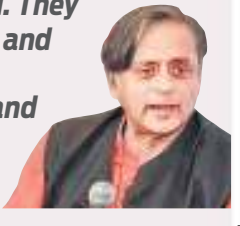


QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

There was a promise that the Centre would establish an IIM and a tribal university in Telangana, but were they fulfilled? No. So Modi's Guarantee is a guarantee that breaks all promises. BJP's attempt to set the narrative has completely failed. They inflicted the pain and job losses of demonisation and the hasty, unplanned GST rollout.

- Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP



Cong amended Constitution 80 times, says Gadkari



'BURGEONING POPULATION IN HYD HAS LED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES'



Massive fire accident at Kalyan Ram's next FILM SET



DON'T MISS...

Police observers train 1,000...

Police Observers briefed Secunderabad and Hyderabad officers from 7 am at Sevalal Banjara Bhavan on Friday, regarding the byelections and Secunderabad Cantonment Lok Sabha elections. The police observers covered the topics detailing about the district security deployment plans, protocols during the last 72, 48, and 24 hours before polling, roles of various teams, strict security measures scales, restrictions on vehicles and mobile phones...

-PAGE: 3

Mechanisms in place to track...

The Delhi poll body has various mechanisms in place to monitor paid news and social media, Chief Electoral Officer P Krishnamurthy said, even as he admitted that it is not plausible to keep a check on online platforms due to the large volumes of content. In an interview with PTI, Krishnamurthy also dismissed allegations about the poll panel being biased and asserted that it provides a "level playing field". Announcing the schedule of the general elections...

-PAGE: 5

15 NBFCs surrendered...

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said 15 NBFCs, including Tata Capital Financial Services and Revolving Investments, have surrendered their certificates of registration due to various reasons. Nine Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) have ceased to be legal entities due to amalgamation, merger, dissolution, or voluntary strike-off. These are Tata Capital Financial Services, Tata Cleantech Capital, Naperol...

-PAGE: 8

Virat Kohli should open in T20...

Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly on Friday said the Indian team management should make Virat Kohli open in next month's T20 World Cup to exploit the star batter's rich vein of form in the ongoing Indian Premier League. Kohli is the current Orange Cap holder in this IPL with 634 runs from 12 matches, averaging 70.44 and at an impressive strike-rate of 153.51, which is significantly higher than his career rate of 134.31. "Virat is playing exceptionally well. The way Kohli..."

-SPORTS

No conflict between Hindus & Muslims over 20 years: CM



CM Revanth Reddy addressing a road show at Goshmahal on Friday night along with Hyderabad Congress candidate Sameer

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said there has been no conflict between Hindus and Muslims for 20 years. It is because of religious harmony that IT companies came to Hyderabad, he said. "Old City people have forgotten curfew days and are celebrating Vinayaka Chawthi and Ramzan

together. However, the BJP is creating 'hatred' to win elections. The BJP is trying to shift investments coming to Hyderabad to Gujarat by creating conflicts. The BJP wants 400 LS seats to end reservations. The Congress must win to save the Constitution. If peace and security is disrupted development will stop," the CM said.

Continued on Page 2

DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE ED names Kavitha in fresh charge-sheet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a fresh charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case naming BRS leader K Kavitha as an accused, official sources said. The federal agency had arrested Kavitha, the daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, from her Banjara hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15.

Continued on Page 2

EC notice to CM over foul language against KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD
CEO Vikas Raj issued a notice to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for allegedly using "demeaning, personal, derogatory, vulgar language" against BRS supremo KCR violating the Model Code of Conduct. "It is requested to submit an explanation/reply to the contentions raised within 48 hours." The Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana received a complaint on 05.05.2024 from Prof. M. Sreenivas Reddy, the General Secretary of the BRS, alleging that

Congress wants to make Hindus second-class citizens: Modi

Grand old party looting TG through 'RR tax': PM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Addressing a public meeting in Mahbubnagar, Prime Minister Modi emphasised the significance of the LS elections for the country's future and highlighted the contrast between the false promises of the Congress and the concrete guarantees offered by the BJP-led government. "The people of Telangana know that this election is about the future of this country," said Modi. "The Congress and its allies have made false promises to the people for decades. But now, the country is witnessing Modi's guarantee." "The BRS looted TG over the years, but the Congress wants to do the same thing in a few months. The Congress has opened a fake video manufacturing unit here. It is not ready to do anything to uncover the



BRS's Kaleshwaram scam. After the Congress took over it imposed the RR tax on Telangana. Talks about the RR tax imposed on TG by the Congress are going on even in Delhi," Modi added. Modi outlined his guarantee as an assurance of development, national security and upholding India's image worldwide. He reiterated his commit-

ment to provide three crore new homes for the poor in the next five years, free healthcare for every senior citizen aged above 70, and fulfilling all promises made to the people. He urged the people of Telangana to vote for the BJP to change the current situation in the state, emphasising the need for more representation from the BJP to tackle corruption

and ensure development. Regarding exploiting the region's resources, Modi said, "The leaders of the BRS and the Congress have always used this region and its people for their selfish needs. The new Chief Minister is busy pleasing his high command and settling scores." Modi highlighted the challenges farmers face and said, "Farmers here are forced to migrate in search of labour and the state government is not allowing irrigation projects to move forward. The Congress made false promises of loan waivers to farmers. If the Congress has given anything, it is nothing but betrayal."

Continued on Page 2

Appoint panel to probe 'RR tax': CM Revanth

SC grants Kejriwal interim bail till June 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Supreme Court on Friday granted him interim bail till June 1 to campaign in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said Kejriwal, arrested in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam, will have to surrender and go back to jail on June 2. The bench refused the request of senior advocate Abhishek

Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, that the interim bail be granted till June 5. June 1 is the last day of the seven-phase elections. The votes will be counted on June 4. The court said reasons for granting Kejriwal interim bail will follow. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, opposed the granting of interim bail to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief on grounds of poll campaigning saying no such precedents are available.

Continued on Page 2

Barred from entering CM office, Delhi Secretariat

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal cannot visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat during the tenure of his interim bail, the Supreme said on Friday as it imposed a slew of restrictions on him as part of the bail conditions. It asked Kejriwal to not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction during the 21-day interim bail period. Imposing a raft of bail conditions on the embattled AAP leader, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said, "He shall not visit the Office of the Chief Minister and the Delhi Secretariat." "He shall be bound by the statement made on his behalf that he shall not sign official files unless it is required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi," the top court said.

Continued on Page 2

'We have to save country from dictatorship'

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday thanked Lord Hanuman as he stepped out of Tihar Jail on interim bail and sought people's support in his 'fight against dictatorship'. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener was granted interim bail till June 1 by the Supreme Court earlier in the day. He walked out of the prison in the evening amid dhol beats and sloganeering by AAP workers and leaders.

Continued on Page 2

AS RESERVOIR LEVELS PLUNGE TO 15%... Southern India grapples with severe water crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the southern region most hit at just 15 per cent total live storage capacity in reservoirs, the storage capacity this year is below the average of last 10 years during the corresponding period, the Central Water Commission (CWC) data has revealed. The CWC's analysis also indicated a week-on-week decrease in storage levels, affecting not only the southern region but also the nation as a whole. As of last Thursday, the southern region's reservoir capacity stood at 16 per cent, dropping from 17 per cent the previous week. The bulletin from the CWC said the southern region has been severely impacted, with reservoirs operating at only 15 per cent of their total live storage capacity. The data from the CWC shows that

storage levels this year are lower than both the corresponding period last year and the ten-year average for the same period. Nationally, out of 150 monitored reservoirs, the total live storage capacity is 178.784 billion cubic metres (BCM), approximately 69.35 per cent of the estimated 257.812 BCM created across the country. However, the live storage available in these reservoirs currently sits at 27 per cent, down from 36 per cent recorded last year and 32 per cent on average over the past decade. Compared with historical data, the bulletin highlights that the current live

storage is only 79 per cent of last year's levels and 92 per cent of the 10-year average for the corresponding period. The storage during the current year is lower than that of the corresponding period last year in all of the country while it is below the average storage of the last 10 years during the corresponding period in northern, eastern southern and western. The southern region, encompassing Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, has a total live storage capacity of 53.334 BCM. According to the reservoir storage bulletin dated May 9, the available live storage in these reservoirs is 7.921 BCM, constituting only 15 per cent of their total capacity.



The data from the CWC shows that storage levels this year are lower than both the corresponding period last year and the ten-year average for the same period.

WHAT COMES FIRST? NATION OR FAMILY

MODI FOLLOWS A NATION FIRST IDEOLOGY

- Fructified our 500-year collective dream and reclaimed our identity
- Transformed Varanasi into a heaven on earth after 240 years
- Secured the first UNESCO World Heritage status in the Telugu states for our Ramappa Temple
- Revived the 4 decade neglected Mantapam at Kakatiya Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal
- Notified official celebration of Hyderabad Liberation Day on September 17 every year

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Press the Lotus Button Make BJP Win

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'Modi Guarantee' is the guarantee to break promises: Shashi Tharoor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said that Modi's guarantee is the guarantee to break all promises. Tharoor was addressing a press conference at the Taj Krishna on Friday. "In Telangana, you have been told various things by the government, and again, what we are finding is that many commitments have not been kept. For example, a large quantity of funds was supposed to be released to Telangana. A vast sum of Rs 24,205 crore had been announced by NITI Aayog as due to Telangana, but that has not come. About Rs 4,000 crore of GST compensation has not come to Telangana and a Rs 1,800 crore grant for the development of active regions of the state has not come. There was a promise that the Centre would establish an IIM and a tribal university in Telangana, but were they fulfilled? No. So Modi's Guarantee



Shashi Tharoor interacting with the media on Friday at Hotel Taj Krishna

is a guarantee that breaks all promises," Tharoor said. He also said that one of the most important developments in the first three phases of the election campaign is that the BJP's attempt to set the narrative has completely failed. In 2014 and 2019, they succeeded in controlling the narrative. They made development an issue in 2014 and said sabka saath sabka vikas. As we know, in their first term they failed completely. They inflicted the pain and job losses of demonetisation and the hasty,

unplanned GST rollout. The result was suffering. So in 2019, they changed the narrative and particularly in north India it became a national security election. They also failed to uphold national security on the border with China. Despite having had conflicts with the Chinese for 45 years, there were no problems on that border. However, the killings at Galwan and other areas occurred due to the failure to uphold national security. The Chinese established a permanent presence in 26 areas. The Chinese army

denied shepherds' grazing rights in Ladakh and they killed 20 of our soldiers in Galwan. So national security is no longer an available option, Tharoor said. "Since national security failed, the BJP tried Hindutva and Ramchandra Hindu Hrudaya Sangha and to their horror, they discovered that it has its own expiry date, and that it is not working at all. We have criticised the policy of using Ram Mandir for elections. We did not go to the opening ceremony of the Ram Temple as God was being used for politicking. Election experts say that the BJP has probably lost 40 seats in the 283 where voting is over, and that's just over half the seats. If this trend continues in the remaining half then we're looking at a change of government on June 4. If the BJP has lost control of the narrative, what is our narrative? And let me say very simply to the Indian voter, our narrative is you.

Thousands of voters from Hyd rush to vote on May 13

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of the Assembly and Parliament elections in Andhra Pradesh and Parliament elections in Telangana on May 13, there is a heavy demand for buses and trains from the city. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared May 13, Monday a holiday. On a day prior is Sunday and Saturday. Due to that many software employees who have a holiday on Saturday have already started to go home in other districts. A software employee named Raghvaran said, "I have been staying in my room alone for months. After I completed my work on Friday, I started to go to my native place, Makthal. But the buses are packed with passengers on my route. I did not expect this rush."

Sand & land mafias have shut shop in state: Uttam 'Rahul will be the next Prime Minister'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The businesses of land, sand and other mafias have stopped in the state particularly in erstwhile Nalgonda district after the Congress came to power, Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said. He said that people are free now under the Congress government as the police are not behaving like they behaved under the BRS government and that the government will take action if there are any such cases now. Uttam said that the mood in the country was in favour of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and it will form the next government at the Centre with Rahul Gandhi



as Prime Minister. He strongly condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constant criticism of the Nehru-Gandhi family and emphasised that their 'sacrifices' for India should be respected. He said that after the death of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, the Nehru-Gandhi family has not held any official post. Speaking at a 'Meet the Press' organised by the Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ) at the Basheerbagh Press Club on Friday, Uttam said that indications coming from the three phases of elections already over and signals from the remaining four phases indicated an INDIA victory.

NBWs issued against Prabhakar, Sravan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Nampally court issued non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against former Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) chief Prabhakar Rao (A1) and Sravan Rao (A6), the MD of a regional language TV news channel, on Friday. After hearing arguments over CrPC 73 from advocates of the state and the accused on May 7, the court issued its order on Friday. During the arguments on

May 7, Public Prosecutor Samba Shiva Reddy told the court that the two accused were wilfully evading arrest by going abroad. He also said that Prabhakar Rao left the country the day after the case was registered, that is, on March 11 and Sravan Rao (A6) left the next day after Praneeth Rao was arrested. The prime accused worked in the police department for many years and may have got information that a case had been filed and so he fled abroad.

EC to closely track all inducements to voters

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Vikas Raj, CEO, Telangana, held a video conference with all ROs/DEOs on Friday. During the last 72 hours before the polling, police and enforcement machinery have been mandated by the Election Commission to maintain close tracking of all forms of inducements to voters. Observers in addition to DEOs/CPs/SPs will make surprise night vigil and make visits to vulnerable areas such as slums

and bathis in expenditure-sensitive pockets where distribution of money, liquor, freebies, gifts and drugs is possible. Strict watch is being ensured on marriage halls and community halls where also disbursement of these benefits is likely now. As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) during these final hours, Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams and those deployed at inter-district and inter-State check-posts have been asked to be on full alert.

Appoint panel to probe 'RR tax': CM Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke about electoral bonds and how the BRS and the BJP got a high share of the bonds when asked about RR Tax. He said the Congress doesn't even have adequate funds to fund the current LS elections. He asked the PM to set up a commission to probe election expenditure, liquor scam, RR tax etc. "How did the BJP get funds for electioneering with pomp? Set up a commission to find the source of funding and then decide. Modi is sitting next to thieves and is blaming me about corruption. Rahul Gandhi and family has made

many sacrifices for this nation and cannot be blamed for corruption," he said. He said that there is a conspiracy to hand over Telangana to the BJP. "Wherever the BJP exists, development does not take place. Uttar Pradesh is an example for this which is adjacent to Delhi. It speaks about the BJP's administration," he said. "In Telangana during the rule of Chandrababu (1994-2004), Congress (2004-2014) and KCR (2014-2023) we never created communal disturbances and maintained the ecosystem. Hyderabad could grow because of parties like us. KCR did only financial destruc-

tion, but if the BJP enters we will go back to the medieval era when kings ruled," he said. Revanth said that Modi had said during the 2019 LS elections that Manmohan Singh had conspired to kill him. If that is so why didn't he order a probe against the former PM, he said. Revanth said that the South-North divide will widen. "All important posts have gone to the BJP. If delimitation of constituencies occurs based on population then south India will suffer. They want one nation, one election, one person politics. They want person-centric politics around Modi," he said.

Revanth suggested KCR to do a gentleman's agreement in writing saying, "In language we will maintain decency, are you ready for it." He said BRS will lose deposit in minimum six places. He said is Modi ready to retire at 75 years where he has laid down this rule in BJP. He raised doubts if surgical strikes were held or not and pointed out at the intelligence failure during Pulwama attack. Revanth said they 200 Delhi policemen are in Telangana and summoning Congress over social media posts. He said, "BJP is just visiting professors. I don't see Modi as a competitor. KCR knows locally and when to react and how."

ED names Kavitha...

Continued from page 1

Official sources said the prosecution complaint has been filed under sections 45 and 44(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) before a designated court, the sources said. A similar complaint against Kejriwal is expected to be filed next week. This is the seventh charge sheet by the ED in this case in which it has arrested 18 people so far including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was given interim bail by the Supreme Court on Friday. The ED had alleged that Rs 45 crore 'kickbacks', out of the Rs 100 crore 'bribe' provided by the 'South Group', were used by the AAP for the Goa

assembly election campaign in 2022. The 'South Group' liquor lobby allegedly includes Kavitha, TDP Ongole seat Lok Sabha candidate Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, his son Raghav Reddy and others. The excise case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was later scrapped. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities. Subsequently, the ED registered a case under the PMLA. The ED filed its money laundering case on August 22, 2022, taking cognisance of the CBI FIR that was lodged on August 17, 2022.

Barred from...

Continued from page 1

The bench also directed Kejriwal to furnish bail bonds in the sum of Rs 50,000 with one surety of the like amount to the satisfaction of the jail superintendent. "He will not make any comment with regard to his role in the present case; and will not interact with any of the witnesses and/or have access to any official files connected with the case," the top court said. The apex court, while granting Kejriwal the relief said there was no doubt about the fact that serious accusations have been made against him but he has not been convicted yet. "He does not have any criminal antecedents.

SC grants Kejriwal...

Continued from page 1

Observing that granting Kejriwal interim bail for 21 days will not make much of a difference, the bench said the ED's Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) was registered in August 2022 while the chief minister was arrested on March 21 this year. "He (Kejriwal) was out there for one-and-a-half-years. He could have been arrested earlier or after but nothing such thing happened," the bench told ED. The law officers urged the court to impose bail conditions, including that Kejriwal will not say anything regarding the excise policy case. The bench said the conditions will be similar to those

imposed on AAP leader Sanjay Singh, who was given bail last month in connection with the case. According to lawyer Shadan Farasat, who appeared for Kejriwal, the court pronounced a very short oral order. "We have not yet seen the written order. So we don't know the exact contents of the written order. The court said they are releasing Kejriwal on an interim release/bail until June 2, and there are no conditions on what he can say and what he cannot say during the campaigning process and while he is out in these 20-22 days," he said. "We are hoping that this order is uploaded today, and then we will update appropriate procedure for his release," Farasat added.

'We have to...

Continued from page 1

Standing through the sun-roof of a car, Kejriwal then addressed AAP workers and supporters amid slogans of 'Jai Ke Tale Toot Gaye, Kejriwalji Chhoot Gaye'. Beginning with slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Inquilab Zindabad', the Delhi chief minister said, "I am fighting against dictatorship with all my might but 140 crore people (of the country) will have to come together to fight against it." He further said that he would visit the Hanuman temple at Connaught Place at 11 am on Saturday and address a press conference at the AAP office at 1 pm. "I am feeling great to be with you.

'Bombings every day...

Continued from page 1

He said that corrupt parties and parties which suppress the hopes of the youth and parties which do not fulfil the dreams of the middle class cannot construct the future India. Modi said the nation has been moving forward solving problems that had been troubling the nation for decades. India is today a digital power, a fintech power and the fifth largest economy, he said. He said that an RR Tax is being imposed after the Congress government came to power in Telangana. Now the RRR tax also has started in Telangana. The third 'R' is 'Razakar' tax. The state misused funds given by the Centre, he said.

Modi said that the BJP does not accept reservations based on religion and added that the Congress has a track record of engaging in hereditary politics. He said that Congress leaders are making racist comments against Indians. "The Congress crown prince's guru called South Indians Africans. The Congress' conspiracy is to divide and rule. Congress leaders have been saying that conducting Srirama Navami is wrong. Praying to Lord Sri Rama is a national betrayal. India's idealism is 'Ahimsa Paramadharma' and Budham Sharanam Gachami. Serving the public is serving God. Narude Narayanudu is Indian idealism," he added.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Chaturthi: May 11 02:50 AM to May 12 02:04 AM
Panchami: May 12 02:04 AM to May 13 02:04 AM
Nakshatram: Mrigashirsha: May 10 10:47 AM to May 11 10:15 AM
Ardra: May 11 10:15 AM to May 12 10:26 AM
Rahukalam: 9:00 AM to 10:36 AM
Yamagandam: 1:48 PM to 3:24 PM
Varjyam: 06:43 PM to 08:20 PM
Gulika: 5:49 AM to 7:25 AM
Amritakalam: 12:22 AM to 01:58 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:46 AM to 12:38 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 37°C
Humidity: 52%
Sunrise: 5:45 AM
Sunset: 6:40 PM
Updated: May 10, 2024 5:00 PM

Southern India...

Continued from page 1

In comparison, last year's storage during the corresponding period was 27 per cent, and the 10-year average was 21 per cent of the live storage capacity. The northern region, which comprises Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, has 10 reservoirs under CWC monitoring with a total live storage capacity of 19,663 BCM. The bulletin reports the current live storage available in these reservoirs at 5,759 BCM, representing 29 per cent of the total live storage capacity. During the corresponding period last year, the storage was 37 per cent, and the 10-year average was 33 per cent of the live storage capacity. Similarly, the eastern region, including Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, and Bihar, has 23

reservoirs with a total live storage capacity of 20,430 BCM. The live storage available in these reservoirs currently stands at 6,952 BCM, which is 34 per cent of the total live storage capacity. In contrast, last year's storage during the corresponding period was 31 per cent, while the 10-year average was 34.2 per cent of the live storage capacity. The western region, covering Gujarat and Maharashtra, has a total live storage capacity of 37,130 BCM. As per the reservoir storage bulletin, the available live storage in these reservoirs is 10,339 BCM, which is 28 per cent of the total live storage capacity. Compared with last year's storage during the corresponding period (34 per cent) and the 10-year average (29 per cent), the current year's storage is notably lower.

Congress wants to make...

Continued from page 1

Pointing out the Congress's misrule in Telangana, Modi said, "In the last 10 years the country has progressed significantly. But where did the money sent to Telangana go? This money has become an ATM for corruption first filling the pockets of the BRS and now the Congress is looting Telangana." Criticising the Congress and its allies' racist remarks the Prime Minister said, "They have said that the people of South India are Africans. They think the people of Telangana look African. Do you know why? The reason is that they don't like the colour of your skin. Who is an African, and who is an Indian? Now the Congress

will decide based on your skin colour." "The Congress hates Hindus and Hindu festivals. This is becoming evident every day. The leader who gave tuition to the crown prince said that the Ram Temple should not have been built in Ayodhya. He said that building the Ram temple and celebrating Ram Navami is anti-India. It's against the idea of India. When I went to the temple, they said it was anti-national. The Congress wants to make Hindus second-class citizens in their own country. Do these people want to establish Aurangzeb's rule in India? Is this why they are talking about vote jihad?" he added. Modi also addressed Congress's divisive tactics and said, "The Congress is

engaged in dividing the country based on religion and caste. The real agenda of the Congress is to appease certain communities without considering the nation's interests." Speaking on reservations for STs, SCs and BCs, Modi said, "The Congress is trying to provide reservations based on religion to Muslims instead of SCs, STs and BCs. The people of Telangana know very well how the Congress started playing the game of Muslim reservations in united Andhra Pradesh. Now they want to do the same all over the country. Will you let the Congress snatch reservations from the SCs, STs and BCs? That's why you need to remember 'Vanchit Ka Jo Adhikar Hai, Modi Uska Chaukidar Hai'.

No conflict...

Continued from page 1

"Don't listen to 'hate' speeches. This land is ours, we should be united. Lives will be shattered if curfew comes back," the CM said. Attending a roadshow in Goshmahal on Friday night, Revanth said that the people of Old City should think and change should be brought about. The CM said that he would take responsibility for developing Hyderabad if people ensured the victory of the Congress candidate in Hyderabad. "Hyderabad has attracted major companies because of its stable law and order situation," said Revanth. "But if you make the mistake of electing the BJP, communal tensions will become the norm. The Old City, once notorious for curfews, has witnessed signif-

icant development. Today, festivals like Ramzan and Ganesh Chaturthi are celebrated peacefully. However, the BJP is conspiring to create law and order issues, discouraging investments in Hyderabad and driving them to Gujarat," the CM said. The Chief Minister criticised both the BJP and the AIMIM for sowing division among people based on religion. "On one side, there's Owaisi and on the other, there's Modi. Neither of them wants to eradicate poverty or support the working class. They have neglected auto-rick drivers, street vendors and labourers," he said. "The BJP has been winning in Secunderabad and AIMIM in Hyderabad as they both are following the same divisive ideology.

Police observers train 1,000 cops for elections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Police Observers briefed Secunderabad and Hyderabad officers from 7 am at Sevala Banjara Bhavan on Friday, regarding the byelections and Secunderabad Cantonment Lok Sabha elections.

The police observers covered the topics detailing about the district security deployment plans, protocols during the last 72, 48, and 24 hours before polling, roles of various teams, strict security measures scales, restrictions on vehicles and mobile phones, EVM security, cash and liquor seizures, and prohibitory orders.

Various prohibitory and regulatory orders related to election campaign, door-to-door campaigning, prohibition of gatherings of 5 or more persons, usage of loudspeakers and closure of liquor shops were clearly explained to all the participants.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police K Sreenivasa Reddy shared availability and usage of the election budget with the participants. He also requested all participants to undertake the challenging task of



Hyderabad Commissioner of Police K Sreenivasa Reddy seen briefing the police officers.

providing foolproof security by working as a unified team and not determining between different duties, with the ultimate aim of creating a peaceful atmosphere for citizens to vote.

The CP also advised restrictions regarding the 200-meter line, setting up of electoral booths by political parties, the 100-meter line and allowance of gunmen.

Approximately 1000 City Police Personnel, of the rank of Sub-Inspector and above from all wings, participated in the briefing session.

Door-to-door campaign till May 12 night

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Kothakota Srinivas Reddy said that without using loudspeakers and road shows, one can conduct door-to-door campaigning till 10 pm of May 12. Srinivas Reddy said that in Hyderabad city there are 1,688 polling locations, with 4,027 polling stations. Out of them, 383 critical polling stations are there in the city. A total of 25 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies would cover 90 per

cent of 383 critical polling stations. Rest of the 10 per cent would be covered by Telangana State Special Police. 93 traffic interception teams would be deployed at critical locations in the city. They would work in traffic uniform. "We have given certificates to normal citizens without any cases against them and any political leanings to have their weapons. Except those all of them returned the armed licences to the police."

Traffic diversions in city for Cong meet at Shadnagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of Indian National Congress (INC) public meeting and road show at Shadnagar X Roads on Saturday from 4 pm to 9 pm, the Cyberabad Police will divert the traffic on some routes.

Joint Commissioner (Traffic) D Joel Davis said that all commuters who are coming from Parigi and Shabad towards Shadnagar are advised to take a left turn at Hajjipally X Roads near Hanuman temple and take a right turn at Nagulapally T Junction - then enter the Old NH-07 towards Hyderabad.

Davis mentioned that all commuters who are coming from Hyderabad to Shadnagar town are advised not to use Old Highway NH-07 and use NH-44. From there they should take a right turn only at Anos T Junction towards Shadnagar and Parigi.

All commuters who are coming from Jadcherla towards Shadnagar are advised to take a left turn at Anos T Junction and take a left turn at RTC bus depot and enter Parigi road.

Chit business busted, accused defrauded people of Rs 4.15 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) police station of Cyberabad has busted an unregistered chit business which was operated from Chintal and Jeedimetla and arrested the accused on Friday. The police have arrested Mekala Nagamani and Mekala Nagammaiah.

The accused persons have been conducting the unregistered chits in their house since 2006 and they built lots of trust and confidence among the residents of their

colony. By believing them, around 35 members of the colony drew the chits. The chit groups are for Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5 lakh and each group consists of 20 to 30 members in a span of 20 months.

Whenever the colony people asked about the money, they used to come up with different stories and extended the due dates. After knowing that they had been deceived, the victims complained to the police on April 4. The accused absconded from their residence.

The accused have defrauded

Rs 4,15,51,000 from 35 victims. Along with the arrested, two more in the case were involved in the fraud case, who are absconding.

EOW Deputy Commissioner of Police K Prasad said that the Cyberabad EOW advises the public to report any suspicious unregistered chit business activities and unauthorised deposit schemes, to the police. The department is committed to take legal action against perpetrators and ensure justice for the victims.

Sameer makes 20 promises for progress of city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) president and Congress candidate for the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency Mohammed Waliullah Sameer has pledged to end communal politics and promote development in Hyderabad's Old City.

Sameer made his pledge during a massive road show on

Friday that covered 56 significant areas across various constituencies, starting at Santosh Nagar Masjid Chow rasta and culminating at Darulshifa ground. Several senior Congress leaders, including Malakpet in-charge Shaik Akbar, Charminar in-charge Mujeebullah Shareef, Bahadur pura in-charge P Rajesh, Chandrayangutta in-charge Boya Naresh and Yakutpura in-

charge Ravi Raj participated in the mega road show. He outlined a comprehensive plan to rejuvenate the Old City, focusing on major infrastructure projects and social programmes. Sameer announced 20 key promises he intends to fulfill if elected, emphasising the Congress's commitment to providing 5,000 jobs for Hyderabad's youth and subsidised loans for 50,000 young entrepreneurs.

Krishank freed on conditional bail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Social Media Convenor Krishank Manne has been granted conditional bail. He has been asked to present himself at the OU Police Station for a month and to sign there. Krishank was arrested by Hyderabad Police for allegedly posting a letter (which the Congress claimed to be fake) of the OU warden issued in 2023.

After his release Krishank said, "Cinematic arrest, then jail, then police custody and then jail again. The Congress Government did this for me posting an official circular as a counter to Congress Chief Minister Revanth's forged letter after KCR exposed power cuts and water shortage."

BLUM India launches experience centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Introducing innovative kitchen and furniture fittings designed to the evolving needs of Indian consumers, BLUM India inaugurated a state-of-the-art experience centre in Hyderabad. BLUM offers high-quality, Austrian-made furniture fittings to trade professionals, the furniture industry, interior designers and end consumers aiming to bring creative ideas to life.

Managing Director of Blum India, Nadeem Patni said, as a family-owned company rooted in Austria since 1952, BLUM is committed to delivering customer-centric furniture hardware solutions. Once in partnership with a German company, BLUM now progressed and started independent operations in India, establishing its headquarters and



Managing Director of Blum India Nadeem Patni, along with Regional Director Asia Pacific Maarten de Vries inaugurating the BLUM Store in Gachibowli

warehouse in Mumbai.

Nadeem highlighted that all products are manufactured in Austria, making them as the world's leading hardware company. Initially distributing products through partnerships, the company developed to direct distribution, growing from 25 employees in 2022 to

over more than 100 in 2024, expected to grow with bigger expansion plans across the country.

Patni also said, "Establishment of 59 experience stores across India are ongoing, with 25 per cent ready and we will be gradually opening each store slowly, each month." He said, "We will officially launch all of our stores by end of the next following year."

Highlighting Hyderabad's rapidly growing infrastructure and the development of 10,000 to 11,000 square feet luxury flats, Patni said, "We have plans for a second store in the city by this year-end. He emphasised collaborations with partners, customers and manufacturers step by step later planning to aim particularly in hospitality and project sectors."

Cocaine, MDMA drug sales ring busted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioners Taskforce, East Zone team, in collaboration with Lake Police, arrested three drug peddlers, Abbula Sai Sharath, Abbula Shrahan and Srivastav Rishab. The suspects were caught in possession of 11.34 grams of cocaine and 3.66 grams of MDMA near Jalavihar, Necklace Road, Hyderabad. Along with the drugs, authorities seized one bike, two envelopes, four cell phones and a weighing machine.

The details of the accused are Abbula Sai Sharath, 25, residing in Begumpet, was originally from Nizamabad. Abbula Shrahan, 23, residing in Begumpet, originally belongs to Nizamabad. Srivastav Rishab, 27, residing in



Yousufguda, Hyderabad.

The main accused, Abbula Sai Sharath, and his brother, Abbula Shrahan, originally from Nizamabad but residing in Begumpet, started a restaurant called Littleldly in Banjara Hills in 2019, managed by professional chef Sai Kiran. Sharath, disturbed by personal issues, turned to alcohol and drugs. He met Srivastav Rishab through Sai Kiran, and they

became friends due to their mutual addiction to drugs. Rishab had a previous case registered against him under the NDPS Act at SR Nagar PS. Together, they formulated a plan to purchase cocaine for sale in the market. Sharath was tasked with purchasing the cocaine, Shrahan with collecting it from the courier office and Rishab with selling it.

Upon receiving the courier at Begumpet, disguised as a document, Sharath proceeded to Jalavihar to deliver it to Rishab. Acting on a tip-off, the Commissioners Taskforce, East Zone Team apprehended the trio at Jalavihar, finding them in possession of psychotropic substances. The arrested individuals and seized property were handed over to the SHO Lake Police for further action.

Experiential tourism meet to be held in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Experiential Tourism Conclave 24, featuring innovative connection related to cinema, weddings and the hospitality sectors, is scheduled to take place from June 20 to 23 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC).

Principal Secretary of the Department of Tourism, State government, Shailaja Ramaier said, this conclave will be attended by national and international representatives; is jointly organised by the Telangana Chamber of Commerce and the Telangana Tourism department as part of the state's tourism development efforts.

eDNA-based PCR assay developed to map presence of armored catfish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Neeldeep Ganguly and Dr G Umamathy, Chief Scientist at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad developed an eDNA-based quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) assay to map the presence and spread of invasive armored sailfin catfish in the water bodies of Eastern Ghats that was published in the journal Environmental DNA on Friday.

Armored catfish burrow into shoreline areas to mate and lay eggs. Over time, this can severely destabilize the bank, which can cause erosion, muck

development, equipment damage, and conditions that encourage algae and toxic cyanobacteria. It can also pose dangerous hazards for passers-by and threaten property value.

Armored sailfin catfish is a fish that was once introduced for its unique appearance and its ability to clean algal growth in tanks and aquaria. But now it has spread to 60 per cent of water bodies of Eastern Ghats, and damaged fishing nets and ecosystem. eDNA is an environmental DNA that they collect from water samples. They look for DNA of the concerned catfish specifically.

Not just the mere presence of the fish, the method can also



tell the extent of the spread of the fish.

Dr Umamathy, the lead author of the study said, "Prior detection of invasive fish is crucial for preserving ecosystems, reducing loss of fish catch and supporting ecological equilibrium. Our technique helps in early detection of the armored sailfin catfish and its distribution in the Eastern Ghats water

bodies. This significantly adds to continuing invasive species management efforts that directly help the survival of native and economically important fishes." This new method brings in advantages over the existing methods.

Vinay K Nandicoori, Director, CCMB said, "The environmental DNA approach is reliable, accurate, and low cost, it can be used in a large landscape like Eastern Ghats water bodies in a few months' time. In a single lab test, about 20 water bodies can also be tested for the presence of invasive species using the eDNA approach accurately, once the method is in place."

Remember to vote TOMORROW!
Only 13th May is Polling Day

LET'S VOTE WITH PRIDE

Dr. P. Ravi Sankar
Indian Archery Coach
(President Awardee)

➤ To Know your Polling Station Number: SMS to 1950: ECI<SPACE>EPIC No.

➤ To Know your Polling Station Address: SMS to 1950: ECIPS<SPACE>EPIC No.

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Voter Helpline App electoralsearch.eci.gov.in Website: www.ceotelangana.nic.in

“Voter Sahaya Mithra”
Chatbot on CEO, Telangana

Documents that can be used as Proof of Identity at Polling Stations

Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC, can carry the following documents.

1. EPIC	2. Aadhaar Card	3. MNREGA Job Card
4. Passbook (Issued by Bank/Post Office with photo)	5. Health Insurance Smart Card (Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour)	6. Driving License
7. Pan Card	8. Smart Card (Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour)	9. Passport
10. Pension Document With photo	11. Service Identity Card (Issued to employees by Central/State Govt./ PSU/ Public Limited Companies)	12. Official Identity Card (Issued to MPs/WLAs/WLCs)
13. Unique Disability ID (UDID)	Please Note : Voter Information Slip and e-EPIC cannot be used as Identity Proof at Polling Station. They are only for guidance. Cell phones and Electronic gadgets will not be allowed in the polling booth.	

Call 1950 Toll Free

Format C-1

(For Candidate to publish in news Papers, TV)

DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES

(As per the Judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of the Candidate : **RAJENDER EATALA** son of MALLAIAH @ PEDDA MALLAIAH, Aged 60 Years, Resident of H.No: 7-155/5, Pudur village, Medchal Mandal, Medchal Malkajigiri District, TELANGANA state, Pin Code: 501401 District (Warangal Urban Dist), T.S

Name of Political Party : **BHARATIYA JANATHA PARTY**

Name of the Election : **HOUSE OF PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)**

Name of the Constituency : **7-MALKAJIGIRI LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCY**

I, **EATALA RAJENDAR**, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending Criminal Cases				
Sl. No	Name of court	Case No. and Dated	Status of cases	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief Description of offence
1	Judicial First Class Magistrate	Cr.No: 226/2023 P.S.Medchal	For Summons	U/section 151 CR.P.C Protest being conducted by Eatala Rajender against the arrest of Bandi Sanjay
2	Addl Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr. No: 123/2023 P.S.Saifabad	For Summons	U/section 151 CR.P.C Gathered near Gunpark, Huderbad and staged Dharna
3	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court (Railway court), Kazipet	C.C.No: 215/2017 dt: 02-03-2013 In Cr.No.30/2013, Railway police, Kazipet of Warangal district. T.S (Previously it was registered before P.S.Kamalapur vide Cr.No:164/2011 and the same was transferred to railway police)	Pending trial	U/sec. 143,147,188,290,341,506 r/w 149 IPC formed unlawful assembly at Uppal railway station assaulted on public servants and trespassed railway track
4	Not known	Cr. No: 123/2022 P.S.Munugode	Not charged sheeted	U/section 341,324 r/w 34 IPC Wrongfully restraint and beat with sticks and pelting stones
5	JMFC Huzurabad	Cr. No: 367/2021 P.S.Huzurabad	Referred as Lack of Evidence vide Memo C.No: 24/LE/H/2022 dt: 31-01-2022 of ACP Huzurabad	U/section 171-C, 188 IPC, sec.67 of IT Act Chaithanya C/o PRO Eatala Rjander posted the fake news about Raithy Bandu scheme
6	II-Addl. JMFC Huzurabad	CC.No.470/2022 In Cr.No.356/2021 of P.S. Jammikunta	For Summons	U/Sec. 153, 505 (2) 188 r/w 34 IPC. Sec. 51 BO of DMA Act. Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code
7	I-Addl. JFCM Huzurabad	CC.No.132/2022 In Cr.No.317/2021 of P.S. Huzurabad	For Summons	U/Sec. 188 IPC, Sec.51 (b) of DM Act 2005 Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
8	Spl. JFCM Excise Court Hyderabad	CC.No.241/2022 in Cr.No.316/2021 of P.S. Jammikunta	For framing charge	U/Sec. 188 IPC, Sec.51 (b) of DM Act 2005 Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code
9	I-Addl. JFCM Huzurabad	CC.No.1140/2021 In Cr.No.316/2021 of P.S. Huzurabad	For summons	U/Sec. 188 IPC, Sec.51 (b) of DM Act 2005 Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
10	Spl. JFCM Excise Court Hyderabad	CC.No.235/2022 In Cr.No.315/2021 of P.S. Jammikunta	For Examination	U/Sec. 188 IPC, Sec.51 (b) of DM Act-2005 Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
11	Not Known	Cr.No.222/2021, P.S. Karimnagar III town	For summon	U/Sec. 341, 188, 290 IPC, Sec.51(1) DM Act. Conducted Procession with party members and caused obstruction to the general public vehicle flying on the road and violated the covid-19 rules
12	Spl. JFCM Excise court Hyderabad	CC.No.240/2022 In Cr.No.220/2021 of P.S. Kamalapur	For Examination	U/Sec. 188 IPC, 126 OREURPA Violated the election code and raised slogans
13	Spl. JFCM Excise court Hyderabad	CC.No.238/2022 in Cr.No.217/2021 of P.S. Kamalapur	For Examination	U/Sec. 188 IPC, 126 OREURPA Violated the election code and raised slogans

14	IV-ADDL. JMFC, Hanamkonda	CC.No.647/2023 in Cr.No.215/2021 of P.S. Kamalapur	For summon	U/Sec. 188 IPC, 51 (B) DM Act Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
15	IV-ADDL. JMFC Hanamkonda	CC.No.237/2022 in Cr.No.199/2021 of P.S. Kamalapur	For summon	U/Sec. 188, 171-G, 504 IPC, 123(1) RPA Advertised that the TRS party are going rs.20,000/- to 50,000/- rupees net cash and 2-Kgs of Mutton and Rs.2000/- to each person on the eve of Dassera festival.
16	IV-ADDL. JMFC, Hanamkonda	CC.No.7753/2022 In Cr.No.198/2021 of P.S. Kamalapur	For summon	U/Sec. 188, 341, r/w 34 IPC, 51(1)(B) DM Act. Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
17	IV-ADDL. JMFC, Hanamkonda	CC.No.7087/2022 In Cr.No.79/2021 of P.S. Kamalapur	For Summon	U/Sec. 188, 285, r/w 34 IPC, 3(1) EDA, 51(1) (B) DM Act Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
18	I-Addl. JFCM Huzurabad	CC.No.1088/2021 In Cr.No.329/2020 of P.S. Huzurabad	For Summon	U/Sec. 188 IPC, Sec.51 (b) of DM Act 2005 Violated the protocol of covid-19 and election code.
19	Not known	Cr.No.55/2014 of P.S. Jangoan	Acquittal on 20-05-2016	U/Sec. 353 IPC Abused police personnel.
20	Addl Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr.No.300/2013, P.S Saifabad	For Summon	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
21	Addl Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr.No:271/2013 of P.S. Abid Road	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
22	Executive Magistrate at Second Class	Cr.No:102/2013 of P.S. Subedari	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
23	Not Known	Cr.No: 40/2013 R.P.S.Mancheryal	Prosecution withdrawn vide G.O.Rt. No: 611 dt: 12-11-2018(Law(LA. & I Home-Courts-B1) Department. CA Copy Received vide CC No: 92/2018	U/section 143, 448, 109 r/w 149 IPC sec. 147 Rly. Act Came to the railway track and squattered on the railway tract
24	Not Known	Cr.No.36/2013, P.S.Manopad	The case is prosecution dropped on 26-03-2015	U/Sec 147,148, 341, 427, 109 r/w 149 IPC Tress pass, damaged the RTC buses
25	Not known	Cr.No: 35/2013 P.S.Manopad	The case is prosecution dropped on 26-03-2015	U/section 147, 148, 341, 427, 188, 109 r/w 3&4PDPP act. Sec.7(1) Criminal amendment act Damaged the RTC Bus stand by pelting stones
26	Not Known	Cr.No.635/2012 of P.S. Panjagutta	Discharged on 17-02-2018	U/Sec. 448, 341, 353, 188, 506, 309, r/w 34 IPC. Obstructed police personnel from their official duties.
27	Not known	Cr.No.633/2012 of P.S. Panjagutta	Compro mised in Lok-Adalath on 06-12 -2 014	U/Sec. 353, 341, 188, 506, 297 r/w 34 IPC. Abusing police personnel in filthy language, threatened with dire consequences and attacked on police personnel
28	Addl Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr.No.290/2012, P.S Panjagutta	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
29	Not Known	CC.No.78/2017 In Cr.No.252/2012 of R.P.S. Mancherial	This case was prosecution withdrawal on 04/10-2017 by Hon'ble JFCM Rlys Kazipet court vide CC.N o.78/2017 G.O.Rt.No.558 Law	U/Sec. 143, 448, 109, r/w 149 IPC & Sec.147 of Railway Act - 1989. Abstracted train

30	Hon'ble IInd Metropolitan Magistrate court at Kazipet (Railway court)	Cr.No.251/2012, Railway Police Mancheryal	For Summon	U/sec. 143, 448, 109 r/w 149 IPC, sec. 147 of Railway Act No knowledge about the description of the offence
31	Not known	Cr.No.250/2012 of R.P.S. Mancherial	This case was referred as "action dropped" on 31/08/2020 vide RC.No.363/C3/RCRB/ Sc, 31-08-2020 vide G.O.Rt. No.611, Law (LA, LA & J- Home Courts-B1) department, date:12-11-2018	U/Sec. 143, 448, 109, r/w 149 IPC & Sec.147 of Railway Act - 1989. Abstracted train.
32	VII MM Court Nampally	Cr.No.388/2011, P.S. Saifabad	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
33	Not known	Cr.No.164/2011 of P.S. Kamalapur	This case was transferred to railway Court For summons	U/Sec. 143, 188, 353, 506, 109 IPC, Sec.7 of Criminal Law Amendment Act 1932, Sec. 147, 150 (A) Railway Act 1989. Common intention and object, criminally trespassed into Railway Track at Uppal.
34	Addl Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr.No.134/2011, P.S.Thirumalgi	For summons	U/Sec.151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
35	Addl. Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr.No:130/2011 of P.S. Saifabad	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
36	2nd Addl. JMFC Godavarikhani	Cr.No.127/2011, P.S Ramagundam	For Summon The CD file is transferred to GRP mancheryal on 14-02-2013 vide memo C. No:137/C1/DCRB/201 dt: 14-02-2013	U/Sec. 143,188, 506 r/w 109 r/w 149 IPC sec 7 of Criminal law amendment Act sec 147, 151 of Railways Act No knowledge about the description of the offence
37	2nd Addl. JMFC Godavarikhani	Cr.No:126/2011 of P.S. Ramagundam	For Summons the CD file is transferred to GRP Mancheryal on 14-02-2013 vide memo C. No:138/C1/DCRB/201 dt: 14-02-2013	U/Sec. 143,188, 506 r/w 109 r/w 149 IPC sec 7 of Criminal law amendment Act sec 147, 151 of Railways Act No knowledge about the description of the offence
38	1st Addl. JMFC Huzurabad	Cr.No.122/2011, P.S Huzurabad	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
39	Not Known	Cr.No29/2011 P.S. Huzurabad	Action Dropped	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Preventive custody when gathered before Tahsildar office Huzurabad
40	Addl Judicial First Class Magistrate	Cr.No.12/2011, P.S.Huzurabad	For summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
41	Not Known	Cr.No.1355/2010, P.S. Banjarahills	For Summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
42	Not known	Cr.No.280/2010 of P.S. Osmania University	GO Rt.No.1155, Dt:10-11-2014 from the DGP Telanagana, Hyd CNO.83/CI.TS/2014 dt 13-09-2014 and case is disposed in Mega Lok Adalath vide MP No.2622/2014, dt:06-12- 20 14	U/Sec. 117, 143, 447, 504, 505, 506 IPC. On the name of Telangana Athma Gourava Sabha against the Supreme Court orders and conducted public meeting at Arts College.
43	IV th addl MM Court Nampally	Cr.No.264/2010 P.S Osmania University	For summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
44	Judicial First Class Magistrate	Cr.No: 117/2010 P.S.Huzurabad	Action Dropped	U/section 151 CR.P.C Preventive custody of Rasto Roko
45	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court (Railway court), Kazipet	Cr.No.89/2010 Railway police, Kazipet of Warangal district. T.S (Previously it was registered before P.S. Kamalapur vide Cr.No:169/2009 and the same was transferred to railway police)	For summons	U/sec. 143,147,188,290,341,506 r/w 149 IPC Rail rokho by stopping goods train forcibly and caused nuisance

46	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court (Rail way court)	Cr.No:79/2010 dt:28/05/2010 of P.S. Mahabubabad Warangal district, T.S	For sommons	U/Sec. 147,148,332,307 r/w 149 IPC Eatala rajender and some other came to the railway station and raised slogans and thereby pelted stones on pro talangana in which police personnel received injuries.
47	Not Known	Cr. No: 29/2010 P.S.Mahabooba Bad Town	On 10-09-2020 final report submitted to the Hon'ble Court Addl JMFC Warangal, The Hon'ble Magistrate referred the case as "LACK OF EVIDENCE" vide RCS No: 01/2020	U/section 147, 148, 307, 332 r/w 149 IPC Unlawfully gathered at railway station Mahaboobabad and pelted stones
48	Addl Chief Metro Politian Magistrate	Cr.No:343/2009 of P.S. Osmania University	For summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
49	Addl. District Metropolitan Magist rate	Cr.No:268/2009 of P.S. Karimnagar	For summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
50	Not known	Cr.No.169/2009 of P.S. Kamalapur	This case was transferred at Railway Court	U/Sec. 324, 34, 506, 447 IPC. Unlawful Assembly, rioting causing public nuisance, wrongful restraint, criminal intimidation disobedience of lawful orders, with common object committed Rail Roko at Uppal.
51	1st Addl JMFC Excise Court Karimnagar	Cr.No.159/2009, P.S. LMD Colony	Case was withdrawn on 12/12/2013 on the file of Excise Court Karimnagar vide CC No: 501/2012 as per the court order vide G.O.Rt No: 1069 dTL 23-05-2023	U/Sec. 143,188, 427, 421 r/w 149IPC Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
52	JMFC Huzurabad	Cr. No: 53/2009 P.S.Huzurabad	Action Dropped	U/section 151 CR.P.C Preventive custody of Rasto Roko
53	1st Addl JMFC Karim nagar	Cr.No.294/2008, P.S. Karimnagar	For summons	U/Sec. 151 Cr.P.C Knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons
54	1Addl JMFC Warangal	Cr.No.89/2010, P.S. Mahabubabad	In the case final report submitted bon 24-03-2016 before the 1st Addl. JMFC Warangal. Accordingly after scrutiny the Hon'ble Magistrate has treated this case as "FALSE" on 19-12-2016 vide RCS No.01/2016	U/Sec. 147, 307 r/w 149 IPC , Sec.3(1)(X) of SC & ST(POA) Act 1989 TRS Party leaders etc., attacked with bombs with an intention to do away their lives.

(B) Details about the cases of conviction for criminal offences

Sl. No	Name of Court &date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) and Punishment Imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed
1	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court at Kazipet(Railway Court) in CC.NO:420/2014 Date of order 24-5-2018	Trespassed into railway premises	Sec. 147 of Railway Act Imposed fine of Rs.800/-
2	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court at Kazipet(Railway Court) in CC.No: 418/2014, date of order 14-06-2018	Trespassed into railway premises	Sec. 147, 145(b) of Railway Act Imposed fine of Rs.800/-
3	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court at Kazipet(Railway Court) in CC.NO: 226/2014 , date of order 24-05-2018	Trespassed into railway premises	Sec. 147, 174(a) of Railway Act Imposed fine of Rs.1500/-
4	Hon'ble IV Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in CC.No: 157/2012 date of order 30-6-2012	Disobe dience of Promulgatio n o rder	Sec. 188 IPC Imposed fine of Rs.100/-
5	Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate court at Kazipet(Railway Court) in CC.No: 417/2009, date of order 14-6-2018	Trespassed into railway premises	Sec. 147 of Railway Act Imposed fine of Rs.800/-

In the case of election to council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Testing times

Stakes could not be higher in Haryana's political chess, with the outcome remaining anybody's guess

The recent developments in Haryana's political circles have again brought to the fore the intricacies of coalition dynamics. The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), a key player in the State's politics, has decided to align with the Congress in demanding a floor test for the BJP-led Government in the Haryana Assembly. This comes on the heels of the withdrawal of support by three Independent MLAs to the ruling coalition, turning it into minority with 44 legislators in the House of 90. The Congress, buoyed by the latest developments and perhaps sensing an opportunity to tip the scales in its favour, has seized upon this moment to mount pressure on the BJP Government. However, in the backdrop of this high-stakes political manoeuvring, the JJP finds itself grappling with internal discord. Reports have emerged suggesting that three of its MLAs held clandestine meetings with former Chief Minister ML Khattar, raising eyebrows and fuelling speculation about potential defections. The apparent dissonance within the JJP underscores the complex interplay of interests and ambitions that often characterises coalition politics. For a party like the JJP, which emerged as a key player following the fractured mandate in the last State elections, maintaining cohesion within its ranks while balancing competing demands from its coalition partners is no easy feat. To jog the memory, it was in Haryana that 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' culture started, which continues unabated. The outcome of this internal tug-of-war will not only shape the immediate political landscape in Haryana but also have far-reaching implications for the State's future.



As alliances shift and allegiances waver, the only constant is the relentless pursuit of power and the drive to stay one step ahead of the competition. With the House strength being 90 members, a political party needs the support of 46 MLAs to cross the halfway mark and form a Government. After the withdrawal of support by three Independents, the BJP is short of two MLAs to continue in the Government. The BJP now has 40 MLAs, besides the support of a lone Haryana Lokhit Party legislator and at least three Independents (earlier, it had six Independents in support), which brings to a total of 44 in the House. For the BJP, it is a double whammy, all this is happening days ahead of the Lok Sabha polls to the 10 Haryana seats on May 25. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won seven of these seats in Haryana with a 35 per cent vote share. In 2019, the BJP won all 10 seats with a 58 per cent vote share. In the current situation, however, it might be a Herculean task. JJP's Dushyant Chautala has mounted pressure on the Nayab Singh Saini Government for a floor test, which he is likely to get the Chair's nod for. If the JJP breaks, it would give the BJP the much-needed elbow room but what is certain for now is that it is time for horse trading in Haryana.

PICTALK



A herd of elephants grazes near a village at Boko, in Kamrup district of Assam

Battle to save India's biodiversity

India's rich biodiversity is under severe threat due to climate change, as recent studies warn of potential economic losses and irreversible ecological damage



KAVIN KUMAR KANDASAMY

India, a land of diverse climates and rich ecosystems, is a global treasure trove of biodiversity. From the majestic Himalayan ranges to the vibrant coastal reefs, our country's biodiversity sustains countless life forms and plays a crucial role in regulating ecosystems. It's not just a vital resource for human sustenance, providing food, water, shelter and medicine, but also a critical indicator of our planet's health, a testament to our rich heritage and a responsibility we all share.

However, the delicate balance of India's biodiversity is now facing unprecedented threats from climate change. Recent studies warn that India may lose a staggering 35 per cent of its GDP by the year 2100 due to climate change, highlighting the deep interconnection between the nation's prosperity and its natural heritage. Rampant deforestation and habitat degradation, particularly in regions like the Western Ghats, are pushing carbon sinks towards becoming sources, exacerbating the climate crisis. The time for action is now.

Impact of Climate Change: A Looming Crisis

The repercussions of climate change are becoming quite evident in altering ecological balance, extreme weather events and increasing health risks. In an era marked by escalating environmental challenges, the climate crisis demands urgent and concerted action. According to a [i]United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, climate change is imperilling human well-being and planetary health, focusing strongly on interactions between climate, biodiversity and human society. The report suggests that the rise in extreme weather conditions has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt. Not only this, a report by the Reserve Bank of India highlights how climate change poses challenges for monetary policy, with frequent weather shocks threatening economic growth and stability. Moreover, a recent



study predicts that climate change could cut global income by up to 19 per cent in the next 25 years, with the most vulnerable countries suffering the most severe impacts.

To overcome these challenges, India has embarked on a journey to mitigate climate change and safeguard its biodiversity. With the G20 presidency last year, India has positioned itself as the voice of the Global South to lead the way in climate action and leveraged this positioning to drive impactful outcomes in various realms related to climate action. Tackling deforestation, reducing emissions and restoring ecosystems are key strategies. With over 26 per cent of the country grappling with expanding drought conditions, urgent measures are being taken to build resilience against environmental degradation.

Pioneering Climate Action Tamil Nadu, a coastal State in the heart of southern India, is emerging as a beacon of hope and leading the charge in climate change efforts. The State has become a forerunner in climate action by announcing three major missions, name-



INDIA'S BIODIVERSITY, A VITAL RESOURCE AND INDICATOR OF PLANETARY HEALTH, FACES UNPRECEDENTED THREATS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE, NECESSITATING URGENT ACTION TO MITIGATE IMPACTS AND SAFEGUARD ITS RICH NATURAL HERITAGE

ly Climate Change; Biodiversity Conservation and Greening; and Wetlands. Through initiatives like the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity and Greening Project (TBGP), the State aims to achieve a 33 per cent forest and tree cover by 2031. With approximately \$90 million in investments, Tamil Nadu's Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission and Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development and ecosystem restoration.

Driving Solutions: Addressing the climate crisis necessitates collaborative efforts from all stakeholders. Supported by startups and Government interventions, public-private partnerships are essential to drive innovation and scale climate solutions. Startups are pivotal in developing innovative technologies that reduce carbon footprints while contributing to economic growth. International collaboration, exemplified by agreements like the Paris Agreement, provides a framework for collective action on a global scale. India's leadership in renewable energy, particularly through

initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), underscores its commitment to driving sustainable development and fostering a harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature. As India addresses the intertwined challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, the steps taken today will shape the legacy for future generations.

This demands reflection, unity and action to come up with sustainable solutions. In this crucial sustainability battle, India's role extends beyond its borders, contributing significantly to global biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation efforts. The recent Supreme Court ruling recognising the right against climate change as a fundamental right under Article 14 and Article 21 underscores India's steadfast commitment to climate action and environmental protection. This offers prospects for the Government, corporations and climate action companies to come together and work towards a sustainable future.

(The writer is the CEO of ProClimate; their views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EVOLUTION OF MONETARY POLICY

Madam — This refers to the article, 'Evolution of monetary policy', which was published on 8 May 2024. Even before India got freedom the Congress formed a committee to suggest the type of economic policy free India should adopt. The committee analysed and said the key infrastructure sector should be under the Public sector to help the investors with raw materials, power, transport and communication at a very economical cost. This helps domestic ventures to produce more. None of the rich in India had so much reserve to invest in big projects and returns from such projects take some years.

When Rajiv came to power he availed a small loan from the World Bank to develop mainly the telecom sector accepting the condition to open our door slightly for foreign goods to be marketed here. Though the country went bankrupt between 1980-1990, it is to be noted that the assets of the top richest families swelled from Rs 8000 CR to Rs 40,000 Cr during the same period. So irrespective of parties the interests of the rich are well cared for and produced more than 200 billionaires in a short span under the present regime. This course continues and will go on to enrich the rich, the cost of the due share of the unprivileged section.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS

Madam — Apropos the editorial "The Name Game" published on 9th May, this is my response. There are guidelines issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs called "Endorsements know-hows" for celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers on social media platforms. The guidelines specify that celebrities must not endorse any product or service they have not personally used or experienced. Further, they are advised to be 'diligent' before endorsing any product or service i.e. extremely careful by analysing the pros and cons of it to save the health and money of lakhs of their followers. Some of them blindly accept and adopt what they say. An

War of words over industrialists



Apropos, "Modi questions Rahul's silence on Ambani, Adani," The Pioneer, May 9, this is my response. The phenomenal industrialists Ambani and Adani have become fodder for the political slugfest between the ruling and opposition parties in our country. They have been pilloried by Rahul Gandhi, Modi helped them grow. In contrast, this time Modi turned the tables

against Rahul, alleging a deal between the business tycoons and Congress has silenced Rahul. It's a sad commentary in a country that aspires to emerge as a developed nation and laying the red carpet for the industrialists seeking investments to facilitate employment generation and, thus, economic growth - has engaged in attacking entrepreneurs.

India needs to encourage more and more entrepreneurship and innovation bringing more firms into the sphere as a country where millions of people join the labour force every month which can't be absorbed by a few conglomerates. However, the Congress party was exposed with its hand in glove with businesses in the allocation of 2G spectrum and coal. At the same time, the Modi Government brought in reforms to enhance transparency in the allocation of natural resources and the overhauling of the country's bankruptcy laws.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

example of carelessly endorsing a harmful product is 'pan masala' that too on a sports channel during the live telecast of a cricket match watched by millions of youngsters, highly prone to its habit-forming usage. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has reiterated the above guidelines. The Government needs to punish the celebrities indulging in misleading promotions under the Consumer Protection Act by a jail term, not mere fines to instil responsibility in them as advocated by the Court.

O Prasada Rao | Hyderabad

FOOTBALL IS NUMBER ONE

Madam — Though top football-playing nations are restricted to Europe, Latin America and African countries, the beautiful game's popularity is unmatched in non-football-playing nations as well. The game is a universal language, to say so and has nicely flowered over the decades through champion players of diverse socio-economic milieus gathering together for a common cause: regale the fans with skill and perseverance. No surprise, the lovely game is viewed as a promoter of uni-

versal peace despite the onfield acrimony. The exhilaration of great players will captivate fans forever.

No game evokes such intense emotions that emanate after every goal is scored. Parallely, administrators and countries worldwide have displayed mostly unambiguous references towards the game. Now, in a huge honour to football, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution proclaiming May 25 as "World Football Day". May 25 marks the 100th anniversary of the first ever Football tournament. As aptly described by a diplomat at the UNGA, football is the "number one game played and followed across the globe". Additionally, as the resolution Stated, football creates a space for international cooperation. World Football Day is intended to encourage global peace, overall development and women and empowerment of women and girls.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

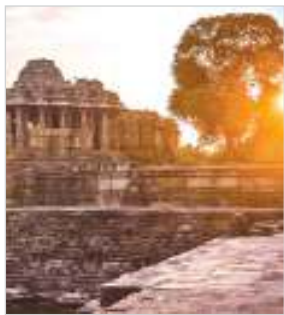
Use of lighting in Indian architecture



ABHIJIT VAISH

Lighting greatly enhances India's architectural heritage, turning historic landmarks into captivating spectacles

India's architectural heritage reflects a blend of history, culture and tradition. In bustling urban environments, our heritage monuments stand as timeless witnesses to our rich past. However, these architectural marvels often fade into the background amidst the vibrant city scenes. Yet, through the strategic application of lighting, these structures are brought to life, captivating the imagination and enhancing their charm after dusk.



cons of cultural heritage for generations to come.

Transforming Indian Architectural Landscape with Lighting

From the majestic Sun Temple in Konark to the iconic Roomi Gate in Lucknow, lighting has transformed India's architectural scene, infusing these structures with renewed splendour and magnificence.

Sun Temple, Modhera: Nestled in the heart of Gujarat, the Sun Temple stands as a testament to ancient craftsmanship and architectural ingenuity. Through the application of dynamic lighting, the temple's intricate carvings and majestic outlines are brought to life after sunset. Visitors are mesmerized as the tem-

ple emerges as a radiant spectacle, inviting them to embark on a journey through time and history. **Roomi Gate, Lucknow:** As a symbol of Lucknow's rich Mughal heritage, Roomi Gate exudes grandeur and historical significance. Dynamic lighting accentuates the gate's intricate motifs and architectural features, casting a mesmerizing glow that captivates spectators. Illuminated against the night sky, Roomi Gate symbolizes the city's cultural legacy, inviting locals and tourists alike to marvel at its beauty. **Gujarat Bhawan:** Nestled in the heart of New Delhi, Gujarat Bhawan serves as a cultural hub representing the vibrant heritage of Gujarat. Through the integration of dynamic lighting, the Bhawan transforms, becoming a luminous tribute that honours the State's rich traditions. The interplay of light accentuates its distinctive features, creating a captivating visual narrative for visitors and passersby.

Signature Bridge: The Delhi Government's decision to illuminate the entire structure of the Signature Bridge underscores the city's commitment to enhancing its architectural landmarks. Towering above the city's skyline, the bridge now glows at night, offering a spectacular view to visitors and residents alike. Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport, Ayodhya: This architectural marvel, features dynamic lighting that complements its unique design inspired by the Nagara style of temple architecture. Blending modern facilities with rich cultural heritage, the airport offers a captivating experience for travellers and visitors. Lighting greatly enhances India's architectural heritage, turning historic landmarks into captivating spectacles. Embracing this technology allows cities to showcase their cultural legacy and create vibrant public spaces, enriching the lives of residents and visitors. As India progresses, lighting signifies innovation, guiding towards a brighter future for its architectural landscape.

(The author is the executive director at Instapower Ltd, views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN TRAITS OF A SUCCESSFUL PERSON

He dares to defy convention and breathe life into audacious ideas



RAVI VALLURI

There is a part of us that will not let us be content until we become all that we are capable of being. Life is not about resting on our past achievements and laurels and residing in our comfort zone. It is an adventure from being ordinary to extraordinary. One's current situation may be good, but if a greater opportunity presents itself, one must be open to expanding. This does not mean you are to run away or violate your integrity.

Muscles stay strong and flexible only by use and stretching and so does our mind. The challenge is the way of the universe and showing us the path that the bigger we assume that form and shape. We should bless our dreams and our desires to identify the opportunity that is lurking as there would be several chances arising around the corner. We need the courage and humility to ask the Universe to provide such opportunities, leave behind all our limitations and step forward to live life as magnificent and gigantic as ordained by the Universe. Successful people stretch their hands and take up responsibility which empowers them to enter uncharted territories. This increases the level of their prana/chi, attention span and nature of work, adding a new dimension to the personality. Successful people are never straight-jacketed in their approach and revel in taking risks. Only risk-takers become game-changers.

Rahul Bajaj's sons Rajiv and Sanjiv embarked upon a fascinating idea to salvage the scrap of the decommissioned INS Vikrant to manufacture scooters. It was an innovative idea, utilizing scrap in a novel manner. While the bottom line of the exercise may be to generate profit, the unattainable thought is audacious. Therefore, successful entrepreneurs never kill an idea. An ingenious idea can be a platform for a radical discovery.



An awesome idea is breathtaking and amazing, stunning and awe-inspiring. When the idea germinates, something stupendous takes place. Think big and do not listen to people who tell you it can't be done. "Life is too short to think small", writes Tim Ferriss. The Universe listens to our deepest thoughts. If the thought is positive, we are blessed with positive results.

The cardinal principle in life is to ensure that we receive and circulate only positive thoughts. We should ensure that we are surrounded by efficacious people. Keep shouldering responsibility and ensure that we possess a YES MIND. Successful enterprises ensure that their workforce performs in harmony and synergy while working in teams. The Universe believes in the Laws of Attraction, the Laws of Abundance, the Laws of Gratefulness and the Laws of Spiralling Effect. All this gets transformed into what Darren Hardy calls the Compound Effect. Next, we ought to always feel blessed and have faith that a superior power is guiding us in our endeavours. There is a superior intelligence that is always creating wonderful opportunities for us and these should be grabbed and seized with humility.

A triumphant individual hinges his belief on the thought that the Divine will take care of everything and by simply reposing faith in that Superior Power. Successful People work on these principles where the football swerves like a parabola and enters the net and we are benumbed, giving a standing ovation. That is the miracle performed. Choose to call it the power of the Almighty or the architecture of the Universe. But this works on the premise of the power of positive thinking and becoming successful.

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

Precision agriculture: Key to food security



PARAG ACHARYA

The future of Indian agriculture hinges on a blend of tradition and innovation. Precision agriculture offers a crucial pathway to sustainably feed 1.7 billion people

India's population is projected to reach approximately 1.7 billion by 2050. It would be a significant challenge for Indian agriculture to meet the food demands of such a vast population amidst the emerging challenges of climate change. Additionally, the sector faces issues such as an ageing farmer population. Younger generations are increasingly veering away from taking over the family agricultural farm, choosing other, more lucrative and less labour-intensive career paths over agriculture. To address these challenges, the adoption of modern farming techniques like precision farming and digital smart agriculture becomes imperative to ensure sustainable food production and the future prosperity of Indian agriculture.

A recent parliamentary panel has emphasized the importance of promoting agricultural mechanization, particularly for small and marginal farmers and has advocated for the integration of tiny robots and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Indian farm operations to address the challenges posed by fragmented land holdings. Furthermore, the panel recommended the establishment of a 'National Institute of Agricultural Robotics and Artificial Intelligence' to ensure that India remains at the forefront of agricultural development both domestically and internationally. On August 23, 2022, regarding Farm Mechanization, the Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education revealed that India's mechanisation level stands at 47 per cent, trailing China (59.5 per cent), Brazil (75 per cent) and the US (95 per cent). The level of mechanisation varies greatly by region inside India too. Northern States boast higher rates (70-80 per cent), driven by fertile land, labour decline and State backing. Southern and eastern States lag (35-45 per cent) due to fragmented land holdings. North-eastern States struggle due to terrain, equipment costs and socio-economic factors.

Certainly, agriculture has evolved steadily from a traditional, labour-intensive model to a sophisticated, technology-driven system. Key milestones include the establishment of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). The development of high-yielding, cost-effective, disease/pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties and technologies across crops, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries sciences by ICAR has significantly bolstered production and productivity. However, while acknowledging these strides, it's imperative to recognize that the pace of progress must match the urgency of our times.

Throughout history, people have always sought easier, faster and more efficient ways to get things done. This pursuit has sparked a technological revolution that merges age-old farming practices with cutting-edge innovations like the Internet of Things (IoT) known as Ag-IoT. It is a huge change in farming that could shake up how we grow, manage and protect our food. Its solutions are not merely about efficiency; they are about empowering farmers to achieve greater time efficiency, productivity and precision in their daily tasks. It's like having a super smart assistant that can take care of land, animals, crops and farms without needing humans to do everything. People also call it precision agriculture, smart agriculture, or digital agriculture.



THE INTERNET OF THINGS IS A HUGE CHANGE IN FARMING THAT COULD SHAKE UP HOW WE GROW, MANAGE AND PROTECT OUR FOOD. ITS SOLUTIONS ARE NOT MERELY ABOUT EFFICIENCY; THEY ARE ABOUT EMPOWERING FARMERS TO ACHIEVE GREATER TIME EFFICIENCY, PRODUCTIVITY AND PRECISION IN THEIR DAILY TASKS

It is like a big step forward in farming because it uses data to make decisions, making everything more efficient and productive. Through Ag-IoT, the very pulse of plant and animal needs can be sensed. The farmers can keep an eye on the soil all the time, control watering systems from afar and even check on the health of their animals without being right there. It's super handy because it can predict how much crops will grow accurately. In every aspect, Ag-IoT stands poised to revolutionize the landscape of crop management, insect and pest surveillance, food warehousing, livestock care, disease monitoring, dairy operations, supply chain logistics and beyond.

The evolution of drone technology has opened up boundless possibilities in the realm of crop assessment and monitoring. One such pioneering initiative, the NaMo Drone Didi Initiative, stands as a beacon of empowerment for rural women. In a momentous gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally handed over 1000 drones to 1000 Nammo Drone Didis across 10 locations nationwide at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Pusa, New Delhi. These drones will help them do things like check on crops, spray fertilizers and plant seeds. Prime Minister Modi's announcement of the 'Drone Didi' yojana 2023-24 further underscores the Government's dedication to leveraging technology for the betterment of society. Significant financial allocations during 2020-21 and 2021-22, by the Indian Government including INR 1756.3 crores and INR 2422.7 crores respectively to States for the integration of cutting-edge technologies

like drones, artificial intelligence, blockchain, remote sensing and GIS into agriculture and INR 7302.50 crores and INR 7908.18 crores were made in the same periods to ICAR for R&D, further demonstrate the Government's dedication to modernizing agriculture.

Technological strides like RFID tags (radio frequency identification) and systems like NLIS (National Livestock Identification Scheme) and INAPH (Information Network for Animal Productivity & Health) have propelled Precision Dairy Farming. With swift electronic scanning and data integration, farmers can efficiently manage cow health, productivity and records, marking a significant shift in the dairy industry towards precision and efficiency. Meanwhile, in the aquaculture industry, companies like Aquaconnect and Shrimbox are leveraging technology to revolutionize shrimp farming. Aquaconnect employs artificial intelligence and satellite sensing technologies to monitor farm performance and provide advice to shrimp and fish farmers, predominantly small to medium-scale operations. Shrimbox, on the other hand, specializes in shrimp farming in colder climates and landlocked areas, boasting impressive productivity with minimal water usage and without antibiotics. Cropin Technology, based in Bengaluru, has developed Aksara, an open-source microlanguage model tailored for climate-smart farming.

In India, the World Economic Forum's AI for Agriculture Innovation (AI4AI) initiative, led by C4IR India, is revolutionizing farm-

ing through AI. The 'Saagu Baagu' pilot in Telangana's Khammam district, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Digital Green, exemplifies this success. With over 7,000 farmers benefiting, chilli yields surged by 21 per cent, pesticide use decreased by 9 per cent, fertilizer usage dropped by 5 per cent and unit prices improved by 8 per cent. Consequently, farmers doubled their earnings, with incomes rising by over INR 66,000 per acre per crop cycle. Overall, AI interventions at 175 farms in India have boosted crop yields by 30 per cent, as per the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

In conclusion, the future of Indian agriculture hinges on a blend of tradition and innovation. With a burgeoning population and dwindling resources, precision agriculture offers a crucial pathway to sustainably feed 1.7 billion people. If established, the 'National Institute of Agricultural Robotics and Artificial Intelligence' would catapult Indian agriculture into unprecedented realms of excellence. The benefits of farm mechanization must permeate every corner of our nation, bridging divides and fostering inclusivity. We cannot afford to overlook those who are marginalized by the digital divide, particularly our small-scale farmers. As we look towards the future, let us remain committed to nurturing a vibrant, tech-enabled agrarian ecosystem that empowers farmers, preserves natural resources and ensures food security for generations to come.

(The writer is a scientist, at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar; their views are personal)

Revisiting Rohith Vemula's death after eight years

As the dust settles, revelations by the Telangana Police shed new light on Vemula's untimely death

Rohith Vemula (26), a PhD scholar at the University of Hyderabad was found dead in his hostel room on 17 January 2016. Had he lived for another fortnight, he would have celebrated his 27th birthday on January 30. But he was called back by the Maker as it is said that He prefers the favourite ones to join Him ahead of others.



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The untimely demise of Vemula opened a Pandora's Box all over India. Opposition parties led by the Congress staged a nationwide protest and agitation blaming the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre for the death of this young man. The CPI(M)'s frontal organization SFI called for education bundh the next day and

demanding the resignation of Smriti Irani, the then union minister for human resources development and Bandaru Dattatreya, a minister of State from the council of ministers blaming the duo for the death of Rohith Vemula. Poets affiliated with the CPI(M) and other Left organizations wrote poems and short stories based on the life and times of Vemula. The fact that Vemula belonged to the Harijan com-

munity added to their ire and this was discernible from the power of the words with which they blamed the "communal and fascist" Government at the Centre. Many articles and features that appeared in regional newspapers and satellite TV channels blamed the doorsteps of Smriti Irani for Rohith Vemula's suicide.

A major political outfit promoted by the all-powerful minority community had declared a solatium of Rs 25 lakh to the family of Vemula within days of his unfortunate death. Though it is more than eight years since he bade farewell to this world, his mother or brother has not been given the promised amount. When Radhika, the mother of Rohith

Vemula contacted the leadership of the said party, they feigned ignorance about the amount and the matter was given a silent burial.

More than eight years after the suicide of Vemula, the Telangana Police which was entrusted with the probe of finding out matters that led Vemula to resort to the extreme measure concluded that Rohith Vemula was neither a member of the Harijan community nor any Other Backward Community (OBC) student as he had claimed. The fear that the university was likely to detect the truth behind his caste status which would put an end to his political aspirations had made him take the drastic step, said the police report. The unanswered question in



the whole episode is why the investigating officers failed to track the phone calls made by Vemula during the last few days of his life. This would have thrown more light on the reasons behind the suicide of the research scholar. Many of his colleagues attribute a failed love affair as the cause behind his suicide.

Months before he committed suicide, Vemula had led a demonstration under the auspices of the Ambedkar Students Association on the University Campus to protest the death penalty awarded to Yakub Memon, one of the prime accused in the Mumbai serial blasts of 1993 which claimed 260 lives. There were reports that the soft-spoken Vemula and his friends had bashed up a member of the rival union and the victim needed hospitalisation. Moreover, there were charges against the University of Hyderabad for non-payment of a monthly scholarship of Rs 25,000 to Vemula though the university authorities denied the allegation. Rohith Vemula was neither the first Harijan student in the

University of Hyderabad or any other universities in India who have committed suicide. Rajini Anand, an engineering college student in Kerala had jumped to death in 2004 following the callous approach of the ruling Congress-led Government in the State towards her plea for financial assistance to pay college fees.

Sometime last year, a CPI(M) member of Rajya Sabha asked the Government of India to furnish the number of Harijan students who had committed suicide in the country since 2014. The MP's innuendo was that no Harijan students had committed suicide in the country before the swearing-in of Modi as Prime Minister. The kind of fire from the

opposition faced by Smriti Irani was unprecedented and strange. The Rohith Vemula affair cost her the office of the HRD ministry and she was relegated to minister of textiles. Opposition party leaders have all the right to criticize the Government and ministers for errors and omissions. But it should be restricted to the carelessness and irresponsibility of the concerned minister. For eight years, this young lady was crucified by her political rivals. Had they taken a little bit of time and gone through the releases issued by the Government of India, they would not have dared to throw mud at Smriti.

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

Bharat unfathomable to Congress 'Brown Sahibs'

The British have won. As colonisers interested only in India's riches but not in Indians; the British naturally saw only differences among Indians: in looks, skin colour, languages, scripts, dressing, food habits, festivals, faiths, castes, cultures and traditions. While their presumptuous sense of superiority never let them see beyond India's diversity and grasp its civilisational unity, their 'divide and rule' strategy made it disadvantageous for them to acknowledge it even if they accidentally discovered it.

Although they left India in 1947, one has to agree that Thomas Macaulay's mission to create "a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, opinions, morals, and intellect" has succeeded in dominating the

Congress party's 'idea of India'. Recent comments by Sam Pitroda, the mentor of Congress scion Rahul Gandhi, are evidence of this. When Sam said, "We could hold a country together as diverse as India, where people on the east look like Chinese, people on the west look like Arabs, people on the north look like maybe White and people in the south look like Africans", he was mirroring the very perception of India that the British had.

While the political slugfest over his comments focuses on the part about Indians' looks, it is the part where he says, "We could hold a country together as diverse as India" that exposes the Congressman's 'idea of India'. Congress believes India is not a nation but, at the most, a nation in the making. And until India becomes a nation,

While the political slugfest over his comments focuses on the part about Indians' looks, it is the part where he says, "We could hold a country together as diverse as India" that exposes the Congressman's 'idea of India'. Congress believes India is not a nation but, at the most, a nation in the making. And until India becomes a nation, it has to be 'held' together.

Rahul and many senior Congress leaders have expressed this thought. When Rahul says, "Bharat is a union of states. That is the line that is written in our Constitution. India is not described as a nation; it is described as a union of states," or when he says India is just like the European Union, a union, he is giving voice to Congress' belief that India is not a nation

but a conglomeration of nationalities or sub-nationalities held together by the Indian State.

Congress' 'idea of India' logically culminates in its focus on the north-south divide, its opposition to the Uniform Civil Code, the abolition of Article 370, and finally, its 'jithna aabadi, utna haq' slogan. Rahul and his party see India more like the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and



KISHORE POREDDY

EU (European Union), where balkanization and Brexit are distinct possibilities. One wonders if this was the reason why the Congress was able to reconcile to the idea of India's Partition in 1947.

Does India reflect Congress' 'idea of India? Integrating 565 principalities in less than a year would have been impossible if it had. Integrating Hyderabad using 'Police action' would have led to a popular movement to secede from India if it had. People of Goa, Puducherry, and Sikkim would not have pushed to become Indians if they had. A Constitution that empowered Parliament to alter the boundaries of states and even divide or unite them at will would have failed to pass muster if it had.

It's not just post-Independence, even pre-Independence; long before the idea of a nation-state evolved in the West, the people of Bharatavarsha were one. Though divided by kingdoms and rulers, Bharat always had a sense of unity. The Mahabharata and the Puranas refer to Bharatvarsh. The Puranas define Bharat as the land between the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean. The Telugu phrase 'Aasetu Himachalam' - from the Ram Setu in the south to the Himalayas in the north reflects the same idea as Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Shankaracharya's establishment of Shankara mutts in the four corners of India reflects this oneness of Bharat. Tenkashi in Tamil Nadu, Vemulawada - the Dakshina Kashi and Bhadrachalam - the Dakshina Ayodhya all reflect this unity. Indian festivals, languages, and scripts all share common roots.

The Congress rejects this idea of India's unity. Once you reject Ramayana and Mahabharata as just myths and submit an affidavit to the

courts saying there's no proof of Rama's existence, it is easy to buy into the British's idea of India as just an aggregation of communities that do not have much in common and are antagonistic to one another. One cannot dismiss Sam Pitroda's comments as a careless slip of the tongue or the eccentric ideas of some fringe Congressman; they reflect the 'idea of India' the top leadership of today's Congress holds. The issues and the agendas Congress is pushing in this election align with this. It is time for the voters of India to send a clear and loud message, rejecting Congress' ideas. Otherwise, like the British, the Congress would not hesitate to divide and rule us.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

PM Modi failed to give funds to Telangana: Revanth

The Chief Minister urged people to vote for Congress and ensure a massive majority for Mahabubnagar LS candidate Vamsi Chand Reddy

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was given a warm welcome in Shadnagar town when he visited to hold street corner meetings in support of Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha candidate Challa Vamsi Chand Reddy, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, and former MLA Prapat Reddy.

The roadshow, led by the Chief Minister, commenced from the Keshampet railway gate and continued to Shadnagar junction. Following the roadshow, he addressed a street corner meeting organised at the junction.

In his address, Revanth Reddy criticised Prime



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy speaking at a meeting in Shadnagar on Friday

Minister Modi's tenure, alleging that Telangana received little or no support during his 10 years in office. He highlighted the incomplete projects from days of the combined state and questioned Modi's silence on

Telangana's development during his recent visit to Hyderabad for election campaigning.

The Chief Minister specifically mentioned ITIR, Bayaram, and Khajipet coach

factories, demanding accountability for their status. He accused Modi of overlooking corruption within DK Aruna's family and emphasised the role of previous leaders in the state's injustice.

Revanth Reddy credited late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy for the development of Shadnagar, citing the sanctioning of Outer Ring Road and Shamshabad International Airport as key contributors to the region's growth. He also highlighted the historical significance of Shadnagar, being the birthplace of Hyderabad's first Chief Minister Burgula Rama Krishna Rao.

Promising further development, Revanth Reddy pledged

to bring the metro to Shamshabad and extend it to Shadnagar, aiming to elevate it from a town to a city. He warned against BJP's alleged intentions to change the constitution and abolish reservations, urging voters to support Congress for safeguarding the interests of the Palamuru region.

He assured the people of Shadnagar that the Congress government would bring stability and progress to the region, with new industries being established. He appealed to the youth and residents to reject BJP and BRS and vote for Congress to ensure a massive majority for Vamsi Chand Reddy.

Poor do not figure in BJP's scheme of things: KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's bus yatra reached Sircilla on Friday.

KCR said, "Prime Minister came to Vemulawada on Thursday. Bandi Sanjay cannot ask the Prime Minister for a single rupee for development of temple neither Prime Minister will give it." There are Rs 371 crore dues for the employment of handloom workers, this state government is not bound by the law, but the handloom workers are not allowed to sell goods. "Modi was the first PM to impose GST on handloom workers. He canceled everything for the handlooms. Modi has no thought of handloom workers.

The real agenda of BJP does not include the poor. Lakhs of crores will be waived for millionaires like Ambani and Adani." He said that there is no single scheme for the poor "Petrol prices are going to



Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao waving at people in Sircilla on Friday

cross 400 not Modi's seats", he said.

KCR said, "Under congress rule farmers have no irrigation water, no drinking water, no electricity, looms are gone and suicides of handloom workers. Sircilla is home to poets, writers and intellectuals. Youth should think and vote."

KCR said that Karimnagar MP candidate Vinod Kumar is a person who fights for people

in Parliament. "Will Bandi compete with Vinod? Karimnagar stood by me when Congress insulted me about Telangana. I want to stand by me even now in this crucial time", KCR said He said that Chief Minister will cancel the district Sircilla. "To protect the district, to protect the Godavari river or to protect our rights, we must win the BRS candidate", KCR

BJP leader Navneet Kaur booked for poll code violations

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

The Telangana police have registered an FIR against BJP leader Navneet Kaur for her alleged comments that "a vote for Congress is a vote for Pakistan", under sections related to poll code violations.

According to the FIR, Kaur made the comments at a corner meeting held at Shadnagar on May 8.

The Amravati MP was booked under Sections 171-C read with 171-F, 171-G (undue influence and electoral rights) and 188 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant). A police official said the complaint was lodged by the Flying Squad Team (FST) of the Election Commission on May 9. In an attack on AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi and his brother Akbaruddin, Navneet Rana had said that if the police were removed from



BJP leader Navneet Kaur along with BJP Lok Sabha candidate for Mahabubnagar DK Aruna during a campaign in Shadnagar (File photo)

duty for "15 seconds, the brothers would not know from where they came and where they went". The comments drew flak from Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Asaduddin Owaisi.

MP and Actress Navneet Kaur along with DK Aruna during the election campaign in Shadnagar. Case Registered Against MP and Actress Navneet Kaur for Controversial Comments During Election Roadshow

YS Jagan and Revanth spar over Chandrababu remark

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu's man said, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. He was addressing the YSRCP election meeting held at Potti Sriramulu Circle in Kadapa on Friday.

Speaking in support of Kadapa sitting MP YS Avinash Reddy, his own younger sister Sharmila came under fire.

Jagan said, "Politics has deteriorated so much that Congress is trying to make Chandrababu win. If we vote for Congress, it will be like splitting our votes and winning the NDA. Congress entered AP to make Chandrababu win. This is Chandrababu's man Revanth Reddy. Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister of the Congress Party.



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing an election rally in Kadapa on Friday

Chandrababu will be with the BJP during the day and will be with the Congress at night."

He said that the Congress party tried to bury the name of YSR. "After YSR's death, they harassed me and my family. I was unjustly put in jail for 16 months. YSR fans built a grave somewhere for such a Congress party. Now they will go to his grave! They will come for votes during elections after all these years of his death!

Reacting to it Revanth Reddy said, "YS Jagan's mother and sister are not believing his words. Their family is only telling about the situations in State and the one faced by his uncle. Whatever allegation he does against me has no value as his own mother and sister are not believing him. I suggest Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to answer questions raised by your sister and mother. Even though it is our family issue, but since it is being discussed politically, he should focus on that. Revanth reddy is Congress party leader and Telangana Chief Minister. My loyalty is 100% to Congress party. Personal Relations with people have no link to politics. I have respect towards Chandrababu Naidu but have no political relationship. I broke ties and joined congress in 2017.

Sharmila is Congress party leader in Andhra Pradesh and definitely to strengthen her candidature, to make congress win in AP, my cooperation will be there. I suggest him to focus on solving his family problems"

"Will anyone vote for Congress which does not even get not a votes? Will anyone vote for Congress which was responsible for bifurcation of the state? Doesn't Voting for Congress mean making TDP win?", AP Chief Minister said

Jagan said, "We are observing the conspiracies of those who are coming as heirs of YSR. Who conspired against YSR after his death? Moreover, they are spreading false propaganda against us that we ourselves put his name in the charge sheet. Are you his successors who joined hands with the enemies of YSR?"

CBI registers case against postal dept officials

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Central Bureau of Investigation, Hyderabad, has initiated a case against three individuals from the Postal department, including an Assistant Superintendent and two Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) members over allegations of soliciting a bribe of Rs 25 lakh for the appointment of 10 contingent labourers as MTSs.

The accused are identified as Ch Madhavi, Assistant Supdt. of Posts; B Surender Kumar, MTS; and B Trilok Singh, MTS, all affiliated with the Postmaster General's office in the Hyderabad sorting division, headquarters region. According to the complaint,

officials from the divisional and circle offices to the Postmaster General demanded the bribe from two contingent labourers for facilitating the appointments.

It's alleged that one of the accused MTS members provided a bribe of Rs 2 lakh for himself and Rs 1 lakh for another accused MTS at the residence of the Assistant Supdt. of Posts. An additional bribe of Rs 50,000 was purportedly agreed upon for the second MTS at a later date. The CBI conducted searches at three locations in Hyderabad, resulting in the recovery of incriminating documents. The investigation is ongoing as authorities delve deeper into the matter.

'Modi has devoted his life to realising aspirations of people'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, BJP candidate for the Chevella Lok Sabha constituency, speaking at an election rally in Parigi, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has devoted his life to realising the aspirations of countless Indians. He stands as the guardian of the nation's borders, staunchly defending against external threats posed by China and Pakistan.

Simultaneously, he extends compassionate support to the underprivileged within the country, ensuring their welfare.

The Prime Minister's initiatives include the monumental construction of the Ram Mandir, which not only resolves a centuries-old dispute but also safeguards the cherished beliefs of Hinduism. He rises at 4 am



BJP candidate for the Chevella Lok Sabha constituency Konda Vishweshwar Reddy on a campaign trail in Chevella constituency on Friday

and tirelessly dedicates himself until midnight. Who does he toil so ardently for? Is it for his family's well-being or to amass wealth? None of these concerns hold sway over him; his sole focus is on serving none other than the people of India. He embodies the essence of a once-in-a-lifetime leader, relentlessly striving for the upliftment of

his people. This unwavering commitment sets him apart as a statesman, earning accolades not just in India, but from across the globe.

He said, coming from a humble beginning himself, Modi intimately grasps the struggles we face, often pre-emptively offering solutions before we even voice our concerns.

Raja Singh not allowed to share dais with PM Modi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an embarrassing situation for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh, he was not allowed by the police to share dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting in his own constituency on Friday. The legislator was disallowed ostensibly because he had turned up late for the meeting.

On Friday evening, Modi addressed a public meeting at LB Stadium that falls under the Goshamahala Assembly constituency represented by Raja Singh. The election meeting, titled 'Bhayanagar Jana Sabha', was held in connection

with the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana on Monday.

Several high-profile leaders of BJP were on the dais with Modi. Although Raja Singh had turned up at the venue, the police did not allow him to go on to the stage reportedly because of his late arrival. He was compelled to sit with the public and watch the proceedings. Raja Singh is also the in-charge for the Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat, and the BJP's candidate this time is new entrant Madhavi Latha.

Sources in the BJP said that Raja Singh's name was not mentioned in the approved list of the leaders who were allowed to be present on the stage.

'What are ED, IT Dept doing if money is ferried in vans'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Criticising Prime Minister Modi for commenting that the Congress is not speaking about Adani and Ambani after the election notification and that Congress leaders are receiving money transported through tempo vans, AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge asked what the IT department and the CBI were doing if money is being transported using tempo vans.

The government must ask the ED and the IT Department to conduct raids if money is going out from the houses of Adani and Ambani. These comments are not expected from the Prime Minister, Kharge said.

He said that Modi is speaking only on mutton, Mughals, mangal sutra and Muslim

reservations as he likes the letter 'M'.

He said that Modi has been threatening investors and taking them to Gujarat from Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

He said that Modi has been telling lies and assured that the 'hand' is permanent and that it will be with the people. He made it clear that a caste census would be conducted immediately after Congress came to power.

Addressing the media at the Taj Krishna Hotel on Friday, Kharge said that the BJP will not seek votes on development.

"Modi is seeking votes by blaming the Congress. Modi is criticising the Congress time and again and is levelling allegations as he is afraid of the Congress. Modi made big statements like he would bring out

black money. However, Modi handed over black money to his friends," Kharge said.

"It is shameful on the part of Modi to say that the Congress will take the money of the rich and will distribute it to Muslims. Modi left development to the wind and is making allegations against the Congress. The Centre should answer what projects it gave to Telangana. The Congress would give Rs 1 lakh to poor women in the state. We will provide 50 per cent reservation in government jobs to women and will provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers," Kharge said.

He said that the Congress government implemented schemes as per the assurances given by it and that the Congress will implement its assurances come what may.

'BURGEONING POPULATION IN HYD HAS LED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES'

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Jamuna Singh Shilpa, a dedicated fashion designer, not only stitches fabrics but also weaves dreams into reality with her creations. Beyond her craft, she serves as a beacon of empowerment for women, counselling and uplifting them. Engaged in various social events alongside charitable foundations, her vision extends beyond the realm of fashion.

A 'pakka pahadan' yet deeply rooted in Hyderabad's vibrant tapestry, her journey from Uttarakhand to the city of pearls is a testament to resilience and belonging. With her father's army service forging a bond with this bustling metropolis, Hyderabad isn't just her birthplace; it's where her heart finds its true home. She says, "I hail from the vibrant city of Hyderabad. Despite being rooted in the rich culture of Uttarakhand and Nepal, my formative years, from childhood through teenagehood and marriage, have been intricately woven into the fabric of Hyderabad's bustling streets and warm embrace." Her father's service in the army led to their migration here, making Hyderabad her cherished home.

Hyderabad, where creativity thrives and the community embraces innovation with open arms, from unveiling new concepts to fostering learning, this city's vibrant spirit fuels the journey of every art enthusiast. As an art enthusiast, "I've found Hyderabad to be a haven for creativity, where every introduction resonates with immense enthusiasm from the community. Whether it's unveiling new concepts or imparting knowledge, the people of Hyderabad eagerly embrace, learn, and adapt."

Her journey started with pursuing an MBA that led to fashion design. Each step for her has contributed to a fulfilling tenure in this vibrant city. "With an experience of 15 years, three years ago, I embarked on a new chapter by opening a boutique nestled in the heart of Jubilee Hills. It's been a thrilling venture, marked by the city's unwavering support and a shared passion for artistic expression."

Her fondest memories from school days in Hyderabad are deeply intertwined with a sense of advocacy for gender equality. "I vividly recall the school's outdoor ground, where cricket was exclusively reserved for boys, leaving us girls disheartened during breaks. Determined to challenge this disparity, I took matters into my own hands. Rallying two fellow girls, I led them

Though she has been deeply rooted in the culture of Uttarakhand, fashion designer Jamuna Singh Shilpa has been deeply rooted in Hyderabad. This week, *The Pioneer* connects with her for our weekly column on *Hyderabad*, sharing her association with the city.

onto the ground, defiantly disrupting the boys' monopoly. This bold action repeated itself, gradually breaking down barriers until girls and boys harmoniously played together. In college, my curiosity knew no bounds. I eagerly participated in every opportunity for learning and growth, driven by an insatiable thirst for knowledge."

Despite early challenges and societal expectations, she defied the odds, carving her own path with unwavering resolve and self-reliance, proving that with perseverance, dreams can become reality. Through hard work, she not only survived but thrived, turning obstacles into stepping stones toward success. She shares, "At the tender age of 16, I found myself navigating the complexities of life, born into an orthodox family where marriage was expected early. Married at 16 and blessed with a daughter at 17, I embarked on a journey where challenges loomed large. Hailing from a middle-class background, the odds seemed stacked against me. Yet, fuelled by unwavering determination, I refused to relinquish my dreams. With grit and resilience, I forged ahead, overcoming every obstacle that dared to impede my path. I charted my course, relying on sheer perseverance and self-reliance to carve out a future. Despite the adversities, I pursued my education with fervour, refusing to let circumstances dictate my destiny."

Hyderabad, often hailed as the city of nawabs, exudes an unparalleled quality of acceptance where one never feels estranged. This vibrant metropolis, with its juxtaposition of the old and new, showcases stark differences between the historic charm of the old city and the modernity of the new.

"While the rich tapestry of culture and history adorns every corner, the warmth of hospitality envelopes all who visit. Notably, Hyderabad stands out as a haven where women can navigate the streets late into the night without apprehension, a testament to its safety compared to other urban landscapes. However, amidst its allure, challenges loom large. The burgeoning population has led to environmental changes, marked by the proliferation of high-rise apartments and dwindling green spaces. The resultant increase in traffic congestion serves as a poignant reminder of the need for sustainable urban development."

From its inclusive spirit to its tranquil charm, this city has something in the bag for everyone that captures the heart and soul of those who call it home. She says, "Hyderabad holds a special place in my heart, a sanctuary of joy and tranquility. It's not just a city; it's a realm of boundless opportunities, offering fertile ground for career growth and entrepreneurial endeavours. While I may spend fleeting moments in Mumbai, it's Hyderabad where true peace resides, unmatched by any other locale on the globe. Hyderabad, with their inherent grace and cultural richness, create an inviting atmosphere for all. This city's inclusive culture, a fusion of diverse traditions, welcomes everyone with open arms, making it effortless for anyone to call it home. The comforting vibe of Hyderabad soothes the soul, providing solace amidst life's hustle and bustle." Truly, Hyderabad is not just a city; it's an experience, a haven where one can find peace, opportunity, and a sense of belonging unlike anywhere else.



Review



Written by: Abhishek Garg and Chirag Sallian
Directed by: Ashish R. Shukla
Cinematography by: Murzy Pagdiwala
Produced by: Sameer Nair, Deepak Dhar, Rajesh Chadha, and Deepak Segal
Starring: Harsh Chhaya, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Surya Sharma, Ankur Rathee, Ayn Zoya, Aanchal Singgh, Shivangi Singh, and Varun Badola
Streaming on: Sony Liv
Rating: 2.5/5

SURYA SHARMA SHINES ANEW in *Undekhi Season 3*

TANISHA SAXENA

After two highly successful seasons that promised an engrossing plot that would keep you glued to the screen, *Undekhi Season 3* is finally here. In its most recent chapter, the suspenseful thriller introduces more turns and twists.

PLOT: In the third season of the series, the 'Atwals' make a riveting return. With higher stakes, the chase becomes even more exhilarating, and the intricate plot twists leave viewers in awe. Papaji, portrayed by the talented Harsh Chhaya, finds himself in dire straits as the incriminating video of him shooting the dancer from *season 1* resurfaces, compelling a desperate bid for his rescue. Rinku, played by the dynamic Surya Sharma, is driven to extraordinary lengths to safeguard his beloved Papaji amidst the tumult. Amidst the chaos, an illicit drug trade adds another layer of complexity to the narrative.

HIGHLIGHTS: Dibyendu Bhattacharya's portrayal as DSP Barun Ghosh is a true showcase of realism and nuance. With meticulous attention to detail, Bhattacharya breathes life into Ghosh, depicting him as a cop who fearlessly navigates the gritty world of crime with an authentic touch. His subtle yet impactful expressions and mannerisms capture the essence of a seasoned officer unafraid to confront the darkest aspects of society, making him the show's standout feature. Bhattacharya's delivery of Ghosh's witty one-liners and quirky humour adds a layer of humanity to the character, rendering him both relatable and endearing to audiences. Surya Sharma's return as Rinku Atwal, aka Rajendra Singh Atwal, is equally compelling. He embodies the role of the obedient son, determined to protect his father and their shady business at any cost. Sharma maintains a strict demeanour throughout, skillfully withholding emotions to enhance his performance. His restrained approach to language and action adds depth to the character, showcasing Sharma's versatility as an actor. Women play strategically significant roles in the series, each with her own motives and backstory that shape their journey through the

storyline. Anchal Singh, portraying Teji Atwal in this season as in its predecessor, demonstrates a nuanced character arc. She effortlessly embodies the essence of her character, adding an air of mystery to her portrayal.

The show's screenplay is a standout feature, skillfully crafted to captivate the audience. The seamless integration of Hindi, Punjabi, and Bengali lines adds depth and broadens its appeal to viewers across India. Papaji's Punjabi dialogues, flavoured with vivid expletives, imbue the conversations with an authentic and dynamic flair. Furthermore, DSP Ghosh's Bengali dialogues, alongside the use of standard Hindi, enrich the linguistic fabric of the series, showcasing the diverse cultural backgrounds of its characters and locales.

DRAWBACKS: The show's biggest drawback lies in its predictability. While the episodes are engaging, they lack the gripping suspense that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. Additionally, some episodes suffer from an excessively slow pace, and the introduction of new characters feels underutilised.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS: The series doesn't unfold against the typical backdrop of Uttar Pradesh or Bihar but rather amidst the picturesque hilly terrain of Manali. The breathtaking mountain vistas serve as more than just a scenic backdrop; they become integral to the secrets and intrigues woven by the characters. The cinematography skillfully transports viewers to the majestic mountains of Manali, capturing their grandeur and mystique. The adept use of lighting further elevates the visual experience, enhancing the ambience of each scene with precision. The editing is sharp, and the shots are meticulously chosen. And the background score is truly a garnish to the series.

VERDICT: *Undekhi* presents a refreshing take on the crime thriller genre, offering a nuanced exploration of crime, corruption, and power dynamics. What distinguishes it from other recent crime thrillers is its restrained approach; it refrains from excessive glorification of the criminal world.

Must visit 'Babymoon' retreats for a memorable pre-baby holiday

A "babymoon" is a pre-baby getaway for expectant parents to relax and celebrate. Its origins are modern, but the idea of pre-baby trips has historical roots in various cultures. They are now cherished worldwide, with couples enjoying pampering and creating memories. The trend has surged, with resorts offering packages emphasising self-care and nurturing relationships before parenthood. They celebrate the transition to parenthood, offering couples precious moments before their new journey.

So, if you are seeking a destination to explore for your babymoon, here's a curated list of the best babymoon destinations that will ensure expectant couples enjoy an unforgettable pre-baby retreat.

Club Mahindra Tungi, Lonavala: Located amidst the picturesque beauty of the mountains, near Lonavala city, it offers expectant couples a serene weekend getaway. With its spectacular views and experiences, it provides the perfect setting for soon-to-be parents to unwind before parenthood. This vibrant destination offers a myriad of

fun-filled activities, allowing couples to bond and create cherished memories. From exploring the scenic views to witnessing breath-taking sunsets, couples can immerse themselves in the breath-taking beauty of the resort. With its panoramic views of Pawna Lake visible right from the windows, it also serves as an idyllic backdrop for a memorable photoshoot. For couples seeking indulgence and relaxation, this resort is the ultimate choice for pampering themselves and celebrating this special time together.

Club Mahindra Udaipur: Nestled against the stunning backdrop of the scenic Aravalli Hills, it is a masterpiece of tranquility that promises not only calmness but also an amazing experience for expectant couples. The resort offers easy access to enriching and unique experiences, seamlessly blending nature, culture, history, and adventure for a soothing stay. Couples can indulge in royal services and comforts, and rejuvenate their senses amidst lush greenery with signature treatments and therapies at the spa. It is the perfect retreat for your babymoon, where every moment is

designed to pamper you and your growing family.

Club Mahindra Varca: Nestled along the picturesque shores of Goa, it offers a serene escape amidst ivory sea waves and golden sands, making it a perfect getaway for an expectant couple. Embrace the calming beauty of the beach for a day or embark on a romantic stroll along the sparkling seashore with your spouse, creating cherished moments together. Indulge in an intimate candlelight dinner by the beach, further enhancing the romance of your babymoon experience. Additionally, expectant couples can also explore nearby attractions such as Dolphin Point, the Spice Plantations Tour, and the historic Basilica of Bom Jesus, perfect for experiencing with your special someone during your babymoon.

Club Mahindra Madikeri: This resort offers a plethora of experiences for expectant parents to unwind and de-stress themselves before navigating the path of parenthood. Nestled amidst coffee plantations, the resort offers a tranquil escape from busy city life and transports travellers to a peaceful and serene environment. The resort not only provides comfortable and spacious rooms but also boasts amenities like a spa and swimming pool, perfect for pampering and relaxation escape for the expectant couple. The breath-taking natural landscape surrounding the resort is ideal for leisurely walks in the woods, allowing the couple to enjoy the soothing breeze and immerse themselves in the beauty of nature..



what's brewing?

Urvashi

Javed Habib

Vamsi Krishna

Jiya Sosa

Lavanya

Tanuja

Mamata Rai

Reshma

Vyshnavi

SB Innovations, in collaboration with IBA (Indian Beauty Association) title sponsor Moira Cosmetics, organised a makeup seminar and workshops at SVM Grand in Nagole. The seminar and workshop were done by celebrity hairstylist Javed Habib and celebrity makeup artist Jiya Sosa.

Vijaya and Chandana

Amrutha

Tanisha

Vega Sri Gold and Diamonds announced the launch of its exquisite Akshay Tritiya special collections, curated to add timeless elegance to your celebrations. As a part of the special collection, they are also making some special offers, which include a gold coin bonanza, no making charges on Polki Jewelry, and diamonds at unbeatable prices.

Photos by - SV Chary

Acer Motors announced the launch of the EPIC New Swift from Maruti Suzuki from its all in one showroom at Trimulgherry in Secunderabad, by Air Vice Marshal C V Parker, MVC, VM. Maj. P. T. Choudary.

Mother's Day at Cayenne

Join us for a special brunch experience honouring the extraordinary bond between mothers and their loved ones. Indulge in a culinary journey with exquisite dishes, meticulously prepared by our talented chef, ranging from tantalizing appetisers to decadent desserts. Immerse yourself in togetherness, sharing meaningful moments with your mom. Treat her on this special day where every aspect is crafted to honor her love. Make this Mother's Day truly unforgettable and special with us, as we create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Join us at Cayenne, to celebrate the love and strength of mothers everywhere.

When: 12th May 2024
Where: Cayenne, Mercure Hyderabad KCP
Time: 1 PM-4 PM

Sweet Mother O' Mine

Celebrate the irreplaceable bond with Sweet Mother O' Mine at Food Exchange, NHCC, where love knows no bounds. This special occasion calls for a grand gesture, and what better way to express your gratitude with an exquisite, one-of-a-kind spread meticulously crafted by our chefs. Pamper and shower your mother with all the affection in the world as you indulge in this unforgettable culinary journey. Let each bite convey the depth of your appreciation and admiration. Join us, as we honour the most important woman in our lives with a heartfelt celebration that she truly deserves.

Where: Food Exchange Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana.
When: 12th May 2024
Time: 12.30 PM to 4.00 PM

FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		
5					6
7			8		
9				10	
12	13		14		15
17				18	
19					

NANCY

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

- The first teenage year
- A neck warmer
- This makes bread rise
- Having a meal
- Expensive
- A heat injury
- An artist's workshop
- Precise
- Shave with this
- A sheep minder
- A ship's right-hand side
- Be ill or die from lack of food
- Get to
- Stunned and not able to think properly
- Halt

DOWN

- Easily burnt breakfast food
- Young child
- Things to play with
- Rub out
- Puts together from separate parts

SOLUTION

R	A	S	H	A	L	T			
A	B	G	R	L	I				
T	A	C	K	M	U	S	I		
E	A	S	E	C	O	I			
R	V	N	I	H					
I	N	N	E	R	U	S	H		
E	R	A	E	O					
S	A	F	E	S	T	A	L	S	O
R	T	O	M	A	T	O	E	S	



MEGASTAR CHIRU, HONoured WITH PADMA VIBHUSHAN DEDICATES IT TO TECHNICIANS

At a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, renowned actor Chiranjeevi—a legend in Telugu cinema—was conferred with the prestigious Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour. The seasoned actor conveyed his sincere appreciation for all the well-wishes that poured in from all directions. In a poignant message posted on the social media site X, Chiranjeevi expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped him along the way in the creative industry, including his supporters, and the Union Government for the esteemed award. Fans all throughout the country have been moved by the pictures and videos that show Chiranjeevi accepting the Padma Vibhushan and celebrating the moment with his family!

Even with the recognition that comes with being named a Padma Vibhushan, Chiranjeevi is dedicated to his work. While working on the highly anticipated socio-fantasy movie *Vishwambhara*, the megastar never fails to enthrall viewers with his on-screen persona. Unmatched in the Indian film industry, Chiranjeevi's legacy is characterised by his many years of commitment, adaptability, and creative genius. In addition to receiving praise from critics, his services to Telugu cinema have won him millions of admirers across the globe. The Padma Vibhushan award is evidence of his remarkable career and lasting influence on Indian cinema. After coming back to Hyderabad, Chiranjeevi

talked with the media and expressed his feelings over winning the important recognition. Throughout his remarkable career, he worked with directors, producers, and technicians, and he credited them for his accomplishments. "I will be happy if Sr. NTR gets the Bharat Ratna," Chiranjeevi added, expressing his respect for the legendary actor and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Chiranjeevi's family, including his wife Surekha, son Ram Charan, daughter-in-law Upasana, and daughter Sushmitha, accompanied him to the award ceremony. Ram Charan, a renowned actor himself, shared a heartfelt post on Instagram congratulating his father. The post featured a family picture and a video of Chiranjeevi receiving the award.



Ajith Kumar begins shooting for Good Bad Ugly in Hyd

Mythri Movie Makers announced a high-budget action film, *Good Bad Ugly*, with Ajith Kumar playing the lead. Adhik Ravichandran, who last directed Vishal in Mark Antony, will helm the new film. It is heard that Ajith Kumar lands in Hyderabad for the movie. The movie *Good Bad Ugly* went on floors on Friday. Ajith Kumar also takes part in the shoot in the first schedule, which is happening in a big set in Hyderabad. The movie will see Ajith Kumar in a role with multiple shades. The title poster awestruck one and all. Mythri Movie Makers is making movies in other languages with big stars from other industries, and *Good Bad Ugly* is a Telugu-Tamil bilingual. The movie, which will have music by rockstar Devi Sri Prasad, is scheduled to be released in Pongal in 2025.



IT'S A WRAP FOR DARLING

Priyadarshi, who most recently starred in the absurd comedy *Om Bheem Bush*, is getting ready for his upcoming movie, *Darling*, alongside the talented actress Nabha Natesh. While, there has been much anticipation surrounding the film, the makers shared on Friday that the shoot has been wrapped up. The film is about

a heartfelt journey through the complexities of love and marriage. K. Niranjan Reddy is producing *Darling* under the Prime Show Entertainment banner. *Darling* is directed by Aswin Raam, who has previously worked on movies such as *Yaarume Thevai Illa* (2021) and *Anbarivu* (2022). Vivek Sagar has been engaged to write the soundtrack for the movie. Naresh Ramadurai did the cinematography, while Pradeep E. Ravag did the editing.

Bharat Raj takes charge as Abhiram in Yevam

The first look of *Yevam* was revealed earlier this year. The movie aims to question conventional wisdom and honour women's tenacity. After sharing the details about the characters of the heroines—Chandini Chowdary and Ashu Reddy—the makers have shared a new update about the male lead, Bharat Raj's character in the film. In the film, Bharat will be seen playing the character of inspector Abhiram, and his intriguing look was unveiled on Friday. Directed by Prakash Dantuluri, the film also stars Chandini Chowdary, Ashu Reddy, and Vashishta Simha, among the rest. The film is produced by Navdeep and Pawan Goparaju. On the technical front, it has cinematography by SV Visveshwar, music by Keertana Seshu and Nilesh Mandalapu, and editing by Sujana Addusumilli.



Prerna Arora said 'no compromise' on budget for Hero Heeroine

Filmmaker Prerna Arora is leaving no stone unturned to make her upcoming project *Hero Heeroine* stand out among the other films. For a significant scene in the film, which takes place in a forest, Arora suggested constructing a set on a studio floor, irrespective of the high cost it would require. Prerna was adamant that director Suresh Krissna had crafted such a visually striking and emotionally resonant sequence that it deserved to be a standout moment in the film. Director Suresh Krissna said, "Prerna is truly an exceptional visionary. Once she's captivated by a story, she spares no effort in bringing it to fruition. The day I narrated this sequence, she recognised its true value within the film. Without hesitation, she declared, 'Sir, no compromise-

es. Let's make it happen. Sky's the limit." After extensive discussions involving the director of photography, art director, and production designer, the makers decided to execute the set at Ramoji Film City. The film is scheduled to commence shooting on June 10 in Hyderabad and is set to conclude by August 5th. The planning and execution of both the locations and set design indicate that this film promises to deliver a truly distinctive cinematic experience! The film is said to be a pan-Indian film that stars Divyah Khosla in the lead role, while Tusshar Kapoor, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, and the rest of the ensemble cast play pivotal roles.



Manchu Lakshmi-starrer officially titled Yakshini



Telugu-language makers of *Baahubali* are working on a horror web series. For this OTT series that Arka Media Works is producing, the name *Yakshini* has been decided upon. Disney Plus will provide this webseries for streaming. On Friday, they gave fans a first peek at the webseries poster. It's intriguing that the differently designed poster merely features a shadow instead of the main actors. Interest will grow thanks to the poster's caption, "Yakshini comes." This web series, which begins with a horror story, is rumoured to have Vedika, Rahul Vijay, Ajay, and Manchu Lakshmi in the key parts. Vedika appears to be playing the fairy in the titular role. It's been also reported that her character would change with each episode of this exciting series that incorporates horror themes! You can watch the *Yakshini* web series in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi on Disney Plus Hotstar. It is understood that the release date will shortly be announced by the makers. The amount of episodes in this series will be made clear along with the director. *Yakshini* is a web series that Sobhuyarlagadda and Prasad Devineni are making with a significant budget under Arka Media Works. However, this is actress Vedika's debut web series! She made her Tollywood debut in *Vijayadasami*, starring Kalyan Ram. She then acted in a number of movies, including *Far Away*, *Balakrishna Ruler*, and *Baanam*. Her hit in Telugu was *Kanchana 3!* She also had a major part in the recently released film *Razakar*.



PRATHINIDHI TO HAVE A 'THREEQUEL': REPORTS

Prathinidhi 2, a political action drama directed by Nara Rohit, premiered in cinemas three days prior to the AP elections. The film is the first feature film that renowned journalist Murthy Devagupthapu has directed. Nara Rohit is back on the big screen after an arduous six-year break. *Prathinidhi 1* was a highly praised film with remarkable performances by Sree Vishnu and Nara Rohit. *Prathinidhi*'s ovation made it possible for Nara Rohit to make a comeback with its follow-up. As of right now, there is going to be a third installment in this Telugu political franchise, which was affirmed by Murthy Devagupthapu during the conclusion of *Prathinidhi 2*. The audience will have to wait



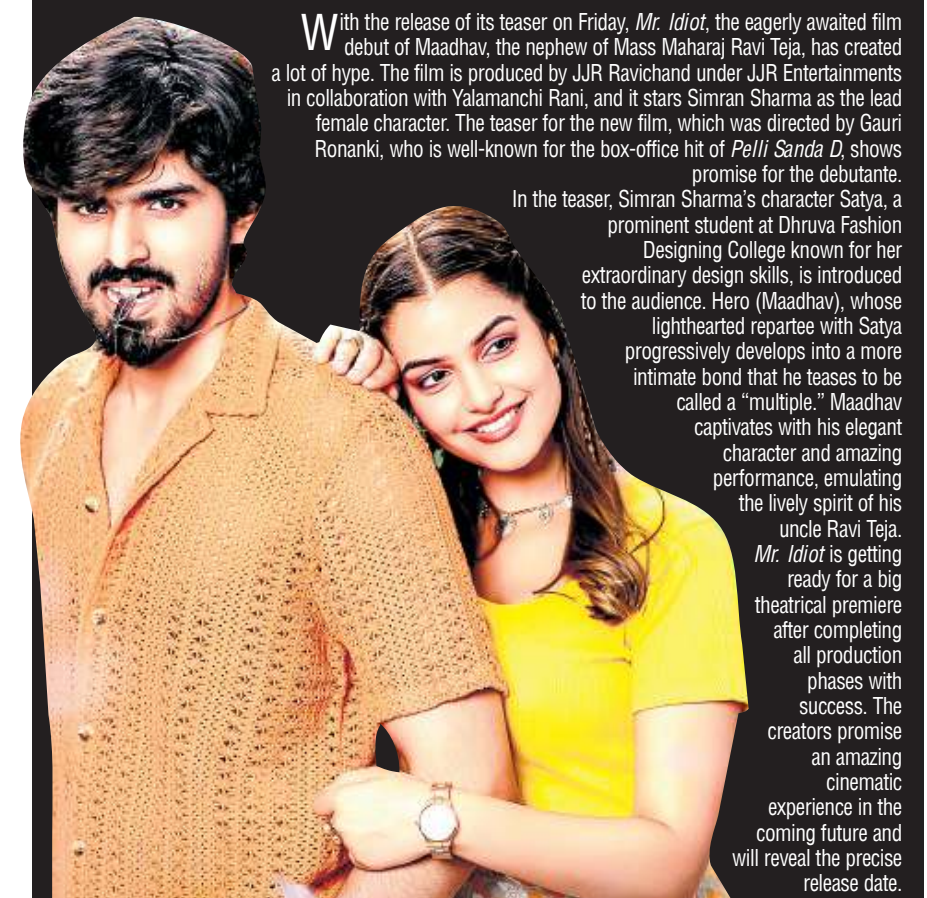
until the third installment to find out the solutions to many of the unresolved questions in the film's open conclusion. According to the director, *Prathinidhi 2*'s actors will also appear in the threequel. The lead heroine was portrayed by Siree Lella, while important characters were portrayed by Dinesh Tej, Sapthagiri, Jisshu Sengupta, and Sachin Khedekar. Under the auspices of Vanara Entertainments and Rana Arts, Kumar Raza Bathula, Anjaneyulu Sri Thota, and Surendranath Bollineni provided financial support for the political action drama. The music was composed by Mahati Swara Sagar.



Massive fire accident at Kalyan Ram's next film set

On Friday, a massive fire accident occurred on the sets of the hero Kalyan Ram. It seems that there has been a loss of around Rs 4 crore in this accident. According to reports, this accident took place in the huge set built for each scene in the film in Hyderabad. The shooting of this movie, which is yet to be titled, is currently going on at a rapid pace. Senior actress and political leader Vijayashanti is playing a key role in this movie. According to reports, Kalyan Ram is acting in this crime thriller movie. He will be seen as a CBI officer in the film. A huge set was set up for shooting the action scenes of this movie. Now the set is on fire for Rs 4 crore! The shooting was going on when the fire broke out, but there were no casualties reported.

Mr. Idiot teaser out now



With the release of its teaser on Friday, *Mr. Idiot*, the eagerly awaited film debut of Maadhav, the nephew of Mass Maharaj Ravi Teja, has created a lot of hype. The film is produced by JJR Ravichand under JJR Entertainments in collaboration with Yalamanchi Rani, and it stars Simran Sharma as the lead female character. The teaser for the new film, which was directed by Gauri Ronanki, who is well-known for the box-office hit of *Pelli Sanda D*, shows promise for the debutante. In the teaser, Simran Sharma's character Satya, a prominent student at Dhruva Fashion Designing College known for her extraordinary design skills, is introduced to the audience. Hero (Maadhav), whose lighthearted repartee with Satya progressively develops into a more intimate bond that he teases to be called a "multiple." Maadhav captivates with his elegant character and amazing performance, emulating the lively spirit of his uncle Ravi Teja. *Mr. Idiot* is getting ready for a big theatrical premiere after completing all production phases with success. The creators promise an amazing cinematic experience in the coming future and will reveal the precise release date.



KKR TARGET PLAYOFF BERTH AT HOME

PTI ■ KOLKATA

In red-hot form, two-time former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to seal an IPL playoff berth for the first time in three years when they take on the struggling Mumbai Indians in their final home match of the season, here on Saturday.

The return of their two-time title-winning skipper Gautam Gambhir as team mentor has done wonders for the side which has found ways to win games from difficult situations this season.

Sitting at the top of the 10-team standings with eight wins from 11 matches, another win will guarantee them the playoff berth as the Shah Rukh Khan-owned franchise will look to end on a high, its campaign at the home venue of Eden Gardens.

Gambhir's ploy to back Sunil Narine as an opener along with World No.2 T20I batter Phil Salt has been a masterstroke. The duo have scored bulk of the team's runs, giving it the perfect platform in powerplays to post six 200-plus totals from eight matches batting first.

With 32 sixes to his name, Narine is also the second in the list behind Abhishek Sharma (35). The consistency with which

MI SEEK TO SALVAGE PRIDE



Narine keeps churning out high scores match after match has been phenomenal. With one century and three fifties, the Trinidadian has also been their leading run-getter, amassing 461 runs at a strike-rate of 183.66. Englishman Salt has scored 429 runs at a strike-rate of 183.33. The duo's explosive form has also meant that the likes of Andre Russell and Rinku

Singh, who have been their designated finishers, have not got enough opportunities. Their performance has also covered up the team's bowling profligacy, particularly that of Mitchell Starc. The young Angkrish Raghuvanshi at No.3 has also proved his worth, while Ramanand Singh has been spectacular at the death. In contrast, five-time

champions Mumbai Indians, under Hardik Pandya, became the first team to be knocked out after Sunrisers Hyderabad demolished Lucknow Super Giants the other day. Coming on the back of a morale-boosting win over SRH, MI will look to salvage some pride. Fresh from his knocks of 56 and 102 not out, Suryakumar Yadav has been in scintillating

form which augurs well for Team India ahead of the T20 World cup in less than a month. At the same time, Team India fans will hope that Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya also return among runs. The India captain has four single-digit scores and one 11 in last five games, while Pandya's best this season has been 46. The struggling all-

rounder has failed to cross 10 in his last six innings. Pandya would be desperate to strike form given that it would be crucial to India's chances in the T20 World Cup next month

TEAMS (FROM):

Kolkata Knight Riders: Shreyas Iyer (c), KS Bharat (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Ramanand Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Sakariya, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hussain, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Gus Atkinson, Allah Ghazanfar and Phil Salt.

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



The Big Cricket League to promote local talent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Promising to transform the landscape of Indian cricket, the Big Cricket League (BCL) was officially launched here recently at an event with an aim to bridge the gap between established cricketers and aspiring local talents.

Led by former India international cricketer Rudra Pratap Singh, the BCL revolves around providing a platform for showcasing raw talent and offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play alongside cricketers icons.

The launch event was attended by legendary cricket figures including former India Captain Dilip Vengsarkar, League Commissioner, and former West Indies Captain Courtney Walsh, Vice President. Both Vengsarkar and Walsh echoed Singh's enthusiasm, emphasizing the

significance of the BCL in providing opportunities for those who have missed out on traditional pathways to cricketering success.

At the inaugural season, it was announced that six franchises were set to compete in 18 live T20 matches. These matches will feature a blend of former international icons, first-class cricketers, and aspiring local talents, ensuring a captivating spectacle for cricket enthusiasts worldwide.

With matches set to be broadcasted on both television and OTT platforms across India and in over 30 countries, the BCL aims to make its presence felt amid a global audience. Furthermore, opportunities for team ownership and sponsorship are available, signaling the league's commitment to fostering collaboration and support within the cricketering community, said a statement from the BCL.

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Virat Kohli should open in T20 WC: Ganguly

Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly on Friday said the Indian team management should make Virat Kohli open in next month's T20 World Cup to exploit the star batter's rich vein of form in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Kohli is the current Orange Cap holder in this IPL with 634 runs from 12 matches, averaging 70.44 and at an impressive strike-rate of 153.51, which is significantly higher than his career rate of 134.31.

"Virat is playing exceptionally well. The way Kohli batted last night — 90 in quick time, you need to use him as opener in T20 World Cup. He should open, evidenced by his last few IPL innings which have been outstanding," Ganguly told PTI here on the sidelines of a promotional event.

Ganguly said India have picked a balanced squad for the T20 World Cup which has the wherewithal to land the trophy after a gap of 17

years. India's lone triumph in the T20 World Cup came in 2007, the inaugural edition held in South Africa.

"This is an excellent squad. I think they have picked the best possible squad. Apart from batting depth, bowling looks excellent.

"Bumrah is the best fast bowler in the world at the moment. We have experience in Kuldeep, Axar, Siraj. It's an ideal combination we have this time," said Ganguly.

This edition of the IPL has seen teams breaching the 250-run mark quite effortlessly, and the 51-year-old said the trend would continue in the future as well.

"This is going to be the trend in the years to come. T20 cricket has become a power-oriented game and that's what it is going to be.

"I was reading Sanju Samson's comments the other day, where he

said there's no time to settle down in modern T20s. You just have to hit, and that's the way it is going to be," said Ganguly.

The Kolkatan, himself no stranger to hitting some monster sixes during his playing days, identified the evolved mindset of batters and Impact Player rule as the main reasons behind such mammoth totals in the IPL.

"Now, in IPL we are seeing scores like 240, 250 regularly. The main reasons are good batting wickets and the grounds are also not big in India. In the last game between Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan (Royals), 26 sixes were hit in a 40-over game, which is almost one six every over.

"That's how this game has gone and that's how the players have started approaching the game. The Impact Player rule, where every team has the possibility of adding another



batsman, has also added another dimension to it," he detailed. Ganguly said the bowlers need to

upskill themselves to counter the ruthless march of batters in T20s, and cited the example of pacer

Jasprit Bumrah. Amidst the general ruins of bowlers, Bumrah stood tall, grabbing 18 wickets from 12 matches and his economy rate of 6.20 is the best among regular bowlers.

"The bowlers need to be really more skillful, we have some skillful bowlers around, to be more successful. Look at Bumrah, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, all of them bowl superbly in all formats of the game and in the IPL.

"I don't believe in formats. I believe in skills. These are exemplary players who will thrive in all formats," he noted. Does he think the power-hitting will take the elegance and artistry away, making cricket robotic? "Not at all. Demands of different formats are different. Everything evolves, sports is not an exception. You will still see elegance and artistry in Test cricket. Test matches

will always be Test matches. "Look, quality players will be successful in all formats of the game. Look at Virat Kohli...the best players will adjust to all formats," he added.

Recently, Dinesh Karthik had expressed his desire to return to the Indian side in the context of the T20 World Cup, but Ganguly said the selectors made the right choice by selecting Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson as wicketkeeper batters.

"Dinesh played well but there are better players than Dinesh. I don't think you can leave Sanju or Rishabh out. There are better players than Dinesh Karthik at the moment," said Ganguly. Ganguly also refrained from commenting on the "public reprimand" given to Lucknow Super Giants skipper KL Rahul by the team owner Sanjeev Goenka.

"It is not fair for me to make a comment based on a TV grab. I don't know what Sanjeev had spoken to Rahul. So, I leave it at that," he said.

OTHER SPORTS

Rafael Nadal shows he is not quite ready for retirement in a comeback win at Italian Open

AP ■ ROME

For a brief stretch on Thursday, Rafael Nadal looked every bit of a weary 37-year-old player nearing retirement.

Struggling to produce pace off both sides with his groundstrokes, committing an uncharacteristically high number of unforced errors and unable to stay in rallies, Nadal dropped the first set of his first-round match at the Italian Open against Belgian qualifier Zizou Bergs.

Then the fist-pumping, virtually-unbeatable-on-clay, 22-time Grand Slam champion version of Nadal emerged and the Spaniard rallied for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory before an adoring crowd in what will likely be his final tournament at the Foro Italico.

Nadal was playing only his 10th match this year after missing nearly all of 2023 with a hip injury that required surgery. He's hoping to be competitive one last time at the French Open, where he is the record 14-time champion.

"That was not my best match. I was practicing better than how I played today, without a doubt. But I found a way to win," Nadal said. "My game is more unpredictable than before. I didn't play much tennis for the last two years. So I'm up and down, on and off, but I think I can do it much better than what I did today."

Rome, where he is a record 10-time champion, is Nadal's last big warmup tournament before Roland Garros starts on May 26. Nadal noted that after overcoming his hip and abdominal issues, the time has



come "to prove myself if I am able to push my body to the limit that I need to push to feel myself ready for what's coming."

"I am not talking only about Roland Garros. I am talking about the next match. I need to lose this fear," Nadal said. "Matches like today help. Some moments I was moving faster. Some moments not. I need to get used to that, to take that risk. ... I feel more ready to try it than before."

During his 70th win in the Italian capital, the Campo Centrale crowd serenaded Nadal with chants of "Ole, Ole, Ole, Na-dal, Na-dal!"

"I've always been emotional to play here, these kind of events are the most important events in my tennis career," Nadal said. "The crowd has been always amazing with me, supporting me since the

beginning of my tennis career. So I'm super excited to be able to play one more time here." Nadal was coming off a straight-set loss to 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka in the fourth round of the Madrid Open. But he has never lost consecutive matches on clay in his entire career and now that impressive statistic remains intact during what he has indicated is his final season on tour.

Nadal got out to a strong start, unleashing a 95 mph (153 kph) forehand winner en route to an early break and a 3-1 lead in the first set. But he gave the break right back in the next game when he missed three weak groundstrokes into the net.

Then at 4-4, Nadal double-faulted twice and was broken again to give the 108th-ranked Bergs a 5-4 lead and a chance

to serve out the set. In the first set, Nadal committed 16 unforced errors to Bergs' 10.

During the first game of the second set, the match was briefly suspended when a spectator in the stands required medical treatment. That allowed Nadal to chat with Carlos Moya, his coach. After the 10-minute suspension of play, Nadal raced out to a 3-0 lead in the second set as he upped the power on his shots and became more aggressive.

During the third set, Nadal managed to win a point after he fell to the red clay, quickly getting up to resume the rally and then producing a delicate drop-shot winner. Then he blasted a forehand cross-court winner to break for a 3-1 lead and unleashed a double-clutch fist pump.

Gukesh storms back, Praggn moves to joint third; Carlsen takes

PTI ■ WARSAW

World Championship challenger D Gukesh bounced back from a sedate start to defeat compatriot R Praggnanandhaa and Germany's Vincent Keymer before holding world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen after round six of the Superbet rapid and blitz tournament here on Friday.

However, Praggnanandhaa produced a strong fifth round, defeating Holland's Anish Giri and he followed it with a win over Keymer in the sixth round. Norway's Carlsen shares the lead with Wei Yi of China with eight points apiece while Praggnanandhaa and Shevchenko share the third spot on seven points each.

Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi are joint fifth on 6 points, a full point ahead of local star Duda Jan-Kryzstof. With four points, Keymer is in ninth spot in the \$175000 prize money tournament, a point clear of Giri.

However, the dream run of Romanian Kirill Shevchenko was ended by Erigaisi, who scored his first victory in the event.



Starting with losses in the first two rounds followed by a lone draw, Gukesh showed pluck to prevail over Praggnanandhaa in the fourth round in 41 moves.

The middle game arising out of a double fianchetto by white did not offer much scope for Gukesh and his position worsened as Praggnanandhaa launched a King side attack by advancing his pawns. The pressure was immense on both and despite getting close to a winning position Praggnanandhaa could not keep his nerves and let Gukesh come back strongly. In the next round, Praggnanandhaa was on target with some difficult moves to grind down Giri in just 21 moves out of an irregular Queen pawn game.

Giri fell prey to a brilliant rook manoeuvre and blundered early.

Gukesh made most of the chances to crush Keymer who played white. The tactical complications led to a wild position in the middle game wherein Keymer found his king going for a long walk.

It was hard to recover for him from there and Gukesh finished the game with a queen sacrifice.

Leverkusen rallies late in draw with Roma to preserve unbeaten record and reach Europa League final

AP ■ LEVERKUSEN (GERMANY)

Bayer Leverkusen had a double reason to celebrate in stoppage time on Thursday. Not only did it reach the Europa League final and keep its unbeaten streak to 49 matches.

Leverkusen advanced 4-2 on aggregate and will face another Italian team on May 22 in Dublin after Atalanta beat Marseille 3-0 to advance 4-1 on aggregate.

"It's pure goosebumps!" Granit Xhaka told German television RTL. "You dream of

the night and 2-2 on aggregate. But an own goal by Roma defender Gianluca Mancini eight minutes from time and Stanišić's equalizer saw Leverkusen stretch its unbeaten streak to 49 matches.

Both had seemed at risk during the semifinal second leg after two Leandro Paredes penalties had made it 2-0 on



an atmosphere like this. You dream of games like this. As a kid, you want to be in these games and then when you equalize just before the end and get to the final, it's incredible."

The fact that its unbeaten record was preserved about 30 seconds away from coming to an end was another improbable finale in an impressive season for Xabi Alonso's team, which has already won the Bundesliga title and also reached the German Cup final.