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HIGHEST-EVER DIVIDEND OF RS 2.11 L CR TO GOVT

'My performance will be more mature in

the pioneer Sonia Gandhi is responsible for 1,500 suicides that took place during the Telangana movement. She has not made Telangana but people snatched it by thrashing and holding protests. Sonia Gandhi has nothing to do with the formation of Telangana. Under which protocol Sonia Gandhi will be invited to the government function? If they want to invite her, do it in the party's office and felicitate her for the killing of 1.500 people - G Kishan Reddy, TG BJP CHief

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Equip students with skills for nation's...

S Abdul Nazeer, Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University, presided over the eighth and ninth annual convocation of the university held on the University Campus in Nellore on Wednesday. "Our vision of developed India calls for a strategic alignment of higher education courses with the evolving needs of our community and society and it is imperative that our academic programmes equip the students with knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute to our nation's progress..

Risk of hospitalisation...

On the hottest days, risk of hospitalisation for people with metabolic disorders such as those of sugar and blood pressure, and obesity, almost doubled as compared to days recording comfortable temperatures, a new study has found. The research analysing hospital admissions related to high temperatures during summer over more than a decade in Spain found that extreme heat impacted people with these conditions the most. "There are a number of reasons to explain this. For example...



Attrition rates continue to remain an area of concern among MBA graduates, especially among the entry-level jobs for top-tier campuses, a study said on Wednesday. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (Deloi India) latest campus workforce trends 2024 study revealed that attrition remained a significant challenge, especially among MBA graduates. Overall, pan-India attrition rates for infants (new recruits), one- and two-year-old employees for top-tier campuses are 21 per cent...

-PAGE: 8

It's hard to leave ailing mother in ...

Afghanistan wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has revealed that he made the difficult choice of leaving his ailing mother in hospital when his IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders sought his services ahead of the playoff clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad here as the team is also his "family" Gurbaz, in his maiden game of the season, played a vital role in KKR's win over SRH by taking two vital catches and giving his side a blazing start with a 14-ball 23 on Tuesday. He replaced Englishman Phil Salt at the top...

Police searching for YSRCP MLA Pinneli

Macherla MLA was spotted at Isnapur, but gave a slip to police

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh police and the Telangana State special task force police are searching for MLA Pinneli Ramakrishna Reddy, who was caught on a CCTV camera while destroying an EVM on the polling day in Macherla. The YSRCP MLA was reportedly spotted at Isnapur in Sangareddy dis-trict of Telangana, but gave a slip

to the police.

The MLA was booked as first accused in the case pertaining to destruction of EVM at Palvai Gate polling booth in Macherla on May

The police have issued a lookout notice preventing the MLA from leaving the country. The AP police have formed four special teams and reportedly took Pinnelli's aides into custody.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta informed the EC that four special teams were formed, led by the Additional SP. Raids and checks are continuing in Telangana and a lookout circular has been issued.

The DGP added that the AP police registered cases against Pinnelli and his brothers under 10 various sections and put all efforts to arrest them.

The EC has taken the incident seriously and ordered the arrest of Pinnelli.



Pinneli first accused, booked under 10 sections: Meena

VIJAYAWADA: State Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena has said that EVMs were destroyed in nine places in the State on the day of polling. In Macherla alone, seven such incidents took place and all of them checked thoroughly through webcasting. He said that a case was registered against Pinneli Ramakrishna Reddy under 10 various sections. He said that though the EVMs were destroyed, the data was safe. The voting process continued with new EVMs. Meena said that a Special Investigation Team has been informed by the police. On May 20.

the Rentachintala SI filed a memo in the court and named Penneli Ramakrishna Reddy as first accused (A1). He said that the accused may be sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. He said that cases were registered in connection with the other incidents, too. "The investigation is on and no one involved in the violence will be spared. After the incident of EVM damage, as per the instructions of the EC, transfers were affected. Nothing is hidden pertaining to the EVM destroying incidents. The evidence was submitted to the police officials con-

Cordon and search operations continue across State

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta has stated that the police are continuing Harish Kumar Gupta the cordon and search

operations across the State to maintain law and order and to control crimes. Cordon and search opera-

circles, villages and outskirts in all districts and cities, he said in a press release here on Wednesday. During the cordon and search,

tions are conducted in important

the police checked crime suspects and those with criminal records.

They also searched the houses of criminals and their secret places to find illegal liquor, arms, crackers, drugs, and vehicles without documents, he said.



Chief Secretary Dr KS Jawahar Reddy conducting a review meeting at his chamber at

State-level Sanctioning Committee meet discusses RKVY, KY

Rashtriya Krishi

Vikas Yojana and

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A meeting of the State-level Sanctioning Committee was held on the implementation of Consolidated Annual Action Plan-2024-25 concerning the implementation of all the schemes under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Under

Krishonnati Yojana (KY) in the State under one umbrella, chaired by Chief Secretary Dr KS Jawahar Reddy at his chamber on the premises of the Secretariat at Velagapudi

on Wednesday. Under the RKVY and KY, Rs.1,193 crore will be spent for agriculture and allied sectors with the participation of State and Central governments in the 2024-25 financial year.

CS Jawahar Reddy discussed with the officials of Agriculture and allied departments the sanctioning of funds and other issues. Especially under the annual activity of RKVÝ, soil health fertility, RainFed area development, agriculture mechanisation, crop diversification pro-

gramme, Per Drop - More Crop, agroforestry, and Paramparagati were reviewed. Also, he discussed the funds allocated for the RKVY and the programmes undertaken through them.

The other matters discussed were making drones available in Custom Hiring Centres at a cost of Rs.134 crore,

mass rodent eradication programme Krishonnati Yojana, through farmer assur-Rs.1,193 cr will be spent ance centres, setting up pesticide testing for agriculture and allied sectors laboratories at the district-level, district agri inputs, quality control lab-

oratory infrastructure, making suitable equipment available in integrated agri testing laboratories

Agriculture Department Special Chief Secretary Gopala Krishna Dwivedi, Commissioner Ch Harikiran, Parks and Forestry Commissioner Sridhar, Rythu Sadhikara Samiti Executive Vice Chairman T Vijaya Kumar, Civil Supplies Commissioner H Arun Kumar and others attended the

'Stern action against network hospitals that stop Aarogyasri services'

ASHA to stop cashless services under Aarogyasri scheme

PNS VIJAYAWADA

An amount of Rs 203 crore has been released to Aarogyasri network hospitals as per the assurance given to the hospitals, said Dr YSR Aarogyasri Health Care Trust Chief Executive Officer Dr G Lakshmisha.

The CEO said that the amount for the pending bills will be released at the earliest and appealed to the management of ASHA to cooperate. In a release issued on Wednesday, Dr Lakshmisha said that during the financial year 2024-25, Rs 366 crore has been released to the network hospitals.

Dr G Lakshmisha also said that in the financial year 2023-24, a sum of Rs 3,566.22 crore was transferred to the accounts of network hospitals. During the past five years, 42,91,254 people benefited through Aarogyasri and cashless treatment

blood vessel in the brain begins to

bleed. Researchers found that for

every 1,000 ischaemic or haemor-

were attributable to extreme cold

or hot days. About 2.5 per cent of

contribute to nine of the 11 excess

rhagic stroke deaths, about 11

the coldest days were found to

worth Rs 13,470.89 crore was provided to the people across the State.

The managements of network hospitals are in constant touch with the authorities and assured that there shall not be any interruption to the Aarogyasri services to the patients. Action will be taken against those hospitals that deny services and the district collectors are instructed to ensure that there

shall be uninterrupted Aarogyasri services to the people. Special CS MT Krishna Babu has instructed the officials concerned to

ensure that the people who visit CHC, AH, DH, GGH and specialty hospitals do not face inconveniences.

Meanwhile, Dr Avinash, general secretary, ASHA, said that the government has released Rs 203 crore, which is a very meager amount and they are stopping cashless services under Aarogyasri scheme.

He said that dues to the tune of Rs 1,500 crore had been pending for the past eight months.



8,360 candidates in fray in 2024 LS polls, highest since 1996

PNS NEW DELHI

cerned." said Meena

A total of 8,360 candidates are contesting the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the highest since 1996, according to an analysis of official data.

In the 2019 polls, there were 8,039 candidates, and in 1996, a record 13,952 candidates were in the fray for 543 seats of the Lower House of Parliament. The 2024 general elections are being held in seven phases, with five rounds of polling completed. The sixth and last rounds will be held on May 25 and June 1, respectively. Counting of votes will

be taken up on June 4.

The fourth phase of the elections held on May 13 had the highest number of candidates in the fray, 1,717 in 96 parliamentary constituencies in 10 states and Union Territories (UTs).

'Dengue cases highlight need for vigilance' PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The admission of four patients with dengue symptoms at King George Hospital (KGH) last week has brought renewed attention to the potentially fatal viral disease. As many as seven patients are currently receiving treatment at KGH, with their conditions reported as stable. Additional cases are being treated at private hospitals.

The city typically experiences outbreaks during the monsoon season starting in June. However, this State convener of the Medical Wing of

7 patients receiving treatment at KGH year, dengue cases have emerged sig-

nificantly earlier, catching authori ties off guard. A 14-year-old from JNNURM Colony, Madhurawada, tested positive for dengue on Thursday after being admitted to KGH last Tuesday. "The test at the Virology Lab in KGH confirmed dengue, and he is now being treated in the 'dengue ward' at Rajendra Prasad Ward," stated Rupakula Ravi Kumar,

BJP, on Monday.

District Malaria Officer M Tulasi rovided data on disease surveilance efforts: "From January 1 to May 20, we collected 90,912 blood samples and detected 34 positive cases of malaria.

During the same period last year, 87,006 samples yielded 31 positive malaria cases.



'INDIA bloc parties will undo work done by Modi' P2



'Army doesn't want Agniveer scheme'

SAYS INDIA BLOC GOVT WILL THROW IT IN DUSTBIN

PNS MAHENDRAGARH (HARYANA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Wednesday the Agniveer military recruitment scheme will be scrapped and thrown in the dustbin if the INDIA bloc comes to power, as he slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "turning Hindustan ke jawan into labourers"

In his first election meeting in Haryana for the Lok Sabha polls, Gandhi also attacked Modi over the issue of farmers. He claimed that the Modi government waived loans amounting to Rs 16 lakh crore for 22 "arabpatis (top industrialists)" but openly says it "won't waive farmers' debts as it will spoil them". "We had brought the land acquisition bill to protect farmers and give them due compensation, but the Modi government scrapped it. They brought three black farm laws and farmers had to take to the streets," the

former Congress president said. Slamming the BJP government over the Agniveer scheme, he said, "This is Modi's scheme, not the Army's scheme. The Army does not want it. This scheme has been framed by the PMO (Prime Minister's Office).

government, we will chuck the Agniveer scheme in the dustbin, we



Stroke linked to extreme temperatures, night-time heat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Extreme temperatures, both hot and cold, are associated with increased risks of death from stroke, with the link being stronger in low-income countries than high-income ones, new research has found.

The study, led by Harvard University, analysed deaths due to stroke reported between 1979 and 2019 across 522 cities in 25 countries. About 34 lakh deaths from ischaemic stroke and 24 lakh deaths due to haemorrhagic stroke were examined, with the data being taken from the Multi-Country Multi-City Network, a global environmental health consortium.

An ischaemic stroke occurs when clotting prevents blood from reaching the brain, while a haemorrhagic stroke happens when a



About 34 lakh deaths from ischaemic stroke and 24 lakh deaths due to haemorrhagic stroke were examined, with the data being taken from the Multi-Country Multi-City Network, a global environmental health consortium.

Elderly people and women are particularly at risk, and it is mainly strokes with mild symptoms that are diagnosed in clinics after hot nights.

 Our results make it clear that adjustments in urban planning and the healthcare system are extremely important to reduce the risks posed by rising night-time temperatures.

deaths, whereas 2.5 per cent of the hottest days were found to contribute to the remaining two The findings are published in

the journal Stroke. The researchers, however, acknowledged that the study was limited in its geographic scope in that rural settings and countries in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East were under-represented. In another study, published in

the European Heart Journal, researchers found that night-time heat significantly raised the risk of stroke. The researchers, including

those from Augsburg University Hospital, Germany, collected data on around 11,000 strokes over 15 years in the region.

Their analysis showed that extreme heat at night increases the risk of stroke by seven per cent.

"Elderly people and women are particularly at risk, and it is mainly strokes with mild symptoms that are diagnosed in clinics after hot nights," said the study's lead author, Cheng He

"Our results make it clear that adjustments in urban planning and the healthcare system are extremely important to reduce the risks posed by rising night-time temperatures," said He. The researchers also showed

that the risk of stroke associated

with high night-time temperatures

increased significantly in the peri-

od 2013-2020, compared to the

period 2006-2012.

"When the INDIA bloc forms the



India's borders, Gandhi said, are secured by the youths of Haryana and the country. "There is patriotism in the DNA of our youth," he said, adding, "Modi has converted Hindustan ke jawan into labourers.'

Sharpening his attack on the BJP government, the Congress leader said, "They say there will be two types of martyrs -- normal jawans and officers who will get a pension, martyr status and facilities and those from poor families who have been named Agniveer. Agniveers will neither get martyr status nor

pension or canteen facility. The Centre in 2022 rolled out the Agnipath recruitment scheme for short-term induction of personnel into the armed forces with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.

DAMAGING EVMs

All videos should be made public, demands YSRCP

YSRCP MLA from Gurazala and MLA candidate Kasu Mahesh Reddy has urged the Election Commission to release all videos of EVM damaging incidents, and demanded stern action against the violators. He said that a fresh petition has been lodged with the Commission to release the video clips of all EVM damaging incidents. He added that they will move the court, if the EC fails to release the videos and take action against TDP

Speaking to media persons on Wednesday, MLA Mahesh Reddy said that only the video clip of Macherla MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy was



released though seven to eight similar incidents took place in Palnadu region. In the Palavai Gate booth incident, the TDP leaders beat up and pulled out YSRCP agents from the polling booth before rigging votes. He explained that Ramakrishna Reddy came to the booth when he came to know about the rigging and the manhandling

MLA Mahesh Reddy said that Ramakrishna Reddy won as MLA from Macherla four times. "He does not need to times. He does not need to practise illegalities. Rigging was registered in Veldurthi, Chintapalli, Vepakampalli, Rompicherla and other places where TD leaders attacked YSRC agents and forcibly sent them out from polling booths?" them out from polling booths," he said.

He further alleged that YSRCP lodged complaints with the EC, but in vain as there was no action. CCTV and web cameras were installed in all polling booths, but only one video clip was released. The MLA demanded that the EC release all video clips regarding the incidents of EVM damage

in seven polling booths. Kasu Mahesh Reddy said that EC suspended and transferred several police officials appointed by itself which shows the failure of EC to conduct fair and free polls. He claimed that TD was involved in the majority of EVM damage incidents, so the EC should release those videos. He added that Ramakrishna went to the High Court seeking police protection in sensitive polling booths and the HC ordered the same. But

goons for rigging.
MLA Mahesh Reddy said that they will not leave the matter and will conduct a thorough probe after YS Jagan Mohan Reddy retains power.

the police did not provide pro-

tection giving chance to TD

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY OBSERVED

Biodiversity conservation key to sustainable development: Principal Secy

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Chiranjeevi Chaudhary, Principal Secretary and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for Andhra Pradesh, underscored the critical role of collective action in achieving sustainable biodiversity conservation and tourism development by 2030. Delivering the keynote address at the National Reynote address at the Industrial Biodiversity Day celebrations on Wednesday, Chaudhary outlined the State's strategic initiatives designed to secure long-term benefits from its

rich biodiversity.

The Andhra Pradesh State
Biodiversity Board (AP
Biodiversity Board) spearheads the State's efforts, focusing on three key objectives: biodiversity preservation, sustainable utilisation of biological resources, and equitable sharing of these resources among



all stakeholders.

The board implements various programmes through local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), aligning with the national framework established by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Chaudhary emphasised the importance of public engagement in conservation efforts. He highlighted the role of annual events like the current two-day programme, themed 'Become a Part of the Plan', in

raising awareness among the public, students, and diverse societal groups. Recognising the threats posed by climate change and other factors, Chaudhary called for a strategic approach to ensure the continued benefits of biodiversity for future generations.

He advocated for the integration of traditional knowledge with modern practices, citing the successful example of the Khani tribe in Kerala.

Food security and sustainable development are achievable through effective biodiversity conservation, Chaudhary stressed. He urged policymakers to consider reforms, particularly in the education sector,

to support these efforts.

Andhra University (AU) Vice-Chancellor PVGD Prasad Reddy announced the establishment of a Biodiversity Park at AU, designed to meet soci-

years. Collaborating with the Botany, Zoology, and Marine Living Departments, AU aims to enhance greening and environmental protection efforts. Reddy highlighted AU's diverse flora, comprising 27,800 plant species, and the university's recognition as one of India's two green universities. He noted AU's unique convention hall, shaped like a turtle, symbolising the impor-tance of Olive Ridley turtles. Guests explored various exhibition stalls set up by dif-

ferent departments, showcasing biodiversity initiatives. Several books and brochures were unveiled, and awards and certificates were presented to individuals for distinguished services. Students from various schools were also recognised for their talents in different

'Dengue cases..'

Continued from Page 1

For dengue, we collected 2,096 samples this year, detecting 179 positive cases, compared to 2,041 samples and 337 positive cases last year in Visakhapatnam district."

Health experts have noted that the recent intermittent rainfall has created perfect conditions for mosquito breeding, resulting in a rapid spread of the virus.

Overflowing drainage systems, stagnant water, and improper waste disposal have worsened the problem. In response to the growing crisis, GVMC officials are on high

The Public Health Department has launched a targeted vector control program to combat mosquito breeding. Teams are conducting door-to-door inspections to identify and eliminate potential breeding sites.

Visakhapatnam CMHO Dr. Naresh Kumar has assured the public that efforts are underway to contain the outbreak. He has urged residents to remain vigilant and seek immediate medical attention if they experience any symptoms associated with dengue fever.

Distribute books and uniforms by school reopening: CS

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary Dr KS Jawahar Reddy has directed the Education Department officials to take necessary steps to ensure that textbooks, note books, uniforms and bags are provided to the students by the time schools reopen on June 12. The CS reviewed the preparations for the academic year 2024-25 with the officials of the Education Department at the secretariat on Wednesday.

On the occasion, he clarified that the necessary textbooks, note books, uniforms, bags, shoes etc. should be provided to the students in a timely manner. The CS ordered the officials to check the number of books, uniforms and bags that have been provided so far and what needs to be provided. The measures taken to implement the midday meal scheme were also reviewed. Besides, CS Iawahar Reddy



schools, mid-day meal accommodation and other issues.

At the meeting, Praveen Prakash, Principal Secretary, Education Department, explained the arrangements for the upcoming academic year through a PowerPoint presentation. He said that adequate measures are being taken to distribute textbooks, note books and uniforms to the students by June 10. He said 82 per cent of the books have already been published reviewed the progress of the works undertaken in the points. In the coming acade-

mic year, bilingual textbooks from 1 to 10 will be provided to the students. As many as 70,42,012 students have been enrolled from classes 1 to 10, and among them, 36,54,539 students have been enrolled in government schools.

Commissioner K Bhaskar explained the infrastructure developments being under-taken under Nadu-Nedu phase-2, spending Rs 7,029 crore. Construction of toilets with running water in various schools, drinking water, electricity, furniture, paintings,

repairs to schools, green chalk boards, construction of additional classes, and construction of compound walls, kitchen sheds, and Aanganwadi centres are being done, he said.

Dr BR Ambedkar, Director of Apadhakam, explained the preparatory arrangements for the implementation of the mid-day meal scheme. APSD Srinivasa Rao, several directors of the Education Department, additional directors and other officials were

Equip students with skills for nation's development: Guv

PNS VIJAYAWADA

S Abdul Nazeer, Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University, presided over the eighth and ninth annual convocation of the university held on the University Campus in Nellore on

Wednesday.
"Our vision of developed India calls for a strategic alignment of higher education courses with the evolving needs of our community and society and it is imperative that our academic programmes equip the students with knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute to our nation's progress and development. In order to remain competitive and relevant in this digital age, higher education institutions must embrace digital transformation of technologies and Artificial Intelligence," said the Governor, delivering the Convocation Address.

The Governor said that the university has been able to conduct interdisciplinary research aimed at addressing

SC judges lament comments about working little

Delivers Convocation Address at Vikrama Simhapuri University



the pressing societal challenges by leveraging the availability of abundant natural resources in the surroundings and it has been able to extend the outcome of its research initiatives to the neighbouring villages, contributing to their overall development and well-being.

The Governor congratulated the graduates, postgraduates, research scholars, and gold medal awardees for their outstanding achievements and urged them to embrace traditional values that emphasise compassion, integrity, and respect. He complimented the university's commitment to society's welfare through its outreach programmes, including Community Development, College-to-Village, Lab to Land, and social awareness initiatives conducted every Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Prof

GM Sundaravalli presented the university's annual report. Dr G Sateesh Reddy, Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri, was the chief guest and he delivered the keynote address. Dr EC Vinay Kumar, Senior Consultant and Coordinator, Dept. of ENT, Apollo Hospitals, was conferred the Honoris Causa. Later, the Governor was presented with a memento by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the

Cordon and search...

Continued from Page 1

He said the police would take suspects into custody for conducting a thorough Inquiry. Vehicles without proper documents will be seized. In the past two days, the police conducted cordon and search operations at 168 sensitive areas and seized as many as 803

19.94 litres of liquor, 107 litres of non-duty paid liquor and 130 mobile phones were seized by the police. As many as 14 people have been

Besides, 185 litres of ID liquor,

arrested.

DGP Gupta appealed to the public to cooperate with the police. Any information can be shared with the local police or dial 112/100, he added.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha May 22 06:48 PM Tithi: Purnima to May 23 07:22 PM Krishna Paksha May 23 07:22 PM Pratipada to May 24 07:25 PM Nakshatram: May 22 07:46 AM to May 23 09:14 AM May 23 09:14 AM Anuradha: to May 24 10:10 AM 1:49 PM to 3:26 PM Rahukalam 5:45 AM to 7:22 AM Yamagandam: 01:24 PM to 03:03 PM Varjyam Gulika: 8:59 AM to 10:36 AM 11:22 PM to 01:02 AM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:38 PM VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Sunny Temp: 39°° Humidity: 57% Sunrise: 5:35 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM

Updated: May 22, 2024 5:00 PM

INDIA bloc parties will undo work done by Modi'

PNS ■ SHRAVASTI(UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the SP and the Congress will undo the work done by him, taking away houses built by the government, closing people's Jan Dhan accounts, cutting off their power connections and removing water

Stating that the "INDI alliance" is a disease worse than cancer, Modi said the "INDI alliance" parties are staunchly communal, casteist and family-centric. These diseases are worse than cancer for the nation, he added

Modi was addressing an election rally in support of BJP candidate from Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh, Saket

"When people ask them what they did in the last 60 years, they take out their ace of cards, which is to divide the society and get vote jihad done," Modi said. Accusing the INDIA bloc

parties of indulging in the politics of appeasement, he said, "The Congress says the first right on the country's property is of Muslims. But Modi says the poor of the country have the first right on the property.'

The Congress wants to snatch your earnings and give them to its vote bank which indulges in vote jihad, he told the people.

"In the last 10 years, Modi gave permanent houses to four crore poor people. Now the SP and the Congress have decided to reverse everything, that is, they will take the keys of four crore houses from you, they will snatch the houses and will give them to their vote bank.

'Apart from this, Modi has opened Jan Dhan accounts of more than 50 crore people. They will close your bank accounts and take away your money. Modi provided electricity to every village, they will cut the electricity connection in your house and make it dark again," he said.

Say they burn midnight oil even during vacations

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday lamented that despite the effort put in by judges, who burn the midnight oil even during vacations, they have to stomach comments about working very little.

A vacation bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma made the remark while hearing a plea of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren challenging his arrest in a money laundering case and seeking interim bail to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Soren, complained about a Jharkhand High Court bench having taken two months to pronounce the verdict on the JMM leader's plea against his arrest.

"Unfortunate part, Mr Sibal,

is that despite the efforts we put very sad and these are all high in as judges, we have to hear that judges work for very few hours," Justice Datta said,

"Judges are not before us. They can't explain what prevented them from pronouncing the verdict. So, benefit (of doubt) has to be given to them,"

have an impact on the citizens. "That you allow cognisance (of ED's prosecution complaint) be taken and my netition gets infructuous. It's a matter of personal lib-

adding judges also have to do their homework.

the apex court said.

Sibal said the delays in per article, Justice Datta passing judgements

court judges," he said. The bench said it can only

hope and trust that courts dispose of cases expeditiously. "This is happening day in and day out in the high courts.

Nobody hears our matter and nobody decides our matter. People go begging in matters of personal liberty. You may say anything but it is a fact," Sibal said. Referring to a newspa-

> said, "During vacation also we are burning the midnight oil. Those who say all these things are part of governance. He said not a

> > within the pre-

single appeal of the Centre or a state lands in the top court

scribed time limit of 60 or 90 days and they all file applications for condonation of the delay. "Let those who castigate the judiciary think of these things. A simple appeal for which 90 days or 60 days period is given, the authorities don't come on time. And they say we work less," Justice Datta said. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, said he was in favour of court

vacations. "In a recent matter, I was justifying the vacation. I said that the court is entitled for vacation because they are virtually working in two shifts," Raju said.

Sibal acknowledged the workload of the judges in India. "This is the country where judges are most overworked. In no other country judges have so much work load. We all know that," he said.

'Stern action...

Continued from Page 1

There have been meetings around five times, but meager amounts are being released by the government. They have been facing difficulty to maintain the hospitals, doctors and staff salaries and other overheads. The government had promised to pay Rs 800 crore, but released only Rs 203 crore. "Every month we (ASHA) incur Rs 250 crore overheads, but the government has been delaying the release of the money time and again telling various excuses," he said.

PK's predictions 'mercenary politics', terms Botsa

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Senior leader of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana made a scathing rebuttal against political strategist Prashant Kishor for his recent predictions regarding the electoral fate of YSRCP in the just-concluded Assembly elections. Known for his direct and assertive demeanor, Satyanarayana did not mince words in his criticism of Kishor, whom he labeled as a "mercenary" in the political arena. The ongoing verbal sparring between Prashant Kishor and

Kishor suggested that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's party was in line for a significant setback in the elections. Despite vehement rebuttals from YSRCP leaders, Kishor stood firm on his prediction, even suggesting he would face

YSRCP escalated when

consequences if proven wrong. In response, Minister Botsa Satyanarayana dismissed Kishor's assertions, questioning his authority to make such predictions and alleging his motivations as purely financial. "Is he Lord Brahma to

make predictions or write the scripts for parties? He is just a mercenary. He takes money to perform election gimmicks for parties, nothing more than that," remarked Satyanarayana, showcasing the party's defiance against external influence on its

electoral strategies. Furthermore, Satyanarayana downplayed the role of Kishor's organisation, Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), in the party's decision-making processes. He clarified that while I-PAC was engaged for coordination purposes, the ultimate decisions were made by the party's high command. "We have engaged the services of I-PAC only for coordination, not for decision making," emphasised Satyanarayana, reinforcing the YSRCP's autonomy in shaping its political course.

Satyanarayana concluded by reaffirming the party's stance on the temporary nature of external consultants like Prashant Kishor and I-PAC, emphasising the enduring significance of YSRCP itself in the political landscape. "Only the party is permanent," he asserted, underscoring YSRCP's confidence in its internal mechanisms and leadership.

Police searching...

Continued from Page 1

The police registered a case and formed seven special teams, which went to Telangana as Ramakrishna Reddy absconded from his constituency after the news broke out. The police started searching for him and also sent a special team to Hyderabad. They have received information that Pinnelli was travelling towards Sangareddy. The local police found his vehicle in Kandi village near Sangareddy town. However, Ramakrishna Reddy was not found. The cops reportedly took his driver into custody. The Palnadu police also sounded alert all over the district fearing retaliatory attacks between political rivals following the possible arrest of the Macherla MLA. Section 144 is also in force and additional forces were summoned to man the sensitive areas of the district.

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BENZ CIRCLE TO AUTO NAGAR STRETCH

Solve drainage issue: DC to NHAI

PNS VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao has directed the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officials to resolve the drainage issue resolve the drainage issue from Benz Circle to Auto Nagar on the way to Vijayawada-Machilipatnam National Highway 65. Due to the lack of a proper drainage system in Vijayawada city from Benz Circle to Auto Nagar rainwater and Nagar, rainwater and stormwater have stagnated in many areas on National Highway No. 65, he said. Collector Dilli Rao con-

vened a meeting with NHAI, Revenue, and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation officials at his chamber on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Rao said that people are even finding it difficult to walk on the road because of stagnant rainwater. Due to the lack of a proper drainage system along the Vijayawada – Machili-pantam NH 65, water has stagnated for 2 km.

It has been an inconvenience to pedestrians as well



NTR District Collector Dilli Rao conducting a meeting with NHAI, VMC and Revenue officials at his chamber on Wednesday

as vehicles, he said. He added that sometimes traffic is stalled for several hours due to stagnant water.

So, Revenue, VMC and NHAI

officials have chalked out a plan to construct a drainage system on both sides of NH and find a permanent solution to the issue. Joint

Collector Dr P Sampath Kumar, VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, NHAI Project Director Narayana Reddy, Vijayawada

RDO Ch Bhavani Shankar, VMC Executive Engineer Chandrasekhar and City Planner Juben Roy were pre-

Vote counting arrangements must be error-free: Collector

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

District Collector Dr A Mallikarjuna has issued a directive to Returning Officers to ensure flawless arrangements for the upcoming election count on June 4th, set to take place at Andhra University Engineering College. During a meeting on Wednesday, Dr Mallikarjuna emphasised the importance of meticulous preparation and vigilance by the returning offi-

Dr. Mallikarjuna underscored the necessity of organising a meeting with all political party candidates to clarify the counting arrangements and dispel any misconceptions. He instructed Returning Officers to provide detailed information on the measures being implemented to ensure transparency and accuracy in the counting process. Key topics discussed included the installation of CC cameras at counting centres, the establishment of barricades, arrangement of counting tables, and issuance of identity cards to political party agents. The Collector mandated that all



preparations be finalised by the

evening of May 31. Further directives covered the setup of public communication rooms, cell phone storage centers, and vehicle parking facilities. The first round of randomisation of staff for counting duties is scheduled for May 25, followed by a second round on June 2. Training sessions for counting staff will be held on May 27. Additionally, Dr. Mallikarjuna provided guidelines on handling postal ballots arriving just before the counting time and managing home voting procedures.

GVMC Commissioner Sai Kant Verma, Joint Collector K Mayur Ashok, GVMC ADC KS Viswanathan, District Revenue Officer K. Mohan Kumar, Revenue Divisional Officers Hussain Saheb and K Bhaskar Reddy, along with other Returning and Assistant Returning Officers attended the meeting.

Hilltop villages in ASR district reel under water scarcity

Tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission remain non-functional

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Twelve Konda Dora families, including women, from Yekkuva Gaddi village in the Rompilly panchayat of Alluri Sitaram Raju district, staged a protest to draw attention to the pressing issue of water scarcity. The villagers, carrying empty water pots on their heads, highlighted their plight despite having three taps installed under the Jal Jeevan Mission. These villages are inhabited by nearly 150 tribal residents who

access to potable water. Despite the sanctioning of tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission, these connections remain non-functional, leaving locals with no choice but to rely on distant open

water sources. Efforts to supply water through a main connection established in the nearby village of Karribonu Veedhi have failed, forcing villagers to travel at least one kilometer to fetch water from open streams. However, with the onset of the summer season, even these streams have dried up, leaving villagers to resort to digging for water. The dire situation has prompted concerns about health risks associated with consuming water from open sources, with villagers expressing the need for immediate intervention from



emphasise the urgency of resolving the issue before the upcoming monsoon season, which could further exacerbate health concerns due to conta-

minated water consumption. Tribal leader K Govind has voiced hopes that the District Collector and Paderu Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officer V Abhishek will take swift action Supply and Sanitation Department Executive Engineer (EE) Puli Leela Krishna, responsible for the Jal Jeevan Mission, for comment were unsuccessful. The plight of these hilltop villages underscores the pressing need for effective implementation of initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure access to clean water, particularly in remote tribal areas where communities continue to face significant challenges in securing

Efforts to reach Rural Water

Janmabhoomi Express delayed due to technical snag

Coaches replaced for smooth journey

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

12805 Visakhapatnam-Lingampalli Janmabhoomi Express experienced a delay on Wednesday after a technical issue was discovered in two of its coaches. The train, which was scheduled to depart from Visakhapatnam at 6.20 AM, left on time. However, due to a faulty electrical connection between the AC coaches M-1 and D-1, the coaches became delinked from the train. Alert railway staff quickly responded by stopping the train and returning Visakhapatnam station to address the problem.



A team from the Waltair Division swiftly executed the coach replacements, allowing the train to resume its journey at 9.30 AM. Despite the incident causing an approximate three-hour delay, the proactive measures taken by the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) and his team helped minimise inconvenience for the passengers.

However, the incident has sparked concerns among pasty issues, particularly regarding what might happen if the air-conditioned bogies malfunction while the train is in motion.

Passengers have voiced their anger and worry, highlighting the need for stringent safety checks.

In response, DRM Prasad reiterated the Indian Railways' commitment to passenger safety and convenience. He emphasised that any technical concerns arisduring travel are addressed with the utmost urgency, ensuring the wellbeing of all travellers.

Artist Moka Vijay Kumar's millet masterpiece

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a unique ceremony, Moka Vijay Kumar unveiled a stunning portrait of Gautama Buddha, meticulously crafted using a variety of millets. The four-foot by three-foot artwork, a culmination of 20 days cased on the auspicious occa-

sion of Buddha Purnima. The unveiling ceremony, held at the AU International Students' Hostel in MVP Colony on Wednesday, drew the presence of Buddhist monks. They were visibly delighted with Kumar's artistic interpretation of the Buddha and actively participated in special prayers held to com-

memorate the holy day. Kumar's dedication and artistic talent were not only evident in the intricate details of the millet masterpiece but also acknowledged during a felicitation ceremony held in his

Portrait of Gautama Buddha, crafted using a variety of millets, was showcased to mark Buddha Purnima



honour. This one-of-a-kind millet portrait of Buddha tranart. It serves as a remarkable fusion of artistic expression and cultural reverence, leaving a lasting impression on the city community and establishing itself as a unique celebration of Buddha Purnima.

The use of millets in the artwork adds an extra layer of sig-

Millets, a group of smallgrained cereals, are not only considered a nutritious food source but also hold symbolic value in some cultures. Their use in this portrait may be interpreted as a tribute to the simple and grounded nature of Buddha's teachings.

NTR Police continue cordon and search operations

1,100 houses searched, 8,000 people checked in two days

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Ahead of the vote counting on June 4, the NTR District Police Commissionerate officials intensified the cordon search operations across the district to catch those with criminal records. As part of the cordon search operations, under the supervision of NTR Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna, police officials conducted searches in 1,100 houses and checked around 8,000 people. Of them, the police took into custody six people out of 72 people.

In the past two days, the police conducted cordon and search operations at DVR Colony in Nandigama, Mvlavara, and Sundarayya Colony at Tiruvuru. After verifying around 220 motor vehicles, the police seized 61 motorbikes and two autos. Also, they conducted search operations in 142 lodges, 61 dormitories and Kalyana Mandapams.

Additionally, the police organised flag march, route march and foot patrolling at 17 places. They



Police officials checking seized motorbikes in NTR district

gave counselling to several suspected persons. Later, they put a bind over cases against 17 people before the Mandal Executive Magistrates. The cops also seized around 35 litres of liquor bottles worth Rs.30,000, and Rs.26,000 worth of crackers and cases were filed against the responsible persons.

Do not involve in anti-law

programmes Speaking on the occasion. Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna warned the people not to keep liquor, crackers and other harmful weapons in their homes. Keeping the

incidents held after concluding the general elections, the police have strict vigil on anti-social elements.

People are advised not to participate in any illegal activities that are against the rules of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on the day of vote counting and after counting, he added.

If anyone gets involved in such activities, stringent action would be taken against them, he warned. The police have imposed Section 30 of the AP Police Act and Section 144 of CrPC across the district, he

Limb salvage surgery performed successfully

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A limb salvage surgery for a 42-year-old female patient, diagnosed with recurrent synovial sarcoma (SS) of the right forearm, was successfully performed at American Oncology Institute (AOI). It's a rare form of cancer that affects the tissue around your joints. It typically appears in your hips, knee, ankle or shoulder.

The patient had previously undergone three surgeries at various hospitals, all of which had recommended hand amputation and considered further surgery impossible. The patient's journey at AOI in Mangalagiri began with two chemotherapy treatments, after which Dr Eshant Inapuri performed the complex surgery. The operation showed that the tumour had spread to the muscles, nerves, and blood vessels in the right forearm. Tumour thrombus in vein and artery is being extended until the 1cm below the bifurcation which has been removed successfully with good margin. Despite these challenges, the surgical team successfully

removed all the affected parts

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while saving important nerves (median nerve and radial nerve) in the forearm. Vascular reconstruction and nerve reconstruction was done.

success of this surgery.

Dr Eshant Inapuri, Surgical Oncologist at AÔI, elaborated on the procedure, "The complexity of this case required meticulous planning and execution. We were able to perform a complete wide excision of the tumor, ensuring it was free from the median nerve and radial nerve. The neurovascular reconstruction involved using the patient's left leg saphenous vein for artery reconstruction and the left leg sural nerve for ulnar nerve reconstruction. The patient's resilience and the team's expertise played crucial roles in the

Light to moderate rain likely to occur in AP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The cyclonic circulation over north Coastal Andhra Pradesh at 0.9 km above mean sea level has become less marked. The trough over the Southwest Bay of Bengal to North Interior

Karnataka across Rayalaseema at 0.9 km above mean sea level has become less

Under its influence, thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds with a speed of 30-40 Kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra South Pradesh, Andhra Coastal Pradesh Rayalaseema during the next five days, a Meteorological weather report said here on

Wednesday. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places in

North Coastal Andhra

Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next seven days. Rain occurred at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and dry weather prevailed during the last 24 hours. The

and

highest maximum temperature of 39 degree Celsius was recorded at Kurnool in Rayalaseema on Tuesday, the

report added. The low pressure area is very

likely to move northeast wards and concentrate into a Depression over central parts of the Bay of Bengal by the morning of May 24. It is likely to move northeastwards, intensify further and reach northeast & adjoining north-

west Bay of Bengal by May 25 evening.

Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into some parts of the South Arabian Sea, some more parts of Maldives, the Comorin area and South Bay of Bengal and some more parts of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Andaman Sea on Wednesday, Meteorological Centre said.It said that the low pressure Area over the Southwest adjoining Westcentral Bay of

Bengal off the north Tamil Nadu-South Andhra Pradesh coasts persists. However, the associated cyclonic circulation now extends upto 7.6 km above mean sea level.



We will establish cordial ties | Counting of postal ballots, ETPBs with new AP govt: TG CM

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has made it clear that the Telangana State will establish cordial relations with the new government of

The Telangana Chief Minister worshipped Lord Venkateswara at hill shrine Tirumala along with his family members on Wednesday. The Chief Minister, accompanied by his wife, daughter, son-in-law and grandson, fulfilled their vow at the hill shrine by performing the tonsure ceremony of Revanth

Reddy's grandson. Revanth Reddy and his family members were accorded a warm welcome by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy and others. After worshipping Lord Venkateswara, the Chief Minister's family was blessed by priests and the EO gave him Prasadam. This is the first visit to the hill shrine to Revanth Reddy after becoming



Telangana State.

After worshipping the god, the Chief Minister addressed the media outside the temple. He said that the Telangana state would establish cordial relations with the new government of AP. "The Telangana state wants to construct a guest house and Kalyana Mandapam in Tirumala for the convenience of pilgrims from Telangana state," he stated. "I will meet the new Chief Minister of AP

after the results are declared and the government is formed. I will discuss the pending issues with the new CM and find a solution to resolve the issues," Revanth Reddy asserted.

He said that he invoked the god to bless the two Telugu states to flourish with progress. Stating that the farmers in Telangana state are happy with the Congress regime, he added that the timely rains resolved the

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water scarcity problem. Later, the Telangana Chief Minister left for Hyderabad for Renigunta airport in a special

should be done without mistakes: DC

PNS BHIMAVARAM

District Collector and district Election Officer Sumit Kumar directed the election officials to make all needed arrangements to count the postal ballots and Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballots (ETPB) without any mistakes.

A training camp was conducted to the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers of various constituencies here on Wednesday. The Collector gave a PowerPoint presentation in the training camp explaining the process of counting of votes.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Sumit Kumar said that counting of postal ballots is very important and they should complete the postal ballots counting of votes in a way that there is no room for

Stating that 51 AROs have been assigned for counting duties in respect of seven Assembly constituencies, he said that 9 AROs would be assigned to the Parliament

constituency and 42 AROs would participate in the duties of seven Assembly constituencies. The Collector said that the counting of votes would start at 8 am on June 4, adding that counting of postal ballot votes will be done before the counting of votes in EVMs

Stating that four staff members will be appointed for each table, including one counting supervisor, two

counting assistants and one micro observer, the Collector informed that after doing the randomization process in three stages, the staff would be allocated cable wise. "If the declaration is not valid, the postal counting should be completed. ballot will be invalid. Moreover, missing of voter's signature and gazetted officer's

ered the ballot as invalid," the Collector explained. Collector Sumit Kumar clar-

signature will also be consid-

ified that the final decision on vote valid and invalid rests with the returning officer, directing them that scanning of ETPBs of service voters should be done properly and

DRO J Uday Bhaskar Rao, AP Tourism JD and Achanta Returning Officer V Swamy and a host of RDOs and other officials were among those who attended the training

elections: Chinta Mohan

Congress party senior leader and former Union Minister Chinta Mohan alleged that the YSRCP had spent over Rs 5000 crore rupees in AP to win

Talking to the media here on Wednesday, he flayed that the YSRCP had spent thousands of crores of rupees to buy votes but the voters voted for the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance. He predicted that 99% of postal voters voted for the alliance.

"Jagan Mohan Reddy is ruining democracy without candidate has spent over Rs 80 his undemocratic acts. The Srikalahasti YSRCP Assembly



crore to buy votes. The Gudur constituency candidate had spent over Rs 45 crore. In the seven Assembly segments of Tirupati district, each vote was purchased at Rs 4000," Chint Mohan lashed out.

The former Union Minister regretted that the Election Commission of India has failed in conducting the elections in a fair and unbiased manner in AP. He appealed to the election officials to be careful and vigilant as there is scope for committing mischievous acts by the YSRCP leaders with the EVMs during the counting. Chinta Mohan exuded confidence that INDIA bloc would come to power at the Centre

YSRCP spent Rs 5,000 cr. to win IGP inspects security at EVM strongrooms

Eluru range Inspector General of Police GVG Ashok Kumar inspected the EVM strong rooms, located on the campus of CV Reddy Engineering

College on Wednesday.

The IGP, accompanied by Superintendent of police D Mary Prashanthi, inspected the strong rooms and the security provided to them. The IGP directed the SP to enforce Section 144 and Police Act 30 at the surrounding areas of strong rooms strictly

The IGP said that 24X7 security has been provided to the EVM strong rooms with Central security forces. The EVM strong rooms were constantly being monitored through the CCTVs at the



The IGP said that 24X7 security has been provided to the EVM strong rooms with Central security forces. The EVM strong rooms were constantly being monitored through the ČCTVs at the control room.

control room

IGP Ashok Kumar made some suggestions to the election officials and security personnel. He told the security personnel to be on high alert till the end of counting of votes. He also instructed the police officials to conduct surprise inspections to the EVM

Man attacks woman passenger with beer bottle, arrested



PNS KAKINADA

A man attacked a woman passenger in the Lokmanya Tilak express in the railway station and inflicted her injuries with a beer bottle here on Wednesday.

Police said that a woman passenger boarded the Lokmanya Tilak express train. A person, identified as Satya Barman, attacked the woman in the compartment with a beer bottle and inflicted her

However, the other passengers overpowered him, severely thrashed and handed him over to the police. On receiving information, DSP along with his staff rushed to the railway station and arrested the attacker.

The woman was shifted to the GGH for treatment. The accused was said to be inebriated with ganja. The woman passengers are said to be out

Fake scrap businessman cheats people of Rs.20 cr

A scrap businessman has cheated people of around Rs.20 crore at Wynchipet in Vijayawada. He collected lakhs of rupees for his invest-ment to hold his scrap business and is now absconding.

Mohammed Faheem, a resident of Nulakapeta near Tadepalli in Guntur district, created fake documents in the name of the trade licence of Faheem Traders with the aim of collecting money. He has been absconding since February

The victims have been trying to find his whereabouts for the past three months. Finally, they found the address and went to his home in Nulakapeta on May 15. However, the family members said that he had not come home for the past 10 days. As the news is spreading, more and more people are claiming that they had given money to Faheem as investment for the

scrap business. Meanwhile, the victims in Wynchipet went to the NTR Police Commissionerate on Wednesday to lodge a complaint against Faheem with Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna. As he was not available, they went to the Police Commissioner's Office and handed over a complaint to his CC. As advised by the

. Vijayawada West Zone ACP.

The victims also complained



Victims of Mohammed Abdul Faheem are showing a fake tender awarded a letter in front of the NTR District Police Commissioner's office in Vijayawada on

at the Kothapet Police Station. According to the victims, Faheem migrated to Nulakapet in Guntur district three years ago. He convinced his relatives and friends that he had been doing scrap business with his uncle Iqbal. Faheem told them that he was short of investment. He said he would return the money after buying and selling scrap, they said.

Faheem successfully convinced them that he would get profits in the scrap business and that he would pay their amounts plus a share of the profit. "Believing his words, I gave money to Faheem in 2020. He repaid Rs. 4 lakh in two instalments and said that was profit," said Mohammed Akbar Imran, a resident of Wynchipet. Since then he has given Rs.80 lakh to Faheem. police officials, they met the Meanwhile, Faheem told

the victims that his company

got a tender of Rs. 7 crore and

again he was short of investment. Akbar Imran borrowed money and sent Rs.28.90 lakh to Faheem's bank account in three instalments. Since then, Faheem has been keeping mum about the tender, which made him suspicious, he

Ibran asked for his money and Faheem sent a fake letter to him via WhatsApp. The letter said that a scrap tender worth Rs.7 crore was awarded to Faheem Traders and enclosed a DD draft, the victims said. However, his whereabouts was not known and it caused tension among

the victims. Learning about the cheating, more victims namely Sk Ibrahim Khaleel, Shaik Irshad, Abdul Hameed Pasha, Sk Khaja, Shafi Ullah and others went to the police station to complain against Faheem. The police have started an

TELANGANA FORMATION DAY

State BJP opposes invitation to Sonia Gandhi for fete

Saffron party's State unit president G Kishan Reddy criticises State government for going back on its promises

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP State unit is opposed to the Telangana Congress government's decision to invite All India Congress Committee former president Sonia Gandhi on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day celebrations

BJP State unit president G Kishan Reddy, at a media conference on Wednesday, asked the State government to explain on what basis the government decided to invite Sonia Gandhi on the occasion of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations.

He ridiculed the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who described Sonia Gandhi as 'Goddess of Sacrifices.' He asked the the Chief Minister to tell how Sonia Gandhi became the 'Goddess of Sacrifice'.

The BJP leader said that sacrifices of Telangana martyrs led to the formation of Telangana State and it was not granted by Sonia Gandhi. Sonia Gandhi is responsible for 1,500 suicides that took place during the Telangana movement. She has not made Telangana but people snatched it by thrashing and ĥolding protests. Sonia Gandhi has nothing to do with the formation of Telangana. Under which protocol Sonia Gandhi will be invited to the government function? If they want to



BJP State unit president G Kishan Reddy speaking at a media conference on Wednesday

invite her, do it in the party's office and felicitate her for the killing of 1,500 people.

It may be recalled that the State Cabinet took a decision to invite Sonia Gandhi as the chief guest for the Telangana State Formation Day celebra-

tions to be held on June 2. The Congress government in Telangana has deceived the farmers by not honouring its promise of farm loan waiver made before the Assembly

polls, he said. Kishan Reddy, who is also union minister for tourism, said the grand old party before coming to power also promised to give Rs 15,000 annually to tenant farmers and a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for paddy

"Within 100 days after forming the government in Telangana, the Congress had promised to implement loan waiver for farmers. They promised to waive up to Rs 2 lakh loan of each farmer. The Congress dispensation is not taking any steps towards fulfilling it," he said.

The Congress leaders made the announcement on December 9, birthday of AICC former president Sonia Gandhi, but failed to imple-

ment it, he alleged.

He further said Prime
Minister Narendra Modi has issued instructions to the departments concerned to procure even parboiled rice from Telangana irrespective of quantities. Noting that the Centre was ready to procure either paddy or rice in any quantity, he said, and the state government should not create problems. The BJP also accused the state government of 'failing' to supply an agreed quantity of rice for 2023-24 kharif season and said there is still pending 2.2 million tons of the commodity to be supplied to the

According to him, the Central government had agreed to procure 7.5 million tonnes of paddy for the rabi season while only 3.3 million tons was delivered to the cen-

1 killed, 10 injured as bus collides with lorry



PNS NELLORE

One person was killed and 10 were injured when a private travel bus overturned after colliding with a lorry at Sunnapubatti centre in Dagadarthi mandal on Wednesday. Police said that the sleeper

coach private travel bus was going to Chennai from Vijayawada. As the driver lost control over the bus due to drowsiness, the bus mounted the road divider and collided with a lorry on the other lane. The lorry was going to

After hitting the lorry, the bus overturned. The front portion of the bus was badly damaged in the mishap. The bus driver Sreenivas was killed instantaneously in the accident while 10 passers travelling in the bus suffered various degrees of injuries.

The injured bus passengers were shifted to the GGH in Nellore in ambulances. The condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. Following the accident, vehicular traffic on the busy Chennai-Kolkata highway disrupted resulting in hundreds of vehicles stranded either side of the road.

Boxer Nikhat Zareen feted for winning gold in Elorda Cup



PNS HYDERABAD

GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose felicitated boxer Nikhat Zareen, who won a gold medal in the 52 kg weight category at the Elorda Cup competitions held in Kazakhstan. She was honoured during a courtesy call on Wednesday.

During the meeting in his chamber, Commissioner Ronald Rose

presented her with a shawl and congratulated Nikhat Zareen and expressed hope for the future of boxing in Hyderabad. He emphasised the importance of Hyderabad excelling in boxing to enhance the

our to the country. Ronald Rose said, "The government is actively supporting athletes and the GHMC is working towards

city's reputation and bringing hon-

developing the sports sector." He also mentioned that a special summer coaching programme has been launched to enhance sports skills among boys and girls.

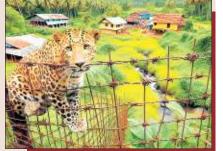
Former Director of GHMC Sports Dr SR Prem Raj, former treasurer K Maheshwar, president of Telangana Boxing Association Baburao Sagar and others participated in the pro-

Trapped leopard dies hours after being tranquilised in Kerala village

leopard found trapped in a barbed wire fence in a village on the forest fringe died hours After it was tranquilised and rescued by wildlife officials in Kerala's Palakkad district on Wednesday. The female leopard, estimated to be around four years old, was found tangled in the wire fence erected on a property owned by Unnikrishnan, a local resident, near Kollengode this morning. Wildlife officials said the animal seemed healthy and active even after

it was tranquilised with a dart and shifted to a cage by the Rapid Response Team (RRT) of the department. A senior forest official said there was no external injury found on the carcass of the big cat after its death, and so an internal injury is suspected to be the cause of its sudden death. However, that can only be confirmed only after an autopsy, which would be performed on Thursday morning, he said, "The animal looked healthy...Even after darting, it was active

and growled several times



Strengthen social harmony: President Murmu's message on Buddha Purnima

Purnima and asked all to strengthen social harmony and take pledge for nationbuilding by imbibing the ideals of Lord Buddha. The embodiment of compassion, Lord Buddha, has given the message of truth, non-violence, harmony and love for humanity and all living beings, she said. "Lord Buddha had said, 'Appa Deepo Bhava' i.e

be a light unto yourself. His teachings of tolerance, selfawareness and good conduct inspire us to serve humanity. His Eightfold Path paves the way for leading a meaningful life," President Murmu said. "Let us strengthen social harmony and take pledge for nation-building by imbibing the ideals of Bhagwan Buddha in our lives." the president said in a statement issued by the Rashtrapati



Using seat belts in cars, helmets on bikes made mandatory in Tripura

he Sikkim government made it mandatory for the drivers of vehicles to use seat belts and motorbike riders to wear helmets in the state with effect from June 1, according to an official order issued on Wednesday. The order was issued to mitigate the number of accidents and to safeguard the well-being of all road users, Transport Commissioner-cum-Secretary Raj Yadav said. Non-compliance with the rule

will invite penal action, he said. Whoever drives a motor vehicle without wearing a safety belt or carries passengers not wearing seat belts shall be punishable under Section 194 B (1) of the Central Motor Vehicle Act 1988, the Transport Commissioner-cum-Secretary Raj Yadav said in an order issued on Wednesday. The wearing of seat belts shall be applicable for light motor vehicles (LMV) transport vehicles (Taxis & Commercial) and non-transport vehicles (private and

government), he said



National security of paramount importance, asserts SC

Sets aside HC order granting bail to suspected PFI men

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a verdict of the Madras High Court which had granted bail to eight alleged PFI members and office bearers, saying national security is always of "paramount importance" and any act aiding terrorist activity is liable to be restricted.

The apex court said it was satisfied with the charge sheet filed in the case and material and documents relied upon by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations against them were "prima facie true".

The top court delivered its verdict on NIA's appeal against the high court's October 19 last year verdict granting bail to these eight accused, who are alleged to be members of the Popular Front of India (PFI), in a case registered under the provisions of the Unlawful



Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal said it was conscious of the legal position that it should be slow in interfering with the order when bail has been granted by the high court. However it is equally well settled that if such order of granting bail is found to be illegal and perverse, it must be set aside, it said.

"This court has often inter-

preted the counter terrorism enactments to strike a balance between the civil liberties of the accused, human rights of the victims and compelling interest of the state," the bench said.

"It cannot be denied that national security is always of paramount importance and any act in aid to any terrorist act - violent or non-violent is liable to be restricted," it said.
The bench said the UAPA

was one of those Acts that have been enacted to provide for effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, and to deal with terrorist activities, as also to impose reasonable restrictions on the civil liberties of persons in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of

It said there was sufficient material in the form of statements of witnesses and other incriminating evidence in the form of digital devices, books, photographs etc collected during the investigation and relied upon by the NIA to form an opinion that there were reasonable grounds for believing that accusations against the accused were prima facie true.

"Considering the nature and gravity of the alleged offences and considering their criminal antecedents, in our opinion high court should not have taken a lenient view, more particularly when there was sufficient material to show their prima facie involvement in the alleged offences under the UAPA," the bench said.

"In the instant case, we are satisfied from the charge sheet as also the other material/documents relied upon by the appellant (NIA) that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations against the respondents are prima facie true and that the mandate contained in the proviso to section 43(D)(5) would be applicable for not releasing the respondents on bail," it said.

Kanhaiya assault case: Court grants bail to accused

PNS NEW DELHI

A court here has granted bail to the 41-year-old man arrested for allegedly assaulting and splashing Congress Lok Sabha candidate Kanhaiya Kumar with ink, saying it has to balance the state's interest of maintaining public order with the accused's right to

personal liberty.
On May 17, when Kumar, the Congress candidate for the Congress candidate for the North East Delhi seat, was coming out of ally Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) office in New Usmanpur after a meet-ing with local Councillor Chhaya Sharma, a group of people attacked him. The Delhi Police arrested one of Delhi Police arrested one of the accused, Ajay Kumar, on

Tuesday morning. Metropolitan Magistrate Arushi Parwal heard the city police's application seeking Ajay Kumar's judicial custody for 14 days on Tuesday. The investigating officer (IO) said it was necessary to prevent him from committing similar

Stop campaign on communal lines: EC to Nadda, Kharge

PNS NEW DELHI

The Election Commission Wednesday came down heavily on ruling BJP and opposition Congress, asking them to desist from campaigning along caste, community, language, and religious lines.

Noting that the country's socio-cultural milieu cannot be made a casualty to elections, it told BJP president J P Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge that utterances of star campaigners fol-low patterns and create narratives which can be damaging beyond the model code peri-

Referring to their respective replies to the notices issued to them on April 25, the election authority said that "technical loopholes or extreme interpretations of other political party's utterances" cannot discharge the parties and their campaigners from the core responsibility of their own content which ought to be corrective to the ongoing discourse "and not further plummeting the quality of campaign discourse".



of provisions of the model code which state that no party or candidate will include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or lin-

Nadda was issued the notice on opposition charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan's Banswara.

In his reply to the notice, Nadda had maintained that the statements of BJP's star camCongress to the nation.

He had also told the EC that the Congress and the INDIA bloc, in pursuance of votebank politics, have begun opposing India as a nation, its identity, its original Hindu religion.

The poll watchdog rejected Nadda's defence describing it as "not-tenable" and asked him and his party's star campaigners to desist from campaigning on religious and com-

It also asked the BJP to stop campaign speeches that may

INDIA bloc doesn't have any leader who can become PM: Shah

PNS ■ GHATAL/PURULIA

Shah on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the "corrupt INDI alliance," stating that the opposition bloc lacks any leader capable of becoming prime minis-

Addressing back-to-back rallies at Ghatal and Purulia, Amit Shah criticised the INDIA bloc leaders, stating they only aim to advance their dynasties and neither have any leaders to lead

the country nor any intention for the development of the

Shah, while referring to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir said "PoK is part of India and we will take it".

"It is a foregone conclusion that the BJP will form the next government. But who is the Prime Ministerial candidate of this INDI alliance? The alliance doesn't have any leaders. It wants five PMs in five years. They want a rotational PM system," he said.

"But can these rotational PMs give a befitting reply to Pakistan and end terrorism? During Congress' rule, we were a regular affair. We have also seen how Narendra Modi

has ended terrorism in Kashmir," he said. Dubbing the opposition

> 'Ghamandiya Gathbandhan (arrogant alliance)", Shah said, "the bloc is only interested in promoting their own family members."

> > The leader said the ongoing parliamentary elec-

tions are about choosing between "leaders of dynastic politics and honest leader Narendra Modi" who considers the country as his family.

"Sharad Pawar wants his daughter to be the chief minister. Mamata Baneriee wants her nephew to succeed her as chief minister. Stalin (Tamil Nadu CM) wants to see his son succeed him. Sonia Gandhi wants Rahul Baba to become the Prime Minister. On the other side, there is Narendra Modi who considers the entire country as his fam-

Kejriwal for fair probe into Maliwal assault case

PNS NEW DELHI

MP Swati Maliwal's alleged assault at his official residence, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said he expects a fair investigation into the matter and justice should be

Maliwal has alleged she was "assaulted" by Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar when she went to meet the chief minister on May 13. The police have registered a case and arrested Kumar in connection with it.

In an interview, the chief minister said the matter is currently "sub-judice" and his comment might affect the proceedings.

"But I expect there will be a fair investigation. Justice should be served. There are two versions of the event. Police should investigate both versions fairly and justice should be done," Kejriwal said. Asked whether he was present at his official residence at the time of the incident, the AAP national convener said he was there. "But I was not present at the scene," he said.

His aide Kumar is currently in five-day police custody in connection with the case.

BJP-led central govt hell-bent on changing Constitution: Priyanka **PNS** ■ GODDA (JHARKHAND)

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday alleged that the BJP-led central government was hell-bent on changing the Constitution, and it has weakened institutions like Parliament and judiciary in

Vadra, addressing an election rally at Godda, also claimed that all those who opposed the Centre's policies were being victimised.

"If they (the BJP) come to power again, they will change the Constitution and cut down on reservations. They weakened democracy in last 10 years, as well as institutions like Parliament and judiciary," she alleged.

Unlike the BJP government, the Congress' policies are aimed at strengthening the rights of tribals, Vadra said.

"PM (Narendra) Modi put former Iharkhand CM H Soren behind bars on false cases; and his wife Kalpana is fighting like a lioness... Earlier, debates were held in Parliament for framing laws, but now they (BJP leaders) attack the opposition," the

Congress leader said. She also claimed that the



prime minister took "Rs 52crore donation" from a firm that manufactures Covid vac-

"That vaccine is now causing reactions in people's bodies;

many have suddenly lost their lives at the gym or at work," she

Vadra said the BJP thought of sailing through smoothly by putting Hemant Soren behind bars, but instead, "the tribals have emerged stronger and are challenging the saffron

"The BJP-led central government is framing policies for billionaires, and it has sold the nation's assets like airports and ports to industrialists. It also waived Rs 16 lakh crore of several billionaires, but failed to provide any relief to farmers, who are committing suicides,"

she claimed.

Vadra alleged that capitalists are "eying your 'Jal, Jungle and Jameen' (water, forest and land)", and Godda is an example of that, where the Adani Group has set up a mega power plant, but "electricity is not available for the poor here".

"Your land yo been given to PM's billionaire friend Adani... this is BJP's policy," the Congress leader alleged.

She also claimed that 70 crore youths in the country were unemployed as the BJP handed over the country's assets to capitalists.

HC scraps OBC status of several classes in Bengal

Benefits obtained already not to be affected

PNS KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday struck down the OBC status of several classes in West Bengal granted since 2010, finding such reservations to vacancies in services and posts in the state are illegal.

Passing judgment on petitions challenging the provisions of the Act, the court clarified that the services of citizens of the struck-down classes, who are already in service or have availed the benefit of reservation

or have succeeded in any selection process of the state will not be affected by the order. The number of enlisted persons under OBC in West Bengal after 2010 is likely to be above five lakhs, one of the lawyers representing the petitioners said.

The court struck down several classes for reservation as Other Backward Classes (OBC) given under The West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012.

The bench directed that the state's executive orders classifying several other classes as OBCs from March 5, 2010, to May 11, 2012, were also quashed, in view of the illegality of the reports recommend-ing such classification.

The court said that the directions will be given prospective effect.A clause in the 2012 Act allowing inclusion of classes for OBC reservation by the state government through notification in the official gazette was also struck down.

Country will see new film to be released on June 4: Akhilesh Yadav

PNS AZAMGARH (UP)

A new film will be released on June 4 which the country will see with greater enthusiasm, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday, exuding confidence about the victory of the opposition alliance in the ongoing parliamentary polls.

Yadav alleged that Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has joined hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Lok Sabha elections.

The BSP is helping the saffron party by splitting the opposition SP

votes, he added. "The INDIA alliance is surging ahead with the passing of every round of voting. A new film will be released on June 4 which the country will see with enthusiasm," Yadav said, addressing a rally in favour of

Yadav. Counting of votes will take

SP nominee Dharmendra

place on June 4. "Five phases of voting so far indicate that the BJP is on its way out from the government. The sixth phase of voting will remove the saffron party (from power)," the SP

Five phases of voting have been completed in Uttar Pradesh while the sixth is scheduled on May 25. Dharmendra Yadav is pitted against Bhojpuri film star Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' of the BJP in Azamgarh.

Nirahua had defeated Dharmendra Yadav two years ago in the bypoll which was necessi-

tated after Akhilesh Yadav vacated the seat following his victory in the assembly polls from

The SP supremo talked about scrapping the

Agniveer scheme of recruitment in the armed forces. He asserted that the job in the state police will be restricted for three years.

He said the SP will go for a caste census in UP after coming to power at the national level. Akhilesh Yadav said since the days of Mulayam Singh Yaday, the party always took special care for the development of Azamgarh.

The SP chief asked the

crowd to give a better victory margin in Azamgarh than Kannauj, from where Akhilesh Yadav himself is a candidate in the ongoing polls.

Risk of hospitalisation more in people having sugar, BP PNS NEW DELHI

On the hottest days, risk of hospitalisation for people with metabolic disorders such as those of sugar and blood pressure, and obesity, almost doubled as compared to days recording comfortable temperatures, a new study has

found. The research analysing hospital admissions related to high temperatures during summer over more than a decade in Spain found that extreme heat impacted people with these conditions the most.

There are a number of reasons to explain this. For example, in people with obesity, heat

ciently, as body fat acts as an insulator, making them more susceptible to heat disorders,' said Hicham Achebak, a researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health.

Higher levels of air pollution further appeared to worsen the risk of hospital admission for people with these conditions, including diabetes, the researchers said

The study also found that on hotter days, men showed a higher risk of hospital admission due to injuries, while women showed a higher risk of hospitalisation from infectious, hormonal and metabolic, respiratory or urinary diseases.



"Under conditions of heat stress, the body activates cutaneous vasodilation (more blood flows to skin) and sweat production in order to lose

The subsequent reactions can affect people differently

depending on a series of factors, such as age, sex or preexisting health conditions," explained Achebak, corresponding author of the study published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives

women have a higher temperature threshold above which sweating mechanisms are activated and are more susceptible to the effects of heat," he said.

The researchers analysed data of more than 11.2 million emergency hospital admissions between 2006 and 2019 from 48 provinces in mainland Spain and the Balearic Islands, an archipelago off eastern Spain in the Mediterranean.

Using statistical methods of analysis, the team estimated how temperatures affected the different causes of hospitalisation for summer (June to September) and by province. They also considered daily

ative humidity, along with air pollutant levels, including those of PM2.5. High temperatures were

found to have "a generalised

impact on cause-specific hospitalisations.' Children under a year and adults older than 85 years were the most vulnerable, even as heat heightened the risk of hospitalisation across all age

groups, the researchers said. "The underlying mechanisms by which heat triggers adverse health outcomes remain unclear, but they seem to be related to how our body regulates its own temperature, said Achebak

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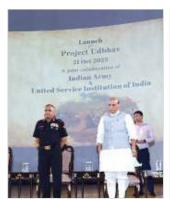
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Warcraft for all

Project Udbhav celebrates India's rich heritage in military statecraft and makes it citizen-inclusive

he adage, "If you want peace, be prepared for war," reflects a longstanding philosophy in India. Historically, India has maintained peace while staying strong, refraining from warmongering unless provoked. This approach stems from ancient Indian wisdom, emphasising the importance of advancement in warfare to deter any potential threats. India's rich and ancient heritage in military statecraft, rooted in the Vedas, Puranas and the Mahabharata, forms a significant yet often overlooked aspect of its cultural legacy. The Army's Project Udbhav aims to bring this historical wealth into the public eye, engaging citizens in the defence domain and fostering a deeper understanding of India's strategic and military traditions. The Vedas, among the oldest sacred texts, provide early references to warfare, strategy and the ethical dimensions of combat. The Puranas, a genre of ancient Indian literature, elaborated on the principles of statecraft and warfare. Texts like the Vishnu Purana and Agni Purana offer insights into military



organisation, the roles and responsibilities of warriors and the strategic use of resources. The Mahabharata, one of the greatest epics in world literature, is a treasure trove of military wisdom. The epic not only narrates the Kurukshetra war but also delves into detailed discussions on strategy, the art of war and the moral dilemmas faced by warriors.

Other ancient Indian texts offer timeless wisdom adaptable to modern defence strategies, such as intelligence, psychological warfare and ethical conduct. Launched last year, Project Udbhav delves deep into these ancient texts and aims to promote indigenous discourse in the Army by integrating India's ancient strategic acumen

into contemporary military domain, ensuring that the force remains future-ready. It is also an endeavour to involve our citizens and educate them about warfare for any eventuality. Involving citizens in understanding warfare and being prepared is crucial for several reasons. It fosters national pride and identity by highlighting India's intellectual and strategic achievements, countering one-dimensional portrayals of its history. Under Project Udbhav, workshops, seminars and online courses will educate citizens about ancient Indian military texts and their modern relevance. Collaborations with universities and research institutions will ensure academic rigour and accessibility. Additionally, a series of books, documentaries and articles will highlight various aspects of Indian military statecraft, including translations and commentaries on key texts for a broader audience. Project Udbhav is laudable as it represents an endeavour to weave a strategic vocabulary and conceptual framework deeply embedded in India's philosophical and cultural heritage. This initiative underscores the importance of understanding and valuing the rich military heritage that has shaped India's strategic culture, offering invaluable lessons for contemporary and future defence strategies. It is indeed a praiseworthy effort to revive ancient wisdom lest it is lost.



Epic election battle enters decisive phase sidhal



The ultimate battleground is UP, where Yogi Adityanath's unwavering leadership is crucial in the BJP's fight to maintain its stronghold

nother 10 days to go and the two-monthelection process would be over. These elections would be remembered for the spearhead of the ruling party, Narendra Modi and of the opposition, Rahul Gandhi battling the heat and dust of the famed Indian summer to spur their cadres to give the best per-

In the national media, what's being discussed is the punishing schedule of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda trying to match him with almost equal vigour. From the opposition side, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has ensured to create the perspective that the campaign just did not rest on the shoulders of the Gandhi family.

In any war, there always is a clinching battle that decides who won and who lost. In World War II, the Battle for Berlin proved to be the most crucial. It's the image of the Soviet soldiers putting the flag of the USSR on the Reichstag in Berlin in May 1945 which marked the defeat of Germany under Adolf Hitler.

Similarly, the general elections of 2024 will always be remembered and will be decided on who wins the battle of Uttar Pradesh. With 80 seats, Uttar Pradesh is the citadel of the BJP monolith, which has a dominant presence in the Hindi heartland States of Bihar, UP, Madhya Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Unlike MP, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Haryana, in Uttar Pradesh the BJP is not in a direct contest with the Congress but a strong regional outfit — Samajwadi Party. UP also cannot be compared to Bihar, where it's fighting another strong regional party - the Rashtriya Janata Dal but in the strong regional outfit — the Janata Dal (United).

Thus in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is completely on its own with nowhere else to look forward to but its cadres and leaders. Here the role of Uttar Pradesh chief

minister Yogi Adityanath becomes crucial. The Mahanth of the Goraknath Math has been in campaign mode ever since he retained power with a thumping majority in 2022.

He first delivered the Ram temple at Ayodhya. The consecration of the idol at Ramlalla temple in January this year has been the biggest-ever achievement of the right-wing schema in the country. This would not have been possible but for the determined, firm and passionate execution of the construction plan by the Uttar Pradesh Government of not just the temple complex but the whole of the city of Ayodhya.

The second has been to galvanise the cadres and keep them functioning for a full two months to ensure that the rivals are stopped and checked in their determined assault. He started the polls campaign with the Prabudh Jan Sammelan on March 27 and would continue it till May-end the last phase of polling. Prime Minister Modi's cam-

paign has been faulted several times and has also caused concern among his supporters for allowing the achieve-

ments of the past ten years to be pushed to the background in pursuing a very polarising agenda. The campaign has not aligned with Modi's espousal of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" (Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth, Everyone's Trust) slogan, which encapsulates an inclusive approach aimed at fostering economic growth and social cohesion.

Prime Minister's initiatives, such as Make in India, Digital India and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), which underscore his commitment to modernising India's economy and infrastructure, have seldom found space in his speeches. This has somewhere allowed the opposition to attack the Government. On the other hand, Yogi Adityanath, who in the past seven years has combined his vision with a strong emphasis on law and order and cultural nationalship in Uttar Pradesh is characterised by a drive to restore cultural heritage and end minority appeasement, as grand celebration of Diwali in Ayodhya and the renam-

ing of places to reflect their historical Hindu significance.

The lynchpin of his governance has been the emphasis on strict law enforcement, aiming to improve safety and reduce crime, which resonates even with many of his non-Hindu constituents. His determined perusal of anti-crime drives has found a fan following that goes beyond the traditional Hindutva admirers. Coming back to the battle of Uttar Pradesh, it would take the collective strength of the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to make the BJP bandwagon have a safe journey to the national Capital. Modi and Yogi are both distinct personalities and both have significantly impacted Indian politics and governance, albeit in different ways. On June 4, in the event of the BJP unfurlism (Hindutva), has contining its flag, the contributions ued to keep his campaign on of the Uttar Pradesh chief minister would as much be accounted for as that of the

Prime Minister. (The writer is the author and president of The Centre seen in initiatives like the for Reforms, Development & *Justice*; *views* expressed are personal)



YOGI ADITYANATH, WHO IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS HAS **COMBINED HIS** VISION WITH A STRONG EMPHASIS ON LAW AND ORDER AND CULTURAL NATIONALISM (HINDUTVA), HAS CONTINUED TO KEEP HIS CAMPAIGN ON THE SAME TRACK

E EDITO

Leadership vacuum in Iran

AMOEBA KILLS

Madam — Strange are the ways of meeting death for a young soul. A five-yearold girl has died of brain-eating amoeba after taking a bath in a pond in Malappuram district of Kerala. She was undergoing treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College of Institute of Maternal and Child Health. She had taken a dip in the pond on May 1 and started showing symptoms of fever, headache and vomiting on May 10. The girl, afflicted by amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare brain infection caused by a free-living amoeba found in contaminated waters, Still waters are dan-

gerous. Don't let go. This is not the first case reported. Amebiasis is an intestinal (bowel) illness caused by a microscopic (tiny) parasite called Entamoeba histolytica, which is spread through human feces (poop). Often there are no symptoms, but sometimes it causes diarrhoea (loose stool/poop), nausea (a feeling of sickness in the stomach) and weight loss. The main symptoms of the disease are fever, headache, vomiting and seizures. All to the disease so far, as the mortality rate for this rare brain infection is 100 per-

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

DRONES IN AGRICULTURE Madam — Apropos the article, "Promise and challenges of drones in agriculture", published on May 20, this is my response. Drones, or Unmanned Aerial Veĥicles (UAVs) are becoming increasingly popular in India's agricultural sector. Drones offer a range of benefits to farmers, like improved efficiency and enhanced crop yields. However, some challenges may hinder the adoption of drone technology such as fear of job loss, lack of knowledge and training and regulatory barriers. Drones can capture high-resolution images and provide information on crop health, growth and



propos to the front page article, "Iran Pres dies in chopper crash after stinging Israel," published on May 21. The shocking death of the President in a helicopter crash had left Iran in the lurch and uncertainty from

This can help farmers to identify issues are an inevitable part of our lives as they infected patients have lost their lives due early and take corrective measures to optimise their inputs and outputs. But, drones are expensive and many farmers may not have the financial resources to invest in this technology. Hence, there is a need for more subsidies incentives and economical financing options to make drones more affordable and attractive to farmers. It requires a coordinated effort from the Government, the industry, farmers and the civil society to create a conducive and supportive environment for the use of drones in agriculture. There is little doubt that drones can be a powerful tool for transforming Indian agriculture and ensuring the country's food security and prosperity.

MUSEUMS PRESERVE HISTORY

Madam — Apropos of the article "Museums are pillars of culture and education," published on May 21. Museums

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

all sides. For the last three years; after he took the Presidential position in 2021, Mr Raisi has managed to frame Iran as a Shia Muslim leader block of the world with his conservative cler-

His sudden death had created a leadership vacuum in Iran in the devil's time. The US and Israel are among the direct culprits of Tehran's current situation, despite their denial on personal grounds respectively. Iran needs time to cope with all the big losses it has suffered recently, according to the according to the President, Foreign Minister and other key authorities. The recent death incident had scratched the old scars of Iran when it lost its Revolutionary Gaurd General Qasem Soleimani. Iran has been a victim of targeted killings especially for VVIPs, ever since its bitter relationship with the US over the last two decades. Time will heal everything itself, the domestic and international uncertainty will shed away for Iran with time and normalcy will be restored.

depict culture, history and artefacts. They tell us about the evolution of man and let us get familiar with the historical and scientific facts as well. But these days, people, especially children, hardly show interest in visiting museums as

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

they find it boring.
The educational institutions must include visits to museums in the curriculum to enable students to broaden their horizons and get valuable knowledge. Museums are a great source of understanding our civilisation, culture and heritage and help explore various branches of research work. The Government should take the initiative to help the masses visit museums as they are the storehouses for preserving our ancient history and heritage.

Abhilasha Gupta | Mohali

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Fighting age fraud for Indian football's integrity ARYAN RAJVANSH

From local matches to the big leagues, age falsification distorts fair play and erodes the essence of sportsmanship

he issue of age fraud has plagued Indian football for decades. This persistent dishonesty has not only undermined the integrity of the sport but has also stunted the growth of genuine talent, ultimately leading to India's poor performance at the senior team level.

For the last 50 years, age fraud has been an open secret within the football community. Players, coachof it, yet the problem persists unchecked. From local tournaments to State, district and national leagues, age fraud is rampant. Shockingly, it even extends to the national team, where overage players take the field under pretences. This systemic dishonesty is a national disgrace. The lack of genuineness and honesty in our footballing ecosystem is a national embarrassment.

My personal experience highlights this issue vividly. When I was 14, I shared accommodation with much older players-some even birth certificates claiming not only robs honest play- favours deceit over talent

older players competed alongside me in national leagues, creating an uneven

field and undermining the credibility of the competitions. This personal encounter opened my eyes to the widespread nature of

this fraud. The impact of age fraud is profound. Young, talented players who play by the rules find their careers destroyed by those who cheat the system. Genuine athletes are overshadowed by older players who dominate youth categories through sheer physical C 24-yet they possessed fake cognitive advantage. This

es and officials are all aware they were my age. These ers of opportunities but also skews the development pathway, leaving India with a senior team that lacks the authentic experience and growth needed to compete

internationally. Cases of age fraud emerge regularly from all corners of the country, yet there is little action from authorities. Until the Government takes decisive measures to eradicate this issue, Indian football will remain stagnant. ensures that we will never achieve success on the undermines the spirit of the ations of players to come. sport. The rigged system

and honesty, leaving the sport in shambles. It is time for a rigorous overhaul, strict enforcement of age verification processes and a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud. Only through a genuine commitment to integrity can Indian football hope to reclaim its lost potential and earn respect on the global stage. Until then, we must

acknowledge this harsh reality: as long as we continue to cheat, we will never truly win. The future of Indian football depends on our ability to foster a culture of honesty and fairness, giving every player a fair chance to shine based on merit, not deception. The future of Indian football hinges on our commitment to integrity. We must give every player a fair chance to succeed based on their true abilities. Until we do, our The current State of affairs dreams of footballing glory will remain just thatdreams. The time for international stage. It is a change is now, for the sake profound shame and it of our sport and the gener-

> (The writer is a football coach; views are personal)

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FIRST COLUMN

DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF WORKPLACE GASLIGHTING

It is a menace that undermines individuals' perceptions, beliefs and reality



In the network of modern workplaces, emerges a shadowy spectre, threatening the very fabric of organisational culture and well-being -Gaslighting, a form of psychological manipulation in which one person seeks to undermine another person's perceptions, beliefs or reality often done regularly or subtly making the victim doubt their perception, memories or sanity by shifting blame or responsibility onto the vic-

Gaslighting can create a hostile work environment where employees feel anxious and confused and at times even question their competence causing a detrimental effect on themselves, their teams and organisational culture. It is a form of psychological manipulation that can have serious consequences for the well-being and productivity of those involved. When talked about the workplace, the term Gaslight can manifest in myriad forms, often subtle and insidious. It may begin with seemingly innoxious comments undermining an individual's contributions or abilities and may gradually lead to dealing with small instances of manipulation that escalate over time. Gaslighting tactics often target an individual's sense of self-worth, competence and confidence resulting in significant emotional distress, including feelings of anxiety, depression and confusion. It even isolates victims from their support networks by undermining their relationships with coworkers, friends and even fam-



It is often believed that toxic workplace gaslighting can stem from various causes that are often rooted in systemic issues, interpersonal dynamics or individual motivations such as power imbalances, insecure leadership, lack of accountability, interpersonal conflicts and many more. When communication breaks down, tensions escalate, egos clash and employees/individuals start resorting to gaslighting as a means of gaining leverage or inflicting harm.

Addressing the toxic workplace gaslighting requires a comprehensive approach that involves raising awareness, fostering a culture of respect and accountability and providing support for those impacted. Promoting transparency, accountability and psychological safety in organisations is crucial to recognise toxic gaslighting behaviour effectively.

Undoubtedly, workplace gaslighting thrives on power imbalances and psychological manipulation. Victims of gaslighting suffer immense stress, anxiety and identity erosion. Prolonged exposure leads to physical health issues like headaches, GI problems and sleep disturbances, weakening immunity and increasing illness risks.

It becomes crucial for the victims to first recognise and validate their experiences, refusing to internalise the gaslighter's manipulations. The use of assertive communication techniques, such as "I" Statements and boundary-setting, can help individuals confront gaslighting behaviour while preserving their self-esteem and dignity. Additionally, fostering a culture of accountability and transparency within organisations empowers employees to speak out against gaslighting tactics without fear of reprisal.

Remember, when personal gain takes precede over ethical conduct. gaslighting may become a tempting strategy. The only way that may benefit the victims of gaslighting is by seeking support from trusted colleagues, mentors or mental health professionals. By creating a workplace culture that promotes open communication, respect and accountability can the organisation help prevent gaslighting and other forms of manipulation from taking hold as left unchecked, it can inflict lasting psychological harm, exacerbating issues of mental health and well-being in the workplace.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Do not withdraw capital support for oil PSUs



UTTAM GUPTA

The Government slashes equity infusions for three major oil sector CPSUs by 50 per cent, contradicting its 2023–24 budget commitments



•n the Budget for the financial year 2023-24 (April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024) presented on February 1 last year, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an equity infusion of Rs 30,000 crore in three Central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), are majority-owned by the Government of India (GOI). She had also proposed Rs 5,000 crore for buying crude oil to bolster its strategic reserves (SRs) in underground storages at Mangalore in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The equity infusions in IOCL/BPCL/HPCL were meant to support their capital investment plans for the transition to 'Green Energy' and achieve 'Net Zero' objectives. Net zero refers to a situation where the emissions of polluting gases such as carbon dioxide due to human activities and their removals are in balance over a given period. On the other hand, the allocation for SRs was meant to guard against the possibility of any disruption in its supply.

Under the above, IOCL and BPCL had done necessary spade work including approval by their respective boards for coming up with 'rights issues' of requisite amounts to enable the Union Government to give effect to its capital contribution (albeit by way of equity) promised in the budget. In the case of HPCL, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) having acquired majority equity shares from the GOI in FY 2017-18 was to come up with the issue of the preferential issue to give effect to the latter's budgetary intention. However, in a big climb down, in November 2023, the Government reduced the amount of equity infusion to the trio by 50 per cent to Rs 15,000 crore even while deferring implementation of the budgetary announcement on the SRs. Meanwhile, the Interim Budget for FY 2024-25 presented by Sitharaman on February 1, 2024, didn't show any allocation for equity infusion for FY 2023-24. The said amount has been earmarked for the FY 2024-25. This was confirmed by Finance Secretary T V

Somanathan at a post-budget press conference. As for SRs, the budget documents do not provide any funds either in the revised estimate for FY 2023-24 or during FY 2024-

25. Why did the Government climb

Even as the Ministry of Finance (MoF) hasn't given any reason, it seems the decision was prompted by a significant boost to their profitability during 2023-24. The IOCL posted a standalone net profit of close to Rs 40,000 crore as against a profit of a little over Rs 8000 crore during 2022-23. The BPCL posted a net profit of around Rs 26,500 crore in 2023-24, compared to about Rs 1,850 crore profit during 2022-23. The HPCL posted a profit of around Rs 14,500 crore during 2023-24 against a loss of about Rs 9,000 crore in 2022-23.

IMPROVED When the companies can generate good profits hence, a good investible surplus for meeting their investment commitments, why do they need When the cor the Government's budgetary support? But, there is much more than what meets the eye on a plain reading of the profit numbers. First, out of the net profit, a substantial amount is paid as dividends to the shareholders. For instance, in case IOCL @Rs 7 on a share of Rs 10 each, the payout during 2023-24 on a total of 1,412 crore outstanding shares would be around Rs 10,000

Second, these undertakings are engaged in the business of refining crude oil to produce a range of finished products such as petrol, diesel, LPG etc besides importing them to meet their demand. That makes their operations highly capitalintensive. Consequently, their investment requirements for expansion and growth are heavy. This is exacerbated by their commitments regarding the transition to 'Green Energy'. While IOCL has decided to

achieve 'Net Zero' by 2040, BPCL and HPCL intend to reach this goal

Third, the most potent reason as to why the Government shouldn't backtrack on the capital support once promised to oil PSUs has to do with the loss the latter had suffered during FY 2022-23, courtesy of directions given by the former regarding setting retail prices of petrol and diesel. To understand the full ramifications of such orders, let us look at some basics.

Petrol and diesel were deregulated long back in June 2010 and November 2014 respectively. As a result, oil PSUs got the freedom to fix their retail prices. The price is fixed as refinery-gate price or RGP (import parity price or IPP and export parity price or EPP of the fuel in the ratio of 80:20) plus freight, marketing costs, marketing margin, commission taxes duties. Considering that over 85 per cent of India's crude oil needed for making refined products is imported (the balance 15 per cent is sourced from domestic companies such as ONGC, Oil India Limited or OIL) etc, an increase/decrease in its international price should lead to corresponding increase/decrease in the retail price of petrol and diesel but only if the marketing PSUs are allowed to fix the price strictly as per the formula. But, this is rarely done. The Government issues tacit instructions to IOCL/BPCL/HPCL (together, they account for around 90 per cent of the domestic fuel retail network in the country) to fix the retail price. This is driven by extraneous considerations. Ever since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022, the international price of oil has been on the boil. The average of the basket of crude oil that India imports during April-September 2022 was \$ 103.7 per barrel against the \$90 per barrel that prevailed before the war started. But,

these PSUs were told to keep the price of petrol and diesel unchanged for six months. This led to substantial under-recovery from the sale of

these products. For instance, in June 2022, the price of petrol in Delhi remained at Rs 97 per litre corresponding to the prewar crude price of US\$ 90 per barrel. This was despite the price of crude jumping to US\$ 116 per barrel which would have required the price to be set at Rs 112 per litre. Consequently, on the sale of petrol during June 2022, the PSUs suffered under-recovery of Rs 15 per litre

Cumulatively, the three PSUs incurred a loss of around Rs 40,000 crore during the first half of FY 2022-23. As the crude price started to decrease from October 2022 onward, their finances became a shade better during the second half. For the whole year, they posted a meagre profit of Rs 850 crore. The capital infusion of Rs 30,000 crore proposed in the budget for 2023-24 was meant to help them offset the losses incurred in the previous year.

Just because during FY 2023-24, they have improved their profits due to continuing moderation in the price of crude oil, it won't be logical to trim the promised budgetary support. Moreover, they need some cushion to guard against crude prices moving north yet again; that possibility is not ruled out considering the continuing tense geo-political situation. For the same reason, the Government shouldn't defer bolstering the strategic buffer of crude

In sync with its emphasis on 'predictability' and 'stability' of the policy, having deregulated petrol and diesel, the Government shouldn't interfere in the process of setting prices by the oil PSUs.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Is AI a game changer or a disruptor in the communication landscape?

JUST BECAUSE

FY 2023-24,

THEY HAVE

CONTINUING

THE PRICE OF

CRUDE OIL, IT

LOGICAL TO TRIM

THE PROMISED

BUDGETARY

SUPPORT

WON'T BE

MODERATION IN

DURING

Artificial Intelligence has introduced complex dilemmas, balancing data-driven insights with human ingenuity and profoundly impacting various sectors

he growing tentacles of AI have become a push factor for change, innovation and disruption in the borderless world that we live in today. AI tools, processes and its vast architecture have been billed as game changers, influencing a vast range of stakeholders including policymakers, Governments, multilateral bodies, agencies and institutions, which are responsible for carving out the road ahead. The debate today hovbecome a disruptor or a transnew normal, which is unpredictable, tech-driven and bereft of the necessary human



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

times is daunting, unpredictable, spontaneous and instant.In the given context, it is important to understand ers around whether AI has that AI has truly created layers of dilemma, a tug-of-war formative catalyst leading to a related to ideas, content, data analysis and the conflict between human minds and data-driven mindsets. We are connection. It has disrupted in a situation perhaps where the new normal driving the we over-depend on machines,

ecosystem that is technology savvy, the behaviour of stakeholders being driven by data metrics and accompanying models and influenced by the power of prediction. The impact of AI has been profound in several areas, as the search for the unknown has grown bigger. A report on India's media and entertainment sector published by EY #Reinventin 2024 mentions that AI can provide an Rs 450 billion boost to the Indian M&E sector by 2027. The report also mentions AI and especially Gen AI - gives it the tools the sector has always dreamed of and can result in a 10 pr cent revenue growth and 15 per cent cost efficiency. AI is now used for measurcommunication engagement their learning tools & pre- ing the effectiveness of cam- ational efficiency and the cre- Some of the themes to be dis- es that ensure the standardis- matrix to a terrain that at dictability leading to an paigns, the growth of cus- ative quotient of human cussed are AI and Machine ation of algorithms, address

tomised solutions for addressing issues, analysing data for data-driven narratives and stakeholder engagement and changing equations in the context of the client-agency relationship. There is a need to balance human competence with tech tools and the fear of the unknown in the future. For AI to succeed its performance indicators must be based on open, transparent and inclusive. Its tools are reengineered to reflect the spirit of "Oneness", and "The World is One Family" and the social and economic impact is studied and analysed.

As far as outreach is concerned, the need is to balance the technology push that characterises AI outlining its operbeings. As a tool for outreach AI supplements outreach with data-focused audience insights which provide practitioners with a feel of audience preferences and behaviours leading to focused and targeted communication strategies.

The data processing of the medium also leads to a better and more comprehensive understanding of stakeholder demographics, dynamics, strategy protocols and audience behaviour.

There is an urgent need to integrate the communication matrix with the broad themes to ensure a seamless operation of both verticals. Al being futuristic commands the means to create a positive perception of the AI architecture.

Learning in communication networks, AI-powered communication networks: Shaping a greener digital future and including other sectors such as health, environment and edu-

In all such discussions, the process of communicating the theme will be critical for both policymakers and practitioners.It is also critical that in the era of change, the continuity of technology is weaved with access that is open and democratic. The benefits of positive change must be beneficial to all through the principle of open sourcing: tools, processes, opportunities and community participation.

There must be standard operating procedures and process-

the frailties of human behaviour and integrate the machine and human mind. Technological advancement is only possible if the gap is

bridged between the haves and have-nots. AI as a tool for policy formulation and information dissemination should be based on the strong foundations of adaptability, cohesiveness, inclusivity, access and a proper understanding of the complex and diverse social ecosystem of which we are its key constituents.

As the impact of AI grows across different terrains, the evolution has to be in sync with human abilities and the irreplaceable human trait that characterises outreach.. To ensure a sustainable process, AI needs to follow the five mantras of outreach commu-

nication: Being Receptive, Responsive, Responsible and Reciprocal and Reconcile to the needs and requirements of an ecosystem that believes in equity, equal participation, mutual recognition and col-laboration. The success of communication depends on the balance between perception, tools and trust i.e. positioned across different plat-forms and sectors. A model of this nature will certainly ensure a perfect symphony between AI and the communication landscape bringing forth an effective and lasting communication process.

(The writer is a former civil servant. Views are Personal. Inputs by Vaishnavie Srinivasan and Zoya Ahmad)

Sun Pharma posts net profit of Rs 2,654.58 cr in Jan-Mar quarter

un Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,654.58 crore in the fourth quarter ended on March 31, 2024. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,984.47 crore in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total revenue from operations in the fourth quarter was at Rs 11,982.9 crore in the quarter under review. It was at Rs 10,930.67 crore in the same quarter a year ago, it

added. India formulation sales were at Rs 3,707.8 crore while US formulation sales were at US\$ 476 million (around Rs 3,964 crore) in the fourth quarter. Sun Pharma said the results for the quarter ended on December 31, 2023, and the guarter and the year ended on March 31, 2024, are not comparable with other periods due to the acquisition of 60 per cent shareholding in Vivaldis Health and Foods Pvt Ltd which was completed during the guarter ended June 30, 2023.



BHEL shares tank over 5% after earnings; mcap slumps Rs 6,023.97 cr

hares of state-owned Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd (BHEL) on Wednesday tumbled over 5 per cent after the company reported an over 25 per cent decline in consolidated net profit in the March quarter. The stock declined 5.42 per cent to settle at Rs 301.90 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 7.58 per cent to Rs 295. At the NSE, it slumped 5.26 per cent to Rs 302.40. The company's market capitalisation (mcap) declined Rs 6,023.97 crore to Rs 1,05,123.49 crore. In traded volume terms, 58.78 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 749.33 lakh shares at the NSE during the day. BHEL on Tuesday reported an over 25 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 489 62 crore in the March

guarter, mainly due to higher expenses. Its consolidated net profit stood at Rs 658.02 crore in the quarter ended on March 31, 2023, according to a regulatory filing on Tuesday. Total expenses of the firm rose to Rs 7,794.11 crore in the quarter from Rs 7,411.64 crore in the same period a year ago

Requirements (LODR) Regulations, unaffected prices

shall be considered for trans-

actions on which pricing

norms specified by it or stock

exchanges are applicable. This

requirement is also subject to

the rumour pertaining to such

a transaction being confirmed

by the company within 24

hours from the trigger of

This prompt confirmation helps in curbing prolonged

speculation and provides clar-

ity to investors, Deputy CEO of Anand Rathi Wealth Feroze

The requirement to verify

market rumours will be

applicable to the top 100 list-

ed companies from June 1 and

top 250 listed entities from

Azeez said.

December 1.

material price movement.



Gold prices falls Rs 50; silver jumps Rs 600

old prices fell Rs 50 to Rs 74,600 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid fall in precious metal rates in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 74,650 per 10 grams in the previous session However, silver prices jumped Rs 600 to Rs 95,100 per kg. It had settled at Rs 94,500 per kg in the previous session. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US\$ 2,417 per ounce, down US\$ 3 from the previous close. "Gold fell further on Wednesday as investors evaluated recent statements from the US Federal Reserve officials that

downplayed the timing of interest rate cuts. "Traders are now closely monitoring US Fed's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes to be release later on Wednesday, as they could offer fresh perspectives on the US central bank's monetary policy trajectory Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. However, silver was trading higher at US\$

31.75 per ounce.



'Sebi's new guidelines on market will help in fair pricing of M&A'

PNS NEW DELHI

Sebi's new guidelines for managing stock price impact arising from market rumours will ensure that the share price used in the merger and acquisition (M&A), buyback, and other transactions are not artificially influenced by speculative market activities, experts said on Wednesday.

Market rumours pertaining to a company's business can create significant volatility in stock prices, often leading to transactions that don't reflect a company's true value.

This market rumours could be related to anything, including exiting of top management, cancellation of an order and financial health.

"Sebi's framework addresses this issue by establishing a

mechanism to determine the unaffected price -- the price of a stock before the rumour surfaced.

"This price would be used for transactions unless the rumour itself caused price fluctuations in subsequent trading days," Trivesh, Chief Operating Officer of Tradejini,

In its circular on Tuesday, Sebi outlined the framework for calculating the adjusted Price (VWAP) for considering unaffected prices in transac-

The guidelines also mandates that the adjusted VWAP be calculated by excluding the price variations attributable to the rumour, thereby reflecting the stock's value before the market reaction to the rumour.

The aim is to exclude price disruption caused by rumours while determining the price for acquisition.

Generally, unaffected price refers to the share price of a company in case there is no market rumour. Since sharp price movements could impact the overall value of a transaction, the regulator has suggested to consider a scrip's unaffected price.

Listing the

Expect doubledigit sales growth this fiscal: Benz



PNS NEW DELHI

Mercedes-Benz India is eyeing double-digit sales growth this fiscal as demand remains strong, especially for highend models, a senior company executive said on Wednesday.

The company, which on Wednesday introduced luxury models -- Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC SUV and AMG S 63 E Performance Edition 1 on Wednesday, had sold 18,123 units last fiscal.

It was a growth of 10 per cent over 16,497 units sold in

Benefits from 38 critical blocks put on sale unlikely to accrue soon: ICRA

PNS NEW DELHI

Icra on Wednesday said that benefits from the 38 critical mineral blocks that have been put on sale are not likely to accrue in the current decade ending 2030 as the mines are not fully explored.

"The preliminary stage of exploration for most of the domestic blocks that are currently being auctioned suggests that their commercialisation and associated benefits are unlikely to fully accrue in the current decade ending 2030. Therefore, India's downstream manufacturing facilities are likely to remain exposed to potential future supply shocks of critical minerals in the

intervening years," Icra said in

The government is auctioning two lithium blocks in the ongoing auctions. The one in Jammu & Kashmir has



clay deposits. While the technology for extracting lithium from hard rock and brine deposits has matured, the same for extracting lithium from clay deposits remains

untested globally. Given these challenges, the J&K lithium block received less than three bids, resulting in a re-auction of the block, Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice-President & Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, Icra said.

On the other hand, the lithium block being auctioned in Katghora, Chhattisgarh is a hard rock deposit. The ore here belongs to a broader class of lithium-bearing minerals named lepidolite. China is a large producer of lithium from lepidolite ores. Therefore, competition to acquire the Katghora mine is likely to be much higher compared to the

National Health Claim Exchange likely to be operational soon

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Health Claim Exchange (NHCX) is likely to be launched in the next twothree months, official sources said on Wednesday.

The NHCX is a digital health claims platform developed by the National Health Authority (NHA) to ensure interoperability and faster prossing of health insur



The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India ast vear ioined operationalise the NHCX.

The Irdai, through a circular in June 2023, had advised all insurers and providers to onboard the NHCX.

Insurance companies have separate portals, making it cumbersome and time-consuming for hospitals, patients, and other stakeholders to process health insurance

"The NHCX is ready and is cely to be launched in the next two-three months.

Airtel Payments Bank's FY24 profit surges 60% to Rs 34.5 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Airtel Payments Bank on Wednesday reported a 60 per cent year-on-year surge in its profit at Rs 34.5 crore in FY24. Revenue for the fiscal saw a

42 per cent increase to Rs 1,836 crore, according to a company state-"As we witness

offerings and accelerate customer

remain steadfast in our mission to empower every Indian with safe, simple and rewarding digital banking services," Anubrata Biswas, MD and

CEO of Airtel Payments Bank,

Calling it the strongest quarter, the payments bank said it posted a 15 per cent sequential growth at Rs 539 crore in the March quarter. The bank, a sub-

sidiary of telecom major Bharti Airtel. said it witnessed significant momentum in savings account acquisitions in Q4FY24 and now onboards over a million new

Sensex rises 267 pts, Nifty gains for 5th day on buying

PNS MUMBAI

kets.

Benchmark Sensex advanced 267 points while Nifty closed higher for the fifth day in a row on Wednesday amid buying in bluechips Reliance Industries and Infosys amid mixed cues from global mar-

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 267.75 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 74,221.06. During the day, it jumped 354.48 points or 0.47 per cent to 74,307.79.

Extending g day in a row, the NSE Nifty rose by 68.75 points or 0.31 per cent to finish at 22,597.80. FMCG and realty shares supported the uptrend while banking and metal shares declined.

"Despite mixed global mar-

US Fed minutes, Indian markets exhibited a subtle positive trend. Investors are optimistic about stable Q4 earnings and easing election jitters that had previously increased

"Interest in the FMCG sector has risen due to the potential for an early onset of monsoon. Nevertheless, markets may underperform in the short term as they wait for the election outcome, with FIIs staying on the sidelines,"

Geojit Financial Services, Among the Sensex firms,

Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Infosys, Asian Paints, ITC and UltraTech Cement were the major

gainers. State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Steel and Tata Motors were among the laggards

"Nifty ended a range bound session in the positive. Nifty settled higher for the fifth con-

its longest winning streak since April 25," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.18 per cent while midcap index dipped 0.05 per cent.

Market cap of BSE-listed firms hit US\$ 5-trillion milestone at close

PNS NEW DELHI

The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit the historic US\$ 5-trillion mark for the first time at the close of trade on Wednesday amid an optimistic trend in equities. The 30-share Sensex

climbed 267.75 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 74,221.06. During the day, it advanced 354.48 points or 0.47 per cent to 74,307.79. At the close of trade, the

market capitalisation of BSElisted companies stood at Rs

4,15,94,033.72 crore (US\$ 5 trillion) -- its all-time high. Investor wealth rose for the ninth straight trading session



on Wednesday. Investors gained Rs 22.59 lakh crore on Wednesday.

"Despite weak global cues,

were positive for most part of the trading session aided by selective buying in IT, FMCG and realty stocks," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit the US\$ 5-trillion milestone for the first time in intra-day trade on Tuesday. At the close of trade, the total valuation of the exchange-listed companies stood at Rs 4,14,62,306.56 crore (US\$ 4.97 trillion), the BSE data

airtel sustained demand

acquisitions, we



customers monthly. Its monthly transacting users (MTU) grew to 80.4 million, and its gross merchandise value (GMV) reached Rs 2,550

Organised jewellery retailers likely to witness 17-19% growth

Organised gold jewellery retailers are expected to clock 17-19 per cent year-on-year revenue growth in 2024-25, driven by higher realisations following a surge in gold prices, while vol-ume is likely to remain steady, a report said on Wednesday.

The revenue of organised gold jewellers is expected to rise 17-19 per cent this fiscal, while volume growth is likely to stagnate due to rising gold report.

The report further stated that the working capital requirements of retailers might increase due to higher inventory levels resulting from the substantial rise in gold prices and new store additions. However, credit profiles should remain stable, it added.

The organised sector accounts for slightly more than a third of the market, with the highly fragmented unorgan-



ised sector making up the rest, it noted. Domestic gold price increased 15 per cent during FY24 and reached Rs 67,000 per

10 grams at the end of March 2024, Crisil Ratings said.

Gold prices inched up to

about Rs 73,000 in April 2024,

the safer investment options seen by various central banks across the world as well as end consumers amid geopolitical uncertainties.

"Apart from ramping up branding and marketing expenditure, retailers are likely to offer higher discounts to buyers even as they continue to expand product designs and offerings in a bid to attract customers amidst higher gold

Karur Vysya Bank to open 100 new branches

PNS CHENNAI

Private sector Karur Vysya Bank has set a target of opening 100 new branches during the current financial year across the country, a top official said on

Wednesday. The Tamil Nadu-based bank's 840th branch Avodhya was inaugurated by bank's Chairperson

Meena Hemchandra. Vysya Bank Karur Managing Director and CEO B Ramesh Babu said the bank had opened 39 branches during the current financial year and proposes to add about 100 new branches across the coun-

try during the period. In a statement, here, Babu said the bank recorded the highest-ever annual net profit of Rs 1,605 crore in the last financial year while the net Non-Performing Assets (NPA)

were at 0.40 per cent as on March 31, 2024. The bank continues its strong growth momentum, consistency in asset quality and prof-

itability," he said. Babu along with Directors of the Bank Sarvashri K S Ravichandran, R Ramkumar and K G Mohan were present at the inauguration of the new branch in Uttar Pradesh, which is also the 35th branch in Delhi division, the statement added.

PNS MUMBAI Attrition rates continue to remain an area of concern among MBA graduates, especially among the entry-level jobs for top-tier campuses, a study said on Wednesday.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (Deloitte India) latest campus workforce trends 2024 study revealed that attrition remained a significant challenge, especially among MBA graduates.

Overall, pan-India attrition rates for infants (new recruits), one- and two-year-old employ ees for top-tier campuses are 21per cent, 26 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, it noted. However, these rates are

slightly lower for tier II and III

campuses at 19 per cent, 21 per

cent and 25 per cent, respec-

Overall, pan-India attrition rates for infants (new recruits), one- and two-year-old employees for top-tier campuses are 21 per cent, 26 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, it noted

Attrition rates continue to remain

high for MBA graduates: Study

tively, said the report.

are alarmingly high. Innovative

practices are no longer option-'This year's study reveals a al but essential for retaining top talent in a competitive market. critical need for organisations to rethink their retention strategies, especially for MBA Gupta said. graduates, where attrition rates

Deloitte India Director Neelesh The study further revealed

that currently, four of every five

hiring, pay, promotions, among others, based on skills over job history or network, citing reduced bias and improved fairness, he said.

"Thus, there is a need for educational institutions to equip students with the multifaceted skills to succeed in the digital age," he added.

Despite higher attrition rates, 70 per cent of organisations actively seek MBA graduates, reflecting their importance in business success and a 5.2 per cent CAGR in compensation over five years.

Meanwhile, the study found that the year-on-year compensation has declined for the first time in five years across tiers of MBA talent and in the top 10 tiers for M.Tech and B.Tech

RBI approves highest-ever dividend of Rs 2.11 L cr to govt

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India will pay a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal ended March 31, more than double of what was budgeted expectation, helping

ahead of a new government taking office. The RBI board, at its meeting on Wednesday, approved the

shore up revenue

transfer of surplus, the central bank said in a statement. The

government had budgeted a receipt of Rs 1.02 lakh crore as dividends from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the interim budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) presented in February this year.

The dividend or surplus transfer by the RBI to the Centre was Rs 87,416 crore for the fiscal 2022-23. The previous high was Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2018-19. The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 608th meeting of the

Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India held under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Board... "The approved the transfer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-

24," the RBI said in a statement. The central government aims to contain the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue to Rs 17.34 lakh crore (5.1 per cent of the GDP) during the current financial year.

Vijayawada | Thursday May 23, 2024

Taylor Swift might be joining Marvel universe

Swifties, it's time to purchase your Comic-Con tickets because Taylor Swift is doing something with the Marvel Cinematic Universe that has the internet

Despite years of reports that Taylor Swift had been cast as the singing superhero Dazzler, there was no turnout. Fans' expectations were evolving, and her long-awaited

partnership with the MCU may finally come true.

Miss Swift met with the top boss, Kevin Feige, and sources say it was a very successful meeting. According to reports, she may be agreeing to play the role of a blonde superhero who is not the Dazzler.

Taylor Swift, who is now touring Europe with Eras, has previously been affiliated with superhero films, most notably the highly anticipated Deadpool And Wolverine trilogy. Fans, however, appear to be most enthusiastic about her portrayal of Dazzler.

Although the Cruel Summer singer has long been the focus of fan conjecture about her potential casting as Dazzler, the latest encounter

she may be working on something exciting! So, if Taylor continues to play Dazzler in Deadpool And Wolverine, her meeting with Fiege might be to expand the character after

does not neces-

sarily confirm it:

so much publicity.

However, no confirmations have been issued thus far. Deadpool star Ryan Reynolds responded to the rumours, saying, "Anything can happen, and that's sort of what I love about this universe. The core of Deadpool is surprise."



The internet is enthralled with new video of actors Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal walking together on London's streets. After the video went viral, social media was inundated with comments about how Katrina. who was dressed in baggy clothes, was expecting her first child with her husband. Zoom now claims that the actor is definitely pregnant. According to a source referenced by the publication, Katrina Kaif's pregnancy rumours are accurate. According to the source, 'if all goes well, Katrina and Vicky will welcome their first child in the UK'. According to a Zoom source, Katrina, who grew up in the UK and owns a

> home in London's Hampstead, will give birth in London. "Katrina bacha London mein hi deliver karegi She is pregnant Vicky is already



Avneet Kaur teases fans by saying,

"A big surprise coming soon: what's cooking?"

vneet Kaur has left her fans buzzing with excitement after posting a cryptic message on her Instagram story. The enigmatic post simply reads, "What's cooking? Stay tuned; a big surprise is coming soon!" coming soon!"

As soon as the post went

live, fans and followers began speculating about what this surprise could be. The mystery has sparked a frenzy of anticipation, with everyone eager to know what Avneet has in store. Avneet Kaur has become

a familiar face to audiences through her impressive work across different platforms. With her natural acting prowess and charismatic presence on screen, she has captured the hearts of many. As we count the excitement and sup-

port for Avneet Kaur that will continue to grow, we wonder what she is hint-



Akshay Oberoi expresses his involvement in Illegal 3

kshay Oberoi, an acclaimed actor and rising star in the Indian entertainment industry, recently shared his enthusiasm for his involvement in the upcoming web series *Illegal 3*. Renowned for his dynamic performances and versatile roles, Oberoi's excitement stems from his passion for court dramas and the prospect of collaborating once again with the well-known

actor Piyush Mishra.
"Being a part of *Illegal 3* has been an incredibly fulfilling experience for me," Oberoi remarked. "As someone deeply fascinated by the intricacies of courtroom narratives, this project presented a compelling opportunity to delve into that world and explore its

complexities." Oberoi's admiration for the genre is matched by his admiration for his co-star, Piyush Mishra, with whom he previously shared the screen in other successful ventures. "Working alongside Piyush

Mishra ji is always a privilege," Oberoi stated. "His dedication and talent elevate every scene, and I am grateful for the chance to collaborate with him once again."

The actor, who recently captivated audiences with his portrayal of a character with shades of grey in the hit show Broken News 2, continues to push boundaries and captivate viewers with his compelling performances. "I am immensely proud of the work we have accomplished in *Illegal 3* and can't wait for audiences to witness the gripping narrative unfold," Oberoi concluded.

Illegal 3, directed by Sahir Raza, is set to premiere on the Jio Cinema streaming platform soon.



MEET THE AGENTS OF

f you enjoyed *Selling Sunset* and *Buying Beverly Hills*, Netflix offers another real estate show based in the British capital. *Buying London* follows property billionaire Daniel Daggers and his team of DDRE Global agents as they seek to sell luxury houses in the city's affluent neighbourhoods. Aside from negotiations on expensive residences in Mayfair and Holland Park, the show will dig into the agents' personal lives, guaranteeing a high level of drama

Buying London, like other real estate series, will have a competitor agent named Alex Bourne. Though he has been Daniel's friend for years, the two compete in the real estate market for the top listings. Alex is the founder and director of DDRE Global's competitor, London House. He describes himself as a gourmand and a proud father on Instagram, where he has over 5,000 followers. *Buying London* will air on Netflix on May 22.



ARCHIE











REALITY CHECK

OFF-TRACK BETTING

BETTER! I BET

SHELL BE RIDIN

SIX WHITE

HORSES WHEN SHE COMES

MY PREDICTION

THE MOUNTAIN

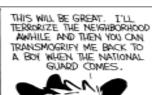
WHEN SHE COMES

IS SHELL BE COMIN' AROUND



SPEED BUMP

BOB?







GARFIELD











SUDOKU



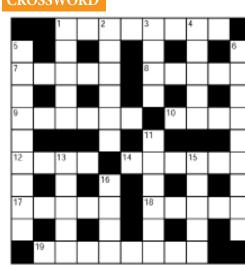
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127348569 Rules

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Strong hairs sticking out
- from a cat's face 7 A sour citrus fruit
- 8 A room on a ship 9 People who get coal or
- metal ore from underground
- 10 A joint between two ropes
- 12 Midday
- 14 Cardboard box
- 17 The brother of your father
- or mother
- 18 A soldier's bravery award 19 Things that belong to

DOWN

Adult females

2 Take no notice of

someone



SOLUTION

3 Strike with the foot

4 A red-breasted bird

11 Someone who grows

crops or raises animals

5 A light metal

6 Immediately

15 A soft toy bear

13 Happen

GINGER MEGGS







Vilayawada

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Thursday May 23, 2024

CLOSING THE GAPS IN CIRCULARITY AND SOLVING PLANET'S WASTE CRISIS!

A forward-thinking environmental organisation dedicated to driving positive change is OneEarth Foundation, focusing on promoting sustainability and combating environmental challenges. This week, *The Pioneer* hears from the founder as we discuss their mission!

tion initiatives demonstrate the power of community action and individual responsibility in environmental management. Segregation at the

source is critical to reducing trash mishandling,

increasing recycling, and lowering government

costs for refuse-derived fuel."

SHIKHA DUGGAL

o contribute to a cleaner world, the OneEarth Foundation delivered study tables and benches manufactured from separated low-value plastic garbage gathered during the 30-day anti-plastic pollution campaign to an inderprivileged school in a slum.

anti-plastic pollution campaign to an underprivileged school in a slum.

The program, which aimed to prevent plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices, raised awareness among over 1300 people and students, collected 1.4 tons of trash, held 59 seminars and clean-up drives, and paddled 120 kilometers along the Goa shoreline.

This effort is more than just a symbolic gesture; it symbolises the OneEarth Foundation's core ideals, which are based on circular economy tech

This effort is more than just a symbolic gesture; it symbolises the OneEarth Foundation's core ideals, which are based on circular economy techniques. It believes in closing the loop by managing garbage in a sustainable manner, which will contribute to a more ecologically conscious society. This "more ecologically conscious society" prompted us to do an exclusive community wise column with the foundation, in which we hear

This "more ecologically conscious society" prompted us to do an exclusive community wise column with the foundation, in which we hear from founder Ferdin Sylvester: "Our mission is to protect India's coastal ecosystems, specifically targeting marine plastic pollution and preserving the mangrove ecosystem and beyond. We empower communities, educate kids across the country, and promote equitable access to climate and related education for government and socially disadvantaged pupils."

The foundation advocates a circular economy model that reduces waste and improves resource efficiency through concepts such as reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle. They focus on programs aimed at effectively managing ocean-bound plastic garbage. They bridge the gap with the circular model, repurposing waste as valuable resources rather than disposing of it in landfills or the ocean! They also use new techniques to turn low-

value plastics into usable items, which promotes environmental sustainability and dri-

"Recognising the importance of mangrove ecosystems, we work with local people of southwestern coast to expand mangrove plantations and preserve existing mangroves. Our strategy focuses on empowering communities, particularly women, through awareness programs on the socioeconomic benefits of mangrove agriculture. The charity places a high priority on climate education and awareness. Our IEC projects serve as change agents, raising awareness and encouraging action toward more sustainable living. The foundation lobbies for policy reforms and climate-friendly policies at the local, national, and international levels, participating in programs such as the Rural WASH program under SBM-G 2.0 and JJM 2.0," adds the founder.

They conducted various investigations on rivers and estuaries, including extensive mapping, baseline surveys, categorisation and characterisation studies, to discover data weaknesses such as plastic trash, mangrove diversity, and biodiversity. They use cutting-edge technologies such as arcGIS and satellite imagery in their research, as well as conducting indepth analyses of published papers and reports from reputable organisations!

cutting-edge technologies such as arcGIS and satellite imagery in their research, as well as conducting indepth analyses of published papers and reports from reputable organisations!

The founder goes on, "In the face of an unsustainable environment created by human acts, we must go deeper and accelerate efforts both personally and systematically. The behaviour change and information, education, and communication awareness are critical components of our activities. We prioritise disseminating good narratives through a variety of channels. Combating disinformation is critical in an information-rich age, especially in the environmental and sustainability realms. Our work on the 16 ways waste segrega-

Accolades, prizes, and recognition are more than just achievements; they demonstrate their enthusiasm and commitment for the founder. As a youthful and enthusiastic group, their mission is to safeguard coastal ecosystems and communities while building sustainable cities through circular waste management systems, mangrove restoration, and empowering youngsters to take positive climate action. Their case study, "Mitigating Plastic Waste in Coastal Ecosystems Through Education and Circular Economy Innovation," was recognised and featured in the India Sanitation Coalition's flagship publication, Business of Change

Series 2023!
Furthermore,
"being recognised by leading corporations, funding organisations, think tanks, and mentors is extremely rewarding.
It confirms that we are on the right track and strengthens our reputation in the eyes of stakeholders, partners, and supporters worldwide. This increased visibility not only allows us to

reach a larger audience, but it also reinforces our message of environmental protection and sustainability. Building on recent triumphs, such as our anti-plastic pollution campaign, we intend to expand these efforts beyond coastal waters to include streams, backwaters, and land areas."







Kritika prefers substantive roles, regardless of platform

SUBODHINI PUROHIT

ritika Bharadwaj has received recognition for her remarkable performances in Mismatched, Yodha, and Rashmi Rocket. Her interest in theatre grew over her undergraduate years, and she made the daring decision to pursue acting as a career in her second year. Everything changed when she got the attention of a prominent casting director, who was blown away by her talent. She begins, "This opportunity brought me to Mumbai, where I began an incredible journey in acting. This experience offered me significant information about auditions. scripts, director preferences, and acting skills. Every day has been an exciting adventure as I hone my abilities and expand my knowledge of the profession. Despite the obstacles, I am confident that I am intended to be an actor."

Having last seen in *Yodha*, she indicated that she had little time to prepare for her role. She explains, "I actually began shooting for *Yodha* just three days after finishing *Mismatched Season 2*. Fortunately, my director helped me understand the technical requirements of playing a pilot, and filming the

sequences in a chronological order made things easier."

The set had a calm environment, and despite her early fears, the entire experience went surprisingly well. Yodha contained numerous dramatic action

therefore, her character had few action scenes in the film. She says, "I focused on getting the technical things right without appearing false. Sagar walked me through the details of the final scenario. During action sequences, all I had to do was try to act naturally while others engaged in fierce fighting."

She prioritises projects based on whether she would like to watch them personally. She prefers substantive roles, regardless of platform or scale, as long as the character has don't and magning.

has depth and meaning.

For example, "When I was offered the opportunity to work on *Mismatched*, I had no idea it would become such a popular Netflix show, but being a part of it was a huge thing. When the filmmaker approached me about *Rashmi Rocket*, I didn't hesitate, especially given his talent. Similarly, *Yodha* came from auditions. Even after *Mismatched*. I've

did not pique

my curiosity.

turned down projects whose scripts Urdu, thanks to my upbringing in Lucknow. It's a solid foundation that has helped me advance my career in the Hindi film industry."

However, she has yet to play a role that is related to her heritage. She emphasises, "While I've often been cast in these hoity characters, I'm eager to explore roles that showcase different facets of my talent."

Working on the set of *Mismatched* for her is like going to a never-ending party. It has been an extremely rewarding experience, one of the most wholesome of her life. She says, "From the start, there was genuine camaraderie among us, and it felt like

we had suddenly become a

the set terribly.

close-knit family. It's unusual to discover such a pleasant dynamic among a group of people, especially when they're all the same age. Fortunately, we clicked right away, which made the entire event enjoyable." Even when they weren't shooting, they found themselves missing

Mismatched's first two seasons got excellent appreciation from both fans and critics. She gave some light on the process of portraying a character who is always evolving, especially during production breaks. "Akarsh is recognised for his extraordinary casting abilities. He has an uncanny capacity to spot the correct individual for a given character almost immediately. When I auditioned for the role of Simran, he only wanted to meet me and see whether I was a good fit for the character. He casts with incredible precision. Even though Simran isn't the nicest person in Season 1, I found it easy to play her. This doesn't imply I'm a bad person; there's just something about her demeanour that appealed to me as an actress."

Aside from *Mismatched* and *Yodha*, she is looking into other opportunities. She explains, "I'm actively engaging with industry professionals, reading scripts, and auditioning. While there is nothing specific to report at this time, I will surely announce any developments when the time is right."

THE WORLD'S FIRST ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TREATMENT FOR AUTISM

A utism, a developmental disease recognised over a century ago, has long posed challenges to families and societies around the world. This illness has had an impact on the lives of thousands of innocent children over the past 133 years. Every parent has an unwavering hope that their children will prosper, regardless of the hardships.

Pinnacle Blooms Network® uses Pinnacle TherapeuticA□ to help children and families with autism achieve self-sufficiency, integrate into society, and live fulfilling lives.

For countless moms, fathers, and families afflicted by autism, this hope has a champion! With the world's first artificial intelligence engine treating autism, Dr. Sreeja Reddy Saripalli, mother, chief strategist, and CEO, leads this groundbreaking organisation on a mission to transform the lives of 90 crore children and families affected by autism through innovative therapies and cutting-edge technology.

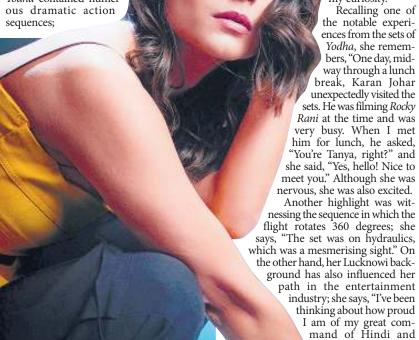
technology. Dr. Sreeja's team just got the prestigious honour of being the top autism therapy center network. We also had some fascinating chats with them regarding the current and future of autism for children, parents, families around the world, business, and other topics. Here are some snippets from the conversation! When asked about the accolade, Dr. Sreeja was full of admiration for her staff. "Receiving the coveted award is more than just an honour; it demonstrates our deep devotion to helping children and families affected by autism globally. This honour confirms all our energy and strengthens our resolve to continue leading innovative advancements in therapy, technology, and care. The attempt is motivated by a deep desire to empower nearly 90 crore children, parents, and families worldwide. Their willpower to #CroreSuccessfulLives has a global impact, fostering excellence, inclusion, and innovation. This accolade inspires the team to pursue their future goals with renewed enthusiasm and purpose! The doc goes on to say, "With over 160 patentable breakthroughs, systems, technologies, and methods, we have established new standards in autism therapy. Among these, it stands out as a huge step forward. As the world's first artificial intelligence engine built to treat autism across 400 distinct dimensions of child development, it represents a watershed moment in customised and successful healthcare. This technique combines more than a century of autism studies and has already resulted in 10.3 million successful therapies in 60 countries." Its unique feature is its holistic approach to therapy, which is based on a trinity of fundamental components: teams of certified professionals, a data-driven methodology, and persistent innovation. This combination fosters a loving environment resulting in significant

"The global impact extends to almost 60 countries. We take satisfaction in making a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of people, allowing them to live regular lives. Their allegiance to diversity guarantees that all services are available regardless of their financial situation. It has administered over 1 crore successful therapies, including speech, ABA, occupational, and special education therapies, with a 97% improvement rate, added the successful doctor who is leading the organisation! While several projects aim for similar goals, it stands out for its Al-powered approach to therapy. Their focus is on empowering individuals to lead self-sufficient lifestyles, with the objective of reaching 90 million children and families worldwide. This aim motivates them to scale their technologies. Looking forward, "We intend to extend to include further aspects of child development. Future plans include opening new facilities throughout the world to address marginalised areas and investing in ongoing research to advance the field of autism treatment. Our

wholeheartedness to inclusivity extends to the introduction of a first-of-its-kind OTT platform that provides high-quality selftherapeutic services to children and families globally." Every mother, father, and family see it as a light of hope. They encourage readers to trust in everyone's potential, welcome innovative thinking, and prioritise equality and accessibility. "Together, we can create a world where every child and family affected by autism can thrive and lead wonderful, self-sufficient lives as integral members of mainstream society." Because, for the first time in the 133-year history of autism therapy, it launched Pinnacle S.O.U.L., which captures every second of your child's golden age and makes the entire world work for your child's selfsufficient, mainstream, and delightful existence. "It assesses your child's developmental milestones, delays, current conditions, behaviours, and tantrums from birth to the present day and, using 133 years of autism research, develops a scientific, exclusive early intervention program and therapy goals suited to your child's specific requirements. The success of giving over 1 crore therapies with a 97% improvement rate demonstrates the usefulness of this strategy," is what information we acquired from the founder. It's more than just a therapeutic clinic; it's a holy movement for empowerment. Each therapist is equipped with the information and instruments necessary to provide the greatest therapy possible, similar to offering prayers in sacred sites where their potency is multiplied by the location's cosmic force. This equates to the Therapist + God + the Entire World + #1CroreLivesSuccess, resulting in an atmosphere in which your child can grow! The holistic approach incorporates the use of technology to customise therapy programs. This powerful AI, similar to the Google or Amazon of autism therapy, understands exactly what therapy materials to utilise, what strategies to employ, and the

improvements and mainstream societal integration for those with autism.

best time frames, repetitions, and sequences for your child's age and gender. This means that every moment is used to prepare your child for a self-sufficient, mainstream, and beautiful life.



It's hard to leave ailing mother in hospital but KKR is family too, says Gurbaz

Afghanistan wicketkeeperbatter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has revealed that he made the difficult choice of leaving his ailing mother in hospital when his IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders sought his services ahead of the playoff clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad here as the team is also his "formit." his "family".

Gurbaz, in his maiden game of the season, played a vital role in KKR's win over SRH by taking two vital catches and giving his side a blazing start with a 14-ball 23 on Tuesday. start with a 14-ball 23 on Tuesday. He replaced Englishman Phil Salt at the top and hit the ground running to help the two-time champions enter the IPL final with their comfortable eight-wicket victory here on Tuesday.

"As a cricketer, you (should) know, what to do. (In) League cricket, only a fewer players can play. If there is opportunity for you, you should do best. If there's no opportunity for you, you should be prepared, well prepared for the opportunity," Gurbaz told the media here after the match.

"My mom is still sick. I went (back) there and the call from here was (that) Phil Salt was leaving. They (that) Phil Salt was leaving. They called and they messaged me that 'Gurbaz, we need you, and what is your feedback for us?", he revealed. "I said, 'yes, I will come.' My mom is still in hospital, and I'm always talking to her, but this is also my family. I should manage both of that, my mom and my KKR family. It's hard it's tough but still I need

It's hard, it's tough, but still, I need to manage it," he added.

SRH skipper Pat Cummins' decision to bat first backfired.

Gurbaz said KKR had planned to

bowl first had they won the toss.
"We all (had) decided that we should go and we should bowl first, because in this kind of moment, and team likes Sunrisers that have a strong batting side and you should know what (is) the total and then you go for it," he said.



(To get a) team likes Sunrisers all out on 160, that was bowling effort. And then once we come to the batting end, we also not just try to, we should win the circle (powerplay).

"(In) my mind was (the) only (thought) that I should win the circle, because sometime in low total like this, you need to have a good circle, otherwise, match can be difficult in the end." Gurbaz said it was the best he had seen KKR pacer Mitchell Starc

bowl after the left-arm pacer took three wickets in the powerplay to set up the game for his side.
"He was just unbelievable. The way

he bowled today, he's one of the best, he has a lot of experience, he knows how to manage the big games. I saw him today totally different than other games," he

Gurbaz said Afghanistan players are preparing well for the T20 World Cup next month. He said

franchise cricket is something that comes second and doing well for their country is always their priority.
"It's all about hard work. It doesn't

mean that you come from Afghanistan, you come from India, vou come from Australia, whatever. It's all about hard work, I think. If you work hard, if you know what to do, and it's help you in every situation.

"Afghanistan is not the same Afghanistan. We know what to do and how can we represent our country. Everything is good for cricket there, and we played really well, the last World Cup, and from the last six-seven years, Afghanistan is doing great," he said.

"Our mindset (is) not (just) to play for league cricket, our mindset is always to do something better for our country, and then come the leagues. If you do good for your country, all leagues will pick you, and that's the point that we play all the leagues," he added.



Till I play Tests, I will limit franchise appearances to only two events a year: Travis Head

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Travis Head might have taken this year's IPL by storm but Test cricket remains his top priority and till the time he is playing the format, the Australian big-hitter would like to limit his participation in T20 leagues to just two events per year. Head, who has enjoyed an

incredible last 10 months, has been a nemesis for India with centuries in both the World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup finals. Currently, He has blazed to 533 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad, forging a fabulous opening partnership with uncapped Indian Abhishek Sharma.

Needless to say he is sought after and asked how he plans to manage the lucrative T20 offers with his commitment for the 'Baggy Green', Head said it's a no brainer.

This has been the first year in IPL for me in quite a while (since 2017). I would put all my eggs in Test basket for the moment, I will continue to do that," Head told PTI during an exclusive interview organised by Prime Video ahead of their upcoming docu-series, 'The Test Season 3', featuring the Australian team's tour of England last year.

"After Tests, I will pick formats, and see in which different ways I am available for selection."

T20 events have mushroomed across the world with some like West Indies' Andre Russell and Sunil Narine appearing in multiple events, adding up to more than five a year.

Having had a great run for the 'Orange Army' this season, Head is keen on coming back to IPL next year too.

"At this stage, I would like to be back here in IPL next year. Like I will play Major League Cricket (MLC in USA) this year right after the World T20 but next year might just look a lot different.

"Each year, you prioritise what you can and can't do. Next year, Test cricket is around, we tour the West Indies and probably I will not feature in many other franchises," the 30-year-old

was categorical. "Look, in few years when I am finished with Test cricket, then probably there will be few more opportunities to play a bit more franchise cricket. But at this time, I would try to limit it to a couple of franchise may be, and (focus on) Test cricket." The last 10 months have been very hectic for Head starting with the WTC final, followed by the Ashes and then the World Cup where he came in during the second half after recovering from a hand injury.

Right now, more than two months of IPL will be followed by World T20 in the Americas. But the southpaw doesn't want to make a big deal about

"I will be home in a couple of days' time once we are done with IPL. Be home for twothree days and make the trip to the West Indies with family and start all over again.

workload management.

"Look, we are very fortunate to do what we do and I am not going to do it forever. So try and make the most of it as we can, we are lucky that we are well looked after.

He then tried to put things in perspective.
"I know in a few years, I can

retire and do nothing, I will have plenty of time to look back and wish I was back on tour, I would like to be in the moment, keep batting through and stay in the moment, enjoying the moment."

CRACKING THE 'INDIA **CODE**': The performance that Head has delivered over the past few months, he believes that the seeds of it were sown early in 2023 when he came with the Test team, a hardfought series that Australia lost

"I think a lot of of that has come from the Test tour last year, spending time here and working on things and also being a bit older, understanding my game and its blueprint and how you want to go about it and being content and my family being around, all those things," he explained.

"In IPL, I have evolved continuously while getting better but I still have some work to do," he seemed confident. His national team skipper Pat Cummins has been his SRH skipper and he says they have developed a chemistry where both know what to expect of each other.

"We are just close friends and just enjoy each other's company. Not too much game stuff and over time when you build relationships, he now knows how I will go about it (my job)...," he said.
"...If I need anything, I talk to

him but he lets me do what I need to in order to perform. He backs me."

SRH lost the first qualifier on Tuesday to Kolkata Knight Riders but will have another shot at qualifying for finals in the second qualifier in

Chennai on May 24. Asked if a documentary like the 'The Test Season 3' can be intrusive and possibly catch players when they are at their most vulnerable and want to privately get over a low phase, Head.

I could not have made better choices: Former RCB owner Mallya on Kohli

PTI NEW DELHI

Former Royal Challengers
Bengaluru owner Vijay Mallya on
Wednesday said he couldn't have Challengers made a better choice when he bid for Virat Kohli in the inaugural IPL auction as he lauded the superstar batter for his brilliant run in the

ongoing season. RCB have made a tremendous comeback after losing seven out of their first eight games to qualify for the playoffs with six straight victories, riding on Kohli's sublime form which

has so far fetched him 708 runs from 14 innings. RCB will face Rajasthan Royals in the

Eliminator on Wednesday night. "When I bid for the RCB franchise and I bid for Virat, my inner instinct told me that I could not have made better choices," Mallya, who currently lives in the United Kingdom and is trying to avoid extradition to India, wrote on 'X'. "My inner instinct tells me that RCB have the best chance to

go for the IPL Trophy. Onward and Upward. Best of luck. Kohli was bought by RCB for USD



30,000 ahead of the 2008 IPL following his title-winning run with India's U19 World Cup.
RCB, however, hasn't been able to lift

the trophy despite reaching the final thrice — in 2009, 2011 and 2016. Mallya is accused in a bank loan default matter of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher

He has been living in the United Kingdom since March 2016. The same year he had to forego his ownership of RCB due to the legal

Sunrisers Hyderabad batting approach was puzzling: Gavaskar

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar duestioned Legendary Sunii Gavaskai has questioned the "puzzling" batting approach of Sunrisers Hyderabad during the powerplay in the first IPL Qualifier, suggesting their reckless strategy may have cost them the match against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Having cleaned up his fellow Australian Travis Head with a peach of a delivery with his second ball, Mitchell Starc blew away the SRH top-order in his opening spell of 3-0-22-

SRH lost four wickets inside the powerplay to be dismissed for a paltry 159, a target KKR shot down in 13.4 overs to storm into the Sunday's summit clash in Chennai.

"It was a terrific performance, no question. Such an impressive display with both the bat and the ball. They took four wickets in the power play,



and that's where the Sunrisers were pushed onto the back foot, really on the ropes. They couldn't recover from that," the former Indian captain told Star Sports Cricket Live.

"There was a partnership of sorts, but to me, the approach of the SRH batters in those first six overs was puzzling."

Vaibhav should have played more dismissing

over, SRH's explosive opening pair were out for 13 runs. Gavaskar said after losing two key wickets, SRH's batters

Abhishek Sharma in the next

continued to play aggressively, which led to further losses and ultimately cost them the

"When you've lost two wickets and the two who have been scoring runs for you, a certain amount of caution is required. Sure, don't miss out on scoring opportunities, but don't look to throw your bat at everything. That's what we saw.

'They lost those four wickets, and losing four top batters means you can't really expect numbers five, six, seven, eight, and nine to get you to 200. So, that is where they may have lost it. But full credit to Kolkata for the way they attacked and took advantage of that pitch as wall." Coupler soid. well," Gavaskar said.

The former India opener was all praise for Venkatesh Iyer and emphasised his value as a versatile player, a top left-handed batter and a capable medium-pace bowler, even if

cautiously. Instead, they he hasn't bowled much recently.

Venkatesh struck a 28-ball 51 not out in an unbroken partnership with his skipper Shreyas Iyer (58 not out; 24b) to seal their eight-wicket win with 38 balls to spare.

"He's been a very good player for such a long time. His first season, a couple of seasons ago, was outstanding. Then, as it happens to everybody, the second season is harder because opponents have a better idea of how to bowl to you," Gavaskar said.

But Venkatesh is the k cricketer you want in your team. He's a top batter, a lefthanded batter, and he can bowl medium pace. We haven't seen him bowl much recently, but he's a very good medium-paced bowler. He might not always pick up wickets, but he can bowl those few overs that can make a significant difference," he added.

OTHER SPORTS

Khilari defends gold at World Para Athletics, India surpasses best ever tally

INDIA SURPASSES BEST-EVER TALLY Sachin Sarjerao Khilari

PTI ■ KOBE (JAPAN)

India's Sachin Sarjerao Khilari defended his gold medal in the men's shot put F46 category with an Asian record at the World Para Athletics Championship as the country surpassed its best-ever haul in the global competition here on Wednesday. India, now have 11 medals, five of them gold. They bettered their previous best tally of 10 (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) in the 2023 edition in Paris.

Sachin heaved the iron ball to a distance of 16.30 metres, bettering his own Asian record of 16.21 metres set during the World Para Athletics Championship in

Paris last year. The F46 category in para athletics events is for those with moderately affected movement in one or both arms or the absence of limbs. These athletes have to transmit power from hips and legs into the throw.

In the case of Sachin, who hails from Karagani village in Maharashtra's Sangli district, he suffered a mishap during his school days leading to disability in his left

The stocky 34-year-old lost his muscles from the elbow due to gangrene and despite multiple surgeries, his arm never recovered. On Tuesday, India had reaped a rich haul

of five medals to swell its tally to 10 (4 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze). China is currently leading the medals tally followed by Brazil The Hangzhou Asian Games gold-medallist thrower told PTI that he was confident of taking the top podium spot. "I was expecting the gold here and I am happy. I have also qualified for Paris Olympics and hope to win gold there also," Sachin said from Kobe.

With three more days still to go, India are in with a chance of winning a few more medals including gold and head coach Satyanarayan said he was quite optimistic. "We are expecting two more gold medals and hopes to touch the 17-medal mark," said Satyanarayan.

On Tuesday, Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil had defended his F64 javelin throw world title, while Thangavelu Mariyappan and Ekta Bhyan also grabbed gold medals in their respective events as India jumped to third place in the World Para Athletics Championships here.

Antil, who had won gold medals in the Tokyo Paralympics and 2023 World Para Athletics Championships, sent his spear to a distance of 69.50m to stand on top of the podium.

The 25-year-old Haryana athlete thus continued his global domination in the F64 javelin event. He is the current world record holder also, courtesy his massive 73.29m throw while winning gold in the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, China last vear.

He also holds the World Para Athletics Championships record of 70.83m which he had produced while winning the gold in the last edition in Paris in 2023. Compatriot Sandeep won the bronze medal in the same event with a throw of 60.41m. Sri Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku took the silver with a throw of 66.49m.



Hina, Kanika strike as India juniors beat Dutch hockey club 2-0

PTI ■ BREDA (NETHERLANDS)

Hina Bano and Kanika Siwach scored a goal each as the Indian junior women's hockey team began their tour of Europe with a 2-0 win against Netherlands club Bredase Hockey Vereniging Push here.

After a goalless first half on Tuesday, which saw both sides testing each others' strengths, India broke the deadlock with Hina scoring off a penalty corner after three failed attempts with the set-pieces in

the second quarter. Bredase Hockey Vereniging pushed aggressively for the equaliser but success eluded them despite the hosts earning three PCs in the third quarter. Kanika Siwach found the back of the net to double India's lead in the fourth quarter following which the defenders did well to ward off several spirited attacks from the opponents in the last few minutes.

The Indian junior team will play their next match against Belgium in Breda, Netherlands later on Wednesday.

Vijayawada | Thursday May 23, 2024

'MY PERFORMANCE WILL BE **MORE MATURE IN LOVE ME..**

RAMYA SREE

Prepare to be spellbound as Love Me If You Dare gears up to weave its tale of love must supernatural gears up to weave its tale of love, mystery, and the supernatural on the silver screen, set for release on May 25. With its unique blend of horror and romance, the film has already captured the imagination of audiences, having cleared the censor board with a U/A certi-

Directed by novelist-turned-filmmaker Arun Bhimavarapu and produced by Dil Raju Productions, the film stars Ashish and Vaishnavi Chaitanya in lead roles, promising a cinematic experience unlike any other.

Ahead of the much-anticipated release, Ashish, known for his acclaimed performance in Rowdy Boys, shares

insights into his character and the making of the film.

In an exclusive interview, Ashish delves into the intricacies of his role, stating, "My character represents a dark theme. My character is such that I will do all the work that I am told not to. I am a YouTuber in this film. No one can judge what my character does or thinks."

Reflecting on the preparation process, Ashish highlights the importance of workshops and discussions with director Arun, stating, "I spent more time with my director, who explains the character very well. We did workshops, which helped me a lot. I give a much more mature performance in this movie."

Speaking about the film's unique premise, Ashish shares, "I have a duet song with the ghost in the movie. I found the story very different; the romance and love track with a ghost are very different."

Ashish also sheds light on the film's

production journey, stating, "MM

Doing a film soon with Anushka, Vijayashanthi: **Producer SK Basheed**

Producer SK Basheed is confident of his win as an MP candidate in Rajampet with a heavy majority. He started his journey as a produc-er with the 2007 Telugu film Allare Allari, starring Allari Naresh and Venu as heroes. He told the media in

the Hyderabad Film Chamber that he has come into politics to serve the people but has faced many obstacles.

Speaking there, he mentioned, "I came into the film industry as a producer with the film Allare Allari. Now I am venturing into business as well as producing. Recently. I met direct Suresh Krishna. He is directing a movie with Anushka and Vijayashanthi in the lead roles. We have not finalised any more details with them yet. We are going to distribute this film."

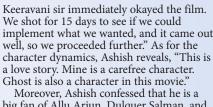
implement what we wanted, and it came out well, so we proceeded further." As for the character dynamics, Ashish reveals, "This is a love story. Mine is a carefree character. Ghost is also a character in this movie."

Dhanush and wants to do films that are

Dispelling misconceptions, Ashish clarifies, "Many thought Vaishnavi was a ghost in this movie. She is not. The audience will be surprised to know the other characters in the

many twists and turns. Our way of approaching it is also different." In closing, Ashish emphasises

With promises of surprises and twists in store, *Love Me If You Dare* emerges as a must-



big fan of Allu Arjun, Dulquer Salman, and both commercial and content-oriented.

film. With legendary cinematographer PC Sreeram on board, Ashish expresses gratitude, stating, "The film has a legendary cameraman, PC Sreeram, and receiving compliments for him gave me more confidence."

Looking ahead, Ashish teases, "There are a lot of emotions and pain in this movie. There are

the importance of theatrical experiences, stating, "We are living in the OTT era, but I believe the impact you get in theaters will not be getting at OTT. This movie will give a visual experience; that's why I want the audience to watch the movie in theatres."

watch for cinephiles seeking an immersive and exhilarating cinematic journey.



Excitement is brewing in the film industry as actor Kavin gears up for his next project after the success of #Mask. The talented actor has been confirmed to star in an upcoming film, tentatively titled KavinO8, under the direction of Vishnu Edavan, known for his lyrical contributions to hit films like LEO, DaDa, and Devara. Adding to the anticipation, the film will feature the powerhouse performer Nayanthara in the lead role, marking a significant collaboration between two acclaimed talents of the industry. This casting coup has already set expectations high among fans and movie buffs. Behind the scenes, the project is backed by the reputed production house 7 Screen Studio, renowned for delivering blockbuster hits like *Master, KVRK, Cobra*, and *LICFilm*. With a track record of delivering quality entertainment, the studio's involvement further

raises anticipation for Kavin08. As details continue to unfold, fans eagerly await further updates on the film's storyline, cast, and release date. With an ensemble of talented individuals coming together, *Kavin08* promises to be an enthralling cinematic experience for audiences.



released in theatres on July 12. The producers

released the first song from the film Paaraa on Wednesday. Composed by Anirudh Ravichander, Paaraa is a delightful blend of his vocals and those of

Shruthika Samudhrala, with lyrics penned by Pa Vijay.

The lyrical video doesn't show any scenes from the

n response to queries regarding the prolonged duration between the release of his iconic film i indian and its sequel, renowned actor Kama Haasan offered a thought-provoking insight, drawing parallels from India's cricketing history. He aptly compared the delay to the gap between India's first and second cricket World Cup victories, succinctly asserting, "Good things take time." This analogy resonated deeply,

emphasising the significance of patience and persistence in attaining significant milestones. many, underscoring the notion that meaningful achievements often require dedication and endurance. By referencing India's cricketing journey, the actor underscored the value of resilience and drew parallels between two of India's biggest

passions, cinema and cricket, both of which require immense skill and a lot of blood and sweat in order to achieve

excellence.

Meanwhile,

he latest buzz reveals the cast of #STR48, the upcoming project of the versatile actor Silambarasan TR. In a thrilling development, Bollywood sensations Kiara Advani and Janhvi Kapoor are confirmed to play the female leads in this much-anticipated film, as per sources.

The collaboration between Silambarasan, Kiara, and Janhyi has already sparked immense curiosity among fans, promising a fresh and dynamic on-screen chemistry. With their stellar performances in previous projects, both actresses have carved a niche for themselves in the Indian film industry, making their presence in #STR48 all the more

enticing. Directed by the talented Desingh Periyasamy and produced by RKFI, the shooting for #STR48 is slated to commence in June. Adding to the visual appeal of the film is cinematographer Sathyan Sooryan, known for his

> As anticipation builds up for #STR48, audiences eagerly await further updates on the storyline, supporting cast, and

remarkable work in the industry.



Shruti Haasan revisits her childhood home in Chennai

n a touching homage to her roots, actress and musician Shruti Haasan recently took a trip down memory lane by visiting her childhood home in Chennai. Sharing the experience with her fans through a series of Instagram stories. Shruti offered a rare glimpse into the

place where her dreams first took shape. One memorable story features Shruti standing on the roof of her old house, with a serene backdrop and a caption that reads, "Thank you, Akshara, for the picture and the best memories too." This brief yet heartfelt note reflects the close bond she shares with her sister. Akshara Haasan, and the fond memories they have of their early years

together. In another story, Shruti is seen sitting on the roof, deep in thought. She writes, "Many days spent, wishing and dreaming for the future I enjoy as my

present today. I work hard, never to forget that Chennai girl who never forgot to be a

weirdo and dream on her own terms." This candid reflection underscores her journey from a young dreamer to a successful artist emphasising the importance of staying true to oneself Another image shows Shruti standing

on the terrace, looking out with a contemplative gaze. She shares, "I started to dream for myself; I began writing music and thinking of going to music school: and I fell in love with life and myself for the very first time." This revelation highlights the pivotal moments of self-discovery and passion for music that were nurtured in this very place. On the work front, Shruti is looking forward to her next schedule of Dacoit in Hyderabad and the release of her

international film, The Eye.

concept and captivating promotional materi-

tollywood

Adah Sharma's C.D (Criminal

Or Devil) clears censor

Renowned for her captivating performances, Adah Sharma has garnered nationwide acclaim with her roles in

critically acclaimed films such as The Kerala Story and Bastar.

Now, she ventures into the

realm of Telugu cinema with

C.D. (Criminal Or Devil), a

audiences with its chilling

Directed by Krishna

Annam and produced by SSCM Productions, *C.D.*

(Criminal Or Devil) fea-

tures Viswant in the

male lead role, promising a cinematic journey

filled with suspense and intrigue. With a growing demand for films spanning genres like horror and thriller,

anticipation for C.D.

its intriguing

(Criminal Or Devil) has soared, fuelled by

psychological horror

thriller set to enthrall

narrative.

Following the completion of censorship formalities, the film has received a U/A certificate, clearing the path for its highly anticipated theatrical release on May 24th. The positive feedback from censor officials has only intensified the excitement surrounding In addition to Adah Sharma and

Viswant's stellar performances, C.D.

(Criminal Or Devil) boasts a talented ensemble cast, including Jabardasth Rohini, Bharani Shankar, Ramana Bhargav, and Mahesh Vitta, who bring depth and authenticity to their roles. With A. Muddu Krishna crafting gripping dia-logues and Satya Giduthuri overseeing the meticulous editing, the film promises to deliver a seamless blend of storytelling and technical prowess. As the release date

approaches, C.D. (Criminal Or Devil) emerges as a cinematic treat for audiences craving a thrilling and immersive experience. With its spinetingling premise and talented cast, the film is poised to captivate viewers and leave them on the edge of their seats

Manisha Koirala celebrates UK- Nepal's friendship treaty with UK PM Rishi Sunak

ctor Manisha Koirala met UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at his residence Minister Rishi Sunak at his residence to celebrate 100 years of the United Kingdom and Nepal's friendship treaty.

The Heeramandi star took to her Instagram

to share a series of photographs from the celebrations at Sunak's official residence, 10 Downing Street, in London. "It was an honour to be invited to 10 Downing Street to celebrate United Kingdom - Nepal relations and 100 years of our friendship treaty. It was such

a pleasure to hear the Prime Minister @rishisunakmp speak fondly of our country Nepal. "I took the liberty of inviting the PM and his family to come trek to Everest Base Camp," the Nepal-born actor posted.

Koirala, 53, also said that it was surprising

that many people at the event had watched her OTT series Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. "Can you believe that most of the attendees had seen Heeramandi on Netflix and loved it? I was thrilled!!" the actor wrote.



