from his mobile phone," the officer said.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on a complaint from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which comes under the home ministry, had registered the FIR on Sunday under IPC sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place

of birth), 465 (punishment for forgery), 469 (forgery for purpose of harming reputation), 171G (false statement in connection with an election).

The complaint was about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious grounds in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

AIMIM, BRS, Cong following...

Continued from page 1

"We are moving forward with 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas.' Bharat is shining as a global leader. In Modi 3.0, India will become the third largest economy," he said.

The BJP President also spoke about India's achievements in automobiles, pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals. "I would also like to mention that in the automobile

sector, India ranks third and has beaten Japan. In pharmaceuticals and in manufacturing drugs the country stands second. We have left behind other countries and today India is making cheap, effective medicines. In petrochemicals, the country stands," he said.

Nadda emphasised development and infrastructure.

"For development, Modi's policy places emphasis on

infrastructure and logistics. We are working on HIRA, that is, Highways, Internet, Railways and Airways. This model is enhancing connectivity and internet accessibility in remote areas."

Counting achievements, Nadda said, "India today has built 56,000 km of NHs and 52,000 km of railway tracks have been electrified. 26,000 km of new railway tracks have been laid.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Chaturdash: May 06 02:40 PM to May 07 11:41 AM
Amavasya: May 07 11:41 AM to May 08 08:51 AM

Nakshatram:
Ashwini: May 06 05:43 PM to May 07 03:32 PM
Bharani: May 07 03:32 PM to May 08 01:33 PM

Rahukalam: 3:23 PM to 4:59 PM
Yamagandam: 9:01 AM to 10:37 AM
Varjyam: 12:21 AM to 01:49 AM
Gulika: 12:12 PM to 1:48 PM
Amritakalam: 08:59 AM to 10:27 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:38 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 40°
Humidity: 43%
Sunrise: 5:47 AM
Sunset: 6:38 PM
Updated: May 6, 2024 5:00 PM

Delhi court denies bail to...

Continued from page 1

The application, filed by advocate Nitesh Rana, had claimed that the accused was not required for further investigation and that no purpose will be served by keeping her in further custody.

In the order, the judge accepted the arguments made by the central probe agencies that "the nature and gravity of the alleged offences, which further magnifies in view of it being an economic offence, having tendency to affect the economic system of the country, public interest must take precedence over personal liberty".

The judge further noted that the investigation of the case is at a very crucial stage on certain key aspects,

including the involvement of other public servants and private persons and to ascertain the flow of proceeds of crime.

"The role of the accused also prima facie appears as that of key conspirator of the criminal conspiracy hatched for the purpose of collection and payment of upfront money to AAP through co-accused for getting favourable provisions in the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22."

"Her role in demanding the upfront money and the alleged payment thereof for favourable provisions in the Excise Policy have also been highlighted in the course of arguments and as discussed in the preceding paragraphs," the judge noted.

The judge also rejected the accused's argument for bail on medical ground, noting

that she was getting requisite treatment for her medical concerns in the jail dispensary.

"In the light of the above said discussion and having regard to the entirety of the facts and circumstances, this Court is not inclined to release the accused on bail, either 'regular' or 'interim', at this stage. Accordingly, the application under consideration is dismissed," the judge said.

Kavitha is in judicial custody in both the cases lodged by the ED and the CBI.

The ED arrested Kavitha (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15, and she was in judicial custody in the case.

The CBI arrested the Bharatiya Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader from judicial custody.

BRS finding it...

Continued from page 1

The party claims to have deployed the best lawyers in the case. Their social media warrior Madhav Rao Salvaji came out after spending weeks in jail. The BRS legal cell is hardly able to fight cases about poll code violations.

KCR has realised the need to strengthen the legal cell and recently allotted Rs 10 crore to it. Sources said the party is getting lots of cases after they lost elections. But their legal fight is not up to the mark. Political observers point out that when fighting a ruling party, the legal team needs to be strong.

During BRS rule when Congress and BJP leaders were detained the court always came to their rescue.

Revanth Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar got the upper hand in many cases thanks to the judiciary.

ED raids J'khand...

Continued from page 1

"I have been watching TV and it says the premises are linked to the official PS (private secretary) provided to me by the government," he added.

The 70-year-old minister represents the Pakur seat in the Jharkhand assembly.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been alleging that he is being targeted by the opposition for his action against corruption, referred to the ED seizures in his poll rallies in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

He said "mounds of cash" were seized by the ED in Jharkhand and wondered why such persons were "close to the Congress' first family".

"They have made the worker's house a godown of corruption. This is not the first time as a bigger seizure was

made from an MP (in Jharkhand) earlier also and it was such a big cache that even machines were tired of counting," he said at Vemagiri.

"Why is it that those, from whom mounds of cash are recovered, are close to the Congress' first family? Was the seized cash meant for supply somewhere, is it that Congress' first family has created warehouses of black money? The country wants to know from Congress shehzada," he said in an apparent jibe at Rahul Gandhi.

Modi, during the rally in Odisha, said he was being criticised for "stopping corruption and loot".

The Congress and other opposition parties have accused the Modi government of misusing central agencies like the ED to target their leaders.

Govt sanctions...

Continued from page 1

"As the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in force, permission has been secured from the Election Commission of India (ECI)," the GO said.

The Finance Department issued a Budget Release Order (BRO) for Rs 15,81,41,000 after relaxing quarterly regulations, treasury control orders and quarterly regulation orders.

The payment of input subsidy will be made directly through the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of farmers. Payments will be made within 90 days after the date of release of funds. All farmers will be entitled to an input subsidy for one disaster during the agricultural season. Collectors must ensure that the disbursements are strictly supervised so that only bona fide beneficiaries get the subsidy.

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Ensure 65% voting in city: CEO

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Raj said that to increase the voter percentage in the city, the ECI has undertaken various awareness programmes in the last three months. He requested the people to work hard to ensure that 60 to 65 per cent voting takes place in Hyderabad. The CEO started a rally for the free bike taxi rides rally at a meeting organised by the Rapido at LB Stadium on Monday.



vote in the polling to held on May 13.

District Election Officer Ronald Rose said that as on Sunday, 479 out of 571 voters have exercised their right to vote in home voting. He said awareness campaigns have been conducted in the city. Commissioner of Police Srinivasa Reddy said that the police have taken strong measures to ensure free and peaceful elections. "Our country has the largest democratic system in the world," he said and asked everyone to come forward to exercise their right to

from Bhongir, 16 from Nizamabad, 15 from Karimnagar, 14 from Nalgonda, 11 from Mahabubnagar, 11 from Malkajgiri, 10 from Zaheerabad, 8 candidates from Nagarjun Sagar and 7 candidates will be contesting from Hyderabad constituency. A total of 525 candidates are contesting for the 17 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Out of them, 425 candidates are male and 50 females are going for elections. On Monday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Raj visited

the Postal Ballot Voter Facilitation Centre at All Saints High School in Gun Foundry, where he inspected the strongroom, data entry, postal ballot process and registers. Vikas Raj said that for the employees who will be on election duty, postal ballot voting is being conducted from May 3 to 8 in the presence of polling agents. Along with the postal ballot voting, home voting is also being conducted and more than 50 per cent of home voting has been completed till Sunday.

Sawaari Badhyata initiative offers free rides during polls

The Chief Electoral Office of Telangana, in collaboration with Rapido, launched the Sawaari Badhyata initiative on Monday. As part of this endeavor, Rapido pledges to provide free bike taxi, auto and cab rides to voters across Hyderabad, encompassing major cities such as Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, and Warangal on polling day. The firm also encourages people to vote by organising an event to raise voter awareness at the Lal Bahadur Shastri (LB) Stadium in Hyderabad, to be attended by Vikas Raj, Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana. On the election day, voters can avail free rides on the Rapido app using the code 'VOTENOW'. This concerted effort aligns with Rapido's nationwide drive.

Illegal borewells caused depletion of groundwater

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The groundwater levels in the State are depleting sharply and officials say that this is due to illegal borewells. Compared to April 2023 from April 2024, the groundwater level depth fell further at -1.74 m from the ground in the State and -1.03 meters went into the ground in Hyderabad.



Ground water department Director N Shankar said that the main reasons for the depletion of water, particularly in the city is thousands of illegal borewells have been laid and people are not maintaining rainwater harvesting system (RWHS). Shankar said that when people or ground water department officials have complained to revenue officials they may take action against people and seize the borewells. But still there are thousands of illegal borewells in the city and buildings not having rainwater harvesting management (RWHS).

Shankar mentioned that the ground water department itself has no enforcement department to take ACTION against the violators of rules. "But I am not sure that other departments have been taking action against illegal borewells," he added. Another ground water department official said that as the groundwater depletion goes on, people are laying borewells much deeper. Because of that people are dragging decades of stored water in the ground. To recharge the water to that layer

it will take many years. So, people should be aware of the water issues then only future generations will sustain. In all, 1.03 MBGL of water decreased in Hyderabad from April 2023 to April 2024. An average, Hyderabad people could drag water from 10.51 meters from the ground in April 2024. But in the same month last year, Hyderabad recorded 9.48 meters only. Compared to April 2024 from April 2023, groundwater levels have decreased -4.57 in Mahabubnagar, followed by Rangareddy with -3.88 and Nalgonda with -3.76 meters. The ground water department monitored water levels during April 2024 through 1,718 monitoring stations from 33 districts of the State. Average groundwater levels in the State during April 2024 was 10.51 meters below ground level (MGBL) and it varies from 5.70 MBGL in Jagtial to 15.79 MBGL in Medak.

State govt announces May 13, June 4 as paid holidays

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of the Lok Sabha polls and Secunderabad Cantonment byelections on May 13 and election results on June 4, the State government issued orders to district collectors and election officers to declare a paid holiday on those days in the State. However, on May 12, the day before the poll is Sunday. As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the government ordered the paid leaves. In the government order, it has been mentioned that the district collectors and election officers

declare paid holidays to all government offices and educational institutions in the 17 parliamentary constituencies of the State. The poll officials at the government offices, where the polling stations and counting centres are located will also get paid holidays. On Monday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) ordered the political party's social media platforms to remove fake content. The ECI released a press note, where it mentioned that in view of existing legal provisions, the parties have been directed to promptly remove such content.

Hyd students pass with flying colours in ICSE, ISC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad students have come out with flying colours in the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Class 10 and Indian School Certificate (ISC) (Class 12) exams, the results of which were declared on Tuesday. A few affiliated schools secured 100 per cent results for both Class X and XII students with the top scores ranging between 91.3 per cent to 99 per cent. Just like every year, Hyderabad Public School, Johnson Grammar School achieved 100 per cent pass percentage in both ICSE and ISC examinations. With regards to Hyderabad Public School,

Begumpet, girls have outperformed boys by securing top positions across all three streams demonstrating their academic prowess and setting new standards of excellence. Kaki Harshitha emerged as the school topper with an outstanding 93.80 per cent (469/500) in the ISC Science stream while Mylapalli Rani Dhanya Roopa topped the Humanities stream with 93.40 per cent (467/500) and Bhavya Garg came a close second with 93 per cent (465/500). Vanshika Sancheti topped the Commerce stream with 91.40 per cent (457/500). In the ICSE examination, HPS students triumphed with a remarkable performance- 183

out of 236 securing distinction. The top position was clinched by Arjun Rao with an impressive 98.3 per cent followed by Yarlagadda Harsha Sri Vishnu, Shriyans Ball and Siddhi Baheti with outstanding scores of 97.2 per cent. Grandhi Achyuta Surya Ankit secured third position with 97 per cent. In the case of Johnson Grammar School, ICSE, Mallapur, Kalyan Nagarjuna Acharya emerged topper in ICSE securing 99 per cent while Lakkadi Hridya, the ISC topper in Science stream secured 95.5 per cent and Sanjeevani Chandana Basu, the ISC Commerce topper secured 91.3 per cent.

Principal Srabanti Basu, said, "This commendable academic achievement reflects the hard work, dedication and perseverance of our students and teachers that has culminated in this moment of success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents for their unwavering support and cooperation that has led to this achievement." Students of Nasr Girls School, Khairatabad performed well in the Council For the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) Class X & XII Board examination. In the Class X examination, Piya Jaju topped with 99.6 per cent followed by Gummadi Aditri

Reddy securing 99.2 per cent and Erina Faraz Farishta securing 99 per cent. In the ISC Class XII board examination, Sanjana Gupta topped with 95.75 per cent followed by Akshita with 95.25 per cent. On the other hand, from Nasr Boys School, Sarmad Ahmed clinched the top position with 96.2 per cent followed by Syed Mohammad Akmal with 95.4 per cent, Shaurya Kumar Patel with 95.2 per cent in ICSE examinations while P Vivek Singh secured the highest marks with 90.5 per cent followed by P Dhanush Varma with 86.5 per cent and Jaedyn Blah Shanpro with 78 per cent in ISC examinations.

ECI seizes cash, other items worth Rs 269 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has seized Rs 269,31,75,772 in cash and other material items, which are liquor, drugs and freebies from March 16 to May 5. The ECI seized Rs 92.60 crore in cash, Rs 50.38 crore worth of liquor, Rs 28.42 crore of narcotics, Rs 60.76 crore of precious metal ornaments and Rs 30.07 crore of freebies in the State. District Election Officer (DEO) Ronald Rose said that since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force, the Election Commission of India (ECI) booked prohibition cases against 284 people and 386 FIRs were filed in Hyderabad district. On Tuesday, the ECI mentioned that the enforcement teams seized Rs 2.94 lakh, Rs 46,000 worth of material items and 17 liters of liquor from Monday 6 am to Tuesday 6 am.

TSECET conducted peacefully

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University successfully conducted Telangana State Engineering Common Entrance Test (TSECET) 2024 on Monday. About 96 per cent of candidates appeared for the entrance test at 99 centres. According to the officials, as per the schedule, the exam was conducted from 09:00 am to

12:00 noon. Prof Limbadri, Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education, Prof D Ravinder, Chairman, TSECET-2024 & Vice-Chancellor, OU and senior officers launched the pass-word for the TSECET-2024 at one of the exam centres in the city. Around 24,272 students registered for the test. Out of them, 23,330 students appeared for the exams.



Hridaya Lakkadi



Roopa



Siddhi Baheti



Vanshika Sancheti



Arjun Rao

MP RIDICULES PM MODI

Not just big chest, one should have a big heart: Renuka

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP Renuka Chowdhary ridiculed Prime Minister Narendra Modi that it is not just about having a big chest; he should have a heart and mind too. Speaking during a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Renuka criticised the BJP for supporting members who were involved in crime and corruption. She said, "If the BJP has the guts, grab Prajwal Revanna. Revanna ran away just like Nirav Modi and Choksi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is shamelessly saying that if he strengthens Prajwal, he will strengthen me. If the BJP leaders are doing this, the election

officials are silent. If Brij Bhushan does all the anarchy, he is given a ticket again." In the case of BJP MP Arvind, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) NRI cell criticised him of having won the Nizamabad MP seat by stealing the votes of the Gulf workers with false words in 2019. Renuka Chowdhary, along with TPCC NRI cell leaders Manda Bhim Reddy, Nangi

Devender Reddy and Kerala Pravasi Congress leader Munir unveiled a chargesheet poster on MP Arvind. The Congress leaders said that if the four questions in the chargesheet are not answered, there is no moral right to ask for the votes of the Gulf workers in this parliamentary election. They stated that Arvind was incompetent to give at least one petition to the Central government when the Centre issued circulars reducing the minimum wages by 30 per cent and sacking the Gulf workers during September 2020. If the BJP government asks for the lives of Gulf workers, without including natural death in the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana'.

Juvenile among two held for murder in Gudimalkapur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force (South West), in coordination with the Gudimalkapur Police, on Monday arrested two persons, including a juvenile for murdering a man. The accused was identified as Mohammed Aziz Qureshi (19), a butcher working at the Bismillah Chicken shop in Tolichowki and a resident of Golconda. The incident occurred on April 30 at Laxminagar X Roads at 11:45 pm when the victim and his brother were waiting at a bus stop. The two brothers were busy watching content on their phone when the accused

attacked them and snatched the mobile after enquiring about a certain location. As the victim and his brother resisted and tried to catch hold of the accused, Qureshi attacked the victim with knives and caused fatal stab injuries. Following an investigation, the accused were booked under Sections 397, 109 r/w 34 IPC and Sec 25(1-B) of Arms Act. Previously, Qureshi was booked for seven offences under F a l a k n u m a , Chandrayangutta and Mallardevpally. He was also involved in a murder under Golconda police station limits. The police seized three mobile phones, two knives and a bike from the accused.



Four held for investment fraud worth Rs 1.43 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime unit of the Hyderabad Police nabbed four persons involved in an investment fraud worth Rs 1.43 crore. The Hyderabad-based victim, in his complaint said that the Cyber fraudsters contacted him through Whatsapp and Telegram applications and cheated him by investing funds with an international investment company operating an online stock and derivatives platform named Ucoin8. Upon clicking the link the victim was redirected to Ucoin8. Through this platform they instructed him to invest and as per their orders, he invested a total of Rs 3,45,570 in various bank accounts. Based on the complaint, the cybercrime police



registered a case under Sections 66(C), (D) IT Act and Sections 419, 420 of the IPC. In another case, the accused cheated the victims of Rs 13,65,750. The accused were identified as Mangal Godara, Bhajanlal, Kamlesh Kumar and Prakash Chand, all residents of Suchitra and natives of Rajasthan. The accused colluded with cyber fraudsters and cheated the innocent people by making them invest funds with an international investment firm Ucoin8. Initially the

cyber fraudsters used to give smaller amounts as profit to make them believe. Then, they insisted the victims to invest huge amounts and stopped responding to them. As on Monday, the victim transferred Rs 3,45,570. In order to commit the offence, the accused operated bank accounts using fake ID proofs where they use their photographs, but KYC will be on others' names. Further, they sold out the bank accounts at the rate of Rs 1,00,000 per account and 10% commission on each of the transactions carried out in those accounts to the absconding prime accused Kamlesh Kumar @ Kamlesh Fulanwala who cheats innocent people on the pretext of providing huge profit on investment.

Traffic curbs ahead of PM Modi's visit today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad traffic police announced traffic restrictions to be observed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city on Tuesday. The restrictions will remain in place from 7.50 pm to 8.25 pm on Tuesday. The Prime Minister will proceed to Raj Bhavan from Begumpet airport via Airport Y Junction, right turn under PNT Flyover, Shoppers Stoppe, Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet Flyover, Greenlands, Rajiv Gandhi Statue/Monappa Island Junction, Pragathi Bhavan, Begumpet Flyover, Hyderabad Public School, Shoppers Stoppe, PNT Flyover, Airport Y Junction and Begumpet airport.



to 9:10 am when the Prime Minister will proceed to Begumpet airport from Raj Bhavan, via MMTS, Yashoda Hospitals, Rajiv Gandhi Statue/Monappa Island Junction, Pragathi Bhavan, Begumpet Flyover, Hyderabad Public School, Shoppers Stoppe, PNT Flyover, Airport Y Junction and Begumpet airport.

SHAME, STIGMA, MISINFORMATION SURROUNDS MENSTRUATION: UN REPORT

Serious rights concerns for women

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Shame, stigma and misinformation surrounding menstruation are contributing to serious human rights concerns for women and girls, emphasises a report commissioned by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Entering adolescence marks a significant milestone in every girl's life, often accompanied by excitement, curiosity, and for many, a touch of apprehension. One of the most notable events during this period is experiencing the first menstrual cycle. While menstruation is a natural and healthy part of a woman's life, the onset of periods can evoke a range of emotions,



including stress and anxiety, particularly for those who are unprepared or uninformed. Dr Vimee Bindra's advocacy and work through the Endometriosis Foundation of India highlight the importance of addressing menstrual health issues comprehensively. Dr Vimee Bindra - Fertility Enhancing Surgery Specialist;

Endometriosis Excision Surgery Specialist; founder of Endometriosis Foundation of India said, "Recently there are reports that a couple of teenagers in India committed suicide due to stress related issues experiencing their first periods which is a direct result of the deep-rooted shame and lack of awareness about peri-

ods. Even in the 21st century, periods are not a topic covered in many schools and colleges. It's taboo to bring up the topic or ask questions about periods in our families. It's crucial for society as a whole to recognise that menstruation is a natural and normal part of life, and everyone deserves access to accurate information, support and resources to manage their menstrual health effectively. By breaking the silence and stigma surrounding menstruation, we can create a more equitable and supportive environment for all individuals. Furthermore, it's essential for families to foster environment where discussing menstruation is normalised and encouraged."

Trading fraud worth Rs 1.44 crore busted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime unit of the Hyderabad Police arrested two persons involved in leaking bank account credentials to cyber fraudsters using which the common cheated and transferred funds of the victims. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police K Sreenivasa Reddy said, "The arrested persons Bhura Ram alias Raju Bhai, resident of Dubai and native of Rajasthan, along with Ramchandra alias Ganesh Ram, of Rajasthan lured people to open bank accounts and took all their creden-

tials." "Bhura Ram sold the bank account credentials to one person from Berlin who paid him a commission of about 20 per cent," he added. The Police found that so far Bhura Ram had provided details of 47 bank accounts to Berlin and those were shared with victims of cyber fraudsters to transfer the money. The 47 bank accounts are involved in 507 cases registered in India including 67 cases in Telangana. An amount of Rs 1.44 crore was frozen in the bank accounts after contacting the bank officials.

Modi, Shah expose true colours of Jagan's five-year rule

It has become evident that the rule of Jagan will come to an end in AP after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah exposed his true colours.

Modi, addressing election rallies in Rajamahendravaram and Anakapalle, compared Union government, which fully devoted to development, with that of the graft-ridden AP Government of Jagan, who as per Modi, would not do anything corruption-free. Modi's criticism at the rallies made the people to ponder.

Modi spoke on liquor and sand mafia giving the impression that he is aware of what is happening in AP.

Modi and Amit Shah spoke on emptying the State's coffers on the pretext of three capitals, not building at least one State capital and YSRCP not completing the Polavaram project in spite of Centre giving AP Rs 15,000 crore for the purpose.

Addressing an election rally in Dharmavaram two days ago, Amit Shah predicted that the 26-party alliance INDIA is not going to get at least 26 seats. Jagan is going to face the same situation in AP too. Amit Shah analysed making false promises, indulging in unprecedented corruption and encouraging land mafia to grab lands from people are three major faults of Jagan. Because of this, people of AP are seeking change. Therefore, defeat is staring in Jagan's face. The BJP alliance partners decided to end land mafia and make Amaravati as State capital again. Polavaram project would be completed in two years as soon as Chandrababu takes over as the CM in AP and Modi as PM at the Centre. Modi-Chandrababu alliance is a superhit combination, he said, predicting that rapid development is on the anvil because of double engine sarkar.

PM of a nation and its Home Minister making such statements is not an ordinary issue because they received reports about Jagan's rule from time to time in the past five years. Chandrababu took undivided AP to top position in terms of development. He also put the State on road to development even after the State's bifurcation.

PM of a nation and its Home Minister making such statements is not an ordinary issue because they received reports about Jagan's rule from time to time in the past five years. Chandrababu took undivided AP to top position in terms of development. He also put the State on road to development even after the State's bifurcation.

As CM, the hurdles created by Jagan on the path of development were clearly seen. Cancelling the power purchase agreements, causing hurdles

to execution of Polavaram project, Jagan is an antagonist to State's development. Many industries moved to other states. Modi alleged that Jagan failed to allot land to the special railway zone allotted to AP. Out of the 21 lakh houses allotted under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Jagan government did not build at least half of them. He did not pay attention to many irrigation projects set up by his father during the latter's regime as the CM. Modi has been observing how the coffers of the AP government



are being emptied because of Jagan's reckless borrowing.

The BJP decided to have truck with TDP and Janasena only after learning about the anarchic rule of Jagan. Five years ago, AP ranked number one in all development indices. During the past five years, the development achieved was zero, which everyone knows. There was no answer from Jagan and his followers to the

questions posed by Modi and Amit Shah on why the State, which ranked number one, steeped in debts.

There were no signs of Jagan keeping up his promises made to people. On the floor of State Legislative Assembly, Jagan welcomed to locate the State capital at Amaravati and offered his full support to it. But on coming to power, he declared to have three capitals at Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Kurnool. Today, AP has no single State capital. Modi remarked that the government looted AP on the pretext of three State capitals with Amit Shah quipping that the entire capital concentrated in the hands of Jagan.

Jagan promised total prohibition in AP. But on coming to power, he started selling liquor on behalf of Andhra Pradesh State Beverages

TRULY SPEAKING

Corporation Limited. In fact, the organisation is selling liquor made in distilleries of YSRCP leaders.

Introduction of cheap brands and their sale is putting the lives of many under risk. The followers of Jagan have been running liquor syndicates and amassing crores of rupees.

Jagan, who belonged to Rayalaseema did not benefit the region, and completely ignored its development in the last five years. The BJP played a crucial role to give national project status to Polavaram project, described as lifeline of AP. However, the corrupt and anarchic regime of Jagan stalled the progress of the project in the last five years. Modi government has allocated Rs 15,000 crore to the project, yet the project remained stagnant. Unless The NDA in AP has been fac-

ing opposition from Congress as well as the YSRCP. Jagan's sister is trying hard to split the anti-Jagan votes. Outwardly, Jagan and Sharmila trade charges, but they support each other on the flip side.

The Congress which ruined the nation for over six decades is also steeped in corruption. In the latest development, the enforcement officials seized bundles of wads from Congress leaders in Jharkhand. Who will be able to answer Modi's question why large bundles of money is being recovered from houses of Congress leaders, who criticise the Centre on use of ED against opposition parties. Upon Modi, who is contemplating to distribute the money recovered from the corrupt leaders, coming to power for the third time in a row, the corruption will disappear from the soil of the country.

Harish warns opponents against unleashing 'malicious campaign'

The former minister appealed to people not to fall prey to false propoganda

PNS ■ MEDAK

Former minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader T Harish Rao on Monday cautioned opponents against unleashing a malicious campaign to tarnish the image of party candidates, including Medak Lok Sabha nominee P Venkatrami Reddy.

Harish Rao told the media that the BRS had already filed a complaint at Patanacheru police station about a fake video being circulated to defame Venkatrami Reddy. BJP candidate M Raghunandan Rao had a history of carrying out such false propoganda to confuse voters. He alleged that Raghunandan Rao had resorted to such tactics ahead of the Dubbak by-election in 2020.

Harish Rao accused the Congress government of com-



Former minister T Harish Rao speaking to the media in Medak on Monday

ing to power by making fake promises. After coming to power, the Congress government failed to deliver on the majority of promises it made to the people ahead of Assembly

elections. He regretted that the Congress leaders were using abusive language against former minister K Chandrashekar Rao. KCR developed the Medak district. He exhorted the people to teach a bitter lesson to those who were bent upon using invectives against KCR. "Insulting KCR means insulting Medak district," he pointed out.

He gave a call to people to teach a lesson to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the BJP by defeating their candidates in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The Chief Minister did not spell out what the Congress government achieved during the last five months after the party assumed power. He appealed to people to vote for BRS to protect the interests of the State.

AMIT SHAH FAKE VIDEO CASE Another notice sent to Telangana Congress leaders

Cops seized gadgets and sent them to forensic examination

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Delhi Police on Monday said that it has sent another notice to four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) members to join the probe after they skipped the first summons in connection with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's fake video case.

In another development, the police sent a laptop and mobile phones, seized from national coordinator of the Congress' social media team Arun Beereddy, for forensic examinations, officials said. According to a police officer, the notice has been served for the second time to the four TPCC members - Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Naseem, Satish Manne and Naveen Pettem.

Last week, they had skipped their first notices which were sent to them under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) as the video was uploaded and shared from their social media

accounts, the officer said. Officials said except for TPCC president and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's lawyer, no one has appeared before the police as of now.

The police on Friday arrested Beereddy, a native of Telangana's Hyderabad, who handled the "Spirit of Congress" account on X. He has been sent for judicial custody after three days of interrogation in police custody.

"We have sent his gadgets, mobile phone and a laptop for forensic examinations. It is suspected that he had uploaded the video from his mobile phone," the officer said.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on a complaint from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which comes under the home ministry, had registered the FIR on Sunday under IPC sections 153 (wantonly giving

provocation with intent to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth), 465 (punishment for forgery), 469 (forgery for purpose of harming reputation), 171G (false statement in connection with an election).

The complaint was about the doctored video of Shah where his statements indicating a commitment to abolish quota for Muslims on religious grounds in Telangana were changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

The FIR was also registered under Information Technology (IT) Act's Section 66C which deals with fraudulent or dishonest use of electronic signatures, password or any other unique identification feature of a person. On Saturday, the police added criminal conspiracy charges under Section 120B of the IPC into the FIR.



Narrow escape for MLA in road mishap

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

Kasireddy Narayana Reddy, the Congress MLA from Kalwakurthi, has a narrow escape as the car in which he was travelling met with an accident. The accident happened on Monday near Ramsipalli Maisamma temple. The impact caused the airbags in the MLA's vehicle to deploy. He, however, sustained minor injuries. The accident happened when a two-wheeler rider crashed into the car in which MLA was travelling. The rider, identified as Naresh, died on the spot. Another person, who travelled pillion, sustained injuries.

Transport sector pledges support to Cong in LS polls

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy promised to take steps to address the concerns of the lorry owners and improve the transport sector in the State, according to Syed Sadiq, State Vice-President of the Lorry Owners Association.

He told the reporters that the association members had met the Chief Minister.

A meeting was held in Hyderabad on Monday where Telangana Lorry Owners Association State Chairman Ramineni, General Secretary Durga Prasad, State Vice Presidents Syed Sadiq and Jagannath Reddy, along with other officials, met the Chief Minister. Also present at the meeting were State Minister Konda Surekha and other officials. During the discussion, the



Lorry Owners Association office-bearers meeting with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Monday

people in the transport sector expressed their happiness over the Congress government addressing their grievances. Posters have been distributed to drum up support for Congress candidates in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The Chief Minister pledged that the commitments made in the manifesto for the transportation sector

would be fulfilled. Syed Sadiq, who is also the leader of the Shadnagar Congress Party, urged everyone to support and campaign for Congress candidates, emphasising the party's commitment to addressing the concerns of lorry owners and promoting the development of the transport sector.

TSUTF demands release of DA arrears immediately

PNS ■ NALGONDA

TSUTF state general secretary Chava Ravi demanded the removal of the Education Commissioner for being negligent in resolving the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) controversy. It led to denial of promotion of teachers in the State.

He was speaking at a media conference at the TSUTF district office here. Over the last three years, the Commissioner turned a deaf ear to the representations made by the teachers' unions. The Commissioner failed to find solution to problems in the Education Department, he said.

Ravi demanded that the government focus on solving the problems being faced by teachers. The government should ensure promotions and transfer of teachers. He demanded that teachers who were transferred in September should be relieved immediately after the elections, education volunteers should be appointed in schools by the beginning of the academic year to ensure that there is no shortage of teachers. He demanded that the state government release the four pending installments of DA and all the bills pending with the Finance Department immediately after getting the approval of the Treasury, including the past PRC dues.

TS UTF State Secretary M Rajasekhara Reddy, District President and General Secretaries Edla Saidulu, Perumalla Venkatesham, Treasurer Narra Shekhar Reddy District Secretary Nalaparaju Venkanna, Muralaiah, Social Media Convener Eranagula Saidulu, District Leaders Rajakhar Mandal Officers Rashemana, Prabhakar, Anjaneyu and others participated in this meeting.

Congress intensifies campaign in Nalgonda



Congress candidate for Nalgonda Lok Sabha constituency K Raghuvuera Reddy on the campaign trail in Nalgonda on Monday

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Congress candidate for Nalgonda Lok Sabha constituency K Raghuvuera Reddy said that the construction of the SLB tunnel would be completed in two years.

Former MLA Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, TPCC Working President Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Leader of Opposition in Council Mohammed Ali Shabbir, former PCC presidents V Hanumantha Rao and Ponnala Lakshmaiah and host of leaders participated. The works of Dindi, Akkamally and Peddagattu lift irrigation schemes will also be completed. Raghuvuera Reddy promised to develop Deverakonda along with Balu Nayak to suit

the rest of the constituencies. Former minister leader Jana Reddy called upon the Congress cadre to teach a lesson to the BJP and the BRS in the Lok Sabha elections. He recalled the development of the region during his tenure.

MLA Balunayak Deverakonda appealed to the people to vote for Raghuvuera Reddy. If MLA funds and MP funds are used, Deverakonda can be developed further. Nagarjunasagar MLA Jaiveer Reddy appealed to the people to give an opportunity to Raghuvuera Reddy to develop the region. He expressed confidence that Raghuvuera Reddy will create history by winning with the highest majority in the country. A large number of Congress leaders and activists participated.

Revanth criticised for using 'filthy language'



PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha BJP candidate DK Aruna has described Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed the view that people would teach a bitter lesson to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also as they did to former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Addressing media here on Monday, she that she was ashamed to have a chief minister who used filthy language to address the rivals.

She claimed to belong to a family that worked hard for several decades for development of the district. Abusing Modi would mean spitting into the sky, she said rather indignantly.

The GO 46 brought out by Congress is causing loss to the youth of Mahabubnagar district. She appealed to government to withdraw the GO immediately and render justice to rural youth. What happened to the Congress plan to fill over 40,000 teacher posts.

The government on one hand claimed to conduct the offline recruitment test, but on the other conducting the online test, she said and charged the government with increasing the exam fees to put burden on the unemployed.

Chandra Bhanj Deo performs special puja for electoral success of Vinod Rao

PNS ■ PALAI

Former Minister and descendant of the Kakatiya dynasty and Bastar king Kamal Chandra Bhanj Deo on Monday arrived here from Hyderabad and performed special pujas in the 12th century Kakatiya temple of Sri Sri Ganapateswara temple for the electoral victory of Khammam BJP candidate Tandra Vinod Rao.

He performed special pujas at the Siva temple built by the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Devudu. He went round the temple built during the regime of his ancestors and paid special interest to every aspect of the temple, which needs renovation.

Later speaking to the media, he said that he was happy to



have prayed in the temple built by Kakatiya rulers.

As requested by the temple priest, he said that he would pay special attention to the temple and bring to the attention of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi the need to renovate the temple. He said that he will campaign seeking support to his close friend who is not only soft-spoken and also educated Tandra Vinod Rao. More over, Maharaj Kamalji, who was an alumnus of London School of Economics, played a crucial role in BJP forming government in Chhattisgarh. He is a close friend of PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Under the leadership of Modi the country is galloping, he said exuding confidence of BJP's certain victory in Khammam LS seat.

INDIA CORNER

Woman stabs brother-in-law to death, attempts suicide

A 34-year-old woman allegedly stabbed her brother-in-law to death after a petty argument and attempted suicide by slitting her wrist at her home in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Monday. The incident occurred in the woman's home in the Sonarpada area of Dombivili town on Sunday afternoon, an official said. Sangeeta Mengane had an argument with her brother-in-law Sagar (38) and allegedly attacked him with a knife in a fit of rage, killing him on the spot, he said. She then tried to commit suicide by slitting her wrist with a sharp object, he said, adding that the woman is currently undergoing treatment. The victim sustained several stab wounds to his chest, and his body was sent for post-mortem. A case has been registered based on a complaint lodged by the victim's wife, the official said.



Two Uzbek men held for smuggling Rs 3.16 cr worth gold

Two Uzbek nationals have been arrested by the customs officials at here for allegedly trying to smuggle into the country gold valuing Rs 3.16 crore, according to an official statement issued on Monday. The accused were intercepted after their arrival from Dubai on Sunday. "On personal and baggage search of the passengers, five gold bars concealed in a red-colour pouch collectively weighing 5 kg were recovered," said the statement issued by the customs department. Tariff value of the gold, which has been seized, is Rs 3.16 crore, it said, adding that the duo were arrested. In another case, a Korean man has been arrested for allegedly smuggling out foreign currency worth Rs 2.8 crore. The accused, who intended to depart to Bangkok, was intercepted by the customs officials on Sunday. The detailed examination of the passenger and his baggage resulted in recovery of foreign currency i.e. USD 3,39,000, equivalent to Rs 2.8 crore, another statement said.



MBBS student appears as proxy in NEET for brother, both held

Rajasthan Police have arrested an MBBS student and his younger brother, a NEET aspirant, for allegedly appearing for the medical entrance exam in place of his sibling, officials said on Monday. According to police, first-year MBBS student Bhagirath Ram Vishnoi at a government college appeared for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test - Undergraduate (NEET-UG) in place of his younger brother Gopala Ram in Barmer on Sunday. The matter came to light when Anita Chaudhary, principal of Barmer's Antri Devi Government Girls Higher Secondary School, informed police that in place of candidate Gopala Ram, another person was taking the exam as a proxy. Superintendent of Police (Barmer) Narendra Singh Meena said on Sunday. The brothers were arrested from the examination centre the same day, he said, adding that Vishnoi is a first-year MBBS student at SN Medical College in Jodhpur.



TERROR ATTACK ON IAF CONVOY

Breakthrough eludes security forces, search ops intensified

PNS ■ JAMMU

A breakthrough eluded the security forces in the Poonch terrorist attack on a convoy of Indian Air Force even as a massive search operation in a vast area of the Jammu and Kashmir district entered the third day on Monday, officials said.

More than 20 persons were detained for questioning as the security forces are gathering clues to neutralise the terrorists who fled into nearby dense forests after carrying out the ambush near Shahsitar in Surankote area on Saturday evening.

Five IAF personnel were injured in the attack and one of them later succumbed to injuries at a military hospital. The officials said a massive joint search operation by army and police is in progress



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in several areas including Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai, Lasana and Sheendara top for the third day but there was no trace of the terrorists so far. The security agencies are

collecting clues which will ultimately help flush out the terrorists, they said. The officials said all schools in the area opened as per routine this morning after

a day-long break on account of Sunday.

Meanwhile, the security forces also launched a cordon and search operation at village Kathu in Dalhori area of adjoining Rajouri district following information about the presence of three suspected terrorists.

Multiple checkpoints have been set up on main roads and vehicle checking has been intensified in both Poonch and Rajouri districts which are part of Anantnag parliamentary constituency going to polls on May 25.

The twin districts have witnessed some of the major terrorist attacks over the past two years, signalling return of terror activities to the region, which was once cleared of terrorism and remained peaceful between 2003 and 2021.

Maldives urges Indians to be a part of its tourism, says country's economy 'depends' on it

PNS ■ DUBAI

With the number of Indian tourists visiting the Maldives dwindling amidst strained bilateral ties, the archipelago nation's tourism minister on Monday urged Indians to contribute to the country's economy which is dependent on tourism.

In an interview with PTI Videos here, Maldivian Tourism Minister Ibrahim Faisal emphasised on the historical relations between his country and India. "We have a history. Our newly elected government also wants to work together (with India). We always promote peace and a friendly environment. Our people and the government will give a warm welcome to Indian arrivals. As the Tourism Minister, I want to tell Indians to please be a part of Maldives' tourism. Our economy depends on tourism," he said.

A full-blown backlash was directed at the Maldives following derogatory remarks against India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media



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by three Maldivian officials after Modi posted photos and video of the pristine Lakshadweep Islands on India's west coast on January 6 on his X handle.

Scores of Indians, including multiple celebrities, cancelled their reservations and dropped plans to visit Maldives. The

tourism arrival statistics reflected how from being a top visitor country, India's position went down from topmost to sixth position after January. According to a sun.mv report published on Monday, the number of tourist arrivals from India declined by 42 per cent in the first four months of this year

compared to the first four months of last year. At the start of this year, India was the top tourist market for the Maldives. Shortly into the year, India dropped to sixth place amongst the top tourist markets, the news portal reported.

According to Tourism Ministry statistics, Maldives recorded a total of 43,991 tourist arrivals from India as of May 4. Between January and April of last year, Maldives recorded 73,785 tourist arrivals. This year, the number stands at 42,638.

The report attributed the steep decline in Indian tourists to the strained relations between India and the Maldives after the new administration led by President Mohamed Muizzu assumed office in November last year. The India-Maldives ties have come under stress as President Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, maintained after assuming charge as the president in November that he will keep his election promise of evicting Indian military personnel from his country.

BJP preparing blueprint of lies to win LS polls: Mamata

PNS ■ SAINTHIA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that the BJP is preparing a blueprint of lies to win the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing an election meeting at Santhia in Birbhum district in support of TMC's Birbhum candidate, sitting MP Satyabrata Roy, Banerjee accused the BJP of having two top national level leaders who are

"looting the whole country but defaming Bengal to hide their sins."

"The BJP is chalking out a blueprint to win polls by spreading lies. Will you vote for a riot plotter PM?" the TMC supremo said.

Accusing the BJP of weaving a false narrative about Sandeshkhali, Banerjee said, "You (BJP) have heaped disrespect, indignity to crores of mothers and sisters of Bengal.

You offered them money to level charges. You should be ashamed of such an act."

The BJP does not know that money is not important for a woman but self respect is, she said.

Banerjee alleged that the Narendra Modi government was spending crores of rupees on advertisements in print and digital media but withholding money for Bengal's poor.



PNS ■ SAMASTIPUR (BIHAR)

There will be 'jungle raj' in the country if INDIA bloc partners - Congress and RJD - are voted to power. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Monday. He also claimed that cash recovery in Jharkhand proves INDIA bloc leaders are corrupt. Addressing an election rally in favour of senior BJP leader and

There will be 'jungle raj' in country if INDIA bloc comes to power: Shah

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, in Bihar's Samastipur district, Shah said, "The latest recovery of Rs 30 crore and more from the house of a minister in Jharkhand proves INDIA bloc leaders are corrupt." He also said, "If they come to power, there will be a complete 'jungle raj' in the country as well as in Bihar." Notably, the Enforcement Directorate on Monday claimed to

have recovered a huge amount of "unaccounted" cash during searches at the premises of a domestic help allegedly linked to the secretary of Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam. "Who will be the PM of the INDIA bloc? Will Sharad Pawar be the prime minister? Will Mamata Banerjee become (the PM) or MK Stalin or Uddhav Thackeray? I will take another name. Please don't laugh. Can Rahul baba

become the PM?" Shah said. He also alleged that leaders of the RJD and the Congress did not attend the consecration ceremony of the Ayodhya Ram temple because of vote bank politics. RJD's Lalu Prasad and Congress always opposed the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, he claimed. Shah also said Congress has always opposed reservation to backward classes. Sarairanjan block comes under the Ujjain Lok Sabha constituency where Rai is seeking reelection. Rai, who is the NDA nominee, is pitted against RJD's Alok Mehta, who is the candidate of Mahagathabandhan, the prototype of the INDIA bloc in Bihar.

Indian Coast Guard detains Iranian fishing vessel with 6 Indian crew

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has detained an Iranian fishing vessel with six Indian crew off the coast of Kerala, the defence ministry said on Monday.

The vessel was detained on Sunday following a swift "sea-air" coordinated operation by the ICG, it said. The ministry said the crew alleged that the "Iranian sponsor" of the vessel ill-treated and deprived them of basic living conditions and confiscated their passports. Initial investigation revealed that the owner of the boat was an Iranian national who had contracted the Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu, it said. "The Indian Coast Guard detained an Iranian fishing vessel, with six Indian crew, west of Bepore off the coast of Kerala late on May 5. The swift sea-air coordinated operation involved the ships and aircraft of the ICG," the ministry said in a statement. "After intercepting the boat, an ICG team boarded the vessel and thoroughly investigated it to check the involvement of any anti-national activity," it added.

"Initial investigation revealed that the owner of the boat was an Iranian sponsor who had contracted these Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu, and issued them Iranian Visas for fishing off the Iran coast," it added.

ISRO developing semi-cryogenic engine working on liquid oxygen kerosene

PNS ■ BENGALURU

ISRO on Monday said it is developing a 2,000 kN (kilonewton) thrust semi-cryogenic engine working on a Liquid Oxygen (LOX) Kerosene propellant combination for enhancing the payload capability of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) and for future launch vehicles.

Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is the lead centre for the development of semi-cryogenic propulsion systems with the support of other launch vehicle centres of ISRO.

The successful ignition of a semi-cryo pre-burner is a major accomplishment of ISRO in the development of semi-cryogenic propulsion systems, the space agency said.

The assembly and testing of the propulsion modules were done at the ISRO propulsion complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.

As part of the engine development, a pre-burner ignition test article, which is a full complement of the engine power head system excluding the turbopumps, is realised, it said, adding, the first ignition trial was conducted successfully on May 2, at semi cryo integrated engine test facility (SIET) at IPRC, Mahendragiri.

Smooth and sustained ignition of the pre-burner is demonstrated, which is vital for the starting of the semi-cryogenic engine, it added.

According to ISRO, semi-cryogenic engine ignition is achieved using a start fuel ampule which uses a combina-



Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is the lead centre for the development of semi-cryogenic propulsion systems with the support of other launch vehicle centres of ISRO.

tion of Triethyle Aluminate and Triethyle Boron developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and used for the first time in ISRO in the 2000 kN semi-cryogenic engine.

Many injector elemental level ignition tests were conducted at the Propulsion Research Laboratory Division (PRLD) facility of VSSC for characterisation, it said, adding, the ignition process is one of the most critical parts in the development of liquid rocket engine systems.

With the successful ignition of the semi-cryo pre-burner, a major milestone in the semi-cryo engine development has been achieved, it said.

"This will be followed by development tests on the engine powerhead test article and fully integrated engine. The development of a semi-cryo stage with 120 tons of propellant loading is also under progress," it added

'Saleable' MLAs are people's biggest culprits: Himachal CM

PNS ■ HAMIRPUR (HP)

The saleable MLAs are the biggest culprits of the people as they have hurt their sentiments and put unnecessary burden of elections, said Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Monday.

Addressing public meetings at Bara, Putdiyial and Nauhangi in Nadaan assembly constituency of Hamirpur district, he said, "The question is not about the government, the chief minister or the minister's chair. But it is about disrespect of the public vote."

Sukhu was referring to the six Congress rebel MLAs who had voted in favour of the BJP can-



didate in the Rajya Sabha elections held on February 27 and later joined the BJP. After being disqualified by the assembly Speaker, they are contesting the assembly bypolls from their respective seats on the BJP ticket.

Seeking votes for Congress

candidate from Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency Satpal Raizada, Sukhu, who represents the Nadaan seat in the assembly, said, "The people of Nadaan are members of my family. Vote as much as possible for the Congress candidate in the Lok Sabha elections on June 1."

After the election results, the message should go out that the Congress has got a big lead from the chief minister's area, he added.

Sukhu alleged that Union minister Anurag Thakur did nothing while being an MP from Hamirpur. He (Thakur) did not stand with the affected people during the monsoon disaster last year.

Genetic defects cause cerebral palsy in children: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Genetic defects underlie about a fourth of Chinese children affected by cerebral palsy, and not a lack of oxygen at birth as previously thought, new research has found.

Cerebral palsy is a disorder affecting one's ability to move. It is the most common motor disability in children, with symptoms emerging in infancy and early childhood.

The disability is sometimes also associated with autism and intellectual deficiencies.

Birth asphyxia, or receiving insufficient oxygen at the time of being born, can cause physical harm, especially to the

brain, and is considered one of the main causes of cerebral palsy.

The world's largest study of cerebral palsy genetics, involving more than 1,500 affected Chinese children, found that mutations were significantly higher in a fourth of these children receiving insufficient oxygen at birth. Researchers said this indicated that birth asphyxia could be secondary to the underlying genetic defects.

The results, published in the journal Nature Medicine, are consistent with smaller studies globally, they said.

According to human geneticist Josef Gecz from the University of Adelaide, who co-



led the Australian team, 24.5 per cent of Chinese children in the study had rare genetic variations linked to cerebral palsy.

"This revelation mirrors our earlier findings in our Australian cerebral palsy cohort, where up to one-third of cases have genet-

ic causes. "Our research shows at least some babies who experience birth asphyxia and are diagnosed with CP may have improper brain development as a result of the underlying genetic variants rather than a lack of oxygen," said Gezc.

The researchers identified 81 mutated or altered genes that caused cerebral palsy in the children. These genes are known to be important to brain and embryo development, and may also affect molecular processes responsible for respiration, they said.

"A lack of oxygen at birth is often claimed to be the cause of CP in medical litigation following a diagnosis and this has led

to the presumption that the condition is preventable with better obstetrics or midwifery. This is simply not the case," said co-lead author Alastair MacLennan, an obstetrician and a professor, the University of Adelaide.

"Crucially, clinically actionable treatments were found in 8.5 per cent of cases with a genetic cause. It is exciting to see how genetic pathways to cerebral palsy inform tailored treatments for these individuals," said Gezc. The results highlighted the need for early genetic testing in children having cerebral palsy, especially those with risk factors like birth asphyxia, to ensure medical care and treatment, said MacLennan.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Holding up the mirror

The roots of Khalistani extremism in Canada run deep; S Jaishankar just made it public

In a recent critique of the Trudeau administration, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar accused Canada of granting visas to individuals linked to organised crime, despite warnings from New Delhi, while also legitimising extremism, separatism, and advocates of violence under the guise of free speech. Regarding the escalation of pro-Khalistani activities in Canada and the recent arrest of three individuals in connection with the killing of India-designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Jaishankar remarked that certain individuals have organized politically, influencing politicians to believe they hold sway over community support, thus carving out a space for themselves in the politics of democratic nations. This has been the Indian answer to Canadian charges of killing a Canadian Sikh on its soil. S Jaishankar has effectively retorted to the Canadian charges by saying that the Canada government gives visas to dubious people from India despite the Indian government's warnings. The roots of Khalistani separatism gained significant traction in the 1980s culminating in violence and the tragic events of Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. The wounds inflicted during this period continue to fester, providing fertile ground for extremist ideologies to thrive, particularly among Sikh diaspora communities. Canada, with its sizable Sikh population, became a hub for Khalistani activists and sympathisers, offering refuge to those fleeing persecution in India while inadvertently providing a platform for the propagation of separatist ideologies. The liberal immigration policies and multicultural ethos of Canada provided a conducive environment for the Khalistani movement to gain momentum, with several prominent figures finding sanctuary and support within its borders. However, the issue transcends mere ideological sympathies and delves into the realm of organised crime and terrorism. Over the years, there have been numerous instances of Khalistani elements in Canada being implicated in activities ranging from fundraising for militant outfits to carrying out targeted attacks against perceived enemies of the movement. India has repeatedly raised concerns about Canada's perceived leniency towards individuals with ties to Khalistani extremism. Minister for External Affairs, S Jaishankar's criticism reflects India's growing unease over the role of certain segments within the Canadian establishment in enabling and even legitimizing Khalistani activities. He has done the right thing in showing the mirror to the Canadian government which had accused India of a Sikh Canadian on its soil. Canada, on its part, has taken some steps to address these concerns but the fact is Canada's Govt has been largely sympathetic to such elements. Only a couple of days back Khalistani slogans were raised in the presence of Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau. Canada must strike a delicate balance between upholding its commitment to freedom of speech and association while preventing its territory from being used as a staging ground for violence and terrorism.



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Dynamic contours of electoral politics

In a nation where election season seems perennial, the traditional distinction between campaign fervour and governance blurs into a continuous political landscape



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The election season is here. The reaction to the statement could well be that election season is now almost there around the year. There are some elections in some parts of the country going on constantly. In short, almost every season has become an election season. It would be tempting to ask oneself if this is a good thing or a bad thing. It's normal to be judgmental in matters which appear to be significant. However, it would not matter which way the judgment goes because the judgment would not affect the actual run of the situation.

That may be another matter. However, the present election fever is unique in its type because it affects every part of the country and is not confined to a small region or another. The concern of the day is national rather than regional, as it often is. This makes the issues of national significance to figure out a choice in the fray. National issues could come up in many areas, such as defence, taxation, education and interstate movements. The special entry provisions that govern certain regions of the country, or indeed the kind of inter-regional transportation structure, including waterways, as it affects human movement, trade, or commerce. The list enumerated itself is loud and can be added to. However, it makes a basic point. The issues in this election are issues that cut across states, have pan-India bearings, or affect the identity of citizens in the country. All this adds to the exclusivity of the election. Conceptually, what has been set in the preceding few lines is correct. But operationally, there are many other shades and colours. A dominant theme affecting these elections seems to be religion, whereas worship is always a private thing. In India, methods of worship have often served as a method of aggregation of identity. This is a particularly unique gift of the way independence was achieved in this country. No country in the world in the post-colonial era was ever partitioned based on religion, as India was, as a prerequisite for independence. How this helped anyone or any



cause is not quite clear. If the basis of partition was religion, there was something strange about one country proclaiming its identity to be one religion and another country emphatically proposing that it would not have any religious identity. That, however, was the choice of August, 14 and 15, 1947, by the two countries that brought into existence freedom, or more technically, the withdrawal of colonial rule. The British were particular in pointing out that they were giving back power from where they had taken it when they started the rule of then-united India. The rest has to say is history. But post August 15, 1947, saw an experience throughout the subcontinent that was unique and has been termed by some historians as the 'unification of India'. There was a British India and a princely India. The British India territories would have elected government, yet the princely India would have their choice of secession to India or Pakistan. The rest, as they say, is history. Barring Multan, North West Frontier territory, Jammu and Kashmir, Junagarh and Hyderabad, the merger issues were largely smooth and without too much contention. Even the territories named above had a choice exercised sooner than what seemed most like-



THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN ELECTORAL PROMISES, THE ISSUES THAT WIN VOTES AND HOW THE ELECTED PARTY ACTUALLY GOVERNS AND IMPLEMENTS THEIR AGENDA ONCE IN POWER LEADS TO MANY UNEXPECTED AND PERPLEXING OUTCOMES

ly possible. The result was the emergence of a unified India and a unified Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir remained the only state in which a deliberate contention was kept alive. Indeed, there was no contentious issue if the terms of the Freedom Act were followed, but in one way or another, the matter continues to evoke emotions, in a unique way, in several people. It is not just religion at play, there are several factors, including geopolitical ones. It is also possible not to recognize how the matter has been made increasingly complex by an unnecessary play of force, some of whom have no locus standee at all in the case. One would have thought that elections held at a national level, so often, so regularly and so fairly across the length and breadth of the country, would have rendered the whole issue of controversy in Jammu and Kashmir needless. Alas, that is not the case. Elections have a certain pattern in this country: give and take a few arguments here and there. However, choices have to be exercised and the numerical outcome of those choices determines how the country is governed. So the question arises as to what the net findings of the propositions thrown up as electoral issues are. In many states, local

issues seem to be inclined to determine the balloting that would take place for national representation. This appears to be the case, especially in Karnataka, Bihar, Manipur and some other states. The essence of the matter is that choices have to be exercised and the arguments of the choices need only to be communicable in terms of the strength that the community appears to endorse in the legislature. It is worth remembering that, at the end of the day, once the election results are announced, there is no accountability for the correlation between how choices made on issues during elections will be exercised when the party concerned, which wins the election, administers the issue. It may well be said that elections as a process still await better mellowing and maturing to make them an internally consistent one. At the moment, it is satisfying to note that by and large, the process of exercising choices, its panning out in the legislature and its administrative implementation are increasingly becoming worthwhile efforts and, a coherent method of administering, sensibly, a large country, such as India. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

PICTALK

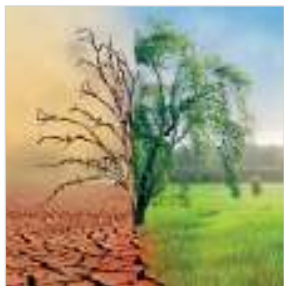


Polling officials travel via a boat to reach their respective polling booths, a day before the voting, in Kamrup PTI

Climate startups: Innovative climate crisis warriors

Startups, pivotal in the shift to a net-zero future, can revitalise economies and communities while providing innovative solutions

Deus ex machina is a technique often deployed by writers to solve a seemingly hopeless situation by external, magical and often unimaginable intervention. It is debatable if Deus ex machina exists in real life, nonetheless, Startups being creatures with innovation, disruption and problem-solving in their DNA can offer faster, creative and localised solutions, for the increasingly hopeless real-world crisis of Climate Change.



OECD suggests that young firms create almost half of the new jobs, suggesting their burgeoning economic power and potential to create impact at scale. The race to net zero is propelled by energy and technology transition which on one hand is an opportunity for startups and a threat to local economies and livelihoods on the other. Take the case of coal being phased out; this might result in the currently bustling mining centres turning into silent junkyards. The modern world's triumphs in Silicon Valley or a Shanghai SEZ may guide the establishment of new climate innovation hubs. Brain port Eindhoven in the Netherlands is one such example showcasing the transition from conventional industries to futuristic setups. The questions on the proliferation of such a model 'Can' be addressed by a few suggestions of 'How': Blended Finance for Climate Innovation Hubs Practical experience suggests that 'Impact Capital' often expects social impact plus commercial returns. For startups social impact then becomes an additional responsibility and not an opportunity to improve margins or a business avenue to seriously pursue climate-positive opportunities over the long term. Blended finance can incentivise climate startups to agglomerate within the Climate Innovation Hubs. Monetising Sustainability — Startups should have opportunities to monetise their efforts on reducing emissions, either in the form of reduced taxes and lower cost of capital or claim premiums for climate-positive brand value. Reputation Capital — Unless climate-positive efforts are rewarded by markets in the form of valuations or additional capital or brand value, climate-positive behaviour will continue to be talk and no walk. Research &

Development (R&D) Support — While large corporations have reserves that can be deployed for R & D, startups have only access to highly demanding capital that usually funds sales for growth and rarely for investments for innovations (unless the startup is incubated in a technical university). While the existing carbon economy still grapples with the issues of just transition, the political economy of climate change signals shifts in geo-political equilibrium and technological leapfrogging in climate solutions is yet to emerge, startups as business organisations are only going to achieve greater proportions of power, prosperity and influence in the world. With focused support from policymakers, development finance institutions and international researchers, the global startup ecosystem can be geared up to take on threats of climate change head-on. Who knows we may have a Deus ex machina in the real world of climate change. The writer is a Chevening Scholar and an International Development expert; views are personal



SAIRAM SUBRAMANIAN

SAFFRON: A BLOSSOMING OPPORTUNITY

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Saffron cultivation: Replicate Poonch's success story," published on May 4, this is my response. The story of saffron cultivation in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, is not just about agriculture; it's a narrative of resilience and transformation. Ajaz Ahmad's journey exemplifies a shift from traditional farming to embracing the potential of saffron. His vision of Poonch becoming a saffron hub reflects the region's evolving agricultural landscape. However, challenges loom large. Environmental shifts, like erratic rainfall and untimely snowfall, threaten saffron production in Kashmir. Such concerns emphasise the need for sustainable farming practices and governmental support, not just in terms of subsidies but also in ensuring security and mitigating wildlife threats. Yet, amidst these challenges, saffron's allure persists. Its medicinal properties and premium market value make it a lucrative venture for farmers. With initiatives like the National Saffron Mission, there's hope for revitalising saffron cultivation and uplifting Kashmir's socio-economic fabric. As saffron blooms in Poonch, it signifies not just a crop but a promise of prosperity for the region. Virat Chatterjee | Pune

PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND HOPE

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Narendra Modi introduces India to its Ashtalakshmis," published on May 4, this is my response. Reading about the political landscape and developmental challenges across India, especially in the neglected North East, evokes a mix of emotions. From the perpetual promises of politicians during election seasons to the persistent issues of floods, droughts and insurgencies, it's a reminder of the complex tapestry of our nation's journey. The failure to address fundamental issues like water scarcity and regional development highlights systemic shortcomings that transcend party lines. However, amidst these challenges, there's

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call for transparency



Apropos the news article, "Covishield's Shield in Question," published on May 5, this is my response. The unfolding saga surrounding the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine underscores a pressing need for transparency and accountability in vaccine distribution and oversight. Alex Mitchell's harrowing experience, alongside numerous others, sheds light on the gravity of poten-

tial side effects and the imperative of informed consent. As legal battles loom against pharmaceutical giants, questions mount regarding regulatory diligence and corporate responsibility. The admission of rare but severe side effects prompts reflection on the balance between vaccine benefits and risks.

The petition, led by advocate Vishal Tiwari, encapsulates the public's demand for rigorous scrutiny and redress mechanisms. Calls for expert medical panels and a vaccine damage payment system underscore a quest for justice and safeguarding public health. Amidst the cacophony of voices, from grieving parents to sceptical netizens, one message resonates: transparency breeds trust. As the global vaccination campaign continues, robust surveillance, thorough investigation and proactive communication remain indispensable in navigating the complexities of vaccine safety. Arnab Reddy | Hyderabad

a glimmer of hope. The efforts made by the current government, particularly in the North East, show a commitment to inclusive growth and infrastructure development. Modi's North East Story sheds light on the transformative changes underway, offering a narrative of progress and resilience. It's heartening to see dynamic leaders and policymakers taking proactive steps to uplift these regions while preserving their unique cultural heritage. The book's portrayal of the North East's beauty and potential serves as an invitation for all Indians to engage with and support the holistic development of these often-overlooked states. Ishika Verma | Jaipur

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Leveraging NCERT textbooks for CUET," published on May 4, this is my response. The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) stands as a significant milestone for students aspiring to secure undergraduate admissions in India. Amidst the rigorous preparation for CUET 2024, lever-

aging NCERT textbooks emerges as a strategic move. These textbooks, integral to classrooms nationwide, offer more than just academic aid. They serve as a robust foundation, aligning seamlessly with CUET syllabi and offering structured content presentations. From basic principles to advanced concepts, NCERT textbooks provide a roadmap.

Their clarity, supplemented by visuals and practice exercises, enhances comprehension and problem-solving skills. Moreover, their standardised content ensures equitable access to quality education, levelling the playing field for CUET aspirants. To optimise CUET preparation, students should adopt a subject-wise study approach, leverage visual aids, prioritise practice and revision and supplement with additional resources. By harnessing the potential of NCERT textbooks, students can bolster their confidence and maximise success in the CUET 2024 Exam. Sanya Khanna | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN RETHINKING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Excessive consumerism contradicts our spiritual values ingrained in our heritage



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The US economy is very often seen as the engine of the world economy, and that is why any sign of slowdown in the US raises serious concerns about harmful spillovers to the other economies. Any keen student of current economics would know well that the economic policies of America, especially during the last few years, have not worked well. In fact, the defeat of the most powerful leaders in the presidential elections that were held in the past few decades is attributed mainly to the failure of their economic policies which created many problems for the country. However, most people do not realise that the economic problems faced there, emanate not merely from wrong policies, adopted recently.

Their roots are hidden in some wrong economic, political and cultural concepts and the models built on them over a period of time. For example, the mounting unemployment and the huge foreign debts are not the phenomena that have sprung up overnight and the phenomenon of estimated 11.5% Americans, living in poverty, also has not arisen in the short period of only one or two years. The roots of their sad economic state go at least to as far a period as the end of the World War-II when they adopted a very lavish life-style and an utterly consumeristic attitude and built their economy on militarism, giant industries, transactional and multi-national business corporations, import of raw materials at cheaper rates from the undeveloped countries and export of their goods to such nations and economic capture of foreign markets through their multinational corporations. In short, they thrived on the basis of this economic system as long as other industrial nations did not come up strongly to stand up to them or the weaker nations did not stand up against



their economic exploitation or injustice. Nevertheless, their economic system was not, based on some morally sound and enduring economic principles. As mentioned earlier, it was based on commercialism, competition, consumerism and exploitation of weaker nations and on hot or cold war with an adversary nation, or on considering their nation as the strong military-man of the world, ready for hot or cold war. Now, when some other industrial nations have grown stronger, they cannot compete with them and have, therefore, to close down or to retrench workers as was done recently by many industrial giants. Also, now when there is no war—hot or cold—they are forced by economic reasons to sell their military hardware as they recently sold fighter jets to many Asian countries in order to keep the workers in employment. Their country has had either the ills of recession, or inflation, or heavy taxation, or it had to resort to deficit budgets, foreign debts, protectionist policies, etc. to keep the economy going. It would have, therefore, been appropriate if developing nations like India had learnt some lessons from the failures of the so-called developed models of economy and had, instead, kept in mind their own national ethos and ancient heritage which suggests that a right system of economy is one which is based on social justice, and on economising rather than borrowing and deficit-financing. We should also keep in mind our own national situation which necessitates national and regional self-sufficiency and affords opportunities of full employment to its citizens and promotes balance between rural and urban economy, equitable distribution of income and wealth and prevention of the growth of very wide disparities in income and wealth. We must remember that unbridled consumerism and commercialism and also large-scale borrowing are against the value-system which is embedded in our spiritual heritage and will, sooner or later, lead us to grave economic crisis. So, let us all learn to lead a life of simplicity and frugality and be honest and just to all.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Reimagining Tagore's educational philosophy



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Rabindranath Tagore, the polymathic Nobel Laureate from Bengal, is celebrated not only for his literary brilliance but also for his visionary ideas on education

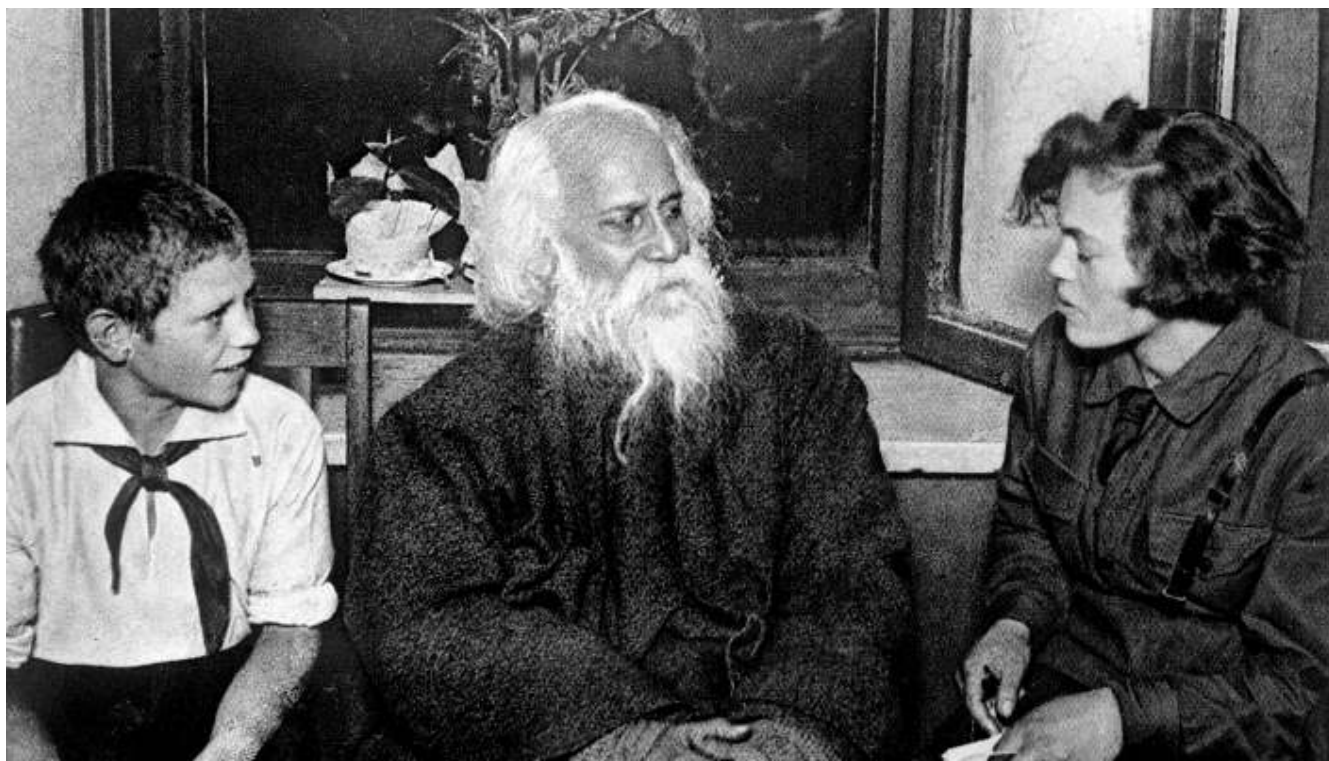
Rabindranath Tagore (May 7, 1861 to August 7, 1941), the polymathic Nobel Laureate from Bengal, is renowned not only for his literary brilliance but also for his progressive ideas on education. His philosophy of education, rooted in the principles of creativity, freedom, and humanism, continues to resonate with contemporary educational discourse. In today's rapidly changing world, where traditional educational paradigms are being challenged and redefined, Tagore's insights offer valuable perspectives for reimagining education in a manner that fosters holistic development and meaningful engagement with the world.

At the heart of Tagore's educational philosophy is the belief in the innate creativity and potential of every individual. He envisioned education as a process of nurturing this inherent creativity rather than imposing predetermined knowledge. In his seminal work, "Siksha: Herok Ek Jibon" (Education: A Continuum of Life), Tagore emphasized the importance of cultivating curiosity, imagination, and critical thinking skills in learners. He advocated for an education system that encourages students to explore, question, and construct their understanding of the world, rather than passively receiving information.

Further, central to Tagore's philosophy of education is the concept of "Shantiniketan," or the abode of peace - and later Sriniketan - which he established as an experimental educational institution in rural Bengal. Shantiniketan epitomized Tagore's holistic educational philosophy, integrating intellectual, artistic, and spiritual facets of human life. Education transcended traditional confines, embracing nature, arts, and community involvement. Tagore emphasized fostering reverence for nature, aesthetic sensibility, and interconnectedness with all life. He advocated for intellectual development through imagination, free thought, and perpetual curiosity. This personalized approach prioritized holistic growth, including physical development through exercises, yoga, and sports, echoing Tagore's belief: "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

According to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, "A teacher can never truly teach, unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp, unless it continues to burn its own flame". In his essay 'Ashram Shiksha' (Ashram's Teaching), Tagore extolled the virtues of patience in teaching, advocating that only those imbued with affection for their students deserve the mantle of a teacher. He rejected authoritarian teaching methods, viewing them as indicative of governance inadequacy. K M O'Connell (University of Toronto, Canada) had written that Rabindranath Tagore stands with the pioneering educators, like, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel, Montessori, and Dewey Malcolm Knowles, who have striven to create non-authoritarian learning systems appropriate to the surroundings.

Furthermore, Tagore's educational philosophy emphasizes fostering a love for humanity and advancing universal brotherhood through recognizing the interconnectedness of all beings and promoting empathy across cultures. Central to his approach is establishing harmony



HIS NOTION OF FREEDOM IN EDUCATION EMPHASISES LINKING NATURE, SOCIETY, AND LEARNERS EXPERIENCES. HE ADVOCATES FOR LEARNING IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS TO NOURISH BODY AND SOUL. PRIORITISE CREATIVITY, AND ENGAGE CRITICALLY WITH TRADITIONAL VALUES AND BELIEFS

between individuals, nature, and the divine. Tagore advocates for freedom in education to unlock individuals' inherent potential and stresses the significance of moral and spiritual development alongside academic learning. His vision aims at cultivating well-rounded individuals capable of selfless service and social integration, ultimately contributing to a conscientious and harmonious society.

In today's context, characterized by rapid technological advancements, globalization, and environmental challenges, Tagore's emphasis on holistic education is more relevant than ever. The prevailing thought on standardized testing and rote memorization (read learning) often stifles creativity and critical thinking, leaving students ill-prepared for the complexities of the modern world. Tagore's philosophy, instead, calls for a shift towards a more student-centered, inquiry-based approach to learning that empowers learners to navigate uncertainty, think critically, and adapt to change. Tagore's educational philosophy, as elucidated in his essay "The Centre of Indian Culture," emphasizes the imperative for education to reflect and engage with the socio-cultural milieu in which it operates, asserting that genuine education must be attuned to its contextual realities to foster healthy growth.

This sentiment resonates in Sunil Banga's (Lancaster University Management School) analysis - in his paper "The global relevance of Tagore's cosmopolitan educational philosophy for social justice in a post-Westphalian world" published in Journal of Philosophy of Education (August 2023, Oxford) - which underscores Tagore's cosmopolitan approach to education as a potent instrument for social justice and equity in today's

world. Banga highlights Tagore's commitment to societal transformation through education, evident in his advocacy for women's empowerment, condemnation of oppression, and advocacy for India's independence (read freedom). Despite emerging from the colonial era, Tagore's philosophy remains pertinent, particularly his emphasis on education as a catalyst for moral and social development, aiming towards societal harmony and integration to address contemporary global challenges.

Moreover, Tagore's emphasis on the integration of arts, music, and literature into the curriculum offers a counterbalance to the narrow focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education prevalent in many educational systems today. Arts play a crucial role in fostering creativity, empathy, and emotional intelligence, which are essential for navigating the complexities of human relationships and societal challenges.

Sunil Banga underscores Tagore's educational paradigm as an early advocate of global interconnectedness. Tagore posited that education's primary objective was the attainment of self-realization, which he termed 'Atma Shakti,' wherein individuals harmonize with nature and society. Drawing from Hindu literature, Tagore envisions a 'universal man' embodying faith in universalism and humanity. He further advocates for personality development through arts and music, leading to a transcendent understanding of human nature. He contends that humans, upon achieving self-realization, unite with 'God' or 'Manav Brahma,' thereby becoming the 'complete man' and 'soul.'

Rabindranath Tagore's educational philosophy underscores the integral role of education in fos-

tering connections between individuals and humanity while promoting holistic development.

In essence, at the heart of Tagore's vision of cosmopolitan education is the idea of freedom - freedom to engage critically with traditional values and beliefs; and freedom to imagine citizenship in a globalized world, that enables an exploration and negotiation of multiple allegiances in sympathy with others. His notion of freedom in education emphasizes linking nature, society, and learners' experiences. He advocates for learning in natural environments to nourish body and soul, prioritize creativity, and engage critically with traditional values and beliefs.

Rabindranath Tagore's philosophy of education provides a compelling framework for reimagining education in the 21st century. His emphasis on creativity, freedom, holistic development, and social engagement offers valuable insights for addressing the multifaceted challenges of today's world.

By embracing Tagore's vision, educators can create learning environments that empower students to become compassionate, critical thinkers capable of shaping a more just, sustainable, and humane society and boosting students' morale.

On the occasion of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 163rd Birth Anniversary, we may well reflect on his philosophy advocating for an education that transcends mere impartation of knowledge, rather instills a profound harmony with all existence. Revisiting Tagore's principles may serve as a guiding light for Indian educational institutions in this globalised age.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

Vision for India: A State-led roadmap for effective governance

Amid India's socio-economic shift, Karthik Muralidharan's new book shines as a guide for the nation's trajectory

It was during the mid-1960s that I had a first-hand experience with Kochi, popularly known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea. Other than Kochi Port, the small aerodrome and the star hotel of yore years Sea Lord and Malabar, there was nothing attractive about the city. Scavengers carrying night soil collected from homes and hotels on their heads were the first sight that welcomed people during the daybreak. Some discernible changes are there in Kochi and other cities in the State. Scavengers are gone and their places have been taken over by cycle rickshaws with the hoarding "For cleaning septic tanks, please contact us..." In the hinterland, farmers wearing loin cloths plough their farmland with bullocks



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

despite India being one of the largest manufacturers of tractors of all kinds. The mention of the word farmer brings to mind the images of loin-clothed men beating their bullocks to force them to plough the fields. You go to Madurai in Tamil Nadu, which the DMK touts as a role model of Dravidian development. What welcomes you to the small towns and villages are thoroughfares and

ring roads being used as public comfort stations by the residents. Dravidian leaders do not like the idea of Swachh Bharat and insist that their followers use roads, rivers and beaches as public toilets. It is in these contexts that a book for the economic and social development of India has hit the shelves. Karthik Muralidharan, renowned economist and Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego, has authored a book "Accelerating India's Development - A State-led Roadmap for Effective Governance", a blueprint for the Comprehensive Development of India.

Productivity, competitiveness, the number of jobs created and the skill of the labour force are

some of the most important ingredients of the economic growth of a country. It is for the Central and State Governments to generate enabling conditions for speedy economic and social development, according to Muralidharan. The author says that land, labour, capital, policies on taxation, bankruptcy, environmental regulation and promoting competition are the enabling services that ensure speedy economic and social development. Muralidharan, who has no love lost for the Modi Government at the Centre, says the present Central Government is always ahead in resolving issues that retard economic progress. "India's public discourse on growth

mainly focusses on Central Government actions to promote it, though many of the key issues above are in the domain of State Governments. It is critical to analyze and improve the effectiveness of State level actions for boosting productivity and job quality. State-led initiative and innovations followed by rapid replication of successful ones can play a key role in accelerating both growth and development in India," writes Muralidharan in the chapter "Jobs, Productivity and Economic Growth".

What makes the book interesting is Muralidharan's call for improving job quality rather than job quantity. It is not the number of jobs created but the quality of jobs that determines the welfare of the people, says

Muralidharan. "A job is not just a source of income. It also provides identity, dignity and social engagement. With over 95 per cent of India's population relying primarily on labour income for sustenance, improving job quality will directly improve the welfare of hundreds of millions of Indians," says the economist. This is an open call to finish once-and-forever jobs like scavenging, ploughing the land with bullocks and other mean works. The earlier we introduce Artificial Intelligence and robots for such jobs, the better. Instead of using this technology to deceive the public with deep fake videos and political rivals, it would be better if we use this technology to uplift the status of jobs. Millions of Indians are reliant

on casual wage labour for sustenance. An average income earner supports 2.7 dependents. "This is why improving living standards in India depends critically on improving worker productivity and creating more high-quality jobs to generate higher, more reliable incomes," Muralidharan writes. The skill development programme initiated by the present government should be invigorated and made compulsory for students and school dropouts. The Agniveer scheme is an innovation that inspires the mind. One need not go to engineering colleges or medical colleges to emerge as a skilled professional in high-quality jobs. There is a severe shortage of electricians,

plumbers and mechanics with expertise in household jobs. Even as the central and State governments can increase the number of medical colleges, no stone should be left unturned in increasing the number of ITIs and technical schools. Equal priority should be given to increasing the agricultural productivity in which India lags behind China Vietnam etc. The situation is favourable to India. Skill development, Agniveer and increase in agriculture productivity should be implemented with full vigour. There is hope for India to become the world leader by 2047.

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

MONEY MATTERS

ICICI Bank enables UPI payments for NRI customers

ICICI Bank on Monday announced that it has enabled instant payment facility UPI for its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers in India through their international mobile numbers. According to the bank, this will significantly enhance convenience of making everyday payments.



Gold climbs Rs 230; silver jumps Rs 700

Gold prices climbed Rs 230 to Rs 72,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid jump in precious metal rates in the international markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 72,020 per 10 grams in the previous session.



Zee Media Corporation terminates CEO Abhay Ojha

Zee Media Corporation Ltd on Monday said its CEO Abhay Ojha has been terminated with effect from May 4, 2024. In a regulatory filing, the company said its Board of Directors at their meeting held on Monday has approved and confirmed the cessation of employment of Ojha from the organisation and his consequent cessation as the Chief Executive Officer of the company with effect from May 4, 2024.



Public sector bank stocks tank as RBI proposes tighter project finance rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PSU bank stocks declined on Monday after the Reserve Bank proposed tighter rules to govern lending to projects under implementation. Shares of Punjab National Bank (PNB) tumbled 6.41 per cent, Canara Bank plunged 5.42 per cent, Bank of Baroda tanked 3.71 per cent and Union Bank of India declined 3.12 per cent on the BSE.



books. The standard asset provisioning otherwise stands at 40 per cent. "The domestic indices traded in a range-bound manner influenced by PSU banks' underperformance due to the RBI's tighter norms on lending to projects under development," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Govt should allow 20 lakh tonne of sugar exports: ISMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sugar industry body ISMA has urged the government to allow 20 lakh tonnes of sugar exports in the current marketing year ending September as shipments of surplus sweetener would boost liquidity of millers enabling them to make cane payments to farmers on time.



Sensex closes flat, Nifty slips on profit-taking by investors

Benchmark Sensex closed almost flat in a range-bound trade on Monday as investors booked profits in index heavyweights amid high valuation concerns. The 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 17.39 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 73,895.54.



State Bank of India, NTPC, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were the other laggards. The domestic indices traded in a range-bound manner, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Britannia expects double-digit volume growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading food products company Britannia Industries expects a "double-digit growth" in volumes post general elections and the monsoon season with a "manageable inflation", its Vice Chairman and Managing Director Varun Berry said on Monday.



FY25, which would be pretty similar to the last fiscal, Berry expects a double-digit volume growth for Britannia, maker of Good Day, Marie Gold, Tiger, Bourbon, and Milk Bikis biscuits.

BSNL to launch 4G services across India from August

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned BSNL will start rolling out 4G services across the country from August, using completely indigenous technology in line with the government's "Atmanirbhar" policy, according to official sources. BSNL officials claimed to have recorded peak speed of 40-45 megabit per second on the 4G network which has been rolled out in the premium spectrum band of 700 megahertz (MHz) as well as in 2,100 Mhz band during the pilot phase.



BSNL will launch atmanirbhar 4G technology across the country in August, a senior government official, who did not wish to be named, told PTI. The core network is a collection of network hardware, devices, and software that provides fundamental services in a telecommunication network.

Mutual fund stake in NSE-listed cos at all time high

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mutual funds' ownership in NSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of 8.92 per cent in three months ended March 2024 propelled by net inflows of Rs 81,539 crore during the quarter, according to primeinfobase.com, an initiative of Prime Database Group. In comparison, the holding of mutual funds was at 8.81 per cent in the quarter ended December 2023.



low of 17.68 per cent as of March 2024, down from 18.19 per cent as of December 2023, resulting in the gap between FPI and DII holding narrowing to an all-time low with DII holding now being just 9.23 per cent lower than FPI holding. The widest gap between FPI and DII holding was in the quarter ended March 31, 2015, when DII holding was at 49.82 per cent.

P-note investments surge to Rs 1.5 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investments through participatory notes in the Indian capital markets reached Rs 1.5 lakh crore at the end of February, making it the highest-level in nearly six years, driven by a strong performance of the domestic economy. The latest data includes the value of P-note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities.

ARABIAN TRAVEL MART IN DUBAI

Tourism Ministry launches new campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to strengthen the country's presence in the Middle East tourism market, the Tourism Ministry is participating in the Arabian Travel Mart 2024 being held in Dubai from May 6 to 9, officials on Monday said. Highlighting lesser-known destinations, the ministry also launched the 'Cool Summers of India' campaign at the Mart.



Arabian Travel Mart is one of the key events in the global tourism arena. "The event marks a significant step in strengthening India's presence in the Middle East tourism market," the ministry said in a statement.

resounding entry, aiming to capture the entirety of the UAE market. Leading a delegation comprising tour operators, luxury hotels, wellness resorts, and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, India is poised to showcase itself as a 365-day destination," the statement said.

'IA to have 50% market share in intl passenger traffic'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

As much as half of the country's international air passenger traffic is expected to be catered by Indian airlines by financial year 2027-28, credit ratings agency CRISIL said on Monday. The share of Indian airlines in international passenger traffic, including originating or terminating as well as the traffic transitioning through the country, is seen surging 700 basis points to around 50 per cent by 2027-28, from 43 per cent in the previous fiscal, it said.

ing additional aircraft and adding new routes in the international segment, as well as their inherent advantage of superior domestic connectivity compared with foreign carriers, CRISIL Ratings said in its report. The report noted that business profiles of Indian carriers will strengthen as a result of their rising share in international traffic, which is more profitable than the domestic segment.

India's international passenger traffic grew to around 70 million in fiscal 2024, from a low of 10 million in pandemic-hit fiscal 2021, and has surpassed the pre-pandemic level, according to CRISIL.

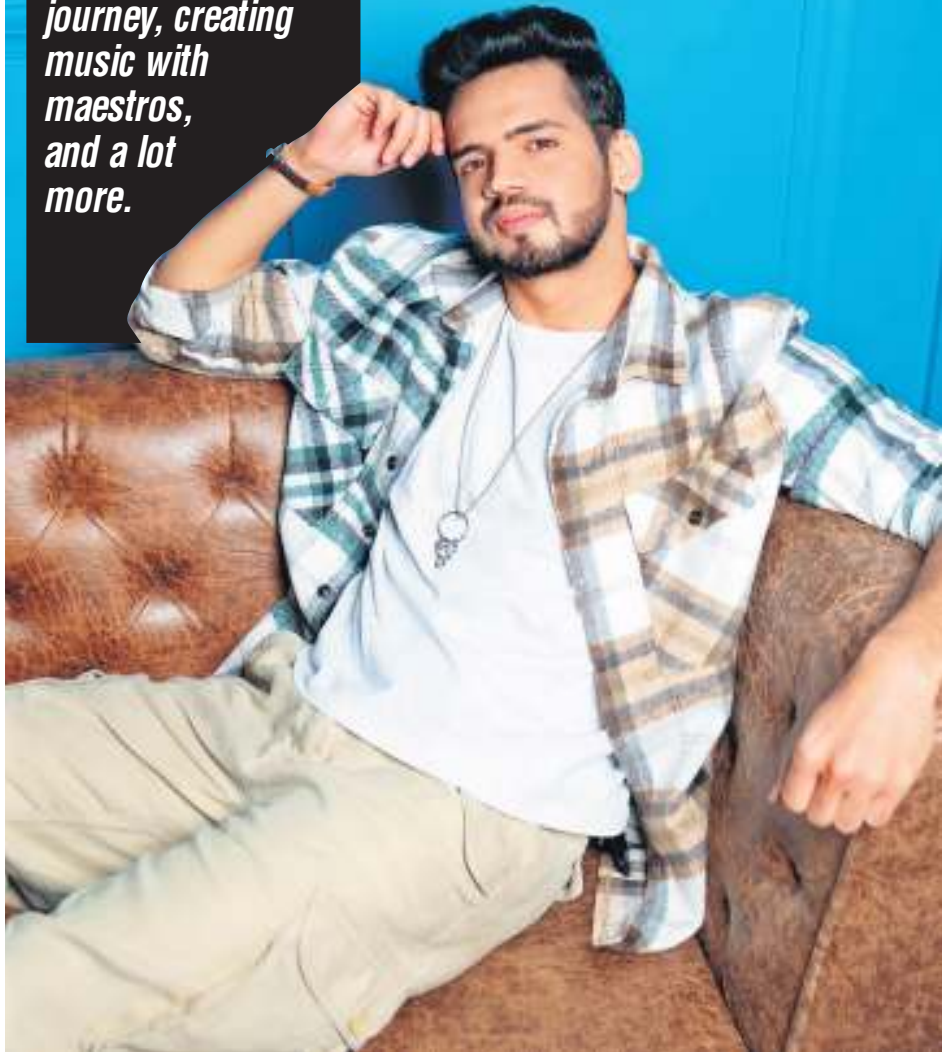
GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE



Bollywood music producer, composer, and content creator Mayur Jumani, who has been creating waves with his one-of-a-kind musical videos, gets candid with The Pioneer over an exclusive chat, discussing one of his most viral videos, his journey, creating music with maestros, and a lot more.

BOLLYWOOD TO CONTENT CREATION

Turning moments with musical makeovers



TEJAL SINHA

Ekdam Krishna Lage Che, remember the video of Radhika Merchant that went viral, and then there was a version that certainly didn't fail to bring a smile to your face? Well, it was Mayur Jumani who created the version from his 'Jannagar Universe'. That's what he captioned the video as: wink.

This video was his personal favourite too. "The hook and the flute melody go so well together. Secretly, I've been playing the video from my own account so many times." A versatile music producer and composer, Mayur Jumani is renowned for his eclectic creations and meme mixes that resonate with audiences worldwide! With hits like *Jalebi Baby 90's version*, *Babu Babu*, *Kesariya Tony Kakkar Version*, and *Chori Patata Hai*, Mayur has carved a niche for himself in the music industry. A former engineer and UX designer he has been playing the piano since he was five. Today, as he looks back on his journey in this exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, he recalls, "It's almost been like a roller coaster ride. When I started with music, I had no idea this would become my career. Little did I know that an introverted person like me could do so much on social media."

innovation; at least that's what I felt 7 years ago. I had created a very unique live set where I mixed electronic music with live instruments, which I performed and was loved both in Valencia and L.A. I remember performing at one of the biggest clubs in L.A. called Avalon Hollywood, where the crowd went crazy."

In 2017, when he came back to India, he played the same set at a small bar near Carter Road, where he recalled, "A few people came up to me and said, 'Bhai Rashke Qamar baja na. Of course, a lot has changed now, but I credit my time abroad for giving me the confidence to think outside the box.'"

Having always had this thing where any sound he heard, his brain started putting it in rhythm, ironically, these mashups on social media were never part of his plan. In 2019, "I bagged my first ever Bollywood movie as a composer. I thought, finally, people would start to know me, and I'd get more opportunities when suddenly the lockdown happens. The whole world goes into a gloomy state, and I, being the fun, happy-go-lucky person I am, took it upon myself to entertain the audience. I was only doing this for the few thousand followers I had back then. Surprisingly, the first ever mashup I created crossed a million views, and that's when I knew I was on to something."

With all of this, his only aim was to entertain people during the lockdown. Little did he know that his career would take the opposite route, where he started with Bollywood and then ended up being a content creator.

His crossovers have in fact made memes go more viral, and to this end, he expresses, "Honestly, I just make whatever I feel will bring a smile to people's faces. I'm very grateful to everyone for sharing my videos. It feels great when someone comments or DMs me, saying my video has made their day or has changed their mood. I never pick up any dialogue or memes because they have the potential to go viral. I pick the ones that I know will sound good with some music and will bring a smile to people's faces."

Not only this, but he has also collaborated with the *Shark Tank India* and the *Master Chef India* too. Recalling the 'Sharks' video that had been all over the platforms, he shares, "The video with *Shark Tank* was honestly one of my most creatively satisfying videos yet. I actually had only 2 days to create the track, and somehow the composition, lyrics, recording, and production were done within those 2 days. I have always admired the show, the sharks, and the time we were on set; everything went so smoothly. They were all very sporting and open to spending time and effort to make this video come to life."

A lesser-known fact: "People might not know this, but my first ever viral video happened all the way back in 2015. It was a live remix I made with a GoPro on my head, like I've been doing during the lockdown. But I made the mistake of not following up with more content and lost that opportunity. This time, I made sure to grab that opportunity and make the most of it. The main problem with people making mashups like this is people's interest in you as a person. They're usually following you for your content, not you. It took me a while to showcase my personality, but now that I see so many followers converting into loyal fans, it feels great."

Recently, he has also made a one-minute song, *Whistle*, with his friend Nick; you know him as Beyounick. "I had just started working on original music and came up with this catchy tune. When I played it to my friends, they all said this should be the first song that I release since it perfectly suits my personality. Finishing the song, the music video, and the release all happened within 2-3 weeks, and the response was amazing."

He has also collaborated with multiple musical maestros, including Kailash Kher, Vishal Dadlani, and Anu Malik. An overwhelmed Mayur shares, "My first interactions with Vishal and Kailash Sir happened long back when I did a few projects for them. I love to go overboard with my videos, especially when there are some celebrities involved. One of my favourite videos is the one I did with Kailash Sir, where I mashed up his song with the Wes Anderson trend. With Anu Malik, we made a new version of his song *Garam Chai*, and to everyone's surprise, we shot at a local *chai tapri*. My collaboration with Sunil Shetty has to be the most fun I've had since initially he was not sure about rapping, but once he heard the final version, he said, 'Badshah shouldn't feel bad listening to this.'"

Bollywood, OTT, or even independent release, Mayur looks forward and aims to create good music and share it with the world.

Aroushikha Dey 'humbled' as *The Shameless* premieres at Cannes

K. RAMYA SREE

In the ever-evolving landscape of cinema, few talents possess the remarkable ability to transcend boundaries, captivating audiences with their unparalleled performances and unwavering dedication. Aroushikha Dey, celebrated for her standout roles in *The Warrior Queen of Jhansi* and *Lomad*, undoubtedly belongs to this rare breed of artists.

Now, she stands poised to leave an indelible mark on the global stage with the premiere of *The Shameless*, under the visionary direction of Konstantin Bojanov, at the Cannes Film Festival.

She portrays Durva, a character embroiled in moral complexities and societal norms. In an exclusive interview, *The Warrior Queen of Jhansi* actress offers a glimpse into the making of *The Shameless* and shares her insights into her journey as an actor.

"I was profoundly delighted to contribute to this exceptional project," Aroushikha reveals, adding, "As an actor, I actively seek out roles that are unconventional and pose significant challenges. That's precisely what captivated me about my character in the film. Portraying a person vastly different from myself and bringing that character to life was both demanding and immensely gratifying."

When asked about her feelings regarding the film's premiere at Cannes, she expresses her overwhelming joy as she says, "When I first heard the news from my director and my producer, I was numb for a fraction of a second and was trying to search for the perfect expression. This is a dream come true. I feel ecstatic. It's an honour to represent the film on such a prestigious platform and present it to a global audience. I am both happy and humbled by this opportunity."

Delving into her character Durva, described as confrontational and focused on securing her daily livelihood above all, the *Chatrapathi* fame shares her approach to portraying such complexity. "My director, meticulously outlined the character sketch for 'Durva', my assigned role, providing invaluable clarity for my preparation. The character, with its nuanced shades of grey, demanded a delicate balance. I dedicated substantial effort to understanding and embodying this complexity," she explains.

Reflecting on the challenges faced during filming, she emphasises the importance of preparation, elaborating, "Given the nuanced shades of grey inherent to my character, it was of paramount importance that I prepare for it with utmost perfection. Konstantin not only wrote a brilliant script but also breathed life into each character."

Drawing from her past experiences in films like *The Warrior Queen of Jhansi* and *Lomad*, she stresses the

significance of each role in shaping her craft. "For me, both the story and the role are integral parts of the film. Each film represents a new chapter, and every character needs to be nurtured," asserts the actress.

In closing, the *Lomad* actress expresses her eagerness to explore opportunities in the South Indian film industry. She enthuses, "I am already part of the South Indian industry, having worked in Malayalam and Telugu feature films. That said, I am eagerly looking forward to taking on more projects within the South Indian film industry."

As she embarks on this remarkable journey, she continues to redefine roles and break boundaries, leaving an indelible legacy in the world of cinema.



Actress Aroushikha Dey, who is ecstatic with her film *The Shameless* being premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, shares her excitement with *The Pioneer* and also talks about her character in this exclusive chat.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF DIET IN PHYSICAL WELLNESS

Nourish to flourish

In this increasingly competitive world, we are constantly striving to be ahead of our contemporaries. Our lives are inarguably characterised by unceasing hustle and in the quest for 'survival of the fittest' we often ironically overlook prioritising our health. As a result, maintaining a healthy lifestyle takes a backseat.

The timeless saying "you are what you eat" holds a profound truth that transcends generations. Nourishing our bodies with the right nutrients is not just confined to looking good on the outside; it's about fostering overall physical wellness and ensuring we flourish in every aspect of our lives.

The cornerstone of physical wellness

A well-balanced diet constitutes the foundation of physical wellness. The food we consume acts as fuel for our bodies, influencing our energy levels, immune system, and overall vitality. A diet rich in essential nutrients provides the necessary building blocks for cellular repair, muscle development, and organ function. It is not just about keeping a close tab of caloric intake but ensuring that the calories we consume are packed with the right combination of vitamins, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates, and fats required by our body.

Nutrient-rich diet for optimal health

To enhance the nourishment of our bodies, we need to assimilate a diverse and nutrient-rich diet. Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and



healthy fats ought to be an indispensable part of our meals. These foods deliver myriads of vitamins and minerals crucial for various bodily functions.

Consider incorporating colorful vegetables like spinach, carrots, and bell peppers into your daily meals. These foods are rich in antioxidants, which help combat oxidative stress and reduce the risk of

chronic diseases. Whole grains such as quinoa, brown rice, and oats provide a steady source of energy, while lean proteins like chicken and fish contribute to muscle repair and maintenance.

Significance of hydration

In the pursuit of physical wellness,

hydration often goes overlooked. Water is an integral component of our bodies, making up a considerable percentage of our tissues and organs. Staying sufficiently hydrated facilitates digestion, nutrient absorption, and toxin elimination. It also helps regulate body temperature and keeps our skin looking vibrant.

We should aim to drink at least eight

glasses of water a day, and more if we engage in intense physical activities. We can even take things up a notch by experimenting with infused water by adding slices of fruits like cucumber, lemon, or berries to make hydration a refreshing and enjoyable experience.

The gut-body connection

The gut plays a crucial role in our overall health, influencing everything from digestion to immune function. A diet rich in fiber, found in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, promotes a healthy gut microbiome. Probiotics, found in yogurt, kefir, and fermented foods, further support gut health by introducing beneficial bacteria.

Maintaining a healthy gut contributes not only to improved digestion but also to enhanced nutrient absorption and a strengthened immune system.

Essential supplementation

Supplementation can play an essential role in maintaining optimal health and fitness, conducive to a balanced diet and active lifestyle. In today's fast-paced world, relying solely on food for all essen-

tial nutrients can be challenging. Supplements bridge nutritional gaps, ensuring the body receives crucial vitamins, minerals, and amino acids.

They help elevate energy levels, support muscle recovery, and contribute to overall well-being. Having said that, it is important to approach supplementation cautiously. It is advisable to consult health professionals for personalised guidance. Ultimately, integrating supplements may significantly contribute to sustained health and peak physical performance.

Moderation and mindful eating

While the importance of nutrient-rich foods is undeniable, balance and moderation are equally crucial. Treating ourselves to comfort foods is acceptable if it doesn't become a habit. Mindful eating, which involves paying attention to the flavors and textures of our food, helps prevent overeating and enables a healthier relationship with food.

In the journey towards physical wellness, our diet serves as the compass, helping us tread the path to optimal health. Nourishing our bodies with the right nutrients is an investment in our well-being, impacting our energy levels, immune system, and overall vigor. Remember, the choices we make at the dinner table today shape the well-being we enjoy tomorrow.

(The author, Dr. Sachin Pawar, is the Head of Medical Affairs in P&G Health.)



The coolest bridal fashions and exquisite wedding collection are here at the all-new showroom of "Karishma Bridal Studio" at Jubilee Hills Road No. 36. The showroom features bridal lehengas, sarees, exquisite wedding gowns, wedding suits, salwars, and a lot more.

Sindhu



Varshini Sounderajan



Sony



Aparna

One Piece, an epic sea tale first time on TV

The cultural phenomenon and epic pirate adventure story embraced all over the world docks on Cartoon Network in India! Cartoon Network today announcing the arrival of globally acclaimed manga series 'ONE PIECE' with its "One Piece: Land of Wano Arc" storyline for the first time on Indian Television in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. Adding sparkle to the summer season and to its cache of popular Japanese anime slate, the channel is hosting the adrenaline-pumping, dazzling adventures of Luffy and the rest of the Straw Hats Pirates, starting May 5 every Sunday at 1:00 pm thereafter Monday through Friday at 9:00 pm. Produced by the legendary anime studio Toei Animation Inc. and based on the top-selling manga title of all time by creator Eiichiro Oda, ONE PIECE is an epic sea tale chronicling the escapades of unstoppable Monkey D. Luffy, a pirate with unflinching drive to become the pirate king.

UrbanWrk launched at Raheja Mindspace

UrbanWrk, a leading name in the flexi workspace industry, has inaugurated its new centre at Raheja Mindspace, Hi-Tech City and Hyderabad. The state-of-the-art workspace spans 50,000 square feet and accommodates 900 seats. This initiative aims to serve a wide range of enterprises with employee strength between 50 and 500. In keeping with the company's track record, this newly launched centre testifies UrbanWrk's commitment to providing agile work environments that meet the diverse needs of today's businesses and professionals.

CARE Hospitals opens liver transplant institute in Hyd

CARE Hospitals launched CARE Institute of Digestive Diseases and Liver Transplantation at theirHITEC City, Hyderabad facility. The institute was inaugurated by Dr. K. Hari Prasad, Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Quality Care India Limited in the presence of Jasdeep Singh, Group CEO, CARE Hospitals Group, Dr. Mohammed Abdun Nayeem, Clinical Director & HOD of CARE Institute of Digestive Diseases and Liver Transplant, CARE

Hospitals and other key dignitaries. This extension is the sixth liver transplant centre for the CARE Hospitals Group across India, marking a significant milestone in the continuum of exceptional healthcare services provided by CARE Hospitals. It provides comprehensive care for liver, gastrointestinal, and pancreatic ailments with utmost precision, ensuring the best possible outcomes for patients.

TKM introduces new grade of 'Toyota Rumion'

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), today, officially announced the opening of bookings and the price of New Grade G-AT of the Toyota Rumion along with reopening of E-CNG bookings. The newly launched G-AT variant is expected to further boost the market acceptance of the Rumion with its unmatched space and comfort, excellent fuel efficiency, stylish and premium exterior design. The latest offering by TKM will be available at an attractive ex-showroom price of Rs. 13,00,000 with deliveries expected to commence from 5th May onwards. Customers can book the vehicle at any of the authorized dealerships or online with a booking fee of Rs 11,000/- Toyota Rumion G-AT variant is powered by the 1.5-litre K series petrol engine with 6-speed Automatic Transmission, featuring the Neo Drive (ISG) technology ensuring responsive performance. While the petrol grade has a power output of 75.8 kw @6000 rpm and torque of 136.8 Nm @4400 rpm for, the CNG grade boasts of 64.6 kw output @5500 rpm and torque of 121.5 Nm@4200 rpm. The Toyota Rumion is now available in seven variants of Neo drive MT: S, G and V grade. Neo Drive AT: S, G and V grade. E-CNG: S grade offering a wide range of options for customers.

Himalaya Wellness introduces Re-Hydrate

Himalaya Wellness Company unveiled its latest product, Himalaya Re-Hydrate, to combat rehydration and fatigue, available in two flavors - Apple and Orange. This electrolyte drink is meticulously crafted to replenish lost nutrients swiftly, leaving consumers feeling refreshed and invigorated. Himalaya Re-Hydrate is scientifically designed with 40% less added sugars and 50% more Vitamin C* for health-conscious individuals. Vitamin C aids in faster recovery from fatigue, while the reduced sugar content aligns with the preferences of today's discerning consumers. Containing a blend of five essential electrolytes—Sodium, Chloride, Potassium, Magnesium, and Calcium—alongside Zinc, Himalaya Re-Hydrate ensures rapid restoration of vital nutrients. Additionally, the infusion of super fruits like Amla and Pomegranate, rich in antioxidants, supports the body's natural recovery process.

Isuzu introduces V-Cross Z Prestige

In its pursuit to offer the dynamic and enthusiastic Indian customer, a stylish product range to boost the 'Spirit of Lifestyle', Isuzu had introduced its enriched personal passenger pick-ups, that are Made-in-India which are Made-for-India. Today's launch highlights ISUZU's commitment to set a trend in the lifestyle pick-up segment, which it pioneered in India. New Safety features are also added across the manual

transmission passenger pick-up models. The latest V-Cross Z Prestige variants up the style quotient with a host of elegant yet classy elements on the exterior. This timeless appeal has been achieved with styling elements finished in Dark Grey. These subtly adds to the visual dynamism and a differentiated road presence that the vehicles now project, making them more aggressive yet sporty.



Dr. Ajai Agarwal celebrated his birthday in a grand manner at the Fat Pigeon Bar Hop in Jubilee Hills. Dr. Ajai Agarwal is the National President of the International Chambers of Public Relations, the Ex-Corporate Communications Head of the Central Bank of India, and the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including the prestigious International Bharat Gaurav Award in the British Parliament, London, last year.



Photos by - SV Chary



Musical therapy by The Djembe Circle can be a fun and engaging way to connect with people. Hyderabad got to experience the Djembe group of people from the city for the first time as they gathered in the House of Gourmet, Road No. 10, Jubilee Hills, to embrace themselves. This goblet-shaped drum is traditionally carved from a single piece of African hardwood and topped with an animal skin as a drumhead. In western understanding, the drum belongs to the membranophone class of instruments in the percussion family.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



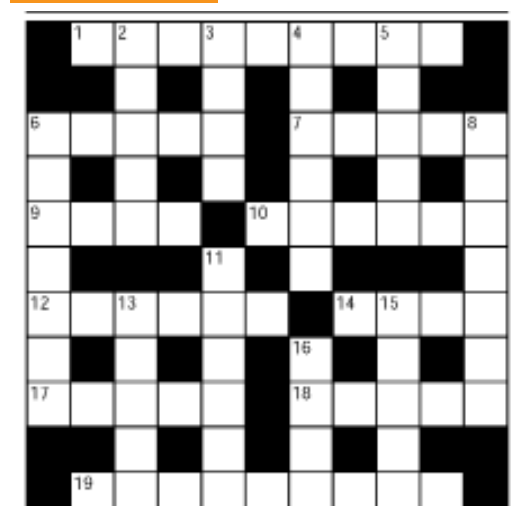
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

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

- 1 A shawl keeps these warm
- 6 Move along on hands and knees
- 7 Parts of a skeleton
- 9 Young males
- 10 Picture theatre
- 12 Reply
- 14 A hard black fuel
- 17 Vote into power
- 18 Thoughts
- 19 Exactly the same

DOWN

- 2 Very weighty
- 3 Grottesque
- 4 Capital city of the Republic of Ireland
- 5 Wash the soap out of
- 6 A green vegetable
- 8 Housing for horses
- 11 Defeated
- 13 How quickly something moves or happens
- 15 A sung stage drama
- 16 Short skirt



20 YEARS OF SUKUMAR



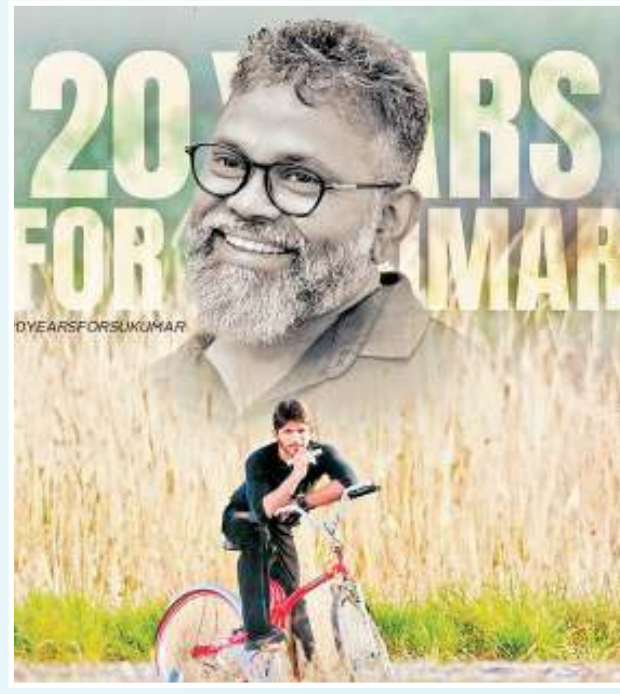
infused the film with captivating emotions and unforgettable music, elevating it to cult status. Meanwhile, *100% Love*, starring the talented Naga Chaitanya, showcased Sukumar's ability to weave compelling character arcs around flawed protagonists.

The enigmatic allure of *1: Nenokkadine*, headlined by superstar Mahesh Babu, exemplified Sukumar's fearless approach to storytelling. Blending slick action with a unique emotional depth, the film defied conventions and set new benchmarks in Telugu cinema. Similarly, *Nannaku Prematho*, featuring the charismatic Young Tiger NTR, underscored Sukumar's penchant for crafting intelligent and engaging screenplays.

Sukumar's magnum opus, *Rangasthalam*, starring the illustrious Ram Charan, stands tall as one of Telugu cinema's timeless classics. Renowned for its universal appeal and impeccable craftsmanship, the film continues to captivate audiences with its enduring charm.

With the monumental success of the *Pushpa* series, Sukumar has solidified his stature as one of India's foremost directors. *Pushpa: The Rise*, hailed by audiences nationwide, showcased his ability to resonate with Hindi-speaking viewers as well. The eagerly awaited *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, slated for release on August 15 this year, promises to further elevate his legacy.

Renowned for his astute exploration of protagonists' psyches and their struggles, his films consistently push the boundaries of technical excellence. As a vanguard of intellectual storytelling and filmmaking prowess, Sukumar continues to command widespread respect and admiration, firmly establishing himself as one of the nation's preeminent filmmakers.



Hollywood expertise infuses excitement into KANGUVA

Excitement is building in the film industry as the teaser for the highly anticipated *Kanguva* drops. What sets this upcoming magnum opus apart? Well, apart from the stellar cast and its gripping storyline, it's also the infusion of Hollywood expertise in technical departments like action and cinematography that's grabbing headlines. The teaser for *Kanguva* has sent shockwaves through the industry with its blend of expertise, creativity, originality, and captivating background score reminiscent of Hollywood productions. It's no surprise that audiences are left in awe and clamouring for more.

With promises of a cinematic experience unlike any other, the film is set to redefine the boundaries of Tamil cinema. According to an industry insider, the makers spared no expense in ensuring *Kanguva* reached its full potential. They enlisted the expertise of Hollywood professionals in key technical departments, guaranteeing audiences a next-level action extravaganza. Studio Green, in collaboration with top distribution houses, is gearing up for a worldwide release of *Kanguva* on an unprecedented scale. Anticipation is mounting as fans eagerly await the film's release in the second half of 2024. With Hollywood expertise in tow, *Kanguva* is poised to set a new benchmark for Tamil cinema and deliver an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Major updates on Anupama Parameswaran's next two films

Lycra Productions has announced its upcoming film *Lockdown*, starring Anupama Parameswaran in the lead role. Along with announcing the film, the makers also released the first look poster for the actress in the film. The poster supposedly signifies the film being a real-life story.

The film has been written and directed by AR Jeeva. *Lockdown* has music by N.R. Ravanathan and Siddharth Vipin. K. A. Sakthivel is the DOP.

Due to her participation in the successful movie *Tillu Square*, Anupama appears to have more opportunities to pursue content-focused ventures.

She is moving away from strictly commercial endeavours with her next films, *Octopus*, *Paradha*, and the untitled AR Jeeva production. All three are touted as dramas with strong female leads!



Anupama's focus on starring in these movies implies that she made the decision to show strong, independent women.

Meanwhile, Anupama's next with Dhruv Vikram, directed by Mari Selvaraj, has also got its official title—*Bison Kaalamaadan*.

The sports drama's title announcement and the film's launch took place in Chennai on Monday, sparking excitement among fans and followers.

Kartikeya's Bhaje Vaayu Vegam musical journey begins soon

Excitement is in the air for fans of actor Kartikeya as the much-anticipated first single from his upcoming film *Bhaje Vaayu Vegam* is all set to drop on May 9 at 9:09 AM. Titled *Set Ayyindhe*, the song promises to be a celebratory love number that will have listeners grooving to its catchy beats.

Crafted by music composer Radhan, known for his melodious tunes, this foot-tapping musical promises to be a treat for music lovers. Adding to the anticipation is the tagline 'Saraswathi Putra', hinting at a blend of traditional and contemporary elements in the composition.

Directed by Prashant, *Bhaje Vaayu Vegam* features Ishwarya Menon as the female lead, bringing her charm to the screen alongside Kartikeya. Rahul Tyson, best known for his role in the hit film *Happy Days*, will also play a pivotal role in the movie, adding depth to the ensemble cast.

Bankrolled by UV Concepts, the film is poised to offer audiences a unique cinematic experience, blending elements of romance, celebration, and musical extravaganza. With Kartikeya leading the pack and a talented team of filmmakers and musicians behind the scenes, *Bhaje Vaayu Vegam* promises to captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression.



Raayan's first single will 'raise D volume' on May 9

Raayan, Dhanush's next movie, is unquestionably one of the most eagerly awaited movies of 2024. Fans have already responded incredibly well to the project since its initial introduction. Due to the film's impressive star ensemble, Dhanush's directing debut promises to be an exciting ride.

The first official song from the upcoming action thriller has a release date that has been revealed by the film's makers in a recent update. *Raayan*'s creators posted an intriguing poster of Dhanush on Instagram along with the caption, "It's time to raise D volume #RaayanFirstSingle ARRiving on 9th May. #Raayan in theaters from June 2024."

In the poster, a statue of the demon king Ravana and numerous people standing at the back with their hands raised are visible behind Dhanush, who is pictured seated on the bricks as fire envelops him. The poster features Dhanush in a fully black avatar.

Fans shared their joy in the comments section of the post shortly after it went up. Someone said, "Vintage D is back." Dance + Dhanush + Black Dress. A second person added, "Thalaivaava, waiting for mass!"



Naresh VK wins Darsaka Rathna DNR Film Awards

Naresh VK, the multifaceted personality renowned for his contributions to Telugu cinema, has yet again proved his mettle by clinching another prestigious award. With a career spanning over 200 films, he has established himself as a versatile actor capable of portraying a wide array of roles with finesse.

His versatility has been recognised with three Nandi Awards. Adding another feather to his cap, he was recently honoured as the Best Character Actor for his remarkable performance in *Samajavaragamana* at the esteemed Darsaka Rathna DNR Film Awards. The award ceremony, held at Shilpa Kala

Vedika, saw Naresh VK receiving the accolade from Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy and Padma Shri Mohan Babu, among others.

Taking to his social media handle, Naresh VK expressed his gratitude and joy, sharing images from the event and announcing his latest achievement. In a heartfelt post, he wrote, "Received the prestigious Darsaka Rathna DNR Film Awards for Best character actor for the film *Samajavaragamana* in Shilpalkala Vedhika from the hands of the cinematography minister, Shri Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, Padma Shree Mohan Babu Garu and others."

Vijay Deverakonda in Vizag shooting for his next

Vijay Deverakonda sets foot in Visakhapatnam for his latest movie. Teaming up with acclaimed director Gautham Tinnanuri, renowned for his work in the critically acclaimed *Jersey*, Deverakonda's upcoming project, tentatively titled *VD12*, is poised to captivate audiences with its promise of compelling storytelling and gripping performances. The movie is billed to be a spy thriller.

After briefly turning his attention to director Parasuram's *Family Star*, Deverakonda has redirected his focus towards his highly anticipated collaboration with Tinnanuri.

Amidst a surge of excitement from fans, the film's production team officially announced the commencement of shooting in Visakhapatnam. Taking to social media, they shared, "The energy in Vizag is electrifying as @TheDeverakonda kicks off shooting for *VD12* amidst a huge rally by fans! Fan love at its peak!"

Deverakonda's arrival in Visakhapatnam was met with an outpouring of affection from his devoted admirers. A video released by the makers captured the actor being greeted with a profusion of flowers and an exuberant gathering of fans. Sources say that Sreeleela will star opposite Vijay Deverakonda as the female lead in this movie, which has music by Anirudh. However, no official confirmation regarding the same has been made yet about the remaining cast and crew.

On the work front, the actor has also signed a film with producer Dil Raju, whose announcement was made official last week.



Marco Hindi dubbing rights sold for ₹5 crore

Actor Unni Mukundan is now doing a massive film called *Marco*, which will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi, along with Malayalam. The film has already set high expectations. Billed to be an action entertainer, directed by Haneef Adeni, he will be seen in a different avatar in this film. Expectations are high as he was introduced as Jr Marco in the 2019 film *Mikhael*, where he was the villain. Directed by Haneef Adeni, *Marco* is creating a buzz for its intriguing storyline and the promise of Unni Mukundan portraying a character unlike any he has done before. Fans are eagerly awaiting to witness his transformation as Marco, a character with a compelling backstory delving into the depths of the crime world. With high expectations set by his previous stint as Jr Marco in the 2019 film *Mikhael*,



audiences are gearing up for an immersive cinematic experience. Adding to the excitement, it was revealed that the Hindi dubbing rights for *Marco* have been sold for a staggering amount of Rs 5 crore, indicating the film's potential to resonate with audiences beyond language barriers. Produced by Shareef Muhammed, the film boasts music by the talented Ravi Basur, further elevating the anticipation surrounding its release.

Speaking about his role in *Marco*, Unni Mukundan expressed his enthusiasm, describing it as the most intense character he has portrayed on screen in Malayalam cinema. He teased audiences with promises of witnessing his heroic intensity unfold on the big screen, leaving fans eagerly awaiting his performance.



THUG LIFE SHOOTING PIC LEAKED

A sneak peek into the shooting of *Thug Life* surfaces as the iconic *Nayakan* duo, Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan, collaborate once again after 36 years. Captured on location in Delhi, the film boasts an ensemble cast featuring Kamal Haasan, Silambarasan TR, Nasser, Abirami, and Vaipapuri. With the Delhi schedule underway, the team gears up for the next leg of shooting scheduled for May 11 in Bangkok, promising an exciting cinematic journey ahead.



MUST WIN GAME FOR DC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals would require Rishabh Pant's killer instinct and Jake Fraser-McGurk's unbelievable flair in their bid to stay alive in the IPL playoff race when they square off against a rampaging Rajasthan Royals in a must-win game here on Tuesday. The Capitals have been inconsistent so far, winning five and losing six of their last 11 games. While winning the remaining three games is a must for Pant's men, even that will only take them to 16 points which might not be enough to qualify for the last four stage of the tournament. Apart from KKR (16 from 11 games) and RR (16 from 10 games), there are at least three teams, namely Chennai Super Kings (12 from 11), Sunrisers Hyderabad (12 from 10 games) and Lucknow Super Giants (12 from 11 games), who can go beyond the 16-point mark. Given the situation, DC's best

might not be enough for qualification, but Pant would look to only "control the controllables," a policy advocated by his mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni. On a flat Feroz Shah Kotla deck, the challenge will be twofold for the DC skipper. At one end, he would want the Khaleel Ahmeds, Ishant Sharmas and Kuldeep Yadavs to restrict the Yashasvi Jaiswals, Sanju Samsons, and Riyan Parags to a manageable level but then with barely 60-metre boundary on one side, it will be a challenge to stop a team, whose jersey's colour (Pink) resembles their overall health. With 380 runs to his credit and three impactful half-centuries in his kitty, Pant would like to once again perform, especially when his team has been pushed to the wall. He will

All eyes on Fraser-McGurk and Pant against rampaging Royals



have new Aussie sensation Fraser-McGurk, who has gone off the boil in the last couple of games. These two batters can individually change the complexion of a game, but DC will be wary of the Royals' bowling attack, which will pose a very different challenge at the Kotla compared to Saiji Man Singh. Facing spinners of Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin's calibre isn't easy, and in veteran Sandeep Sharma, RR has a bowler, who can take pace off the deliveries. The Rajasthan bowling attack has been able to maintain a decent economy rate but for DC, only Axar Patel (ER of 7.24) and Kuldeep (ER 8.45) have shown the wherewithal to stop opposition batters on their tracks.

It is time that Khaleel (ER 9.47) and Mukesh Kumar (ER 11.05) also show more consistency. South African pacers Lizaad Williams (ER 12 in 2 games) and Anrich Nortje (ER 13.36) have simply not looked the part. The last time the two teams met was in Jaipur in March and DC then had lost control during the second half of their bowling innings with Riyan playing a superb innings. The Royals batters would be licking their lips after having a look at the surface which can't get flatter than what it is right now. Riyan, skipper Sanju Samson, the dashing Yashasvi, along with finishers Rovman Powell, Shimron Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel give Royal a very scary look and DC bowlers can only pray that it doesn't turn out to

be 'Nightmare 2.0' for the hosts.

TEAMS:

Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (c), David Warner, Abhishek Porel, Ricky Bhui, Yash Dhull, Shai Hope, Prithvi Shaw, Tristan Stubbs, Kumar Kushagra, Swastik Chikara, Ishant Sharma, Jhye Richardson, Rasikh Dar Salam, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Praveen Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Sumit Kumar, Axar Patel, Mitchell Marsh, Lalit Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk. **Rajasthan Royals:** Sanju Samson (c), Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Navdeep Saini, Keshav Maharaj, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Avesh Khan, Rovman Powell, Shubham Dube, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Abid Mushtaq, Nandre Burger.

We are focussed on following template set by Gambhir: Harshit Rana

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Young pacer Harshit Rana feels Kolkata Knight Riders are reaping the rewards by following the winning template set by two-time IPL winner and current mentor Gautam Gambhir as they continued their sensational run to grab the top position in the IPL points table. Gambhir had led KKR to the IPL crown twice with the team also qualifying for the playoffs five times during his stint from 2011 to 2017. He had also guided KKR to the finals of the now-defunct Champions League T20 in 2014. However, in the last seven years, KKR could reach the playoffs only twice. Gambhir's return to the KKR camp as a mentor this year turned things around as the Kolkata-based franchise moved to the top of the table with 16 points following a dominating 98-run over Lucknow Super Giants — 8th win in 11 games — on Sunday



night. "Not only this match, this entire season we have been focussing a lot on the style of cricket that Gautam Gambhir wants us to play. He has a lot of knowledge on how to turn games in our favour and it helps us a lot in the middle," Rana said during the press conference. "Like today he gave the bowlers a free hand, to find the length to bowl depending on the wicket, and not to try too many things," he added.

Rana (3/24 in 3.1 overs) played a crucial role in the win by taking three wickets while defending a target of 235. "KKR read the wicket very well. The areas we had to bowl, we targeted the right places," Rana said. IPL's biggest buy Mitchell Starc has proved expensive this season but Rana said the team management is not at all bothered about his economy rate and has faith on the Australian speedster.

"We have not cared even for a bit on how expensive Mitchell Starc has been in IPL 2024. He has full faith in him and he won us the last game and we have no doubts on him whatsoever. "He has such a great influence on the younger players, he has such a huge wealth of knowledge," Rana said. Rana said his dream is to play for India and is focussing on his performance. "My aim is to play for India but whatever franchise I play for I try to give my best on the day of the match. I will be selected based on my performance and performance alone," Rana said. **We'd our plans but everything went Narine's way:** Naveen: It was yet another sparkling fifty by Sunil Narine (81 off 39) which helped KKR post a massive 235 for six and LSG fast bowler Naveen Ul Haq conceded that all their plans failed against the star West Indian allrounder. "I think he played quite well. We had a plan of bowling

bouncers and yorkers and mixing it up and not being predictable against him. We did that but he played quite a brilliant innings to be honest," he said. "It wasn't like he was slogging and everything was going top edge or anything like slicing the ball. He was properly middling it and that's the case like from the beginning of the season. "He's been middling it. Everything going his way. So yeah, it was a great knock by him." The Afghan seamer said LSG could have produced a better show with the bat but they can't dwell on defeat too much as they need to focus on the next game. "The amount of games that we have played in Lucknow, I think this was the best wicket to bat on. We did not do the things in the chase that we did - say in the game at Chepauk, where the target was very high. It was not like bad or anything, there was nothing for the bowlers," Naveen said. "Pressure is always there on whatever score you are chasing. Every team has a bad day, and we cannot keep focusing on that, we have to move on."

Versatility of Jadeja makes him class act, says Finch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Australia skipper Aaron Finch has termed India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja a "class player" because of his versatility which brings in a lot of balance in all the teams that he represents. Jadeja scored 40-odd runs and took three wickets in Chennai Super Kings' victory over Punjab Kings on Sunday. "Ravindra Jadeja is such a versatile player, which makes him so effective. With the ball, he would have loved more wickets," Finch told Star Sports. "He's been economical, going at under eight per over throughout the tournament. Leading with three wickets today (Sunday), he showed he is an absolute class player," Finch was impressed that Jadeja returned with fine figures of 3/20 in his full quota of four overs while defending a not-so-big total of 169. "Three wickets for just 20 runs when the Punjab Kings were chasing a total of 170 odd runs



is just superb. It just shows why he's one of the best players in the world," the Australian said. Finch also spoke highly about Kolkata Knight Riders' Sunil Narine. The 2021 World T20-winning Australian skipper feels that it is extremely difficult to contain Narine for a long period of time. "It's truly remarkable, isn't it? I mean, seeing Sunil Narine stride out to open the batting. "Before this season, you're thinking, if we can just keep him quiet for a couple of balls,

he'll try and do something and play a big shot. But this season, he's not only getting off to explosive starts but also batting smartly and seizing control of the innings," Finch said. The 35-year-old Narine smashed 81 off just 39 balls to power KKR to a comfortable 98-run win over Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday night. In the process, Narine also became the fourth player to score more than 450 runs and take 10 plus wickets in a single IPL edition.

OTHER SPORTS

Indian women and men 4x400m relay teams qualify for Paris Olympics

PTI ■ NASSAU (BAHAMAS)

The Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams qualified for Paris Olympics after finishing second in their respective second-round heats at the World Athletics Relays here on Monday. In the women's competition, the quartet of Rupal Chaudhary, M R Poovamma, Jyothika Sri Dandi and Subha Venkatesan clocked 3 minutes and 29.35 seconds to finish second behind Jamaica (3:28.54) in heat number one to book a Paris Games ticket. Later, the men's squad of Mohammed Anas Yahiyia, Muhammed Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob finished with a collective timing of 3 minutes and 3.23 seconds to also finish second in their heat, behind USA (2:59.95). The top two teams in each of the three heats in the second round were to qualify for the Olympics to be held



from July 26 to August 11. It was a sort of a surprise that the women's 4x400m team qualified for the Olympics as the focus was more on the men's 4x400m team which has broken Jamaica record in back-to-back global events — Tokyo Olympics and 2023 World Championships — as well

as winning 2023 Asian Games gold. The Indian women's team had finished fifth in the first-round qualifying heat on Sunday with a time of 3 minutes and 29.74 seconds. The men's team had failed to finish in the first-round qualifying heat after second leg runner Rajesh Ramesh

pulled out midway due to cramps. Arokia Rajiv took the place of Ramesh in the team and he ran the third leg after Anas and Ajmal. The Indian men's 4x400m team was on third position when anchor-leg runner Jacob took the baton from Arokia but the Delhi boy ran a fantastic race to overtake his Mexican opponent and finish second. It was not about the timing but more about Olympics qualification for the Indian men's team which ran 3:00.25 at the Tokyo Olympics for the then Asian record before bettering it during the 2023 World Championships with yet another Asian record of 2:59.05. Monday's timing was well below the team's best. India had even given a mighty scare to formidable USA during the heat race at the 2023 Budapest World Championships before settling for the second place. Meanwhile, India pulled out of the

mixed 4x400m relay second round heat races on Monday as Ramesh was not available after suffering muscle cramps while running the men's 4x400m first round heat on Sunday. Ramesh had run both the mixed 4x400m and men's 4x400m races on Sunday. India had featured in mixed 4x400m relay in the Tokyo Olympics where the event made its debut. The Indian women's 4x400m relay team will be returning to Olympics after missing out in Tokyo Games. The Paris participation will be the eighth time for the Indian women's 4x400m team, the first being in 1984 Games. For the men's 4x400m, this will be the fourth time India will be taking part in the Olympics, the first being in the 2000 Sydney Games. With this, India now have at least 19 Paris-bound track and field athletes and the list includes defending javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra among others. The athletics events at the Games will begin on August 1. A total of 70 teams have qualified for relay events at the Paris Olympics following two days of thrilling action at the World Athletics Relays Bahamas.



Jyoti to lead Indian junior women hockey team for Europe tour

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Jyoti Singh was on Monday named the captain of the Indian Junior Women's team by Hockey India with midfielder Sakshi Rana as her deputy in a 22-member squad which will tour Europe from May 21 to 29. India will play six matches across three nations against Belgium, Germany and two club teams in the Netherlands — Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push and Oranje Rood — from May 21 to 29. "There's great camaraderie in the squad. All of us have gotten to know each other pretty well during the camp. Everyone here is very skilful and talented," Jyoti said in a HI release. "It will be fun and a good learning experience playing abroad against other top-quality teams." India will play their first match on May 21 against Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push in Breda before taking on Belgium at the same venue on May 22. India will then play Belgium a second time but with the

latter playing host on this occasion on May 24. This will be followed by consecutive games against Germany on May 26 in Breda and May 27 in Germany respectively. India will then return to Breda to play their final game of the tour on May 29 against Oranje Rood. "Playing against good teams from other countries helps in developing an understanding of different approaches to the game. An exposure tour like this provides all of us with a tremendous opportunity to take our game to the next level," vice-Captain Sakshi Rana said. **TEAMS:** GOALKEEPERS: Aditi Maheshwari, Nidhi DEFENDERS: Jyoti Singh (C), Lalanthuangi, Anjali Barwa, Pujya Sahoo, Mamita Oram, NirruKullu MIDFIELDERS: Kshetrimayum Sonia Devi, Rajani Kerretta, Priyanka Yadav, Khaidem Shileima Chanu, Sakshi Rana (VC), Anisha Sahu, Supriya Kujur FORWARDS: Binima Dhan, Hina Bano, Lalrinpuui, Ishika, Sanjana Horo, Sonam, Kanika Siwah.

AP ■ MILAN

Roma attempted to bounce back from European disappointment but could only draw 1-1 against Juventus in Serie A on Sunday in a result that did little to help its hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League. Bremer canceled out Romelu Lukaku's first goal from open play against Juventus. Both teams also hit the woodwork as Juve's winless run continued. Third-place Juventus, which is winless in its last five matches, is six points ahead of fifth-place Roma with three rounds remaining. The top five in Serie A qualify for the Champions League after Italy earned an extra spot in next season's competition. Roma is just three points above sixth-place Atalanta, which has also played two matches fewer. Roma was looking to recover from a 2-0 loss to Bayer Leverkusen in the first leg of the Europa League semifinals on Thursday, and started positively with Rasmus Kristensen's header coming off

Roma draws 1-1 against Juventus

the crossbar in the 11th minute. The capital side took the lead just four minutes later in somewhat chaotic circumstances. Paulo Dybala pulled the ball back from the byline and Bryan Cristante's shot was blocked by Juventus defender Federico Gatti on the line but went straight to Lukaku for the tap in. It was his first goal against Juventus from open play after netting from the spot against the Bianconeri for Inter. Juve leveled in the 31st minute when Federico Chiesa whipped in a cross from the right and Bremer headed it in at the back post. Chiesa came close to firing his team in front right at the start of the second half but his effort went off the right post and across the face of goal. **MILAN PROTEST:** AC Milan's hardcore fans protested during the team's 3-3 draw against Genoa.



There was a strange atmosphere at San Siro as the Milan ultras - who also unveiled banners calling for more ambition, communication and a clear transfer strategy — remained silent during the match and left 10 minutes before the final whistle. Milan was leading 3-2 by then, after recovering from Mateo Retegui's early penalty, but conceded a comical third goal

as Morten Thorsby's cross ricocheted off Retegui and home defenders Fikayo Tomori and Malick Thiaw. It went down as an own-goal by Thiaw. It was a sixth straight match without a win for Milan, which nevertheless is second and mathematically assured of Champions League soccer next season. **RELEGATION BATTLES:** Hellas Verona boosted its chances of Serie A survival

with a 2-1 win over Fiorentina as fellow strugglers Empoli and Frosinone played out a disappointing 0-0 draw. All three teams had been locked on 31 points ahead of the weekend, just two points above the relegation zone. Verona was helped by Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Italiano opting to rotate his team ahead of the second leg of the Europa Conference League semifinal on Wednesday. Fiorentina beat Club Brugge 3-2 in the first leg last week. And the visitors gifted Verona the opener Sunday in the 13th minute when, in a mix-up with Fiorentina defender Luca Ranieri, goalkeeper Oliver Christensen failed to gather an innocuously seeming long ball and instead brought down Tijjani Noslin. Darko Lazovic converted the resulting penalty. Gaetano Castrovilli, who had earlier hit the post, leveled shortly before halftime for his

first goal since returning recently from a knee injury that had sidelined him for almost a year. Verona restored its lead in the 59th when Nikola Milenkovic could only send Darko Lazovic's cross as far as Noslin, who thumped it into the roof of the net. Verona moved five points clear of 18th-place Udinese, which hosts Napoli on Monday. Sassuolo was level with Udinese after surprisingly beating newly crowned Serie A champion Inter Milan on Saturday. Cagliari inched four points clear after it conceded a late goal to draw 1-1 against Lecce after playing the entire second half with 10 men. Winger Gianluca Gaetano was shown a straight red card for a dangerous tackle on Lecce midfielder Ylber Ramadani shortly before halftime. Cagliari had been leading through Jerry Mina's strike but Lecce laid siege to the goal after the break and Nikola Krstovic eventually leveled with six minutes remaining.