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Ashika Ranganath to be on board for

conspiring to make Hyderabad the joint capital of TG and AP for another 10 years. Hyderabad will be a Union Territory. The Congress and the BJP are conspiring to take Hyderabad from us. Telangana without Hyderabad will be a headless torso. The BRS is the only party fighting against this.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

The Congress and the BJP are

- Harish Rao, BRS MLA

Death of TG man in Australia...

A man from Telangana was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Australia. The body of Arati Arvind Yadav (30). a native of Shadnagar town in Rangareddy district, was recovered from the sea in Sydney, according to information reaching his family on Friday.Arvind, the only son of BJP leader Arati Krishna Yadav, went missing five days ago from his house in Sydney. The family had lodged a complaint with the local police. The police found his

'Cyclone Remal' to make...

'Cyclone Remal' brewing in the Bay of Bengal will make landfall between Sagar Island in West Bengal and Bangladesh's Khepupara on Sunday midnight the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday. This is the first cyclone in the Bay of Bengal this premonsoon season and will be named Remal, according to a system of naming cyclones in the Indian Ocean region. The system will strengthen into a cyclonic storm by Saturday...

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Citroen ropes in MS Dhoni...

French automaker Citroen on Friday said it has roped in former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador in India.Dhoni will mark his debut innings with Citroen in a campaign that will soon go live, the company said in a statement. "We believe that our association with one of India's finest cricketers, Dhoni, will go a long way in reinforcing our commitment to the Indian market. His humility and dedication to excellence align perfectly with..

-PAGE: 8

DK boosted me when I...

Premier India batter Virat Kohli has paid tribute to Dinesh Karthik after his retirement at the end of RCB's IPL campaign, describing the veteran wicketkeeper-batter as a wise and honest person who lifted his spirits during a phase of struggle in the league's 2022 season. The 38-year-old, who joined Royal Challengers Bengaluru from Kolkata Knight Riders in 2022 for his second stint after 2015, played his last IPL match on Wednesday when RCB were eliminated by Rajasthan Royals in the...

Telangana Formation Day fete gets ECI nod

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has given permission to hold Telangana Formation Day celebrations on June 2 at the Parade Grounds here.

This time the Telangana Formation Day celebrations have three specialities. It is the 10th Formation Day and the first celebration for the Congress government.

The Congress government will be dedicating the 'Jayajayahe Telangana' song as the state anthem and it will be sung at all programmes the state

In view of these specialities, the Congress government decided to celebrate the 10th Telangana Formation Day celebrations on a

The Congress government has already decided to invite former AICC President Sonia Gandhi to attend the Telangana Formation Day celebrations as chief guest. The Cabinet has also decided to make Sonia Gandhi release the 'Jayajayahe Telangana' song.





Let's make it grand: CS

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari held a meeting with senior officials and reviewed the arrangements to be made for the State Formation Day on the June 2. The Chief make elaborate arrangements in a befitting manner. All the depart-

ments were told to work in coordination and organise the function in a grand manner. The CS stated that the celebrations will be held at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad. The Chief Minister will first visit Gun Park and pay tributes to the Secretary instructed the officials to martyrs at the Telangana

Sonia may attend as 'mother' of state

Rejecting the BJP's criticism, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said that former AICC President Sonia Gandhi will attend Telangana Formation Day celebrations as the 'mother' of Telangana. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy took an appropriate decision by inviting Sonia Gandhi to the Telangana Formation Day celebrations and appealed to everyone to make the June 2 celebrations a big success. Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan here on Friday, VH asked Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy whether he had forgotten the statement of late BJP leader Sushma Swarai who said that Sonia Gandhi is the 'Peddamma' and she (Sushma Swaraj) the 'Chinnamma' of Telangana state.VH said that KCR and BRS Working President KTR would have been 'begging' at the Nampally Dargah if Sonia Gandhi had not given Telangana state. He asked Kishan to explain why Prime Minister Modi did not respond even though he had met the PM three times and requested a caste census. Why is OBC Morcha President, Dr K. Laxman, not speaking about caste census. VH asked and added that there were poor among the upper castes and

BJP, Cong want Hyd as common capital for another 10 yrs: Harish

The Congress and the BJP are conspiring to make Hyderabad the joint capital of AP and Telangana for another 10 years and to make Hyderabad a Union Territory, BRS MLA Harish Rao said at an MLC election campaign meeting held at Bonakal in Khammam district.

"The Congress and the BJP are conspiring to retain Hyderabad as the joint capital of AP and TG for another 10 years and to make Hyderabad a Union Territory. The Congress and the BJP are conspiring to take Hyderabad from us. Telangana without Hyderabad is like a headless torso. The BRS is the only party fighting regarding this. If this all paddy varieties. He said that the to fear if false cases are filed.



continues TG will lose. All graduates and journalists should think about this," Harish said.

He warned that BRS activists and farmers will gherao the Assembly during the next session if

market price of fine rice is more than the MSP plus bonus.

'The Congress should be warned against cheating farmers. We will fight for everyone. Rakesh Reddy should win and become an MLC as he would be a questioning voice in the Legislative Council," he said.

'The Mahalakshmi scheme, farm loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa, bonus, unemployment benefits, pensions, 10 gm gold, and scooties are all Congress scams. People are suffering because of Congress rule. Voting for Congress is accepting frauds Harish said.

'The Congress government is trying to frighten us by mentioning social media cases. There is nothing

KTR lumps it all as 'BRU tax'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR said that we know about Bru coffee is, but Telangana has BRU Tax. He said it means Bhatti Tax, Revanth Tax and Uttam Tax. "They have to send it to New Delhi. That's why they are collecting BRU here, KTR said.He was attending the preparatory meeting of the BRS held at Devarakonda in connection with the Warangal-Nalgonda-Khammam Graduates MLC byelection campaign.

Continued on Page 2

Six 'corrupt' Mines Dept officials repatriated

PNS HYDERABAD

Days after Secretary of Mines was transferred, six officials were sent back to the parent department. Less revenue and failing to check illegal mining and transportation of sand led to the government overhauling the Mining department. The Telangana government has taken action on six officials on charges of corruption in the mines and geology depart-

working on deputation Panduranga Rao, Devender Reddy, Prashanthi, Project Officers Dasharatham, Thota Sridhar and Superintendent Srinivas in the Mines department were sent back to the parent department. The government investigated and took action after receiving complaints about corruption of the officials.



TG not in a position to buy grains from farmers: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Telangana President, G. Kishan Reddy, said that today Telangana government is continuing to rule even though it is unable to procure paddy from farmers.

He said that politics changed now and today one has to ask who is in which party. "Are they in the Congress, are they in the BJP or are they in the BRS," Kishan said.

Moral values are declining in politics, he said

and asked graduates, educationists and intellectuals to elect good Reddy is saying that he will concandidates and to introduce new conventions into politics.

about Telangana's development. Criticising the Congress government for inviting Sonia Gandhi as the 'Goddess who seeks sacrifices (while in TDP) is now describing her as a benign Goddess. He said that KCR destroyed

Telangana with

his family rule

The people are

Kishan said that KCR destroyed Telangana with his family rule and the Congress is doing the same with its

family rule.

He asked graduates to vote for a candidate who would bring

to Telangana Formation Day cel-Minister Revanth Reddy who had described her

and the Congress is doing the same with its family rule.He said that the Congress government is not in a position to implement its assurances given before elections.

now angry with the Congress after five months. However, Revanth tinue as the CM for 10 more

He said that the CM has been politicking in the name of fine rice and is telling the lie that the Centre is not taking coarse variety rice to deceive farmers.

Modi slams Cong over 1984 anti-Sikh riots

O Takes a dig at Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attacked the Congress over the any decision on his own. His 'maa-1984-anti Sikh riots, saying while its lik' went to jail and the Punjab govgovernment "saved" the rioters, he ernment started shutting down," the ensured the guilty were punished.

had to go to the Tihar Jail in Delhi the excise policy-linked money laun-

to take orders.

"Delhi ke darbari' are running prime minister said at a poll rally He also alleged that Punjab Chief here, referring to the arrest and Minister Bhagwant Mann cannot incarceration of Delhi Chief Minister take any decisions on his own and and AAP supremo Arvind Kejrwal in

Kejriwal, whose AAP is in power Supreme Court granted him interim bail on May 10. He has to surrender on June 2.

To take new orders and run the government, the CM (Mann) had to go to the Tihar jail" and "he had to present his report card to him Kejriwal)", Modi said while canvass-



ing for BJP Lok Sabha polls candidates Dinesh Babbu (Gurdaspur), Taranjit Singh Sandhu (Amritsar) and Anita Som Parkash (Hoshiarpur).

DELHI EXCISE POLICY SCAM

opposes Kavitha's bail plea

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday opposed in the Delhi High Court the bail plea of BRS leader K Kavitha in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam, saying her release would adversely affect further investigation to unearth the "deep-rooted, multilayered conspiracy

The ED, in its reply to Kavitha's bail plea, contended that the Telangana lawmaker is a "highly influential" individual and stands

potential to tamper with evidence and influence witnesses, it said. "K Kavitha has conspired with

other people and actively involved accused of having committed a in payment of kickbacks to the tune grave economic offence. She has the of Rs 100 crore and then in estab-

lishing the money laundering ecosystem, that is, M/s Indo Spirits through her proxy which generated proceeds of crime of Rs 192.8 crore. By such acts, K Kavitha is involved in various processes and activities relating to proceeds of crime (POC) to the tune of Rs 292.8 crore," the probe agency said in its counter affi-

On Friday, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma heard part arguments advanced by Kavitha's counsel and listed the matter for further proceedings on May 27.



PM has accepted case is 'fake'. all arrested should be released: Kejriwal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted that the excise policy case is "completely fake" and hence everyone arrested in the matter should be released, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Friday.Addressing a press conference virtually, Kejriwal said the BJP has been screaming that there has been a scam in the formulation and the execution of the Delhi Excise Policy for 2021-22.

Continued on Page 2

INDIA bloc getting 'clear' SC refuses to direct EC to upload voter turnout data mandate in LS polls

'Will name PM in less than 3 days after June 4th'

PNS CHANDIGARH

The Congress on Friday hit back at the BJP over its "five PMs in five years" remark against the INDIA bloc, saying the alliance which is set to get a "clear and decisive" mandate in the Lok Sabha polls will have one person as prime minister for five years. The name of the prime minister will be announced by the INDIA bloc within three days after the result of the elections is declared on June 4, Congress general secre-

tary Jairam Ramesh told a press con-

ference here ahead of the sixth round of polling on Saturday. The elections are being held in seven phases and the last is on June 1.Prime Minister Narendra Modi has in his poll rallies repeatedly targeted the bloc, claiming that it has plans to have five prime ministers in five years if voted to power. The INDIA bloc is

going to get a "clear and decisive

mandate" on June 4 and, like in 2004,

history will repeat itself after 20

years, Ramesh said. Continued on Page 2

Hands-off approach' need of the hour, says apex court

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused an NGO's plea to issue the Election Commission directions to upload polling station-wise voter turnout data on its website during the Lok Sabha polls, saying a "handsoff approach" needs to be adopted during the elections.

A vacation bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra manpower. The top court adjourned the

Sharma said it cannot issue any such directions at the moment as five phases of polling have concluded and two remain and it would be difficult for the poll panel to mobilise

interlocutory application (IA) filed

Reforms (ADR) to be listed before the regular bench after the elections and pointed out that prima facie it appears the prayers in the application are similar to the main petition pending since 2019 on the issue. This (IA) has to be taken with the

pending writ petition because in between the elections, a hands-off approach has to be adopted," it said and pointed out that it would be difficult for the EC to mobilise manpower for uploading the voter turnout data on its website. "Granting any relief in IA will

ench said. It said it needs to understand the ground reality and not overburden

petition which is pending," the

On May 17, the top court had sought within a week the EC's response on the NGO's plea seeking a direction to upload polling station-wise voter turnout data on its website within 48 hours of the conclusion of polling for each phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

amount to granting relief in the main process midway.

On May 17, the top court had sought within a week the EC's response on the NGO's plea seeking a direction to upload polling stationby the Association for Democratic the poll panel by changing the wise voter turnout data on its web-

site within 48 hours of the conclusion of polling for each phase of the Lok

Sabha elections. The ADR has filed an interim immediately after the polls. application in its 2019 PIL seeking

directions to the poll panel that



"scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part-I (Account of Votes Recorded)" of all polling stations be uploaded





BJP MLAS DARE GOVT

'File cases against us for exposing corruption'

BJP MLAs Payal Shankar, Ramarao Patel, Palvai Harish Dhanpal Babu and Suryanarayana asked the Congress government to reveal whether it would file cases against them if they spoke about the government's corruption and irregularities exposed by BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy.

"Is this the people's government of the Congress," the BJP MLAs asked

They said the Minister who was supposed to answer hid his face instead of explaining the corruption and irregularities exposed with proof. Moreover, the Minister tried to escape the issue by making officials

It is atrocious on the part of the Minister to make Congress activists file a case against

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

region on Friday.

The mercury surged to 49

degrees Celsius in Rajasthan's

Phalodi -- the highest temper-

ature recorded in the country

this year -- as a sweltering heat

wave stewed northwest India

and some parts of the central

least 23 places in Punjab,

Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar

Pradesh recorded maximum

temperatures of 45 degrees

The extreme heat will contin-

ue in parts of Delhi, Rajasthan,

Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh,

west Uttar Pradesh and west

Celsius or above on Friday.

Official data showed that at Madhya Pradesh until May 28.

Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya peratures when they step out to



Palvai harish babu



to answer the allegations lev-Maheshwar and say that action elled by the BJP Floor Leader will be taken as per law, they if they are false. The BJP MLAs asked

BJP leaders are not afraid of cases, they said and added

number of cases and go to jail for the sake of the people and for exposing corruption.
The BJP MLAs said that they

are condemning the filing of cases against Maheshwar for questioning the irregularities of

the Congress government.
The BJP MLAs asked whether the Congress's people's government means corruption, irregularities, looting and savings and threatening to file

Maheshwar to inform CM of corruption in Civil Supplies Dept

BILP leader Alleti with full evidence. He said on Saturday. Maheshwar Maheshwar Reddy said that he will send Rs 1,150 crore took place in journalists on Friday that an open letter to Chief the Civil Supplies Minister Revanth Reddy Department and the same regarding corruption in the would be included in the let-Civil Supplies Department ter he is sending to the CM

Swathes of India reel from

scorching heat for 8th day on trot

Phalodi in Raj sizzles at 49 degrees

This means thousands of

voters may face scorching tem-

exercise their franchise in the

sixth phase of the Lok Sabha

are eligible to vote in the sixth

phase during which polling

will be held in 58 seats spread

Around 11.43 crore people

elections on Saturday.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

across eight states and Union

In Rajasthan, Phalodi logged

a maximum temperature of 49

degrees Celsius on Friday, the

highest recorded so far this

year.Jaisalmer and Barmer in

the desert state sizzled at 48.3

degrees and 48.2 degrees. Akola

and Jalgaon in Maharashtra

reached 45.8 degrees and 45.4

degrees. Madhya Pradesh's

Ratlam and Rajgarh recorded a

high of 46.2 degrees and 46.3

degrees.
Maximum temperatures set-

tled at 45.4 degrees in Haryana's

Sirsa, 44.8 degrees in Punjab's

Bathinda, and 45.5 degrees in

Gujarat's Ahmedabad and

territories.

Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy had struck a deal for commis-

Six 'corrupt' Mines...

Continued from page 1

It may be mentioned here that exactly a week ago Mahesh Dutt Ekka, working as principal secretary in the Mines and Geology depart-ment, was transferred. The government asked him to report to GAD and Surendra Mohan was given the role. Last week when the Chief Minister held a review meeting, he reportedly expressed anger over lack of revenue from the Mining department.

Revanth Reddy vent ire over failing to check illegal sand mining and even warned of action against officials. Exactly after a week, GM level officers were sacked.

Earlier this week, the NGT issued a fine of Rs 25crore to stop illegal sand mining in Manair river. The NGT ordered the Irrigation and deposit money to Godavari River Board. The NGT said the money for the sand min-ing should be recovered from the TSMDC. The officials who were sent back were in the TSMDC. Even in February, the Comptroller and Auditor General has found several irregularities in sand mining in Telangana, including contracts given to third parties by tribal development societies in violation of rules. The CAG also uncovered that the State government's procedural delays resulted in a revenue loss of Rs 172 crore.

Expired dal. dairy

Rameshwaram Cafe

Food safety authorities of Telangana have found

expired stocks of Black gram

(Urad dal) and some dairy

items on the premises of the

popular Rameshwaram Cafe

In its response, the popu-

lar restaurant said the expired

goods were not meant for

consumption but to be dis-

ducted inspections in the

Madhapur area on

Rameshwaram Cafe Urad Dal (100Kg) stock found expired in Mar'24 worth Rs 16K. Nandini Curd (10kg), Milk (81) worth Rs 700

Milk (8L) worth Rs 700

found expired. Above items

discarded on the spot,"

Commissioner, Food Safety,

Telangana said in a post on

On Friday, Rameshwaram

Cafe said the management

has taken note of the obser-

vations made by the author-

ities for its Hyderabad outlet

and is already looking into

'X' on Thursday night.

"Task force team has con-

items found in

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

here.

carded.

23.05.2024.

The audit sample included three selected project offices of Telangana Ŝtate Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (TSMDCL) . Jayashankar\Bhupalpally,

Bhadradri\Kothagudem and

Shabbir warns Modi on reservations for Muslims

The Government advisor for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities Mohammed Shabbir Ali, has warned that he would file a contempt of court case against Prime Minister Modi if he continued to mislead the public about reservations for Muslims. Addressing the media

at the Gandhi Bhavan on



Friday, Shabbir Ali reminded that the issue was before the Supreme Court and asked how Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah could talk

for Muslims.

He pointed out that reservations for Muslims were given based on their economic status and not based on religion, and that only certain most backward sections among Muslims were given reserva-

tions for 20 years. He said that Modi and Amit Shah were trying to 'create' differences between Hindus and

27 Vizag youths

trafficked to

Cambodia return home

As many as 27 youngsters

from Visakhapatnam and its

vicinity who were trafficked

to Cambodia reached here on

Friday, said a top police offi-

cial. Visakhapatnam Joint

Commissioner of Police Fakkeerappa Kaginelli said a

batch of 10 returnees arrived at the port city's airport at 5.30 pm and another batch of

15 were set to reach here later

"Two more returnees made

their own arrangements to

come via Singapore,"

Kaginelli told PTI, adding

that 27 out of 58 rescued persons belonged to the south-

ern state. According to the top

police official, things started

moving in a positive direction

after the city police broke the

news of human trafficking on

The police arrested three

persons on human trafficking

charges for luring over 150

youth from the city and its

vicinity promising jobs in the

Southeast Asian country.

in the day.

May 18.

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Huge pit formed at Medigadda Gate 16



PNS HYDERABAD

The 16th to 21st gates of the Medigadda barrage were dis-located due to sinking of piers effect. The raft was damaged while lifting the gates and huge holes were formed under the raft. Officials are doing grounding works. The works will be reportedly completed in a week. Only after that the authorities will lift the gates. The government ordered to lift the gates before the rainy season. Loud noises and tremors reportedly occurred at Medigadda barrage in Kaleswaram barrage. While trying to lift the 16th gate of the seventh block, noises were reportedly heard underground. Due to this, the barrage was likely to be in serious danger; so the work was

Officials suspect that the huge pit was formed when sand was washed away from under the foundations during previous floods. It is possible

to open the gates only after filling it. When gate number 16 was about to be lifted, there was a huge noise and vibration. The sensors installed there also detected sounds and vibrations and alerted. As a result, the repair work has been temporarily stopped.

It is suspected that a huge pit has been formed under the barrage.

Repairs are expected to be undertaken after geo-physical and technical tests. Officials believe that if the repairs continue like this, the barrage will be in danger. Due to the large amount of water stored in Medigadda barrage, it has been estimated that due to the pressure, a large amount of sand has been washed away from under the barrage, which has caused a big hole at the bottom of the barrage. Based on the recent Ground Penetrating Radar test, the initial estimate is that the size of this pit may be 12,000 cubic meters to

Telangana...

Continued from page 1

Oscar award-winning music director MM Keeravani scored music for the state anthem as per the government's request. The song was written by Ande

On Friday, Jagga Reddy said that he has information that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will go to New Delhi along with Ministers to invite Sonia Gandhi to attend Telangana Formation Day

It is not known whether Sonia Gandhi has agreed to attend Telangana Formation Day celebrations as the Lok Sabha election results would be announced on June 4.

MEA sends show-cause notice to Prajwal on diplomatic passport

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has served a show-cause notice to suspended JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna asking why his diplomatic passport should not be cancelled as sought by the Karnataka government in view of allegations of sexual abuse against him, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.

Official sources on Thursday had said the MEA is processing the Karnataka government's request to cancel Prajwal's diplomatic passport. Currently, he is believed to be in Germany.

The show-cause notice has been served on Prajwal as part of the process initiated to cancel his passport, the people in his constituency.



It is learnt that the showcause notice was served through email.

Prajwal, the grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, is at the centre of a mass sexual abuse case and the Hassan MP left India on April 27, a day after voting for the Lok Sabha elections took place

PM Modi campaigned for Revanna, owes explanation to women of India: Shashi Tharoor

PNS PATNA

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday asserted Prime Minister Narendra Modi "owed an explanation to the country's women" for having campaigned in favour of sex scandal accused Prajjwal Revanna.Speaking to PTI-Video during his visit to Patna, Tharoor alleged that accusations against Revanna had been known to the BJP which chose to ignore these because of "political cynicism"."It is now well known

that videotapes of Revanna were made available to a BJP leader in Karnataka where the party displayed political cynicism by keeping mum and having a truck with the Janata Dal (Secular)," he said.

Referring to a rally of Modi in the Hassan constituency for Revanna who has been on the run since the matter came to light, Tharoor said, "The prime minister of the country clearly owes an answer to the country's women for canvassing in favour of such a candidate".

smooth and timely departure to The Chief Secretary directed avoid unnecessary delay at the the police department to prepare time of leaving the venue. The

Continued from page 1

alighting /pick up points and parking places and make arrangements accordingly duly providing signage at vantage points. They were also told to regulate the movement of dignitaries by des-

Let's make it grand... ignating pick-up points to ensure hygienic conditions and arrange nt was directed to provide barricading and arrange shamiyanas/shade to ensure that people are not exposed to sun. The GHMC officials were told to arrange cleaning, levelling, watering, maintenance of sanitary and

decorative flags. The Chief Secretary directed the cultural department to ensure participaatmosphere. The energy department was told to provide threephase power supply and to ensure uninterrupted power supply duly keeping standby team at the

15,000 cubic meters.

INDIA bloc getting...

Continued from page 1

"They arrested me, Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia, conducted more than 500 raids all over the country.

I do not know how many more people they arrested," the chief minister said.

"They say that we took a bribe of Rs 100 crore, and just a few days ago, they said that there is a scam of Rs 1,100 crore. A big question arises that if there is a scam of Rs 100 crore or Rs 1100 crore, then the money must be kept somewhere.

They conducted more than 500 raids, they did not find a single penny anywhere. We must have spent (that money) somewhere," he

PM has accepted...

But the central agencies have not find any account of the expenditure either in all the raids that they conducted, he said.

"With this Rs 100 crores, Rs 1100 crore, some jewellery, land, property must have been purchased. Cash would be found somewhere, bank account was not found anywhere, not a single penny was found anywhere," he charged.

The chief minister, who is out on interim bail till June 1, said that in an interview, Prime Minister Modi admitted in front of the whole country that the liquor scam is "completely fake", and no evidence has

Continued from page 1

The BJP was unseated from power in the 2004 general polls despite its 'India Shining' campaign and the Congress-led UPA came to power.

"Those who repeatedly raise the question who will be PM (if the INDIA bloc comes to power), I want to remind that in 2004, after the Congress and its allies got the mandate, within three days Dr Manmohan Singh's name was announced for (the post of) PM," the Congress leader said.

"This time it will not even be three days," Ramesh asserted and added that "one person will be prime minister for five years to run the government".

He said that the prime min-

ed in a democratic way by members of the INDIA bloc.

"Elections in our country are not a beauty contest. In our country, an election is between parties, our democracy is partycentric and not person-centric," Ramesh said.

"This is why the question that is repeatedly raised who will be prime minister is a wrong question. The right question is which party and which alliance will get the mandate," the Congress leader said at the conference in the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. While all 10 seats in Haryana are going to polls on Saturday, Punjab's 13 seats and the lone seat in the Union Territory of Chandigarh will see polling on June 1.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Tithi: Dwitiya: May 24 07:25 PM to May 25 06:58 PM May 25 06:58 PM Tritiya: to May 26 06:06 PM Nakshatram May 24 10:10 AM to May 25 10:36 AM Jyeshta: May 25 10:36 AM Moola

to May 26 10:36 AM Rahukalam: 8:59 AM to 10:36 AM 1:50 PM to 3:27 PM Varjyam: 09:00 AM to 10:36 AM Gulika: 5:45 AM to 7:22 AM Amritakalam:

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 40°° Humidity: 36% Sunrise: 5:42 AM

Sunset: 6:45 PM **Updated:** May 24, 2024 5:00 PM

SC refuses to direct...

Continued from page 1

In its affidavit, the poll panel opposed the NGO's demand, stating that it will "vitiate" the electoral space and cause "chaos" in the poll machinery in the midst of the general elec-

The poll panel has said that there is no legal mandate to provide Form 17C to any person other than the candidate or his agent. It has said that public

posting of Form 17C -- said. which gives the number of votes polled in a polling station -- is not provided in the statutory framework and could lead to mischief and vitiation of the entire electoral space as it increases the possibility of the images being morphed.

"The petitioner is trying to create an entitlement when none exists in the law by way of filing an application in the middle of the election period. It is respectfully reiterated that for credible multiple practical reasons, the result as per the statutory mandate, is declared on the basis of the data contained in Form 17C at the time as prescribed under the statutory rule

It further said that "indiscriminate disclosure" of polling stationwise voter turnout data and posting it on a website will cause chaos in the election machinery which is already in motion for the ongoing Lok Sabha

regime in existence," it

KTR lumps...

Continued from page 1

"BRS leader Mallesh Yadav, a former soldier, was killed in January. BRS leader Sridhar Reddy was killed in Kollapur some days back. Two people were murdered in just five months after the Congress assumed power. There was no culture of axing people to death in Telangana. Group fights and killings started in Telangana after the Congress took over," he said.

"They are spreading the lie that I said something about KU and OU students.

Is the Congress sincere about KU and ŎU students? Has the Congress given a chance to any KU or OU student in the Legislatures? The BRS gave chances to people like Balka Suman, Gadari Kishore, Bontu Rammohan and Baba Fasiuddin

opposes Kavitha's bail...

Continued from page 1

Kavitha has challenged the trial court's May 6 order by which her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money laundering case were dismissed.

Kavitha's lawyer submitted that out of the 50 accused in the excise matter, she is the lone woman, and urged the court to consider granting her bail as law keeps women on a different pedestal.

In another plea filed by coaccused Arun Ramchandran Pillai, the CBI informed the high court that it is likely to file a charge sheet against Kavitha by the first week of June for her alleged role in the corruption

Hyderabad businessman Pillai has sought setting aside a trial court order dismissing his plea against commencement of arguments on charge till conclusion of investigation by the CBI.

the ED said there is ample evidence to link her to the offence of money laundering.
"Huge amounts of proceeds

of crime have been found to be laundered and investigation to trace the proceeds of crime is ongoing. There exists a reasonable apprehension of crucial evidence being destroyed if she is enlarged on bail. Her release on bail would adversely affect further investigation to unearth the deep-rooted multi-

layered conspiracy," it said.

Elaborating on the alleged role of Kavitha, the ED said the statements of co-accused Arun Ramchandran Pillai, her alleged associate, revealed that he represented her interests in M/s Indo Spirits which was formed as part of an understanding between AAP leaders and her that in exchange for payment of Rs 100 crore to the Delhi's ruling party she will get stakes in some wholesale com-

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Hyd students hold road show to solve environmental issues

PNS HYDERABAD

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology students took part in a road show 'Solve for Tomorrow' to solve pressing global issues at the institute on Friday. Solve for Tomorrow is a national education and innovation competition that aims to encourage a culture of innovative thinking and problem-solving amongst the country's next generation.

The students came forward and expressed their commitment to solving real-world issues such as ocean conservation through drone technology and waste management. They said they require a platform such as Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' that can guide and

Railway police

of Rs 13,16,000

seize gold

support them in turning their ideas into action and help transform people's lives. Robin Singh, a technology

enthusiast and the proud owner of Dash Dynamic and CLUIX, was the chief guest at the event. Both his ventures are focused on preserving the environment. He met the students and shared his journey of success and challenges while building the two environment-focused brands. He appreciated the 'Solve for Tomorrow' initiative and encouraged the students to leverage the platform for building radical and incremental innovations.

The company has recently announced its partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's

PNS HYDERABAD

Mahesh M Bhagawat, ADGP,

Railways & Road Safety, on Friday

stated that on continued general

Conduct is still in force at

Secunderabad railway station in

trains and platforms one male per-

(MeitY's) Startup Hub and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi, and the United Nations in India for the third season of 'Solve for Tomorrow'.

This year, the 'Solve for Tomorrow' programme introduces two distinct tracks -School Track and Youth Track, each dedicated to championing a specific theme and targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students.

The School Track is tailored for students aged 14-17, focusing on the theme "community and inclusion". The track underscores the importance of uplifting underprivileged groups,

son was arrested for possessing

gold ornaments unaccountably

weighing about 188.80 grams

worth Rs13,16,000. The accused

Manab Hudait (34), S/o Somnath,

hailed from R/o H.No.22-5-252,

Kali Kaman Panjesha, Charminar,

Hydera bad. According to the police, on Friday morning around improving accessibility to health and social inclusion for all through social innovations. The winning team will be declared as the "Community Champion" of Solve for Tomorrow 2024 and will receive a seed grant of Rs 25 lakh for prototype advance-ment. The schools of the winning teams will also receive the company's products to boost educational offerings, encouraging a problem-solving mindset.

The Youth Track on the other hand, targets individuals aged 18-22, with a focus on the theme "environment and sustainability". The track seeks innovative ideas for reducing carbon footprint, protecting the environment and promoting sustainability and hence 'Solving for the World'.

Secunderabad, along with P Muneshwara Rao, RHC, and V.Ramesh, RPC, and RPF staff conducted routine checking in view of MP elections. They arrested Manab Hudait at platform No.4, of Secunderabad railway sta-

6:30 am, B Saieashwar Goud, IRP-

Training in urban farming on May 26

PNS HYDERABAD

Keeping in view of rapid urbanisation, unavailability of required area for cultivation of vegetables and escalating vegetables prices, the Department Horticulture will be organising a training programme on Urban Farming under 'Mana illu Mana kuragayalu" programme on May 26 from 10 am to 1 pm at Telangana Horticulture Training Institute, Red Hills, Hyderabad.

The major objective of this programme is to create awareness on growing good quali-ty, pesticide residue-free vegetables on terrace and rain water harvesting, thereby promoting public health and reducing carbon emissions. Vegetables play an important role in supplying adequate vitamins and minerals required for the human body. For a balanced diet, an adult should have an intake of 400 gms of vegetables per day as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommen-

Registration fee for the programme is Rs 100. For further details, contact - 7674072539, 7997725413, 7997725411.

Death of TG man in Australia shrouded in mystery

PNS HYDERABAD

A man from Telangana was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Australia.

The body of Arati Arvind Yadav (30), a native of Shadnagar town in Rangareddy district, was recovered from the sea in Sydney, according to information reaching his family on

Arvind, the only son of BJP leader Arati Krishna Yadav, went missing five days ago from his house in Sydney. The family had lodged a complaint with the local police. The police found his body on the

Arvind's relatives said local police were investigating the cause of his death. He was in Sydney for the last few years and married one-and-a-half years ago.

Arvind's mother and wife recently travelled to Australia. While his mother returned to

India after a few days, his wife stayed back. The day after his mother's departure, Arvind went missing. He had gone out for his car wash but did not return. The family lodged a missing complaint with the police.

Arvind was planning a visit to India with his wife and had even booked the flight ticket for next week. After learning about Arvind's death, some of his family members left for Australia to bring his body.

Social intelligence boot camp starts in Hyd

Katalyst, an organisation founded by Dr Usha Yanamandra, organised a three-day social intelligence boot camp on Friday at the World Trade Centre-Shamshabad in Nanakramguda, Hyderabad. The event will run until May 26 and feature 21 sessions and 15 guest speakers, covering a wide range of topics related to personal style, etiquette, communication and digital

Dr Usha said, "As we embark on this transformative and enriching experience, this boot camp is designed to empower individuals to cultivate a polished presence and unlock their full

The boot camp was attended by Ambassador

Dr Deepak Vohra as the chief guest, along with other distinguished guests, including Y Varaprasad Reddy, Chairman of World Trade Centre and K Narasimha, DCP, Crime Cyberabad Police.

The sessions featured renowned guest speakers such as Anindita M Sinha, Thought Leader and Mentor, Harshavardhan Erra, CEO and Co-Founder of Peepal Waste Managers and Meghana Musunuri, Chairperson, Fountainhead Global School. Participants gained valuable insights into personal style and ommunication strategies.

Over the next two days, the boot camp will

continue to host a lineup of esteemed guest speakers, including Prasanna Meher Nori, Global MNC Associate Partner.

Matrimonial fraudster arrested for extorting Rs 14 lakh

ornaments worth checking as the Model Code of

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cybercrime police of Cyberabad Commissionerate arrested a 23-year-old accused in a matrimonial fraud case on Friday. Three cheating cases were filed against him in the Cybercrime police station.

The accused named Maram Ashok Reddy created a user ID using a woman profile with name Praneetha_Reddy 'SnapChat social media application and sent a request to the victim. The accused manipu-

lated the victim as a woman and extorted Rs 14 lakh under the guise of urgent needs.

The fraudster proficiently creates a fake user profile in the SnapChat App in the name of Praneetha Reddy. When a request was sent by the victim, the accused girl and initiated a virtual relationship through chat.

He deceived the victim in the pretext of friendship, love and later marriage and made the victim totally believe by sending the pictures to make the victim believe his words. The fraudster exploited this

trust to fabricate urgent needs, starting a business and ensnaring the victim in a web of deceit until the heartbreaking realisation of being deceived by

the fraudster. The accused lure the victims and used the amount to play the different online games.

With the cheated money he spent on gaming and betting applications.

Cyberabad Commissioner Avinash Mohanty appreciated Cybercrime ACP B Ravinder Reddy, Inspector K Ravi Kumar and other police officers who were involved in most wanted and notorious cybercrime offender.

TSBIE: Curbs around all exam centres in State

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With a view to maintain public order near all the examination centres of the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE)-Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations scheduled to be held from May 24 to June 3 in two sessions, Dr Tarun Joshi, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, has announced on Friday that under 144 Cr.PC, assembly of four or more persons around (200) metres of the exam centres will be prohibited.

The first session for first year exams will be from 9 am to 12 noon, while the second session for second year exams will be from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Police officers, military personnel, home guards, flying squad (educational department) and funeral processions are exempted. This order will remain in force from 6 am from May 24 to 7 pm on June 3 at all the Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations.

Eco-friendly electric shuttle launched in Mindspace

Stepping towards eco-friendly initiatives, saving 4,500 kg of CO2 equivalent emissions annually, along with 5,500 liters of diesel per year, an Electric Shuttle Service was launched at the Mindspace Madhapur Business Park on The Mindspace Business

Park, REIT, owner and developer of a quality Grade A office portfolio located in four key office markets of India, launched the Electric Shuttle Service as a part of its ESG ini-

According to the REIT, Mindspace Madhapur offers a fleet of four electric carts, each accommodating up to 14 passengers, providing the modifying needs of tenants within the Business Park.

To support the Electric Shuttle Service, Mindspace REIT has implemented a within the campus. Each electric cart can be fully charged



in six hours, offering a range of 60-70 km on a single charge, ensuring efficient, economical, sustainable, and hassle-free operations.

With a commitment to 100% electric mobility by 2030, this new Electric Shuttle ject, to be further implemented across the entity's Business

The REIT entity said, "This is part of our larger goal to shape a carbon-neutral ecosystem, where electric mobility is the norm. With this, we want to inspire a change in culture and encourpartners to embrace sustain-

Prohibitory orders for biennial elections

PNS HYDERABAD

In order to maintain public order, peace and tranquility on account of biennial elections of Telangana State Legislative Council, Dr Tarun Joshi, Rachakonda Commissioner, announced that under 144 Cr.Pc, assembly of five or more persons is prohibited in the limits of Bhongiri Zone of Rachakonda Commissionerate.

For Annexure I, Centres for MLC Graduate Elections -2024 of Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda - Vidya Jyothi, Raigiri village, Bhongiri mandal and Sanjaun School, Lakkaram village, Choutuppal mandal, the order will remain in force from 4 pm on May 25 to 4 pm on May 26 while for Annexure II, all polling locations for MLC Graduate Elections - 2024, the order will remain in force from 4 pm on May 26 to May 27 till the completion of biennial elections of Telangana State Legislative Council at all polling Commissionerate limits and on the date of re-poll, if any.

Wine shops to remain closed from May 25 to 27

On account of byelections to

PNS HYDERABAD

the Telangana Legislative Council from Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda graduates constituency which will be held on May 27, Tarun Joshi, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, has announced on Friday that in exercise of the powers vested in him, toddy and wine shops, bars attached to restaurants, military canteen (including bars in Star hotels and registered clubs) within the limits of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Zone of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate shall remain closed from 4 pm on May 25 to 4 pm on May 27 as per the statutory provisions laid down under Sec 135-C of the Representation of the People

Non-proprietary clubs, star hotels, restaurants etc., and hotels run by anyone or even if they are issued different categories of licences for possession and supply of liquor, shall also not be n liquor on these days, in connection with the byelections.

TG EAPCET counselling for engineering from June 27

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Technical Education department on Friday released a three-phase counselling schedule for the Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) 2024 with the first phase

engineering programmes commencing on June 27. According to the schedule,

registration for

counselling for admissions into B.E./ B.Tech / B.Pharmacy

courses, the registration can be done till July 5 and certificate verification is scheduled from June 29 to July 6. Candidates can exercise web options from June 30 to July 8. Provisional seat allotment is

on or before July 12 and candidates have to report online and pay the tuition fee between July 12 to 16. Similarly, two more phases

will be held. A detailed notification along with instructions will be made available in the website tgeapcet.nic.in on June 19.



Technical Education department appealed the students to obtain all the required documents before the commencement of counselling

include Diploma or its equivalent Marks Memo from VI to Diploma or its equivalent Study Certificates or Transfer Certificate (TC) or Income Certificate issued on or after January 1, 2024 by the competent authority.

GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY 2024

Focus on practical accessibility for inclusive digital environments

PNS HYDERABAD

Supporting inclusive digital environments with a focus on practical accessibility, the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) 2024 was conducted jointly by the Institute for Vision Rehabilitation at the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) and the Hello A11Y Community on Friday.

Over 125 participants attended the event, such as vision rehabilitation and technology professionals, individuals with vision impairments, their families and other profes-

Information was provided into creating more accessible websites, e-commerce sites and PDFs, enabling the creation of a more inclusive digital envi-



ronment for all.

Network Associate Director Vision Rehabilitation at the Vision Institute for Rehabilitation, Dr Beulah Christy said, "By bringing together experts and stakeholders, we aim to drive forward the conversation around accessibility and create tangible actions towards a more inclusive society."

Dr.Beulah also said, Global

Accessibility Awareness Day serves as a critical reminder of the ongoing need to prioritise accessibility in all aspects of digital design and develop-

Initiatives like these not only raise awareness but also inspire concrete steps towards building a more inclusive world for

The programme featured talks delivered by a panel of

beakers from Barrier Break Covantage, Graillemaker Innovations, HelloA11Y, and DigitalA11Ym, sharing insights on accessibility, contributing significantly to a deeper understanding of building an inclusive society.

Sessions on Empowering

Web-Accessibility through Artificial Intelligence (AI), Addressing Accessibility Challenges in Remediating Shopify Websites was conducted, along with Accessibility Testing-User First ducted, Approach, Demo of Spacefelt, Smartphone-Based QR Labeling Application and Enhancing Document Accessibility were also shared along with attendees exchanging their knowledge and expe-

Case filed against Dwaraka Hotel for serving rotten food

PNS HYDERABAD

A criminal case was filed against one of the famous hotels in the city, Dwarka Hotel, Lakdikapul, after a 35year-old lady customer had food and suffered health issues on Friday.

Complainant K Sravanthi stated that on May 23 at 3:40 pm, she went to Dwaraka Hotel for lunch along with her husband. They order meals, carrot halwa and moong dal halwa. As soon as she started consuming the food, she felt that the food was rotten. She complained to the manager of the hotel but they did not respond properly. The couple left home carrying carrot halwa and moong dal halwa. The FIR mentioned that

after reaching home, when she opened and tried to eat the carrot halwa, it was spoiled and a pungent smell was spreading out. Later, she was continuously suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea and asked the hotel management

to bear the medical expences. "The hotel management behaved in a rash and negligent manner, which shows their utmost negligence towards customers by providing spoiled and rotten food," the FIR mentioned. The police filed the case under IPC 273 (selling unfit food), 337 (causing hurt) in Khairatabad police station.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

'Our mobile phones are biggest diagnostic devices'

PNS HYDERABAD

Emphasising that healthcare now lies in our mobile phones, CEO of Dr Reddy's Labor atories, Deepak Sapra questioned why we don't utilise the biggest diagnostic device we have in our palm everyday. Addressing the gathering, Deepak Sapra delivered an opening speech at the DXEM 2024 Summit on Friday, focusing on Navigating Digital Transformation in Engineering and Manufac tur-

ing.
The Hyderabad-based Plural Technology organised the sum-

mit at HICC Madhapur, to sensitise relevant industries to the importance of digital transformation in the engineering and manufacturing sectors. Speaking on the occasion,

Deepak Sapra said, with new technologies such as AI and machine learning, vast amounts of drug and molecular data can be used to build complex models automatically. This advancement simplifies and accelerates the drug discovery process, allowing for the rediction of how drugs might behave in the body and enabling many early experi-



Sapra also explained that drug discovery is a very complex and costly affair, taking anywhere from 10 to 15 years and involving around Rs.16,000 crore.

CEO, and President, of CIM Data Peter Bilello, delivered the

kevnote address on Digital Transformation and said digital enablement starts with end-

Panel discussed were held with, Sudhakar Rao, APAC Head, Ui Path; Dr Rajaram

to-end connectivity and ends

with digital skills transforma-

Iyer, VP, Lauras Labs; Siva Kumar Rachakonda, President, Zetatek Group; Dhanraj Tirumala, Founder & CEO, CGI Simulations Pvt Ltd, providing insights on Navigating Digital Transformation in Engineering Manufacturing.
Founder & CEO of Plural

Technology, Sunil Savaram, said the company specializes in Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) and Enterprise Software services. He emphasized, If you don't go digital, you might be washed away by those who have gone digital.

Cine Workers Housing Society president held in cheating case

PNS HYDERABAD

The Raidurgam Police arrested Telugu Cine Workers Cooperative Housing Society president Vallabhaneni Anil Kumar in a cheating case and produced him before the court on Wednesday.

He, along with five other members, were accused of violating the society's guidelines and allotting houses to unauthorised persons by collecting huge amounts from them and cheated around 160 actual members. The prime accused of this case

Vallabhaneni Anil Kumar, along with other accused persons were involved in a total six cases registered at Raidurgam police station. The case has been registered under 409, 420, 468, 471, 506, 120 (B) IPC Sections.

The Telugu Cine Workers Cooperative Housing Society Limited was registered under the Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies Act (APCS), 1964 with registration number TBC-608 on September 9, 1994.

The government has allotted the land Ac. 67-16 guntas in survey number 246/1 of

Manikonda vide GO Ms No 658 Revenue (Assignment) Department, dated July 4,1994 on payment of Rs 40 per square yards in favour of the society for construction of flats to the cine workers on cost-to-cost basis. The government has appoint-

ed an allotment committee consisting of five members out of whom two may be from the film industry and three members shall be from the government consisting of Commiss ioner, Information & Public Relations, Registrar of Cooper ative Societies and others.

Ex-MLA

Jeevan Reddy

land grabbing

A case has been registered

at the Chevella police sta-

tion against former MLA and senior BRS leader

Jeevan Reddy and his fam-

ily members. The com-

plaint was filed by

Damodar Reddy accusing

Jeevan Reddy of grabbing

claimed to have purchased

20 acres of land in

Erlapally in 2022. He

alleges that Jeevan Reddy

demolished a function hall

he built on his property,

which is adjacent to Jeevan

Reddy's land in survey

numbers 32, 35, 36, and

38, and occupied the land

The complainant fur-

ther alleged that Jeevan

Reddy has been using a

gang from Punjab to intim-

idate him and prevent him

from reclaiming his prop-

erty. He complained to the police that the gangsters

had attacked him with

deadly weapons when he demanded that Jeevan

Reddy get out of his land. He sought police protec-

tion fearing reprisals from Jeevan Reddy. In response

to the complaint, the police

registered a case against

Jeevan Reddy and his fam-

ily members under sec-

tions 447 (criminal tres-

pass), 427 (mischief caus-

ing damage), 341 (wrong-

ful restraint), 386 (extor-

tion by putting a person in

fear of death or grievous

hurt), 420 (cheating), and

506 (criminal intimida-

tion) read with section 34

(acts done by several per-

sons in furtherance of

common intention) of the

Indian Penal Code. The

investigation is underway.

in 2023.

Damodar

booked for

PNS RANGA REDDY

MURDER ALLEGATION

Minister threatens to file defamation suit against KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister for Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Friday denied having a role in the murder of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader. He threatened to file a defamation suit against BRS working president KT Rama Rao and BRS party candidate from Nagarkunrool RS Praveen Kumar if they repeated the allegations.

He reacted strongly to the charges by BRS leaders against him after the murder of BRS leader Sridhar Reddy on Thursday at Kollapur under Jupally Krishna Rao's constituency.

Krishna Rao said it was unfortunate that the BRS leaders were pursuing "murder

The minister alleged the deceased Sridhar Reddy was involved in several disputes, including a property dispute with his family members.

Stating that KT Rama Rao and RS Praveen Kumar were making baseless allegations against him, the Minister demanded an apology from

He said the BRS leaders developed a grudge against him ever since he quit BRS to join the Congress and hence they were accusing him of involvement in the murders.

He also claimed that Sridhar Reddy had no political links and was merely a follower of a former MLA. He said several



Minister for Excise Jupally Krishna Rao speaking at a media conference in Hyderabad on Friday

families had suffered due to

Sridhar Reddy's activities. "When our workers died in the past, I made no allegation. It's not proper to link murders

to politics," he said. He wondered how KT Rama Rao could speak without gathering details about the case. He said even the earlier

pute and he got a clean chit after similar allegations were leveled against him. The Minister said that he has

murder was due to a land dis-

no problem if a judicial probe is ordered into Sridhar Reddy's

KTR on Thursday demanded dismissal of the Minister

from the Cabinet over the killings of two BRS functionaries in Kollapur constituency within four months.

The BRS leader visited Kollapur and paid tributes to Sridhar Reddy

He accused the Congress of fostering a "culture of political murders in Telangana."

Jupally has nothing to do with Sridhar Reddy's murder: Mallu

Condemning the Laxmipally murder incident, the TPCĆ senior vice-president Mallu Ravi stated that Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao is "a clean politician."

Mallu Ravi said that Krishna Rao has no criminal history. Moreover, he had resigned as minister for the sake of Telangana state. Krishana Rao has nothing to do with Sridhar Reddy's murder.

While addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Ravi alleged that the BRS leaders had been hatching a conspiracy since Jupally

Krishna Rao joined Congress party. He demanded that BRS leaders tender open apologies to Krishna Rao for making false allegations. He also demanded that the State government punish the persons responsible for the Laxmipally murder incident.

Targeting BJP Telangana president G Kishan Reddy, Ravi said that Hitler had Goebbels in his cabinet and in the same manner Narendra Modi has Kishan Reddy in his cabinet. He alleged that Kishan Reddy is telling lies and speaking by Modi.

Mallu Ravi said that the Revanth Reddy government is committed to waiving the farm loans by August 15. Mallu Ravi said that political reunification is taking place in Telangana. In Delhi, Congress-AAP government is going to form now.

Mallu Ravi said that the Telangana government will felicitate Sonia Gandhi as she gave Telangana state. He warned Kishan Reddy to be careful that the people would revolt against him if he obstructs Sonia Gandhi's

MLC POLLS

Politicos use automated calls to woo voters

PNS HYDERABAD

Though it is a party-less election for the Legislative Council, every political party and leaders are seeking votes in the name of their party. Irrespective of political party, all three parties are using automated telephone calls to voters who are going to vote in the MLC byelection for Nalgonda -Warangal -Khammam on May 27. The leaders are mentioning the candidate's serial number in the ballot paper.

It seems that the BRS is as a candidate for the graduate using technology much more MLC elections. Everyone

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Malla Reddy is like-

ly to join BJP after results of

Lok Sabha elections are

He has been in touch with in-

charges and top leader of Delhi.

Officials have been taking action

against alleged encroachments by the ex-minister and this has

made Malla Reddy sleepless.

Even as he was out of town, on Friday, Revenue and Irrigation

officials of Shameerpet mandal

demolished a seven-acre com-

pound wall allegedly built by

Malla Reddy in the Full Tank

Level (FTL) area of the

Peddacheruvu water body in

Bomraspet village. BRS MLA

claimed that it is his land even

though it is lake's FTL. It was just

PNS HYDERABAD

In a tragic incident, an Indian

student here has died after he

met with a bike accident. Belem Atchyuth from Andhra

Pradesh was a student at The

State University of New York and passed away in a bike acci-

dent Wednesday evening. He

hailed from Andhra Pradesh

getting calls wherein prerecorded messages from BRS MLC candidate Rakesh Reddy, party working president K Tarakarama Rao and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao are being transmitted. Most of them are from Rakesh Reddy asking to vote for him to fight for getting the guarantees of the Congress implemented. In a call, Harish Rao said, "Give your valuable vote to educated, gold medalist and a fighter Rakesh Reddy. KCR announced Rakesh Reddy

Malla Reddy may join BJP

Rajashekar Reddy were arrested

for destructing the compound wall built in a disputed land in

survey number 82 near Suchitra.

Minister Revanth Reddy has

decided not to admit him into

the party. It is possibly due to

the comments made by Malla

Reddy against Revanth during

BRS regime. Moreover, it is

learnt that when Malla Reddy

met advisor of CM, he report-

bike accident in New York

Student from A P dies in

six days ago when Malla Reddy and his son-in-law Marri Rahul Gandhi. This didn't go

It is reliably learnt that Chief

after Lok Sabha results

knows what is happening in the State. The Congress has deceived the unemployed and every other sector. Before the elections, they promised to implement guarantees in 100 days, but they did not do it."

Along with those automated calls, leaders from the local areas are also calling voters and asking them to vote for their party's candidate. A voter named Umesh said, "I am getting irritated as I am getting more than seven calls a day. am habituated to sleep daily in the afternoon. Every day these political leaders are waking me

down well with the local lead-

ers. Furthermore, he went and

met DK Shiva Kumar, who did-

n't give any reassurance.

Moreover, in the war of one-

upmanship, Mynampally

Hanumanth Rao is opposed to

the admission of Malla Reddy

into Congress. It is reliably learnt that Malla Reddy got in

touch with the BJP leaders

prior to the election itself and

was going to join with about 4 MLAs. However, the state BJP

leader opposed this move.

Sources in BJP said that Malla

Reddy will join within a month

after results are announced as

he has nowhere to go. Sources said that Malla Reddy already

apprised KCR about all his

meetings. It is only matter of

time. Moreover, Malla Reddy

has reportedly taken care of BJP

cadre even during BRS regime.

the same campaigning technique to woo voters, the party is somewhat behind in the campaigning for MLC elections. The number of auto-generated calls and direct calls from the leaders are less when compared to the other two parties. The BJP went ahead and used people to call voters directly and requested the voters to vote for

Though the Congress is using their candidate Guijala Premendar Reddy. Other than those three candidates, voters are not getting any automated calls or direct calls from others.

Protest held over nursing student's 'suspicious death' in Telangana

PNS HYDERABAD

The family members of a 18year-old nursing student, who died under "suspicious circumstances", held a protest at a private paramedical college in Bhadrachalam town of Bhadradri Kothagudem dis-

trict on Friday, police said.
The girl, studying BSc (Nursing) first year and staying in the college hostel, was found lying seriously injured in front of a building on the institute's premises on Thursday by a fellow student,

a senior police official said. She was shifted to a government hospital where she died while undergoing treatment, police said.

A day after the student's death, her relatives, students and members of various organisations held a protest at the college blaming the authorities and management responsible for her death and demanding action against them.

The college management had initially said the student had slipped from the hostel building and suffered injuries.

Based on preliminary investigation, the police official said prima facie it appeared to be a suicide and the student is suspected to have jumped from the building.

Man held for trying to open door of flight mid-air

for allegedly attempting to open the door of a flight from Indore to Hyderabad mid-air, police said on Friday.

door mid-air and argued with the airline staff minutes before the flight was to land at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) here, police said, based on the complaint filed by the airline staff. After the flight landed at RGIA, the airline staff lodged a complaint

against the passenger.

BRS MLA Harish Rao said the Congress government has ignored the construction of He was reacting to Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's statement that the TIMS

Cong govt ignored construction

of TIMS hospitals: Harish Rao

"It is sad that Minister Venkat is spewing venom on 'The Congress government which threw construction of the construction of the TIMS the hospital to the wind for five Hospital which the BRS Government started. The BRS months is now making baseless allegations. Instead of focussing government decided to establish TIMS Hospitals in all on completing the hospitals quickly and making them accessible to the public, they are playing politics," he said. areas of Hyderabad as KCR wanted to provide state-of-

"Unfortunately, the R&B Minister is speaking without even the slightest understanding of TIMS Hospitals," he said.

Hospital is only G+14 floors and not 27 floors is proof of the lack of understanding of Minister Venkat. Why is the Minister crying that patients will suffer if there are more floors? Why is he not considering the 24-storey hospital that Rajasthan Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot constructed in Jaipur? Why is the 22-storey hospital being built in Delhi by CM Arvind Kejriwal, a partner of INDIA, not visible

to the Congress?" he said.
"If the Congress government wants to help the poor then the construction of the TIMS Hospital should be completed as soon as possible. Medical facilities should be increased to meet the needs of the growing population," Harish said.

CPI MLA demands Rs.500 bonus for all varieties of paddy

PNS HYDERABAD

PNS HYDERABAD

TIMS hospitals.

Hospital will have only 14

floors as per norms and not 27

the-art healthcare to the poor.

The BRS government had

taken quick steps in that direc-

tion," Harish said.

CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao demanded that the Congress government give Rs.500 bonus to all varieties of paddy.

Speaking to the media on Friday at Makdhoom Bhavan, Sambasiva Rao said that the pending bills were piling in every department due to lack of funds. Former Chief Minister K Chandrashkar Rao was fortunate as the present government has been suffering due to policies of the previous government. He said that the Congress

government should take the advice and suggestions from the all parties and intellectuals to come out of the financial

Targeting BJP, the MLA alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi became power hungry and it reached its peaks. Hence, Modi has been stating that he would be Prime Minister even in 2047. BJP would divide the nation

into pieces for the sake of power.

He said that the Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy has been stating that the Congress is going to win the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana and 25 BRS MLAs

would join Congress party. He alleged that the Narendra Modi government failed to fulfil the assurances mentioned in the Bifurfication Act. He alleged that the BJP provoked the people by vilifying the

Bandlaguda Jagir Municipal Corporation gets first woman Mayor

PNS RANGA REDDY

Latha Prem Goud has been elected as the first woman mayor of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal (GHMC) Corporation Bandlaguda Jagir Municipal Corporation.

The historic occasion was marked by a series of developments within the Bandlaguda Municipality, including a noconfidence motion passed against Meher Mahender Rajender Reddy's bid for the position of Deputy Mayor was unsuccessful, reflecting the complexities of political maneuvering within the municipality.

However, the proceedings were not without their challenges, as 17 corporators opted not to participate in the noconfidence motion, highlighting the diversity of opinions within the municipal council.

Against this backdrop,

laboration essential for effective municipal administration.

Lathaprema Goud emerged triumphant, with her appointment as mayor heralding a new era of governance in Bandlaguda. The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the participation of five BRS corporators, symbolising the unity and col-

woman Mayor in Ranga Reddy district on Friday

Latha Prem Goud taking oath as Bandlaguda Jagir MunicipalCorporation's first

Furthermore, the inclusion of Vedic scholars alongside religious leaders in offering prayers during the swearing-in

ceremony underscores the significance of spirituality and tradition in the governance ethos of Bandlaguda.

Overall, Latha Prem Goud's historic election as the first woman mayor of GHMC Bandlaguda Jagir Municipal Corporation marked a significant milestone in local governance, paving the way for greater gender inclusivity and representation in municipal leadership roles.

Three killed in RTC bus-car collision in RR district

PNS RANGA REDDY

In a horrific accident on Friday morning, three persons were killed as a car and RTC bus collided head-on on Hyderabad-Srisailam national highway. While the RTC bus was on its way Hyderabad to from Srisailam, the car going from Kalvakurti Hyderabad.

The accident happened near Vasudevpur Gate under the Amanagal mandal in Rangareddy District. The impact was severe that the car was reduced to a mass of



fied as residents of Karmanghat in Hyderabad. The victims are Sivakrishna Varaprasad Goud, 35, Nikhil, 26, and Manideep, 25. Upon receiving information about the accident, police promptly arrived at

The deceased were identi-

the scene. With the help of a JCB, they extricated the bodies from the mangled The deceased were then

transported to Kalvakurti Government Hospital for post-mortem. Investigation

GRADUATES' CONSTITUENCY POLLS

CPM extends support to Cong candidate

PNS NALGONDA

CPI-M state secretariat member Julakanti Ranga Reddy said that the party would extend full support to Congress candidate Teenmar Mallanna in the in Nalgonda- Khammam -Warangal Graduates' con-

stituency MLC elections.

He was addressing a press conference at Doddi Komuraiah Bhavan here on Friday. The CPI-M decided to support the Congress in the upcoming elections to the Graduates' constituency Legislative Council. "We support the Congress party, which is a partner of INDIA

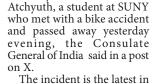
Block, to uphold secular values and democracy, he said. He said the party would extend its full support to Teenmaar Mallanna, the Congress candidate.

He said that according to the voting pattern, the INDI alliance has a better chance of

ment is trying to destroy democracy in the country. He alleged that it was creating enmity between people on the basis of religion. He accused the NDA government at the Centre of increasing unemployment during its 10-year rule. He said that the previous BRS government had cheated

the unemployed youth by not issuing job notifications. He appealed to the unem-

ployed youth not to vote for the BJP and BRS candidates in the Graduates' constituency MLC elections. "After BJP came to power at the Centre, unemployment has increased in the county.



The incident is the latest in



a series of reported accidents Saddened to learn about the involving Indian-origin stuuntimely demise of Belem dents in the US.

Hyderabad software engineer Abbaraju Prudhvi Raj was reportedly killed in a road accident in North Carolina on May.14. On the same day, three 18-year-old Indian-American teens died in Alpharetta, Georgia, in a single-vehicle accident that also left two others injured.

Two 19-year-olds from Telangana studying in the US were previously killed in a night road accident in the state of Arizona on Apr.20.

The incident comes amid a spike in the deaths of Indianorigin students in the US. Earlier, in April, an Indian student, who had been missing since March this year, was found dead in the US state of Ohio, the Consulate General of India in New York said.

Previously, this February, an Indian student faced a brutal attack in Chicago.

PNS HYDERABAD

A passenger was arrested here The incident took place on

May 21. A 29-year-old flyer allegedly tried to open the

winning. "The Modi govern-

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | MAY 25, 2024

Himachal CM Sukhu meets Dalai Lama, enquires about health

ne pioneer

imachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Friday met Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamshala's McLeodganj and enquired about his wellbeing. Sukhu was accompanied by Davinder Jaggi, the Congress candidate in Dharamshala for the assembly bypoll. Simultaneous polls for Himachal Pradesh's four Lok Sabha seats and the six assembly bypolls will be held on

June 1. Sukhu told reporters that it a tradition for him to seek the Dalai Lama's blessings whenever he visits Dharamshala. During their conversation, the Dalai Lama praised Himachal Pradesh as a "beautiful state" and highlighted India's reputation for respecting all religions, the veteran Congress leader said. Around 800 Tibetan exiles are registered as voters in the Dharamshala assembly segment.



For Congress, Jharkhand is ATM of corruption: Amit Shah

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched a scathing attack on Congress, alleging that the grand old party sees Jharkhand as an "ATM of corruption". He also alleged that Congress and Hemant Soren's JMM are competing with each other on corruption in the state, he said. "For Congress, Jharkhand is its vote bank, property, land bank and ATM of corruption...corrupt JMM

leaders, including Hemant Soren, are sitting on Congress lap," Shah said addressing a rally here. He claimed that PM Modi not only freed the country from Naxals, including red rebels in Budha Pahad in Jharkhand, but did "justice to tribals". "Budget for tribals during the Sonia-Manmohan regime was barely Rs 25,000 crore. PM Narendra Modi enhanced it to Rs 1.25 lakh crore in 10 years." he said. The BJP leader alleged that cattle smuggling was rampant in Jharkhand

data harnessing are lever-

aged, national security has

become crucial to many eco-

nomic transactions," he said.

formation of India is critical

to strengthening multipolarity in Asia itself, which is a

prerequisite for a multipolar

"India's growing weight will ensure that the overall balance

in the world order remains in

favour of freedom, openness,

transparency and a rules-based order," he said.

responsibility and more contributions are also making a

difference. Indian naval ships

are currently operating in the

Red Sea to protect maritime

Responder for natural disas-

ters across the Indian Ocean,

sometimes even beyond. Its

initiatives ranging from solar

energy to disaster resilience

and bio-diversity have been

recognised across the world,"

"India has been a First

shipping," he noted.

"Equally, its greater sense of

Jaishankar said the trans-



BJP telling lies about my health, I am fine: Odisha CM

disha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Friday asserted that he is in "very good health" and campaigning in the elections for the Lok Sabha and Assembly all over the state. His statement followed comments of BJP president JP Nadda and other party leaders that Patnaik should be given rest in the wake of his health and old age. "There is a limit to the amount of lies the BJP can tell people. As

you can see, I am in very good health and have been campaigning all over the state for months," said 77-year-old Patnaik. Some BJP leaders had also alleged that Patnaik was using artificia intelligence in his video messages. Responding to the charges, the BJD president asked the saffron party leaders to use their own intelligence. Patnaik's close aide and bureaucratturned-BJD leader VK Pandian said the comments are "very unfortunate, below



'India will ensure global balance remains in favour of freedom'

PNS NEW DELHI

India's growing weight will ensure that the overall balance in the world order remains in favour of freedom, openness, transparency and a rules-based order, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on

In a virtual address at the Nikkei Asia Future of Asia Forum, he said the challenge of supply chain and the use of economic coercion by states have put a premium on resilience, in comments that came amid China's attempt to become an economic hege-

Jaishankar said the world is undergoing a flux, driven by geopolitical, geo-economic and geo-technological developments and that the global order today is visibly under stress, with Asia and the Indo-Pacific very much part of this transformation.

"But it is not just change we are seeing; there is also much greater risk-taking. It is visi-



ble in the conflict in Ukraine, in violence in the Middle East and the disregard for international law and agreements in Asia and the Indo-Pacific," he said. This has economic facets, perhaps even more concerning. The supply chain challenge, over-concentrations stemming from globalization and the use of economic coercion by states have put a premium on

resilience and redundancy," he

The minister said equally important is the technology challenge that has created a new level of inter-penetration and interdependence. "As a result, the era of AI, EVs (electric vehicles), green and clean technologies have brought both hope and anxiety in equal measure.

BJP leader, scribe among four booked in attempt to murder case

PNS ■ BALLIA (UP)

Police have booked four people including a local BJP functionary and a journalist in connection with an alleged murder attempt on a businessman here, officials said on Friday.

According to police, Rahul Kumar a local businessman was returning home from his shop on May 22 when shots were fired on

Circle Officer (CO) Iohammed Faheem Mohammed Qureshi said, "In the complaint filed by the wife of Rahul Kumar, she has accused Dinesh Kumar Gupta and Vijay Madheshia along with two unidentified men for the incident."

Based on the complaint police have lodged an FIR on Thursday under sections 307 (Attempt to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code against the accused and began their investiga-

INDIA bloc for robbing quota of SCs, STs, OBCs to appease Muslims'

PNS KUSHINAGAR (UP)

Hitting out at the INDIA bloc, BJP president J P Nadda on Friday alleged that the "ghamandia" (arrogant) alliance is against the Dalits, tribals and backwards because they want to rob the reservation of these sections and appease Muslims.

The BJP chief also alleged that the "arrogant alliance" is "anti-Sanatan" and "antinational".

He appealed to the people to vote in favour of the BJP and claimed that if Narendra Modi becomes the prime minister for the third time, India will become the third largest econ-

Taking a jibe at the INDIA bloc, Nadda alleged that the INDIA bloc is against the SCs, STs, OBCs and extremely backward classes because they want to appease Muslims by robbing the reservation of these sections of the society.

"This alliance wants to rob the reservation of Dalits, Advasis and backward communities for Muslim appease-

ment," he said.

Nadda was addressing an election rally organised here in support of BJP candidate and sitting MP from Kushinagar Lok Sabha constituency Vijay Dubey.

Praising the work of Prime Minister Modi, Nadda said, "Today, despite being hit by COVID and the war in Ukraine, India has jumped from the 11th position to become the fifth largest economy in the world under the leadership of Narendra Modi. If Narendra Modi becomes the prime minister for the third

third largest economy of the

Reminding the Covid crisis, Nadda said, "No leader of the world was capable of fighting Covid. America, Europe and Japan could not take a decision but Narendra Modi imposed a lockdown and made the country capable of fighting Covid within two months."

Making an appeal to the people to vote in favour of the BJP candidate, he said, "If the button is pressed at the right place, development takes place. But if the button is pressed at the wrong place, the honour of daughters-in-law is put in danger and businessmen are forced to flee.'

He said, "Seeing the people's excitement, enthusiasm, happiness and energy, I am convinced that you have made up your mind to send Vijay Dubey to the Lok Sabha again. The question is not about Dubey but about making Narendra Modi the prime minister.'

Nadda also praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi

Displaced KPs to vote at 34 special polling stations in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi

PNS JAMMU

More than 26,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandit voters from across the country are eligible to vote at 34 polling stations in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu stituency on Saturday.

This marks the conclusion of voting in the Union Territory, with polling already completed in the other four constituencies. The newly created

Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, covering the south Kashmir-Pir Panjal region, will cover the districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Rajouri and Poonch.

The polling parties and security forces are being dispatched for special polling stations set up for the Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Udhampur districts.



"Over 26,000 Kashmiri migrant voters will cast their ballots at special polling stations set up in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi tomorrow. All arrangements have been made for free and fair polling tomorrow," Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dr Arvind Karwani said.

arrangements along with elec-

tion officers at 21 polling booths and 8 auxiliary ones in Jammu, one in Udhampur and four in Delhi. Electoral Assistant

Returning Officer (AERO) Dr Riaz Ahmed urged the Kashmiri migrant voters to "All necessary facilities, including water and shelter,

have been arranged. The Election Commission has also provided a pick-and-drop facility for the voters, available from 6 am to 6 pm, focusing on areas with higher concentrations of migrants," the AERO said.

The authorities, amid tight security, handed over polling materials, including EVMs, to polling parties at Women's College in Jammu. The security forces and election parties are being deployed to their Dr Karwani reviewed the respective stations, the offi-

'Cyclone Remal' to make landfall in WB tomorrow

'Cyclone Remal' brewing in the Bay of Bengal will make landfall between Sagar Island in West Bengal and Bangladesh's Khepupara on Sunday midnight, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

the Bay of Bengal this premonsoon season and will be named Remal, according to a system of naming cyclones in the Indian Ocean region.

The system will strengthen into a cyclonic storm by Saturday morning and further intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Saturday night.

"It's very likely to cross Bangladesh and adjoining West

Bengal coasts between Sagar Island and Khepupara around Sunday midnight as a severe cyclonic storm," the IMD said in an update. The cyclone could reach a

wind speed of 120 kilometres per hour on Sunday. The Met office has warned of extremely heavy rainfall in

Bengal and north Odisha on May 26-27. Extremely heavy precipitation may hit parts of northeast India on May 27-28. Storm surge of up to 1.5

metre is expected to inundate low-lying areas of coastal West Bengal and Bangladesh at the time of landfall.

Fisherfolk out at sea have been advised to return to the



Bay of Bengal until May 27. The IMD warned of

localised flooding and major damage to vulnerable structures, power and communication lines, kutcha roads, crops and orchards in South and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal.

People in the affected areas

have been asked to remain indoors and vacate vulnerable structures.

Scientists say cyclonic storms are intensifying rapidly and retaining their potency for longer periods due to warmer sea surface temperatures, a result of oceans absorbing most of the excess heat

The past 30 years have witnessed the highest sea surface temperatures since records started being maintained in

According to senior IMD scientist D S Pai, warmer sea surface temperatures mean more moisture, which is favourable for the intensification of cyclones

Madhavan Rajeevan, former secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said a sea surface temperature of 27 degrees Celsius and above is needed for a low-pressure system to intensify into a cyclone. The sea surface temperature in the Bay of Bengal is around 30 degrees Celsius at

"The Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are very warm at present, so a tropical cyclone can easily form," Rajeevan said.

But tropical cyclones are not only controlled by the ocean but also the atmosphere plays an important role, especially in terms of vertical wind shear -- a change in wind speed and/or wind direction

Kamal Kishore starts term as envoy of UN chief for disaster risk reduction

PNS UNITED NATIONS

Kamal Kishore, a top Indian official for disaster and climate risk management, has started his term as a special representative of UN chief Antonio Guterres for disaster risk reduction. On March 28, Kishore, 55, was appointed by Guterres as his special representative for dis-

aster risk reduction and the head of the UN

Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Kishore was earlier with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). He succeeds Mami Mizutori of Japan at the United Nations Office

The UNDRR welcomed on May 20 the arrival of Kishore, who started his

for Disaster Risk Reduction

term as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Head of UNDRR, the office said in a statement on Thursday.

Kishore said that the UNDRR plays an important role in drawing together global efforts to reduce disaster risks in the face of increasing vulnerabilities, and said he was looking forward to building on the progress made

"UNDRR's ambition matches the scale of the problem," he said. He commended the leadership of the previous SRSG, Mizutori, and thanked UNDRR Director, Paola Albrito, for

serving as the Acting SRSG prior to his

Kishore has served as Head of the Department of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) since 2015, leading the Group of 20 (G20) Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction under India's G20 presidency.

Before joining NDMA, Kishore spent nearly thirteen years with the

Inited Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva, New Delhi and New York. During this time, he led global advocacy to integrate disaster resilience concerns into the Sustainable Development Goals and a global team of disaster risk reduction advisers to support UNDP

programme countries. Kishore holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning, Land and Housing Development from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. Geneva-headquartered UNDRR is the UN's focal point for disaster risk reduction and coordinates the UN-wide implementation of the Sendai Framework, which was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides member states with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

Four dead as torrential rains lash Kerala, IMD sounds red alert

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPU-

Four people were killed as torrential rains lashed several parts of Kerala, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday sounding a red alert in five districts that were likely to receive heavy rainfall.

According to the weather department, the red alert was issued for Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, and Idukki.

As per the latest reports, four deaths have been reported from across the state in various rain-related incidents, the



State Disaster Kerala Management Authority (KSDMA) said

Though Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Ernakulam were earlier placed under an orange alert, the IMD later upgraded the warning, predicting extremely heavy rainfall in isolated places there.

A red alert indicates heavy to extremely heavy rain of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while an orange alert means very heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm, and a yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 cm and 11

hiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Malappuram, Kozhikode, and Wayanad continue to be on orange alert, while Kannur and Kasaragod remain on yellow alert, the IMD said.

Meanwhile, parts of the Cochin city corporation in the Ernakulam district were inundated after heavy rainfall

WB govt to move higher court to challenge Cal HC order on OBCs

PNS KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced that her government will approach a higher court, challenging the Calcutta High Court order that cancelled all OBC certificates issued in

the state since 2010.

Addressing an election rally in Sagar in South 24 Parganas district, she said the state government would appeal to the higher court against the order after summer vacation. "We do not accept the order that scrapped OBC certificates. We will contest at a higher court after summer

vacation," Baneriee said. The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday struck down as illegal the OBC status of sev-

eral classes in West Bengal granted since 2010, sparking a political debate in the middle of the Lok Sabha elections.

The observed that the inclusion of 77 classes of Muslims in the list of backward categories was to

"treat them as a vote bank". Banerjee urged electors "not to cast a single vote to the BJP or any other party except the TMC so that the INDIA bloc can form a government at the

Prayagraj: 'LS polls a fight to save Constitution'

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj Lok Sabha constituency is expected to witness an interesting electoral battle with some sections of voters here raising local issues such as cleanliness and healthcare facilities, while many seeing the poll as a fight to save the Constitution and the unique "Ilaahabadi" culture.

From the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati, to the Allahabad University and the high court,? Prayagraj has been a revered

seat of education, spirituality and syncretic culture in Indian history. One of the largest and most populous districts of Uttar Pradesh, it also takes pride in giving India seven prime ministers.

The city has produced so many politicians, civil servants. It has three Bharat Ratna awardees within a radius of one km and has given seven prime ministers to the country. This city is a heritage. The Kumbh mela has been celebrated from ancient times, then it became a Mughal garrison town, then



the British Empire came in," Zafar Bakht, a cultural activist,

'Allahabad has always shown resistance. The people

here have a 'hekdi' (arrogance) and don't cow down to anyone. It's intellectually a very vibrant city and if some mistake has been committed in the past, this city will rectify it, be assured of that," said Bakht, who identified unemployment and youth distress as major issues here this election.

The Prayagraj constituency, which goes to polls on may 25, is divided into Allahabad and Phulpur constituencies. BJP had won both the seats in 2014 and 2019.

Prayagraj has a total of over

31 lakh registered voters, of which 20.67 lakh are in Phulpur constituency and 18.25 lakh in the Allahabad seat, according to official data. Surendra 'Rahi', president of

the Progressive Writers Association (PWA) said institutions, and not individuals, are pillars of a democracy. "If the character of these pil

lars is changed, or the system of check and balances through institutions is changed, be it the press, election commission or even the judiciary, if the government begins to change www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION—

Market's thumbs-up

There is jubilation in economic circles, signalling positive investor sentiment in Govt fate

t is not every day that the market breaches new records just days ahead of the Lok Sabha poll results. Both Sensex and Nifty are shooting northwards, especially since the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) declared a huge dividend bonanza for the Government. The stock market has witnessed a historic surge, with the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hitting lifetime highs two consecutive days. With the RBI also recently announcing a record dividend for the Government, this confluence of events has fostered an atmosphere of positive investor sentiment, largely driven by optimistic expectations from election outcomes. The RBI's decision to transfer a record dividend of Rs87,416 crore to the Government has been a crucial factor in this financial upturn. This move not only bolsters the Government's fiscal position but also signals robust economic health and prudent management by the Central bank. Such a hefty dividend payout is expected to provide the Government with additional fiscal space to boost public spending, invest in



infrastructure projects and support social welfare programmes. The substantial RBI dividend is seen as a sign of economic stability and strong fundamentals, encouraging both domestic and foreign investors to pour capital into the market. Following the dividend announcement, both Sensex and Nifty have experienced unprecedented highs. Sensex soared past the 62,000mark while Nifty breached the 18,600-level.

This surge reflects investor confidence in Indian economy's resilience and growth potential. The interplay between the RBI's dividend announcement and the buoyant stock market creates a positive feedback loop. Another critical driver of this market exuberance is the

anticipation of favourable election outcomes. Investors often view political stability as a key determinant of economic policies and growth trajectories. This growth prospect attracts more investment, driving the stock markets higher and creating a cycle of optimism and financial prosperity. The prevailing sentiment suggests that the election results will lead to a continuation of pro-business and market-friendly policies. Historical trends indicate that markets typically react positively to clear and stable election results, which are seen as conducive to consistent and predictable economic governance. The interplay between the RBI's dividend announcement and the buoyant stock market creates a positive feedback loop. The additional fiscal resources enable the Government to undertake more significant developmental initiatives, which in turn stimulate economic growth. This alignment of fiscal prudence, economic strategy and political expectations bodes well for the nation's future. As the election comes to an end shortly and a new Government takes over, a positive sentiment among investors is likely to reinforce market stability and growth. However, the market does not reflect the state of the economy. The indices are more speculative and driven by positive sentiments rather than actual ground real-



Ambedkar's warning on democracy rings true



BHOPINDER SINGH

India backslides on global democracy indexes and exhibits resistance to internal party democracy, starkly contrasting with the political culture of the UK

∎n 1936, Dr BR Ambedkar wrote an undelivered speech, Annihilation of Caste, where he forewarned, 'Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a topdressing on an Indian soil which essentially undemocratic." This sharp but sage observation was well before the Constitution of India was formally framed and adopted under his leadership. Eighty-eight years since the speech that was considered too controversial to be delivered, the issues of caste, constitutional impropriety and his controversial but astute insistence that "Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on India soil which is essentially undemocratic" resonates loud and clear with the proceedings (rather, regressions) in the ensuing Lok Sabha elec-

Amongst the most invoked, galvanising and feared concerns in the ongoing election pitch are still, caste and religion. Beyond the trumpeting label of 'world's largest democracy' which we proudly accept and acknowledge, is the damning backsliding on various Democracy 'indexes' - which we equally readily slam as vested, unfair, or even 'anti-national'. An unmistakably think-skinned spirit and hypersensitivity about the unflattering reportage abounds, which does not help build credentials of a mature, confident and progressive democracy. The mother of democracy simply cannot be selectively entertaining of all praise and simultaneously small-spirited against criticism. However, beyond the multiple and well-known afflictions like dynastic tendencies, majoritarianism, ethnic-casteist-regional assertions, muscle power, money power et al, lies yet another serious curse of the complete lack of, or even any pretence of an 'internal democracy' in any political party, national or regional. We seem to be partaking in the exercise of democracy with a rather regrettable set of undemocratic

'carrot-and-stick' nature (with non-conformist positions do murmurs of the infamous 'wash-



ing machine' phenomenon) that may have made many opposition politicians jump ships - there is yet another loud concern expressed of unapproachability, remaining essentially unheard, or even of inaccessibility attributed to political leadership that leads to members to leave political parties for greener pastures. All Indian political parties have their exclusive leadership cocooned, isolated and protected from lesser leaders - this seemingly helps build leadership aura, mystique and even fear of the respective 'high commands. The top leadership is only for taking the 'final call' and all others must robotically comply with the same, as described in the uniquely Indian expression of sub-servience, as disciplined soldiers of the party". Such obsequious and diktat-filled frameworks are more suggestive of autocracies rather than participative democracies.

This suffocating, intolerant and illiberal normalcy of Indian political culture is in stark contrast to that of its progenitor, British-Westminster politics. In the UK, there have always been divisions within party ranks (on issues), expressed ambition for top roles and public expression of dissenting positions parties. e.g., Brexit.
Beyond the obvious threats of the All these individualistic or

not warrant the automatic



THERE ARE NO

PERMANENT GODS IN BRITISH POLITICAL PARTIES, UNLIKE IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT, WHERE A FEW INDIVIDUALS RULE THE ROOST WITHOUT GETTING SUBJECTED TO ANY INTERNAL CHALLENGE, QUESTIONING OR

expulsion or diminishment of an individual from party The ruling Conservative Party has many active and known 'camps' that may or may not agree with the policies and decisions of their Partyman as the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. It has always been so with divides amongst social liberals and social democrats, modernisers and traditionalists and Brexiteers of various sides and shades etc., Therefore, even though the Conservative Party has ruled uninterrupted since 2010 (then by David Cameron), it has since had five different Prime Ministers i.e., David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and now, Rishi Sunak. Even now the jostling within the Tories continues with apparently Boris Johnson planning a comeback to David Cameron having staged a dramatic comeback as the Secretary of Foreign, Commonwealth Development Affairs, under

Rishi Sunak! It is the same concept of 'internal democracy' that has seen a similar leadership change in the principal opposition party i.e., the Labour Party. Since 2010 under compelling and winning cre-Gordon Brown, it has seen a dentials leads the party. constant change in leadership Harriet Harman, Ed Miliband, Jeremy Corbyn to now Sir Keir Starmer. Each of

these individual leaders has

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reflected the topical preference of the party cadres and leaders. Now with Keir Starmer sure to get elected as the Prime Minister of the UK, he couldn't be more unlike his party predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn, both in person and policies. Starmer continues to consult both the former Labour Prime Minister i.e., Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, though neither has any outsized political relevance. In short, there are no permanent Gods in British political parties, unlike the Indian context where a few individuals rule the roost without getting subjected to any internal challenge, questioning or change. The rules and circumstances for leadership can be made to change overnight to suit certain individuals or dynasties which essentially seek to perpetuate the leadership composition, that has existed for

years. As Winston Churchill once said, "The opposition occupies the benches in front of you, but the enemy sits behind you" implying in his party ranks that such internal competition can never be a sign of weakness but of ensuring that only one with the most competitive

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The

views expressed are personal)

New-to-credit users drive financial inclusion



New-to-credit users have become one of the fastest-growing segments over the past three years but they also present challenges

▼ew-to-credit (NTC) users or first-time users of credit products were one of the fastestgrowing consumer segments in the lending category in the last three years, driving sustainable financial inclusion and economic growth in India. Industry data suggests that India currently has around 200 million active credit users and around 800,000 NTC consumers are being added to this pool every year.

Over the last few years, these consumers driven by easy access to credit cards and short-term-personal loans (STPL) grew the retail credit category at a rapid pace. Rapid digitisation of the lending process gave a boost to the rise in NTC customers but also resulted in challenges in background checks and client's repayment capacity. It took the RBI to step in by increasing risk weightage to control the uncontrolled growth in this category. As a result, the supply has been curtailed with first-time users increasingly finding it difficult to get easy access to credit products. However, there are

some specially co-created credit cards for first-time users, helping them to build a good credit history before getting access to other credit products.

In such a situation, managing debt smartly has become important for first-time consumers. For them, using a credit card responsibly is crucial for building a positive credit history and avoiding debt. Here are some financial

Understand your need for a credit card: For new users, it is very important to understand the terms and conditions of your credit card. These include interest rates, fees, grace periods and rewards programs if applicable. We often make the mistake of activating the

credit card usage. This misand a bad financial history, limiting your access to credit in the future.

Start small: There is always a temptation to overspend with a credit card, especially if you are a first-time user. So, it is advisable to begin with a low credit limit to avoid overspending and to ease into managing credit responsibly.

Always pay on time and in full: Always pay your credit card bill on time and in full to avoid late fees and interest charges. Setting up automatic payments can help ensure you never miss a due

Monitor your spending: Keep track of your credit card transactions to stay within your budget and avoid overspending. Many credit card companies offer online or mobile banking apps to help you monitor your spending in real time. Keep utilisation low: Aim to keep your credit utilisation ratio-the amount of credit you're using compared to your total credit limit-below

credit card without under- 30 per cent. This shows standing the finer details of lenders that you're using credit responsibly and can take may cost you a bad debt help improve your credit score.

Avoid cash advances: Cash advances often come with high fees and interest rates, so it's best to avoid using your credit card for cash withdrawals unless neces-

Regularly check your cred-

it report: Monitor your credit report for any errors or unauthorised activity. You're entitled to a free credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) once a year. Build an emergency fund: Having an emergency fund can help cover unexpected expenses without relying solely on credit cards, reducing the risk of accumulating debt. Having a financial discipline is very important towards a good financial future. For NTC consumers the early they start is good for a healthy future but with a bit of discipline and consciousness.

(The writer is a co-founder Zet-fintech platform; views are personal)

CONTROL PLASTIC USE

Madam — Although the central and State Governments have imposed a complete ban on polythene covers of thickness less than 125 microns in the State, it is not seen in practice. The viscosity of polythene bags is too high. 75-micron-thick bags, which were once banned, are still being used today. A large number of polythene covers are used in vegetable, tiffin, grocery, big shops and wholesale shops. As authorities have failed to ban polythene covers, they are seen everywhere on roads and canals. Cattle are falling sick by eating the wastes dumped in these covers in front of the houses and on the road. Criticisms are being heard that even though so many mishaps are happening, the concerned authorities are not paying attention. The authorities should clamp down on the sale of banned polythene bags which harm the environment and take strict action against those selling them. The authorities should make an effort to inform the people about the disadvantages caused by the use of banned polythene bags and to organise awareness programmes to encourage people to use eco-friendly clothing as an alter-

Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

WORKPLACE GASLIGHTING HARMS Madam — It refers to 'Deleterious Effects of Workplace Gaslighting' (May 23). Gaslighting within the organisational setting presents a significant threat to employee well-being and overall organisational effectiveness. This form of psychological manipulation, characterised by the deliberate undermining of an individual's perceptions, beliefs and reality, fosters a detrimental work environment with farreaching consequences. The erosion of employee confidence and self-esteem, heightened anxiety and paranoia, social isolation and withdrawal and manifestations in physical health are some of the critical impacts of gaslighting in the workplace. Gaslighting through denial, blame-shifting and criticism erodes employees' self-worth and competence, causing isolation, stress,

Recognise Palestinian sovereignty



Spain give recognition to Palestinian State", published on May 23, this is my response. Palestine should be treated as a sovereign country as per the partisan plan of Great Britain's Palestine in 1947. Israel has been ignoring the two-State solution as per the 1993 Oslo Accord for decades and now it has engaged in genocidal violence in response to the October 7 Hamas attack. The United Nations secretary-general Antón

decreased productivity and physical health issues like headaches and sleep disturbances. Address gaslighting by documenting interactions, building support, prioritising self-care, limiting exposure and seeking intervention. Organisations must cultivate a supportive work environment through awareness campaigns, clear reporting mechanisms, robust anti-bullying policies, respectful communication practices and training for managers to identify and address gaslighting. By empowering employees and fostering a supportive culture, organisations can combat gaslighting effectively and build a healthier workplace for all.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

MAKE STRESS YOUR FRIEND

Madam — In a world where stress is often demonised, reframing it as a friend can transform your relationship with it. Most people think that stress makes them sick; it increases the risk of everything from the common cold to cardiovascular disease. Basically, we have turned stress into our enemy. One study found that people who

Guterres said that the Hamas attack did not take place in a vacuum. His comment was as right as the observation that the Indian Rebellion of 1857 did not take place in a vacuum.

There were acts of terrorism against British civilians like Kennedy ladies during the British Raj in India. Khudiram Bose and his friend Prafulla Chaki threw a bomb at a carriage thinking that the district magistrate of Muzaffarpur, Douglas Kingsford, was in the carriage. However, Kingsford was seated in a different carriage and the bomb killed two British women. Can such attacks on the British civilians justify the Jallianwala Bagh massacre? Had the British still been ruling India, would the world have lent moral support to the colonial regime against the freedom fighters? Gaza massacre put Jallianwala Bagh to shame. More than 35,000 Palestinians, including nearly half of them children and elderly, have been killed in Gaza. Sujit De | Kolkata

experienced a lot of stress in the previous year had a 43 per cent increased risk of dying, but that was only true for people who believed that stress was harmful to their health.

The researchers estimated that the people who died prematurely died not from stress but from the belief that stress was bad for them. Cultivate a mindset shift: view stress as a sign that your body is energised and ready to tackle tasks. Embrace the physiological changes, like an increased neart rate, as your body gears up for action. If you're breathing faster, there is no problem; it's getting more oxygen to your brain. Over a lifetime of stressful experiences, this one biological change could be the difference between a stress-induced heart attack at age 50 and living well into your 90's. Ultimately, by reframing stress as a friend rather than a foe, You no longer need to get rid of your stress; instead, make yourself better at it.

Harshita Dhakad | Ujjain

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRST COLUMN

TRUST IN THE **SUPREME BEING!**

The writer ponders the true nature of belief and the role of religion in our lives



SANJAY CHANDRA

am not an atheist! But I do believe that there is a supreme power that guides us through the journey that we call life. Yet, there are questions that the rational mind refuses to subdue. One such dilemma that I have not been able to resolve is that we cannot be the only living beings in this vast universe. There have to be others. Would they also look like us?

Probably not my mother was a firm believer in the Gods of the faith that I was born in. She would make it a point to visit the nearby temples every week, accompanied by our father and the three of us children. We would watch her from outside the temple folding her hands in supplication before each God, praying for our wellbeing. I never asked my father the reason that he would stand at the entry to the temple, not accompanying his wife inside. Maybe it was to keep a watch on my mother's footwear, which had to be left outside.

Even a temple was not immune to missing slippers or sandals or shoes — others were more in need of the accessory. It also might have been because it was a little difficult to untie and then retie the laces on our shoes. As I grew up, I was intrigued by the increase in traffic at the temples, particularly at examination times. Young boys and also girls, could be seen touching the holy steps and then bowing to the deities, sometimes even putting their books reverentially at the feet of the Gods. I asked a friend, who smirked at my naiveté, before explaining that this helped in securing good marks. I also saw young unmarried women fasting and then visiting the temple on specific days of the week in the hope of getting a suitable husband.



I do not know if they lived a happily thereafter life. As I grew older, I too felt the need to visit the temple, particularly when facing a difficult time — initially when I was a student and then during my professional life. And then I realised the power of trust in a supreme being. It was this implicit faith, that the Lord above will not forsake me in my tough times, that gave me the confidence. It was a trust in my capabilities, reinforced by faith, that kept me going and kept me working.It sounds clichéd, but I also understood that my God resides within me; I do not need to visit a temple to pray to my God. I can do it wherever I am, whenever I need to. There was an interesting episode in my life recently. I got trolled on the WhatsApp group of my society by the same people who had only in the morning appreciated my writing. My fault — I had sinned opposing the construction of a temple inside the gated community. I felt there were more pressing issues to be attended. I smiled as I was called an elitist — the gentleman probably wanted to call me a pseudo-intellectual. These are the persons who have chosen, like me, to live out their lives in this complex — and hence, by default, they are the extended family. Relationships went for a toss. Which brings me to the query of the rational me. If there is a life after death and if there is life on many distant planets, then, I might be reborn in another form somewhere else. In that other life, I might pray to the supreme being in another form or shape. Then, is it really important for us to wear our religion on our sleeves or even to let it

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

Political messaging in Indian elections



The current election cycle witnesses a proliferation of digital misinformation campaigns, presenting new challenges for the authorities and citizens alike



prominent film programmer and writer David Schwartz has rightly quoted, "Political commercials pretend to be like documentaries, but they use all the techniques of fiction filmmaking, including scripts, performances and music." This could be quite apt to ponder on the current general election and political communication in India. The use of technologies including deep fakes is attempting to make this election distinct from the 2019 general election.

Political communication is the production

tion and influence of persuasive political messages, campaigns and advertisements, often involving the mass media. It is an interdisciplinary field that uses communication, journalism and political science. Political communication concerns ideas such as information flow, political influence, decision-making, news and impact on citizens. Since the advent of the World Wide Web, the amount of data to be analysed has increased and researchers are turning to computational methods to study the dynamics of political communication. This can be quite relevant in the light of Parliamentary elections, 2024 in

The parliamentary elections in India have started from 19 April and will continue up to 1 June in seven phases to elect all 543 members of the Lok Sabha. This is the longest election in history, surpassing the previous election of 44 days, second only to the Indian general election of 1951- 52. Approximately 970 million of the 1.4 billion people are eligible to vote, that is 70 per cent of the total population. In the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, parliamentary elections will be held simultaneously with general elections and by-elections to 25 constituencies in 12 legislative assemblies. The votes will be counted and the results announced on June 4. Current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has completed his second term, is running for a third consecutive



THE FRAUD PULSE HAS FOUND A NEW, MORE ENTHUSIASTIC LAST FIVE YEARS.

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE WARNING LOUDER THAN EVER THAT THE AVERAGE INDIAN VOTER IN 2024 IS MOST AT RISK OF BEING MISINFORMED ELECTION

Social media in the political domain

Social media has become an increasingly important tool for political communication. For certain demographics, it is one of the main platforms where people get their news and interact with it by commenting and sharing. Social media has dramatically changed the way modern political campaigns are run. As more and more digitally native citizens vote, social media has become an important tool for politicians to establish themselves and com-

municate with voters. The experience of using social media depends largely on the user, as the platform's algorithms tailor the consumer experience to CHANNEL IN THE each user. This leads to each person seeing more like-minded people due to increased digital social behaviour. In addition, social media changed politics because it gave politicians a direct way to inform their constituents and people to speak directly to politicians. This unofficial nature can ead to misinformation because it is not subject to the same "factchecking processes as institutional journalism". Moreover, social media platforms serve as democratising agents, empowering individuals to participate in political conversations irrespective of geographical or socio-economic barriers. Citizens can voice their perspectives, amplify marginalised ABOUT THE narratives and mobilise collective action, thereby enriching the democratic fabric of society. Concurrently, social media's interactive nature engenders heightened transparency and accountability within political institutions, as public scrutiny intensifies and feedback mechanisms prolif-

AI Deepfakes: A new era

Technological implications are increasingly becoming imperative in the current election in India about political communication. This election season, misinformation has a new face. This time, India smiles, talks and woos the voters with a wisdom that is hard to start and harder to regulate. The 2019 election was no stranger to hate and misinformation cam-

paigns, but the technology that enables this ecosystem has changed the rate of misrepresentation. The fraud pulse has found a new, more enthusiastic channel in the last five years. Law enforcement agencies are warning louder than ever that the average Indian voter in 2024 is most at risk of being misinformed about the election. There are gaps in people's ability to distinguish between real and artificial intelligence, leaving them vulnerable to fraud and unauthorised access. Social media companies struggle to curb fake news and propaganda; The Indian Government is updating existing legislation to better address the spread of online counterfeiting. The 2019 election took place on social media. Researchers identified sophisticated campaigns that used WhatsApp messaging and massive deployment of IT bots to distribute cropped photos, post coordinated content and publish fake videos on Facebook during the 2024 general elections. The pressing question now is how digital platforms tag, identify and contextualise such media. Even in the era of generative AI, such enforcement measures were nascent or seasonal at best. Now, cheap or free tools allow even amateurs to create deep fakes without content filters to prevent fake or illegal content from

spreading. This means that technology platforms have to act stronger against criminals and break the chain of disinformation faster than they do. One of the biggest changes in social media after the 2019 elections in India is the absence of Twitter (Now X), the platform used by India's controlled politicians and Government agencies to broadcast official information to the country's media.

A way forward

In today's world, understanding politics means delving into how political actors communicate and navigate various media channels. These channels not only reflect but also shape political messages and images. Just as political systems influence media through policies and decisions, media structures profoundly impact political communication processes.

Easy-to-make AI videos with near-perfect shadows and hand gestures can sometimes confuse even the digitally literate. But the risks are greater in a country where many of its 1.4 billion people are technologically challenged and where manipulated content can easily stoke sectarian tensions, especially during elections. The Election Commission of India recently warned political parties against using artificial intelligence to spread misinformation, issuing seven provisions of IT and other laws that carry up to three years in prison for offences including forgery, rumour hostility.Looking forward to a free and fair election this time!

(The author is from Journalism and Mass Communication, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar; views are personal)

Millennium City says 'no development, no vote'

Frustrated by poor infrastructure despite high taxes, Gurgaon residents are shunning election candidates

his month Gurgaon has seen protests in several localities with frustrated and disillusioned residents announcing-'Election candidates not welcome, no development, no

Gurgaon residents are piqued that despite paying taxes(the highest share in the State), they are getting a raw deal. Sensing the mood of the public, both BJP stalwart and five-time MP, Rao Inderjit Singh and Congress candidate Raj Babbar, have made development their poll plank. Interestingly though it is a national election, focus remains on local issues, especially in the absence of a central nation-

al poll theme. Gurgaon may have fancy



VINOD BEHL

tags of 'Millennium City' and 'Cyber City' but the city which has made a global mark, lacks badly on physical and social infrastructure. It presents an ugly face with city waste besides construction debris lying all over, posing a serious health haz-

It is not just Gurgaon, even the new sectors of the city which are grappling with poorly maintained roads (leading to accidents and dust pollution), inadequate drinking water, power and sewerage infrastructure. In the roads. The lack of propthe absence of proper drainage. Failure of civic authorities has made matters

The lack of an adequate metro network in the city has created a traffic mess on



er parking infrastructure has only made matters worse. A lot of the city's civic infra woes are because of the flawed development model

development. Moreover, unlike in neighbouring Noida where there is a single development authority, Gurgaon lacks on this front. (Gurgaon GMDA

of development authorities, has proved to be an eyewash with MCG (Municipal Corporation Gurgaon) and HSVP (Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran) around. Seeking vote on development, Rao Inderjit Singh takes credit for initiating the mega infrastructure and connectivity projects like KMP Expressway, Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (passing through Gurgaon), Sohna Elevated Expressway, Dwarka Expressway, Metro Gurgaon Expansion, Railway Station upgrada-

In rural and Muslim-dominated Nuh, he is telling voters about the development of real eState development preceding infrastructure Authority) constituted to projects like the Delhigains of key infrastructure

put an end to a multiplicity Mumbai Expressway and Orbital Rail.Raj Babbar, on the other hand, is also playing the development card to counter Rao Inderjit, pointing to shoddy development with several civic issues plaguing the city, turning it into a slum. Long delays in metro expansion, Lack of an Inter-State Bus Terminus and the absence of a suitable Civil Hospital are among the issues he has been raking up among the voters, demanding a fair share of development.He is promising the transformation of Gurgaon.

Though Rao Inderjit Singh may be facing anti-incumbency he has an obviousadvantage of a well-oiled organisation besides the Modi factor. On the other

hand, Raj Babbar faces the challenge of being an outsider. Besides he has the disadvantage of being a late starter due to a delay in announcing his nomination. The Gurgaon electorate seems to be in a mood to give another chance to the BJP, banking on the strong pro-development credentials of Modi However, they have also shown their displeasure with the political parties. Indeed Gurgaon's infrastructure is not up to the mark and needs an immediate attention. Besides, their anger has led politicians to take notice of their woes and have now started showing interest in infrastructure upgradation.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Air India appoints Sanjay Sharma as CFO

ir India on Friday announced the appointment of Sanjay Sharma as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with effect from June 10. Sharma will succeed Vinod Hejmadi, who is retiring after more than three decades with Air India. In a release, the airline said Sharma has more than three decades of experience in the corporate finance, investment banking and real estate sectors. He was the CFO at Tata Projects Ltd. Earlier, he has served as the CFO at Tata Realty Infrastructure Ltd, and Managing Director, Head of Equity Capital Markets, at Deutsche Bank Group, among other roles. "We are pleased to have Sanjay

joining the leadership team and look forward to his contribution to the ongoing transformation at Air India. We also thank Vinod for his long service to the company, and for his vital role in its transition to private ownership and, thereafter, its subsequent transformation," Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said. Tata Group took control of loss-making Air India from

the government in January 2022.



HUDCO Q4 profit rises 9 per cent to Rs 700 crore

tate-owned HUDCO on Friday reported 9.54 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 700.16 crore for the quarter ended March 2024. Its net profit stood at Rs 639.14 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 2,194.04 crore in March 2024 quarter from Rs 1,862.41 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing Net profit rose to Rs 2,116.69 crore in 2023-24 financial year from Rs 1,701.43 crore in 2022-23. Total income went up to Rs

7,948.10 crore from Rs 7,086.18 crore. The company's board also recommended a final dividend of Rs 2.65 per equity share of face value of Rs 10 each for 2023-24, subject to approval of shareholders in the ensuing Annual General Meeting (AGM). HUDCO is a policy institution that provides housing finance and non-commercial urban infrastructure financing. It is regulated by the National Housing Bank and is under the administrative control of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.



India's coffee exports rise 12% to US\$ 1.28 billion in 2023-24

ndia's coffee exports rose by 12.22 per cent to US\$ 1.28 billion in 2023-24 on higher demand for Robusta coffee in the global markets, according to the commerce ministry data. The country exported coffee worth US\$ 1.14 billion in 2022-23. India is Asia's third-largest producer and exporter of coffee. The country grows Arabica and Robusta

varieties. Arabica coffee beans have less caffeine content than the Robusta, Arabica has sweet and smoother taste, while Robusta is generally more bitter and harsher on the taste buds. In volume terms, coffee shipments from India rose 13.35 per cent to 1,25,631 tonnes during the January-March period of 2023-24. The country had exported 1,10,830 tonnes of coffee in the same period in 2023. Italy, Russia, the UAE, Germany and Turkey are major coffee export destinations for India



ADANI COAL IMPORTS CASE IN SC

21 international organisations write to CJI for speedy resolution

PNS NEW DELHI

At least 21 international organisations have written to Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and requested the Supreme Court to speedily resolve the pending case filed by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, investigating Adani Group firms for alleged overvaluation of Indonesian coal imports.

The letter comes after a report by the London-based Financial Times, citing documents from George Sorosbacked Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), alluded to a "fraud" by the Adani Group by selling low-grade coal as high-value



fuel in 2013.

Contending that they stand firmly against the continued use of fossil fuels, the organisations said the Financial Times report provided fresh and detailed evidence of the passing off of "low-quality coal as far more expensive cleaner

fuel" by the Adani Group in transactions with Tamil Nadu's Tangedco.

The 21 international organisations that have written to Chief Justice Chandrachud are Australian Centre for International Justice, Banktrack, Bob Brown

Unstained, Eko, Extinction Rebellion, Friends of the Earth Australia, London Mining Network, Mackay Conservation Group, Market

Forces, Money Rebellion, Move Beyond Coal, Seniors for Climate Action Now, Stand.earth, Stop Adani, Sunrise Movement, Tipping Toxic Point, Transparency International Australia, W&J Nagana Yarrbayn Cultural Custodians, and Queensland Conservation Council.

While the Adani Group has denied all allegations, the news report has been cited by opposition leaders, including former

to demand a joint parliamentary committee probe into the alleged wrongdoing.

A spokesperson for the group said the quality of the coal was independently tested at the point of loading and discharge, as well as by customs authorities and Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (Tangedco) officials.

"With the supplied coal having passed such an elaborate quality check process by multiple agencies at multiple points, clearly the allegation of supply of low-quality coal is not only baseless and unfair but completely absurd," the spokesperson said.

NCLAT upholds NCLT order on Jaypee Infra

Asks Suraksha to pay additional Rs 1,300 crore

PNS NEW DELHI

Insolvency Appellate Tribunal NCLAT on Friday upheld Suraksha Realty's bid to acquire debt-ridden Jaypee Infratech Ltd but asked it to pay an additional around Rs 1,300 crore as farmers' compensation.

Upholding the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) decision of March 2023, the NCLAT said the

decision was to avoid any further delay in the implementation of Mumbai-based Suraksha the resolution plan and to take group to buy Jaypee Infratech care of the interests of all stake-Ltd (JIL), giving relief to more holders, including home buyers than 20,000 home buyers and claim of Yamuna Express whose investments are stuck development authority YEIDA across various projects being

for additional compensation of developed in Delhi-NCR. the farmers.

NCLT had on March 7,

passed by the adjudicating authority (NCLT) deals with the claim of the appellant (YEIDA) of Rs 1,689 crore of additional farmers compensation is set aside and the rest of the order approving the

plan is upheld," said NCLAT. "Successful Resolution applicant (Suraksha Realty) is directed to

"The impugned order

2023, approved the bid of make payment to the appellant of its secured operational creditor Rs 1,689 crore in the ratio of 79 per cent, which has been paid to other secured creditors which amount comes to Rs

decline in crude oil prices also

supported the rupee. The US

dollar strengthened as markets

trimmed rate cut bets amid

hawkish US data and hawkish

Federal Open Market

Committee (FOMC) meeting

at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

said Choudhary – Research Analyst

Adani Ports to join Sensex from June 24, replacing Wipro

PNS NEW DELHI

Gautam Adani Group firm Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone will replace IT major Wipro in BSE's benchmark index Sensex from June 24, according to an official announcement on Friday.

The changes have been announced by Asia Index, a joint venture between S&P low Iones Indices and BSE

Apart from this, Tata Group company Trent Ltd will make an entry in Sensex 50, while Divi's Laboratories Ltd will be

dropped from the index.
"Effective at the open of Monday, June 24, 2024, the ... changes will be made," Asia Index said.

Suzlon Energy profit down 21% to Rs 254 crore in Q4

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon Energy on Friday reported nearly 21 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 254 crore in the March quarter mainly due to certain exceptional items.

The company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 320 crore in the year-ago period, a BSE filing said.

2,207.43 crore in the quarter from Rs 1,699.96 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated net profit

in the 2023-24 fiscal year also declined to Rs 660 crore from Rs 2,887 crore a year earlier.

Total income in the fiscal rose to Rs 6,567.51 crore from Rs 5,990.16 crore a year ago. The company explained that PAT (profit after tax or net profit before exceptional items) for the March quarter



increased 411 per cent to Rs 281 crore on a year-on-year

The cumulative orders as on May 24, 2024 are 3.3 GW. This includes the order book as on March 31, 2024 of 2,929 MW,

plus orders secured subsequently of 402 MW.

"We have been able to create a solid foundation over the last FY across all business verticals of technology, manufacturing, projects, and OMS," Suzlon Group Vice Chairman Girish Tanti said in the state-

This positions the company strongly to lead the sector in years to come, he said, adding, order book of value- driven orders for more than 3.3 GW."

The board also approved forfeiture of 81,94,063 partly paid-up equity shares of the company worth Rs 2 each issued on rights basis as the first and final call money of Rs 2.50 per share has not been paid.

Rupee jumps 18 paise to close at 83.11 against US dollar "Fresh FII inflows and a

The rupee rallied for the fourth consecutive trading session on Friday and appreciated by 18 paise to settle at 83.11 (provisional) against the US dollar on fresh foreign fund inflows and suspected intervention by the

Forex traders attributed the rally to Rs 2.11 lakh crore record dividend by the RBI to the government for the fiscal ended March 31. It was more than double the budgeted expectation, helping shore up revenue ahead of a new gov-

ernment taking office. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.26 and moved in the range of 83.03 and 83.26 against the greenback during The local unit finally settled

at 83.11 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a rise of

Wednesday, the rupee appreciated by 2 paise to settle at 83.29 against the US dollar.



18 paise from its previous close. In the last four trading sessions the local unit has added 39 paise against the American currency.

The forex market was closed on Thursday on account of

"The Indian rupee gained on suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI's Rs 2.11 lakh crore dividend to the government also boosted market senti-

Meanwhile, the dollar index. which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six declined 0.22 cent to 104.88. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, slipped 0.70 per cent to US\$ 80.79 per barrel.

minutes,"

"We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on positive domestic equities and overall weakness in crude oil

India's forex kitty reaches new high of US\$ 648.7 bn

PNS MUMBAI

India's forex reserves jumped US\$ 4.549 billion to a new alltime high of US\$ 648.7 billion for the week ended May 17, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

This is the third consecutive week of increase in the overall kitty, which had increased by US\$ 2.561 billion to US\$ 644.151 billion in the previous reporting week ended May 17.

For the week ended April 5, the reserves had hit an all time high of US\$ 648.562 billion following multiple weeks of increases. In the week ended May 10, foreign currency

assets -- a major component of the reserves -- increased US\$ 3.361 billion to US\$ 569.009 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased US\$ 1.244 billion to US\$ 57.195 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up US\$ 113 million to US\$ 18.168 billion, the apex bank said.

Markets end lower after peaking

PNS MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally lower on Friday as investors booked profit in FMCG, IT and healthcare stocks after the BSE Sensex and Nifty hit fresh lifetime highs in intra-day deals.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 7.65 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 75,410.39. During the day, it rallied 218.46 points or 0.28 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day high of 75,636.50.

The NSE Nifty breached the 23,000 mark for the first time in early trade.



During the day, the benchmark climbed 58.75 points or 0.25 per cent to hit its lifetime peak of 23,026.40. However, it pared all the gains and ended with a marginal decline of 10.55 points or 0.05 per cent at 22,957.10. Markets were on a record-breaking rally for the second straight day ahead of the results of Lok Sabha polls.

The results of the ongoing

general elections will be declared on June 4.

From the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Asian Paints, Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, ISW Steel and ITC were among

the major laggards.
On the other hand, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, Axis Bank and UltraTech Cement were the major gainers

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers Institutional on Thursday after days of offloading equities. They bought equities worth Rs 4,670.95 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Coromandel launches 10 new products to boost crop yields

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agro-chemical Coromandel International on Friday introduced 10 new products, including patented ones, to boost crop yield and protect har-

vests from pests and diseases. The new products include an innovative neem-coated bio plant and soil health promoter and five generic formulations, offering comprehensive crop protection solutions for Indian farmers, the com-

pany said in a statement. Coromandel has partnered with Japan's ISK to launch Prachand, a patented product

using Japanese technology to protect paddy crops from pests like stem borers and leaf folders that can cause up to 70 per

cent yield losses.

It has also developed a formulation to effectively combat fall armyworm, a highly destructive pest that damages up to 30 per cent of the corn crop annually in India. Two new patented fungicides aim to improve crop health and yields - one offers long-lasting control of sheath blight disease in rice, while the other provides both surface and systemic action against diseases in potatoes, grapes and tomatoes.

Citroen ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador in India

PNS NEW DELHI

French automaker Citroen on Friday said it has roped in former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador in India.

Dhoni will mark his debut innings with Citroen in a campaign that will soon go live, the

company said in a statement.
"We believe that our association with one of India's finest cricketers, Dhoni, will go a long way in reinforcing our commitment to the Indian market. His humility and dedication to excellence align perfectly with



our brand's ideology, while our shared commitment to sustainability and shaping the future of mobility strengthens our connection," Citroen India Brand Director Shishir Mishra said.

On his association with Citroen, Dhoni said, "The brand shares my commitment to electric mobility and sustainable solutions and like me, focuses on doing what really matters. Citroen's philosophy of truly understanding customer needs and making meaningful innovations resonates deeply with me.

NIIT Q4 profit at Rs 11.16 cr; revenue from operations at Rs 74.34 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Skill and talent development company NIIT on Friday reported a consolidated net profit (attributable to owners of the parent company) of Rs 11.16 crore for the quarter

ended March 31, 2024. The company had posted a loss of Rs 9.36 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the January-March quarter came in at Rs 74.34 crore, a 23.81 per cent jump from the yearago period.



Despite a continuing freeze in IT sector hiring and compression in spending, the business has exited the year with year-on-year growth in Q4, after starting Q1 with a steep decline, the company said in an investor presentation.

Vice Chairman and he said. Managing Director Vijay K Thadani said Q4 was a seasonally weak quarter for the business. Therefore, yearon-year changes are more appropriate for comparison, growth in Q4," he said.

"The business has responded with agility to the IT hiring freeze with alternate growth strategies which resulted in getting back on the path of

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 02/EE-6/CRZ /GHMC/2024-25 Nature of the Work: Norson Emergency works For the year 2024-2025, Estt. Cost. Rs. 117.80 Lakhs. Download Start Date & Time: 25.05.2024 at 04.00 P.M., Last Date &

Time for Receipt of Bilds: 28.05.2024 at 04.00 P.M., Name & Address Officer, Cell No Smt. M.Peersingh, EE, Div-6, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph. No. 9154960551. For furthe details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. Note 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. Sdi- Executive Enginee

R.O.No.: 13-PPICLIADVT11/2024-25, Dt. 24-05-2024 Circle No.6, Charminar Zone, GHM

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Saturday May 25, 2024

'There's no need to seek medical care elsewhere with advanced options available in Hyd'

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, Dr. Srirang Abkari, a consultant physician at Udai Omni Hospital, Hyderabad shares his association with the city.

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

yderabad, a place where tradition and moder-nity blend to create a vibrant culture, we have Dr. Srirang Abkari, a consultant physician at Udai Omni Hospital in Hyderabad, proudly carries the legacy of three generations deeply his historic hometown rooted in this historic hometown.

Hyderabad is an incredibly welcoming city with a rich, cosmopolitan culture. People from all backgrounds and cosmopolitan culture. People from all backgrounds ar communities live together harmoniously. "The city exudes warmth and kindness, and I've never encountered any form of discrimination here. It's truly a place filled with wonderful, good-hearted people."

Hyderabad, he says, is a wonderful place, full of cherished childhood memories. One festival that

stands out for him is Sankranti when the sky is filled with kites flown from every terrace. It was a time when different communities came together to celebrate in unity and joy.

The diverse environment at St. Paul's High School brought together people from all walks of life, shaping who they are today. The values and lessons learned there have profoundly influenced both his personal development and professional career.

Meanwhile, he feels that the city boasts an excellent

health infrastructure, making medical care highly accessible compared to abroad. Both government and private hospitals, as well as numerous clinics, are readily available throughout the city. Thanks to continuous advancements and a plethora of educational conferences and activities, healthcare in Hyderabad remains affordable, he emphasises, "There's no need to seek medical care elsewhere when such comprehensive and advanced options are

Hyderabad is renowned for its unique offerings that his loved ones cherish. They always make it a point to take home trademark treats from

available right here."

Karachi Bakery, like their cashew biscuits and fruit biscuits, which are the perfect blend of sweet and savoury. He says, "Souvenirs from iconic landmarks like Charminar, and Golconda, and traditional handloom and Pochampally sarees are also a must-have for my closed ones, capturing

the essence of Hyderabad's rich culture and heritage."
He loves the warm, cosmopolitan culture and hospitality of Hyderabad. However, he dislikes the traffic situation and the frequent instances of wrong-side driving, and he shares, "Improvements in these areas would make driving much more

comfortable and enhance overall safety in the city." Hyderabad is a wonderful place that always feels like home. While one may travel abroad to see grand monuments, the comfort and peace found here are unmatched. The warm reception you receive in Hyderabad is unparalleled. "The unique local lingo, the distinctive Hyderabad Hindi, and the rich vocabulary add to its charm. Having lived here since childhood, I can confidently say that Hyderabad is a truly special place to live," he signs off on a concluding note.

'Films like 8 A.M. Metro bring out the emotions that we tend to hide'

PNS HYDERABAD

Be it whether playing a villainous role like that of in *Hate Story* and *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela*, or that of a funkish kind of character in *Hunterr*, Gulshan Devaiah has not just proved his profess but also makes his character so impactful that one can just not take their eyes off. For example; talking of his recent film that has now been in talk-of-the-town, 8 A.M. Metro, we see a whole different Gulshan altogether.

The film which is now streaming on Zee 5, has been gaining immense traction on the OTT, even more than that back when the film was released in more than that back when the film was released in the theatres. Well, speaking of the aspect that compelled him to be a part of this film, he shares, "I read this script, and I thought it was very moving. I cried in the end and was thinking a lot about the story, the charac-

ters. It was very emotional. I had a discussion with Raj, the director and it seemed like the idea and the story both are great, and we must make this into a movie. I connected with the script, and I wanted to be Pritam in this story. I didn't quite know how I would do it, but I had

explore the idea of being Pritam in 8 A.M. Metro. That's

this intense urge to

how I became part of the film."

8 A.M. Metro opens discussions around mental health, suicide, social anxiety and many other such issues but in an unusual manner. Talking about such issues he says is really important, and that in itself is a help. A lot of times, "I think, we face issues, and we don't know how to talk about it, or we refrain from talking about it due to the social stigma or we want to seem stronger. We don't want to show or open up and reveal our weaknesses, so we tend to hide them, but films like this bring out emotions. I did get the opportunity to watch this movie with a live audience, I randomly went into a movie hall, people were sitting and watching. They were moved and were crying which means that it brings out a certain emotion.

People were able to identify and resonate with the characters or their trauma and that in itself is quite therapeutic. I

guess it urges people to think about how they are feeling, if they have any addictions or certain traumas, and then thev would find a way to talk about it. That's how I think films such as 8 A.M. Metro will

help people."



Pediatric Intensive Care Units: A critical aspect of healthcare

This can be a cause of too much anxiety and stress amongst parents and other family members who may find themselves in need of such services unexpectedly. Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICUs) are specifically designed to provide high-level medical care to children from infancy to adolescence who are critically ill, some even with life-threatening medical conditions.

Understanding PICU

A Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is significantly more specialised than a typical hospital ward. It is equipped with cutting-edge medical technology and staffed by specialised healthcare professionals trained to handle severe and acute conditions in children.

A PICU is equipped with complex medical equipment, including mechanical ventilators, advanced monitoring devices (cardiac monitors etc) and specialised equipment to support failing kidney or liver functions.

These units are intended to address a variety of serious health issues in. children, such as severe respiratory distress, serious neurological disorders, heart ailments and other organ injuries like the involvement of the liver or kidneys. PICUs are geared to manage children needing complex surgeries or those with severe infections(Dengue, Malaria, Brain fever, pneumonia, etc), children with trauma (road traffic accidents, children with burns, drowning, those with falls from heights, poisoning, etc).

Not all PICUs can manage all types of emergencies and complexities in child healthcare. Depending upon the expertise and the availability of trained and skilled manpower, PICUs are stratified into Level-1 to Level-4 units, with

Level-4 units having competencies of the highest order.
Some PICUs are highly specialised to take care of specific categories of clinical conditions, e.g. children after liver transplant or kidney transplant surgeries, or children who

are operated on for heart conditions, etc. Pediatric intensivists are physicians working in the PICUs with advanced training in critical care for children. These specialists understand how children's physiological needs differ from those of adults in critical care situations. The PICU team also includes a highly skilled and specialised team of

nurses, which are the most critical part of any good PICU.

Apart from physicians and nurses, a good PICU team comprises respiratory therapists, clinical pharmacists, nutritionists, and social workers, all of whom play critical roles in each patient's care.

The Role of Pediatric Intensivists

Pediatric intensivists are essential to the operation of a PICU. They oversee the child's care plan and participate in all aspects of their treatment. These professionals are trained to make quick decisions about life-saving interventions and manage complex technologies like mechanical ventilators, intravenous lines, and monitoring systems, frequently required for their pediatric patients.

Support from Paediatric Sub-Specialties:

A level-3 or Level-4 PICU can not be complete without round-the-clock support from important paediatric subspecialists like a paediatric neurologist, pulmonologist, haematologist, nephrologist, gastroenterologist, endocrinologist, surgeons (paediatric surgeons, plastic surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, fascio-maxillary surgeon, neuro surgeon etc).

The PICU team also needs support from microbiology, pathology and radiology departments and, if possible, a reliable blood bank.

Financial aspects of care

The cost of PICU care can be a major concern. Insurance coverage can prove very useful in facing the rising cost of care in PICUs. Various government schemes and contributions from various charitable organisations also

help families in meeting the cost of care. **Counselling of families and**

family-centric care:

Modern PICU teams are increasingly focusing on families' involvement in caring for their children in PICUs. In any good PICU, the treating team of physicians is involved closely with the family members in daily counselling and discussion regarding not only the treatment and cost of care of their child but also how the overall progress is taking place and how they plan to work together for early liberation of their child from PICU.

Awareness and Education

The general public is unaware of when and why a child may need to be admitted to a pediatric intensive care unit. Parents frequently fail to recognise the severity of a condition until it is far advanced, delaying potentially life-saving medical care.

Educating the public on the warning signs of severe illness and the availability of PICU services is critical. This includes recognising the signs of serious conditions such as meningitis (brain fever), septic shock (blood infection with a fall in blood pressure), or severe allergic reactions that necessitate immediate medical attention.

Preventive measures

Preventive healthcare is also important in lowering the need for PICU services. This includes ensuring that children have received all necessary vaccinations, which can help them avoid serious illnesses.

Improving hygiene and cleanliness also can prevent many

Furthermore, promoting safe practices at home and on the road can reduce the number of injuries and accidents that may necessitate emergency care.

Conclusion

To summarise, while PICUs in India play an important role in pediatric healthcare, there is a significant need for increased public awareness and education about these facili-

Parents and caregivers should be educated on the symptoms of critical illnesses, the operation of a PICU, and preventive measures that can help keep children

Understanding these aspects can help improve the timely and effective use of PICU resources, resulting in better health outcomes for children.

(The author, Dr. Farhan AR Shaikh, is the Head of the Department of Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, at Rainbow Children's Hospital, in Banjara Hills.)



what's brewing?

Aditi Rao Hydari brings out her red carpet look at Cannes Film Festival 2024



⊣he Indian film industry luminary Aditi Rao Hydari made a breathtaking appearance at the Cannes Film Festival 2024, as L'Oréal Paris' ambassador. This year marks the 27th anniversary of the brands' association with the Cannes Film Festival, and Aditi's presence epito-mised this milestone with elegance and glamour.

Aditi achieved a very simple yet elegant look, styling her hair into a neat bun to complete her look.

Radiating confidence and style, she wore a Gaurav Gupta ensemble, a monochrome gown that had voluminous drapes on the side in ivory. Her outfit not only highlighted her impeccable fashion sense but also displayed her exquisite taste and sophistication. This is Aditi's third appearance at Cannes since her debut in 2022.

The Heeramandi star perfectly embodied the theme for the brand at Cannes 2024, 'Many ways to be an icon.' The brand embodies an inclusive representation of beauty that resonates with women across the globe. Through this partnership, they aim to amplify the message of self-worth and inspire millions worldwide to embrace and honour their unique individuality. As the Festival de Cannes' official makeup partner, it inspires ambassadors, actors, and actresses to showcase this empowered beauty vision on the red carpet.



Actor Srikanth, along with other celebrities Venkat, Hebba Patel, and AM Rathnam, among others, attended the launch of Joint nutrition, a latest innovation in health and wellness, during an event held at Filmnagar Cultural Center (FNCC) banquet hall

STINGS

Gemini TV to premiere Shrimad Ramayanam in Telugu from May 27

emini TV has announced the premiere of the timeless epic Shrimad Ramayanam in Telugu, starting May 27th. Airing from Monday to Saturday from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, this captivating series brings the revered story of Lord Rama to Telugu audiences, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and moral values embedded in our Heritage. *Shrimad Ramayanam* narrates the legendary tale of Lord Rama, depicting his virtues as a devoted son, loyal brother, loving husband, steadfast friend, and righteous king. The serial promises to resonate deeply with viewers, highlighting the significance of dharma through Lord Rama's exemplary life.

With advanced graphic technology and exceptional performances by seasoned actors, Shrimad Ramayanam is set to be a visual delight, enhancing the storytelling experience.



RAISER

INDULGE IN BHUTANESE DELIGHTS

Get ready for an exclusive culinary adventure! VEEN, in collaboration with Novotel Mumbai International Airport and Accor Live Limitless, presenting 'Bhutan to Bharat—A Culinary Journey with Chef Michael

Food lovers can indulge in a curated dinner buffet featuring Bhutanese delicacies such as Ema Datshi, Doh Syiar Nei-long, and Bak Thuk Noodles with Asian Vegetables. Live cooking stations will showcase signature dishes being prepared right in front of the guests, offering an immersive culinary experience. Don't miss this chance to explore

the rich traditions and flavours of Bhutan!

Dates: May 24th to June 2nd, 2024 Venue: Food Exchange, Novotel Mumbai International Airport

Timing: 7:00 pm 10:30 pm Price: INR 1995



PIND DI RASOI -A 10-DAY **FOOD FESTIVAL**

Here's your chance to immerse yourself in the vibrant traditions of Punjabi cuisine at Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel's 10-day food festival - 'Pind Di Rasoi', showcasing the culinary mastery of visiting home chef Shanna Oberoi. From the robust the table an array of recipes that have been cherished and handed down over generations. From the robust flavours of Butter Chicken to the perfectly seasoned Chole Bhature, every dish is a celebration of Punjab's bountiful agriculture and vibrant cultural history.

Location: Feast, Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel

Dates: Till May 30

Timings: Lunch from 12:30 PM to 03:00 PM and Dinner from

07:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Reservations: Call +91 7337358581 to book your table



Paediatrics experts from Hyderabad, Dr Sivaranjani Santosh, Chief Consultant Pediatrician, Magna Centers, Dr M Surendranath, HOD Dept. of Pediatrics Vijay Marie Hospital, Dr. Madap Karuna, Senior Consultant Paediatrician, organised a workshop which focused on raising awareness on the vital role of safe ORS use as diarrhoea threatens children's lives amidst summer surge. The experts emphasised on the consumption of W.H.Orecommended ORS and not any

ARCHIE



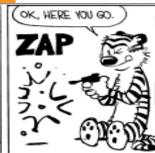






CALVIN AND HOBBES







CROSSWORD



GARFIELD









REALITY CHECK





ACROSS

- A hole in a hill for a train
- 3 Unlock
- 7 Very uncommon
- 8 An animal with a shell 10 An erupting mountain
- 13 A long sort of table where you are served in a shop
- 16 A restaurant worker 17 Meat and vegetables
- cooked slowly in liquid

18 Scraps of material 19 A planet

14 Make music with the

15 These birds hunt at

5 Required

6 On fire

9 A month 11 Reply

12 Defeated

voice

night

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: **************

5 8 6 4 5 3 1 7 9 2 5 7 4 2 8 6 3 1 1 3 6 7 9 8 5 4 1 2 8 3 9 6 5 4 7 3 7 9 1 5 4 2 6 8 5 4 6 2 8 7 3 1 9 7 3 5 9 1 2 4 8 6 6 8 1 7 4 3 9 2 5 492865173 Rules

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- any row or column must equal 45.

DOWN

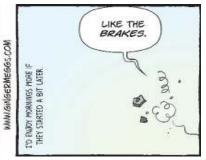
- Ripped and ragged 2 Opposite of wide
- 4 Tame animals kept at home

GINGER MEGGS

SHE SAYS,







tollywood



after 27 years for Telugu

cclaimed Telugu filmmaker Charan Tej Uppalapati is widely celebrated for his exceptional cinematic vision. Now, all set to make his long-anticipated directorial debut in Hindi,

Charan Tej Uppalapati is busy working on a high-budget action thriller. The star-studded spectacle features industry stalwarts

such as Kajol, Prabhudeva, Naseeruddin Shah, Samyuktha Menon, Jisshu Sen Gupta, and Aditya Seal among its

Marking the much-awaited reunion of Kajol and

technicians on board, including GK Vishnu as the Director of Photography, Music Director Harshavardhan Rameshwar, and editor Navin Nooli. The screenplay is penned by Niranjan Iyengar and Jessica Khurana. Production designer Saahi Suresh

While further details of the project are awaited, the combination of a stellar cast and a top-notch technical crew makes this action spectacle one of

up to release the film's teaser soon.

will craft the visual aesthetics.

the most anticipated upcoming releases.

esteemed cast.

director Charan Tej

ASHIKA RANGANATH

gastar Chiranjeevi's highly anticipated magnum opus ishwambhara is the most ambitious project for director Vassishta and also for the production house, UV Creations. While Vassishta is rightly utilising the opportunity to make a memorable film for mega fans and movie buffs, UV Creations is mounting the movie on a large canvas in an uncompromised manner.

Meanwhile, the team of mighty Vishwambhara welcomes the charming Ashika Ranganath to the epic cinematic journey of Vishwambhara. Yes, the actress who impressed one and all with her stunning looks and superb performance in *Naa* Saami Ranga comes on board to play one of the important roles in the movie.

The ageless diva Trisha Krishnan is the female lead opposite Chiranjeevi in this movie that features some other noted actors in prominent roles.

Vikram, Vamsi and Pramod are bankrolling this fantasy action adventure. MM Keeravani who recently won an Oscar Award scores the music, while the popular lensman Chota K Naidu is the cinematographer. Vishwambhara will be released for Sankranthi in 2025 on January 10.





enowned actor Rajinikanth has been (DCT), Government of Abu Dhabi, in the presgranted the prestigious Golden Visa by the UAE's Department of Culture and Tourism, marking a significant recognition of his contributions to the world of cinema. A video capturing the heartfelt moment of the legendary actor expressing his gratitude towards the Abu Dhabi government and his close associate, MA Yusuff Ali, the chairman and managing director of Lulu Group, has been making rounds on the internet.

In the video, Rajinikanth, aged 73, can be seen extending his heartfelt thanks to the UAE government and Yusuff Ali for the honour and hospitality bestowed upon him. He remarked, Today, I am honoured to receive a prestigious Golden visa of UAE. My heartfelt thanks to the UAE government, and to my friend Lulu Group, chairman and managing director, Yusuff Ali, without him, this would not have happened, I am grateful to him".

The Golden Visa was presented to the actor by Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism

ence of MA Yusuff.

During his stay in Abu Dhabi, fondly referred to as Thalaivar, Rajinikanth also took the opportunity to visit the renowned Hindu temple, BAPS, to offer prayers. A video capturing his visit to the temple, where he received an official tour and blessings from the priests, has gone viral on social media. Rajinikanth could be seen admiring the temple's architecture and receiving blessings with reverence.

On the professional front, Rajinikanth recently wrapped up shooting for his upcoming movie, *Vettaiyan*, scheduled for release in October 2024. Alongside Amitabh Bachchan, Fahadh Faasil, and Rana Daggubati, the Chandramukhi actor will captivate audiences

with his performance.

Looking ahead, Rajinikanth is set to commence shooting for Lokesh Kanagaraj's Coolie, starring alongside Shruti Haasan. Additionally, there are reports suggesting a potential reunion with Nelson Dilipkumar for a sequel to *Jailer*, tentatively titled *Hukum*, although official confirmation is pending.

Bellamkonda Srinivas's Tyson *Naidu* new schedule begins in Raiasthan

Promising young hero Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas's unique action entertainer being helmed by Saagar K Chandra is produced by 14 Reels Plus.

The movie titled *Tyson Naidu* had its title and glimpse unveiled on Bellamkonda Srinivas' birthday and received a stupendous response.

On Friday, the makers began a new crucial 2 week long schedule of the movie in Rajasthan. The team will be canning breathtaking action blocks which is very significant for the movie for 10 nights in Rajasthan forts under the supervision of Stun Shiva which will be one of the major highlights in the movie. In this 2-week long schedule, the makers will also shoot some talkie part. The movie is being made in an uncompromised way as the team is super confident on the subject. Bellamkonda sports a massy and bulky look in the movie, as shown in the glimpse. Saagar K Chandra is presenting him in a neverbefore-seen action-packed character as a cop.

Some prominent techni-

cians are taking care of dif-ferent crafts of the movie. Mukessh Gnanesh and Anith are the lensman, while the in form sensational composer Bheems Ceciroleo provides the music. Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor of the movie, while Avinash Kolla are the art directors. Stun Shiva, Vijay, Venkat, and Real Satish oversee the action part of



Prabhudeva after 27 years, the first schedule of the mass entertainer has been completed, and the makers are gearing **SURIYA** An ambitious venture, the action thriller has top-tier

◀amil film industry's celebrated siblings, Suriya and Karthi, have long harboured a desire to collaborate on a project. However, despite their aspirations, such an endeavor failed to materialise. In a recent development, Suriya has taken a significant step towards fulfilling this dream by announcing his production venture, featuring his brother Karthi in the lead role.

The much-anticipated project has been confirmed, with a sneak peek set to be unveiled soon. Notably, the acclaimed director of 96, Prem Kumar, has been roped in to helm the film, adding to the excitement surrounding the announcement. Karthi, along with Arvind Swamy, will headline the cast, promising a captivating cinematic experience.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone as it's the first time Karthi will be working under the production banner of Suriya's 2D Entertainment, co-produced by Suriya and Jyotika.

While Suriya is currently occupied with his ongoing commitments, including Kanguva, which is set for release soon, and an upcoming project under the direction of Sudha Kongara, Karthi is busy shooting for Vaa athiyaare, scheduled for release this year. Additionally, he is geari up to commence filming for *Khaidi* 2, helmed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, in the near future.

As anticipation builds around this sibling collaboration, fans eagerly await further updates on the project and look forward to witnessing the dynamic duo's combined talents unfold on the silver

objectification of women. Adding fuel to the excitement, renowned director Harish Shanker, who launched the teaser and even participated in the muhurtham shot, showered the project with praise. He commended the director's

exploration of societal norms and the

The teaser of the *Yevam* opens

with a captivating voiceover

setting the stage for a story that

explores the battle between good

harbouring a dark desire for Chandini

and evil. We see glimpses of

Chowdary, the protagonist, who

the mythological Indra, known for his

lustful pursuits, further hint at the film's

embodies strength as a police officer

The parallels drawn between Vasishta and

Vasishta Simha, the antagonist,

narrating a traditional Indian folktale

Harish Shankar lauds Yevam teaser unique vision, the high production quality, and the teaser's ability to hook viewers. This endorsement from a prominent filmmaker has only heightened anticipation

for the film. Director Prakash Dantuluri's unconventional approach to promotion shines through. Each character poster released so far comes with a distinct tagline, offering a glimpse into their personalities. This strategy effectively builds intrique and piques audience interest.

Yevam promises to be more than just a thrilling ride. The press release hints that the film will challenge societal norms and celebrate the strength of women. This focus on female empowerment adds another layer of depth and significance to the project. Produced by Navadeep and Pavan Goparaju, Yevam boasts a talented crew, including music composers Keertana Sesh and Neelesh Mandalapu. With a captivating teaser setting the stage, the film promises to be a cinematic milestone.

Sharwanand's *Manamey* releasing on June 7

ccomplished hero Sharwanand is all set to provide wholesome entertainment with his landmark 35th movie Manamey. Helmed by talented director Sriram Adittya and produced luxuriously by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory, the movie joins the summer race. To end the dry summer season, Manamey is coming on June 7, as officially announced by the makers.

Summer is one of the biggest seasons for films. However, this year, Tollywood did not witness the outing of even a decent number of releases. Audiences are waiting keenly for an out-and-out entertainer. Their wait ends in another couple of weeks with Manamey gracing the cinemas on June 7. The release date poster presents Sharwanand in a slick and sophisticated avatar in the suit with a laptop bag in his hand. He looks extremely joyful here with a charismatic smile on his face.

Each and every promotional material created hype for the movie. As the release date is not far off, they will up the game in promotions in the coming days. As shown in the teaser, Sharwanand,

and Krithi Shetty will be seen in contrasting roles in the movie where the kid Vikram Adittya will be seen in a crucial role. This new-age entertainer has Sriram Adittya mark adequate

Vishnu Sharma and Gnana Shekar VS are the cinematographers, while Hesham Abdul Wahab scored the music.

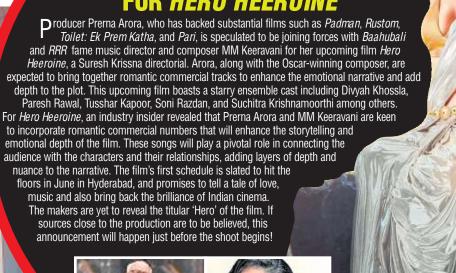
Vivek Kuchibhotla is the co-producer, while Krithi Prasad and Phani Varma are the executive producers. Popular

technician Prawin Pudi is the editor and Jonny Shaik is the art director. The dialogues for the movie are provid-

ed by Ariun Carthyk, Tagore, and

entertainment which was observed in the teaser.

PRERNA ARORA TO **JOIN HANDS WITH OSCAR-WINNING COMPOSER KEERAVANI**



he film Speed 220 is ready to hit the female leads. Currently, the post-production screens worldwide on June 7. work and censor formalities are being com-Produced by Vijayalakshmi Productions, this youthful romantic entertainer, directed by Harsha Bezawada, features Hemant and Ganesh as the lead actors, with Sneha Gupta

and Jahanvi Sharma

playing the

pleted, and the film unit is committed to releasing it on June 7, on a global scale.
Promotional materials, including videos and posters, are intriguing audiences. The first single from the film has already been

released, featuring a special song by singer Geetha Madhuri, choreographed by Sneha Gupta. It has garnered significant attention on social media platforms. Another song, titled Emotional Melody, composed by Shekar Mopuri with lyrics by Suresh Gangu, was also

released, receiving praise for its emotional depth. Both songs are gaining traction on YouTube.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has already reviewed Speed 220, indicating positive feedback and raising expectations for a remarkable

cinematic experience. The filmmakers are confident that the movie will create a sensation among all sections of the audience. With grand promotions and high expectations, the movie is set to connect with the youth audience. The title Speed 220 itself promises an exciting narrative, and audiences are eagerly awaiting its release on June 7th to discover the storyline along with its captivating songs.



Rythu teaser introduces Tirupati character from Kanyakumari

ranyakumari is a movie starring Geet Saini and Sricharan Rachakonda. Damodara is producing this film under the banner of Radical Pictures. This movie, which is being made as a village backdrop entertainer, is getting ready for a grand theatrical release after completing all the preparations. Today, the teaser for Rythu was released, introducing the character of Tirupati from the movie Kanyakumari. The Rythu teaser portrays a five-acre farmer, Tirupati, from

Pentapadu in the Srikakulam district. Tirupati, who has studied up to the seventh standard, is engaged in agriculture. This career becomes an obstacle to his marriage. Wherever he goes to seek a match, he is told that their daughters will only marry a working man.

Tirupati is looked down upon as a farmer. He challenges those who belittle him by saying that he will marry a well-educated girl. The movie will reveal hether this young farmer can meet this challenge. The funny and interesting teaser of Rythu is impressive.

DK BOOSTED ME WHEN I STRUGGLED IN IPL 2022: KOHLI

Premier India batter Virat Kohli has paid tribute to Dinesh Karthik after his retirement at the end of RCB's IPL campaign, describing the veteran wicketkeeper-batter as a wise and honest person who lifted his spirits during a phase of struggle in the league's 2022 season.

The 38-year-old, who joined Royal Challengers Bengaluru from Kolkata Knight Riders in 2022 for his second stint after 2015, played his last IPL match on Wednesday when RCB were eliminated by Rajasthan Royals in the playoffs. "Off the field, I have had some

really nice and interesting conversations with him. He is a conversations with him. He is a wise man, and has great knowledge about a lot of things, not just cricket," Kohli said in a special tribute video posted by RCB.

The little over 11-minute video

features tributes from Karthik's wife, Dipika Pallikal Karthik; his personal mentor, Abhishek

Malolan Rangarajan; and fitness coach, Shanker Basu. Kohli recalled the 2022 season when he averaged just 22.73 scoring 341 runs from 16 matches as they missed the final bus losing to Rajasthan Royals in the second qualifier. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my conversations with him. Even in that phase in 2022 when I did not have a great IPL season, I was really struggling for confidence," he recalled.

"He sat me down a couple of times and just gave me a very honest explanation of how he saw things and maybe I am not able to see them myself," Kohli added.

A veteran campaigner in the IPL, Karthik has been involved in all the editions of the league since the inaugural 2008 season and has represented six franchises, including leading KKR to the playoffs in 2018. He ended with 4,842 runs in 257 matches with 22 fifties.

"I just like his honesty, his courage to go and speak to



anyone about things that he really feels about. And that, I think, is the most special thing for me when it comes to Dinesh. "And that's something that I've always cherished about him. And that's why we get along really, really well."
'A CORRECT PLAYER':

Kohli also hailed Karthik as a technically "correct" and versatile batter.

"I always looked at Dinesh and felt like he was such a correct player technically that he could adapt to any kind of role that's been given to him, and I remember watching him in the 2013 season where he got 600 runs or something and he batted brilliantly at three. "I saw him play shots which were like 'wow.' I think he's

done brilliantly to switch and become a renowned finisher. "...I wish him all the very best for all his future endeavours moving forward." Kohli hoped that Karthik would stay connected to the RCB franchise in some capacity. wiser and ca Kohli added.

think he's of great value to this franchise," he said. 'HYPERACTIVE,

FUSED PERSON': Recalling his first meeting with Karthik during India's tour of South Africa in 2009, Kohli said at first, he found him to be a hyperactive and confused person moving all over the place. "The first time I met him, I

remember we were playing in South Africa if I am not wrong in the Champions Trophy 2009. It was the first time I shared the change room with Dinesh, and I found him to be very amusing, very... I would say hyperactive, confused person. "Most of the time, he was moving all over the place, never stopping. That was my first impression of Dinesh.

"He is an outstanding talent, brilliant batter to watch and my first impression and the present-day impression are not far — just that he has become wiser and calmed down a lot,"

No reason for Dhoni to stop playing: Kaif

PTI MUMBAI

 $F_{ ext{Mohammad}}^{ ext{ormer}}$ India batter Kaif feels there is no reason why Mahendra Singh Dhoni should not play the next season of the IPL, given his form, fitness and ability to play big shots with ease.

Speculation has been rife that Dhoni, who has led CSK to five IPL titles, could have played his last IPL season. The former CSK skipper, who

had undergone surgery to treat a knee injury issue last year, scored 161 runs in 73 balls at a strike rate of 220.55 this season. He was also good

behind the stumps. Kaif thinks Dhoni has enough left in the tank to keep playing. "Personally, I don't think he's done, he could not win the game (last league match against RCB). In the last over after hitting a six, he got out. You could make out seeing his



body language that he seemed very disappointed not winning the game for CSK," Kaif, a cricket expert with Star Sports, told PTI Videos.

"Why he should not come back? He is fit, he is scoring runs and hitting sixes, and there's no reason to stop playing... It's up to him, we can't say with Dhoni what's his plan," added Kaif, regarded as one of India's greatest fielders.

The 43-year-old also said that Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Shreyas Iyer had been a

revelation with his calm

demeanour, and attributed the

team's success this year to his

leadership qualities.
Two-time IPL champions
KKR entered their fourth final with a thumping eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Qualifier 1. They had also topped the league stage with

OTHER SPORTS

20 points.
"He (Iyer) missed the whole IPL last year and KKR probably missed his captaincy

in 2023. The way he is changing the bowlers, and picking his playing XI, he looks very calm under pressure. In a tournament like the IPL, you have to be very composed, you have to know what's happening in the game and Iyer has come a long way. He has become a much better captain now," opined Kaif. Experts are also attributing

KKR's success this season to Gautam Gambhir returning to the side as the team mentor but Kaif said the team's superb run had got a lot to do with how Iyer marshals his boys on the field.

"We always talk about (Gautam) Gambhir, but he can't enter the field... In the rope with the players. Iyer has been there with the players and it will help him grow as a person and player.
"He missed out on the (T20)

World Cup this year (beginning in the US and West Indies next month), but certainly it's great learning for him, captaining the team, leading it to the finals. He has a great future ahead," said Kaif. Kaif said KKR were the overwhelming favourites to lift the IPL trophy this season given that they have quality bowlers and a balanced side, the two ingredients required to

"I think KKR is a very wellbalanced side. Tournamentwinning team has to have good bowlers, KKR has got the bowlers. You saw how (Mitchell) Starc bowled against (SRH in Qualifier 1), it's a balanced side. KKR has got all bases covered in terms of batting and bowling. They are the team to beat in IPL, they are way ahead."

Shah denies approaching Aussies for coach job



PTI NEW DELHI

Indian junior men hockey team loses 4-5 against Dutch local club

PTI ■ ANTWERP (BELGIUM)

Indian men's hockey team will hope to iron out the flaws ahead of the Paris Olympics, while the women's team under new skipper Salima Tete will look to overcome the disappointment of not qualifying for the Summer Games, when the gruelling European leg of the FIH Pro League commences here with matches against Argentina on Wednesday.

The men's team under dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh is coming into the tournament following a 0-5 Test series whitewash at the hands of Australia and would look to make the most of the opportunity in Europe to get back to winning ways ahead of the Paris Games.

"Undoubtedly, we are focused on the Olympics but we also need to give our best to finish as champions (in Pro League) and secure direct qualification for the 2026 Hockey World Cup as well," said Harmanpreet, whose team is currently placed third with 15 points from eight Pro League games. Netherlands are leading the charts with 26 points (12 matches), while Australia are on 20 points (8 matches).

'To achieve both these targets (doing well ahead of Olympics and secure direct qualification for 2026 World Cup), we will strive to give our all on the pitch and win all our matches," the skipper added.

Besides Argentina, the Indian men's team will also test their Olympic preparations against Belgium, Germany and Great Britain. The Indian women, currently placed sixth on the Pro League table, have a chance to climb up the table when they take on world No.7 Argentina on Wednesday.

The world No.6 side has earned eight points from an equal number of games in the Pro League home leg, registering victories against the United States and Australia.

Newly-appointed captain Salima said the friendlies against South Africa in India earlier this month had helped her team prepare for the European leg of the Pro League.

"We played practice matches against South Africa (in India) to prepare for these Hockey Pro League matches. The point difference between us and second-placed China is just seven points," said Tete in a Hockey India release.

"We (will) aim to close this gap in the remaining matches against Argentina, Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain in a bid to finish as high as we can," she added. China are placed second on the table with 15 points from eight games, while leaders Netherlands are on 36 points with an all-win record in 12 games.

Delhi HC appoints administrative committee for Equestrian Federation of India

The Delhi High Court has appointed an ad-hoc administrative committee under its retired judge to run the affairs of the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) following allegations "impropriety" in of its

functioning.

Justice Tara V Ganju said, ordinarily, a court does not interfere in the administration of a national sports federation but when there is "clear impropriety" and administration is being carried

on in an "arbitrary" or "perverse" manner, the situation cannot be ignored. The court said the ad-hoc administrative committee (AAC) shall have former high court judge Justice Najmi Waziri as its chairperson, Chief former Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi as observer/member and advocate Rohini Musa as

member. The order came on a petition Rajasthan Equestrian Association.

"Pending the conduct of elections, EFI cannot be left

without any office bearers.. This Court cannot in good conscience leave functioning of the EFI solely in the hands of those office bearer(s) whose tenure has expired and who are acting in a capricious manner and in violation of the directives of the court," said the court in an order passed on May 21.

"Accordingly, the interest of justice would be served if an Administrative ad-hoc Committee is appointed to supervise the administration of the Respondent No. 1/EFI," the

Atwal, Jeev open with 69s at seniors PGA Championships

PTI ■ BENTON HARBOR (US)

Indian golfers Arjun Atwal and Jeev Milkha Singh opened with identical rounds of 2-under 69 each and were Tied-19th at the end of the first round at the Kitchen Aid Senior PGA Championship, one of the Majors for the Seniors, on the Champions Tour here.

As the Indian duo began strongly, leading the field in the USD 3.5 million seniors' event (over-50s), were Australian Richard Green Englishman Richard Bland, who shot 7-under 64 each at Harbor Shores.

Green hit all 13 fairways and 17 of the 18 greens in regulation en route to the 64.

Green shared the lead with Englishman Richard Bland, playing his first over-50s event. Bland showed great overall form and did not miss a fairway until the eighth hole, which was his 17th of the day. He was bogey free on his debut on the PGA TOUR Champions.

Defending champion Steve Stricker opened with a 5-under 66 and was among five players



Jeev, playing from the first alongside Italian Emanuele Canonica (69) and Jeff Schmid (66), opened on the first with three pars and then had a great run. He birdied the fourth and then had three in a row from seventh to ninth to turn in an impressive 4-under.

On the back, he missed a couple of birdie chances but was hit by a double bogey on Par-4 12th and no more birdies or bogeys to finish with

Atwal, the only Indian to have won on the main PGA TOUR,

began on the 10th with a birdie and added a second on the 12th. He dropped three shots in a row from 16th to 18th and turned in 1-over. On the back nine, Atwal

birdied the first, third and the ninth and bogeyed Par-4 sixth to finish in 69, while his playing partners Jake Reeves (89) and Kirk Triplett (75) struggled through the day. Presidents Cup International team captain Mike Weir mixed six birdies with one bogey to open in 5-under 66 and was T-

4. He played alongside Darren

Clarke (67) and Ernie Els (70).

PTI MUMBAI

 B^{CCI} secretary Jay Shah on Friday rejected claims that the Board has approached former Australian cricketer to be India's next head coach and hinted that Rahul Dravid's successor could be an Indian by saying that he should have a "deep understanding" of the game's

structure in the country. While Dravid has reportedly told the board that he is not interested in a third stint, former Australian players like Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer have claimed that they have turned down approaches for the high-profile position. "Neither I nor the BCCI have approached any former Australian cricketer with a coaching offer. The reports circulating in certain media sections are completely incorrect," Shah said in a statement.

Both Ponting and Langer are involved in the Indian Premier League as the head coaches of Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants respectively. World Cupwinning former batting star Gautam Gambhir, who is currently mentoring Kolkata Knight Riders, is speculated to be among the top contenders for the post right

"Finding the right coach for our national team is a meticulous and thorough process. We are focused on identifying individuals who possess a deep understanding of the Indian cricket structure and have risen through the ranks," Shah said.

that having in-depth knowledge of Indian domestic cricket will be one of the important criteria for appointing the next coach. He said the understanding would be crucial to "truly elevate Team India to the next level."

approached to take over the role but said that he declined as it did not fit with his "lifestyle" right now.

Ponting told ICC review, "I've seen a lot of reports about it. Normally these things pop up on social media before you even know about them, but there were a few little one-onone conversations during the IPL, just to get a level of interest from me as to whether I would do it."

"I'd love to be a senior coach of a national team, but with the other things that I have in

you take a job working with for now. the Indian team you can't be Chennai Super Kings chief involved in an IPL team, so it would take that out of it as well," he said.

Taking up the job of coaching India also implies spending 10-11 months away from home but Ponting said his family seemed ready for it. ...I had a whisper to my son

about it, and I said, 'Dad's been offered the Indian coaching job' and he said, Just take it, dad, we would love to move over there for the next couple of years" he said. "That's how much they love

being over there and the culture of cricket in India, but right now it probably doesn't exactly fit into my lifestyle," Ponting said.

Meanwhile, Langer, who had remained noncommittal about applying for India coaching role after IPL clash between LSG and Mumbai Indians, said he would "never say never" but at the same The BCCI secretary also said time revealed receiving as one gets to nurture some crucial advice from Lucknow of the best cricketers in the skipper KL Rahul.

Langer told BBS Stumped Podcast, "It would be an amazing job. I also know that it's an all-encompassing role, Ponting had claimed on team, honestly, it's capable of propelling Indian Thursday that he was exhausting. And that's the cricket forward," Shah added.

Australian job."

"You never say never. And the pressure of doing it in India... was talking to KL Rahul and he said, 'You know, if you think there's pressure and politics in an IPL team, multiply that by a thousand, (that is) coaching India. That was a good bit of advice, I

guess," Langer said.
"It would be an awesome job, but not for me at the moment," he added.

Former England and current Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Andy Flower had my life and wanting to have a also ruled himself out of the bit of time at race saying he is happy being home...everyone knows if involved in franchise cricket

> executive Kasi Viswanathan has done the same for Stephen Fleming claiming the former New Zealand captain won't be keen on taking a job which requires him to work 'nine-ten months a year'.

> Shah described the position of India's head coach as the most prestigious job in international cricket, saying it demands high level of professionalism given the kind of support the national side enjoys.

> When we talk about international cricket, no role is more prestigious than that of the Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team. Team India commands the largest fan base globally, enjoying support that is truly unrivalled," he said.

"Our rich history, passion for the game make this one of the most lucrative jobs in the world. The role demands a high level of professionalism world and an assembly line of talented cricketers to

follow. "Catering to the aspirations of a billion fans is a huge and having done it for four honour and the BCCI will years with the Australian pick the right candidate,