

The Pioneer Paper with passion since 1864

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469 *LATE CITY VOL. 7 ISSUE 18%ir Surcharge Extra if Applicable

PUBLISHED FROM: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN VIJAYWADA

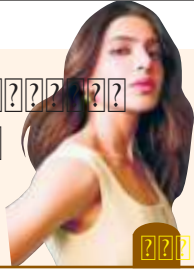
QUOTE OF THE DAY The Pioneer... P2



COME



??



DON'T MISS...

??

A comprehensive fact-finding report has sounded alarm bells over severe health and environmental issues linked to the Jawahar Nagar Waste to Energy (WTE) plant...



Return home immediately, India asks Indians in Pak

India on Thursday announced revoking all visas issued to Pakistani nationals from April 27 and advised Indians to return home...

??

Asserting that this is not the time for a domestic blame game over the Pahalgam terror attack, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor...



??

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty reversed their seven-day uptrend and settled lower on Thursday amid profit-taking and disappointing fourth quarter earnings of Hindustan Unilever...



??

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will eye a crucial turnaround at home when they face an equally desperate Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a battle of survival in the Indian Premier League here on Friday...

PNSn HYDERABAD

All arrangements for the counting of Hyderabad district local bodies MLC elections have been completed, said Returning Officer Anurag Jayanti...

PNSn WARANGAL

The 158th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Secretary Debashree Mukherjee...

HUNT DOWN LEADERS SEEK DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST TERROR CAMPS EXTEND FULL SUPPORT FOR ANY ACTION

PNSn NEW DELHI

Leaders across party lines on Thursday called for decisive action against terrorism and terror camps, and assured the government of their full support...



During an all-party meeting to discuss the April 22 Pahalgam attack, the government said it was taking all measures to ensure security and assured the nation against the perpetrators of the terror attack...



Pak pauses Simla pact, talks tough on Indus Treaty

PNSn ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Thursday put Simla Agreement and other bilateral records with India on hold, suspended all trade, closed its airspace for Indian airlines and said any attempt to divert the water meant for it under the Indus Water Treaty will be considered an Act of War...

Will punish terrorists, their backers

PNSn MADHUBANI (BIHAR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday declared that the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued to the ends of the earth. India will punish terrorism and its supporters who are behind this atrocity...

Bihar, I say to the whole world India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist who carried out the attack and those who hatched the conspiracy, they will be punished beyond their imagination...



Medigadda collapse caused systemic failure

PNSn HYDERABAD

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has sounded a warning on the safety and sustainability of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project's key components...

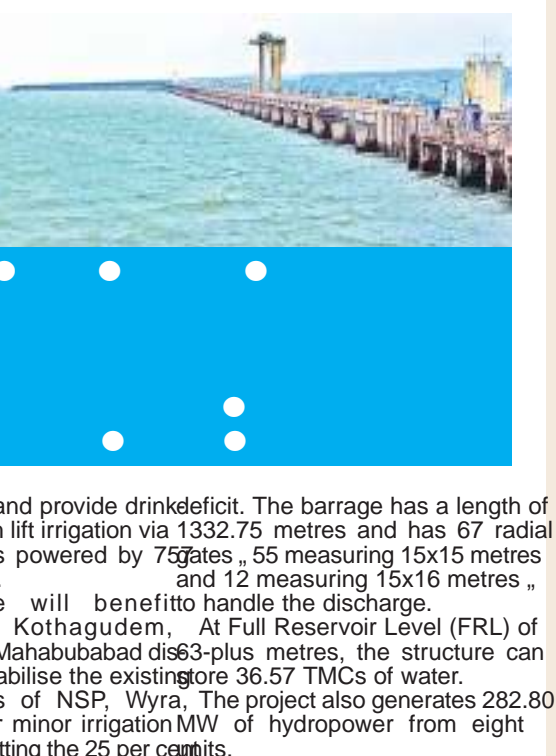
Meanwhile, as preparations for the BRS Silver Jubilee public meet-construction and quality control. The Committee's report reached the final stage, Kavitha vis-finalised in December 2024 and reviewed the chaired by former CWC Chairman J. Chandrashekhara Iyer, revealed that all three barrages are facing...



TAC clears TG's Sithamma Sagar SRLIP irrigation project

PNSn HYDERABAD

The 158th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Secretary Debashree Mukherjee...



Issues notices to govt regarding Bhoodan lands

PNSn HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has issued notices to the state government regarding the Bhoodan lands case. The HC also barred transactions involving Bhoodan lands and posted the case for June 26...



Pakistan Hyd Miss World contest

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com HYDERABAD

The Miss World contest in Hyderabad, scheduled in May will not have contestants from Pakistan. While nearly 140 countries are likely to participate in the international beauty pageant, Pakistan is not among them...





HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath visiting various encroached canals

CITY EVENT

Venue
Ravindra Bharathi
April 25, 8 pm.

Venue
Lamakaan
April 25, 7:30 pm.

Venue
T-Hub Foundation
April 25, 5 pm.

Venue
Muffkham Jah College Of Engineering And Technology
April 25, 9:30 am.

Venue
Osmania University College Of Arts & Social Sciences (Tourist Spot)
April 25, 6:30 am.

Venue
Stone Waters - Kitchen & Lounge
April 25, 8 pm.



15 YEAR OLD REED

Five arrested in Hyderabad for child trafficking

Hyderabad: A comprehensive fact-finding report has sounded alarm bell over severe health and environmental issues linked to the Jawahar Nagar Waste to Energy (WTE) plant. The report, compiled by a joint team of civil society organisations and health experts, reveals significant health impacts on local residents, with data pointing to an increase in respiratory illnesses contaminated water sources and declining quality of life in surrounding villages.

Hyderabad: A comprehensive fact-finding report has sounded alarm bell over severe health and environmental issues linked to the Jawahar Nagar Waste to Energy (WTE) plant.

The victim, daughter of Parveen Banu in Uppal. Akram Saadi, was abducted on April 20 from near the Gandhi cessfully rescued the girl. At Following a complaint from the time of rescue, Parveen the family, police swiftly reg-Banu was allegedly in the istered a case and launched process of reselling the child to intensive investigation. two individuals - Sunitha Kumari and Rajendra Prasad across multiple locations, the who were also arrested on the police traced the movementsspot.



The Waste to Energy plant

Hyderabad: A comprehensive fact-finding report has sounded alarm bell over severe health and environmental issues linked to the Jawahar Nagar Waste to Energy (WTE) plant. The report, compiled by a joint team of civil society organisations and health experts, reveals significant health impacts on local residents, with data pointing to an increase in respiratory illnesses contaminated water sources and declining quality of life in surrounding villages.

Hyderabad: A comprehensive fact-finding report has sounded alarm bell over severe health and environmental issues linked to the Jawahar Nagar Waste to Energy (WTE) plant. The report, compiled by a joint team of civil society organisations and health experts, reveals significant health impacts on local residents, with data pointing to an increase in respiratory illnesses contaminated water sources and declining quality of life in surrounding villages.

TMREIS achieves over 88% in Inter second year

Hyderabad: The Telangana Minorities Bee and Wajeeha Tabassum Residential Educational (BiPC) from TMRJC Institutions Society Kothagudem Girls 1 also (TMREIS) president secured State 1st rank with Mohammed Faheemuddin 438/440 (99.5%). In the Qureshi announced that 88% Vocational Stream, U of students passed the Hemant (MLT) from TMRJC Intermediate second year Vemulawada Boys secured exams and 80% passed the State 1st rank with 496/500 first year exams in the 2025 (99%).

Hyderabad: The Telangana Minorities Bee and Wajeeha Tabassum Residential Educational (BiPC) from TMRJC Institutions Society Kothagudem Girls 1 also (TMREIS) president secured State 1st rank with Mohammed Faheemuddin 438/440 (99.5%). In the Qureshi announced that 88% Vocational Stream, U of students passed the Hemant (MLT) from TMRJC Intermediate second year Vemulawada Boys secured exams and 80% passed the State 1st rank with 496/500 first year exams in the 2025 (99%).

Hyderabad: The Telangana Minorities Bee and Wajeeha Tabassum Residential Educational (BiPC) from TMRJC Institutions Society Kothagudem Girls 1 also (TMREIS) president secured State 1st rank with Mohammed Faheemuddin 438/440 (99.5%). In the Qureshi announced that 88% Vocational Stream, U of students passed the Hemant (MLT) from TMRJC Intermediate second year Vemulawada Boys secured exams and 80% passed the State 1st rank with 496/500 first year exams in the 2025 (99%).



National BC Welfare Association president and Rajya Sabha MP R Krishnaiah addressing a meeting

BCs demand 42% quota before elections

Hyderabad: National BC Welfare Association president and Rajya Sabha MP R Krishnaiah warned of strong governments have the power demanded that BC reservation percentage is not raised. He threatened a hunger strike. The Assembly passed the criticised Panchayati Raj with 1,000 people and said, and the 50% reservation Minister Seethakka for not ministers and MLAs would be cap has been lifted in some mentioning BC reservations stopped from moving freely. cases by the Supreme Court. while announcing local body He stated that although BC he noted there will be no legal reservations were announced constitutional hurdles.

Two TGSCSC students clear UPSC VCIU students protest over finals, likely to be selected for IRS

Hyderabad: Commission of SCDD and Vice-President of Telangana Scheduled Castes Study Circle (TGSCSC) N Kshitija announced that two students from TGSCSC were selected in the Civil Services Examination 2024 conducted by UPSC Gokamalla Anjaneyulu secured AIR 934 and Ramtenki Sudhakar got AIR 949. Both are likely to be secured high ranks. B Vanaja secured 38th rank, R Meryfree residential IAS coaching She shared that in the Civil Gold 56th, M Raviteja 66th, programme for poor SC, ST Services Prelims held in Jun Kishan Patel 72nd, E Rakesh and BC students, selected 2024, 27 students qualified 8th, B Sravan 84th, and through a State-level entrance and appeared for the Mains in Praveen 105th. Students also exam announced in May/June. September. Of them, three secured 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and Since 1980, over 450 civil service officers reached the inter-10th ranks in the SC category have been trained here. view stage and two secured 2nd in ST, and 10th in BC-D. Kshitija thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Around 35-40 students are expected to be selected for top Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Telangana Public Service posts like Deputy Collector, Vikramarka for their support Commission (TGSPSC) Group-DSP, CTO and others. and congratulated the successful candidates.



UPSC logo

VCIU students protest over hostel conditions

Hyderabad: Students of Veeranaribrought out," one of the Chakali Iamma Women's protesting students said. University (VCIU) staged a Students further massive protest on the complained that overcrowding pus premises on Thursday has worsened their cond-raising serious concerns ovation, with two students often inadequate hostel facilities forced to share a single bed and unsafe living conditions.- and in some rooms, there The protest, which began no beds at all. around 9 am was led by "We came here to study, women students who alleged to suffer physically and that their repeated griev-mentally. ances were being ignored We feel suffocated inside by the university administra-the rooms," said another tion. Among the key issues student. highlighted were the lack of They also claimed that in basic amenities such as older hostel buildings, rats water, beds and fans, as well as been falling on students as the presence of rats and while they sleep. Despite sub-snacks in hostel premises. mitting a detailed represen-"We don't even have wateration of the problems, stu-facilities though the dents said there has been no pipelines have been laid response or accountability When we try to meet the from the university's Vice-Vice-Chancellor to raise Chancellor.

Times Issues Range Alert for heat

Hyderabad: Telangana is currently facing an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring above 40 degrees Celsius in many areas. According to Telangana Weatherman, Nizamabad recorded 45.4 degrees Celsius Jagtial 45.3, Adilabad and Nirmal 45.2, Mancherial 45.1, Asifabad 45, Nalgonda 44.9, Kamareddy 44.6, Peddapalli 44.5, Karimnagar 44.4, and Sircilla 43.9.



Hyderabad: and both Khairatabad and Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Tirumalagiri recorded 41.2 Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, degrees Celsius. Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna The extreme heat also trig-Sircilla, Medak and gered scattered thunderstorms Kamareddy. on Thursday evening in A Yellow Alert has been Sangareddy. Vikarabad, issued for warm nights in Medak, Siddipet, Sircilla and Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Asifabad. In Hyderabad's out-Jayashankar Bhupalapally, skirts, severe storms were Mulugu, Bhadradi reported in Isnapur, Kothagudem, Khammam, Rudraram, Kandi, Mokila and Nalgonda, Suryapet, Siddipet, Shankarpally. The storm later Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, on moved toward Patancheru, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Kollur and Tellapur. Medchal-Malkajgiri, IMD Hyderabad has issued Vikarabad, Sangareddy, an Orange Alert for a heat-M a h a b u b n a g a r, wave and warm night condi-Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthi, tions until 27 April. These are Narayanpet and Jogulamba Habsiguda, Musheerabad, Jeedimetla all saw temperaZiaguda 41.7, Mettuguda 41.5 likely to affect isolated areas in Gadwal districts.

Private manager arrested in scam



Private manager arrested in scam

Hyderabad: through a Telegram ID offer- uncovered that Deepak was led by Inspector K trading tips. The victim Kumar supplied multiple Prasada Rao, supported by \$1 was directed to fraudulent bank accounts to cybercrim-PVS Abhishek, HC PV trading applications that false-inals through Telegram in Srinivas and a team of const-ly projected high returns. return for commissions. bles under the supervision of Believing the scam, he transWorking as a Relationship ACP RG Siva Muruthi. ferred Rs 1,22,87,120 in mulManager at ICICI's Omega-I The Cyber Crime police tiple transactions. When he Branch in Greater Noida, have warned the public to later attempted to withdraw Kumar allegedly facilitated remain vigilant against fake profits, the fraudsters made fraudulent transactions worth trading platforms and social excuses and demanded addRs 6 crore across 23 case media groups offering invest- tional deposits, eventually nationwide, as flagged byment opportunities. Officials cutting off all communication NCRP data. advised citizens to invest only 923/2024, following a com- According to police, the and threatening to block his Two mobile phones were through SEBI-approved plat- claim from a victim based in complainant was lured into auser ID. seized from the accused durforms and consult SEBI-reg- Secunderabad who was fake investment scheme Cyber Crime officials in the arrest. The operationistered financial advisors.

TWC Chairman interacts with prison inmates

Hyderabad: Chairperson of the Telangana Women Commission (TWC) Nerella Sharada visited the Chanchalguda Women's Prison along with other commission members. During the visit, the Chairperson enquired about the facilities provided to the inmates including food arrangements and basic amenities. She questioned Superintendent Venka Lakshmi regarding important aspects such as Mulaqat (visitor interactions), legal aid and other support services provided to the inmate Sharada also interacted directly with the inmates, asking them about their individual ca- details. Furthermore, she enquired about se- employment programmes and medical facilities available to the prisoners. She points out that there is need for proper rehabilitation and welfare measures inside the prison.





Students, villagers bid emotional farewell to headmaster as he retires

PNSn WARANGAL

Villagers, along with students, organised a unique retirement ceremony for a teacher in Warangal district. The heartwarming event took place at the government school at Burgumalla village under Parvathagiri mandal in Warangal district.



The teacher was taken in a grand procession through the village on a decorated bullock cart, drawing everyone's attention and admiration.

This unique farewell was arranged for Srinivas, the headmaster and senior teacher of the school, who is set to retire at the end of this month. However, since the school will be closed for summer vacation, the villagers and students decided to give him an early, heartfelt send-off.

Srinivas is well known not just as a teacher but also for his community work. According to the villagers, he personally covered the transport costs for students coming from distant areas, using money from his earnings. Inspired by his encouragement and support, many students went on to receive a good education and achievement.

Karregutta teetering on edge of major encounter?

It is believed that a major clash between security forces and Maoists is inevitable

PNSn MULUGU

Chhattisgarh and Telangana

The operation initiated by security forces aims to dislodge Maoist presence and has intensified combing efforts in the Karregutta area. This area, located along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border, has become heavily fortified by thousands of Maoist personnel. Reports indicate that near-ligence agencies are bracing for 1,000 Maoists are taking a significant encounter with the Karregutta forests.

On Tuesday, shots were reported from several high-ranking Maoist leaders. Local people have police have not confirmed the intense sound of gunfire exchanges, only of gunfire resonating across the forested regions like Padu, Karregutta hills traverse the Pujarikanker, and Pamedu. Usur block of Bijapur district is situated within the Mulugu in Chhattisgarh and the district, Karregutta sits on the Vajedu mandal of Mulugu boundary between district in Telangana.



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy inaugurating the newly constructed panchayat office at Eluvurigudem in Khammam district on Thursday

Welfare and development are our priorities: Ponguleti

PNSn KHAMMAM

building in Eluvurigudem village, built at a cost of Rs 2

The Minister emphasised that the Bhau Bharati Act would help address long-pending land issues.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Thursday under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

On Thursday, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of drains extending to over a distance of 1.5 km on both sides of the street at Hasnabad village. He highlighted that since the inauguration of the Bhau Bharati Act, the State government has been distributing fine rice to white ration cardholders, a scheme that has not been

security to people facing land disputes, ensuring safety through the Dharani Act. He assured that the Indiramma government would stand by every poor person.

The event was attended by Revenue Divisional Officer Narasimha Rao, Roads and Buildings Superintendent Engineer Yugandar, District Panchayat Officer Ashalatha, Agriculture Officer Pullayya, and State government Divisional Officer Dharani Act. He also inaugurated a newly constructed village Panchayat

14 more Maoists surrender

PNSn WARANGAL



In a significant development in the anti-Maoist operation, a total of 14 members of outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist, better known as the Maoist Party, surrendered to the police here on Thursday.

The Maoists surrendered to the police in the presence of Multi Zone Inspector General Chandrasekharam of the society rather Reddy at Warangal Police station suppressing them.

Two of them are area committee members and 12 are militia members. Of these, 13 are from Chhattisgarh and the Government is providing one is from Telangana. They were given a cash of Rs 25,000. While addressing the Telangana media, the IGP stated that the Maoists who worked in the Karregutta operation, Bijapur and Sukma districts even though it is on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border and the Telangana government.

Hindu United Front condemns Aalgam terrorist attack

PNSn RANGAREDDY



Hindu United Front burning the effigy of Pakistan government in Shadnagar on Thursday

In a powerful display of public outrage, the Shadnagar Hindu United Forum organised a massive rally on Thursday condemning Pakistan's involvement in promoting terrorism in India, particularly in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The rally began at the Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple and proceeded to the Farooqnagar Revenue Office.

During the protest, demonstrators burnt an effigy of the Pakistani government at the Forum. Speaking at the event, BC Sena Mahila President Ramesh, Gudala Ramesh, and Pyat Vamsisalla Mahesh, security efforts.

She too demanded that the central government respond decisively to Pakistan's continued support for terrorism.

The rally witnessed solidarity across political and professional groups. Leaders from both the BJP and BRS parties, including Ande Babaiah, Palamuru Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Haribhushan, and Konduti Narendar, actively participated. The Bar Association of Shadnagar, led by President Venugopal Rao and other advocates, expressed their support, along with the Indian Medical Association members like Chandulal and Kiran Kumar. The Prominent participants also included Juppali Shankar, Pillai Shekhar, Bachali Narasimha, and various local organizations.

Kavya urges SCGM to speed up developmental work in constituency



Warangal Lok Sabha member Kadiyam Kavya presenting a memorandum to SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain in Hyderabad on Wednesday

PNSn WARANGAL

had been taken to fill them, which was increasing the burning of developmental works at the Warangal Lok Sabha constituency through 709 employees at stations under the Amrit Bharat scheme. She stressed the need to ensure that all pending railway authorities decision to set up of works in Warangal Lok Sabha constituency are completed. She presented a memorandum listing the pending and Gautami Express links, which were previously operated that the railway issues would be resolved.

Kavya raised concerns over the transfer of loco running being shifted to Vijayawada, He also promised to ensure depot staff from Kazipet to violating the promise made in that there are no obstacles in Vijayawada loco running depot the joint committee meeting the establishment of the division and the lack of efforts by off-hold on July 14, 2022. She and that Kazipet's importance to fill vacancies at the Kazipet, were not resolved. He said that a meeting with 184 new posts had been approved for Kazipet, no steps

SCR GM GIVES GREEN SIGNAL TO RUB AT DHAMSALAPURAM

PNSn KHAMMAM

Lok Sabha member from Khammam Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy on Thursday submitted a memorandum to South Central Railway General Manager in Hyderabad and urged him to take steps for construction of railway-bridge (RUB) at gate number 106 near Damsalapuram, which has been shelved since long. The MP urged the railway officials for urgent execution of the RUB. The memorandum said that farmers and people living in adjacent villages have been facing severe problems on account of the delay in the construction of the RUB. Responding favourably to the request made by the MP, the SCR General Manager discussed the matter with chief engineer and issued orders for starting the works as early as possible. The MP also discussed the proposals to divert the trains on Dornakal-Vennaram-Maripeda-Mote route changing the initial alignment of Dornakal-Miryalaguda and Dornakal-Gadwal routes. He also urged railway officials to restart the trains cancelled earlier and provide a stop at Gandhi Nagar station for trains going to Bhadrachalam from Khammam, Bonakal, Yerrupalem and Dornakal.

Two women allegedly murdered by husbands

PNSn ADILABAD



Murdered woman Keerthi with her husband Maruthi

Two women were murdered allegedly by their husbands in two separate incidents in Adilabad and Kumram Bheem Asifabad districts on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

In the first incident, 30-year-old Keerthi was brutally murdered allegedly by her husband Maruthi in Gudihathnoor mandal on old Doke Poshakka was killed Thursday. She was found dead in a pool of blood after Jayaram in Vanjiri village, he fled the scene.

The motive behind the murder remains unclear. Keerthi had been married to Maruthi 10 years ago.

Junior college students congratulated for excellent performance in Inter exams

PNSn HANAMKONDA



District Collector P Pravinya on Thursday congratulated several students from various government junior colleges in the district, who achieved outstanding marks at the state level in the recently released intermediate annual results. On this occasion, the Government Junior College, Hanamkonda, Government Junior College in the district brought Hanamkonda, Government Junior College in the district by securing excellent marks at the state level in the Junior College in intermediate results. She expressed hope that the students from government junior they were honored with shawls at the district collector's office to uphold the district's reputation in future.

TELANGANA STATE GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY. Form - VII Declaration. Schedule table with columns: S.No., Type of Land, Extent (Ac. Gcs.), and Name of the Enjoyer.

ACROSS THE STATES



Odisha to initiate action against infiltrators: Min

Odisha Law minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Thursday said the government will soon initiate required action against infiltrators staying for long in the state. "A discussion with the chief minister has already been made in regard to the presence of infiltrators and required action to be taken soon," Harichandan told reporters while replying to a question in the wake of the Pahalgam terror strike in which people including a man from the state, were killed. Strongly condemning the Pahalgam incident, Harichandan said: "The (Pakistani terrorists) have pinned the last nail in their coffin. The consequences will be too harsh. This is for the first time that the terrorists have gunned down unarmed and innocent visitors to the valley. The central government and all the states are solidly behind the families of the victims." Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi last month had informed the state Assembly that as many as 3,738 infiltrators mostly from Bangladesh have been identified across the state.



Manipur bandh today over 'custodial death' of youth

Joint Action Committee (JAC) formed in connection with the alleged custodial death of a 27-year-old man earlier this month has called a 24-hour-long Manipur bandh from midnight of Thursday. Khoisnam Sanjaoba was arrested in Imphal East district on March 31 along with four others for their alleged association with the proscribed outfit Kanglei Jaijoi Communist Party (Nongrenkhomba). In a statement, the JAC said it had submitted a memorandum to the governor listing the charter of demands, including an impartial investigation into the "custodial death" of Sanjaoba, on April 17 but received no response from the government side. "The 24-hour bandh will start from the intervening night of April 24 and April 25," the statement said. The JAC asserted that Khoisnam was a "volunteer" who was sent to Manipur Central Jail at Sajjwong on April 10 and was admitted to Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences on April 13, where he was pronounced dead on April 17.



BJP set to regain control of MCD after two years

The BJP is set to reclaim power in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) after a gap of two years, with the elections for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor scheduled to be held on Friday. With the AAP boycotting the election, the Congress reduced to a marginal presence, the BJP is expected to comfortably sweep the civic posts, solidifying its control over Delhi through the Centre, the nominated MLAs in the Assembly and now the MCD. Senior BJP leader and former Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh, who is the party's nominee for the mayoral post, told PTI that Delhiites have entrusted the BJP with the responsibility of fixing the city's problems. "AAP has already accepted its defeat. We will eliminate corruption and complete all the pending work that was stalled over the past two years," he said. He further stated that once the mayor is elected, elections for the standing committees will be held promptly. Meanwhile, AAP councillor and former Mayor Oberoi and Leader of the House Mukesh Goyal held a press conference on Thursday where they reiterated their party's decision to boycott the election.

India can't develop without developing its villages: Modi

PNS MADHUBANI

India cannot develop without developing its villages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday as he launched and inaugurated projects worth Rs 13,500 crore in Bihar's Madhubani, and addressed Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country.



Speaking at an event to mark National Panchayati Raj Day here, Modi also lauded the work done by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the poll-bound state. He said a developed Bihar is essential for a developed India and said efforts are being made to ensure the benefits of progress reach all corners of the state. "Farmers are the backbone of the rural economy and the backbone of the nation. We will not be developed without the stronger the villages, and empowering its villages is consequently, the nation's top priority behind the Panchayati Raj system."

He also underscored that the Bihar is the land where Mahatma Gandhi expanded social participation, remarking with the mantra of Satyagraha, that Bihar was the first state in Mahatma Gandhi's firm belief that reservation for women in villages are strong".

He said the projects weaker sections, Dalits, and the state's Jeevika Didi programme and said, today, self-employment opportunities are being provided for women in Bihar. He lauded the Bihar government's Mahadalits, backward, and extremely backward communities and said, today, self-employment opportunities are being provided for women in Bihar. He said the projects weaker sections, Dalits, and the state's Jeevika Didi programme and said, today, self-employment opportunities are being provided for women in Bihar. He lauded the Bihar government's Mahadalits, backward, and extremely backward communities and said, today, self-employment opportunities are being provided for women in Bihar.

Prolonged prison sentence can't be allowed result in sentence: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said a prolonged incarceration without trial cannot be allowed to result in a sentence and granted bail to an accused arrested in a drug case in UP.



A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih observed the petition-er was incarcerated for over 5.2 years and the trial in the court, it added.

The bench directed the petitioner to be released on bail in the case registered at Greater Noida on conditions as on bail, was not attending in court. "This court, in a catena of cases, has held that a prolonged incarceration without with the case under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, is not permitted to result in a sentence without trial," the bench said.

The top court was hearing the accused's plea against the order of the Allahabad High Court passed in March last year rejecting his bail application.

On the argument that the accused in the case was appearing in court, the bench said the state was always at liberty to take steps for cancellation.

2008 MUMBAI ATTACK

Delhi court junks Rana's plea to talk to kin

PNS NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday dismissed the plea of jailed 26/11 terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana seeking to talk to his family members.



"Not allowed," special Judge Chandar Jit Singh held. Rana filed the plea through his lawyer and said talking to his family members was a fundamental right and they must be allowed to speak with his family members. The anti-terror agency said the investigation was at a crucial stage.

On April 10, the court dismissed his review plea against the 64-year-old's extradition. On November 26, 2008, a businessman to 18 day custody of 10 Pakistani terrorists. The NIA alleged as a part of a coordinated attack on an accused David Coleman railway station, two luxury hotels, and a Jewish centre, entire operation with Rana after he sneaked into India before his visit to India.

Anticipating potential challenges, Headley sent an e-mail to Rana detailing his belongings and assets, the NIA told.

NOT TIME FOR DOMESTIC BLAME

Islamist terrorists, Pak handlers need to be destroyed

PNS NEW DELHI

Asserting that this is not the time for a domestic blame game over the Pahalgam terror attack, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said Islamist terrorists and their Pakistani handlers need to be destroyed and that "we must support our government in doing whatever it judges best to achieve this."



He also asserted that India's commitment to Kashmiri inter-

opened fire at a meadow near Pahalgam town in south to the Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday afternoon.

Tharoor said the responsibility for the horrors endured this week lies more with those who planned and carried out the killings than those who failed to prevent them. He made remarks in a post on X as could not return from the Lakshadweep in time for the meeting here. He said in India.

Indian naval warship test-fires surface-to-air missile

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's guided missile destroyer INS Surat successfully test-fired a medium-range surface-to-air missile. The missile has a range of around 70 km, it is learnt. "The Indian Navy's latest indigenous guided missile destroyer INS Surat has successfully carried out a precision cooperative engagement of a sea-skimming target marking a significant milestone in strengthening the Navy's defence capabilities," the Navy said.

Pahalgam attack masterminded by Pakistan

Says BP exploiting tragedy to promote polarisation

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the cowardly Pahalgam attack masterminded by Pakistan is a direct assault on the values of our republic, even as it accused the BJP exploiting the tragedy to promote discord and polarisation. Territory, which is directly across the country, under the purview of the Union home ministry. The Congress Working Committee (CWC), chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, asserted that it is



Teachers continue sit-in in front of the SSC office

PNS KOLKATA

Around 1,000 protesting teachers, who have laid siege to the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) headquarters here, continued their sit-in on Thursday. The agitators, who launched the demonstration on April 21, vowed that their sit-in would continue till they were officially reinstated on a permanent basis in their respective educational institutions.



One of the office-bearers of the West Bengal Teachers' Forum, Chinnoy Mandal, told PTI, "We will not withdraw our agitation till the state presents a full list of tainted/untainted candidates before the Supreme Court by moving a review petition for a fresh round of recruitment test after May 30 to December 31 as ordered by the Supreme Court."

Prasthan ex minister held in money laundering case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Thursday arrested Congress leader and former Rajasthan minister Mahesh Joshi in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, officials said. Joshi was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by the federal probe agency in Jaipur, they said. The ED's money laundering case stems from an FIR registered by Rajasthan's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) into the scheme that aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through household tap connections.

PAHALGAM ATTACK



Drunk auto driver sends Delhi Police on wild goose chase

PNS NEW DELHI

him. But it was clear from an investigation that he made the hoax call because various security agencies of a pending challan that he was launched after an angry about," he said. anonymous caller claimed No FIR has been registered against the man so going to take place in Pahalgam. Security has already been tightened across the country. The call, it was later discovered, was made by a 51-year-old auto driver and Kashmir's Pahalgam. Terrorists opened fire at the Baisaran meadow near Pahalgam. The man was drunk and had been nettled by a challan. Pahalgam in Anantnag district. "He was drunk, but did not, killing 26 people, ferent security agencies, in the questioned him. Later, weadied attack in the got to know that he was Valley since the Pulwama annoyed over a challan issued against his vehicle," Delhi Police beefed up officer told PTI on the security across the city, condition of anonymity. especially around tourist "Preventive action hotspots and border check-also been taken against points.

Pahalgam's terror victims cremated - with flowers, tears, and resolve

PNS JAIPUR/AHMEDABAD/BALASORE

Flames leapt from funeral pyres, suppressed sobs and anguished cries mingled with the sound of mantras and the promise that ended in a hail of fragrance of flowers and bullets. And back in their incense lingered. It was the final adieu for the families of the sons, fathers and husbands those killed in Pahalgam and they had lost, some stoic and also for a country in mourning others inconsolable.



On Thursday, the last rites of several of the 26 gunned down by terrorists in Baisaran were held ... from Odisha to In Ishani village in Odisha, Gujarat and from Rajasthan to Karnataka. A snapshot as were of the prime holiday des- tination that Kashmir has been

al procession proceeded to the crematorium a kilometre away, behind and lining the streets. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Balasore MP Prathapad came from Dubai to attend Chandra Sarangi were among those who accompanied Tanuj from his home to the crematorium. Amid chants of "Jai Hind" and "Prashant Satpathy Amar Rahe," young Tanuj lit the pyre, a sight that seared the consciousness of everyone watching, whether in Ishani or on their mobile and large crowds. Political lines blurred as Rajasthan Governor Haribhai Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as well as state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra among to Prashant, lining up on both sides of the road as the funeral proceeded in a quiet street with

Editor's TAKE

Pope Francis: A Pope of the people

As the world awaits his funeral, it is time for the Catholic world to reflect on his legacy.

The death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday marked the end of an era in the Roman Catholic Church, one shaped by humility, joy, and profound efforts to bridge divides within the Church and beyond.

His decision was more than symbolic, it reflected his core message: that the Church should be close to the people, particularly the poor and marginalised.

Central to Francis' leadership was his theology of joy. He often warned against a Christianity devoid of joy, likening such faith to being pickled in vinegar.

As thousands queue to bid farewell in person, and millions more watch the funeral unfold across screens worldwide, the atmosphere in Rome is less one of despair and more of sacred remembrance.

Images of the Pope flash across digital billboards with a simple message: 'Grazie'. His final resting place, Santa Maria Maggiore, a church he visited before and after nearly every papal journey, underscores his identity as a pilgrim pope, always walking alongside the faithful.

As tradition dictates, white smoke will soon signal their decision to the world. But even as attention turns to the question of succession, the legacy of Pope Francis will remain etched into the conscience of the Church.

As the world bids farewell, his legacy offers both comfort and challenge, a reminder that faith must engage the realities of the world with love.

The conclave will choose his successor, but his influence will endure, not only in Church doctrine but in the hearts of millions who found hope and dignity through his leadership.

Soft power in retreat

For decades, the US won hearts and minds not with fighter jets, but with scholarships, foreign aid, immigration opportunities, and cultural exchange. Under Trump, it has upended the soul of America.



In diplomacy, not every war is fought with guns, and not every ally is won with treaties. Some of the most lasting alliances, perceptions and influences are built in classrooms, libraries, hospitals, and open-minded immigration desks.

Under Trump's leadership, this carefully crafted image took a sharp U-turn. His decisions to defund Ivy League institutions, restrict prestigious fellowships, cut down on foreign aid, and slam doors on immigration grants have not just changed policies, they've eroded America's soul in the eyes of the world.

From the end of World War II to the close of the 20th century, the US balanced hard power with soft persuasion. After Pearl Harbour and the end of the Monroe Doctrine's inward-looking policy, thinkers, diplomats, artists, and professionals and professionalism, were once the unsung heroes of the American healthcare system.

Trump's America First translated into cost-cutting measures across sectors. US foreign aid took a hit as the US turned inward, focusing on domestic issues. The openness to foreign talent, including humanitarian workers and students, was not just a pragmatic policy but a reflection of American values.

When nations drift towards ultra-nationalism and away from global collaboration, they often lose allies, they lose identity. The world's image of America is being replaced by a more protectionist, fortress-like nation.

Soft power, unlike hard power, does not come with a price tag. It thrives on trust, respect, and shared values. America's soft power is broken, no amount of tanks or tariffs can fix it.

The author is Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies and Social Sciences, Pondicherry Central University, India. Views are personal.



SANTHOSH MATHEW

Leaderspeak



Every country wants to partake, even countries that have ripped us off for many, many years. China is an example, it's not just China, European Union. They ripped us off for many, many years, and those days are over... We'll be able to lower taxes substantially.

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

SECOND Opinion

BY RABEEH BHADAR

This year will be a landmark year for lunar exploration with three moon landings scheduled in quick succession. This week marks the first private company to put a spacecraft on the moon with the first private company to put a spacecraft on the moon with the first private company to put a spacecraft on the moon.

Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lunar lander has achieved a soft landing on Mare Crisium, a vast basaltic plain on the moon. This mission is notable for being the first US lunar lander since Apollo 16 in 1972.

The writer is an alumnus of IIT Delhi and founder of NeuroEquilibrium. Views are personal.

Letters to the Editor

A wake-up call for National security. The transformative power of reading stands united against terrorism.

Madam, The brutal killing of 26 innocent people, most of them tourists, in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, has left the nation stunned. Militants disguised in army uniforms opened fire while the victims were enjoying poetry recitations and scenic views.

It stands as one of the most diabolical acts of terrorism in recent times. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quick to cut short his official visit to Saudi Arabia, the Government's response, questions arise about the Government's handling of the situation.

Reports suggest that the attack may have been carried out by a group of terrorists. The Government must give answers to these questions. It is not the time for rhetoric but for real action.

These questions demand urgent answers. Let us nurture a love for reading from an early age, guiding children toward knowledge, creativity, and success. Let us empower young minds to embrace books, build essential skills, and unlock their full potential.

Let us nurture a love for reading from an early age, guiding children toward knowledge, creativity, and success. Let us empower young minds to embrace books, build essential skills, and unlock their full potential.

Let us nurture a love for reading from an early age, guiding children toward knowledge, creativity, and success. Let us empower young minds to embrace books, build essential skills, and unlock their full potential.

Madam, Reading is more than a skill, it is a gateway to lifelong learning, personal growth, and academic success. On the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, on Wednesday, April 22, which claimed the lives of 30 innocent civilians. The nation mourns with the affected families who are enduring unimaginable pain.

As countless voices across the country express solidarity, many are also demanding the severing of all sporting ties with Pakistan in the wake of the tragedy.

This heinous act has caused irreparable harm, destroying families and striking at the heart of our society. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims. May they find peace and strength in these dark times.

Many people said in their emotional outpouring that matches between India and Pakistan have not occurred since a one-off ODI series in 2012-13. Their clashes in ICC tournaments remain the most anticipated events in global cricket.

The recent ICC Champions Trophy faced turbulence, with India declining to send a team to Pakistan due to security concerns. Matches were eventually hosted in a neutral venue in Dubai. Moving forward, both the BCCI and PCB have agreed to avoid playing on each other's soil for at least three years.

WORLD MALARIA DAY: REIGNITING THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

Malaria is a life-threatening parasitic disease transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito. Since 2008, it is themed 'Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvent, Reimagine, Reignite.' It remains a major global health challenge.

Since the late 1990s, the international community has renewed its commitment to eradicating malaria, preventing an estimated 2.2 billion cases and 12.7 million deaths over two decades.

Yet, the disease still claims one life every minute, with the vast majority of deaths occurring in the African region. Preventive measures such as using insect repellents, wearing long-sleeved clothing, and eliminating stagnant water around homes are crucial.

These challenges leave millions of people in a state of health necessity but also a step toward a fairer, safer, and more prosperous future for all.

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. We appreciate your feedback.

Terror in Pahalgam shatters India's diplomatic high

As world leaders lauded India's geopolitical ascent, the attack marked a chilling reminder that Kashmir remains a potent lever in the regional and international balance of power

FIRST Column

J Vance, the Vice President of the United States, arrived in India on 19 April, following a solemn stop at the Vatican, where he became the final high-ranking official to meet the late Pope Francis, an emblematic rebel of the modern Church whose death this week marked the end of a transformative papacy.

Vance's arrival was framed as an endorsement of India's ascendant geopolitical status, punctuated by public tributes to Prime Minister Modi and the deepening of the Indo-American strategic alliance. This diplomatic spectacle was further amplified by the April 9 extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani, origin Canadian linked to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, representing a rare convergence of legal triumphs between two nations in their fight against terrorism.

Yet, this orchestration of diplomatic victories quickly unravelled, as within days of these high-profile engagements, Kashmir, a region central to India's evolving image, was once again thrust into global headlines, not by progress, but by tragedy. On April 22, a massacre in the idyllic meadows of Baisaran near Pahalgam once heralded as the face of Kashmir's resurgence, accelerated a brutal paradox: the strategic narrative of peace and prosperity was violently interrupted by terror, forcing the world to confront the enduring volatility of the region at a moment when India appeared poised for diplomatic consolidation.

On April 22, 2025, a massacre unfolded in the meadows of Baisaran near Pahalgam, often romanticised as 'India's Switzerland'. What has become a symbol of India's Kashmir renaissance, a picturesque site of family vacations, film shoots and summer retreats, was reduced to a field of carnage as unidentified gunmen opened fire on a group of tourists. At least twenty-eight civilians, mostly men, were methodically executed, while women and children were reportedly spared.

The attack was not merely an act of terror, but a deeply choreographed intervention in domestic and international narrative regarding Kashmir. It sought not just to kill, but to provoke, destabilise, and symbolically mutilate the emerging image of a peaceful, integrated, and economically flourishing region. The timing of the attack is far too conspicuous to be dismissed as arbitrary. Beyond coinciding with the visit of the American Vice President and coming a few days after the extradition of a high-profile terror suspect, the attack occurred against the backdrop of growing international recognition of India's Kashmir policy post the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Since that constitutional transformation, Jammu and Kashmir have experienced what some argue is the beginning of a socio-economic metamorphosis. The region recorded a significant uptick in tourist arrivals, over 3.5 million in 2024 alone, and notable improvements in infrastructure, per capita income, and public order, especially relative to other northern Indian states. Critics of New Delhi's policy feared a resurgence of insurgency



post-2019, but such forecasts had not materialised at the scale predicted. Instead, the Indian Government appeared to have successfully restrained militant mobilisation through strategic military presence, economic incentives, and political integration. In this context, the Pahalgam attack functions as a violent punctuation—an abrupt and bloody interruption in a gradually stabilising narrative. Its deliberate orchestration, selective targeting of non-Muslim male tourists, and execution-style killings point to a calculated act of psychological and political warfare. Intelligence sources have attributed the operation to The Resistance Front (TRF), a group often described as a proxy of Pakistan, based organisations responsible for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Although the Pakistani state has officially denied any involvement, the attack bears the hallmarks

of asymmetric warfare, characteristic of entities that operate in isolation. The possibility of future attacks targeting soft civilian clusters—tourists, religious pilgrims, migrant workers—across other regions in South Asia cannot be discounted. Nepal's porous borders, Sri Lanka's post-conflict fragilities, and India's Northeast remain potential theatres for replication.

Consequences from an Indian strike on Pakistan's Karachi Nuclear Power Plant, with up to 20,000 latent cancer cases in Karachi due to Iodine-131 exposure. The document reflected Washington's concerns about how quickly a conventional South Asian conflict could escalate to nuclear war, as echoed in a 1989 report by the US State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, which deemed a full-scale war between India and Pakistan 'improbable' yet stressed the high risk of escalation through miscalculation, especially in the event of strikes on Pakistan's nuclear sites. By 1993, a National Intelligence Estimate suggested a one in five chance of war, noting that nuclear cross-border militancy, and rising extremism, pulling in actors far beyond South Asia, could turn even minor skirmishes into a regional disaster. What emerges from these archival assessments is a grim continuity: terror

FROM THE CHATTISINGHPORA MASSACRE IN MARCH 2000, WHEN 36 SIKH VILLAGERS WERE EXECUTED DURING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT, TO THE 2001 JAMMU AND KASHMIR ASSEMBLY BOMBING, THE 2003 NANDIMARG MASSACRE OF KASHMIRI PANDITS, THE 2017 AMARNATH YATRA AMBUSH, AND NOW THE 2025 PAHALGAM KILLINGS, THE PATTERN IS UNMISTAKABLE

of asymmetric warfare, characteristic of entities that operate in isolation. The possibility of future attacks targeting soft civilian clusters—tourists, religious pilgrims, migrant workers—across other regions in South Asia cannot be discounted. Nepal's porous borders, Sri Lanka's post-conflict fragilities, and India's Northeast remain potential theatres for replication.

Consequences from an Indian strike on Pakistan's Karachi Nuclear Power Plant, with up to 20,000 latent cancer cases in Karachi due to Iodine-131 exposure. The document reflected Washington's concerns about how quickly a conventional South Asian conflict could escalate to nuclear war, as echoed in a 1989 report by the US State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, which deemed a full-scale war between India and Pakistan 'improbable' yet stressed the high risk of escalation through miscalculation, especially in the event of strikes on Pakistan's nuclear sites. By 1993, a National Intelligence Estimate suggested a one in five chance of war, noting that nuclear cross-border militancy, and rising extremism, pulling in actors far beyond South Asia, could turn even minor skirmishes into a regional disaster. What emerges from these archival assessments is a grim continuity: terror



NILANTHA ILANGAMU

(The writer is a columnist based in Colombo. Views are personal)

Mental Health: A silent crisis demanding urgent act

Mental well-being can no longer be treated as secondary to physical health. As the burden of mental illness grows, the time has come for a collective, compassionate response to protect our nation's mental health and future

There is an old saying that a healthy mind leads to a healthy body. I could not agree with it more! Ever since the pandemic, we are witnessing a steep rise in mental health related conditions. It is a matter of grave concern that a large number of people are today suffering from what is termed as unmanageable stress, depression and anxiety. It is equally concerning to note that these ailments are impacting across the age spectrum, be it students, young adults or the elderly.

When we look at the data pertaining to mental health, it is like being hit by a ton of bricks. Such is the extent of the issue that one student is committing suicide every hour in India.

Taking note of the growing suicide deaths in higher educational institutions across the country, the Supreme Court recently formed a National Task Force for a mechanism to prevent student suicide deaths on campuses and address the mental health issues.

The bench said that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2021 highlights the grim reality that over 13,000 students lost their lives by committing suicide in the country.

According to the World Health Organisation, depression affects over 300 million people globally, and it is predicted to be the leading cause of disability by 2030.

In 2024, studies in India continue to reveal a significant burden of depression with estimates indicating that over 56 million people are affected and research points to a rising trend, particularly in rural areas and among certain demographics.

Factors like rapid urbanisation, economic pressures, social isolation, and the pandemic have contributed to the increase. The Bipolar disorder landscape in India is also quite serious, about 1 in 150 persons in the country suffer from it, and quite disturbingly, 70 per cent remain untreated.

It is characterised by low mood, decreased energy, loss of interest, sleep problems, thoughts or acts of self-harm along with episodes of mania. Research is now shedding light on the fact that 60 per cent of the people who lose their life to suicide have had a mood ailment such



ANIL RAJPUT

and setting unattainable and overwhelming goals, courtesy of peer pressure. The MANAS provides free, 24/7 mental health support through a toll-free helpline, while the Ayushman Bharat health issues.

In the case of the elderly, we are witnessing the rise in loneliness as their children are either not living with them, or spending much less time because of preoccupations and inability to detach from their busy schedules. There is therefore, a fear of growing old, along with increasing insecurities. For the elderly, the Government has launched the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) to advance age.

When we look deeper into the mental health scenario in India, multiple issues that have a profound impact on mental health, come to the fore. Since the pandemic, we are witnessing a renewed focus and much greater emphasis on mental health issues. The NPHCE provides comprehensive healthcare, including mental health services, to senior citizens. AVYAY supports various welfare initiatives for senior citizens, including grant-in-aid for mental health services and awareness programmes for generations to follow. These guardrails should both protect and strengthen mental Health Programme (Teleand guidance, including emotional support

students and young, many are too busy searching for material things as the entire space has become extremely competitive, much of a priority as many physical issues. The Indian Government has launched several initiatives to address mental health, including the National TeleSenior Citizens (Elderline) offers support and guidance, including emotional support

and setting unattainable and overwhelming goals, courtesy of peer pressure. The MANAS provides free, 24/7 mental health support through a toll-free helpline, while the Ayushman Bharat health issues.

In the case of the elderly, we are witnessing the rise in loneliness as their children are either not living with them, or spending much less time because of preoccupations and inability to detach from their busy schedules. There is therefore, a fear of growing old, along with increasing insecurities. For the elderly, the Government has launched the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) to advance age.

When we look deeper into the mental health scenario in India, multiple issues that have a profound impact on mental health, come to the fore. Since the pandemic, we are witnessing a renewed focus and much greater emphasis on mental health issues. The NPHCE provides comprehensive healthcare, including mental health services, to senior citizens. AVYAY supports various welfare initiatives for senior citizens, including grant-in-aid for mental health services and awareness programmes for generations to follow. These guardrails should both protect and strengthen mental Health Programme (Teleand guidance, including emotional support

students and young, many are too busy searching for material things as the entire space has become extremely competitive, much of a priority as many physical issues. The Indian Government has launched several initiatives to address mental health, including the National TeleSenior Citizens (Elderline) offers support and guidance, including emotional support

and setting unattainable and overwhelming goals, courtesy of peer pressure. The MANAS provides free, 24/7 mental health support through a toll-free helpline, while the Ayushman Bharat health issues.

In the case of the elderly, we are witnessing the rise in loneliness as their children are either not living with them, or spending much less time because of preoccupations and inability to detach from their busy schedules. There is therefore, a fear of growing old, along with increasing insecurities. For the elderly, the Government has launched the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) to advance age.

When we look deeper into the mental health scenario in India, multiple issues that have a profound impact on mental health, come to the fore. Since the pandemic, we are witnessing a renewed focus and much greater emphasis on mental health issues. The NPHCE provides comprehensive healthcare, including mental health services, to senior citizens. AVYAY supports various welfare initiatives for senior citizens, including grant-in-aid for mental health services and awareness programmes for generations to follow. These guardrails should both protect and strengthen mental Health Programme (Teleand guidance, including emotional support

students and young, many are too busy searching for material things as the entire space has become extremely competitive, much of a priority as many physical issues. The Indian Government has launched several initiatives to address mental health, including the National TeleSenior Citizens (Elderline) offers support and guidance, including emotional support

the pressure that it can unleash on the young and innocent, strengthen the two-way communication (candid and unreserved) between the students and their parents/families, strengthen the role of the friends, peers and the community in creating a positive environment that accepts average performance as not the end of the world, and instills the spirit of optimism.

All of these, will ensure, that the dejection from failure or pressure of excelling, are dealt with most effectively. The educational institutions and their leadership also have to provide an environment where students feel motivated, encouraged and appreciated. Grades and excellence alone are not what life is all about, it's about an honest to self and best possible effort.

For all this, that suitable conditions have to be created. This can include counselling, dedicated presence and round the clock availability of experts who can spot the red flags and identify those who need psychological support and guidance in a timely manner, thereby, ensuring that a decline in mental faculties of the students in their institutions is drastically reduced.

This will play an impactful role in the creation of a quintessential complete establishment, one that focuses not just on the studies but also creates avenues for the all-round development of students.

In the end, we have to be mindful of the ground realities. Our journey has just started on this very long and arduous path, and it will take multiple approaches to address this key health aspect, that Mann Ki has a huge bearing on our country.

Baath, he highlighted the importance of Mental health is a significant component of a 'Swastha Bharat' dream, and has a direct and crucial impact on national productivity and productivity. While factors that contribute to mental ailments will too increase in the coming times, our proactive and head-on engagement, that ensure effective remedies.

I do believe, that well begun is half done, and that we are indeed headed in the right direction, one of hope and promise of a bright future!

(The writer is President — Corporate Affairs, ITC. Views are personal)



STENDHAL SYNDROME BEAUTY THAT HURTS

SULOGNA MEHTA
 mehta.sulogna@gmail.com

Imagine yourself walking through the numerous galleries of the Louvre Museum in Paris. From works of exquisite beauty, Leonardo da Vinci's painting 'Mona Lisa' to Michelangelo's 'David', you are surrounded by masterpieces of art. It is said to be a psychosomatic condition (physical illness or conditions influenced by emotional factors). It is marked by certain strong emotional responses when exposed to overwhelming artistic beauty. Stendhal Syndrome is also called 'Florence Sickness' because there is an interesting connection to the Italian marble statue of 'Venus of Florence' or 'Firenze'. It was discovered by a French doctor, Jean-Étienne Stendhal, in 1817.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

The Pioneer brings to you a fascinating deep-dive into Stendhal Syndrome — a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.



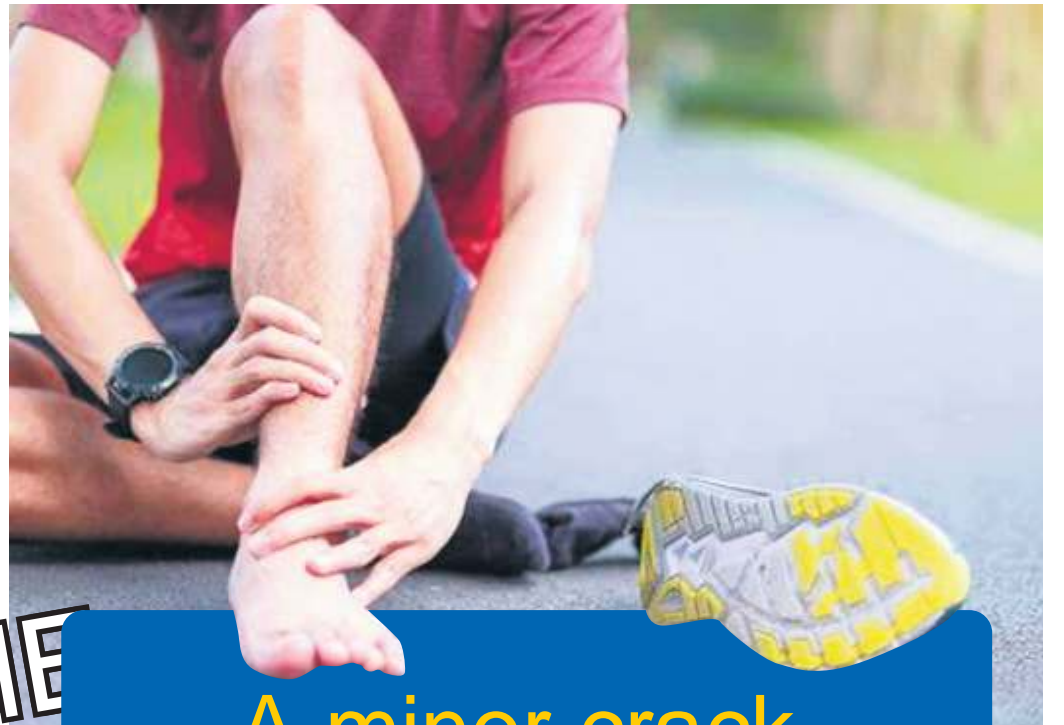
Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.

Stendhal Syndrome is a rare yet intriguing psychosomatic response to overwhelming artistic beauty. From racing heartbeats to unexpected tears, you explore how exquisite artworks can stir intense emotional and physical reactions as explained by leading psychiatrists. Discover why some tourists faint in Florence and how art truly has the power to move — quite literally.



A minor crack today, a major injury tomorrow

Experts warn against the dangers of overlooking minor bone injuries

TEJAL SINHA
 tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Stress fractures — often brushed off as minor discomforts — can spiral into serious, long-term health problems if left untreated, warn orthopedic experts. Though they begin as small cracks in the bone, stress fractures can escalate quickly, affecting mobility, functionality and overall quality of life.

THE SILENT THREAT: HOW STRESS FRACTURES BEGIN

Stress fractures are small cracks in your bones that occur due to repetitive force or overuse, often in weight-bearing bones, such as in your feet or legs," explains Dr. G V Reddy, Consultant — Orthopedics, Manipal Hospital Vijayawada. These injuries commonly affect individuals who are active, such as athletes, dancers, or people without present with pain and swelling in the affected region, especially during weight-bearing activities. At the onset, symptoms may appear mild. "The pain is often progressive, worsening over time," he notes that diagnostic imaging plays a key role in identifying stress fractures. "X-ray imaging is generally the first-line investigation for diagnosing stress fractures. However, in some cases, an MRI may be required for a more detailed assessment," says Dr. Mummigatti. "Interestingly, in the early MRI grading of stress fractures, the initial stages may not show any cortical break (fracture)."

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF IGNORING THE PAIN

Neglecting a stress fracture doesn't just delay recovery—it invites a host of complications. "Improper healing of stress fractures, which can extend recovery time. It is crucial not to overlook cause malunion (improper alignment) and initial symptoms, even if an X-ray appears normal, nonunion (failure to heal), is another major risk," Dr. Mummigatti advises. "A high level of suspicion leaving stress fractures untreated," notes Dr. Reddy. These conditions can result in chronic pain for individuals, athletes, and military personnel. Early diagnosis and treatment can lead to complete symptom resolution. However, if the diagnosis is delayed and a full fracture develops, bone healing impact nearby nerves and blood vessels, causing a athlete's return to peak performance."

TREATMENT APPROACHES

The good news? With timely medical intervention, stress fractures are highly treatable. "Management to remedy," warns Dr. Reddy. "It is important to rest, immobilise and evaluate the respective part of the body to avoid further health implications and even worse." Both experts underline the need for awareness and caution. A seemingly minor crack, if ignored, can evolve into a major health setback. Recognising the warning signs, seeking prompt medical care and following the right treatment plan can ensure full recovery and help prevent permanent damage.

invasive treatments. It is crucial to seek prompt medical attention to ensure proper healing and overall bone health."

REPETITIVE STRESS, REAL RISK

According to Dr. Sushanth B Mummigatti, Orthopaedic & Trauma Surgeon, Manipal Hospital Goa, "Stress fractures occur due to repeated stress at the same location, leading to bone fractures." While often associated with individuals who have weak bones, these injuries are not exclusive to them. "They can also develop in strong bones, particularly in athletes and military recruits," he explains.

SPOTTING THE SIGNS: DIAGNOSIS AND EARLY SYMPTOMS

Dr. Mummigatti emphasizes the importance of paying attention to early signs: "Patients typically present with pain and swelling in the affected region, especially during weight-bearing activities. The pain is often progressive, worsening over time." He notes that diagnostic imaging plays a key role in identifying stress fractures. "X-ray imaging is generally the first-line investigation for diagnosing stress fractures. However, in some cases, an MRI may be required for a more detailed assessment," says Dr. Mummigatti. "Interestingly, in the early MRI grading of stress fractures, the initial stages may not show any cortical break (fracture)."

EARLY DETECTION IS CRUCIAL

Delaying diagnosis and treatment can significantly extend recovery time. "It is crucial not to overlook initial symptoms, even if an X-ray appears normal, a high level of suspicion should be maintained, particularly in elderly individuals, athletes, and military personnel. Early diagnosis and treatment can lead to complete symptom resolution. However, if the diagnosis is delayed and a full fracture develops, bone healing impact nearby nerves and blood vessels, causing a athlete's return to peak performance."

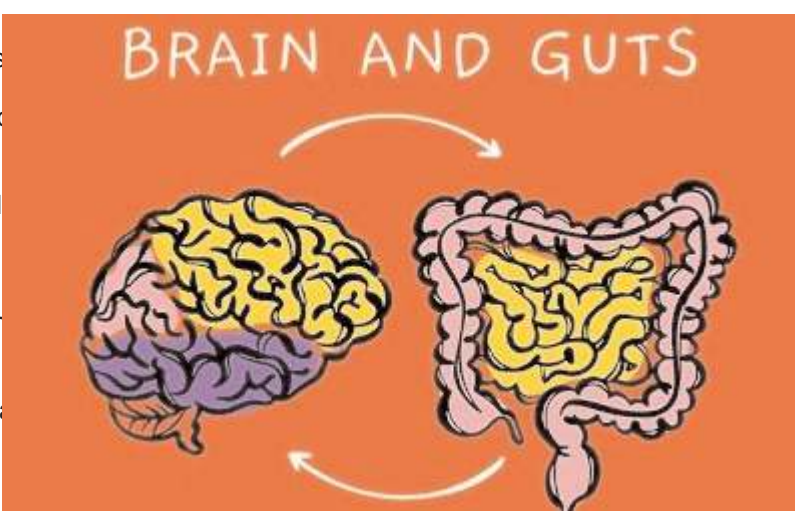
TREATMENT APPROACHES

The good news? With timely medical intervention, stress fractures are highly treatable. "Management to remedy," warns Dr. Reddy. "It is important to rest, immobilise and evaluate the respective part of the body to avoid further health implications and even worse." Both experts underline the need for awareness and caution. A seemingly minor crack, if ignored, can evolve into a major health setback. Recognising the warning signs, seeking prompt medical care and following the right treatment plan can ensure full recovery and help prevent permanent damage.

MANAGING AUTISM THROUGH GUT-BRAIN AXIS

You must've heard doctors and other healthcare professionals refer to something known as the gut-brain axis. Simply put, it's a group of nerves that connect your gut and brain and receive messages back and forth. So, is there a connection between autism and the gut-brain axis? Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition, but its expression goes beyond the brain. A lot of evidence points to the gut-brain axis, the two-way communication network between the brain and gut microbiota that influences digestion, cognition, behaviour and mood.

Children on the spectrum frequently experience gastrointestinal (GI) issues like bloating, constipation and poor appetite. These issues can lead to poor sleep, aggression and irritability. The gut microbiota, which consists of a trillion microorganisms, plays a pivotal role. These microbes produce neurotransmitters such as serotonin and GABA that regulate inflammation and even influence the brain's structure and function through endocrine, immune and neural pathways. A latest pilot study conducted in Kerala examined the effects of probiotics on young children with autism. The two-month probiotic intervention showed



improved behaviour and gastrointestinal therapy. While diet alone is not a treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), it's a vital piece of the puzzle. The gut-brain axis opens a new dimension in autism care. A balanced diet with reduced processed food, an increase in fiber and the mindful use of probiotics, under professional guidance. It's a gentle reminder that sometimes, the journey to a healthier mind begins with a healthier gut. (The author, Dr Dedeepya Puskur, is a developmental paediatrician and clinical head, at Fernandez Child Development Centre.)

Ajay Dwivedi

Kushi

Priya grace

Sanjana

Tanishq has expanded its retail footprint with the launch of its grand store in Suncity and Kokapet, Hyderabad. The stores were inaugurated by Swadesh Kumar Behera, Chief People Officer and Ajay Dwivedi, Regional Business Head - South. Both new stores showcase an exquisite range of jewellery, including gold, diamonds, Kundan, Polki, and contemporary designs, as well as an exclusive wedding

Iceberg Organic Ice Creams inaugurated its third outlet in Hyderabad, located in Begumpet. The launch marked the presence of renowned Indian music composer and singer RP Patnaik, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Madhapur Traffic Division, Cyberabad K. Satyanarayana, Inspector of Police (Ramgopalpet PS), T. Narsing Rao and Inspector of Police (Begumpet Traffic PS) P. Papaiah.

The Telangana Poultry Federation (TPF) and Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers' Association (IPEMA)/PoultryIndia, organized a symbolic Paalaabhishekam (milk consecration) ceremony to honour Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy. The event took place at the TPF Office near Nizam College Grounds and was attended by poultry farmers from across the state.

Diamonds Reimagined

Sri Jagdamba Pearls, Hyderabad's iconic jewellery brand, has made a bold foray into the lab-grown diamond (LGD) market with the launch of Aurah, a contemporary collection of lab-grown diamond jewellery designed for today's conscious and style-forward consumer. Sri Jagdamba Pearls is a legacy brand in India's jewellery industry, proudly tracing its roots to 1924 during the Nizam era in Hyderabad. Recognized for its craftsmanship and authenticity in pearls, gemstones, gold, and diamond jewelry, Sri Jagdamba Pearls has grown from its first store, opened in 1975 on MG Road in Hyderabad, to a reputable name associated with quality and tradition, earning the trust of millions worldwide. Lab-grown diamonds are transforming the global jewellery industry, with the market projected to cross Rs 10,000 crore by 2033. The launch of Aurah represents a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, bringing sustainability, beauty, and affordability to the forefront of fine jewellery.

Transforms India's Water Pumping Industry

Across the country, water pumping stations are struggling with unplanned breakdowns, excessive energy usage, and poor maintenance practices. These inefficiencies not only affect water delivery but also contribute to significant energy waste and environmental impact. Amidst these challenges, Pump Academy Private Limited has emerged as a pioneer with its breakthrough solution, iPUMPNET—the world's only end-to-end intelligent pump management platform. iPUMPNET integrates predictive maintenance, real-time performance monitoring, and AI-driven energy optimization to ensure pumps operate efficiently and sustainably. Backed by two patented technologies, iPUMPNET uses deep learning to detect early signs of failure and optimize performance, reducing downtime and energy costs. It has been successfully deployed at critical sites, including pumping stations managed by BWSSB and BMC, showcasing its real-world effectiveness. Pump Academy's innovation earned significant recognition from the Government of Karnataka.

Converting Airborne Water vapor into Virgin Drinking Water

Water scarcity continues to be a growing global concern, and Scalene Cybernetics Limited, a member company under Organization de Scalene Foundation is addressing this challenge with Aquaregia, an advanced water harvesting system powered by its patented Rain Tunnel Technology using a Cloud Chamber. The technology uses the saturated vapor within the thin air and creates rain within a box and transforms that water into clean, pristine drinking water. This technology has been named Aquaregia meaning the "Royal Water" and this is a solution to drinking water without relying on any unfortunately contaminated surface water.

CELEBRATING FASHION, CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Tommy Hilfiger announces Tommy Hilfiger's visit to Mumbai, India, a day of fashion, cultural exchange, and connection – reinforcing the brand's presence in one of the world's most dynamic style capitals. The day begins with a visit to the TOMMY HILFIGER store at Jio World Drive, located in the heart of Mumbai's luxury shopping destination, the Bandra Kurla Complex. There, Hilfiger participated in a panel discussion moderated by Indian creator Sarah-Jane Dias and Bollywood actress, model and philanthropist Manushi Chhillar. The conversation explored style, fashion and global influence, uniting icons from both American and Indian fashion cultures. Later that evening, Hilfiger hosted a dinner at the Taj Chambers, nestled within the legendary Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. With sweeping views of the Gateway of India and the backdrop of the Arabian Sea, the intimate affair was a curated celebration of culture, glamor and style. The evening brought together India's foremost cultural tastemakers—from Bollywood icons and A-list celebrities to fashion power players, influential top-tier media, and industry insiders. Guests included Karan Johar, Sara Ali Khan, Ibrahim Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Shikhar Dhawan and Guru Randhawa.

PILOT ORIENTATION DAY IN HYD ON APRIL 26

BAA Training Academy is all set to host its Pilot Orientation Day in Hyderabad on Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Hyderabad. This free-to-attend event invites aspiring pilots and their families to gain an immersive introduction into the exciting world of aviation. Beyond offering insights into structured training modules, the program emphasizes global exposure, with key segments of the training conducted in Europe. This international training environment provides students with a diverse and enriching experience, equipping them with the global perspective that is increasingly vital in today's interconnected aviation industry.

Payal Rajput

TBZ-The Original announced the opening of its 3rd store in the city at Kondapur, Hyderabad. The store is being launched in the auspicious month of Akshaya Tritiya, which is traditionally the peak buying season for Indian customers. Inaugurated by renowned actress Payal Rajput, the store will display a rich collection of Gold, Antique and Temple Jewellery.

PARTY
Photos by- SV Char

FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBS

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

GARFIELD

SUDOKU

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS

Rules

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



SAMANTHA AND RAJ NIDIMORU'S RELATIONSHIP RUMOURS

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Actress Samantha is once again in the headlines, this time for her rumoured relationship with director Raj Nidimoru, of the Raj & DK duo. Though neither Samantha nor Raj has confirmed the relationship, speculation intensified after the two were reportedly spotted traveling together on multiple occasions. Samantha was seen arriving at the Mumbai airport, followed by Raj Nidimoru just minutes later. The two avoided being photographed together, seemingly to maintain a low profile. They were also spotted in Tirupati, where both visited the temple but once again chose not to be seen together publicly. Reports claim that they took the same flight but exited separately to avoid media attention. Raj Nidimoru co-directed *The Family Man Season 2*, which featured Samantha in a breakthrough role. The duo also collaborated on the web series *Sitadel: Honey Bunny* starring Samantha and Varun Dhawan. Sources suggest that Raj & DK are planning a Hindi film with Samantha in the lead role. Adding fuel to the fire, sources say Samantha has shifted base to Mumbai and is reportedly receiving career advice from Raj Nidimoru regarding her future projects.

Karthik Subbaraj distances himself from *Game Changer* failure

Renowned filmmaker Hegde. The film is set to hit the Karthik Subbaraj, known actor on May 1. For hits like *Pizza*, *Retto*, Karthik Subbaraj was Mahaan is gearing up for the questioned by the media about release of his latest film *Retto* the recent box office failure of starring Suriya and Pooja Hegde.

Addressing the issue, Karthik Subbaraj clarified that he was only involved in the initial conceptualization. "I just gave a one-liner idea like 'a humble and honest IAS officer'. That's all," he said, distancing himself from the final screenplay and execution of the project. He went on to suggest that multiple inputs from various people might have caused the screenplay and writing to deviate from the original idea.

While some critics view this as Karthik avoiding responsibility, others argue that his creative vision may have been diluted during the filmmaking process.

KARTHIK SUBBARAJ INITIALLY PENNED RETRO FOR RAJINIKANTH, NOT VIJAY OR SURIYA

With its grand theatrical release, Karthik clarified that the narrative gradually shifted from a pure action-packed ensemble including Pooja and Rajinikanth fans scheduled for May. *Retto* starring original version of *Retto* was written with film to a romantic drama, aligning better with Hegde, Karunakaran, Nassar, Prakash Raj, and Suriya. "This story was no Suriya's on-screen persona. It was written for Thalapaty Vijay sir, as he is interestingly, Suriya himself was curious about the film's origins. "Even Suriya is seen in a special cameo appearance in an upcoming film by Lokesh Joviga. But in a surprising one to suit Thalaivar's image," said Subbaraj. Karthik revealed that *Retto* is one of the most anticipated films of the year, not only for its lead cast but also for its intriguing backstory and direction. The film evolved after he narrated it to Suriya. *Retto* features a squarefaced major setback with his latest *Jack*, he's taking no chances. He knows the film *Jack*. Directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar and audience expects punchy one-liners and high-contrast dialogues from him," a source close to the Jack failed to impress both audiences and he's now deeply involved in the script and other departments to ensure *Retto* meets those expectations." In the wake of the film's failure, Siddu is now focusing intently on his next project *Telusu Kada*. Siddu's *Tillu Square* recently entered the Rs 100 crore club within just seven days of release, Tollywood stylist Neeraja Kona. Produced by *Telusu Kada* he's looking to bounce back and a release soon, but sources now suggest a delay in his upward trajectory.

Nani teases explosive surprises in HIT 3

It's a cameo, it's meant to be a surprise.

While he didn't confirm or deny the speculation, his comments hint that audiences might be in for a thrilling surprise.

Nani also offered a glimpse into what audiences can expect from *HIT 3*, promising a mix of intense storytelling and cinematic spectacle. According to him, one of the most exciting aspects of the film is how the plot gradually unfolds while delivering adrenaline-pumping moments typically reserved for high-octane commercial entertainers.

How the hell this is going to unfold will be the most exciting part about *HIT 3*, and also what makes it special is the kind of the film where you can really cheer, root, whisper, and clap kind of a moment," Nani said.

As the release date of *HIT: The Third Case* (HIT 3) draws closer, excitement is mounting among fans. Slated for a May 1 release, the third installment in the *HIT* franchise stars Nani and includes them organically without breaking realism. But in *HIT 3*, he believes the filmmakers have struck the right balance. "It's very hard for those kinds of moments to happen in a thriller organically while being realistic. I think that fully avoided giving anything away," he added. When asked directly, he responded with Nani's passionate insights and a knowing smile. "There are many interfranchise moments shaping up to be experienced in the theatre, not only suspense and intensity but also the kind of crowd-pleasing highs that point because that's the whole point. Fans love."

Imanvi addresses lies spread by trolls about her identity amid terror attack backlash

Actress Iman Esmail, professionally known as Imanvi, has addressed a wave of misinformation surrounding her background, following the tragic terror attack in Raghavapudi and backed by Pahalgam. Imanvi, who is set to star in *Mythri Movie Makers*. The film, star alongside Prabhas in the 1940s, blends historical fiction with alternate history, taking to the big screen and also features legendary actors Mithun Chakraborty and Jaya Prada in pivotal roles. An excerpt from the film's synopsis teases a gripping narrative and misinformation.

In her note, Imanvi began by stating that the story is set in the 1940s, the tale of a warrior who rose from the shadows, emerging from a social attack, stating, "Firstly, that believed war was the only and foremost, I want to express my most sincere and heartfelt condolences for the tragic event that took place in Pahalgam. My heart goes out to all those who lost their lives and their loved ones. Any loss of innocent life is a tragedy and weighs heavy on my heart. I strongly condemn the violence of my Indian heritage. Lots of love, Imanvi."

Amidst the tragedy, Imanvi found herself the subject of online vitriol, with several unfounded claims suggesting links between her family and the Pakistani military. Refuting the accusations, she clarified, "Nobody in my family has ever been or is currently associated with the Pakistani military in any way. These and multiple other falsehoods have been fabricated by online trolls for the sole purpose of spreading hate."

She also criticized certain media platforms for irresponsibly amplifying misinformation: "What is especially disappointing is that legitimate news outlets, journalists and those on social media failed to investigate their source material and instead have simply repeated these slanderous statements."

Imanvi's post emphasized her deep-rooted connection to India and her cultural heritage. "I am a proud Indian American who speaks Hindi, Telugu, Gujarati and English. I was born in Los Angeles, California after my parents legally immigrated to the United States as youth," she shared.

She went on to express her gratitude for the opportunity to work in the Indian film industry, "a world that inspired her passion for performance and storytelling. "As someone who has Indian identity and culture running deep in my blood, I hope to use this medium as a form of

Siddu Jonnalagadda refocuses efforts on *Telusu Kada* after *Jack* setback

Actor Siddu Jonnalagadda, who founded Siddu is getting involved in every aspect of the massive success with *Tillu and Tillu* production.

Squarefaced a major setback with his latest *Jack*, he's taking no chances. He knows the film *Jack*. Directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar and audience expects punchy one-liners and high-contrast dialogues from him," a source close to the Jack failed to impress both audiences and he's now deeply involved in the script and other departments to ensure *Retto* meets those expectations." In the wake of the film's failure, Siddu is now focusing intently on his next project *Telusu Kada*. Siddu's *Tillu Square* recently entered the Rs 100 crore club within just seven days of release, Tollywood stylist Neeraja Kona. Produced by *Telusu Kada* he's looking to bounce back and a release soon, but sources now suggest a delay in his upward trajectory.

STANDALONE

Allu Arjun is once again making headlines, not just for his stellar box-office streak with *Pushpa*, but also for his fresh new look as he gears up for his much-anticipated collaboration with director Atlee. The star turned heads at a family wedding, where he appeared alongside his wife Sneha Reddy and daughter Arha. Sporting a minimalist yet striking ensemble—a brown kurta paired with black trousers—Allu Arjun exuded effortless charm, fueling speculation that his appearance might hint at his look for Atlee's upcoming project.

CSK vs SRH: Battle of survival

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chennai

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will eye a crucial turnaround at home when they face an equally desperate Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a battle of survival in the Indian Premier League here on Friday. Both sides have endured a turbulent season, notching just four points from eight games, and must now win all remaining fixtures to keep their slim qualification hopes alive.

Known to make the most of home conditions, five-time champions CSK find themselves in uncharted territory as they have not been able to read the wickets well at the Chepauk.

They started strong at their fortress, dominating Mumbai Indians as Noor Ahmad spun a web around the visitors. But the early promise fizzled out quickly, with three successive losses at home.

The also endured the ignominy of posting their lowest-ever IPL total at home „ 103/9 against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Head coach Stephen Fleming has also voiced frustration over the Chepauk surface, which has offered more to seamers than CSK’s usual spin-heavy attack.

There away form has not been any better either, with just one win in four leadership remains invaluable.

CSK have lacked firepower in the batting, and ability to recalibrate the SRH, meanwhile, have endured a bowing attack could be key in CSK’s survival.

MS Dhoni has returned as full-time captain. While his knee continues to limit mobility, the former Indian captain also roped in South African

season, have failed to hit the same heights this year.

While Sharma’s brilliance secured a win against Punjab Kings, Head is yet to truly make his mark.

The heavy dependence on their top two has exposed the frailty of the middle order, which has struggled to absorb pressure, something head coach Daniel Vettori also conceded after the seven-wicket loss to Mumbai Indians.

When Head and Abhishek don’t succeed, then it’s the responsibility of the other batsmen. Potentially that’s what we haven’t had this season around. The ability for partnerships, for one or two guys to step up,” Vettori said.

TEAMS
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Cummins (c), Ishan Kishan (wk), Atharva Taide, Abhinav Manohar, Aniket Verma, Sachin Baby, Smaran Ravichandran, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Travis Head, Harshal Patel, Kamindu Mendis, Wiaan Mulder, Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Shami, Rahul Chahar, Simarjeet Singh, Zeeshan Ansari, Jaydev Unadkat, Eshan Malunga.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Dhoni (c&wk), Dewald Brevis, Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Shaik Rasheed, Vansh Bedi, Andre Siddharth, Ayush Mhatre, Rachin Ravindra, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajay Shankar, Sam Curran, Anshul Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Matheesha Pathirana.

Boult backs Rohit Sharma calls him world-class player

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Hyderabad

Mumbai Indians pacer Trent Boult has backed world-class Rohit Sharma to play a pivotal role in the team’s pursuit for a record-extending sixth IPL title, following back-to-back half-

Boult, who has adjusted seamlessly centuries that signalled his timely return to a new role after shifting from Rajasthan Royals to MI, emphasised the importance of adaptability in a long tour-

The Kiwi left-arm pacer was instrumental in dismantling Sunrisers Hyderabad’s famed top order, returning with a match-winning spell of 4/26 to cap MI’s straight win in emphatic style.

After SRH collapsed to 143/8, MI powered by Rohit’s commanding 46-ball sixth IPL title, following back-to-back half-

Boult, who has adjusted seamlessly centuries that signalled his timely return to a new role after shifting from Rajasthan Royals to MI, emphasised the importance of adaptability in a long tour-

After SRH collapsed to 143/8, MI powered by Rohit’s commanding 46-ball sixth IPL title, following back-to-back half-

SRH need support from middle order: Coach Vettori

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Hyderabad

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) headed to a dramatic top-order collapse. In a bid to strengthen their power, SRH, meanwhile, have endured a bowing attack could be key in CSK’s survival.

The big-hitting SRH top order slumped early on. Z he said at the post-match press conference.

fighting partnership between Heinrich Klaasen (71) and impact substitute Abhinav Manohar (43), the hosts could only manage 143/8, a total that proved woefully inadequate on a pitch that

already seen two 240-plus totals this season. The toss was important, we wanted to maximise the powerplay. Unfortunately we kept losing wickets early on. The conditions changed dramatically build towards that sort of 180 score, and Vettori said there’s a need for better batting at number 3, Ishan Kishan and Travis and AB, when they go, they are all Arsenal 12 points behind Liverpool.

Real Madrid beats Getafe 1-0 in Spanish league

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Madrid

Real Madrid kept pace with league leader Barcelona with a 1-0 win at Getafe ahead of the rivalry meeting in the Copa del Rey final.

Madrid, which moved back within four points of Barcelona. The Catalan club edged Mallorca 1-0 on Tuesday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti used many reserves ahead of Saturday final in Seville. Brazil forward Endrick made his first Spanish league start with the club, and Vinicius Junior was substituted in the second half.

Midfielder Eduardo Camavinga was replaced because of an apparent muscle injury in the final minutes and it was to be available for Saturday’s final.

Liverpool must wait to clinch Premier League title after Arsenal draws with Crystal Palace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London

One more point. That’s all Liverpool needs to secure a record-tying 20th English top-flight title after second-place Arsenal drew 2-2 with Crystal Palace in the Premier League.

Arne Slot’s runaway leaders can take care of business on Sunday by avoiding defeat to Tottenham in what is set to be a big party at Anfield. A draw or a winner Mikel Arteta said.

became the champion in 2020, ending the storied club’s drought but Liverpool’s players couldn’t celebrate in front of their fans because of restrictions during the pandemic.

They’ll try to make up for it this week. Arsenal’s end. Arsenal twice squandered the lead at Emirates Stadium, with Jean-Philippe Mateta taking advantage of a defensive error by William Saliba to score second equaliser in the 83rd minute.

Manchester City in the Premier League, Manchester City in the Premier League, Manchester City in the Premier League.

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

CELTA WINS AGAIN

AC Milan ruins Inter’s treble bid in derby win to reach Italian Cup final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Milan

AC Milan has not achieved this season, except when playing city rival Inter Milan.

Milan ruined Inter’s bid for a treble and advanced to the Italian Cup derby with a 3-0 win Wednesday courtesy of two goals from Luka Jovic.

It was Milan’s third win over Inter this season, having also beaten the Nerazzurri in the Italian Super Cup final in January.

As you know we are not that good in Serie A. We had to show the quality today. We had to show the character,” Jovic said. “And we showed it and we are going to Rome.” And if Milan can win another trophy, coach Sergio Conceicao might have a chance at keeping his job.

Milan advanced on 4-1 aggregate following a 1-1 first leg. Bologna brings a 3-0 lead over Empoli into the second leg of the other semifinal on Thursday.

The final is scheduled for May 14 into Rome. Inter pressed forward early on following a 1-0 loss at Parma in a rescheduled Serie A match.

Italian teenager Federico Cina wins ATP Masters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Madrid

Italian teenager Federico Cina picked up his second ATP Masters 1000 victory by defeating Coleman Wong in straight sets at the Madrid Open, while Gael Monfils became the oldest winner in the tournament’s history.

Monfils rallied from a poor start to defeat qualifier Borna Gojo 1-6, 6-2, 6-4 for his first win in Madrid since 2022. The 42nd-ranked Monfils is a two-time quarterfinalist at the Masters 1000 clay-court event.

At the beginning, he served one second serve,” Monfils said of Gojo. “I think he had a 94 first-serve percentage, he played great. I (let the) storm pass, then different tactics. I served more with kick and tried to play a little bit different, maybe let him go and not do so much. At the end, just run, run to the ball. It’s not a pretty win, but it’s a win.”

The 18-year-old Cina won 7-6 (5), 6-1 to back up his victory over current No. 70 Francisco Comesana in Miami last month, which marked his ATP 1000 debut.

It was not our goal to decide the title. It was our goal to win the game. I think a draw is a very good result.

AC Milan ruins Inter’s treble bid in derby win to reach Italian Cup final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Milan

AC Milan has not achieved this season, except when playing city rival Inter Milan.

Milan ruined Inter’s bid for a treble and advanced to the Italian Cup derby with a 3-0 win Wednesday courtesy of two goals from Luka Jovic.

It was Milan’s third win over Inter this season, having also beaten the Nerazzurri in the Italian Super Cup final in January.

As you know we are not that good in Serie A. We had to show the quality today. We had to show the character,” Jovic said. “And we showed it and we are going to Rome.” And if Milan can win another trophy, coach Sergio Conceicao might have a chance at keeping his job.

Milan advanced on 4-1 aggregate following a 1-1 first leg. Bologna brings a 3-0 lead over Empoli into the second leg of the other semifinal on Thursday.

The final is scheduled for May 14 into Rome. Inter pressed forward early on following a 1-0 loss at Parma in a rescheduled Serie A match.

