QUOTE OF THE DAY

turmeric locally and distributed the akshithanlu. I am challenging Kishan Reddy and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy. Can you take an oath on Bhadrachalam Lord Shri Ram and say that the akshithanlu came after the

- Revanth Reddy, TG Chief Minister

Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN Prana Pratishta

'NDA will implement 'one-nation one...

The NDA, if voted to power again at the Centre, will implement a "one nation-one election" system across the country, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted on Sunday. Addressing a poll rally at Jammalamadugu in Kadapa district, he slammed the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government in Andhra Pradesh and alleged that due to its corrupt practices, the State plunged into a debt of Rs 13.5 lakh crore. Hitting out at the YSRCP, Singh said people are fed up with the ruling party with the deteriorating law and order situation...

Kerala's coastal hamlets witness...

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



India has unexplored opportunities...

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

-PAGE: 8

SRH eye consistency in must win IPL...

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

UNLOCKING

SCRUPULOUS RESEARCH

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NAIDU A-1, LOKESH A-2

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

YSRCP MLA Vishnu's complaint led to the FIR

Talks between India and

China going on 'well':

- Allegations include IVR calls spreading misinformation
- Investigation initiated under IPC sections

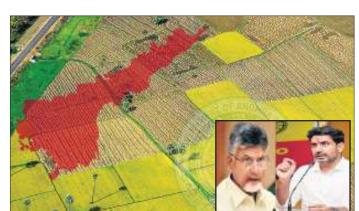
PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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





TDP complains to EC against YSRCP social media team

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission (EC) against YSRCP, accusing its social media team, led by Sajjala Bhargav Reddy, of orchestrating a malicious campaign. The complaint alleges that through IVRS calls and social media, false information is being disseminated to the public, fostering animosity and discord between different groups. TDP contends that these actions constitute a

criminal conspiracy and a flagrant violation of the election Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Senior TDP leader Varla Ramaiah complained on Saturday, accompanied by an audio clip as evidence. In response to TDP's complaint, the Election Commission has instructed the Cyber Crimes division of the CID to initiate an investigation. However, as of now, the CID has not yet registered a case or summoned Sajjala Bhargav Reddy for questioning in connection with the ongoing probe.

EC transfers DGP Rajendranath

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Aghora look by Raamz

creates revolution in

With hardly a week left for the general elections in the State, the Election Commission of India has issued rders transferring the Andhra Pradesh DGP KV Rajendranath Reddy with immediate effect on Sunday. KS Jawahar Reddy, Chief Secretary of the AP government has been directed to submit a panel of three DG-rank eligible IPS officers for the existing post by Monday 11 am with their APAR grading for the last five years & Vigilance Clearance to the commission.

The commission has also directed that the officer should hand over the charge to the officer immediately below in rank and the officer should not be assigned to any election-related works till completion of general elections to the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, 2024 in Andhra Pradesh.

The three senior IPS officers The three senior IPS officers DG-rank are Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao (1989), Anjana Sinha (1990), and Harish Kumar Gupta (1992).

According to sources, it is alleged that after the public meeting of the NDA bloc both A mit

ing of the NDA bloc, both Amit Shah and Chandrababu Naidu had a closed meeting for a brief time and soon after the meeting was over the ECI affected transfer to the AP DGP KV Rajendranath Reddy which is become a buzz among the polit-



Modi heading towards 400-seat mark after 3rd phase: Amit Shah

PNS DHARMAVARAM

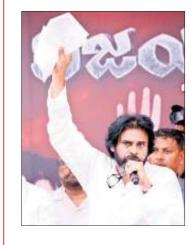
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday exuded confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be heading towards the 400-seat mark after the third phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. Addressing an NDA public meeting here, Shah accused the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of encouraging corruption and crime. Mocking INDIA Alliance partners, Shah said none of the INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, were fit to lead the country, while on the other hand the whole country. on the other hand, the whole country has decided to make Modi the Prime Minister for the third time. Taking a dig at the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government, he said the BJP, Telugu Desam Party, and actor Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena allied to bring to an end the alleged rule of goondas and criminals, rampant corruption and sand mafia in the State and to make Amaravati the

capital of Andhra Pradesh once again.

The whole country has decided to make Modi the Prime Minister for the third time, he said while asserting that none of the INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, were fit to lead the country. Charging Reddy with trying to kill the Telugu language by introducing the English medium in pri-mary education, Shah assured that the BJP would not allow such

Describing the Polavaram Project as the "lifeline" of Andhra Pradesh, the union minister alleged that it was derailed due to corruption in the state government. "I came to give you a Modi guarantee. You vote Chandrababu Naidu (NDA) to power in Andhra Pradesh and Narendra Modi at the Centre. Within two years, Polavaram will be completed and water will be given to farmers," Shah assured.

PK 'votes' for Jagan schemes, promises more



Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has pledged to usher in improved welfare schemes surpassing the current offerings, dismissing speculations that the alliance might curtail existing programmes.

reassured voters that if their alliance clinches victory, they will not only maintain but enhance all ongoing welfare initiatives. "These schemes are funded by the people's taxes; there's no question of abandoning them. Rest assured, if we come to power, all welfare programmes will

continue unabated," he affirmed. Responding to allegations of being a non-local, Kalyan asserted his deep roots in the region, citing his upbringing across various locales due to his father's government service. "I am a son of this soil, born in Bapatla, raised in Palnadu and Speaking at an election rally in Nellore," he stated firmly.

Expressing dismay over dalisation of a helipad constructed for his campaign, Kalyan condemned the act as an act of sabotage orchestrated by YSRCP leaders. He vowed to launch an inquiry and take stern action against the perpetrators once their alliance assumes power. Pawan Kalyan lambasted the YSRCP

leadership for monopolising natural resources and alleged illegal exploitation.

Criticising Irrigation Minister Ambati Rambabu for his purported lack of concern for vital projects, Pawan Kalyan quipped, "Instead of understanding projects, he seems more adept at dancing to cinema songs." He also accused Rambabu of cting the concerns of evacuees from the Polavaram project.

Highlighting internal rifts within the YSRCP, Pawan Kalyan pointed to instances such as Rambabu's son-in-law urging voters not to support him, indicating simmering discontent within the party ranks.

Sajjala raps Shah's remarks on Telugu

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP State general secretary, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, on Sunday hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks on the Telugu language, questioning the schooling choices for his grandchildren.

Addressing a press conference, introduction of English medium otal in curbing such malpractices. education, asserting that Telugu He accused Opposition leader would remain unaffected.

Mohan Reddy administration's efforts to combat land encroachment in Andhra Pradesh, under-



Chandrababu Naidu and his cohorts Sajjala emphasised the Jagan of opposing the Act, calling for punitive measures against those disseminating misinformation.

Continued on Page 2

'Land, sand mafia plundering AP'

PNS NELLORE

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president YS Sharmila has accused the land, sand, and gravel mafia of exploiting natural resources over the past five years under the YSRCP regime, resulting in a lack of development in the State.

Speaking at an election rally in Kovur on Sunday, she criticised the lack of progress during the five-year tenure of the YSRCP, highlighting the prevalence of sand, gravel, and land mafias. Sharmila lamented the alleged detrimental impact of both Chandrababu Naidu and Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenyear rule on the state. She emphasised the absence of

significant industrial growth in AP



during the YSRCP administration, attributing this shortfall to the central government's failure to secure Special Category Status (SCS). Sharmila accused both Naidu and Jagan Reddy of neglecting the state's interests for their own political gain by not exerting sufficient pressure for the SCS.

Rs 450 cr worth of cash, liquor and assests seized PNS VIZIANAGARAM

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena announced on Sunday that authorities had seized assets worth Rs 450 crore, including cash and liquor, since the commencement of the election process in the State.

Meena conducted an inspection of postal ballot facilitation centres at the JNTU campus and Gurajada University campus on Sunday. During his visit, he scrutinised the help desks, queue arrangements, and polling booths being established for the May 13 polling. District Collector and District Election Officer Nagalakshmi briefed Meena on the security protocols implemented at the EVM strong



Addressing the media, Meena highlighted the comprehensive efforts to

a substantial amount of cash, liquor, and other valuables, valued at over Rs curb illicit activities. He revealed that 450 crore, have been confiscated

reinforce enforcement, flying squads and check-posts have been deployed, with special task forces led by mandal officers. Additionally, stringent measures, including CCTV surveillance at liquor production and distribution sites, as well as GPS tracking on liquor vehicles, have been implemented. Meena emphasized the facilitation of postal ballots for election duty personnel on May 7 and 8 and underscored preventive measures to block illegal liquor influx from neighbouring states.

Approximately 12,400 sensitive and ultra-sensitive polling centres have been identified, warranting heightened security measures," Meena

Fierce campaign ends for third phase of LS poll

PNS AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

Polling tomorrow in 92 seats across 11 states and UTs



The Congress and its allies accused the BJP of trying to tamper with the Constitution and do away with reservations. The principal opposition

the 50 per cent cap on reservations, also asked the BJP to clear its stance on the issue.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge party, which has promised to remove along with party leaders Rahul

Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra focused on issues of social justice, unemployment, "injustice" to farmers and alleged favourable treatment to select businessmen. The BJP leaders targeted the Congress over wealth redistribution and inheritance tax issues and accused it of pursuing appeasement politics, while Rahul Gandhi reiterated Congress' commitment to conduct a caste census and economic survey if voted to power.

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

Former Madhya Pradesh chief ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Rajgarh) have also returned to the Lok Sabha electoral fray this time. The fate of former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and Badruddin Ajmal (Dhubri) will also be decided on May 7

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

Prime Minister Modi, who addressed two rallies in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday and later visited Ram temple in Ayodhya, lashed out at the 'dynastic politics" of the Samajwadi Party and the Congress saying while the opposition alliance partners work only to benefit their own families, he is building a better future for the nation's next generations.

PM to address 2 poll rallies in AP today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address two NDA election meetings in the State on Monday, along with alliance partners TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and Jana

Sena chief Pawan Kalyan. The first meeting is scheduled in the afternoon at Vemagiri in Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari district, followed by another public meeting in the evening at Anakapalli in

the eponymous district. The Prime Minister is expected to land at Rajamahendravaram airport around noon. He will address his first meeting here at 3.30 pm and then proceed to Anakapalli for the second meeting scheduled at 5.30

pm, according to a local BJP leader. The twin PM meetings dubbed 'Prajagalam' (people's voice) come

ahead of Andhra Pradesh's simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections on May 13. The first NDA election meeting was held at Boppudi village in Palnadu district's Chilakaluripeta mandal on March 17. Andhra Pradesh BJP chief

D Purandeswari is contesting from the Rajamahendravaram Lok Sabha seat. She will take on YSRCP's G Srinivasulu.

In Anakapalli, BJP's C M Ramesh is fighting the parliamentary election against the ruling party's B Mutyala Naidu.

Following Monday's meetings, Modi is scheduled to campaign again in the state on Wednesday, May 8, addressing a public meeting at Pileru in Annamayya district and participating in a rally in Vijayawada, NTR district.





Monday Mirchi

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

PHONE TAPPING CASE A FIGHT AMONG OFFICIALS AS NETAS STEP BACK The high-profile Telangana phone-tapping

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

struction of Kaleshwaram project, Revanth is now saying that officials must decide on repairing the reported damage and restoring the project. All told, a bureaucrat commented that political parties are making bureaucrats scapegoats in the face of elec-

PLACE ON RECORD IF IT HAPPENED BEFORE 9 DEC 2023

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

MOST BUREAUCRATS ARE WEATHERCOCKS

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

-- Yours truly

'Land, sand mafia...

Continued from Page 1

Sharmila launched a scathing critique of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, asserting that he does not uphold the lega-cy of YS Rajasekhar Reddy by failing to address the needs of

the people.
"While YS Rajasekhar Reddy created numerous job opportunities by filling vacant positions, Jagan Reddy has disappointed unemployed youth by leaving 2.35 lakh vacancies unfilled," she criticiand is unfilled, she criticiand is unfilled. icized. Regarding agricultural policies, Sharmila accused Jagan Reddy of misleading farmers with promises of crop compensation and complete prohibition, alleging that he failed to deliver on these commitments.

She also condemned the influence of the BJP in Andhra Pradesh, claiming that despite lacking MP seats, the party indirectly controls the state. Sharmila accused both Naidu and Jagan Reddy of aligning with the BJP for

their own political interests.

In her appeal to voters, the APCC president urged sup-port for Congress candidates Koppula Raju for Nellore MP and Kiran Kumar Reddy for Kovur MLA.

Political battle heats up in V'nagaram Assembly seat

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

As the election frenzy grips Andhra Pradesh, the spotlight is firmly fixed on the Vizianagaram Assembly constituency, where the battle for power is intensifying. With just a few days left until the polls, the political landscape is charged with anticipation and fervour. The ruling Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) has placed its bet on deputy speaker Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy, a member of the Vysya community, banking on the successes of YSRCP's welfare schemes and developmental projects in the Vizianagaram Municipal Corporation.

In opposition stands Pusapati Aditi Vijayalaxmi Gajapathi Raju of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), representing the Kshatriya community. Having lost her debut election in 2019, she now aims for redemption, carrying forward the legacy of



both the TDP and the illustrious Pusapati dynasty in Vizianagaram.

The electoral discourse is centred around long-standing grievances, including the delayed construction of the Tarakarama Teertha Sagar (TTS) project, incomplete infrastructure projects like the Pedda Cheruvu Park and government degree college, and the lack of basic amenities such as house-to-house tap connections. The TTS project, initiat-

ed in 2005, remains unfinished despite successive governments' efforts. The recent escalation of its cost to Rs 817 crore has raised concerns, especially amidst ongoing water crises in

several colonies. Both candidates are making ambitious promises to sway voters. Pusapati Aditi Vijayalaxmi Gajapathi Raju vows to prioritize education, skill development, and women's employment, citing frustration with the current administration's alleged shortcomings. On the other hand, YSRCP assures further infrastructural development, including the completion of pending projects and initiatives like the Vizianagaram Hub for youth skill development.

Accusations fly from both camps, with Pusapati Aditi Vijayalaxmi Gajapathi Raju alleging corruption and nepotism against sitting MLA Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy and his family. Swamy, in turn, defends his track record and accuses the opposition of neglecting the constituency's development. As the campaign trail heats up with rallies, promises, and counter-claims, the electorate of Vizianagaram finds itself at a crossroads, weighing past performances against future promises. With crucial issues like infrastructure, water supply, and education at stake, the outcome of this electoral battle will undoubtedly shape the district's trajectory for years to come.

Botsa Jhansi enlists support of Vizag's medical community

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Botsa Jhansi Lakshmi, the candidate for the Visakhapatnam Parliamentary seat, emphasised the crucial role of the medical profession in serving humanity. During a gathering of medical professionals at AMCOSA Hall at Maharani Peta, Botsa Jhansi lauded the indispensable contributions of medical professionals as purveyors of essential human ser-

Jhansi paid tribute to the transformative impact of the Aarogyasri, A flagship scheme db y 25 lakhs, illustrating a

of all health initiatives of the State government to provide quality healthcare to the poor, initiated by the late Dr. YS Rajasekhar Reddy, which illuminated the lives of countless underprivileged individuals. She commended Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's commitment to expanding and fortifying this initiative, underlining his dedication to safeguarding public health as a foremost responsibility of governance. Notably, the financial coverage under



robust investment in healthcare infrastructure.

Highlighting Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy's ambitious vision to elevate Visakhapatnam

into a premier healthcare hub, Jhansi extolled his efforts to democratise access to superior medical facilities across North Andhra. The establishment of 17 medical colleges within five years stands as a testament to the government's proactive agenda, generating over a lakh of employment opportunities within the medical and allied sectors.

Jhansi fervently appealed for unified support towards Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's proposal to designate Visakhapatnam as the administrative capital, asserting its

potential to infuse a fundamental shift in the region's develop-ment path. Highlighting the essence of preserving Visakhapatnam's rich cultural heritage while charting a course of progress, she rallied for collective endorsement of the Vision Visakha' initiative.

The gathering witnessed the participation of esteemed medical luminaries such as K Surya Rao, Dr Visveswara Rao, Dr Rama Murthy, and Dr B Kashi Naidu, underscoring the significance of the healthcare discourse within Visakhapatnam's political landscape.

Continued from Page 1

Promising to prioritize sectors like education, healthcare, and irrigation, Kalyan pledged to ensure access to clean drinking water and uphold law and order if elected. "Every commitment made by our alliance will be executed meticulously and efficiently," he reassured the electorate.

duced the MLA candidate for Ponnur, Dhulipalla Narendra, and the Guntur Lok Sabha candidate, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, urging voters to support them wholeheartedly. Mudragada Notably, Padmanabham's daughter, M Kranthi, along with her husband, paid a visit to Kalyan dur-

ing the event.

During the rally, Kalyan intro-

TODAY	
ALMANAC	
Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Trayodashi:	May 05 05:42 PM
	to May 06 02:40 PM
Chaturdashi:	May 06 02:40 PM
	to May 07 11:41 AM
Nakshatram:	
Revati:	May 05 07:57 PM
	to May 06 05:43 PM
Ashwini:	May 06 05:43 PM
	to May 07 03:32 PM
Rahukalam:	7:26 AM to 9:02 AM
Yamagandam:	10:37 AM to 12:12 PM
Varjyam:	11:54 AM to 01:21 PM
Gulika:	1:48 PM to 3:23 PM
Amritakalam:	03:32 PM to 04:59 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:38 PM

Forecast: Sscattered Thunderstorms Temp: 42°° Humidity: 53% Sunrise: 5:40 AM Sunset: 6:28 PM

Updated: May 5, 2024 5:00 PM

PK 'votes' for... Modi heading...

Continued from Page 1

He alleged that the Congress party neglected the "Ram Temple issue for 70 years whereas PM Modi performed 'Bhoomi Puja' and also consecrated it during his second term. "Both Jaganmohan Reddy and Rahul Gandhi were invited to the Ram Temple consecration, but they did not attend. Will you vote for people who did not attend the Ram Temple consecration?" Shah

Chandrababu Naidu, in his address, criticised the YSRCP government's handling of the capital issue in Andhra Pradesh, promising to reinstate Amaravati's capital status with the cooperation of the Centre. He reiterated promises made by the Prime Minister regarding the completion of the Polavaram Project and assured additional water

supply projects for Anantapur.
Naidu outlined his development agenda, focusing on job creation, welfare schemes, and infra-structure projects, reaffirming his commitment to fulfil promises made to the electorate. Both Shah and Naidu appealed to voters to support NDA candidates in the upcoming elections, stressing the importance of effective representation to address local issues and ensure developmental progress in the region.

One more chance for AP staff on poll duty who missed voting: CEO

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena on Sunday said that the Election Commission will facilitate another opportunity to vote for employees on election duty who missed exercising their franchise.

During a visit to Vizianagaram to check voting facilities, the CEO noted that such employees will be given the opportunity on May 7 and 8. "We are working intending to ensure that every employee discharging election duties will be offered the postal ballot facility," said Meena in a press

release. In the event of eligible employees not finding their names on the postal ballot list and also in case of not apply-ing for this facility, Meena said they can still go ahead and



include their name to vote by producing the election duty order and identity card at their relevant facilitation centres.

"Home voting and postal ballot voting for all will be completed by (the) 9th of this month (May)," the CEO said.

Further, he highlighted that minimum facilities and helpdesks have been arranged at all facilitation centres.

Besides making all the necessary arrangements for conducting polls in the southern state, Meena observed that election staff have already undergone two rounds of training.

Moreover, he noted that cash, liquor and other inducements worth Rs 450 crore have been seized in the run-up to polls until now.

Elections for the 175-member Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh are scheduled on May 13.

NAIDU A-1, LOKESH A-2.

Continued from Page 1

Evidence, including audio files contained in a pen drive, has been cited in the FIR, alleging that Naidu and Lokesh orchestrated a deceptive campaign concerning the Land Titling Act.

Vishnu asserted that voters were being targeted with IVR calls containing messages disparaging YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and advocating support for Naidu, falsely claiming that the Land Titling Act would jeopardise their wealth and land records.

The YSRCP has accused the TDP of deliberately maligning YS Jagan Mohan Reddy by spreading misinformation about the Land Titling Act proposed by the incumbent government. Vishnu's complaint highlighted that the content of the IVR calls violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by disseminating falsehoods and launching personal attacks on political opponents. The CID, acting under the EC's orders, has initiated an investigation, invoking sections 171 (F)(G), 188,505(2) along with 120 (b) IPC. Alongside Naidu and Lokesh, ten others have been named in the case, including the entities responsible for the IVR calls. The primary accused listed is Chandrababu Naidu, followed by his son Nara Lokesh, the TDP party, the electronic campaign team of TDP, the owner of the IVR call service, and others. Notices have been served, including to the TDP state office. Earlier directives from the Additional Chief Electoral Officer MN Harendhira Prasad prompted the AP CID additional DG to initiate an investigation into the TDP's alleged false propaganda surrounding the Land Titling Act. Subsequently, the AP CID formally registered the case and commenced the investigation process.

Sajjala raps Shah's remarks on...

Continued from Page 1

Allegations were levelled against Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan for their purportedly deceptive narratives surrounding the Land Titling Act.

Sajjala highlighted potential irregularities within Ramoji Film City, suggesting that the Act's enforcement would unveil such discrepancies. He welcomed the CID's intervention in investigating Chandrababu Naidu's alleged falsehoods regarding the Act, attributing resistance to its implementation to vested interests like Chandrababu Naidu and Ramoji Rao.

Sajjala rebuked Union Minister Amit Shah for his unfounded allegations against the State government, likening them to the baseless claims previously made by the TDP. He reminded Shah of the BJP's involvement in the government during the period of alleged corruption, asserting that accountability should extend to all parties.

Reflecting on public sentiment, Sajjala asserted that Chandrababu Naidu's perceived corruption had led to his political downfall. He referenced Prime Minister Modi's earlier remarks likening Polavaram to Chandrababu's ATM, attributing project delays to the TDP-BJP

Sajjala reiterated the commitment to completing the Polavaram project under CM Jagan's leadership, citing cost-saving measures through reverse tendering. He lamented the delayed progress, attributing it to inadequate funding from the central government, despite Cabinet approvals.

Sajjala highlighted discrepancies in the coverage of the Land Titling Act in a section of the media, referring to contradictory content aired on ETV Annadata. He accused the opposition of peddling fake news, emphasising the Act's potential benefits for farmers.

Fierce campaign ends...

Continued from Page 1

Referring to himself and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said, "We don't have children. We are working for your children." With the BJP bagging Surat unopposed, 25 seats in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat will go to polls on May 7, besides 11 seats in Maharashtra, 10 seats in Ûttar Pradesh, the remaining 14 of the 28 in Karnataka, seven in Chhattisgarh, eight in Madhya Pradesh, five in Bihar, four each in Assam and West Bengal, and all two in Goa.

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

PM to address...

Continued from Page 1

Modi will be taking part in four election campaign-related events in Andhra Pradesh ahead of polling day.

As part of a seat-sharing deal among the NDA part-ners, the TDP was allocated 144 assembly segments and 17 Lok Sabha constituencies, while the BJP will contest from six Lok Sabha and 10 assembly constituencies.

Jana Sena will contest from two Lok Sabha and 21 Assembly segments. Election results nation-

wide will be declared on June 4.

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'NDA will implement 'one-nation one poll' in next five years'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The NDA, if voted to power again at the Centre, will implement a "one nation-one election" system across the country, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted on Sunday.

Addressing a poll rally at Jammalamadugu in Kadapa district, he slammed the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government in Andhra Pradesh and alleged that due to its corrupt practices, the State plunged into a debt of Rs 13.5 lakh crore.

Hitting out at the YSRCP, Singh said people are fed up with the ruling party with the deteriorating law and order situation and assured that if the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is voted to power in Andhra Pradesh, the state will be liberated from "corruption."

Lok Sabha elections are being held in Andhra Pradesh simultaneously with the Assembly polls. Our commitment is that



we will implement one nationone election in the next five years across the country so that time and energy are saved," the senior BJP leader said.

Taking a dig at the Congress, he said the grand old party will disappear from the political landscape of the country as dinosaurs disappeared off the face of the earth.

"After ten years you ask any

child, he will say what the Congress Party is," he mocked. Alleging that Rahul Gandhi was praised in Pakistan, he said the Gandhi scion has no moral right to do politics in India.

Rajnath Singh said though the Congress party ignored former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, it was the NDA which respected him with the highest civilian award

He said after Modi took over as Prime Minister, India became the fifth-largest economy in the world and is poised to become the third-largest.

Singh said that under Modi's leadership, as many as 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in the country.

He further said it was due to Modi that the war between

Russia and Ukraine was halted for four and half hours to enable India to evacuate 22,000 of its citizens.
The BJP leaders said there were serious corruption charges when Congress was in

power earlier while not even a

single corruption charge was

levelled against BJP govern-

ments headed by either Atal

Bihari Vajpayee or Modi. He said the BJP fulfilled the promises such as the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370 and abolition of triple

CM Jagan to cover 3 MLA segments today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) general secretary Talasila Raghuram unveiled the schedule for Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's election campaign rallies on May 6. According to the itinerary, the Chief Minister will be campaigning in three constituencies on Monday.

The day will commence with a rally at 10 am at the Ambedkar Statue Centre in the Repalle constituency, which falls under the Bapatla parliamentary constituency. Subsequently, at 12.30 pm, CM Jagan will address a public gathering at the Srinivasa Mahal Centre in Macherla constituency which is a part of the Narasaraopet parliamentary constituency.

The final event of the day is scheduled for 3 pm. The Chief Minister will hold a rally at the Valluri Raja Centre in Machilipatnam town, which is part of the Machilipatnam parliamentary constituency.

'Jagan Kosam Siddham' drive garners a wave of support for YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The 'Jagan Kosam Siddham' campaign has unleashed a tidal wave of support across Andhra Pradesh as a whopping 32 lakh people have enlisted as star campaigners for the YSRCP, throwing their weight behind CM Jagan in the forth-

coming political showdown.

Their resounding endorsement stems from CM Jagan's credibility and the tangible benefits experienced firsthand through the YSRCP's welfare initiatives.

The surge is particularly pronounced in key districts like Visakhapatnam, Ėluru, Bapatla, and Chittoor, where an impressive 40 lakh households have been reached, advancing CM Jagan's ambitious agenda of 'Navaratnalu Plus' for Andhra Pradesh.

In a final push before the May 13 elections, a spirited cadre of over 2.5 lakh members is engaged in a door-to-door outreach effort. Earlier on Sunday, CM Jagan himself issued a rallying call to the pub-



The surge is particularly pronounced in key districts like Visakhapatnam, Eluru, Bapatla, and Chittoor, where an impressive 40 lakh households have been reached

lic, urging them to join hands in this transformative journey. Taking to his official social media handle, he tweeted

'Every beneficiary of our governance embodies the spirit of our #StarCampaigners. I extend a warm invitation to join me in our collective

endeavour to continue the march of progress and uplift the lives of our people.

Register as star campaigners of @YSRCParty for the upcoming elections

We await you at your doorstep to embark on this

Drop in property offences in Vizag

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) K Fakeerappa has announced that there has been a substantial decrease in property offences within the city, attributing the success to the diligent efforts of law enforce-ment personnel. According to reports, April 2024 recorded a significant drop in property offences, with only 68 cases reported, resulting in the theft of property worth approximately Rs 53,98,953.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, JCP Fakeerappa highlighted the strategic initiatives undertaken to combat the concerning trend. Under the guidance of Police Commissioner A Ravi Shankar, specialised teams

Only 68 cases reported in April



were deployed, employing advanced technical methods and conducting comprehensive investigations. These efforts led to the detection of 49 cases of property offences and the successful apprehension of 66 property offenders across various cat-

The recovery operation yielded significant results, with property worth Rs 37,63,170 being retrieved, including gold, silver, cash, vehicles, electronic devices, and other valuables. Particularly noteworthy was the recovery of

Beyond reactive measures,

the city police have implemented a comprehensive strategy to deter future incidents. March saw the strategic installation of 454 CCTV cameras across the city, significantly enhancing surveillance capabilities. Additionally, Crime Wing officers proactively conducted awareness meetings to educate the public on crime prevention techniques and the importance of utilising CCTV systems.

Special night patrols have been established in high-risk areas, demonstrating the department's commitment to proactive law enforcement. Furthermore, authorities are closely monitoring individuals released from Visakhapatnam

Glaucoma-cataract CME at GITAM Institute

Stress on need to address untreated cataracts causing blindness

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society (APOS) collaborated with the Visakhapatnam Ophthalmic Association to conduct a State-wide Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on Glaucoma-Cataract at the GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Passorath (CIMSP) of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSR)

Addressing the participants during the programme, GIMSR Dean Dr SP Rao highlighted the urgent need to address untreated cataracts causing blindness, particularly in rural areas with limited eye care access. He stressed prioritising ophthalmology research in medical colleges and utilising technology like AI and affordable diagnostics to enhance eye care. Dr. Rao highlighted GITAM University's MURTI labs, pro-



moting interdisciplinary research.

Dr ČV Gopala Raju, APOS president, emphasised the participation of 1,500 ophthalmologists and postgraduate medical students in the CME programme. He reiterated APOS's dedication to organising regular CMEs for updated knowledge and announced plans to expand similar programmes in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. The programme also included participation

from National Board of Examination centres and their DNB trainees. Dr CV Gopal Raju, APOS secretary,

detailed the Academic Research Committee (ARC), which arranges tailored training programmes for members, especially post-graduates. The CME covered both basic and advanced topics in glaucoma and cataract, featuring hands-on training and videoassisted skill sessions. Participants practised Phaco surgery with model eyes, supervised by seasoned faculty. The programme benefited from the

invaluable contributions of the Scientific Committee Chairman, Dr. Madhu Sudha Raju, and other distinguished guests, including Dr. Padma Raju, Andhra Pradesh Medical Council observer, Dr. KVV. Satyanarayana, Dr Chandra Sekhar, and Dr

Chennai-based firm donates dumper truck to TTD

PNS TIRUPATI



A Chennaibased automobile company has dumper truck worth Rs 31

Devasthanams (TTD), the official custodian of Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati. Automobile major Ashok

Leyland handed over the truck to the temple body on Saturday in a brief ceremony.

"Chennai-based Ashok Leyland has donated a tipper (dumper truck) worth over Rs 31 lakh to TTD on Saturday at Tirumala," said a press release from the temple body on Saturday. According to TTD, the company donates a vehicle to the temple every year and in 2024 it has gifted a 1920 TU Box fully built model.



80 iron poles.

PENDING DUES

Discontent among coffee planters out in the open in Araku

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Growing discontent among coffee planters over unpaid dues from the government may emerge as a significant electoral issue in the Araku (ST) Lok Sabha constituency in Alluri Sitharama Raju district Pradesh.

The YSR Congress is aiming to score a "hat trick" in the segment while the NDA is slugging it out to wrest the seat from the ruling party. In 2019, YSRCP candidate G Madhavi won the seat with a margin of over two lakh votes.

This time the ruling party has fielded Chetti Tanuja Rani, a doctor, while former MP Kothaplalli Geetha, a BJP contestant, was pitted against

Geetha won the seat in 2014 on a YSRCP ticket and later floated her outfit, which was merged with the BJP. The CPI (M), as part of the INDI alliance also fielded P Appala Narsa, who may potentially split the oppo-

sition votes. Perched at a height of 1000 m above sea level in the Eastern Ghats in

Andhra Pradesh, Araku boasts of producing coffee beans with distinctive flavours which has gained recognition both domestically and international-

The crop which was initially started as an experiment in early 2000, is the valley, which produces more than 15,000 tons of the commodity annu-According to Gemmili China Babu,

sarpanch of Sunkarametta village in Araku region and a planter himself, the plantation was earlier brought under MGNREGA and later the Centre stopped extending wages Despite the state government send-

ing proposals to the central government to reverse its earlier order, there has been no response. As many as 2.15 lakh farmers,

besides sellers and others from 10 mandals under the Araku Lok Sabha segment depend on the coffee plan-

China Babu said the plantations were raised in 2000 and picked up pace during former Chief Minister



Rajasekhar Reddy's regime. The successive governments also encouraged it as the tribals started giving up Podu cultivation which is an ecological disaster. The farmers are supposed to get a total of Rs 18,800 per acre for three years from 2019 as an incentive from the ITDA.

"Despite several assurances by officials, from 2019 till date, a due amount of over Rs 60 crore is to be paid. There are over 58,000 farmers who have to receive the amount," he said. Though ITDA officials collected the account details of the farmers who are suposed to receive the amount, nothing has materialised so far.

V Abhishek, Project Officer of Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) Paderu said it is not due, but the Centre removed the coffee plantation from the MGNREGA many years ago.

"Agricultural activities are covered under the MGNREGA. However, Coffee plantation comes under commercial crops and hence it was removed," the official said.

Another official of ITDA said they already received Rs 5.5 crore towards pending dues. But, could not release it as the Model Code of Conduct is in place due to ongoing general elections.

pending dues from the government is being highlighted in his poll cam-

The ITDA and the state government have been extending support to planters by way of providing free saplings and other equipment required for cultivation, some farmers said.

"The pending dues from the government is not a major issue. The real issue is providing marketing opportunities to the farmers who are forced to sell their commodity at lesser prices to middlemen and other businessmen," an official earlier associat-

ed with ITDA said. Ram Kumar Varma, Founder and CEO of "Native Araku Coffee", which has outlets at eight airports in India, said their blend is famous in several places.

transferred PNS VIJAYAWADA With the general election in

Two DSPs

a week in Andhra Pradesh transfers of senior IPS officers are still under way. On Sunday Election Commission issued transfer orders to two Police in Andhra Pradesh.

Election Commission in its orders stated that G Veera Raghava Reddy, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ananthapuram and Syed Mahaboob Basha, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Rayachoty were asked to hand over the charge to officers immediately below in rank. Further orders stated to report both the officers to Police headquarters immedi-

As the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in place by the Election Commission of India, it has the power to transfer the police if they find any discrepancy in performing their duties.

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers ,TV)

Format C-1

Citizens' manifesto of civic priorities unveiled

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Greater Visakhapatnam Citizens' Forum (GVCF) has taken a bold step towards shaping the future of their city by releasing their election manifesto titled 'Citizens' Manifesto of Civic Priorities Visakhapatnam'. The manifesto, unveiled at the Visakhapatnam Public Library on Sunday, outlines key areas of focus and demands for the betterment of

Visakhapatnam. Speaking at the event, GVCF President, retired Lt. Col. AK Subba Rao, highlighted the forum's commitment to supporting politicians who align with their manifesto and actively work towards its implementation upon gaining power. The manifesto addresses critical issues concerning the city's development and environmental sustainability.

One of the central demands of the manifesto is the stringent enforcement of regulations to curb coal dust pollution emanating from the Visakhapatnam



Port Authority (VPA). It advocates for the implementation of court-ordered measures and environmental directives, coupled with advanced suppression techniques to combat air pollution effectively. The manifesto underscores the imperative of conserving green spaces, proposing innovative solutions to mitigate deforestation triggered by urbanization. It advocates for alternatives to tree felling during road expansion projects and

calls for the establishment of

urban lung spaces in each ward. Sohan Hatangadi, Vice President of GVCF, emphasized the ecological significance of mangroves and called for the restoration of mangrove habitats along coastal areas, led by the VPA in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The manifesto also emphasizes the necessity of upgrading sewage treatment plants to prevent the contamination of water bodies.

To address water conservation and flooding issues, the mani-

festo suggests the implementation of dedicated stormwater management systems and rainwater harvesting initiatives citywide. Additionally, it proposes stringent measures to tackle plastic pollution and advocates for a comprehensive clean-up drive to restore marine ecosys-Preservation of water bodies

and common lands, along with ensuring pedestrian safety and accessibility, are other key priorities outlined in the manifesto. It also stresses the urgency of enhancing public transportation infrastructure to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, the manifesto underscores the importance of transparent public consultation in urban development projects to ensure alignment with the city's long-term interests. It addresses various other aspects such as heritage preservation, improvement of slum living conditions, and the advancement of the city's mas-

Declaration about criminal cases:

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

Name and address of candidate

: YALLA REDDY GARI VENKATARAMA REDDY D.No. 20-184-15-B, Hanumesh Nagar, GUNTAKAL-515801.

Name of political party YUVAJANA SHRAMIKA RYTHU CONGRESS (YSRCP)

(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here) To the legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh State-2024 Name of Election

Name of Constituency 150-GUNTAKAL YALLA REDDY GARI VENKATARAMA REDDY (name of candidate), A candidate for the abovepentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents

SI. No.	Pendi	ng criminal cases	Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1	Spl. Judicial 1st Class magistrate court for Raliways, Guntakal.	S.T.C No.797/18 for examination of the accused and it is posted to 27-03-2019.	U/S 147,174(a) of Railway Property (unlawful) Act 1966. Section 147: trespassing into railway premises without lawful authority. Section 174(a): Picketing or during any rail roko agitation. "Agitating for Special Status to AP State".	APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to council of states or election to legislative council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Note: (i) Details should be given separately for each case in separate rows. (ii) The matter in newspapers should be in font size of at least 12.

Sd/- YALLA REDDY GARI VENKATARAMA REDDY



No collusion with TDP: IUML

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Basheer Ahmed, the president of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Andhra Pradesh, has refuted allegations of collusion between IUML aspirants and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in the State's elections. He emphasised that IUML AP is fielding thirteen candidates on its own tickets and is actively engaged in election campaigns, dismissing claims suggesting any ties with TDP as baseless.

Ahmed asserted that IUML AP has no association with TDP and is solely focused on its electoral endeavours. He said that the party is steadfast in its alliance with the INDIA Bloc at the national level. However, he raised concerns over attempts to mislead the public, alleging that certain individuals are falsely representing the party's stance by associating it with the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Accusing Sk Hussein Basha of misleading the public by misrepresenting the Îndian Union Muslim League Party's position and falsely claiming support for YSRCP, Ahmed clarified that IUML AP maintains neutrality towards both YSRCP and TDP, as well as other regional parties in the state.

BJP rule imperative for nation: Lakshman

PNS BHIMAVARAM

he pioneer

BJP MP and national OBC Morcha president K Lakshman has said that the country needs the BJP's rule and called upon voters to elect alliance candidate and BJP leader Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma to Lok Sabha from Narasapuram constituency.

Addressing a party workers' meeting in Narasapuram on Sunday, K Lakshman called upon people to give priority to the candidates who work for the people dedicatedly and He predicted that Narendra

Modi would become the Prime Minister of the country for the third successive time. "Set aside the opportunistic politicians and elect the leaders who are committed to the service of the people. Narasapuram BJP MP Candidate Srinivasa Varma has been with the BJP for the last 34 years," he said and appealed to the voters to elect



He predicted that Narendra Modi would become the Prime Minister of the country for the third successive time. "Set aside the opportunistic politicians and elect the leaders who are committed to the service of the people. Narasapuram BJP MP Candidate Srinivasa Varma has been with the BJP for the last 34 years," he said.

him to Lok Sabha.

BJP candidate Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah would participate in a road show on May 11 and

address an election meeting in Bhimavaram. He has claimed that he is receiving overwhelming support from the people in the constituency during the election campaign.

Video against Ambati by son-in-law goes viral

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister Rambabu's son-inlaw caused a stir by sharing a video clip. In the clip, Dr K Gautham, who's married to Minister Rambabu's second daughter, urged people not to vote for his father-in-law.

Rambabu is running for MLA in Sattenapalli. Gautham, who works as a doctor in Hyderabad, shared this video online, and it spread like wildfire. Minister Rambabu, how-

ever, denied the accusations, calling it a family matter blown out of proportion for political gain. He explained that Gautham, who's going through a divorce with Rambabu's daughter, released the video to smear his image. Rambabu accused political rivals like Pawan Kalyan and the Telugu Desam leaders of orchestrating a negative campaign against him through Gautham. Despite the controversy, Rambabu vowed to stay in the election race.

Official machinery fully geared up to conduct elections: DC

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector Sumit Kumar has made it clear that the official machinery in the district has fully prepared to conduct elections on May 13.

Addressing a press conference along with Superintendent of Police Ajita Vejendla, the Collector said that everything is ready for the conduct of the elections in a peaceful atmosphere. As part of the polling process, home voting has been started for the first time. The Collector said that Rs 2.10 crore worth of liquor, cash and other valuables had been seized in the district and 14 FIRs had been registered.

He said that 80 per cent of the voting from home was completed on May 3 and May 4 and the same would be completed 100 percent on Sunday. He further said that postal ballot voting would be held on the 6th and 7th and that is why facilitator centres were set up constituency-wise.

"The postal ballot will be



used by the employees who are on election duty and for those who are unable to vote on May 6 and 7 and arrangements have been made to use the postal ballot on May 8, 9, 10 and 11 at the office of the constituency office concerned," he stated.

The Collector said that the voting percentage was high in the district in the last years of the 2014 and 2019 elections. The voting percentage was around 82 to 85% in the 2014 and 2019 general elections and the voting percentage was better in the district.

He stated that EVMs have

already been shifted to the respective constituencies where randomization has been completed and commissioning has also been completed.

Collector Sumit Kumar said that the distribution of water slips from house to house has been completed by about 80 per cent and steps have been taken to hand over the remaining slips to the voters, adding that the necessary transport facility for the shifting of EVMs and staff for the elections has been prepared. Around 520 government and private vehicles are being used for this purpose.

POSTAL VOTING

EC urged to solve issues faced by staff

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The chairman and the secretary general of the Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee-Amaravati (APJAC-Amaravati), Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Palisetti Damodar, respectively, have approached the

Election Commission of India (ECI) to address the challenges faced by employees when casting their votes through postal ballot.

In a press release issued on Sunday, Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and

Palisetti Damodar stated that several government employees and other staff have encountered problems in obtaining their postal ballots in many districts. They added that District Election Officers (DEO) should be responsible for providing the postal ballots for all government employees who have been drafted for

election duty.
The officials also expressed dissatisfaction over the confusion created among government employees in casting their votes at the facilitation centres. On the first day, many employees

> Prakasam, Eluru, Krishna other districts were not able to use their postal ballots. On Sunday, employees of the NTK district also faced similar problems.

They requested the EC to allot one more day for the APSRTC employees to cast their votes. Although the EC had extended the date to submit Form-12 D to May 1, the RTC officials rejected applications received after April 22.

Fight is between INDIA and NDA: CPI

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The general election in India is going to be a fight between two alliances: the secular, democratic INDIA bloc and the communal NDA, according to K Ramakrishna, the State Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI). He predicted that the NDA's number of seats will reduce.

Attending the 'Meet the Press' programme organised by the APUWJ Krishna Urban and Vijayawada Press Club in the lead-up to the elections, Ramakrishna criticised the NDA government led by BJP for failing to fulfil its promises since 2014.

He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of failing to create two crore jobs annually, leading to a significant increase in the country's unemployment rate. Ramakrishna also pointed out that around 30 lakh job vacancies at the Central government level have remained unfilled for several years.

Ramakrishna further claimed that the NDA government has increased the prices of essential goods, petrol, diesel, and gas, while falsely claiming that 'NDA seats will reduce'



poverty in the country has decreased. He also alleged that many people who had obtained crores of rupees in loans from banks left the country, and except for Vijaya Mallya, all the other defaulters hailed from Guiarat.

Áccording to Ramakrishna, BJP altered its agenda to retain power at the Centre, using communal politics to divide votes. He accused BJP of spreading false propaganda against the Congress party manifesto and harassing Opposition leaders who are critical of Modi using Central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Income Tax Department, and

others. He claimed that the

Central government controls these agencies, including the Election Commission.

Ramakrishna criticised TDP Chief and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for being confused and having a tie-up with BJP despite the latter announcing that four per cent reservations will not be implemented for Muslims. He also pointed out that during the five years of the YSRCP rule, no irrigation project was completed, and the State's financial position collapsed.

He urged the people to give a chance to the INDIA block to enter the legislature from the State. In the absence of the Left parties, no other political party has raised important issues. This time they are expecting many MP and MLA seats in Andhra Pradesh, he added.

Vijayawada Press Club presidenť K Jaya Raju presideď over the programme. APUWJ State general secretary Chandu Janardhan, Krishna Urban president Chava Ravi, Press Club secretary Dasari Naga Raju, IJU leaders Sk Babu, Alapati Suresh Kumar, SAMNA leader Ramana Reddy and others were present.

PRICE HIKE

Sharmila shoots off another letter to Jagan

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Over the weekend, YS Sharmila, the president of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, sent a letter to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, as part of her 'Nava Sandehalu' cam-

paign. The letter addressed the issue of increasing prices and charges in the State. YS Sharmila Reddy is currently contesting as an MP candidate for the Kadapa constituency.

Since joining the Congress party, YS Sharmila has been vocal in her criticism of her brother Jagan Mohan Reddy.

She asked whether the government had taken any measures to ease the burden on the public caused by the rising prices of essential goods. Additionally, she criticised the government for failing to implement the Price Stabilisation Fund, for which Rs.3,000 crore had been allocated to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers.

Sharmila also alleged that the government had imposed a burden of Rs.1,300 crore

on electricity consumers, Rs.500 by hiking petrol and diesel prices, Rs.700 crore by increasing RTC charges and Rs.1,800 crore by hiking liquor prices. She questioned why the State government had reduced its

tax collection on petrol and diesel prices, despite having the opportunity to do so.

In her letter, Sharmila also raised concerns about the hike in university student fees, the increasing prices of sand and their effects on building and construction workers, tax collection, and the failure to distribute 11 essential goods through Fair Price Shops.

Huge demand for AP-bound buses from Hyd for elections

CHITHALURI REVANTH HYDERABAD

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

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



buses from Hyderabad to various places in AP.

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

tions in Telangana, the Election Commission of India (ECI) asked the TSRTC to provide some buses to transport equipment and officers on the polling day. Along with that there will be a huge demand to the northern Telangana districts on the poll day. So, there are chances that the TSRTC

buses to some routes of AP. In the booked percentage, Kanigiri route is top with more than 98 per cent on May 11, 84 per cent on May 10 and 88 per cent on May 12. In the Ongole

route, more than 84 per cent of offered seats have been reserved on May 10, 96 per cent on May 11, more than 81 per cent of seats reserved by the people on May 12.

People have booked more

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

Hot spell to continue in R'Seema

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Heatwave conditions are expected to continue in Rayalaseema, with temperatures soaring over the next 48 hours, as reported by the Meteorological Centre on Sunday.

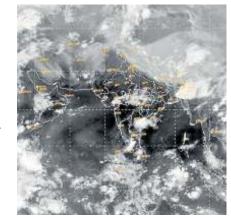
In addition, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh is likely to experience similar conditions over the next 24 hours.

The forecast indicates hot, humid, and uncomfortable weather in isolated areas of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh for the next four days, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh for the next three days, and Rayalaseema specifically on May 6, 7, and 8. However, there's a possibility of heavy rainfall in isolated areas of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema on May 6.

Furthermore, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds ranging from 30-40 Kmph may occur in isolated spots across North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema over the next five

Expect light to moderate rain or thundershowers in one or two places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema over the next seven

Recent observations show heat wave condi-



tions prevailing over Nandyal (Nandyal District), Anantapur (Anantapur District), Kurnool (Kurnool District), Kadapa (YSR district), and Arogyavaram (Annamayya District) in Rayalaseema over the past 24 hours.

There was some rainfall recorded in one or two places in Rayalaseema, while dry weather persisted over coastal Andhra Pradesh during the same period. Nandyal in Rayalaseema recorded the highest maximum temperature at 46 degree Celsius.

Man held for duping job aspirants of Rs 46.19 lakh

PNS HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime unit of the Hyderabad Police arrested a man for duping job aspirants of Rs

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

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

Sribharat vows to elevate Vizag's economic status

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Alliance candidate of TDP-BJP-Jana Sena Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha seat, M Sribharat expressed his commitment to propel Visakhapatnam towards becoming one of the leading economic hubs in the nation. During an interactive meeting with the Walkers Club and Arya Vaishya community leaders here on Sunday, Bharat delved into the investment prospects within Visakhapatnam while actively

seeking their input. Highlighting the untapped



potential of Visakhapatnam's tourist destinations, Bharat lamented the missed opportunities resulting from a lack of focus on their development. He underscored the economic repercussions, emphasising the adverse impact on sectors such as hospitality and travel due to the failure to attract tourists effectively.

Bharat outlined his vision for restoring peace and order in Visakhapatnam, highlighting the need to combat illicit activities such as drug smuggling, particularly the circulation of ganja. He asserted that ensuring a safe and secure environment is paramount to attracting investments, as sta-bility and law enforcement are fundamental prerequisites for fostering development. The event witnessed significant participation from notable members of the Arya Vaishya community, who offered insights into the prevailing business landscape in the city.

Ration rice was given as akshintalu, says Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that ration rice was distributed as the 'Akshintalu' of Ayodhya Ram Mandir. He asked how Akshintalu could be distributed without Prana Pratishta and that they had mixed turmeric locally and had distributed the Akshithanlu.

"I am challenging Kishan Reddy and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy. Can you take an oath on Bhadrachalam Lord Shri Ram and say that the Akshithanlu came after the Prana Pratishta,

he said. "For you God is vote and



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

"We believe in Lord Ram and we are like Hanuman, a sevak of Lord Rama. God should be in the temple. Devotion should be in the heart. Only such peo-

He said the BRS uses the Telangana Talli sentiment while the BJP uses the Ayodhya sentiment "KCR looted TG in the name

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

DGC releases Rs 4.27 crore of seized cash to people

PNS HYDERABAD

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

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

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

items worth Rs 51,04,015, which were seized in 10 cases related to Secunderabad Assembly Cantonment were recommended to the DGC, wherein Rs 15,99,800 of seven cases has been released to those who have shown proper evidence. Rs 35,04,215 cash related to the three cases has been referred to the Income Tax department.

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

Woman delivers child inside hostel bathroom in Kochi

ays after a suspected victim of sexual assault tossed her newborn infant on to a street in Kochi, killing the infant, another woman was found to have given birth in the bathroom of a city hostel the police said on Sunday The 22-year-old woman from bathroom of a city hostel, the police said on Sunday. The 22-year-old woman from Kollam, who works in a company here, delivered the child inside the bathroom of a private hostel on Sunday morning, and the matter came to light after her hostel mates forcefully

opened the door as she was locked inside for a long time, the police said. "We were informed by the hostel authorities. We immediately shifted her and the child to a nearby hospital. They both are safe now." they added. Police said that her family has been informed and a close friend of hers also reached the hospital. The hostel mates were unaware of the pregnancy In a similar incident that had shocked Kochi on May 3, a 23-year-old woman who had concealed her pregnancy, delivered a baby in the early hours of Friday in her apartment bathroom, and allegedly threw the newborn on the street in front of her flat complex located in a posh residential area.



Jawan posted at international border commits suicide

57-year-old BSF jawan serving at a post on the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan allegedly committed suicide on Sunday by hanging from a tree, police Asaid. Mukund Deka, who hailed from Assam and recently reported to duty after holidays, was posted at the Babliyanwala post. Police said the reason behind his alleged suicide is vet to be ascertained and an investigation has been launched which will reveal

why he took the extreme step. Police said the Bablivanwala BSF post is located about 140 km from Jaisalmer where Deka was posted as a constable. His body was found hanging from a tree on the post's premises by other jawans this morning and they informed the police. A team from the Tanot police station reached the spot to investigate the matter and the body was brought down and taken to the Ramgarh hospital mortuary,



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

25-year-old woman was killed and her husband injured after they were attacked by robbers in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur city, police said on Sunday. The incident took Aplace in the city's Madhotal area when a couple was travelling in a car on Saturday night, an official said. Four persons on two motorbikes waylaid the couple's car and attacked them after windows glasses were rolled down, Madhotal police station in-charge

complaint. Two persons hit Shubham Choudhary (28), who was at the wheel, on the head. The other two robbers snatched the jewellery and purse of his wife Reshma Choudhary, When Reshma resisted, the men throttled her with her saree. They left the spot after she became motionless, he said. She was rushed to a government hospital where doctors declared her dead,

IAF CONVOY ATTACK

Vipin Tamrakar said citing the



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

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

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

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

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

Asked whether he was hopeful of a positive outcome and an

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

end to the nearly four-year faceoff between the two militaries, Singh shot back: "If there was no

then why to have talks."

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

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

Broadly referring to military

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

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

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

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

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

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

The original plan entailed setting up around six new theatre commands. At present, the three forces

have a total of 17 commands. Under the theaterisation plan, the defence ministry initially planned to create an Air Defence Command and a Maritime



PNS MENDHAR/JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Chaudhari & all personnel of Indian Air Force salute the braveheart Corporal Vikky Pahade, who made the supreme sacrifice in Poonch sector, in the service of the nation. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

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

We stand firmly by your side in this hour of grief," it posted

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

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

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



AICC spokesperson Radhika Khera resigns over 'injustice' in party

PNS ■ RAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PM Modi changed culture of politics: Nadda

PNS BHUBANESWAR

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



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

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

nepotism. He said India had

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

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

PNS BARAMATI

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

35 naxalites surrender in Dantewada

A total of 35 Naxalites, three of them carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 3 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Sunday, a senior police official said. A 16-year-old girl and an

18-year-old boy are among those who turned themselves in before the police, he said. These cadres were tasked with digging roads, felling trees to block roads and putting up posters and ban-

ners during shutdowns called by Naxalites, the official said. Of the surrendered Naxalites, Baman Kartam (39) was the Jiyakodta Panchayat Militia Platoon Commander of the outlawed Maoists organisation, while Bhima Kunjam (28) was the Aranpur Panchayat CNM president,



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

Maoists.

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

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

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

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

Blue corner notice issued against Revanna, says K'taka HM

PNS BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said issued and Interpol's help is being taken to bring NDA's Hassan Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna, who is facing sexual harassment cases, back to

A Blue Corner Notice is issued by the international police cooperation body to collect additional information from its member countries about a person's identity, location or

activities in relation to a crime. The minister said the Special Investigation Team formed to probe the sex scandal will decide

on how to bring Prajwal back. 'Already Blue Corner notice has been issued. The Interpol will inform all the countries and locate him," Parameshwara told reporters here.

Appreciating the work of SIT, formed to probe the case, he said the team is doing its job and has acted as per law on the complaints it has received.

He recalled it has arrested the 'accused,' apparently referring to Prajwal's father HD Revanna, who was apprehended in an abduction case. Prajwal's father Revanna, a JD(S) MLA, is also facing molestation and kidnapping charges, and has been arrested by the SIT on Saturday. He was arrested by the sleuths



identity, location or

a crime.

activities in relation to

of SIT on Saturday in the kidnapping case linked to sexual abuse allegations against his son Prajwal. He was picked up soon after a court here rejected

his anticipatory bail plea. Explicit video clips allegedly involving the 33-year-old Prajwal, grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister Deve Gowda, had started making the rounds in Hassan in recent days, following which the state government constituted the SIT to probe the sexual abuse allegations against

Sandeshkhali 'mistruth' spread by BJP using money: Mamata

Says PM should stop shedding crocodile tears

PNS ■ BOLPUR (WB)

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



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

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

Kerala's coastal hamlets witness sea incursion PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

"Kallakkadal' is a phenomenon of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in coastal areas. A number of houses were damaged and roads were flooded as massive waves hit the

Saturday night.

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

shores in many coastal hamlets.



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

Besides Anchuthengu, Poonthura and Muthalapozhi

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

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

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

part of the phenomenon. INCOIS, the Central agency that issues weather warnings for fishermen in the country, advised people to safely moor their fishing vessels in the harbour. It also warned fishermen not to venture into the sea in small boats and vessels after 8 pm on Sunday.

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

INCOIS has earlier said that the swells result from strong winds in the southern part of the Indian Ocean at certain times, and that they occur suddenly without any particular indica-

tions or warning which is why it is named 'Kallakkadal'.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Nepal plays the hardball

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

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



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

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

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



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

Delhi school bomb hoax reflects rancor



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

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

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



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

Following in step with the moving train of time is wise and not getting stuck in the mud of the past. Here, it is also wise to remember that Europe no longer welcomes emigrants and the USA is reportedly slow and shows of much reluctance. The only open space appears to be Africa. One of the loud messages of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza is that emigrants are no longer welcome even in a West Asian country, whether Egypt, Jordan or any other. No neighbour has lifted their fingers toward the trigger for saving the Gaza Heights. One reminded of the ghazal by Talat Mahmood "Jayein to

Jayein Kahan". Mughal emperor Akbar understood clearly even as a boy it could be easy to rule India if he made Hindus who were 95 per cent of his empire safe, happy and well-treated. As a sign of his impartiality between religions, he went, for Muslims to the extreme extent of not performing sunnat or circumcision on his son Salim who rose to become Jahangir,

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

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

recorded history, no Muslim conqueror was this generous. In contrast, Aurangzeb was the opposite. He went down to desecrating and demolishing Hindu temples like Vrindavan, Mathura and Banaras. Humiliating Hindus and breaking their hearts was the preferred point in his agenda. To many, it would seem that being emperor and ruling Hindu India was merely his pastime.

Alamgir Aurangzeb's vicarious cruelties extended much beyond the demolition of temples. When he brought down the Kashi Vishwanath temple at Banaras, he left the western gate of the Hindu edifice as it was, so that every worshipper would be reminded of what the Mughals had done. When he desecrated the Govind Dev temple at Vrindavan, he demolished the top two floors only, leaving the bottom two for the Hindus to see and feel the humiliation. What benefit could such conduct bring to a ruler? Only Aurangzeb could have known.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

Mastering self-leadership during work from home



TAVLEEN KAUR

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

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

As individuals possess finite personal resources such as energy and attention, focusing on one role often depletes resources for another. For instance, individuals working from home full-time may frequently transition between work responsibilities and home duties, such as pausing work to attend to childcare or household tasks. These transitions can further strain individuals' capacity to effectively manage both work and per-

sonal responsibilities.

increasingly relevant in the

context of WFH. Expanding upon this theory, it is observed that employees are more likely to transition between different roles on days when they are telecommuting compared to when they are physically present in the office. When employees work from home, both their work and home roles converge within the same physical space, creating a unique dvnamic.

According to boundary theory, the nature of these role transitions can significantly impact conflicts between work and home domains. Certain types of role transitions may facilitate the blending of work and home responsibilities. For example, interrupting work to attend to familial duties, such Boundary theory has become as picking up children from work was not unprecedented,

school, can lead to conflicts its widespread adoption durarising from the home ing and following the panencroaching upon work time Subsequently, resuming work after attending to such responsibilities may trigger conflicts stemming from work encroaching upon home life (work-home conflict).

Organisations play a pivotal role in supporting employees by offering flexibility, particularly on days when they work from home, thereby assisting them in managing conflicts that arise when their work and home roles intersect. However, relying solely on organisational support may not offer a comprehensive solution.

The concept of self-leadership becomes invaluable during periods when employees face challenges arising from the blurred boundaries between work and home, particularly on remote workdays. The considerable expansion of remote and hybrid work in the aftermath of the pandemic underscores the importance for employees to proactively manage their responsibilities. Although remote

demic has been unmistakable. (home-work conflict). Evidence suggests that diverse remote work arrangements, encompassing hybrid models and full-time remote setups, are poised to remain prominent in the future of work. While remote work has revealed advantages such as increased flexibility and job satisfaction, its implementation has also presented new hurdles. These include diminished managerial support, which can dampen professional creativity, hinder the willingness to share new ideas and diminish confidence.

The complexities of remote work, ranging from varying locations and home working conditions to frequent interruptions and diminished focus, emphasise the importance of self-leadership in today's professional realm. Moreover, in the remote work setting, there is a heightened need for adaptability and the ability to navigate challenges independently, which harmonises with the fundamental tenets of self-leadership.

(The writer is associated professor, HR&OB, FIIB; views are personal)

POLITICAL DIATRIBE

Madam — Apropos the news article, 'Modi's advice to RaGa: 'Daro mat, bhaago mat' "published on May 5, this is my response. Contesting from Wayanad as well as Rae Bareli is "cowardice" of 'Shehzada' indeed. Still, contesting from Vadodara as well as Varanasi was an act of "supreme bravery" by a certain "Hindu Hriday Samrat"! Relentless stalking of the much-maligned "Pappu" and consistent character assassination of him provide direct testimony of who is in relentless fear of Rahul Gandhi!

If Sonia Gandhi's adoption of the Rajya Sabha route proves her "escapist" mindset; hope this very same formula applies to S.Jaishankars to Ashwini Vaishnaws also! Lots of thanks for shedding a deluge of tears for the "atrocities" upon women in Sandeshkhali; but please let at least a single teardrop make an appearance for the spine-chilling gangrape murder and forced cremation of the Dalit girl in Hathras, murder of the little Kathua girl after gangrape and torture for days within a temple, mass gangrape and murder of women in 2002 Gujarat and gangrape and murder of Kuki women in Manipur after getting paraded naked! A Constitutional representative claimed that Hindus are "second class citizens" in Bengal, implying which community is "first class." This is blatant communalism in our diverse democracy.

Kajal Chatterjee | *Kolkata*

RAHUL'S STRATEGY

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

Pakistan on Indian elections

better way of touching the



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

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

Bal Govind | Noida full dignity

ALLEGATION RESPONSE

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

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

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

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

this is my response. A Raj Bhavan employee who works in the telephone room and stays at the residential quarters on the campus itself, complained of molestation against West Bengal (WB) governor C V Ananda Bose on Thursday evening, introducing an element of the unprecedented in Bengal politics and pitting the Trinamool Government and the governor's office in direct conflict in the middle of an election season. It's important to investigate the allegations

against Bose carefully. A central agency should investigate under a Supreme Court judge. If the TMC Government is found to be trying to defame him, it should be scrapped. If there is any truth to the allegations, the Governor should also be punished. The truth must be revealed and the innocent must be treated with

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

SUDARSHAN KRIYA: A KEY TO A PEACEFUL LIFE

A transformative path overcoming addiction with redemption



RAVI VALLURI

ome years ago, while I was posted at Gorakhpur, an Art of Living devotee happened to read my maiden book, The Matter of the Mind, wherein I narrated the efficacy of the Sudarshan Kriya technique and how it extricated me from the cesspool of alcoholism.

Today by the grace of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya I am sober. The devotee connected me to a psychiatrist and soon along with two other faculty members, we began conducting courses for alcoholics and drug addicts at a rehab centre.

They were around 40 and we were three. Some looked menacing, others disenchanted, a few engulfed by ennui. But in our arsenal was the potent cassette of Sudarshan Kriya enveloped with the divine benediction of Gurudev.

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

Meaning of Sudarshan Kriya

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

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

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



Enlightenment is not accruing anything providential but harmonising our whole being rhythmically. During the breathing process participants feel varied sensations, emotions, laughter and weeping among others.

Chanting "Soham" to match one's breath with a Guru's guidance is a relaxation technique that releases stress and promotes relaxation. Studies show that it can improve heart rate, cognitive function, breathing patterns and calmness in both mind and body. It may also have positive impacts on the endocrine system and potentially prevent Alzheimer's disease. This technique increases the body's energy levels.

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

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

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

Consequences of illusionary conspiracy



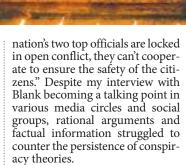
The wounds from the Easter Sunday Massacre linger, but within Sri Lankans' resilience lies a beacon of hope, illuminating a path forward amidst profound despair

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

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

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

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



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

AMID THIS

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OF THE EASTER

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

The tragic events unfolded against COLLECTIVE the backdrop of a nation grappling with its political identity and lead-RESPONSIBILITY ership struggles. Blank's insights TO LEARN FROM into political negligence shed light on a systemic issue that extended THE PAST AND beyond intelligence failures. Sri Lanka's socio-political terrain, FORTIFY THE marred by internal conflicts and NATION AGAINST power struggles, created an environment ripe for extremist ideolo-POTENTIAL gies to take root. The intricate web THREATS of political discord, coupled with a failure to prioritise national security, laid the groundwork for the devastating Easter Sunday attacks. As the media frenzy surrounding conspiracy theories intensified,

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

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

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

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

infiltrating into an unprecedented degeneration of societal values. Regrettably, as we mark the fifth anniversary of the attacks, a pressing and profound necessity emerges for a narrative shift—one that moves beyond unsubstantiated accusations aimed at specific individuals. We must transcend the cycle of blame and retrospective scrutiny, opting instead for thorough approaches that delve into the underlying causes of extremism,

fanaticism and terrorism regardless of ethnic or religious affiliations. This calls for a holistic approach, encompassing not only the reinforcement of intelligence and security protocols but also the fostering of a society that celebrates inclusivity, empathy and constructive discourse. The journey toward healing and

rebuilding necessitates a sincere effort from all corners of society. Ultimately, the aftermath of the aster Sunday bombings underscores the resilience of the Sri Lankan people in the face of immense adversity. Looking forward, it is paramount to harness this collective strength and channel it into comprehensive strategies. These must not only confront immediate threats but also lay the foundations for a future characterised by security and harmony. The lessons distilled from this tragedy should propel the nation towards a collective commitment a commitment to unity, understanding and the prevention of recurring horrors. Otherwise, in a society where the majority languishes in a deep slumber, indulging in unproven conspiracies and scapegoating a select few, we will only rouse from our stupor when the next tragedy inevitably

This ts the second part of the article on five years of Easter attack in Sri Lanka. concluded (The writer is a Sri Lankan jour-



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

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

sought to attract Indian view-



SULAGNA MOHANTY

tion in India over the past five unabashedly. They lauded India's policies and economic growth and even expressed admiration for Prime Minister Modi and the BJP. Their narratives echoed sentiments of unity and regret over the partition, portraying India's economic liberalisation in the 1990s as a commendable Initially, these YouTubers move. This strategic approach

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistani YouTubers seldom address the pressing issues within their own country. They seem conspicuously silent on the plight of minorities particularly the violence perpetrated against them. cussions. This raises suspi-

duce videos condemning alleged injustices against Muslims in Palestine and India, they conveniently overlook similar atrocities within Pakistan. Some YouTubers remain

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

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

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

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

suppress and colonise East Pakistan as evil and this new narrative aims to attract Bangladeshi viewers first and subtly push their agenda later. In the era of information, overload critical thinking is our best defence against manipulation.

Hence, it is imperative to recognise and address this subtle propaganda and analyse the content the Indians consume. As consumers of digital content, it is crucial to discern between genuine discourse and agenda-driven narratives.

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

(The writer is an academician; views are personal)

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

ttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) has recorded an operating revenue of Rs 1,359 crore in financial year 2023-24 -- the highest ever for the public sector undertaking in UP, according to an official release. "This achievement marks a doubling of revenue compared to financial year 2018-19, indicating a robust trajectory towards industrial growth in the state," the government release said. Kanpurheadquartered UPSIDA has made significant strides in realizing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of transforming Uttar Pradesh into an industrial powerhouse, the

statement said. Moreover, UPSIDA's strategic emphasis on bolstering infrastructure in industrial zones to attract investors resulted in a fourfold increase in infrastructure development expenditure. This allocation soared from Rs 104 crore in FY 2017-18, to Rs 415 crore in FY 2023-24, it said. UPSIDA's CEO Mayur Maheshwari said the authority is committed to expanding Uttar Pradesh's industrial landscape. "UPSIDA is also doing significant work in the area of land allocation



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

standalone profit and tax to Rs 619 crore for the January-March quarter of 2023-24. In the non-banking finance company also said that in a fact-finding assessment of the fraud in its Aizawl branch during the quarter identified 2,887 loan accounts as potentially fraudulent in nature. "These loans had an outstanding net recoverable balance of Rs 135.9 crore as of 31st March 2024, which have been fully provided," Mahindra Finance said in a

delayed disclosure of its financial statement due to fraud at one of its branches in the north-eastern states, said that the fraud relates to retail vehicle loans disbursed by the company and is a case of extreme collusion between the company's employees, with segregated duties, and external parties including vehicle dealers and bank employees. The fraud involved forgery of KYC and other asset-related documents leading to the embezzlement of company funds.

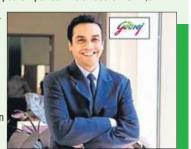
regulatory filing. The NBFC, which last month



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

ealty firm Godrej Properties plans to launch residential projects worth Rs 30,000 Reary firm Godiej Properties plants to achieve 20 per cent growth in sales bookings amid strong demand, its executive chairperson Piriojsha Godrej said.In an interview, Pirojsha said, "We have given a sales bookings guidance of Rs 27,000 crore for the current fiscal, a 20 per cent growth from high base in 2023-24." In the last fiscal, the company's sales bookings jumped 84 per cent to a record Rs 22,527

crore, from Rs 12,232 crore in the preceding year. This is the highest sales reported so far by any listed entity for FY'24. Pirojsha said the housing demand continues to be strong, especially for reputed brands. "It (2023-24) fiscal) was a great year overall, whether you look at launches, sales, collection from customers, business development, deliveries of projects, cash flow and profit. We are really excited to see the kind of momentum in the business." He expected housing demand to sustain in the coming years.



India, Ghana agree for early operationalisation of UPI

PNS NEW DELHI

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

The two countries have also delved into discussions regarding the possibilities of a Memorandum of

Understanding on Digital transformation Solutions; Local Currency Settlement System and the opportunities offered by African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

They agreed to work expeditiously towards the opera-tionalisation of NPCI's



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

Corporation of India) UPI on Department of Commerce said Ghana's GHIPSS within a peri-

Payments od of 6 months," the on the social media platform X

India's UPI has already reached countries including

Singapore and the UAE. Talks are also on with Nigeria for the same.

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

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

REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

India urges ADB not to overlook its focus on growth

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

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

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

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

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



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

Observing that ADB is expected to grow bigger, bet-

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

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

Russia's share in India's metmillion tonnes (MT) has risen to around 21 per cent from around 8 per cent in 2021-22 research firm Big Mint said in a statement.

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

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



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

imports of 73.2 MT. Australia, a major supplier of met coal to India, saw a decline in the commodity's exports to India. Australia supplied 50.7 MT of met coal

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

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

The primary market is gearing up for significant activity this week, with three companies -

Blackstone-backed Aadhar Housing Finance, healthcare tech firm Indegene and travel distribution firm TBO Tek -poised to float IPOs aiming to collectively raise nearly Rs 6,400 crore.

nered Rs 650 crore through its initial share-sale last month.

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

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

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



Indian capital markets and confidence in India's longterm growth story irrespective of political developments. The three-day IPO of

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

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

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

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

Corporate earnings, global trends to guide trading in markets

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Gour, Senior Technical Analyst. Swastika Investmart Ltd.

sector will also influence trading in the equity markets.

Industrial production data for March is scheduled to be

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

WORLD BANK BUSINESS READY REPORT

Govt working on to push ranking

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

The report assesses the regulatory framework and public

the efficiency with which regservices are com-

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

bined in practice.

The Business Ready report is replacing the Bank

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

services directed at firms, and number of irregularities Competition, and Business regarding changes to data in ulatory framework and public previous reports.

> focuses on 10 topics covering the lifecycle of a firm in the course of start-

ing, operating, or closing or reorganizing its activities. The topics are Business Entry, Business Location, Utility Services, Labor, Financial Services,

Insolvency.

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

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

'Home loan outstanding up by Rs 10 L cr'

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Sabnavis, Chief Economist

with Bank of Baroda, said the high growth in home loans can be attributed to the housing boom seen across all segments. In particular, Sabnavis said the affordable housing seg-

ment has witnessed an uptick due to the government push. There was also some pent up demand for buying homes in the last two years following

COVID which is getting reflected here," he said. Sabnavis said the home loan growth would remain robust, but might taper down to 15-20 per cent due to a higher base.

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

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

India has unexplored opportunities: Warren Buffett

International Trade, Taxation,

Dispute Resolution, Market

PNS WASHINGTON

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

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



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

the world's fifth-largest econ-

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

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

or insights into those businesses in India or any contacts that will make possible transactions that Berkshire would like to participate in. That is something a more energetic management at Berkshire could

pursue," the co-founder, chair-

Hathaway said.

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

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

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

man and CEO of Berkshire managing other people's money and getting paid based on assets.

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

Apple was one of the key topics. Buffett clarified that it had temperatures in the country. nothing to do with the longterm view on the stock and Apple will probably remain one of their largest holdings despite the recent slowdown.

Thermal power plants have 68% of normative coal stocks

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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



stocks against the normative level of 70.55 million tonnes.

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

The peak power demand was

at an all-time high of 243 GW in September 2023. Peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day rose

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



Vijayawada | Monday May 6, 2024

what's brewing?



After an endearing performance in Yaariyan 2, Divya Khossla is ready to enchant the audience with Savi - A Bloody

never publicly declared their relationship, their public appearances and multiple confessions during interviews provide

and Harshvardhan Rane. As the team gears up to release the film's Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Pandey part

Ways after two years of relationship! teaser on May 6, they treated fans to a motion poster, sparking off discussions as to what Divya's role is all about.

In the motion poster, we see a woman carrying a bag of vegetables, and soon it transitions into her hand covered in blood as she carries a gun. This stance of Savi is piquing a lot of interest in fans! The film is directed by Abhinay Deo and produced by Mukesh Bhatt, Bhushan Kumar, and Krishan Kumar. Shiv Chanana

Housewife appears to be a thriller; however, the story behind a simple housewife picking up a deadly weapon

will only unfold on



Alia Bhatt will grace the Met Gala for the second time

A lia Bhatt, for the second time, will be attending the Met Gala 2024. She made her debut in 2023, donning Prabal Gurung couture. The actress was

Kendrick Lamar's bold claims against Drake in new diss track Not Like Us ed no time launching his third

Drake diss single in 36 hours. The Not Like Us single, which was released on Kendrick Lamar's YouTube channel, came just hours after his second diss track, Meet The Grahams, in which he destroyed Drake. In Meet The Grahams, Lamar accused the rapper of having a secret daughter, substance abuse, and other dark disclosures; the new diss track criticises the Canadian rapper's preference for dating younger

Kendrick Lamar and Drake's rap feud erupted over the weekend, with both musicians releasing diss tunes, Meet The Grahams and Family Matters. The songs depicted both artists viciously attacking each other's families, striking close enough to draw blood.

Just as things were getting back to normal, Kendrick Lamar released another song accusing the Canadian rapper of being a "pedophile."

In the second version of the track, Lamar addresses Drake directly, singing, "Say, Drake, I hear you like 'em young. You better not ever go to cell block one." Lamar then warns women

Why you trollin' like a b*itch? Ain't you tired? Tryna strike a chord and it's probably A-Minor." It should be noted that these are unsubstan-



THE FAST & FURIOUS 11 will start shooting soon, confirms director

re Fast and Furious 11 is rumoured to be the 11 has been pushed back to 2023 due to the Hollywood franchise's final chapter, and the director has provided the most recent information on it. The Vin Diesel-led franchise is one of Hollywood's most successful action films, with the excitement and adrenaline rush of the vehicle pursuit keeping fans on edge.

The first film, The Fast and the Furious, was released in 2001 and was based on Ken Li's Vibe magazine piece Racer X. It included Paul Walker, Vin, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, and others. Last year, the ninth part of the movie *Fast X* portrayed the late actor Paul in flashbacks. Vin's character, Dominique Toretto, also known as Dom, became a popular meme on social media.

According to sources, the filming of Fast and Furious

Strikes. In an interview, director Louis Leterrier provided a hopeful update on the project, including the delayed release date.

ample evidence of their connection.

The Fast & Furious 11 director, Louis Leterrier, has reportedly announced that the film will begin filming next year and be released in 2026. He went on to say, "It's filming early next year, and it's coming out in 2026, which will be exactly to the day, 25 years since the first one came out."

According to rumours, The Fast & Furious 11 was originally scheduled to be released on April 4, 2025, but movie is now projected to arrive in 2026. Fast X, the 2023 installment, grossed \$704.8 million world-wide and is now available on Amazon Prime Video.

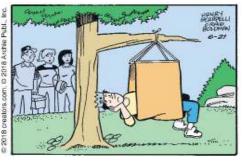




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GINGER MEGGS

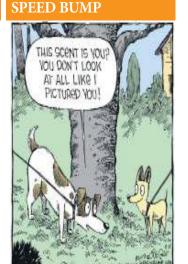






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Rules

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

DOWN

Broader

14 Me

ACROSS

1 Beard

17 A type of small bird 18 A clothing size 19 A chart of months and days

2 A six-legged creature

3 Round handle

7 Movements of the sea

pull on the Earth

9 One of the continents

12 Look at something for a

10 An alcoholic drink

long time

caused by the moon's

8 A sour oily fruit from a tree

4 Lift up

YOU

15 Mistake

5 People not known to

6 Extremely frightened

11 An eye's cover

13 A striped animal

16 A joint in the leg



the pioneer Jayawada 1

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> Monday May 6, 2024

UNLOCKING 'SECRETS' WITH SCRUPULOUS RESEARCH



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

BEING CAREFUL OF THE CONFLICTING VIEWS

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

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

CREATING ENTERTAINMENT VS. FACTUAL PROJECT

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

PROJECTS LIKE THIS COME WITH A HIGHER RISK

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

A STORY WITH AN INDIAN HISTORY **COMES WITH A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**

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

books we use. If you see our history, research has always played an integral part."

Meanwhile, on the work front, *Friday* Storytellers will soon be coming out with Special Ops 2, and the duo is starting the shoot of *Khaki*: The Bengal Chapter. Then, in the second half of this year, they will be coming up with an original digi-tal film called Sikander ka Mugadar and

also releasing Auron Main Kahan Dum

Legacy of modern timelessness

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

here the essence of individualised style reigns supreme, transcending the fleeting whims of passing trends, the launch of Spring-Summer Collection 24 of Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur is viewed as the famous hub of specially designed *Bandhgalas*, with his name being inked into the pa

Indian style history.

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

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



elegance at Raghavendra Rathore Jodhpur: each stitch reveals years of

painstaking detail and classic style. Every piece of clothing is carefully thought out and chosen, exhibiting a well-balanced blend of traditional techniques and modern design elements. "With meticulous attention to detail and a dedication to tailored design solutions, it envisions and selects pieces that reflect the individual style and comfort. Through the seamless inte-

gration of classic methods and contemporary design features, it provides a bespoke journey that is both immersive and personalised." Excellence in fashion is where celebrity and artistry com-

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

signs off the designer.

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







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

worldwide public service. Naidu received an Honourary Doctorate from the United Nations General Assembly and



Fostering community through compassion

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

During the event, she was given the opportunity to address the British Parliament, delivering a moving speech about her goal and vision for a better world. Furthermore, a moving twominute cinematic presentation shed light on Naidu's journey and the transformative influence of her work.

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

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

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



SRH EYE CONSISTENCY IN MUST **WIN IPL CLASH AGAINST FRAIL MI**



confident Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to produce a dominant show against a frail Mumbai Indians outfit and move up in the Indian Premier League points table when the two teams clash here on Monday. Placed fourth in the IPL points table with 12 points in 10 matches with six wins and four losses, SRH will be desperate to produce an allround show and make improvements especially in their bowling department.

The Pat Cummins-led side is in the midst of an intense battle between multiple teams who are bidding for spots in the final four, with Rajasthan Royals (16 points), Kolkata Knight Riders (14 points) and

points) placed above SRH. Chennai Super Kings (5th with 10 points) and a resurgent Delhi Capitals (6th with 10 points) are breathing down SRH's neck, a scenario that would force the 2016 winners to shrug off any rust and get ready for an intense

mid-table battle. If a two-paced pitch at the Wankhede Stadium for the previous clash against KKR was an aberration, the freeflowing SRH batters would look to make merry and pile up a huge score as they have done several times this

The pitches here generally are batting-friendly and short boundary lengths at this venue make scores in excess of 200 a norm, but the MI-Knight Riders (14 points) and Lucknow Super Giants (12 sluggish surface last Friday

challenged the batters to dig

deep. SRH would be high on confidence having pipped the table-toppers RR by just one run in their previous outing, a game in which their bowlers pulled off a thrilling win. Travis Head (396 runs),

Abhishek Sharma (315) and Heinrich Klaasen (337) remain the enforcers in SRH's batting but South African Aiden Markram would be keen to make a big score of his own, having had a mixed run so far.

Nitish Kumar Reddy (219 runs) has emerged as one of the most promising players for SRH in last few games which takes a significant amount of pressure off the key batters.

T Natarajan's (15 wickets) accuracy would be handy for consistency after a fine halfcentury against KKR a few nights ago. India vice-captain Pandya has

Survakumar would be eveing

being consistently on the receiving end due to his ordinary form with both bat and ball and also his on-field decisions as MI skipper.

The all-rounder, however, would be keen to make amends and put an end to the criticism that he has been facing ever since this IPL edition got underway.
TEAMS (FROM)

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

Sunrisers Hvderabad: Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Markram, Abdul Aiden Nitish Reddy, Ahmed, Pat Samad, Shahbaz Cummins (c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat, T

Natarajan, Mavank Markande, Umran Malik, Anmolpreet Singh, Glenn Phillips (wk), Rahul Tripathi, Washington Sundar, Upendra Yadav (wk), Jhathavedh Subramanyan, Sanvir Singh, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Marco Jansen, Akash Maharaj Singh,

Mayank Agarwal.

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

The change in Mohammed Siraj's fortunes has played a critical role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's late surge in this IPL, and the pacer's good run might also have put the Indian thinktank at ease ahead of next month's T20 World Cup.
In the latest show of his

metamorphosis, Siraj wrecked Gujarat Titans with a two-wicket burst in the Power Play, grabbing the wickets of Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha.

Siraj's figures at that stage was a superb 2-0-9-2, and as someone who is marked to share the new ball with Jasprit Bumrah in the ICC showpiece, it's certainly a shot in the arm for the national team as well.

RCB assistant coach Adam Griffith, who has worked with Siraj for the last five years, placed that transformation to placed that transformation to him "swinging the ball again." "He's the leader of our group. He's played a lot for India in the last few years and has done really well. It's not just him bowling well. It's his aggression, his body language, him taking the batters on to try and get wickets is such an important part of what we're trying to

"Having him up and going, swinging the ball again, bowling with good pace, and being aggressive is so important to us," said Griffith in the post-match press meet here on Saturday after RCB defeated GT by four wickets. The Royal Challengers bowling unit's performance -a collective economy rate of 10.28 and 45 wickets - was the

worst in this season of IPL. In a way, it was Siraj's responsibility to inspire the rest of the pack as the leader and he did put his hand up. Perhaps, the nine-day break he was given between April 12 and 20 refreshed his mind and helped him regain his sharpness.

The match he missed in the interim was the one in which Sunrisers Hyderabad racked in an IPL record of 287 for three in Bengaluru.

Griffith explained the thought process behind giving some leisure time for Siraj.

"He's like any other player when they are fatigued. It's very important to give them that break. That's just as important as the training component, sometimes even more important."He is a rhythm bowler - his run-up is so important to what he does. So, we want him fresh and running in hard," he said.

Post his return from the break, Siraj played four matches against Kolkata Knight Riders, SRH and two against GT. While RCB lost by one-run against the Knight Riders in a high-scoring match, they won the other three.In those three matches, Siraj had figures of 4-0-20-0, 4-0-34-1 and 4-0-29-2.

Griffith said Siraj has found a good balance between offtime and preparation.

"He knows his body really well. He knows what he needs to do to prepare and every now and then we might need to give him a little bit of a push in that direction. T've been with him now for five or so years, so I can tell

when he's going well and

when he needs a rest," he



CSK pacer Matheesha Pathirana returns to SL with hamstring injury

PTI CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' Matheesha Pathirana's outing in the ongoing IPL is all but over as the pacer will return to Sri Lanka to recover from a hamstring injury. The right-arm slinger played six matches in this IPL,

picking up 13 wickets at an economy of 7.68. "Chennai Super Kings wishes Pathirana a quick recovery," the CSK stated in a media release on Sunday.

Pathirana last played for CSK during their 78-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, where he bowled two overs and picked up the wickets of Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaasen.

Pathirana missed the match against Punjab Kings at Chennai on May 1 with England pacer Richard Gleeson replacing him.

The unavailability Pathirana is a big setback to CSK as their bowling stocks have dwindled drastically in the last few days.

Pace bowling all-rounder Deepak Chahar too is set to miss the remainder of the IPL with a niggle he sustained during the match against Punjab at Chepauk.

OTHER SPORTS

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

PTI ■ NASSAU (BAHAMAS)

finish its heat race at the World Athletics Relays here on Sunday, during round one of Paris Olympics qualifications.

The Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh, Muhammed Ajmal and Amoj Jacob was hoping to book a Paris ticket with a top-two finish in heat number four, but in a utter heartbreak, Ramesh left the race midway while clutching his left leg. Anas had already run the first leg. The men's 4x400m relay team had a good start. Muhammad Anas

clocked 45.93 seconds in the first leg, but the second runner -- Raiesh Second leg runner Rajesh Ramesh Pulled out due to cramps as the in leg muscles at the first bend," Indian men's 4x400m team failed to Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said in a statement.

Ramesh had run the mixed 4x400m race three hours before the men's event.

India will have another chance on Monday during round two of Olympics qualifications where all the other teams which finished outside top-two in their respective heats on Sunday will try their luck for another shot at the Paris Games. The teams are expected to be divided into three heats and top two from each of them will book



SRH as the left-arm pacer is chasing Mumbai Indians' Jasprit Bumrah (17) for the

purple cap. Five-time winners Mumbai

slipped to the bottom of the pool again when Royal

Challengers Bengaluru trumped Gujarat Titans on

Saturday night.
With only three wins in 11 matches, MI's challenge is all but over and there is only

"pride and name" left to play

However, all is not lost as

MI's key India players for the upcoming T20 World Cup,

Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar

Yadav and Hardik Pandya would remain in focus for

Rohit's all-out aggressive

approach has not yielded

many big scores whereas the

world number 1 T20 batter

their individual form.

for by their own admission.

The same quartet had set an Asian minutes and 20.36 seconds. record of 2 minutes and 59.05 seconds at the 2023 Budapest Ramraj, M R Poovamma, Jyothika World Championships. India had Sri Dandi and Subha Venkatesan failed to get past the heat round in finished fifth in heat number one

India also failed to make the Paris Olympics cut in women's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m relays on the first day of qualifications. Both the Indian teams of mixed 4x400m and women's 4x400m will have to wait for Monday's round two of Olympics qualifications.

In the mixed 4x400m event, the Indian quartet of Rajesh Ramesh, Rupal Chaudhary, Avinash Krishna Kumar and Jyothika Sri Dandi ran a poor race to finish sixth in heat number two with a time of 3

Later, the Indian quartet of Vithya with a time of 3 minutes and 29.74 seconds.

The top two teams in each of the four heat races here qualify for the Paris Olympics to be held from July 16 to August 11. The remaining teams in all the heats will compete again on Monday in another qualification round for another six Paris Olympics spots.
The format is the same for all the

five relay races -- men's and women's 4x100m, men's and women's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m -- being held here.

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

AP RIYADH

ristiano Ronaldo scored Chis fourth hat trick of the Saudi Pro League season as Al-Nassr thrashed Al-Wehda 6-0. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner now has 32 league goals this season, two short of Abderrazak Hamdallah's record tally of 34 back in the 2018-19 campaign, with four

games still to play.
Ronaldo opened the scoring in Riyadh in the fifth minute after intercepting a poor clearance from goalkeeper Munir Mohamedi.

Seven minutes later, the former Real Madrid and Manchester United star grabbed his second, heading home a cross from Marcelo Brozovic. Early in the second half, Ronaldo's shot from just inside the area secured his hat trick in Al-Nassr's seventh successive win.

His fellow Portuguese star Otavio also scored as did Senegal forward Sadio Mane and Mohammed Al-Fatil.

The win moves nine-time Saudi Arabian champion Al-Nassr to nine points behind leader Al-Hilal.

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

PTI NEW DELHI

Indian trap shooters failed to
enter the title round of the
ongoing ISSF World Cup in
With Ireland's former junior Baku after Vivaan Kapoor bowed out 2-3 in a shoot-off with Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Matthew John Coward-Holley of Great

qualification round to get into a three-way shoot-off for the world champion Ian O'Sullivan, besides Coward-Ian

Holley. While Ian missed his very first shot to exit first, Vivaan kept fighting only to miss his third

Vivaan shot 120 in shot as Coward-Holley nailed all three targets to go through. Vivaan had to settle for the seventh place.

Besides Vivaan, Prithviraj Tondaiman (score 117, rank 24th) and Bhowneesh Mendiratta (score 116, rank 39th) also had a disappointing outing in men's trap event.

China wins Uber Cup for 16th time, beats Indonesia 3-0 in final AP CHENGDU (CHINA)

China underlined its supremacy by beating Indonesia to win the Uber Cup for the 16th time on Sunday.

China, which lost the final to South Korea in Bangkok two years ago, routed Indonesia 3-0, playing its first Uber Cup final since 2008.

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



hard for Indonesia before He Bing Jiao recovered to win 10-21, 21-15, 21-17.

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

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

AP MIAMI GARDENS

 $M^{\mathrm{ax}\ \mathrm{Verstappen}}$ inched closer to a third consecutive win at the Miami Grand Prix by continuing his long domination of Formula 1 qualifying.

The three-time reigning F1 champion won his seventh consecutive pole, but first at Miami, where Verstappen failed to earn the top starting spot in the first two races around Hard Rock Stadium, yet still won them both.

"I don't know what it is, every single year we come here I find it extremely difficult to be consistent with the car feeling, with the tire feeling over one lap," Verstappen said. "I think we did OK. It's not the most enjoyable lap of my career, but we're on pole and that's the most important."

The pole-winning run tied Verstappen with Alain Prost in opening the season with six consecutive poles. Prost did it in

"Good start," Verstappen radioed his team. "Let's keep it going." Verstappen opened Saturday with a win in the sprint race and ended the day with his 38th career pole. The Red Bull driver turned a lap at 1 minute, 27.241 seconds to best the Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr. And will lead the field to green on Sunday for the first of F1's three races this year in the United States.

Verstappen has won four of the first five F1 races this season. Sergio Perez, Verstappen's teammate at Red Bull, qualified fourth and was followed by McLaren teammates Lando



Norris and Oscar Piastri, who must serve a three-spot grid were likely disappointed after upgrades brought to Miami has the team hoping to move closer to competition with Red Bull and

Mercedes drivers George Russell and Lewis Hamilton qualified sixth and seventh and were followed by Nico Hülkenberg of Haas and Yuki Tsunoda of Red Bull's junior team.

It was a terrible session for Tsunoda teammate Daniel Ricciardo, who was having a decent weekend until he failed to advance out of the first qualifying Ricciardo strong in Friday qualifying for the sprint race and finished fourth in the warm-up race

Saturday. He qualified 18th in the 20-driver field but will start last because he

penalty earned in F1's last outing, in China.

It was also a poor qualifying day for American driver Logan Sargeant of Pompano Beach. At his home track, and while his job with Williams is in clear jeopardy, Sargeant qualified

"Are we in? Please tell me we are in," he radioed his team in hopes he'd advanced out of the first group. When told he was eliminated, the 23-year-old replied, "that's a shame.

Kevin Magnussen of Haas is under FIA investigation for unsportsmanlike behavior for how he raced earlier Saturday in the sprint race. Magnussen was penalized three times in the sprint race and said after that all were fair.

Vijayawada | Monday May 6, 2024

Aghora look by Raamz creates revolution in T'wood

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

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

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

Rajinikanth's *Robot* as a designer!

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

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

Speaking further on his involvement in Telugu feature films, he emphasises, "The reason I was able to get these films, *Pachchis* or *Fighter Raja*, is the quantity of successful directors I have previously

collaborated with. Additionally, technicians were

me and explained how my appearance contributed to the movie being a revolution during the pan-

helpful! I became overly excited about scouting film ideas for me to act in while working as a costume designer." A detailed discussion about the costume designer-turned-actor's next film, *Fighter Raja*, will be covered in our upcoming exclusive interview, so stay

Raamz, wellknown for his work in the Tollywood industry, gets candid with The Pioneer, sharing his formative days in the industry, working with legendary superstars of the South, creating revolution with NBK's

Akhanda look,

and more.

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

tollywood

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

The trailer opens with the incident that led to all the grief in

the life of Raju Yadav. While fielding on the cricket ground,

he is hardly hit by a ball, and because of this, he can't move his facial muscles. He will always be seen with a smiley face, which brings him all the troubles. Doctors suggest an operation that requires a lot of money. He moves to Hyderabad and takes up a cab driver job to earn money. Fortunately, he finds a girl who loves his smile very much. Unfortunately, she too leaves him. The story of the movie is based on real incidents, and director Krishnamachary made it an out-and-out entertainer. Getup Srinu is exceptional in the titular role. He makes us smile and miserable in different situations. Ankita

Kharat played the female lead. Sai Ram Uday of D.F.Tech impresses with his camera work, whereas Harshvardhan Rameshwar's background score is one of the major highlights. The production design is adequate for

the genre of the movie.



to release in Japan on July 5

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

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

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

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

Salaar: Part 2 -Shouryanga Parvam, its follow-up, is under development.

The National Award-winning Kannada film 777 Charlie, starring Rakshit Shetty, is also set to be released in Japan on June 28.



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

phase, which is expected to span over three months. This crucial stage will involve intricate work in computer graphics (CG), visual effects (VFX), and animation, aimed at enhancing the cinematic experience and bringing the director's

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

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

release of Kanguva unfolds.



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

Adding to the excitement is Khel Khel Mein, an ensemble film featuring Taapsee alongside industry veterans Akshay Kumar, Fardeen Khan, and Vaani Kapoor. Scheduled for release around Akshay Kumar's birthday on

September 6, the film has already begun generating buzz among fans.

Promising a delightful blend of entertainment and intrigue, Khel Khel Khel Mein showcases Taapsee's versatility as an actor, further solidifying her reputation as one of Bollywood's most talented performers. Following her recent success in

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





is set to ignite cinema screens with anticipation and excitement. Initially speculated to hit theaters in June, recent reports indicate a slight shift in plans, with sources now suggesting a July release.

While an official announcement is yet to be made, enthusiasts eagerly await confirmation from the makers regarding the revised release date. With expectations running high, fans are bracing themselves for an immersive cinematic experience. Behind the scenes, the film's production team is diligently working towards completion, with one song sequence remaining to be shot. Once this final piece falls into place, anticipation is expected to skyrocket as promotional activities roll out one by one.

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



Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he has finished shooting for the Tamil film Vettaiyan, fronted by Rajinikanth. The movie is directed by TJ Gnanavel of Jai Bhim fame and backed by Lyca Productions. Bachchan, who last worked with Rajinikanth in the 1991 film *Hum*, shared the update on the project on his personal blog. "Another day at work comes to an end, and the end too of this project, for me ..But ever the dissatisfaction of a doubt, when in reflection, whether the work done was to satisfaction and whether there shall be an opportunity to have another try to redo and maybe improve the previous. There is ever

the apprehension that the Production or the

Director may not give you another chance .. but as you reminisce at night, it disturbs you and you wonder .. So a request has been made and there is promise that the opportunity to redo and improve shall be given .. but let us see .. (sic)" the 81-year-old wrote alongside a series of pictures from the film set in Mumbai. Vettaiyan, billed as an entertainer with a

message, marks Rajinikanth's 170th feature film. It also stars Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh, Manju Warrier, and Dushara Vijayan in key roles. Anirudh Ravichander is attached to compose the music for the movie, produced by A.

Subaskaran of Lyca Productions.





