



the pioneer

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'SHOOTING IN MALLALA'

THE PICTURESQUE LOCATION OF MANALI WAS LIBERATING, YET CHALLENGING

'We invested '12 lakhs just for dubbing,' reveals Siva

MALLALA



QUOTE OF THE DAY

The pioneer

Modi should give Navneet Rana 15 seconds. What will she do? Give her 15 seconds or give her an hour. We too want to see if you have any humanity left in you. Who is scared? We are ready. If someone is making an open call for it, then so be it

- Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM chief

P4



ఒక దారం... మూడు గాలి పటాలు...

దిక్కుకు ఒక వైపు ఎగిరే మీరా రాష్ట్రానికి దిక్కు!

Issued by YSR Congress Party

DON'T MISS...

'Quality healthcare, edu hallmarks of...'

YSRCP candidate for the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha seat, Botsa Jhansi Lakshmi, has emphasised the vital role of hospitals, likening them to modern temples dedicated to serving humanity. Speaking at a gathering of intellectuals and medical experts, Jhansi praised the reforms spearheaded by the Jagannad Reddy-led government, particularly in education and healthcare. She highlighted that these initiatives have gained nationwide recognition, serving as exemplary models for several states. Jhansi...

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'12% of children received no dose...'

Nearly 12 per cent of children in India who are eligible for measles vaccination have received none of the recommended double-dose, signalling a "concerning gap" in immunisation coverage, a new study has found. The findings showed that zero-dose cases were high in the northeastern states, with Nagaland reporting the greatest share at 26 per cent. Tamil Nadu was found to report the lowest at 4.6 per cent. Researchers from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi...

-PAGE: 5

With inflation soaring, Argentina...

Prices in Argentina have surged so dramatically in recent months that the government has multiplied the size of its biggest bank note in circulation by five — to 10,000 pesos, worth about \$10. The central bank announcement Tuesday promised to lighten the load for many Argentines who must carry around giant bags — occasionally, suitcases — stuffed with cash for simple transactions. Argentina's annual inflation rate reached 287% in March, among the highest in the world. The new denomination note — five times the value of the previous biggest bill — is expected to hit the streets next month in a bid to "facilitate transactions between users," the central bank said. The 10,000 peso note is worth \$11...

-PAGE: 8

CSK aim to continue ascent...

Despite being hit by the absence of key bowlers due to injuries as well as international commitments, Chennai Super Kings will still like to display their on-field ruthlessness while taking on wooden spoons Gujarat Titans in a 12th round IPL encounter here on Friday. Caught in a mid-table logjam with 12 points from 11 games, the away match against Gujarat will be very important for Ruturaj Gaikwad's men as they are still not assured of a play-off berth and a defeat could really dent their chances. With Deepak Chahar and Matheesha Pathirana out of the tournament due to injuries and Mustafizur Rahman back on national duty, CSK's bowling attack sans Ravindra Jadeja and Tushar Deshpande can at best be termed second string...

-SPORTS

Naidu shedding crocodile tears for Muslims: Jagan

Asks voters to be wary of TDP chief's pre-poll promises

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy accused his political rival and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu of indulging in political theatrics regarding Muslim reservation while maintaining an alliance with BJP, which has announced that it will abolish the 4% reservation for Muslims.

In a fiery speech during an election rally in Kurnool on Thursday, the Chief Minister likened Naidu's political manoeuvring to that of a chameleon, highlighting the contradiction between Naidu's purported concern for minority votes and his allegiance with a party seeking to revoke minority reservations.

Asserting the significance of Muslim reservations, CM Jagan said the reservation isn't based on religion but is intended for the backward class within the Muslim community. He denounced any attempt to view minorities through a dis-



Jagan raises concern over unmet promises from the NDA alliance's 2014 manifesto.

CM enquires whether the alliance plans to uphold its commitment to providing English-medium education for underprivileged children.

Assuring development, Jagan pledges the establishment of a new medical college in Rajampet.



CM voices disappointment over the NDA's lack of acknowledgment regarding the Special Category Status for State.

Affirming inclusivity, Jagan reaffirms the State's commitment to maintaining 4% reservation for Muslims.



crimINARY lens, affirming his party's support for the dignity and rights of minorities. The Chief Minister reaffirmed his

commitment to minority welfare, citing various initiatives undertaken by the YSR Congress Party, including schemes such as 'Shadi

Thofa', recognition of Urdu as a second language, and political reservations for minorities. Continued on Page 2

Chiru receives Padma Vibhushan from Prez



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Megastar Chiranjeevi was bestowed with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour, by President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday at the Padma Award ceremony held in the illustrious Darbar Hall.

Accompanied by his wife Surekha, son and actor Ram Charan, and daughter-in-law Upasana Konidela, Chiranjeevi graciously accepted the prestigious accolade amid resounding cheers from the audience. Clad in a dignified dark

bandh gala suit, Chiranjeevi thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi before receiving the commendation scroll from the President. Seated among fellow awardees, he shared a moment beside veteran actor Vyjayanthimala before his recognition.

Reflecting on the honour, Chiranjeevi expressed profound gratitude, stating, "I am overwhelmed, humbled, and grateful. It is only the unconditional love of the audience, my friends, my blood brothers, and my sisters. I owe this life and moment to you. I have always tried to express my gratitude in the ways I can. But, nothing can be ever enough."

With a prolific career spanning decades and approximately 160 films to his credit, Chiranjeevi had previously been conferred with the Padma Bhushan in 2006, marking this as his second Padma Award. Continued on Page 2

Two CMs vs two ex-CMs in Telugu states



P 2

Rs 8.36 cr seized at inter-state checkpoint

PNS ■ GARIKAPADU

Andhra Pradesh police on Thursday seized Rs 8.36 crore from a truck carrying PVC pipes at an inter-state check-post in NTR district. Police seized the money, which is one of the largest single cash seizures in the run-up to 2024 polls, at Andhra Pradesh and Telangana inter-state check-post at Garikapadu village

while checking vehicles. "We seized Rs 8.36 crore cash hidden in a cabin behind the driver's seat in the truck coming from Hyderabad and bound for Guntur," a police official said. According to police, the truck belonging to Chittoor district is registered under the name of one Shaik Aziz. Meanwhile, police are questioning the truck driver, Ch Shanmugan

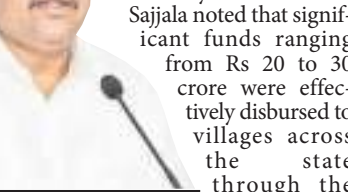
Re-election of Jagan as CM vital for continuity in State's progress

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State general secretary of YSRCP, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, has underscored the need for the re-election of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as Chief Minister for the continued development of the State.

Speaking at a press conference held at the State central office on Thursday, Sajjala highlighted the transformative impact

witnessed under Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership. He commended the administration for bringing governance to the doorsteps of the people and implementing welfare schemes seamlessly. Sajjala noted that significant funds ranging from Rs 20 to 30 crore were effectively disbursed to villages across the state through the



village secretariat system. Addressing the collapse of Dwera groups before the YSRCP government's tenure, Sajjala underscored the remarkable increase in their membership to 1.15 crore, setting an All India record. He attributed this growth to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's proactive governance. Furthermore, he lauded the establishment of village secretariats, Rythu Bharosa centres, and health clinics, along with the distribution of house site pattas to 31 lakh individuals statewide. Continued on Page 2



Sharmila, Sunitha fined by Kadapa court

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Kadapa District Sessions Court has imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 each on APCC chief YS Sharmila and Dr N Sunitha for contravening a court order. This order explicitly prohibited discussions about the YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case during their election campaign, given that the case is currently under consideration by the CBI court.

The court's decision comes after the dismissal of petitions filed by Sharmila, Sunitha, and Pulivendula TDP candidate B Tech Ravi in the AP High Court, contesting the directives issued by the Kadapa court. Following the High Court's guidance to address the matter directly with the Kadapa court, the sessions court has taken a firm stance by penalizing Sharmila, Sunitha, and Ravi with a fine of Rs 10,000 each. Furthermore, the court has emphasized that the petition submitted by the aforementioned individuals contained false information, prompting the imposition of the fine. As per the session court's ruling, the penalty is to be remitted to the District Legal Cell.

COVISHIELD SIDE EFFECTS

Doctors' group urges govt to review all Covid vaccines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitting in a UK court that its Covid vaccine can cause blood clots in rare cases, a group of doctors on Thursday expressed deep concern over the safety of the Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.

At a press conference, the doctors, under the banner of the Awaken India Movement (AIM), urged the government to review the science behind all Covid vaccines and audit their commercialisation as well as implementation of active surveillance and monitoring mechanism to ensure vaccine adverse events are identified as early as possible. "The government has wholly



"The government has wholly ignored the rising number of cases of tragic deaths post-Covid vaccination all the while and continues to promote Covid vaccines as 'safe and effective', without scientific investigation and invoking epidemiology," Dr Tarun Kothari, a radiologist and an activist, said at the press conference.

ignored the rising number of cases of tragic deaths post-Covid vaccination all the while and continues to promote Covid vaccines as 'safe

and effective', without scientific investigation and invoking epidemiology," Dr Tarun Kothari, a radiologist and an activist, said at the press

conference. The world is learning about a side effect of the Covid vaccine called Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), he said.

When the COVID-19 vaccines were being administered, not many people were aware that it was being done without the completion of phase-3 trials. Administration of COVID-19 vaccines was started without the manufacturers having complete information and data on the possible short-term or long-term side effects, or fatalities, said Dr Sujata Mittal, a gynaecologist and oncologist.

There is an already low awareness around vaccine injuries, especially in India, she said.

Thousands of women reported abnormalities in their menstrual

cycles, which was confirmed much later as a side effect of the vaccine in a study published in September 2022, she added.

"The Awaken India Movement (AIM) has been collecting details of Covid Vaccine deaths covered by media/social media in India and sharing them with various high authorities of the country since 2021, when the vaccination began. The government has failed to respond to our repeated requests to investigate deaths and debilitation from adverse effects of vaccination," Dr Kothari said.

The AIM urged the government of India to compensate all the victims of Covid vaccines, including their family members, through a mechanism that involves vaccine manufacturers as well.

INDIA CORNER

Manipur govt will compensate farmers affected by hailstorm: CM

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday said his government will compensate farmers who suffered losses in the hailstorm that struck the state on May 5...



Man working as spy for Pakistan arrested in Gujarat

A man has been arrested in Bharuch district of Gujarat for allegedly spying for a Pakistani intelligence agency, police said on Thursday...



Canada yet to share specific evidence, information on Nijjar killing case: India

Days after Canadian police said it has arrested three Indians in connection with the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, India on Thursday said Ottawa has not provided any 'specific' evidence or information regarding the case to it...



Establishing open prisons can be solution to decongest jails: SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday said establishing open jails can be one of the solutions to overcrowding and also address the issue of rehabilitation of prisoners...



right to approach the appellate court through the legal services authority. The bench said if there is a uniform e-prison module across the country, many of these things can be sorted out...

Eight killed in firecracker blast in Tamil Nadu's Sivakasi

Eight workers, including five women, were killed and three others were injured in a blaze at a fireworks-manufacturing unit in Sivakasi on Thursday...

Cong, JJP approach Haryana Govt, step up efforts to topple BJP govt

The Congress and the JJP have approached Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, stepping up their efforts to topple the Haryana's BJP government after it was reduced to a minority in the state assembly...



was not in trouble. On Thursday, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the "minority" dispensation should resign on moral grounds...



IAF CONVOY ATTACK Search operation in Poonch continues

The security forces are yet to get a breakthrough even as the search operation to track down the terrorists responsible for attacking an IAF convoy that claimed the life of a corporal rank personnel, entered the sixth consecutive day on Thursday...

PM's 'Babri lock' remarks absolute lie: Priyanka Gandhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday termed as an "absolute lie" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that her party will put a "Babri lock" on the Ram temple in Ayodhya if it is voted to power...

Voting in 3 phases unsettled PM Modi: Sharad Pawar

Says he's openly mentioning Muslim community in speeches

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday said that voting in the first three phases of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections has unsettled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he has openly started mentioning Muslim community in his speeches...

newspaper said recently that in the next couple of years, several regional parties will associate more closely with the Congress or even merge with it. Elaborating on it, he said, "Take the example of our party - NCP. From foundation till today, NCP and Congress have been working together..."



LS polls slipping out of Modi's hands: Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed on Thursday that the Lok Sabha election is gradually slipping out of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hands and he will now try to enact some drama to divert the attention of the country's youngsters...

minister. He has decided to divert your attention in the next four-five days and do some kind of drama. But your attention should not be diverted," he said.

'12% of children received no dose of measles vaccine'

Nearly 12 per cent of children in India who are eligible for measles vaccination have received none of the recommended double-dose, signalling a "concerning gap" in immunisation coverage, a new study has found...

ination, focusing on zero-doses, partially vaccinated, and those fully immunised. They analysed data of over 43,000 children aged 2-3 years, collected through the National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5)...



ing to the World Health Organization. The analysis also revealed huge inter-district variations, according to the researchers. They found that in Uttar Pradesh, while Prayagraj and Banda districts were found to have about 34 per cent and 32 per cent of these cases, respectively...

No victim reached out to register complaint against Revanna: NCW

No victim has come forward to register a complaint with the NCW against Karnataka MP Prajwal Revanna, and one woman complainant who reached out to it alleged that she was forced to register a fake complaint against the JD(S) leader, the women's panel said on Thursday...



According to the NCW, the ATR indicated the registration of two cases based on the complaints of sexual abuse by the victims, alongside an additional complaint filed for abduction by a relative. However, no victim has come forward to register a complaint with the commission in this case, it said...



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Air turbulence

Air India Express cabin crew's moody 'sick leave' hits operations, leaves fliers high and dry

In the realm of air travel, few situations are as frustrating as flight cancellations. The anticipation of reaching a destination is replaced by uncertainty and inconvenience. Such was the case recently when Air India Express, the low-cost subsidiary of Air India, found itself in a crisis, leading to a wave of flight cancellations. The flag carrier of India has long been grappling with financial woes and operational challenges. Despite various restructuring efforts, the airline has struggled to stay afloat in a fiercely competitive industry. The latest crisis began when over 300 senior cabin crew members of Express flights reported sick at the last minute, resulting in the cancellation of more than 90 flights since Tuesday night, leaving airports in disarray and passengers seething with frustration. Of course, Air India has now lent a helping hand to its subsidiary, deciding to operate 20 flights against 74 Express cancellations on Thursday, and sacking 30 crew members over "sick leave". The root cause of this crisis stems from longstanding grievances articulated by Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU). They have voiced concerns about unfair treatment, citing instances where internal job postings were filled with external candidates, bypassing qualified internal staff. The owners, on their part, do not recognise AIXEU. The Regional Labour Commissioner in New Delhi has also criticised the management for alleged violations of labour laws, highlighting a lack of responsible decision-making. Adding to the turbulence is Air India's ongoing financial struggles and operational challenges.



Air India Express, despite its parent company's losses, remained profitable. In 2021, it was sold to the Tata Group, which merged it with AirAsia India. It aimed to capture the budget aviation market with a focus on non-trunk routes and ancillary services. It is the only profitable airline with the Tatas. In 2023, the airline made a profit of Rs 116.84 crore, while the other airlines in the Tata Group's aviation stable — AirAsia India, Vistara and Air India — incurred a combined loss of Rs 15,530 crores. The fallout from these cancellations has been significant, with passengers expressing their frustration on social media platforms. Long queues, missed connections and inadequate communication have characterised the scenes at airports. In response, Air India Express has issued apologies and promises of improved services, but the damage to passenger trust has been done. The Indian aviation sector has huge potential but the issues of mismanagement are galore. The Govt must proactively ensure that the fliers are not taken for a ride and the airlines also do not incur losses. Besides, the pandemic years were very traumatic for the industry and it is slowly recovering. The Govt must resolve the crisis before it snowballs into a crisis and takes down the whole sector. Looking ahead, the fate of Air India and its subsidiaries remains uncertain. Only time will tell whether Air India Express and its counterparts can rise above the chaos and emerge with flying colours.

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PICTALK



Students perform during the celebration of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary, in Nadia

Enigma of copyright in the digital world

Policymakers face the formidable challenge of revising copyright laws effectively to tackle the complexities presented by AI

People often say that in this digital world, nothing remains secret. Even personal details can be accessed through the Internet. The quantum of information on the Internet is so vast that, despite the security measures, it is not cent per cent foolproof. In such a scenario, one must critically examine copyright's relevance in the digital world. Copyright rules and laws traditionally protect every creation or innovation, so the original creator retains credit for their work and is aptly rewarded through monetary benefits. When an author creates a book, they automatically own the copyright. This gives them the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, perform, and display the book and create derivative works based on it. In most countries, copyright protection for a book typically lasts for the author's lifetime plus 50-70 years. During this time, others generally cannot reproduce or distribute the book without the author's permission unless their use falls under a specific exception, such as fair use or fair dealing. Within the realm of music,



this signifies that the individual responsible for creating a song, the writer of the lyrics, the composer, or the performer, possesses the sole entitlement to utilise, disseminate, and capitalise on that song. In India, organisations such as the Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) and Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) administer the rights of copyright owners and collect royalties on their behalf for the public performance and broadcast of songs. Copyright also extends to research works, protecting and monetising one's creations through patents. Unfortunately, journal publishers own the copyright for research publications. The publishers amass massive amounts through subscriptions and advertisements without providing any monetary benefit to the authors. Most of the reputed journals

do peer reviews free of cost, take processing charges from authors, and get subscription fees and advertisements as revenue. What does the poor researcher get? A mental satisfaction of getting published in a high-impact journal? In a way, it's not fair. A few magazines, of course, practice giving honorariums to the authors. Despite having stringent copyright rules and regulations, its efficacy is questionable in the rapidly evolving digital age landscape. The widespread availability of digital content and the simplicity of sharing information on the Internet have presented unprecedented difficulties and intricacies for existing copyright rules. Today, one can easily copy content from online resources without crediting the original creator. Content available on social media sites, including photographs, is widely reproduced. Identifying the original content creator, be it literary or artistic works, is often difficult. Even stringent protective measures like user authentication mechanisms such as passwords, multi-factor authentication (MFA),

and role-based access controls (RBAC) to restrict access to authorised individuals or groups and watermarking techniques often fail to prevent the infringement of copyrights. The advent of AI in digital platforms has complicated the situation. As AI systems become more sophisticated, their ability to create, replicate, and modify content raises intricate legal questions regarding ownership and authorship. Though AI can do any role, it lacks the human touch in its creation that connects human minds. While individuals are accountable for creating and instructing these algorithms, the AI system autonomously produces the outcome, erasing the distinction between human and machine authorship. The current necessity lies in incorporating ethical, cultural, and economic considerations while crafting a new policy that effectively balances the rights of creators and AI developers. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

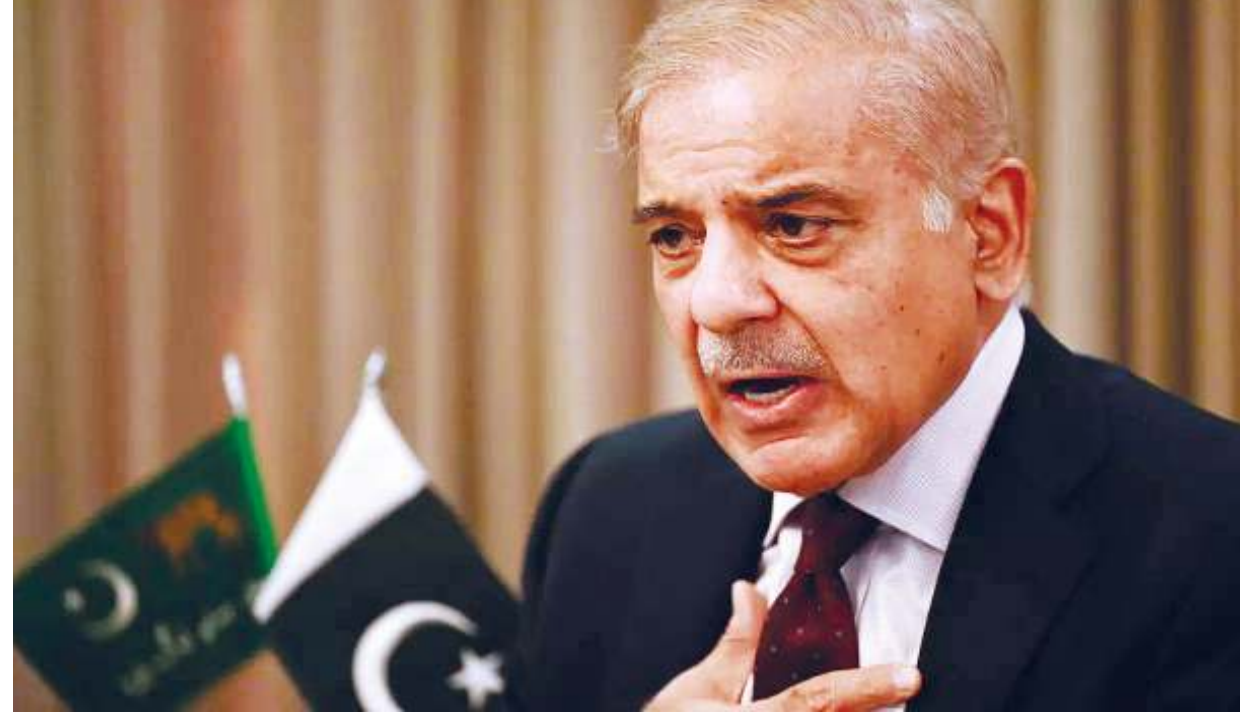
An open letter to Shehbaz Sharif

We tolerated terrorist violence for many years but when we could no longer tolerate it, we went to Parliament to do away with Article 370. But we did not resort to violence



PRAFULL GORADIA

Dear Vazir-e-Azam Shehbaz Sharif Sahab, I have taken the privilege of writing to the Prime Minister of our neighbouring country, which, till 76 years ago, was part of us, but separated in acrimonious circumstances. I'm sure that you're aware, as a lot of in India are, that this separation and the aftermath it gave rise to continues to not only cast its shadow over the subcontinent but also torment relations between various communities. This open letter to you is a humble attempt, not to hark back to the events of those decades and apportion blame, but to address the contentiousness of modern-day issues that continue to trail in their wake. Whenever the issue of Ayodhya, the Gyan Vapi temple (Varanasi) or the Krishna Janmabhoomi (Mathura) comes up, my mind travels to Lahore and the Gurudwara Shaheed Gunj at the Naulakha Bazar locality of your splendid city. The ownership of the place was disputed by the local Muslims who claimed that the place had originally been a mosque. It had been converted into a gurudwara by the local Sikhs during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. When opportune in the 19th century, the people of the city, led by some Muslim Leaguers, went to court over this. They did not win their case for the re-conversion of the gurudwara into a mosque. Legal counsel argued that an appeal could be filed if necessary, right up to the Privy Council. However, the then premier of Punjab Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan advised against any further action as it might open a Pandora's Box across the subcontinent, which was then undivided. Sikandar Hayat also advised against any further litigation. Any use of the argument of adverse possession might cause the return of many of the temples that had come into Muslim possession. What was then perhaps overlooked was that a Hindu temple is a residence of the divine and not merely a prayer hall. The pratimas (icons) are the first step in the quest for spirituality. Ultimately, spirituality can be



active by having a darshan of the avatar of the divine. In Sikhism, they do not have an icon nor the scope of spirituality in the same way as in a Hindu temple. Prophet Moses, the founding prophet of Judaism, the first of the three Semitic religions—also called Religions of the Book—known in Islam as Hazrat Moosa, had expressly forbidden any idol worship by the second of his Ten Commandments; "Thou shalt not make any graven image of thy lord the god". Your faith has rigidly adhered to this particular Commandment. However, it does pain me no end to state that you have carried this adherence way too far. In your country, over 75 temples have been desecrated or pulled down after independence in 1947, a sordid trend that is continuing. From my Urdu teacher who was a scholar, I have learnt that it is your bounden duty as a momin (believer) to desecrate butts (idols) installed by kafirs (infidels). But for the sake of friendly relations between us two neighbours, your people should desist from such desecrations. I am saying this after



POLITICAL LEADERS OF YOUR GENERATION MIGHT STILL FIND COMFORT IN THE NOTION THAT INDIANS ARE A PEACEFUL AND DORMANT LOT AND THEREFORE WON'T REACT MUCH. THAT MIGHT INDEED HAVE BEEN THE CASE A COUPLE OF DECADES AGO, BUT IT IS NO LONGER SO

accepting the fact that Islam detests parasti (idol worship) and insists on majahab parasti (adherence to the faith) alone. But we live in a world where adherents of other religions too have equal rights to profess and practice their faith, without hurting others. I appeal to you to care for our sentiments and not target the temples and idols that still survive. Political leaders of your generation might still find comfort in the notion that Indians are a peaceful, and also dormant, lot and therefore won't react much. That might indeed have been the case till a couple of decades ago but is no longer so. India and Indians are changing. Real change in our civilizational journey was heralded in December 1992, of which I was fortunate to be a humble part. In India, we have begun a movement to restore the temples that were casualties of the medieval age. I shall shortly be writing to Madam Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of our eastern neighbouring country. Dozens of temples continue to be desecrated in her country every year. You would agree that good neighbours do not hurt each other. Kindly, remember that there are thousands upon thousands of mosques built upon the ruins of ancient temples. So far, we have preferred to approach the courts of law and minimize unilateral action. I appeal to you to also eschew violence. In Kashmir too, over 130 temples were attacked and desecrated even as India continued to hold control over the state's territory. I am aware that Pakistan took great umbrage when we abrogated Article 370, but is it any wonder that we had to do so? We tolerated terrorist violence for many years, but when we could tolerate it no longer, we went to Parliament to do away with Article 370. But you would certainly appreciate that we did not resort to violence even on this issue. Our Muslim compatriots are cooperating to a moderate degree, even in the state of Kashmir. This is a trend which we hope continues. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EVOLUTION OF MONETARY POLICY

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Evolution of Monetary Policymaking in India," published on May 8, this is my response. The journey of India's monetary policy from its inception to the present day is a saga of adaptation and evolution. From the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India to the modern era of inflation targeting, each phase has been marked by its unique challenges and responses. The nationalisation of banks in 1969 marked a pivotal moment, transitioning monetary policy towards a more centralised, planned approach. However, external shocks like the oil crises of the 1970s tested the resilience of this system, necessitating revisions and reforms.

The introduction of the Multiple Indicator Approach in 1998 reflected a shift towards a more holistic understanding of economic dynamics. Yet, the global financial crisis of 2008 exposed vulnerabilities, prompting a recalibration towards inflation targeting. While inflation targeting has its merits, recent disruptions such as demonetization and the pandemic have highlighted its limitations in addressing supply-side pressures. As the landscape of inflation evolves, a nuanced and comprehensive policy framework is imperative, one that combines the principles of inflation targeting with proactive measures to mitigate supply-side disruptions. In essence, the history of India's monetary policy underscores the need for continual adaptation in the face of evolving economic realities. **Vihaan Reddy | Bengaluru**

REFLECTIONS ON ELECTIONS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Elected leaders need to rethink," published on May 8, this is my response. Election times unveil a complex tapestry of our democracy, woven with threads of hope, disappointment, and societal reflection. As citizens, we witness the ritual dance of power, where promises collide with reality, and ideals meet the harsh edges of pragmatism. The model code of conduct, ostensibly a guardian of fair play, often feels like

Political manoeuvring



Apropos the news article, "Modi, Lalu in a tug of war on Muslim quota," published on May 8, this is my response. The recent political discourse surrounding reservations in India has taken a contentious turn, with various parties embroiled in a heated debate over extending reservation benefits to Muslims. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vehemently opposed such a

move, labelling it as a ploy to undermine existing quotas for SC, ST, and OBC communities. The BJP accuses its rivals of attempting to appease a specific vote bank by advocating for Muslim reservations while disregarding the principles of social and educational backwardness outlined in the Constitution and the Mandal Commission report. Conversely, opposition figures argue that denying reservations to Muslims would be unjust and tantamount to disenfranchisement. Amidst these exchanges, accusations of conspiracy and attempts to manipulate voter sentiments loom large. The charged rhetoric underscores the high stakes of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, where competing visions of governance, identity, and social justice are at play. As citizens, it's imperative to critically engage with these debates and hold our leaders accountable for their promises and policies. **Kiara Sharma | Mumbai**

a mere whisper against the cacophony of electoral fervor. Expenditure limits crumble under the weight of unchecked spending, leaving us disillusioned with the integrity of the process. The impact of elections extends beyond just voting, as they can turn schools into battlegrounds, with political theatre taking centre stage and the future suffering while the eloquence of our founding luminaries seems lost amidst the mudslinging and vitriol of contemporary discourse. Yet, amidst the chaos, there is a glimmer of hope embodied by figures like APJ Abdul Kalam, whose legacy reminds us of the transformative power of leadership rooted in humility and service. **Arya Kapoor | Kolkata**

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Benevolent hearts: Dynamics of begging and household donations," published on May 8, this is my response. Begging has been ingrained in the roots of Indian society for ages. This sickening culture has become a fashion, a compulsion, a profes-

sion and even a kind of recreation in our country. Beggars in India easily outnumber their ilk in other big countries. To the Westerners, India is a land of mendicants. Beggars are found everywhere—on roads, crossings, footpaths, etc. But their favourite hangouts are bathing ghats, temples, religious fairs, railway stations, trains and bus stands. It is a real nuisance to be confronted by street beggars in all places. Like the Almighty, they seem to be omnipresent. You are waiting for a bus or walking down a road with your friend, and beggars suddenly appear from nowhere and start an endless volley of supplications until you give them a few coins out of sheer disgust and helplessness. The monstrous practice of begging cannot be eradicated from our society because millions are living 'below the poverty line', yearning for a morsel of food. Unfortunately very little has been done by our past and present governments to obliterate the social illness of begging. **Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN EU-CHINA RELATIONS AT A CROSSROADS

Xi embarks on a strategic journey across Europe, a move laden with symbolism



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Geo-political adjustments are getting done, bilaterally and plurilateral, even as the world's largest democracies are busy calming their domestic constituencies, where a key rallying agenda is China. The two largest democracies, India and the US, both of whom have their own set of issues with China, are in the middle of some of the most competitive election processes, ever seen across the globe. Meanwhile, the EU, or at least many of its member countries, not to mention US allies such as Australia are carefully recalibrating the entangled web of engagement with China. It is by no coincidence that Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, was on a strategic three-nation tour of Europe, earlier this week. This tri-nation tour, during which the Chinese premier, also met the European Union president Ursula Von der Leyen, comes after a gap of almost 5 years and is also a time when many European nations have been blaming China for pushing highly subsidised electric vehicles into their markets, making several European auto factories redundant. The Europeans also wanted to focus on China playing a larger role in stabilising its "friends without limits" Russia, in the war against Ukraine, pushing up fuel-aided inflation across the region. The Europeans in the plain speak, they are known for, outlined clearly in the president's press statement, "the first topic where we exchanged views on was the geopolitical situation. We especially discussed Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East. We agree that Europe and China have a shared interest in peace and security. We count on China to use all its influence on Russia to end Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. President Xi has played an important role in de-escalating Russia's irresponsible nuclear threats, and I



am confident that President Xi will continue to do so against the backdrop of the ongoing nuclear threats by Russia. We have also discussed China's commitment not to provide any lethal equipment to Russia. More effort is needed to curtail the delivery of dual-use goods to Russia that find their way to the battlefield. And given the existential nature of the threats stemming from this war for both Ukraine and Europe, this does affect the EU-China relations. "The message from the EU to China was, don't help Russia in its unjust war on European soil, or else the bilateral relation would be in trouble. No surprises, Ukraine and the Middle East didn't feature, till the bottom three paragraphs of the press statement issued by the Chinese team, post the trilateral meeting. Also no surprises with the language which read "On the Ukraine crisis, President Xi pointed out that China, France and the EU all wish to see an early ceasefire and return of peace in Europe, and support political settlement of the crisis. China has been working vigorously to facilitate talks for peace. China's objective and just position and its constructive role have been widely recognized by the international community. China is ready to stay in communication with relevant parties." The other significant element of these conversations was traded, as all parties involved are feeling the constraints of escalating fuel costs, the volatile geo-political environment and, the post-Covid, supply chain mismatch. The EU provided sharp pointers on Chinese subsidised products, free and fair access to each other's markets and supply chain resiliency in their conversations. A defensive China maintained that the two sides have extensive common interests and broad space for cooperation in green and digital transition. It is necessary that they properly address economic and trade frictions through dialogue and consultation, and accommodate each other's legitimate concerns." China has started making, the right moves to woo back some of its largest market partners, at a time when India and the US, the other key stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific theatre, are busy with their elections. India will get over elections in about a month, and an agile nimble China policy outlook awaits. (The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Economic progress in India: A reality check



ATUL SEHGAL

Despite notable achievements, economic progress falters due to the neglect of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Public Sector Undertakings and agricultural reforms



India has come a long way since 2014 in the matter of various indices and parameters of economic development. Consider this. India has increased her per capita income through this decade from USD 1560 to USD 2500, a 60 per cent increase. It has purportedly lifted 400 million persons out of poverty during the decade. Its foreign exchange kitty has increased from USD 322 billion to USD 640 billion during the same period. These are impressive figures. Large figures are always impressive, but they need to be checked, compared and corroborated to be sanctified. Consider this now. The per capita income of India increased from USD 600 to USD 1560 for the period from 2004 to 2014 which is a bigger increase of 160 percent. Its foreign exchange reserves increased from USD 107 billion to USD 322 billion between 2004 and 2014. Whereas the surge from 2004 to 2014 was 200 per cent, it was only 100 per cent in the next decade. The above comparative figures talk aloud about India's poor economic development in the last decade. This is not an overall performance report on the current NDA government. This government has many unprecedented achievements to its credit. But on the economic front, it doesn't seem to have delivered. Why has the NDA not been able to deliver on the economic front? There are several reasons. **Neglect of MSMEs:** The micro, small and medium enterprises sector in the country did not receive the attention due to it. This sector is the main source of employment generation. Imports from China continued to swell and many manufacturers closed down their factories to become traders and distributors. Poor implementation of the Make in India programme: The Make in India was a well-conceived ambitious programme



THE GOVERNMENT DID WELL TO BLUEPRINT REFORMS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR—THOSE RELATED TO MSP AND PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE. BUT THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO IMPLEMENT IT BY CAPITULATING IN FRONT OF FAKE PROTESTERS MASQUERADING AS FARMERS

to boost indigenous manufacturing. The scheme had its points of deficiency but regrettably, the major driving points of the grandiose scheme remained largely on paper and were never implemented properly. The result—share of manufacturing in the economy continues to stagnate at 14 percent. Absence of bureaucratic reforms: Our obsolete, corruption-ridden colonial bureaucratic system had never delivered earlier and cried for reforms. But the reforms did not come. The result was a failure of key developmental programmes like the 100 Smart Cities Programme. The government did a remarkable job of establishing GST and promulgating the IBC. This enabled a clean-up of banks and a sharp decline in their NPAs. However, the failure of the government to increase the ease of doing business by cutting down on bureaucratic red tape is a big reason behind the continuing lack of a suitable ecosystem for business and big investment. **Failure to implement Agricultural Reforms:** The government did well to blueprint reforms in the agricultural sector—those related to MSP and procurement of agricultural produce. But the government failed to implement the same by capitulating in front of fake protesters masquerading as farmers. **Neglect of PSUs:** The government paid very little attention to the state and central PSUs which account for 15 per cent of the total economic activities in the country. It kept on harping on the absence of the need for the government to be in business. This

was an impractical approach to handling the Indian economy and failed to tap the big PSUs in which so much of public money had been invested. **Failure to bring about judicial reforms:** Justice in this country continues to be delayed, denied and derailed. Despite big talks to the contrary, the government did nothing in the direction of judicial reforms. This was and remains a big dampener to FDI and even domestic investment in new business. Notwithstanding the above, we must bear in mind that most of the previous governments had left deep pits in our economy that needed to be filled to prepare the ground for the rapid holistic development of the country. The UPA government, between 2004 and 2014 did produce better numbers for FE reserves and economic growth rate but the money generating that investment and growth was preponderantly from the huge proportion of parallel-black money economy out of the overall economy. Money was meagrely flowing for the critical sectors of defence and infrastructure and even for some important socialistic schemes. Modi 1.0 and Modi 2.0 changed this by bringing economic discipline and curbing corruption and economic malfeasance. It brought GST and IBC and did the clean-up of Banks by bringing down drastically the NPAs. It severely dented the black money economy. These were the pits filled by the Modi government that have prepared fertile soil for the fast-track economic progress of the country now. Given the above, it is imper-

ative and is also expected that the Modi government, if returned to power, will take the undermentioned steps to boost real progress on the economic front. Economic progress is the foundation of the overall progress of a country. Progress on other fronts like defence, foreign affairs, etc. has been significant but sustainable multifaceted development can only be achieved on the foundation of a strong and healthy economic bottom line. The country needs drastic institutional and bureaucratic reforms. It needs urgent implementation of the farming sector reforms which were shelved after so much drum beating. The education sector calls for a thorough overhaul to replace the colonial Macaulay established system with an indigenous system in tune with the nation's ethos and tradition. Sloganeering and political gamesmanship need to be replaced by serious, earnest and committed steps for boosting investment, trade, manufacturing and exports. India has a huge potential for becoming an economic powerhouse in quick time but we need to go about building our economy with due seriousness and dedication, rising above narrow interests of caste, class, political affiliations and last but not least, political expediency. It is very much hoped that Modi 3.0, with a two-thirds majority, will usher in the much-needed administrative, bureaucratic and judicial reforms for the speedy economic progress of the country. (The author is a management consultant; views are personal)

India and Armenia strengthen defence ties amidst regional instability

As the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis looms, the growing Indo-Armenia partnership emerges as a vital defence against destabilising forces

In recent years, the strategic partnership between India and Armenia has undergone a remarkable transformation—fired by their shared commitment to fortify defence capabilities and confront regional security challenges head-on. Against the backdrop of Armenia's enduring struggle with Azerbaijan and Turkey's support for Azerbaijan's advantages, the precipitating connection between Armenia and India stands for recognition. Armenia's proximity to India and both agreeing to diversify their strategic alignment, deserves special attention on the global stage. **Military Cooperation:** Armenia's imperative to diversify its security alliances and bolster its military capabilities,



PADMALOCHAN DASH

particularly amidst the enduring conflict with Azerbaijan, is evident through heightened defense spending and collaborations with nations such as India and France. India's involvement with Armenia's military not only strengthens its defensive capabilities but also serves to counterbalance external-internal influences like Turkey and Pakistan in the South Asian region. The expanding Indo-Armenian

partnership encompasses various facets, including the exchange of weaponry, joint military exercises, and strategic consultations, all aimed at enhancing defense readiness and security in their respective regions. **Advanced Weaponry and Joint Exercises:** The acquisition of state-of-the-art weaponry highlights the growing defense cooperation between India and Armenia. Reports indicate ongoing provision of military hardware from India to Armenia, including multiple-launch rocket systems, anti-tank missiles, and radar systems. Additionally, joint military exercises and training programs are underway to enhance preparedness and interoperability between their

armed forces. These collaborative efforts facilitate the exchange of expertise and tactics, fostering effective coordination for potential future operations, from joint exercises to intelligence sharing, both nations are committed to showcasing their military capabilities and strengthening their strategic partnership. **Geopolitical Determinations:** Armenia's pivotal role in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) offers India diversified trade routes and enhanced access to Eurasian markets, bolstering strategic interests in economic resilience and geopolitical balancing. Conversely, India's military support for Armenia underscores its commitment to preserving regional peace and countering aggressive

manoeuvres by the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis. Through the realisation of mutual interests, India and Armenia can reshape security dynamics in the South Caucasus region by challenging the dominance of larger geopolitical actors and their support for rogue powers. **Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan Axis:** The Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis poses a substantial threat to respective regional stability, with Turkey's unwavering support for Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict then raising concerns about potential escalations. The longstanding military partnership between Turkey and Pakistan, characterised by defence production, joint training exercises, and high-level military dialogues, under-

scores their concerted efforts to advance mutual geopolitical goals and exert influence in the regions. This axis represents a significant challenge to the security and stability of the South Caucasus and South Asian regions, as that axis seeks to consolidate its power and undermine the influence of other regional stakeholders. Responses and Ongoing Efforts: In response to the burgeoning influence of the Turkey-Azerbaijan-Pakistan axis, India's steadfast support for Armenia signifies a resolute stance against their aggressive manoeuvres in the region. Aimed at preserving a delicate balance of power, India and Armenia are all set to intensify their collaboration to address these threats. While Turkey's stance on

Kashmir validates the burgeoning Indo-Armenia defence cooperation, the nexus between Turkey's involvement in the Kashmir issue and Pakistan's alignment with Azerbaijan's agenda cannot be seen as a mere happenstance, rather a meticulously orchestrated strategy with far-reaching intention. In this backdrop, the urgent need for a meticulously planned multilateral defence partnership underscored. This becomes essential to counter the unholy Turkey-Pakistan-Azerbaijan axis—thereby ensuring stability in both the Caucasus and South Asian regions. **The Promising Prospects:** The emerging strategic cooperation between India and Armenia holds immense promise for enhancing regional

security and advancing shared interests. Both nations are poised to deepen their partnership and address prevailing challenges through concerted efforts in military collaboration and strategic alignments. India's steadfast support for Armenia underscores its dedication to maintaining peace and stability in the Caucasus region. With far-reaching implications for global geopolitical outcomes, the Indo-Armenia partnership has the potential to redefine the regional balance of power and contribute significantly to the stability and prosperity of both the Caucasus and South Asian regions. (The writer is working with an Independent Think Tank, views are personal)

Mukesh Chhabra on *Dil Bechara* sequel: 'I don't want to cash on it'

The film *Dil Bechara*, starring Sushant Singh Rajput and Sanjana Sanghi, was released on July 24, 2020. It was the last picture starring SSR, who passed away by suicide on June 14, 2020. The coming-of-age love comedy was Mukesh Chhabra's directorial debut. SSR and Sanjana's film is a remake of *The Fault in Our Stars*, a 2014 Hollywood film based on the same-named book.

In January this year, Mukesh Chhabra tweeted that he was intending to do *Dil Bechara 2*. Since then, many have pondered if he would have made the film without Sushant Singh Rajput in the lead role. The casting director has finally indicated if he will do the film without SSR.

Mukesh Chhabra stated that he tweeted about the *Dil Bechara* sequel because he was seriously considering developing one. It's an important film for him since it evokes so many emo-



tions, including Sushant's. As a result, he recognised he should avoid touching the film.

The director in an interview said, "I

was making a film which I wanted to name *Dil Bechara 2*, but that title will always belong to Sushant. I don't want to use that name. I don't want to

cash on that film ever now. I want to keep its beauty intact. While we were making *Dil Bechara*, there were conversations with Sushant on collaborating again soon. I'm someone who likes working with the same people I've worked in the past with as is the case with Ayan (Mukerji) and Ranbir (Kapoor)."

The *Dil Bechara* director further shared that he wanted to work with Sushant Singh Rajput on 2-4 movie films. Chhabra said, "Sometimes, we like repeating our own people because we're more comfortable with and understand each other well. But Sushant had other plans. And we can't beat that (fate). I'll always remember every single moment I've spent with Sushant. I remember having meals with him and my mother. Both of them aren't here now. I miss having breakfast with the two of them."

Rebel Wilson recalls making 'no money' doing *Bridesmaids*

Actress Rebel Wilson has shared that she made just \$3,500 (Rs 2,92,201) from the 2011 comedy film *Bridesmaids*. Wilson said on the *Diary of a CEO* podcast: "It was my first job in America. I mean, I was very lucky to get it... But to be paid that little. Basically, that \$3,500 I then had to pay to the union to join the union. So I basically made no money." "I lost money, because I had to pay to go to the premiere, like to buy my dress and everything. So, I lost money doing *Bridesmaids*," the actress added. Wilson featured alongside names such as Kristin Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Ellie Kemper, and Melissa McCarthy in the comedy film. The actress was living on a very tight budget before she found fame, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The Australian actress said: "That was a really skint year where I was living on \$60 a week in L.A. once I'd paid my rent and my car hire. I wasn't partying or living this (movie star) life. It was basically having that focus, trying to write for myself, going to auditions."



'Nadeem-Shravan wanted Kajol to leave *Baazigar*,' reveals Abbas-Mustan

Can you picture *Baazigar* without Kajol? Well, Nadeem-Shravan, a music composer pair, wanted the actor out of Abbas-Mustan's 1993 smash love drama. In an interview with Radio Nasha, the director duo discussed how Nadeem-Shravan walked out because they refused to remove Kajol from the picture. Abbas-Mustan first approached Nadeem-Shravan about composing music for *Baazigar*. This came a few years after their first hit, Mahesh Bhatt's 1990 romantic musical *Aashiqui*. However, Abbas-Mustan had a condition in mind for the director duo. "Nadeem-Shravan had some personal issue with Kajol and Tanuja ji (Kajol's mother). They asked us if we can change the female lead. We refused because we had already committed to her. We had finalised Kajol and she had also signed the contract. We refused to make any changes. Picture *banega toh Kajol toh rahegi hi* (if the film will be made, Kajol will star in it). They responded to this by saying, 'Toh hum nahi rahege (Then we will not do the film)', Mustan recalled. Nadeem-Shravan wanted to take Kajol under their wing following the success of her 1992 debut film, *Bekhud*, for which they composed the music. However, during a visit to her home, they were taken aback by her mother and veteran actor Tanuja's behaviour. They chose not to work with Kajol again.



Manoj Bajpayee: I never thought I'd even do 10 films

Padma Shri awardee Manoj Bajpayee, who is gearing up for the release of his 100th film *Bhaiyya ji*, shared that he never thought that he would be able to do even 10 films.

The actor spoke with the media at the trailer launch of the film in the Andheri area of Mumbai on Thursday. He shared that he considers himself very lucky to have reached where he is today.

At the risk of sounding modest, Manoj told a huge turnout of the media that many artists do

the hard work each day but it's the love of the audience that has allowed him and empowered him to tell the stories of his choice as an actor.

"I never thought I'd do more than 10 films but life has been kind that I'm here with my 100th film. It's not like I alone do the hard work, all artists hustle hard every day but it's because of God and the audience that I have reached this place."

Manoj's journey in cinema has been quite dramatic. After trying for the National School of Drama, when he didn't get into the institute, he learned acting

from Barry John. Manoj has been a good friend of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan since their theatre days as both of them had a common guru in Barry John.

Manoj made his foray into the cinema 30 years ago with the critically acclaimed *Bandit Queen* in which he had a small role. He then caught the attention of Ram Gopal Varma who eventually cast him as Bhiku Mhatre in the cult-classic *Satya*, a film that disrupted the storytelling style in Hindi cinema and bolstered the progress of independent films.

With 30 years of profession behind him, Manoj is now all set to star as a desi action hero in *Bhaiyya Ji*.

Produced by Vinod Bhanushali, Kamlesh Bhanushali, Samiksha Oswal, Shaal Oswal, Shabana Raza Bajpayee, and Vikram Khakhar under the banners of Bhanushali Studios Limited, SSO Productions, and Aurega Studios production, the film is set to release on May 24, 2024.



Glen Powell will lead legal drama *Monsanto*

Anyone But You star Glen Powell is set to star in filmmaker John Lee Hancock's legal drama movie, titled *Monsanto*.

According to entertainment news outlet Variety, the 35-year-old actor will be joined by Anthony Mackie and Laura Dern in the project, which Hancock will direct from a script he penned in collaboration with Michael Wisner, Alexandra Duparc and Ned Benson. *Monsanto* will follow the "true story of young, untried attorney Brent Wisner (Powell), who in 2019 took on a seemingly

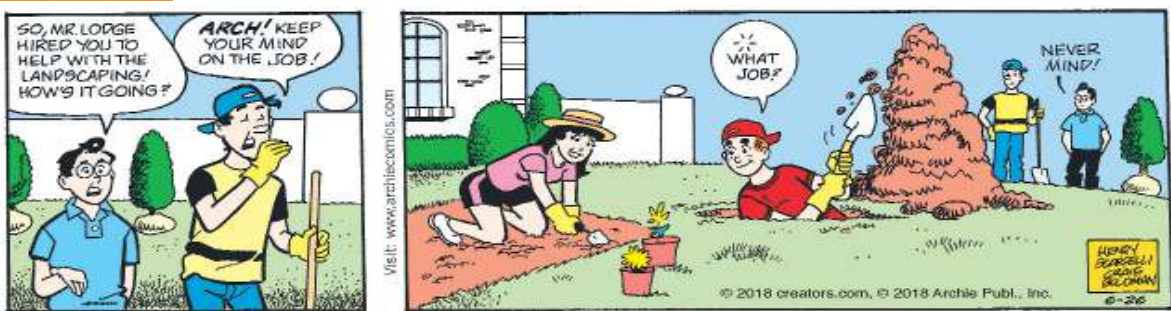
insurmountable case against the giant US chemical company Monsanto on behalf of Dewayne "Lee" Johnson (Mackie) who used the company's best-known product Roundup, a wildly financially successful weed and grass pesticide killer, as part of his job as a high school groundskeeper," according to the film's synopsis.

"I've always been fascinated by true stories of ordinary people against extraordinary odds," Powell said in a statement to TheWrap. "This story encapsulates that spirit with a critical issue that affects us all. And it's a privilege to bring it to audiences with an exceptional filmmaker and powerful cast."

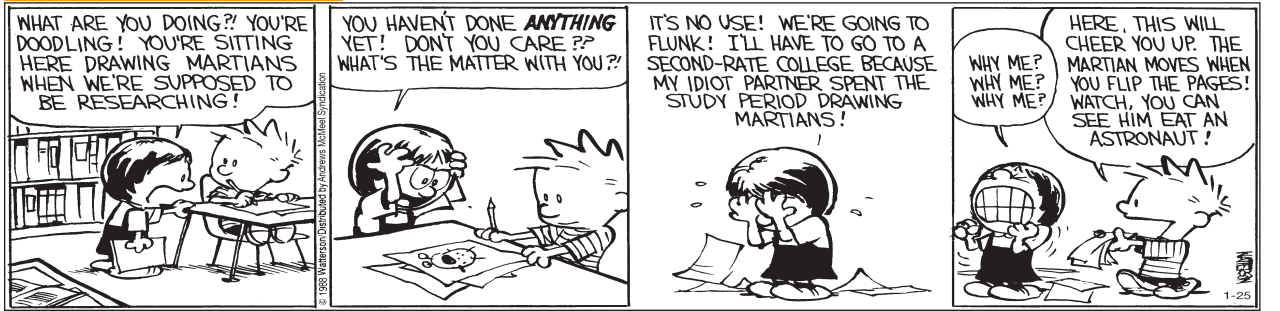


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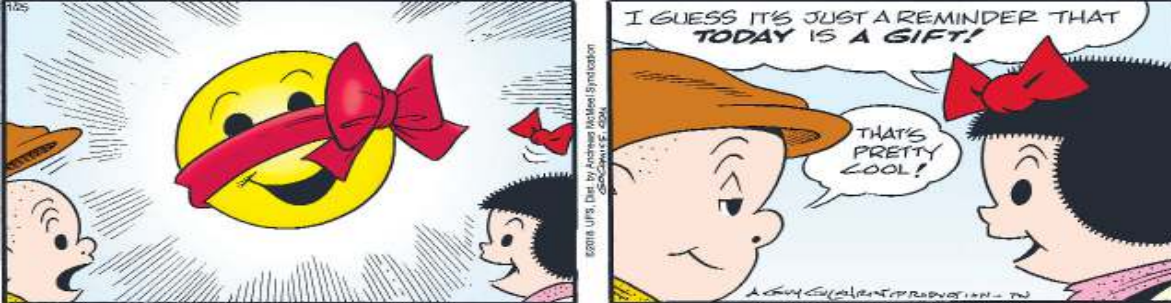
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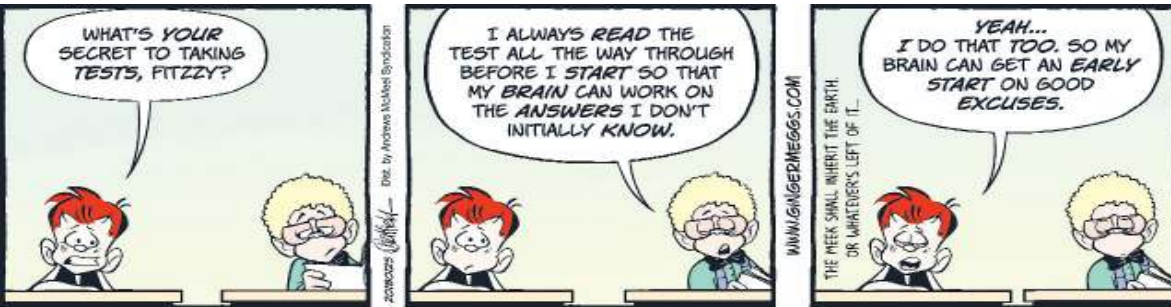
GARFIELD



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GINGER MEGGS



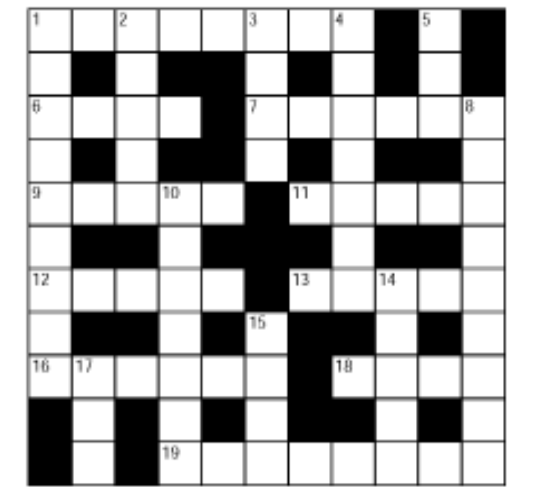
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- A game with a bat and ball
 - Wear these on your feet
 - A large group of soldiers
 - School classes
 - A very large bird
 - A small sharp nail
 - See old stuff on display here
 - These are a kind of fungus that people eat
 - A stand for holding an artist's painting
 - World's highest mountain
 - Metal money
 - A greeting
 - Opposite of outer
 - The tiniest particle
 - The finest metal
 - We breathe this



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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.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

'Shooting in the picturesque location of Manali was liberating, yet challenging'

TEJAL SINHA

Travel, undeniably is a remarkable trip that allows us to explore and experience the world's beauty and diversity. From the planning stages to the experiences created along the way, each step improves and broadens lives. Well, that's what travelling is about for Tahir Raj Bhasin too, who was recently in the beautiful *Manali Ki Waadiyan*, shooting for his much anticipated *Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein*.

The recent posts of the actor got us all craving a travel to the hill station, but meanwhile, we connected with him over a quick chat for our Travelogue segment.

"Travelling for me is as much about exploring new places as it is about exploring myself," begins the *Mardaani* star on a brighter note. "It's about new experiences in terms of not only the destination but also the conversations that you have with the people you meet; about the new food that you discover, the new cafes and sites give you a renewed appreciation for the experience of being alive."

Shooting in Manali was more of a nostalgic experience and a feeling for Tahir, as it was a shoot again in Manali just as for the first season. However, shooting for the second season was different in its own way. "The situation back then was very different because we shot it in the midst of the pandemic, and so, this time, we had the freedom of not having the PPE kits or having just a number of people on the crew. This time around, it was very liberating but with the picturesque location came the challenges of temperatures. We were shooting in -5 degrees but the locations; how beautiful the place is and even the weather just added a level of drama to the series. We were all very very fortunate to be in such a picturesque location away from the head to be shooting a series that we've got so much love for."

At a time when people all over the country, be it Hyderabad, Delhi, or Mumbai, among the others, for that matter were so done with the heat, Tahir happened to do his shoot in a chill weath-

er and a beautiful serenity. But it was not how it seemed for him. "It was a love-hate relationship for me. It's -5 degrees here (Manali). It takes your body at least three days to get used to that weather. It was very challenging initially because you can't feel your fingertips, the dialogues don't come right because you are stammering because of the cold, and the water in your eyes tends to freeze. But after your body adjusts to the climate, you dress appropriately with the correct and apt number of layers, you really start to enjoy the weather because it just adds to the overall drama of the show, eating is just so much more enjoyable in that weather. You have a renewed sense of appreciation when you come back to Bombay in May and you realise what you have left away. I would say what I really enjoyed in this trip were the sub-zero temperatures."

Something that the *Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein* star enjoys, not only about Manali but any of the hill stations is the people; just incredibly calm and happy. It's always awe-inspiring according to him to see that kind of presence and that kind of zen-like appreciation for life. On the way back to Mumbai via Delhi, he also spent some time in Delhi, making him appreciate the weather back in Manali even more. Not only is it perfect weather for a crew, he says, to be functioning and controlling the temperament of the crew, but it also controls the energy levels. "It also controls how much better you eat in terms of like the fruits and vegetables you get over there but also the general sense of how easy it is. It's like being in an entire city, which is like a large air-conditioned studio and it just makes for the most picturesque shooting and beautiful weather."

Again, he shares, "There are things about the weather like waking up at 4 in the morning in -10 degrees to get ready for a 7 am shift that I will not miss. They were challenges as well but overall I would say that it was spectacular."

Was it just a work trip, certainly not! "If you've got a beautiful location, you are going to a monastery then you spend some time going into it. So there were few of those moments that you

otherwise have if you were shooting in the city where you manage to steal some time away for yourself and explore some local cuisine and some locations that you otherwise do not see in regular shooting life."

A work trip or a vacay, sometimes staying at the right property too makes the trip worth the memory you can cherish. Speaking of the hotel hues, he describes, it to be just like a typical hill station than a hotel. "It was director Sidharth Sen Gupta's choice. It was the staff that made us feel completely at home, and we would have the executive chef, who'd bring us their custom-made cuisines and food orders for us. It was a typical fireplace in the room with wooden flooring and slanted roofs, you had zero degrees outside. One of the things I always remember: Monkeys being constantly outside your windows. You can never leave any food on the table or on the bed for fear that they might enter your room. But it was quiet and homely, everything that you would expect in the middle of the mountains."

Going further, a place that he enjoys and loves to visit to rejuvenate from the hassles of daily life and work has been Goa. "It's always a place I go to rejuvenate when I've got some extended amount of time off just for the kind of beaches that you get, the different kind of activities that you get, rock climbing, amazing food at the diverse kind of restaurants that have now started opening up in Goa and you can go from a Kayaking to a yoga class and do everything on beautiful beaches, it's just the complete package for me," he shares adding the Ladakh according to him has been the

unique place from anywhere else in world because of its beautiful lakes, amazing hikes and just by being the 'heaven on earth.'



Travelogue

Actor and avid traveller Tahir Raj Bhasin, who was recently shooting in the serenity of Manali, speaks to *The Pioneer* on an exclusive chat, sharing his experience of shooting in the -5 degrees of Manali for *Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhein* season 2.

'Lucky takes on a new hue in Undekhi 3,' reveals Vaarun

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Vaarun Bhagat has made a notable mark on the digital platform with his appearances in web series such as *Undekhi*, *Inside Edge*, and *Dulha Wanted*, to name a few.

Stepping into the enchanting realm of dreams turned reality, as *Undekhi* embarks on its much-awaited third season journey. He begins, "It's an incredible feeling, like stepping into a dream come true realm, to witness the massive love and support for the show that it's now in its third season. We poured our hearts and souls into crafting this season, fuelled by the overwhelming response from the audience. With each episode, we've infused it with energy, passion, and creativity."



Actor Vaarun Bhagat, known for his portrayal of Lucky in *Undekhi*, will soon be seen in the third season of the show. In this exclusive chat, he discusses the development of his character, and more.

aiming to make this season truly remarkable. Here's to hoping that it becomes something truly extraordinary."

Delving into the role of Lucky has been a journey of pure delight for him. Despite being a character often misjudged, he explains, "Playing Lucky has been an absolute joy for me. He's a character who's often misunderstood, but to me, he's a truly unique individual. Bringing him to life on screen has been a deeply fulfilling

experience, and I've relished every moment."

Get ready for a whole new side of Lucky this season, buzzing with anticipation and a touch of nerves as we unveil this unexplored dimension of his character. "This season, Lucky takes on a new hue, a side of him that's never been explored. While I can't divulge too many details just yet, I'm feeling a mix of nerves and excitement about how people will perceive this new dimension of Lucky. It's a thrilling journey, and I can't wait for audiences to experience it alongside me."

In the realm of filmmaking, he often tends to align with directors, and work on it with remarkable directors, gaining memorable experiences. He further shares, "While I typically embody the ethos of a director's actor, collaborating closely with them on every aspect of the project, my experience with Ashish Shukla has been truly exceptional. Working alongside him, I've found a perfect balance between adhering to the script and having a bit of creative freedom. His guidance and expertise have elevated my performance, making him one of the finest directors I've had the privilege to work with."

Story and director, the two pillars that ignite the actor's passion for a project and script which creates a buzz is enough for an actor to join the project, he shares, "What really draws me to a project are the story and the director. These two aspects hold utmost significance for me. If the story resonates with me, I'm eager to become an integral part of it. Similarly, if I connect with the story, I'm keen on portraying a role in it."

Memories made with great company last a lifetime and he goes on to explain his relationship with Ashish Vidyarthi: "I adore Ashish Vidyarthi; he's one of the most vibrant, positive, and fun-loving individuals I've encountered. His enthusiasm for life is infectious, and he's taught me so much. One cherished memory I have is when we were in Azerbaijan, and I landed a role. We spent the day exploring the city together, and it remains one of my fondest experiences."

Something extraordinary is in the works and the audience, here's the reveal by the actor: "I'm currently engaged in a very special project, the details of which I can't disclose just yet. However, I'm excited to share more with you all soon."

Alarming increase of Prostate cancer cases in young

Recently we lost a renowned musician Rashid Khan to Prostate cancer at a very young age of 55 years. Survival rates are actually better compared to other cancers as it spreads slowly in the body. If prostate cancer is diagnosed early, the survival rates are better. It is a challenge only if spread to other distant organs. Generally believed to be a cancer affecting elderly males beyond the age of 60 years, the incidence of prostate cancer in younger men is worryingly increasing. Importantly, younger the age, more aggressive is the cancer and tends to present with advanced stages and variant or rare histologies. In clinical practice, men between the ages of 45-60 are being regularly diagnosed with prostate cancer. One of the reasons may be linked to changing lifestyles and more consumption of saturated fats. Another may also be increased testing and awareness. The patients are usually diagnosed with PSA screening blood tests or during evaluation for other symptoms or urinary symptoms.

Prostate cancer ranks among the prevalent forms of cancer. Numerous prostate cancers progress slowly and remain localized within the prostate gland, often posing minimal risk. However, certain variations of prostate cancer exhibit aggressive growth patterns and have the potential to metastasise rapidly. The age of onset for prostate cancer is lowering, with younger men now being diagnosed with a more aggressive form of the cancer. Possible reasons for this trend include lifestyle factors, genetics, and increased availability of the PSA test. In India, the death rate of prostate cancer is high compared to the US.

Early detection of prostate cancer, while it remains localised within the

prostate gland, significantly enhances treatment success rates. This underscores the importance of timely screening and diagnosis for effective management. Some of the factors that increase the risk of Prostate cancer are Old age, family history, obesity and lifestyle. People with older age have a higher risk of Prostate cancer compared to the young. A family history of genes or blood relatives

diagnosed or people who are obese are at high risk of getting it.

A prostate biopsy is done to confirm the presence, type, and aggressiveness of the cancer. Staging is done with an MRI scan or Pet CT scan. The stage determines the form of treatment offered. The most common type of prostate cancer is adenocarcinoma, which can be completely cured in more than 95 percent of patients.

The treatment is usually surgery using an open, laparoscopic, or robotic approach. Or radiation to the prostate. If there is an unusual pathological type or advanced stages, more types of treatments need to be added, including chemotherapy, androgen deprivation or hormone therapy, bone-strengthening agents, etc. In advanced stages, the chance of cure remains low, and the control of the cancer takes precedence. This is why early diagnosis is vital.

The most important way to diagnose cancer early is to do a simple blood test called a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. It is advised to undergo the test once a year, from the age of 50 years. If there is a family history of prostate cancer, it is wise to start testing from 45 years of age.

Though a frightening prospect, prostate cancer is often very slow-growing, and cure rates are extremely high with the right treatment and timely intervention. Public awareness is vital to the fight against prostate cancer.

(The author, Dr. Vishruth K Raj, is a Consultant Urologist and Uro-oncologist, at Aster RV Hospital.)





CSK AIM TO CONTINUE ASCENT TO TOP THREE

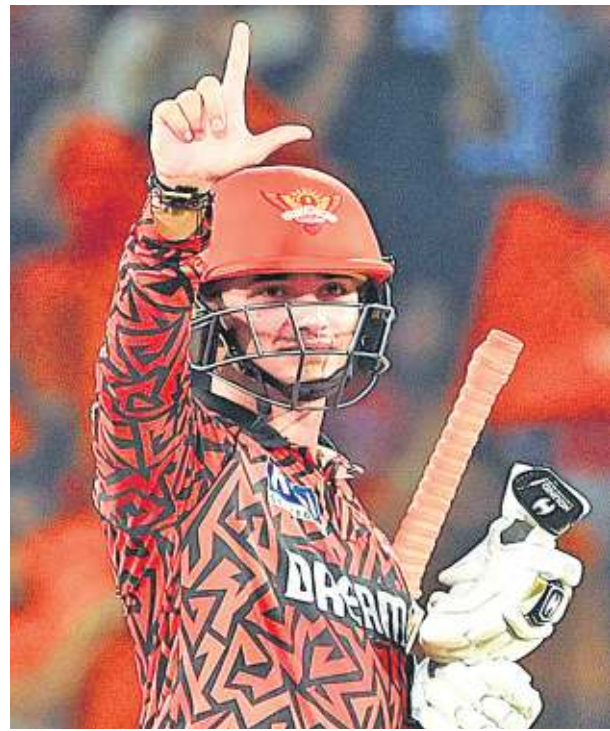
PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Despite being hit by the absence of key bowlers due to injuries as well as international commitments, Chennai Super Kings will still like to display their on-field ruthlessness while taking on wooden spooners Gujarat Titans in a 12th round IPL encounter here on Friday. Caught in a mid-table logjam with 12 points from 11 games, the away match against Gujarat will be very important for Rituraj Gaikwad's men as they are still not assured of a play-off berth and a defeat could really dent their chances. With Deepak Chahar and Matheesha Pathirana out of the tournament due to injuries and Mustafizur Rahman back on national duty, CSK's bowling attack sans Ravindra Jadeja and Tushar Deshpande can at best be termed second string. A lot will depend on how the three CSK spinners — Ravindra Jadeja, Mitchell Santner and Moeen Ali bowl on a two-paced track. Yet, the manner in which CSK defended a total of 167 in Dharamsala against Punjab Kings will give their fans hope of upping the ante against Titans, who have already lost seven in the tournament so far. A win will take them to third place in the standings, ahead of Sunrisers Hyderabad by virtue of better net run-rate. Among the three teams stuck on 12 points, only CSK (+0.700) enjoys a

positive net run-rate. On paper, bottom-placed Titans are still in the mix but with a maximum tally of 14 points, it would be very difficult for the Shubman Gill-led side to get into the top four. The side is low on confidence having managed just one win from their last five matches and has struggled in all departments of the game. Their bowling has lost firepower in absence of the injured Mohammed Shami, while the captaincy responsibility has weighed down heavily on the talented opener Gill, who has three single digit scores and a highest of 35 in his last five outings. Sai Sudharsan, Shahrulkh Khan and David Miller have also been inconsistent. The bowling unit needs to improve its performance as the likes of Mohit Sharma and Josh Little have been leaking runs in the Powerplay. While defending a paltry 147, their bowlers gave away 92 runs in the Powerplay against RCB, who chased down the target in just 13.4 overs. With no support from the new ball bowlers, the Afghan spin duo of Noor Ahmad and Rashid Khan also seemed less effective. CSK, on the other hand, have no such concerns with skipper Rituraj Gaikwad leading by example. He has been their top run-getter with 541 runs from 11 innings, just one run away from Virat Kohli in the race for the Orange Cap.

Daryl Mitchell was also among runs in a 19-ball 30 against PBKS in their last match as they would just hope that Shivam Dube returns to form after capping successive golden ducks. Their biggest plus in the win over PBKS has been the addition of Simarjeet Singh. Making his debut for CSK as an impact player, Simarjeet clocked 140-plus consistently and returned with 2/16 from his three overs. **TEAMS (FROM)** Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Manohar, B. Sai Sudharsan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Noor Ahmad, Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Joshua Little, Mohit Sharma, Azmatullah Omarzai, Umesh Yadav, Shahrulkh Khan, Sushant Mishra, Kartik Tyagi, Manav Suthar, Spencer Johnson, Sandeep Warrier and BR Sharath. Chennai Super Kings: Rituraj Gaikwad (c), MS Dhoni (wk), Aravelly Avanish, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, RS Hangargekar, Ravindra Jadeja, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Daryl Mitchell, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Nishant Sindhu, Deepak Chahar, Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Choudhary, Simarjeet Singh, Prashant Solanki, Shardul Thakur, Maheesh Theekshana and Sameer Rizvi.

Backing of captain Cummins, SRH support staff matters a lot: Abhishek Sharma



PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The unwavering support from skipper Pat Cummins and the entire think-tank played a big role in his success in the on-going IPL, reckoned Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Abhishek Sharma. The 23-year-old Punjab left-hander fired from all cylinders for Hyderabad this season, making 401 runs from 12 matches and those runs have come at an awesome strike-rate of 205. "Our support staff and Pat (Cummins), the way they think, I have never seen anyone else think like that," Abhishek said on JioCinema Match Centre Live after their record 10-wicket win over

Lucknow Super Giants here on Wednesday. "They're like, 'Go out there and express yourself. Play as aggressively as you can, we'll back you.' I think that matters a lot," said Abhishek, who has hit 35 sixes so far, highest by any batter this season. The SRH openers Abhishek (75 not out off 28 balls) and Travis Head (89 not out off 30 balls) scaled down 166 in just 9.4 overs, rewriting the record for the quickest chase of 150-plus in T20 cricket. SRH's total of 167 was also the highest by any team by the end of the tenth over in men's T20s. "I think this approach was something I took on during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy," said Abhishek who played a key role in Punjab winning the

domestic T20 title last season. Abhishek (485 runs from 10 matches) was the second highest run-getter behind Riyan Parag (510) of Assam in last season's SMAT. "I feel when I play this way, look at the ball, and react, my shots come off better and the bowler comes under pressure. I always thought if I play in the IPL, I'll try to maintain this," he added. **'BIG FAN OF HEAD':** With Head at his explosive best, SRH have smashed many batting records this season including the highest ever IPL total of 287/3 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Abhishek hailed the way Head played spin. "I don't think anyone plays spin better than Travis. The shots he hit off (Krishnappa) Gowtham, normally batters can't do that, that shows how special he is. "He's very clear, whenever I talk to him, the way he compliments me, I have always been a big fan of him over the last year that I have followed him. "When our understanding was established and our partnership improved, we became good friends off the pitch and have started spending more time," he added. Abhishek then touched upon his strategy against the LSG bowlers, especially pacers. "They were bowling cutters in the middle. I thought the cutters could slow down on their way, but Travis and I had planned to play it the way you would hit a spinner with the spin. "So, if it's an off-cutter, we look to hit towards long-off covers. If it's a leg cutter, obviously we look at mid-wicket or mid-on," he added.

Format C-1 (for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)				
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: Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy, Door No. 3-9-77, Pulivendla, YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh - 516390				
Name of political party: Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party				
Name of Election: Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly 2024				
*Name of Constituency: 129 - Pulivendla				
I Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy, candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:				
(A) Pending criminal cases				
Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and date	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 3 OF 2021	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
2	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 OF 2021	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
3	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 1 OF 2021	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
4	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad [Previous Court: The Court of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad]	SC No. 1 OF 2020 [OLD CASE NO. SC No. 92 OF 2016]	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 And Section 8 (5) Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering. (III) Section 8 (5): Where on conclusion of a trial for any scheduled offence, the person concerned is acquitted, the attachment of the property or retention of the seized property or record under sub-section (3) and net income, if any, shall cease to have effect.
5	Judge, SPL. Court for Trial of cases relating to elected MPs and MLAs, Vijayawada cum VIII Addl. District and Sessions Judge cum V Addl. Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Vijayawada, Krishna District	C.C. No. 33 of 2018	For Appearance	Sections 499, 500, 501, 502 r/w Section 34 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 499 of IPC: Defamation. (II) Section 500 of IPC: Punishment for Defamation. (III) Section 501 of IPC: Printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory. (IV) Section 502 of IPC: Sale of printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter. (V) Section 34 of IPC: Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention.
6	The Court of Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 OF 2018	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 r/w Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
7	The Court of Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 1 OF 2018	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 r/w Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
8	FIR filed with: Nandyala III Town Police Station, AP (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 192/2017	Investigation Pending	Sections 188, 504, 506 of Indian Penal Code And Section 125 of Representation Of People Act, 1951 (I) Section 188 of IPC: Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public Servant. (II) Section 504 of IPC: Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace. (III) Section 506 of IPC: Punishment for criminal intimidation. (IV) Section 125 of RPA, 1951: Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.
9	The Court of Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 of 2017	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
10	FIR filed with: Nandyala III Town Police Station, AP (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 177/2017	Investigation Pending	Section 125 of Representation of People Act, 1951. (I) Section 125 of RPA, 1951: Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.
11	FIR filed with: Kakinada III TOWN POLICE STATION AP (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 122/2017	Investigation Pending	Sections 153A & 506 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 153A of IPC, 1860: Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony. (II) Section 506 of IPC, 1860: Punishment for Criminal Intimidation
12	FIR filed with: Police Station Ramagiri (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 23/2016	Investigation Pending	Sections 116, 153A, 500 OF Indian Penal Code, 1860. Section 116 of IPC, 1860: Abetment of offence punishable with imprisonment-if offence be not committed. Section 153A of IPC, 1860: Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony. Section 500 of IPC, 1860: Punishment for Defamation.
13	FIR filed with: POLICE STATION: MANGALAGIRI (R), GUNTUR URBAN	FIR No. 59/2016	Investigation Pending	Sections 425, 427, 505(II) R/W 24 OF Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 425 of IPC: Mischief. (II) Section 427 of IPC: Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees. (III) Section 505(ii) of IPC: Statements conducing to public mischief by creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes (IV) Section 24: Dishonestly
14	FIR filed with: Police Station, Ponnur Rural, Guntur (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 45/2016	Investigation Pending	Sections 500 and 501 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 500 of IPC: Punishment for Defamation. (II) Section 501 of IPC: Printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory
15	The Court Of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 of 2016	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 r/w section 3 of prevention of money laundering act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: the act of money laundering.
16	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad Previous Court: The Court of The Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad	New Case No. SC No. 1 of 2016 Old Case No. SC No. 105 of 2015	Consideration of Charges	Section 3, 4 & 8(5) Of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (I) Section 3: Offence of money-laundering. (II) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (III) Section 8 (5): Where on conclusion of a trial for any scheduled offence, the person concerned is acquitted, the attachment of the property or retention of the seized property or record under sub-section (3) and net income, if any, shall cease to have effect.
17	The Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C no. 26 of 2014	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-b, 420, 409 of IPC and u/Sec 11, 13(2) r/w 13 (1) (c) & (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 409: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent. (IV) Section 11, 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (c) & (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 11 of PC Act: Public servant obtaining valuable thing. (b) Section 13 (2): Punishment for Criminal misconduct by a Public Servant. (c) Section 13 (1) (c) & (d): Criminal misconduct by a Public Servant.

'We invested ₹12 lakh just for dubbing,' reveals Siva Mallala

Satya, a Telugu adaptation of the Tamil blockbuster *Rangoli*, has hit cinemas today. Ahead of the release, producer Siva Mallala shared some interesting insights about the film.

PNS | HYDERABAD

As the clock ticks closer to the much-anticipated release of *Satya*, a Telugu adaptation of the Tamil blockbuster *Rangoli*, producer Siva Mallala shares his insights and journey in bringing this enthralling tale to Telugu audiences.

Reflecting on the movie, Mallala reveals that *Satya* is slated for release on May 10, marking the culmination of meticulous efforts to present a quintessential Telugu cinematic experience. Directed by Vaali Mohan Das and starring Hamaresh and Pradhana, this venture under the production of Sivam Media promises to captivate audiences with its compelling narrative.

"The journey of this movie began when Satish, the father of Tamil producer Hero Hamaresh, introduced me to it during my visit to Chennai," begins Mallala, adding, "As our friendship grew, he arranged a special screening for me, acknowledging my positive reviews in Telugu cinema. Although I was deeply engrossed in the film, I found the climax lacking. After a 45-minute debate with the director, I insisted that while the movie was excellent, the climax needed enhancement. Subsequently, after two months, I was invited again, and this time, renowned directors were present for the screening. I was invited on stage to share my thoughts, and it was announced that I would be releasing the film in Telugu. From that moment on, this film became my passion project. We invested Rs 12 lakh in dubbing alone, ensuring no compromises were made. Our aim is to present this movie to the audience as a flawless Telugu film."

Despite the financial risks involved, Mallala remains undeterred, citing Hamaresh's striking resemblance to GV Prakash, and the buzz generated on social media as indicators of the film's potential success. He shared, "We're aiming to release the film in 28 theaters in ceded. The initial part of this count is more than sufficient for a dubbing film, including well-known chains like PVR, Inox, and Cinemax, ensuring widespread accessibility for the audience. Despite the financial risk involved, I am confident in the film's potential. Hamaresh's resemblance to GV Prakash has already garnered attention, and the movie is being released by Red Giant Productions. Furthermore, Amazon has shown interest in acquiring the rights, and we hold the Telugu rights, which adds to the film's value. The buzz generated on social media, with around 2 million posts about *Rangoli 2*, indicates significant anticipation for the film's release in Telugu. Delving into the central themes of *Satya*, Mallala highlights its exploration of intricate family dynamics, particularly the father-son relationship, and the nuances of education and friendship, promising audiences a multifaceted viewing experience."

As the conversation turns to the film's music and reception, Mallala lauds the seamless adaptation of Tamil compositions into Telugu and the positive reception garnered thus far, hinting at the film's promising trajectory.

In conclusion, Mallala extends his gratitude to Dil Raju for his unwavering support and acknowledges the esteemed directors whose presence has contributed to the anticipation surrounding the film's release.



First song from *Bhaje Vaayu Vegam* launched

Bhaje Vaayu Vegam, starring Kartikeya Gummakonda, has been made under the banner of UV Concepts. The emotional action thriller is presented by the prestigious production company UV Creations. This top-tier movie is going to have a grand theatrical release worldwide on May 31. Its first song is as enjoyable as it gets. Titled *Set Ayyinda*, it is composed by Radhan, sung by Ranjith Govind, and written by lyricist 'Saraswathi Putra' Ramajogayya Sastry. If you are someone who enjoys love songs taking on a cheerful tone, this one is for you! The lyrics are modish



and, at the same time, are soulful. Starring Ishwarya Menon as the heroine, the film has been made with superior technical values and a robust story. Rahul Tyson of *Happy Days* fame is portraying a pivotal role. This movie is directed by Prashanth Reddy Chandrapu. Ajay Kumar Raju P is acting as the co-producer. The film's fantastic teaser has already sparked interest among viewers, igniting curiosity to experience it on the big screen.

Brahmanandam joins *Mahendragiri Vaarahi*

Comedy legend Brahmanandam rides alongside Sumanth's *Mahendragiri Vaarahi*, the Rajashyamala Entertainments second production. The film's teaser was unveiled by renowned director Krish Jagarlamudi, drawing intrigue from Vishwak Sen's tweet praising its glimpse, which caught the attention of netizens. Director Santosh Jagarlapudi and producer Madhu Kalipu have revealed that the esteemed actor Brahmanandam will play a pivotal role

in the movie. Additionally, the director mentioned that Brahmanandam was greatly impressed by the script, prompting his involvement in the project, with plans to join the first shooting schedule soon. Producer Madhu Kalipu disclosed that the film revolves around a temple situated near the banks of Mahendragiri mountain. Anup Rubens has been appointed as the music director for this venture.



18	FIR filed at Saroor Nagar Police Station, Cyberabad, Hyderabad (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 861/2013	Pending Investigation	Section 3 Of Prevention Of Insults To Honour Act, 1971 Section 3 of Prevention of Insults to Honour Act, 1971: Prevention of singing of Indian National Anthem
19	Court Of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 28 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B R/W 420, 468, 471 Indian Penal Code, 1860 & Sec. 9 Of Prevention Of Corruption Act, 1988 (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 468: Forgery for purpose of cheating. (III) Section 471: Using as genuine a forged (document or electronic record) (IV) Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
20	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 27 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 of Indian Penal Code & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
21	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 26 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B r/w 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
22	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 25 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 Indian Penal Code, 1860 And 107 Of IPC r/w 13(2) r/w 13(1) (D) Prevention of Corruption Act. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 107 of IPC r/w 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (d) Prevention of Corruption of Act: (a) Section 107 of IPC: Abetment of a thing. (b) Section 13 (2) of P.C.Act: Punishment for Criminal misconduct by a Public Servant. (c) Section 13 (1) (d): Criminal misconduct by Public Servant
23	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 24 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B r/w 420, 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 And Sec.9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 9: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant. b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of PC Act.
24	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 12 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 And Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
25	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 14 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420, 409 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 And Section 9 And 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 409: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent. (IV) Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 9: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant. b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of PC Act.
26	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 10 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 & 471 of Indian Penal Code And Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 471: Using as genuine a forged (document or electronic record) (IV) Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 9: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant. b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of PC Act.
27	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 9 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B r/w 420, 420 & 471 Of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 420 & 471 of IPC: a) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. b) Section 471: Using as genuine a forged (document or electronic record)
28	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 8 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 12 r/w 11 of Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B r/w 420 Of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 12 r/w 11 of Prevention of Corruption Act: (a) Section 11: Public servant obtaining valuable thing, without consideration from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant. (b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of P.C. Act. (II) Section 120 B R/w 420 of I.P.C: a) Section 120 B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.
29	FIR Filed With Police Station, Vempalle Police Station Andhra Pradesh No Cognizance taken yet	F.I.R No. 114/2008	Investigation Pending	Section 177 Of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 & Section 34 of Indian Penal Code, 1860. (I) Section 177 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988: General provision for punishment of offences (II) Section 34 of Indian Penal Code: Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

Sl. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum punishment imposed
NOT APPLICABLE			
			Sd/- Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy

Prabhas joins *Kannappa* shooting

Mythological epics hold a special place, weaving tales of devotion, valor, and divine intervention. Amidst the hustle and bustle of modern filmmaking, Vishnu Manchu's dream project, *Kannappa*, emerges as a beacon of tradition and storytelling prowess. With a star-studded cast that transcends industry boundaries, this magnum opus promises to redefine the genre for generations to come.

At the heart of *Kannappa* lies a tapestry of talent, with actors like Vishnu Manchu, Prabhas, Mohanlal, and Akshay Kumar bringing their unparalleled charisma to the screen. Each performer, renowned in their own right, lends their unique essence to the narrative, enriching the cinematic experience with their presence.

In recent days, speculation has been rife regarding Prabhas's involvement in the project. True to the rumors swirling in the industry, the acclaimed actor has officially joined the ranks of *Kannappa*, marking a pivotal moment in the film's production journey. Vishnu Manchu, elated by his brother's inclusion, took to social media to share the news, igniting waves of excitement among fans and cinephiles alike. While details of Prabhas's character remain shrouded in mystery, earlier reports suggested his portrayal of Lord Shiva, a role that aligns seamlessly with his penchant for larger-than-life performances. As the enigmatic deity, Prabhas is poised to bring depth and reverence to the screen,



embodying the essence of divinity with his nuanced portrayal. Behind the scenes, *Kannappa* was shot extensively in New Zealand. With a team of technical wizards at the helm, the film transcends geographical boundaries, drawing upon the expertise of artisans and craftsmen from around the globe. From intricate set designs to awe-inspiring visual effects, every aspect of production reflects a commitment to excellence and authenticity.