PUBLISHED FROM: HYDERABAD

Islamist terrorists, Pak

handlers need to be destroyed:

DELHI LUCKNOW

BHUBANESWAR

BHOPAL

RANCHI

RAIPUR

CHANDIGARH

DEHRADUN

TOGETHER TO BUILD A RESILIENT STEEL-STRONG INDIA: PM

Samantha and Raj Nidimoru fuel relationship



The Pioneer Why didn't these so-called secular intellectuals fail to respond to the incident that shook the nation? The terror attack in

QUOTE OF THE DAY

J&K was shocking. Why are the so-called secular intellectuals not speaking out about this attack? Do they not have any love for this country? Why isn't Stalin, Kamala Hassan and Prakash Raj speaking about the Jammu and Kashmir incident?

The Modi Government will take action against terrorists. Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra should stop slandering the BJP. Vadra's comments are strongly condemned

- Raghunandan Rao . BJP MP

Ailments linked to WTE Plant

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. 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. A Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant is a facility that incinerates municipal solid waste to generate ..

'Pak handlers need to be destroyed'

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 all support our government" in doing whatever it judges best to achieve this. He also asserted that India's commitment to Kashmiri integration and communal harmony must not be diluted. At least 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed and several..

Stock markets break 7-day rally

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. lue-chins ICICI Bharti Airtel and a largely muted trend in Asian and European equities also dragged the markets down. The 30-share BSE benchmark declined 315.06 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 79,801.43. During the day, it dropped 391.94 points or 0.48 per cent to 79,724.55..

-PAGE: 8

CSK vs SRH: Battle of survival

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 unchartered territory ...



Return home immediately, India asks Indians in Pak

Revokes visas issued to Pak nationals

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Thursday announced revoking all visas issued to Pakistani nationals from April 27 and advised Indian nationals residing in Pakistan to return home at the earliest as tensions between the two countries escalated over the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 peo-

New Delhi also announced suspending visa services to Pakistani nationals with immediate effect as part of the retaliatory measures over the cross-border links to the worst terror strike on civilians in India since the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

Continued on Page 2



India briefs envoys of G20 nations

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Thursday briefed New Delhi-based envoys of almost all G20 nations and those from its strategic partners on the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack and its link to cross-border terrorism, people familiar with the matter said.

Continued on Page 2

LEADERS SEEK DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST TERROR CAMPS

EXTEND FULL SUPPORT FOR 'ANY ACTION'

PNS 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, even as some opposition parties flagged security lapses in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, where 26 people were gunned down by terrorists.

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 leaders of action against terrorism and its backers

It noted that the Pahalgam attack was aimed at vitiating the atmosphere at a time when the economy was on the upswing and tourism in Jammu and Kashmir was booming.

The government did not spell out any action against terrorism during the meeting and the opposition also did not seek any such details.

After the meeting, all leaders assured



All-party meet on Pahalgam: Leaders seek action against terror camps, assure govt of full support

their full support to any government action against the perpetrators of the terror attack, including Pakistan.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said everyone agreed that India should fight terror unitedly and all parties said that they are with the government in this fight.

All political parties have given this message and their leaders have said in one voice that whatever step the government takes, they will support it. Rijiju said the government assured

leaders of action against terrorism and

its backers. "All the political leaders have in unanimous voice supported the action taken by the CCS with regard to Pakistan and also unanimously expressed support for any future action the government will take to fight terrorism.

"I feel that after this all-party meeting, we will succeed in this fight against terrorism and will act against Pakistan and its supporters who are behind this terror attack and remain united,"

Continued on Page 2



Pak pauses Simla pact, talks tough on Indus Treaty

PNS ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Thursday put Simla Agreement and other bilateral accords 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.

Islamabad also closed the Wagah border post, cancelled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave -- mirroring steps taken the previous evening by India over the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistani announcements followed a meeting here of its National Security Committee chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in response to the Indian decision on Wednesday to suspend the Indus Water Treaty and downgrade diplomatic ties with Islamabad.

Continued on Page 2

P2

Will punish terrorists, their backers Bihar, I say to the whole world India will

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday declared that the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued "to the ends of the earth" and promised to "identi-fy, track and punish every terrorist and

In his first speech after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, the prime minister vowed to punish terrorists behind the strike and said India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism.

Modi spoke briefly in English and

said, "Friends, today from the soil of state it categorically that the terrorists

identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the earth. India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism. Terrorism will not go unpunished."

In the stern message, he said, "Every effort will be made to ensure that justice is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve. Everyone who believes in humanity is with us. I thank the people of various countries and their leaders who have stood with us in these times.'

In a message to Pakistan without naming the country, Modi said he will

who hatched the conspiracy, they will be punished beyond their imagination. Punishment will definitely be served.'

The prime minister said the willpower of 140 crore Indians will break the back of patrons of terrorism.

Paying condolences to the victims and their families, he said citizens across the country are in mourning over the brutal manner in which terrorists killed 26 innocent civilians in Kashmir on April 22. The nation stands with their families, he said.

Modi, other leaders on the dais and the crowd observed silence to pay hom-



age to the victims of the attack at the beginning of the prime minister's He said people lost their sons, broth-

ers and husbands and noted that the victims belong to different parts of India, be it Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra. Gujarat, Ödisha and Bihar.

Hyd district MLC polls vote counting today

PNS HYDERABAD

All arrangements for the counting of Hyderabad district local bodies MLC elections have been completed, said Returning Officer Anurag Jayanti. The counting will begin on Friday (April 25) at 8 am. Adequate security arrangements and sufficient hands have been arranged for the vote counting, he

Election observer Surendra Mohan visited the counting centre at the GHMC office and inspected the arrangements.

He gave suggestions regarding the security of ballot boxes, video recording and security. Counting tables, CCTV cameras and security have been arranged for the counting of votes. The Returning Officer said that all steps have been taken to ensure that the counting of votes is conducted transparently and as per election rules.

The Additional Commissioner of the Election Department, Alivelu Mangatayaru, and officials attended the programme.



Cong fooled everyone, people will march to Elkathurthi: Kavitha

PNS WARANGAL

Lashing out at the Congress plete even 16 meaningful projects arrangements. during its 16-month rule.

Meanwhile, as preparations for the BRS Silver Jubilee public meeting on April 27 at Elkathurthi Government, BRS MLC Kavitha reached the final stage, Kavitha visdeclared that it had failed to com- ited the venue and reviewed the

Continued on Page 2

Telangana officials Principal Secretary Rahul Bojja,

detailed discussions, the committee unanimously

recommended the project for final TAC approval

ENC (G) G Anil Kumar, SE Kothagudem Srinivas

Reddy, and DD(GB) S. Subramayam Prasad

represented the state at the meeting. After

Medigadda collapse caused by systemic failure: NDSA The National Dam Safety Authority

(NDSA) has sounded a warning over the safety and sustainability of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project's key components — the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages — after a committee of experts exposed lapses in its design, construction and quality control.

The Committee's report, finalised in December 2024 and chaired by former CWC Chairman . Chandrashekhar Iyer, reveals that all three barrages are facing Signs of damage appeared immediately after 2019 elections

• Annaram Sundilla location changed without geo-technical investigation



Medigadda's Block 7 on the verge of collapse due to piping-induced

subsidence. The report warns that undiscovered holes in the cut-offs across all the three barrages could trigger future failures, demanding a comprehensive geotechnical reassessment, structural modelling, and rehabilitation.

Continued on Page 2

TAC clears TG's Sithamma Sagar SRLIP irrigation project

PNS 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 and CWC Chairman Mukesh Kumar Sinha, recommended clearance of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the integrated Sithamma Sagar and SRLIP project.

landmark for the state, particularly as this is the first integrated multipurpose project to be cleared after the state's formation, which provides both irrigation facilities as well as hydropower.

Telangana officials Principal unanimously recommended the project for final TAC approval.

7.87 lakh acres and provide drinking water through lift irrigation via MW of electricity.

11 pump houses powered by 757 The scheme will benefit Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, and Mahabubabad dis-

and 12 measuring 15x16 metres to handle the discharge.

At Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of store 36.57 TMCs of water.

The project also generates 282.80 MW of hydropower from eight

'No Pakistani in 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

While nearly 140 countries are likely to participate in the international beauty pageant, Pakistan is not among them. Principal Secretary Tourism Smita Sabharwal confirmed, "We do not have them (Pakistan) as partici-

pants." After the Pahalgam attack, India has cut diplomatic ties with Pakistan. Hyderabad will host the 72nd 'Miss World 2025' event

from May 7 to 31. With contestants from all over visas. Any Pakistani national curthe world arriving in the city, the spotlight is also on the event's arrangements. Addressing concerns, Smita assured that robust measures are already in place. "We have a posts in the respective High detailed security plan, with all lev-

els of security, tagging all individ-

ual participants and their safety. It's been put into operation," she

It may be mentioned here that India decided that Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) rently in India has been asked to leave India.

India withdrew its defence attachés from the Indian High posts in the respective High Commissions are now deemed as annulled.

HC issues notices to Govt regarding Bhoodan lands PNS HYDERABAD

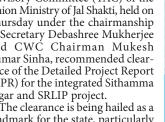
The Telangana High Court has issued notices to the state government regarding the Bhoodan lands case. The HC also barred transactions involving Bhoodan lands and posted the case to June 26.

A person named Mahesh filed a petition

alleging that some irregularities had taken place involving Nagaram Bhoodan lands in the Maheshwaram mandal of Rangareddy district. He said in his petition that many IAS and IPS officers had registered those lands in their names or in the name of their proxies.



The petitioner's lawyer said that the state government and Bhoodan Board had refused to react to these irregularities even though he had filed a complaint with the government and the Bhoodan Board. The lawyer appealed to the HC to order a CBI or ED probe into the matter.



Secretary Rahul Bojja, ENC (G) G Anil Kumar, SE Kothagudem Srinivas Reddy, and DD(GB) S. Subramayam Prasad represented the state at the meeting. After detailed discussions, the committee

tricts and also stabilise the existing The Rs 19,955-crore project aims command areas of NSP, Wyra, to use 67.05 TMCs of water (equiv-Paleru and other minor irrigation alent to 1898.644 MCMs) to irrigate schemes by offsetting the 25 per cent units.

deficit. The barrage has a length of 1332.75 metres and has 67 radial gates — 55 measuring 15x15 metres

63-plus metres, the structure can

Telangana poultry farmers honour Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Poultry Federation (TPF) and the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers' Association (IPEMA)/Poultry India organised 'Paalaabhishekam' ceremony on Thursday to honour Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his unwavering

support to the poultry sector.

Held at the TPF office near Nizam College Grounds, the ceremony was attended by poultry farmers from all over Telangana. The symbolic milk consecration, traditionally signifying reverence and appreciation, reflected the group's collective endorsement of the Chief Minister's interventions in times of crisis.

Speaking at the ceremony, Poultry India President Uday Singh Bayas hailed the Chief Minister's leadership during the recent bird flu scare in Hayathnagar.

Helpline for Telanganites stranded in **Kashmir**

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has launched steps to ensure the safe return of TG residents stranded in Kashmir.

The Minister for Tourism and Culture, Jupally Krishna Rao, said the government is try-ing to bring back all affected tourists.

The government will help Telangana residents in Kashmir. Officials from the Tourism Department are coordinating with the Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi and Central agencies to monitor the situation round-the-clock," the

Minister said. He appealed to all tour operators and travel agents in Telangana to immediately submit details of tourists who have

recently travelled to Kashmir. "The government can extend timely help only if we have the required information. Accurate details will enable swift coordination and support," Jupally added.

The Telangana Tourism Department has set up a dedicated helpline to facilitate this.

The helpline will remain functional round-the-clock to assist stranded tourists and their fam-

In addition to the emergency ment has also released its tollfree complaint helplines to improve public access.

Helpline Numbers: 9440816071 9010659333 040-23450368

Tourism Complaints Number:

7032395333 Toll-Free Number: 1800 425

The family members or friends of stranded tourists are requested to contact the above numbers for assistance or share relevant information.

The government reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety of all Telanganites and promised continuous monitoring until all those affected return safely.

Krishna Paksha

Apr 24 02:32 PM

to Apr 25 11:45 AM Apr 25 11:45 AM

to Apr 26 08:28 AM

Apr 24 10:49 AM

Apr 25 08:53 AM

to Apr 25 08:53 AM

to Apr 26 06:27 AM

10:40 AM to 12:14 PM

3:22 PM to 4:56 PM

05:31 PM to 06:57 PM

7:31 AM to 9:05 AM

02:08 AM to 03:34 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:39 PM

Updated: April 24, 2025 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

TODAY

Dwadashi

Trayodashi

Nakshatram:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Temp: 37°°

Humidity: 44%

Sunrise: 5:54 AM

Sunset: 6:35 PM

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Purva Bhadrapada:

Uttara Bhadrapada:

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Strengthen Medigadda Barrage only after scientific probe: NDSA

PNS HYDERABAD

In its report on the Kaleshwaram Project barrages, the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) Committee has provided specific guidance for rehabilitating Medigadda Barrage's Block-7, where multiple piers and the raft had sunk.

The Committee, headed by J. Chandrashekhar Iyer, said that any strengthening or replacement of structural elements must be strictly based on scientific investigation and site-specific conditions.

"Any further delay in undertaking a holistic rehabilitation plan could lead to the recurrence of failure, or even the collapse of the other blocks. However, the situation is still salvageable, if done urgently and scientifically," the report said.

The Committee wants the government to go back to basics. It called for detailed site investigations using tools like Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT), borehole logging and seismic profiling. These studies must cover every block of the three barrages, not just

PNS HYDERABAD

In a solemn tribute to those who lost their lives in the terror attack in Pahalgam, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will lead a candle-light march on Friday evening.

The march is being organised as a gesture of solidarity and remembrance for the innocent civilians who were killed.

The candlelight vigil will begin at 5 pm on April 25, starting from People's Plaza and concluding at the Indira Gandhi statue. The Chief Minister will be joined by Hyderabad MLAs, MLCs, Corporation Chairpersons, senior Congress leaders, and constituency in-

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP's Medak MP, M.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

MK Stalin and film actors

Kamal Hasan and Prakash

Raj to explain why they have

not responded to the

Addressing the media on

Thursday at Siddipet,

Raghunandan expressed grief

over the brutal killing of 27

innocent tourists by extrem-

He said that whenever

AICC leader Rahul Gandhi

goes abroad, there are riots in

the country and that there are

150 tourists from Telangana

in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Why are these so-called sec-

ular intellectuals not respond-

ing to the incident that shook

the nation? The terror attack

in Kashmir was shocking. Why are secular intellectuals

Pahalgam terror attack.

Why is Stalin, Kamal Hasan & Prakash

Raj mum on Pahalgam slaughter: BJP

 NDSA for comprehensive geotechnical, geophysical studies Review mathematical and hydraulic modelling: NDSA



The inadequacy of existing

energy dissipation mecha-

nisms — like stilling basins

and end sills — was found to

be a major contributor to ero-

The Committee advised

recalibration of the cistern

design, downstream chan-

nel protection, and gate seat

elevations to withstand actu-

demand is for a robust qual-

ity assurance mechanism to

be embedded in all future

repair works. The report

cited serious lapses in con-

crete quality, cut-off wall

construction, and poor

CM to lead candlelight march

on for Pahalgam victims today

homage to the victims and ers have urged everyone to join support for those affected by express condolences to the march and show the heinous act of violence.

The Committee noted that

Medigadda's Block 7 sank

ed by the failure of secant pile

cut-offs — a failure rooted in

poor quality control and lack

of proper sealing during con-

Block 7 of the Medigadda

Barrage — where piers 16 to

21 sank and tilted — is the

epicentre of the crisis. The

the uncontrolled movement

of sub-soil due to piping,

worsened by the absence of

mm, reinforcement failures,

and distortion in the gantry

structure were found. Satellite

imagery showed silt build-up

and inactivity of spillway

gates around pier 17, indicat-

ing improper usage and the

lack of timely intervention.

Cracks ranging up to 300

water-tight cut-off walls.

Committee attributes this to

Continued from page 1

bereaved families. Party lead- Telangana's collective grief and

Medigadda collapse caused ...

due to unchecked transport of sub-soil particles, exacerbat-the Detailed Project Report

as a cause.

Perhaps the most urgent

al flood conditions.

sion and structural stress.

the visibly affected ones like Block 7 at Medigadda.

"Without a reliable baseline of ground conditions, no intervention can guarantee success," the panel cautioned.

The report recommends reviewing the hydraulic and structural designs using modern simulation software. Previous model studies failed to account for real-world conditions like partial gate openings and sedimentheavy flows.

'Future designs must simulate transitional water flow states and potential scour scenarios to validate structural responses," it said.

Participants will pay

homage to the victims and

not speaking out about this

attack? Don't they love the

country? Why are Stalin,

Raj not saying anything about

the Kashmir incident? The

Modi Government will act

against terrorists. Priyanka

Gandhi's husband, Robert

Vadra, should stop slandering

the BJP. We condemn Vadra's

comments," Raghunandan

said. He said the decisions

of AIMIM leader Asaduddin

Owaisi have not led to devel-

opment in Hyderabad, and

that he is not thinking about

Raghunandan said the

incidents taking place in the

joint Medak district over the

last two days are painful and

that some people from a

community are disrupting

law and order. He said that the

Revanth Government should

think about madrasas in

poor Muslims.

Telangana.

record-keeping during the original construction.

It suggested independent third-party inspection, documentation of all repairs, and adherence to BIS standards. For distressed blocks like Block 7 of Medigadda, the Committee suggested exploring partial reconstruc-tion instead of surface-level

"Any structural unit that shows persistent tilting, raft failure, or loss of load-bearing capacity must be considered for replacement rather than patchwork," the report

The Committee emphasised strict compliance with the Dam Safety Act, 2021, including the formation of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), regular safety audits and the presence of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) manuals. "The absence of these protocols has already compounded the current crisis," it noted.

In a strong nudge to the Telangana Government, the report pushed for interdisciplinary collaboration between design engineers, geologists, hydraulic experts and dam safety officers.

KCR's public meeting will be mega success: **Danam**

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS's silver jubilee public meeting being held at Warangal Elkathurthy on April 27 will be a mega success, BRS MLA Danam Nagender, who joined the Congress said. He said that people are

waiting to see former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, and so there is a chance that a large number of people would attend the public meeting. Reacting to IAS officer Smita Sabarwal's post, which connected to the Kanche Gachibowli land issue, Danam said that there was nothing wrong with her post. "She described the actual condition in Kanche Gachibowli. The repost was not intended to attack the government," he said.

Revanth go back, KCR come back, says Jeevan

PNS NIZAMABAD

Describing the Revanth Reddy Government as a "directionless and destruc-tive regime," the BRS's Nizamabad district president, Aashannagari Jeevan Reddy, urged people to rally behind KCR once again. He declared that the slo-

gan 'Revanth Reddy Go Back, KCR Come Back' echoes the will of the

Telangana people.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday at the BRS district office, Jeevan Reddy said, "There is no trace of development under Revanth's rule. There is only corruption, suppression, false cases, arrests, and land grabbing. Under KCR, we saw welfare reach every home and joy in every eye. Today, under the Congress, it is only crisis and despair."

Savarkar remark: Rahul Gandhi moves SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Allahabad High Court which refused to quash summons against him in a case of defamatory remarks against Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan is scheduled to hear the matter on Friday. The defamation case stems

from Gandhi's comments on Savarkar made on November 17, 2022 during his Bharat Jodo Yatra at a rally in Maharashtra's Akola district.

The Lucknow bench of the high court on April 4 said that Gandhi can file a revision petition before the sessions court, making the high court's intervention unnecessary at



this stage.
Gandhi, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, challenged a subordinate court's decision to summon him in the case, while contesting the ongoing proceedings against

Advocate Nripendra Pandey filed a complaint, accusing Gandhi of intentionally insulting Savarkar during the rally. The complainant alleged Gandhi's remarks were part of a well-planned conspiracy to defame Savarkar.

BRS declares unconditional support on national security

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS said that it was not invited to the all-party meeting convened by the Centre after the Pahalgam terror attack as it does not have representation in the Lok Sabha. However, the party made it clear that it stands firmly with the nation and will support the Centre's actions on matters of national security, setting aside political differences.

Senior BRS leader Rajya Sabha MP KR Suresh Reddy said, "We checked, but we were not among the invited parties. Perhaps because BRS doesn't have a sitting Member in the Lok Sabha at present. Regardless, we are unequivocal in our support to the

Centre during this crisis."
He added that had the BRS been invited, it would have used the platform to offer constructive suggestions, reiterating the party's long-standing stance of putting the nation above politics in matters of terror and external

Meanwhile, former MP B. Vinod Kumar strongly condemned the Pahalgam attack, calling it a horrifying display of extremist brutality. "The Pahalgam incident shows the grotesque face of terrorism. Killing innocent people in the name of religion is not just tragic, it is barbaric," he said.

He accused Pakistan of har-bouring terrorism and said that its actions have caused irreversible damage to the people of Kashmir. "Even ordinary citizens of Kashmir do 'not' support these terrorists," he said.

Vinod recalled that he had been part of an all-party delegation to Kashmir and underlined that the BRS, even during the UPA era, had extended full support to the government during the Mumbai terror attack.

"Now too, the BRS will fully back whatever step the Centre takes in the interests of national security. Politics has no place in matters of national security," he said.

India briefs envoys of G20 ... Cong fooled...

Continued from page 1

Addressing a press conference after that, she warned Congress leaders bluntly, nature has been exposed. People now know your true

"It is the pink flag that has stood as the true shield of Telangana's people, and it will continue to do so," he added. Slamming the Congress

approach, Kavitha said, "BRS leaders want Telangana to prosper. The Congress and BJP leaders, however, are only 'after' votes and are trying to 'divide' society to win elections."

She also blasted those questioning the need for a silver jubilee celebration for the BRS. "Some are mocking the event. But let me tell you. The BRS became a national party to serve the entire nation.

Continued from page 1 Foreign Secretary Vikram

Misri apprised the diplomats about various aspects of killed 26 innocent people and India's firm policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism, they The briefing was held a day

after India announced a raft of measures against Pakistan including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post.

The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi firmed up the punitive measures against Pakistan in view of the crossborder links to the Pahalgam

Envoys of G20 member nations such as the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Australia, Indonesia and attended the

briefing. Envoys of India's close strategic partners including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Malaysia also joined it.

Last night, Misri said the ross-border linkages to the Pahalgam attack was "brought out" in a briefing to the CCS following which it decided to take the measures against Pakistan. The new retaliatory actions

shut down the few existing diplomatic mechanisms between the two sides taking bilateral relations to yet another new low. Amid nationwide outrage over the terror strike, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued "to the ends of the earth" as he promised to "identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers".

In an address at Bihar's Madhubani, Modi vowed to punish terrorists behind the strike and said India's spirit will never be broken by

Return home immediately...

Continued from page 1

The latest move came a day after India announced a raft of measures against Pakistan including expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and immediate shutting down of the Attari landtransit post.

The punitive measures against Pakistan were decided at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said all existing valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals stand revoked with effect from April 27.

It said medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals

will be valid only till April

The MEA said all Pakistani nationals currently in India must leave the country before the expiry of

It also "strongly advised" Indian nationals to avoid travelling to Pakistan.

"In continuation of the decisions made by the Cabinet Committee on Security in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, the government of India has decided to suspend visa services to Pakistani nationals with immediate effect," the MEA said in a statement.

"All existing valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals stand revoked with effect from April 27. Medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals will be valid only till April 29."

Continued from page 1

Contrary to initial claims, despite frequent grouting.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said everyone at the meeting unequivocally condemned the terror attack and offered full support to the government.

"The opposition has given full support to the government to take any action," he said.

Gandhi raised the issue of security lapses at the tourist spot, asking why no security personnel were deployed there, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

The issue was later raised by several opposition leaders during the meeting. There has been a security

lapse and the government did not act promptly after the attack, some of the opposition leaders claimed.

"We will support the government decision in the best interest of the nation," Kharge said.

HUNT DOWN

the sweep-out of the hydraulic jump was ruled out

The construction of all

(DPR) was still under

appraisal by the Central

Water Commission. Despite

this, the locations of

Annaram and Sundilla were

altered without any geotech-

nical investigation — a deci-

sion taken by a High-Powered

Committee of the Telangana

and barrage capacities were

also pushed through without

informing the CWC, breach-

ing technical protocols and

resulting in unstable structur-

Annaram and Sundilla -

exhibit repeating symptoms:

dislodged concrete blocks,

washed-away wearing coats,

and re-emerging seepage

Both upstream barrages —

al choices.

Changes in pond levels

I & CAD Department.

Kharge and AAP's Sanjay Singh, questioned the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting. TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay

demanded that the prime minister convene a meeting of all party chiefs at the earliest. Sanjay Singh said all parties demanded action by the government for the destruction of ter-

Bandhyopadhyay said the issue of possible security lapses was also discussed but the opposition assured that it was with the government in the fight against terrorism.

The nation must be totally united in this fight to eliminate terrorism," he said. TDP's Lavu Krishna

Devarayalu said Pakistan will face repercussions for the Pahalgam attack.

"The incident that happened is Some leaders, including condemnable. Two people from

Andhra Pradesh were killed in this attack. This kind of incident should not have happened. Pakistan and terrorist organisations will face the repercussions, he said.

Every party is on the same page in supporting the government to take stringent action, he added. The meeting began with a

moment of silence for the victims of the attack. Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh initiated the discussion at the meeting and Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka made a 20-minute presentation on the attack and the steps being taken to step up security.

Later, he answered questions of several leaders and Home Minister Amit Shah interjected wherever required. After the meeting, sources said troops were present in Pahalgam but not deployed as local authorities were not informed about tourists being taken to Baisaran by tour operators.

Pak pauses Simla pact, talks ...

Continued from page 1

That call was taken by India after the attack Tuesday in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkare-Taiba claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Thursday, without naming Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at a public meeting in Bihar that the killers of Pahalgam will be pursued "to the ends of the earth" and promised to "identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers".

A statement issued after the Islamabad meeting, which included key minister and the three services chiefs, said Pakistan's armed forces "remain fully capable and prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any misadventure".

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said there were reports that India was planning to target different cities through terrorist acts. "If our citizens are targeted then Indian people will also suffer," he told reporters after the meeting," he told reporters.

Pakistan pointedly mentioned the 1972 Simla Agreement that said differences will be settled through negotiations, and recognised the Line of Control between the two countries.

"Pakistan shall exercise the right to hold all bilateral agreements with India, including but not limited to the Simla Agreement, in abeyance till India desists from its manifested behaviour of fomenting terrorism inside Pakistan; transnational killings; and non-adherence to international law and UN Resolutions on Kashmir," it

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of laim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar , Hyderbad-500037, Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.



CITY EVENTS

Kuchipudi Dance Programme By Deepanjali

Venue Ravindra Bharathi April 25, 8 pm.

Hindustani Classical Music

Solo Harmonium Performance By Rahul Deshpande

Lamakaan April 25, 7:30 pm.

Idea Open House Ideate, Validate, Createa

Venue **T-Hub Foundation** April 25, 5 pm.

Electrovenza 2k25

Hack Sprint

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

Osmania University **Foundation Day Walk**

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

Live Performance By Harish N Martin (Band)

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

City Pioneer

of the suspects and identified their residence.

Pasha and his second wife

Shaista Parveen, were taken

During interrogation, they confessed to abducting the

child and selling her for Rs 1.3 lakh to a woman named

rushed to the location and suc-

cessfully rescued the girl. At

the time of rescue, Parveen

Banu was allegedly in the

process of reselling the child to two individuals - Sunitha

Kumari and Rajendra Prasad

- who were also arrested on the

Parveen Banu in Uppal. Acting on this lead, police

into custody.

A couple, Syed Javeed

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | APRIL 25, 2025

HEALTH CRISIS IN JAWAHAR NAGAR

Respiratory ailments linked to WTE Plant

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDĖRABAD

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. 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 surround-

A Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant is a facility that incinerates municipal solid waste to generate electricity in Jawahar Nagar. It has a capacity of 24 MW and another plant with the same capacity is currently under construction.

The investigation was carried out by a coalition including Human Rights Forum (HRF), Environment Support Group (ESG), National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) and Doctors for Environment with inputs from Hyderabad Urban Lab and Thanal, an environmental research group. These organisations conducted field visits, medical camps and reviewed testimonies from affected villagers and scientific data.

Residents from villages like Dammaiguda, Keesara and Kowkoor reported increased cases of asthma, skin rashes and chronic cough. Children and elderly were found to be the most affected.

Doctors who participated in free health camps noted a high preva-



The Waste to Energy plant

lence of respiratory and gastrointestinal disorders. "Symptoms clearly indicate prolonged exposure to air and water pollution," stated one doctor from Doctors for Environment.

Tests conducted on borewell and tank water samples revealed high levels of contamination, making the water unsafe for drinking or agricultural use.

"We were promised development and clean energy. Instead, our children are sick and our crops have failed," said Lakshmi, a resident of Kandlakoya village. Multiple vil-lagers echoed similar concerns, expressing frustration over the lack

of transparency and accountability. The coalition demands an immediate suspension of operations at the WTE plant until a thorough independent health and environmental audit is conducted. It also recommends compensation for affected families and long-term healthcare monitoring.

The report has been submitted to the Telangana State Pollution Control Board, National Green Tribunal and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for urgent action.

The incineration process pro-

duces fine ash, which settles inside homes, covering furniture, electronics and household items such as sofas, dining tables, refrigerators and washing machines. This has not only caused damage to property but has also contributed to respiratory problems and skin irritation among community members. The report elaborates that many suffer from persistent throat and mouth infections, making it difficult to even speak properly. The ash and toxic pollutants released from burning waste at high temperatures are a significant cause of this. This has also led to a rise in pulmonary diseases and other chronic conditions.



various encroached canals

HYDRAA chief inspects Nakka Vagu, Jangamkunta

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath conducted a field-level inspection in response to various complaints received through Prajavani on Thursday.

He examined the encroachment of the Nakka Vagu near Praneeth County in the Patancheru area. The canal, which should be 36 meters wide including the buffer zone, was found to be encroached upon up to half its width. The Commissioner directed the parties concerned to submit documents related to construction approvals. He instructed that if the canal does not meet regulatory width standards, the encroachments must be

Upon receiving a complaint about encroachment on a plot in Masjid Banda area, claiming it as Jangamkunta, the Commissioner inspected the site. He also looked into a complaint about encroachment on government land in Kishta Reddy Peta under Ameenpur Municipality limits.

The Commissioner assured existing residents who have already built homes there that they need not worry, but future encroachments will be strictly prevented.

He advised locals to immediately report any irregularities occurring under the pretext of HYDRAA to the authorities.

Later, he inspected the Food Corporation of India layout in Gachibowli. The layout roads and parks were reportedly erased and used commercially in the name of conventions; the Commissioner reviewed this misuse. He also examined a complaint in Neknampur where a wall was built under high-tension power lines, obstructing a public road.

Complaints of encroachments on community spaces and public utility areas within the Neknampur layout were also investigated. The Commissioner reviewed encroachments on government land in Survey Number 20 of Neknampur, Gandipet mandal. He later visited the Gandipet lake and a

complaint was examined regarding sewage from Khanapur and Nagulapalli merging into Gandipet lake via the Bulkapur canal.

TMREIS achieves overall 88% in Inter second year

MISSING 5-YEAR-OLD RESCUED

Five arrested in Hyd

for child trafficking

PNS HYDERABAD

PNS HYDERABAD

links to Mumbai.

The Chandrayangutta Police

rescued a five-year-old girl

who had been kidnapped and

arrested five individuals

involved in an organised child-

trafficking racket operating

across Hyderabad and with

The victim, daughter of Akram Saadi, was abducted on

April 20 from near the Gandhi

statue, Chandrayangutta.

Following a complaint from

the family, police swiftly reg-

istered a case and launched an

Reviewing CCTV footage across multiple locations, the police traced the movements

intensive investigation.

The Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) president Mohammed Faheemuddin Qureshi announced that 88% of students passed the Intermediate second year exams and 80% passed the first year exams in the 2025 Intermediate

Among the top performers in the second year is Muskan Begum (BiPC) from TMRJC Gadwal Girls 1, who secured State 4th rank with 994/1000 marks. In the first year, Mohd Farhan (CEC) from TMRIC Khairtabad Boys

FI 60 0 0

topped the State with 495/500 (99%). Sk Ramzan Bee and Wajeeha Tabassum (BiPC) from TMRJC Kothagudem Girls 1 also secured State 1st rank with 438/440 (99.5%). In the Vocational Stream, U Hemant (MLT) from TMRJC Vemulawada Boys secured State 1st rank with 496/500

Qureshi shared that 35 TMREIS students qualified in the JEE Mains 2025. Special coaching centres with full facilities were set up for boys and girls.

These students will now be trained further for the JEE Advanced to get into IITs, NITs and IIITs.

Two TGSCSC students clear UPSC finals, likely to be selected for IRS PNS HYDERABAD

Commissioner 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. secured AIR 934 and Ramtenki Sudhakar got AIR 949. Both are likely to be selected for the IRS.

She shared that in the Civil Services Prelims held in June 2024, 27 students qualified and appeared for the Mains in September. Of them, three students reached the interview stage and two secured final selection.

In the recently declared Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) Group-1 results, TGSCSC students



secured 38th rank, R Mery Gold 56th, M Raviteja 66th, Kishan Patel 72nd, E Rakesh 78th, B Sravan 84th, and D Praveen 105th. Students also secured 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 10th ranks in the SC category, 2nd in ST, and 10th in BC-D. Around 35-40 students are expected to be selected for top posts like Deputy Collector, DSP, CTO and others.

Located in Banjara Hills,

TGSCSC offers a 10-month free residential IAS coaching programme for poor SC, ST and BC students, selected through a State-level entrance exam announced in May/June. Since 1980, over 450 civil servants have been trained here.

Kshitija thanked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for their support and congratulated the suc-

VCIU students protest over poor hostel conditions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Students of Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University (VCIU) staged a massive protest on the campus premises on Thursday, raising serious concerns over inadequate hostel facilities and unsafe living conditions.

around 9 am was led by women students who alleged that their repeated grievances were being ignored by the university administration. Among the key issues highlighted were the lack of basic amenities such as water, beds and fans, as well as the presence of rats and snakes in hostel premises.

"We don't even have water facilities though the pipelines have been laid. When we try to meet the Vice-Chancellor to raise

these issues, we are told that hostel matters should not be brought out," one of the protesting students said.

Students further complained that overcrowding has worsened their condition, with two students often forced to share a single bed - and in some rooms, there

"We came here to study, not to suffer physically and mentally.

We feel suffocated inside the rooms," said another student.

They also claimed that in older hostel buildings, rats have been falling on students while they sleep. Despite submitting a detailed representation of the problems, students said there has been no response or accountability from the university's Vice-Chancellor.

BCs demand 42% quota before elections

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

PNS HYDERABAD

National BCWelfare Association president and Raiva Sabha MP R Krishnaiah demanded that BC reservations be increased to 42%. He criticised Panchayati Raj Minister Seethakka for not mentioning BC reservations while announcing local body elections.

In a meeting on Thursday, Krishnaiah pointed out that elections were delayed for over an year due to the BC reservation issue, which is still unresolved. "How can elections be held without addressing it?" he

asked, warning the government not to proceed without a solution.

Krishnaiah warned of strong protests if the reservation percentage is not raised. He threatened a hunger strike with 1,000 people and said ministers and MLAs would be stopped from moving freely. He stated that although BC

reservations were announced to be increased from 20% to 40%, no government order has been issued.

While it was said the proposal would be sent to the Centre after passing it in the Assembly, nothing has hap-

Krishnaiah explained that under Article 243-D6, State governments have the power to increase BC reservations in local bodies.

The Assembly passed the law, and the 50% reservation cap has been lifted in some cases by the Supreme Court. He noted there will be no legal or constitutional hurdles.

He demanded the elections be cancelled until the issue is resolved and also called for a constitutional amendment to allow BC reservations in jobs and education, similar to that in Tamil Nadu.

Private bank manager arrested in Rs 1.22 cr cyber trading scam

PNS HYDERABAD

In a breakthrough against online financial fraud, the Hyderabad City Cyber Crime Police have arrested Deepak Kumar, a Relationship Sales Manager at ICICI Bank, Greater Noida, for his alleged involvement in a large-scale cyber trading scam. The accused was apprehended in connection with Cr. No. 923/2024, following a complaint from a victim based in Secunderabad who was



defrauded of over Rs. 1.22

According to police, the complainant was lured into a fake investment scheme

through a Telegram ID offering trading tips. The victim was directed to fraudulent trading applications that falsely projected high returns. Believing the scam, he transferred Rs 1,22,87,120 in multiple transactions. When he later attempted to withdraw profits, the fraudsters made excuses and demanded additional deposits, eventually cutting off all communication and threatening to block his

Cyber Crime officials

uncovered that Deepak Kumar supplied multiple bank accounts to cybercriminals through Telegram in return for commissions. Working as a Relationship Manager at ICICI's Omega-Branch in Greater Noida, Kumar allegedly facilitated fraudulent transactions worth over Rs 6 crore across 23 cases nationwide, as flagged by NCRP data.

Two mobile phones were seized from the accused during the arrest. The operation was led by Inspector K Prasada Rao, supported by SI PVS Abhishek, HC PV Srinivas and a team of constables under the supervision of ACP RG Siva Maruthi. The Cyber Crime police

have warned the public to remain vigilant against fake trading platforms and social media groups offering investment opportunities. Officials advised citizens to invest only through SEBI-approved platforms and consult SEBI-registered financial advisors.

TG sizzles: IMD issues Orange Alert for heat wave

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is currently facing an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring above 45 degrees Celsius in many areas. According to Telangana Weatherman, Nizamabad recorded 45.4 degrees Celsius, Jagitial 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.

In Hyderabad, the highest temperature was recorded at IS Sadan at 42 degrees Celsius. Other areas such as Habsiguda, Musheerabad,



tures of 41 degrees Celsius. Shaikpet, Lingampally, Madhapur, Balanagar, and Nacharam reached 41.8, Ziaguda 41.7, Mettuguda 41.5, Jeedimetla all saw temperaand both Khairatabad and Tirumalagiri recorded 41.2 degrees Celsius. The extreme heat also trig-

gered scattered thunderstorms on Thursday evening in Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Medak, Siddipet, Sircilla and Asifabad. In Hyderabad's outskirts, severe storms were reported in Isnapur, Rudraram, Kandi, Mokila and Shankarpally. The storm later on moved toward Patancheru, Kollur and Tellapur. IMD Hyderabad has issued

an Orange Alert for a heatwave and warm night conditions until 27 April. These are likely to affect isolated areas in

Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagitial, Rajanna Sircilla, Kamareddy.

A Yellow Alert has been issued for warm nights in Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhaulaul. Kothagudem, Khammam, Yadadri Bĥuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal districts.

TWC Chairman interacts with prison inmates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chairperson of the Telangana Women's 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 ameni-

She questioned Superintendent Venkata Lakshmi regarding important aspects such as Mulaqat (visitor interactions), legal aid and

other support services provided to the inmates. Sharada also interacted directly with the inmates, asking them about their individual case details. Furthermore, she enquired about selfemployment programmes and medical facilities available to the prisoners. She points out that there is need for proper rehabilitation and welfare measures inside the prison.



Telangana





HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | APRIL 25, 2025

PNS WARANGAL

Warangal district.

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 vil-

lage under Parvathagiri mandal in

ence 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

Srinivas is well known not just as a

According to the villagers, he used to personally cover the transportation

teacher but also for his community ser-

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 achieve

an early, heartfelt send-off.

one's attention and admiration. This unique farewell was arranged for Srinivas, the headmaster and sci-

The teacher was taken in a grand procession through the village on a decorated bullock cart, drawing every-

Karregutta teetering on edge of major encounter?

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

PNS MULUGU

For the past three days, the Karregutta region has been rattled by gunfire and explosions. This area, located along Telangana and Chhattisgarh border, has become heavily fortified by thousands of security personnel after receiving intelligence suggesting that key figures of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoists, commonly referred to as Maoists, are concentrated here. The dense forests and rugged hills stretching approximately 53 kilometres, known as the Karreguttalu (Karre Hills), serve as a natural barrier between Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Reports indicate that nearly 1,000 Maoists are taking refuge in the Karregutta area, led by senior commander Hidma. Sources reveal that several high-ranking leaders and operatives are also among them. Local people have described the intense sounds of gunfire resonating across forested regions like Padu, Bheemavaram Pujarikanker, and Pamedu. Situated within the Mulugu district, Karregutta sits on the boundary

PNS WARANGAL

In a significant development in

the anti-Maoist operation, a

total of 14 members of out-

lawed Communist Party of

India-Maoist, better known as

the Maoist Party, surrendered

to the police here on Thursday.

to the police in the presence of

Multi Zone Inspector General

of Police (IGP) Chandrasekhar

Reddy at Warangal Police

Two of them are area com-

mittee members and 12 are

militia members. Of these, 13

are from Chhattisgarh and

one is from Telangana. The

surrendered Maoists each

were given a cash of Rs.

media, The IGP stated that the

Maoists who worked in

Bijapur and Sukma districts

While addressing

Commissionerate office.

The Maoists surrendered

14 more Maoists surrender

Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

The operation initiated by security forces aims to dismantle Maoist presence and has intensified combing efforts throughout the area. Tension remains high in neighbouring villages due to the uncertainty surrounding ongoing operations. According to intelligence reports estimating the presence of around 1,000 Maoists in the vicinity, thousands of police and Central security forces have cordoned off the Karregutta hills, supported by three helicopters in the field

Authorities have been providing drinking water, food, and munitions to bolster the efforts of security personnel. As the search continues, intelligence agencies are bracing for a significant encounter within the Karregutta forests. On Tuesday, shots were reportedly fired near the Usur block of Ćhhattisgarh, adjacent to the Karregutta region. However, police have not confirmed any gunfire exchanges, only stating that a search operation is currently in progress. The Karregutta hills traverse the Usur block of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh and the Vajedu mandal of Mulugu district in Telangana.

ment is focusing on bringing

the Maoists into the main-

stream of the society rather

they are not in Telangana's

police records and there are no

official rewards for Maoists,

the Government is providing

them with a means of liveli-

hood. While asked about

Karregutta operation, The IGP

has clarified that the Telangana

government has nothing to do

with the Karregutta operation,

even though it is on the

He said that even though

than suppressing them.



Welfare and development are our priorities: Ponguleti

PNS KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Thursday made it clear that development and welfare are given equal priority by the people's government.

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 under Tirumalavapalem mandal, at a cost of Rs 1.30 crore. He also inaugurated a newly constructed village Panchayat

PNS RANGAREDDY

In a powerful display of public outrage, the Shadnagar

Hindu United Forum organ-

ised a massive rally on

Thursday condemning

Pakistan's involvement in pro-

moting 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,

drawing participation from

During the protest, demon-

strators burnt an effigy of the

Pakistani government at the

main intersection, raising

Pakistan. The rally was held

under the leadership of senior

Hindu United Forum mem-

hundreds of local citizens.

building in Eluvarigudem village, built at a cost of Rs 20 lakh with labour contributed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-

During this event, Minister Srinivas Reddy mentioned that despite the state's financial situation, the government is implementing developmental and welfare schemes.

He highlighted that since Ugadi, the State government has been distributing fine rice to white ration cardholders, a scheme that has not been pending land issues and offer tatives.

The Minister emphasised that the Bhu Bharati Act would help address longpending land issues.

launched anywhere else in the country.

The Minister announced the implementation of the Bhu Bharati Act, with the pilot project being launched in Nelakondapalli of the Palair constituency. He emphasised that the Bhu Bharati Act

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 Khammam Revenue Divisional Officer Narasimha Rao, Roads and Buildings Superintending Engineer Yugandar, District Panchayat Officer Ashalatha, District Agriculture Officer Pullayya, Divisional Panchavat Officer Rambabu, MPDO Śilar Saheb, officials, and public represen-

She too demanded that the

central government respond

decisively to Pakistan's contin-

The rally witnessed solidar-

ity across political and profes-

sional groups. Leaders from

both the BJP and BRS parties,

including Ande Babaiah,

Palamuru Vishnuvardhan

Reddy, Haribhushan, and

Konduti Narender, actively

participated. The Bar

members like Chandulal and

ued support for terrorism.

Girl student critically injured

best wishes to them.

cation and community.

Students, villagers bid emotional

farewell to headmaster as he retires

PNS MANCHERIAL

A student at Telangana Social Welfare Residential Degree College (Girls) in Mancherial suffered severe injuries after accidentally falling from a building on Thursday.

According to college officials, Laxmi Prasanna, a second-year degree student, suffered head

Retired headmaster Srinivas being taken in procession at Burgumalla village in Warangal district on Thursday

In recognition of his dedicated ser-

vice, Srinivas has received seven

awards. Students expressed sadness at his departure, saying it was painful to see such a beloved figure retire.

To make this retirement a sweet and lasting memory, the students and their parents organised the special

event. The ceremony was attended by

MLC Sripal Reddy, who honoured the teacher and his wife and extended his

It was a celebration filled with grat-

itude, love, and deep respect — a true

tribute to a life spent in service of edu-

injuries in the fall. She was rushed to a hospital, where her condition is stated to be criti-



TELANGANA STATE GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FORM - VII (See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19(1) of the Act-30/2013)

Gazette No.06, BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM, DATED: 11.04.2025 FRIDAY

DECLARATION Revenue Divisional Officer & Land Acquisition

Officer, Bhadrachalam, Rc. No. C/488/2024 District Gazette No.B3/06 /2025.

Whereas is appears to the District Collector, Bhadradri Kothagudem that a total an extent of Ac.1.13 1/4 gts. land is required in the Bhadrachalam Village, Bhadrachalan Mandal of Bhadradri Kothagudem District for public purpose, namely for the Construction Formetion of Belance Flood Bank at Subashnagar Bhadrachalam.

Therefore, declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac. 1.13 1/4 gts of standard measurement under Land Acquisition for the above said Balance Flood Bank in the Bhadrachalam Village, Bhadrachalam Mandal of Bhadradr

Kothagudem District whose land detailed description is as following. " Sib. Ramatrahan

5/s. China Signalah

ledds Str. Nerikats

Wio. Soothasathi

003 Slu. Sissen Multhy

Str. Stram Murby

Venkata Rama Kib

Extent (Ac. Gts.)

1.09 1/4

1.13 1/4

16 (1952)18 1952 Pattal Oy | 0.01 10

Sic. China Gopalat

177/1 Pultia Day E.O.2 114 Slb. China Gopeleh

177/4 Potta Dry 1,01 14

were among the surrendered Chhattisgarh-Telangana borbers including Kedala and the Telangana govern-Venkatesh, Vishwa Hindu against Pakistan. She called for Kavya urges SCR GM to speed up

developmental works in constituency



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

PNS WARANGAL

Warangal Lok Sabha member Kadiyam Kavya appealed to the South Central Railway General Manager Arun Kumar Jain to ensure that all pending works in Warangal Lok Sabha constituency are completed speedily. She presented a memorandum listing the pending works in the constituency.

Kavva raised concerns over the transfer of loco running depot staff from Kazipet to the Vijayawada loco running depot and the lack of efforts by officials to fill vacancies at the Kazipet loco running station. She pointed out that although 184 new posts had been

had been taken to fill them, which was increasing the burden on the existing staff of 526, though 709 employees are required.

She also highlighted that the railway authorities decided to transfer key coaching crew links. Dr. Kavyah noted that the Krishna, LTT, Konark, and Gautami Express links, which were previously operated from Kazipet, were now being shifted to Vijayawada, violating the promise made in the establishment of the divithe joint committee meeting held on July 14, 2022. She requested the general manager to maintain these four crew

links as they were without changing them.

Manager to speed up the ongoing developmental works at the Warangal and Kazipet railway stations under the Amrit Bharat scheme.

She stressed the need to

make a decision to set up of a bus station in Kazipet. The General Manager responded positively to the MP's requests. He assured her

that the railway issues would be resolved. He also promised to ensure that there are no obstacles in

sion and that Kazipet's importance is not reduced. He said that a meeting with the railway union would be held within three days to resolve

Hindu United Front burning the effigy of Pakistan government in Shadnagar on Thursday Parishad's Matham Rajayya, Nagilla Prabhakar, Gudem Ramesh, Gudala Ramesh, and Pyat Vamsisalla Mahesh. al security efforts.

Hindu United Front condemns Pahalgam terrorist attack

Speaking at the event, Forum leader Chatta Venkatesh stated that the tribute to those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam attack and urged the central government to take a firm stand

SCR GM GIVES GREEN SIGNAL TO RUB AT DHAMSALAPURAM

PNS KHAMMAM

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-under-

bridge (RUB) at gate number

which has been shelved since

106 near Damsalapuram.

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

Responding favourably to the

request made by the MP, the

construction of the RUB.

SCR General Manager

as early as possible.

discussed the matter with

chief engineer and issued

orders for starting the works

The MP also discussed the

on Dornakal-Vennaram-

Maripeda-Mote route

proposals to divert the trains

changing the initial alignment

of Dornakal-Miryalaguda and

also urged railway officials to

Dornakal-Gadwal routes.He

restart the trains cancelled

Gandhi Nagar station for

from Khammam, Bonakal,

Yerrupalem and Dornakal.

earlier and provide a stop at

trains going to Bhadrachalam

Lok Sabha member from

Khammam Ramasahayam

the country's secularists to recognize the true sources of terrorism and support nation-

BC Sena Mahila President Jaya Srikanth, speaking at the MRO Office, expressed deep said that if the women of the Hindu nation raised their voices, even that would be enough to overwhelm a nation like Pakistan.

Association of Shadnagar, led by President Venugopal Rao and other advocates, expressed their support, along with the Indian Medical Association

> Kiran Kumar. Prominent participants also included Jupally Shankar, Pilli achali Narasimha traders like Nagilla Bhawani Shankar, and community members from Sevika Samiti, Marwari Manch, and various local organizations.

Two women allegedly murdered by husbands

PNS ADILABAD

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, 30year-old Keerthi was brutally murdered allegedly by her husband Maruthi in Gudihathnoor mandal on Thursday. She was found dead in a pool of blood after he fled the scene.

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



Murdered woman Keerti with her husand Maruth

In another case, 42-yearold Doke Poshakka was killed allegedly by her husband Jayaram in Vanjiri village, Kagaznagar mandal. During an argument, he attacked her with an iron farming tool, resulting in her instant death on Wednesday night.

Junior college students congratulated for excellent performance in Inter exams

PNS 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.

Students from Hasanparthy Government Junior College, Government Junior College in Hanamkonda, Government Girls Junior College in Waddepally and Government College Junior Dharmasagar secured the best marks at the state level, and they were honored with shawls at the district collec-



On this occasion, the Collector stated that the students from government colleges in the district brought good recognition to the district by securing excellent marks at the state level in the intermediate results. She expressed hope that the students from government junior colleges would continue to uphold the district's reputation in future



This declaration is made ofter hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquire as provided Uis 15 of the Act No. 2013. The number of families likely to be resettled due to land acquisition is Nil. The Form-VII (Sec-sub-rule(1) of rule -25 and section 19(1) of the Act-30/2013 the

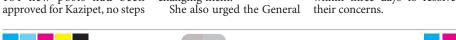
TOTAL

notification is made under the provision of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transferency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettiment Act., 2013 (Act No.30(2013).

Mines of Coal, Iron-stone, Slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particulars a portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired are not needed. A plan of the land may

be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Sub-Collector, Bhadrachelan on any working day. Sd/- Srl, Jitesh V.Patil, Sd/- D. Venugopal Sdi- D. Damodar Rap. Additional Collector District Collector

Land Acquisition Officer & venue Divisional Officer.

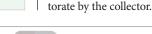


















ACROSS THE STATES



Odisha to initiate action against infiltrators: Min

disha Law minister Prithiviraj 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 will be taken soon," Harichandan told reporters while replying to a question in the wake of the Pahalgam terror strike in which 26 people including a man from the state, were killed. Strongly condemning the Pahalgam incident, Harichandan said: "They (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 Athis month has called a 24-hour-long Manipur bandh from midnight of Thursday. Khoisnam Sanajaoba was arrested in Imphal East district on March 31 along with four others for their alleged association with the proscribed outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (Nongdrenkhomba). In a statement, the JAC said it had submitted a memorandum to the governor listing a charter of demands, including an impartial investigation into the "custodial death" of Sanajaoba, 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 "village volunteer" who was sent to Manipur Central Jail at Sajiwa on April 10 and was admitted to Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences on April 13, where he was pronounced dead



BJP set to regain control of MCD after two years

he 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 and 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 Shelly 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 pollbound 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. Modi said Mahatma Gandhi's idea that India cannot be developed without empowering its villages is the concept behind the Panchayati Raj system.

["]Bihar is the land where Mahatma Gandhi expanded the mantra of Satyagraha,' Modi said, highlighting Mahatma Gandhi's firm belief that "India's rapid development is only possible when its villages are strong".

He said the projects launched on Thursday will boost development and generate employment opportunities in the state. "Farmers are the backbone of the rural econo-

He also underscored that panchayats have strengthened social participation, remarking that Bihar was the first state in the country to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in panchayats.

my, the stronger this backbone,

the stronger the villages, and

consequently, the nation,'

"Today, a significant number of women from economically

weaker sections, Dalits, Mahadalits, backwards, and extremely backward communities are serving as public representatives in Bihar. This is real social justice and democracy," he said.

"Many steps have been taken to strengthen panchayats, and technology has also been used... More than 2 lakh gram panchayats have been linked with the internet, and more than 5.5 lakh common service centres have been established in villages," he said.

Modi said more than 30,000 new panchayat buildings have also been constructed.

He lauded the Bihar government's 'Jeevika Didi' programme and said, today, selfhelp groups of women in Bihar have been provided financial assistance of approximately Rs 1,000 crore.

"Today, a significant

economically weaker

sections, Dalits,

number of women from

Mahadalits, backwards,

and extremely backward

public representatives in

Bihar. This is real social

justice and democracy."

communities are serving as

He said this will further strengthen the economic empowerment of women and contribute to the goal of creating three crore 'Lakhpati Didis' across the country.

Modi said villages have seen the construction of houses for the poor, roads, gas connections, water connections, and toilets, bringing lakhs of crores of rupees to rural areas.

Prolonged prision sans trial can't be allowed to result in sentence: SC

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 drugs case in UP.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih observed the petitioner was incarcerated for over 5.2 years and the trial in the case, registered in 2019, was yet to begin. The state counsel opposed the plea saying the co-accused, who was released on bail, was not attending court. "This court, in a catena of cases, has held that a prolonged incarceration without commencement of trial, cannot be permitted to result in a sentence without trial," the bench said.

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

On the argument that the co-accused in the case was not appearing in court, the bench said the state was always at liberty to take steps for cancella-

tion of the bail. "However, the petitioner cannot be penalised solely on the ground that the co-accused is not attending the court," it added.

The bench directed the petitioner to be released on bail in the case registered at Greater Noida on conditions as imposed by the trial court.

he accused was arrested in January 2019 in connection with the case under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. In the high court, the accused claimed of not being arrested at the sport from where the alleged quantity of the contraband -- 150 kilogram weed -- was purportedly recovered.

His counsel argued in the high court that all the coaccused persons were enlarged on bail and, therefore, he too deserved bail on the ground of

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 mem-

"Not allowed," special Judge Chander 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 worried about his well

being.
The NIA opposed the application, arguing he could share crucial information if allowed to speak with his family members. The anti-terror agency said the investigation was at a

On April 10, the court remanded the 64-year-old kietani-origin Canadian businessman to 18 day custody. The NIA alleged as a part of

the criminal conspiracy, accused David Coleman Headley, had discussed the entire operation with Rana before his visit to India.

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



the court seeking his remand. Headley also informed Rana about the involvement of Pakistani nationals Ilyas Kashmiri and Abdur Rehman, who are also accused in the

case, in the plot, it alleged.
Rana, a close associate of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks main conspirator Headley alias Daood Gilani, a US citizen, was brought to India after the US Supreme Court on April 4 dismissed his review plea against his extradition.

group of 10 Pakistani terrorists went on a rampage, carrying out a coordinated attack on a railway station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre, after they sneaked into India's financial capital using the sea route in the Arabian Sea.

As many as 166 people were killed in the nearly 60-hour

NOT TIME FOR DOMESTIC BLAME GAME

Islamist terrorists, Pak handlers need to be destroyed: Tharoor

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 all support our government" in doing whatever it judges best to achieve this.

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



ny must not be diluted.

opened fire at a meadow near Pahalgam town in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on

gration and communal harmo-

At least 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed and several injured when terrorists

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 the remarks in a post on X as he could not return from Lakshadweep in time for the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting here. He said

Pahalgam attack masterminded by Pak: Cong

he was adding his endorsement to the "strong and constructive" statement issued by the CWC.

Making four additional, inter-related points, Tharoor said the objectives of the Pahalgam attack are clear -stop peace, derail "normalisation", destroy tourism, wreck the Kashmir economy to increase discontent there, add to the mistrust of Kashmiris, among other Indians, and increase communal polarisa-

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's guided missile destroyer INS Surat successfully test-fired a mediumrange surface-to-air missile.

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.

Says BJP exploiting tragedy to promote polarisation

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the cowardly Pahalgam Pakistan is a direct assault on the values of our republic, even as it accused the BJP of exploiting the tragedy to promote discord and polarisation at a time unity is most needed.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, asserted that it is



sive analysis is conducted into the intelligence failures and security lapses that enabled such an attack in a Union Territory, which is directly under the purview of the Union home ministry.

The CWC, which was attended by former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, general secretaries K Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others, stated that the deliberate targeting of Hindus was done to inflame passions across the country.

The meeting at the party's 24, Akbar Road office here started with leaders paying homage to the victims of the attack by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

Teachers continue sit-in in front of the SSC office

Around 1,000 protesting teachers, who have laid siege to the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) headquarters here, continued their sit-in for the fourth day 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 Deserving Teachers Forum, Chinmoy Mandal, told PTI, "We will not withdraw our agitation till the state presents the full list of tainted/untainted



candidates before the Supreme Court by moving a review appeal and we are reinstated till we attain 60 years of age, not up to December 31 as recently ordered by the Supreme Court." "We will not withdraw till we

get written assurances that the eligible teachers won't have to sit for a fresh round of SSC recruitment test after May 30 and are permanently reinstated with their heads held high," Mondal added.

Rajasthan 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.

Ioshi 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

An investigation involving various security agencies was launched after an anonymous caller claimed he knew a terror attack was going to take place in Pahalgam.

The call, it was later discovered, was made by a 51-year-old auto driver and a flummoxed Delhi Police by and by realised that the man was drunk and had been nettled by a challan.

"He was drunk, but different security agencies questioned him. Later, we got to know that he was annoyed over a challan issued against his vehicle," an officer told PTI on the

condition of anonymity.
"Preventive action has also been taken against

him. But it was clear from his questioning that he made the hoax call because of a pending challan that he was angry about," he said. No FIR has been regis-

tered against the man so

far. Security has already been tightened across the national capital following Tuesday's terrorist attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam. Terrorists opened fire at

the Baisaran meadow near the resort town of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. Delhi Police beefed up

security across the city, especially around tourist hotspots and border checkpoints.

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 fragrance of flowers and incense lingered. It was the final adieu for the families of those killed in Pahalgam and also for a country in mourning

with them. by terrorists in Baisaran in the upper reaches of Pahalgam were held - from Odisha to Gujarat and from Rajasthan to Karnataka. A snapshot as it were of the prime holiday destination that Kashmir has been

for people across the country and indication of the belief that all was well in the volatile

The dead in Tuesday's terror strike were all men, 26 lives of promise that ended in a hail of bullets. And back in their homes, families grieved for the sons, fathers and husbands they had lost, some stoic and others inconsolate.

A hush fell over many vil-On Thursday, the last rites of lages and towns as funeral several of the 26 gunned down corteges wound their way to crematoriums and shops downed shutters.

In Ishani village in Odisha's Balasore district, nine-yearold Tanuj Kumar Satpathy lit the pyre of his father Prashant. It was just two days ago that

the family - 41-year-old Prashant, an employee of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology, his wife Priya Darshini and Tanuj – were in

A distraught Priya Darshini

did not allow anyone to touch the body of her husband, hug-

ging it till she crumpled in a faint.

Hundreds of people gathered in Ishani to pay their respects to Prashant, lining up on both sides of the road as the funer-

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Balasore MP Pratap 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 who was watching, whether in Ishani or on their mobile and television screens.

The Satpathy family's story found tragic echo in many other parts of the country. In Jaipur, the flower-

bedecked bier of 33-year-old Neeraj Udhwani madé its way down a quiet street with

mourners walking silently behind and lining the streets. al procession proceeded to the crematorium a kilometre away. The chartered accountant had come from Dubai to attend a wedding and on an impulse decided to holiday in Kashmir. As his elder brother Kishore lit the funeral pyre at Moksh Dham in Jhalana, his wife Ayushi fought back her tears. He was shot dead right in front of her eyes.

The funeral was attended by large crowds. Political lines

blurred as Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as well as state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra among others visited Udhwani's Model

Town residence.





Editor's

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. As his body now lies in state in the grand sanctuary of St Peter's Basilica, a sacred calm has descended over Vatican City — a moment not just of mourning, but of gratitude. From the moment of his election in 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the first pope from the Americas and the first Jesuit to hold the papacy, signalled a change in tone and style. Eschewing the traditional papal apartment, he chose instead to live in the modest Casa Santa Marta, a Vatican guesthouse.

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. Pope Francis was a pope of paradoxes: deeply traditional in doctrine, yet boldly progressive in tone. He upheld the tenets of Catholic teaching while urging a shift in how they are communicated and lived. His papacy was not defined by rigid dogma but by mercy, dialogue, and pastoral care. He asked Catholics to be a "field hospital" for a wounded world.

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." This joy was not naïve optimism but a resilient faith rooted in love and the presence of God amid human suffering. He brought this spirit to bear on some of the most contentious issues facing the Church. Whether addressing climate change, global poverty, refugee crises, or the plight of the LGBTQ+ community, Francis consistently emphasised compassion over condemnation. His encyclical Laudato Si' marked a historic moment in linking Catholic teaching with environmental stewardship, while his overtures toward greater inclusion of LGBTQ+ Catholics signalled a departure from past approaches marked by silence or rejection.

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. In the words of one Vatican observer, it is as if a beloved elder has finished their life's journey — leaving behind not just grief, but gratitude. The city has responded with reverence.

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. The death of Pope Francis also opens a new chapter. Behind closed doors, the College of Cardinals has begun its quiet conversations about the future of the Church.

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. He has set a precedent not easily ignored: that the papacy is not about power, but service; not about separation from the world, but deep engagement with it. For Catholics around the globe, his death is not just a loss — it is a call to carry forward the values he championed: humility, mercy, joy, and justice. Pope Francis changed the papacy. Now, the Church must discern how to build on what he began. Pope Francis leaves behind a Church forever marked by his humility, compassion, and unwavering call to joy. His papacy re-centred the mission of the Catholic Church on mercy, inclusion, and care for the vulnerable, urging believers to live their faith in action, not just words.

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 tanks or fighter jets, but with scholarships, foreign aid, immigration opportunities, and cultural exchange. But Donald Trump has upended the soul of America

oft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payment — Joseph Nye.

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. For decades, America cultivated a compelling global image not just through its military might but through an unparalleled soft power apparatus - university scholarships, fellowships like Fulbright, technological partnerships, and student exchange programmes. But 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 immigrants have not just changed policies — they've dented 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, America stepped decisively into the global theatre. Initially, it flexed its military muscle—from Hiroshima to the Cold War nuclear stand-offs—but soon realised that tanks and warships couldn't alone win hearts. The next American invasion came with books, food aid, hospital care, and university scholarships. PL-480 food assistance, USAID, cultural exchanges, NASA tie-ups, and the brain-drain corridor became tools of soft power that made America an aspirational ideal, especially for the Global South.

But Trump's reign of ultra-nationalism, ultra-capitalism, and ultra-conservatism diluted this global goodwill. His administration's decision to roll back funding to elite educational institutions — many of which had been incubators of international leadership and liberal thought — sent shockwaves through academic diplomacy. Places like Harvard, MIT, and Stanford weren't just American educational brands; they were world laboratories of innovation, cross-cultural dialogue, and diplomacy by proxy. For many young minds across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, getting into an Ivy League school was akin to getting a golden ticket — not just to education, but to enlightenment.

When Trump questioned the utility of such universities and threatened to cut their funds, he wasn't just aiming at liberal professors or elite academia; he was hacking away at the roots of America's global intellectual tree. The Fulbright Programme, which since 1946 had created a global network of US-educated

thinkers, diplomats, artists, and professionals, saw restrictions and stagnation under Trump's regime. This wasn't just about budget lines; it was about breaking bridges that had taken decades to build.

The shift wasn't limited to academia. Trump's "America First" translated into America alone. US foreign aid took a hit,

including humanitarian and development assistance that had long been a lever of influence in fragile regions. Aid wasn't just charity— it was strategy. Whether it was reconstructing post-war Europe via the Marshall Plan, aiding countries during natural disas-

ters, or investing in public health abroad, American dollars often bought American goodwill. Cutting this lifeline left a vacuum often filled by rival powers, notably China.

Perhaps the most damaging was the policy on immigration and visas. By clamping down on H1-B visas, Trump stifled the inflow of skilled professionals — especially from India. This move hurt not only the American tech industry but also tarnished its reputation as a land that rewards merit. India, a nation that sent scores of doctors, engineers, and nurses to serve in the US found itself at the receiving end of arbitrary bans and changing visa goalposts. Indian nurses in particular, known globally for their compassion

and professionalism, were once the unsung heroes of the American healthcare system. They became unintended victims of a policy that seemed more guided by xenophobic rhetoric than economic sense.

It's ironic. America gained its comparative cost advantage and global dominance in various sectors precisely because it welcomed the world's best minds. The openness to foreign students and workers was not just humanitarian — it was deeply pragmatic. When America opened its doors, it got the world's top scientists, engineers, teachers, and healthcare professionals. This influx didn't just boost the economy; it exported American values when these individuals returned home as brand ambassadors of the American dream. Trump's decision to erect barriers where bridges once stood was not just bad economics — it was terrible diplomacy.

Soft power, unlike hard power, does not rely on fear, force, or finance alone. It thrives on attraction. A country that welcomes, educates, and employs foreigners becomes a hub of admiration. The world's image of America, diverse, democratic, and dynamic — was always more powerful than any military base. That image is cracking under the weight of Trump's authoritarian tendencies wrapped in an elected regime. The global message is clear: this is not the America we used to know

The consequences are already visible. International student applications to American universities have dropped. Countries that once looked to America for inspiration are now

turning elsewhere. China's Confucius Institutes, European Union scholarships, and India's neighbourhood outreach are stepping into the vacuum left by the US. And this matters. In a world of multipolar influence, losing moral and cultural leadership is as fatal as losing a war. The tragedy of Trump's approach is that it reverts America to a pre-globalisation, fortress-like nation. This stands in sharp contrast to the post-Pearl Harbour awakening that pushed America into internationalism. Back then, it learned that isolationism was not just impractical but dangerous. Trump's policies drag the country back into an atmosphere of division — racially, religiously, and ideologically. His emphasis on Christian identity, his anti-immigration posture, and his trade protectionism all add up to an authoritarian flavour, coated in electoral legitimacy.

When nations drift towards ultra-nationalism and away from global collaboration, they don't just lose allies — they lose identity. The America that helped rebuild Japan and Germany, which welcomed Einstein and later Sundar Pichai, is being replaced by an America that shuts doors, silences debate, and shuns difference. In the end, Trump's war is not just on liberals or foreigners or aid budgets. It's a war on America's most valuable diplomatic currency — its image. And once that image 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.



New moon Race: Private sector takes the lead

SECOND pinion

BY RAJNEESH BHANDARI

This year will be a landmark year for lunar exploration, with three moon landings scheduled in quick succession that demonstrate humanity's renewed enchantment with our closest celestial neighbour. This week marks the first of these touchdowns, with Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost successfully landing on the lunar surface in Mare Crisium. This milestone is followed by plans for Japan's M2/Resilience mission and Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission before June. These landings signal a new era of lunar exploration driven by private-sector innovation, international collaboration, and an ambitious space programme.

Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lunar lander has achieved a soft landing on Mare Crisium, a vast basaltic plain on the moon's near side. An upright and stable landing makes Firefly the first private company to put a spacecraft on the moon without crashing or falling over — a feat where only five countries have been successful: Russia, the US, China, India, and Japan. Launched on January 15 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9, this mission is part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme, which partners with private companies to deliver scientific payloads to the moon. This landing marks Firefly's first lunar mission and a significant win for the private sector, as the lander touched down just after

lunar dawn, giving it roughly 14 Earth days of sunlight to operate. This mission is notable for being the first US lunar landing of 2025 and for carrying 10 NASA-sponsored experiments alongside commercial payloads. It will test satellite navigation and radiation-resistant computers, which are critical for developing resilient technology for lunar habitation. Japan's M2/Resilience mission, led by space and scheduled for May/June, will deploy the RESILIENCE lander and the TENA-CIOUS micro-rover. This will mark Japan's second private lunar landing attempt after a 2023 failure. The micro-rover will attempt to extract water from lunar soil and split it into hydrogen and oxygen.

This could pave the way for producing life-sustaining resources on the moon, essential for long-term human presence. The third landing, Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, will carry a 1 — metre drill to probe for water ice. This mission aims to map subsurface ice deposits, which are crucial for NASA's Artemis programme, which plans to have a sustainable base on the moon by 2030. The moon is re-emerging as humanity's next frontier for several reasons. Strategically, it's a stepping stone to Mars. It provides a testing ground for technologies like radiation shielding and in-situ generation of critical resources like oxygen. In terms of astronomy, the moon holds clues to the solar system's history. Economically, the moon's resources, like ice for fuel and oxygen, rare earth elements, etc., could fuel a space economy. Geopolitically, nations like the US and China see lunar dominance as a symbol of technological superiority, with the US and China planning to set up manned lunar bases before 2030.

Private Sector Involvement: A New Paradigm The success of startups like Firefly Aerospace, space and Intuitive Machines marks a shift from Government-led explo-

ration to a commercial model.

NASA's CLPS programme exemplifies this by outsourcing lunar delivery to firms for a fraction of traditional costs. Private sector agility accelerates mission timelines, fosters innovation, and reduces cost. At the same time, competition drives technological leaps, such as Espace's water-splitting experiment.

India, too, is at the cusp of developing the startup ecosystem for space technologies. Startups like Dhruva Space, Pixxel, Agnikul Cosmos, Bellatrix Aerospace, and Skyroot Aerospace are developing a host of technologies, including end-to-end satellite solutions, a constellation of high-resolution hyperspectral imaging satellites, electrical thrusters for satellites, a small satellite launch vehicle, etc.

These startups are driving India's private sector, leveraging Government support and global interest. The lunar landings will provide a wealth of scientific insights and lay the foundation for future lunar bases.

For the first time, private companies and startups are leading the charge, conducting pioneering experiments like water extraction and ice drilling. These missions will bring us closer to a future where humanity not only visits the moon but thrives there and beyond.

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

Every country wants to partake, even countries that have ripped us off for many, many years. China is an example, but 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

Letters to the Editor

A wake-up call for National security

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 pony rides and scenic views.

It stands as one of the most diabolical acts of terror in recent times. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quick to cut short his official visit to Saudi Arabia in response, questions arise about the Government's repeated claims of normalcy in the region. How did such a well-coordinated attack go unnoticed? Was this not a feeling of control light and a very standard of the coordinated attack go unnoticed?

failure of our intelligence and security apparatus?

Reports suggest that the attack may have been carried out by 'The Resistance Front,' an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba. If so, how were they able to infiltrate a tourist hotspot without triggering any security alerts? Where were the patrols? Why was there no surveillance in such vulnerable areas? The Government must give answers to all these questions. It is not the time for rhetoric but for real action; nab the culprits and give them an exemplary punishment. These questions demand urgent answers. As peace-loving citizens, we mourn with the bereaved families and demand accountability. May the souls of the departed rest in peace and may justice be served swiftly and decisively.

BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE | FARIDABAD

The transformative power of reading

Madam — Reading is more than a skill — it is a gateway to lifelong learning, personal growth, and academic success. On World Book Day, we celebrate the vital role that reading plays in shaping young minds and inspiring curiosity.

A child's attitude toward reading greatly influences their motivation to read. When children enjoy reading, they naturally want to read more.

This enjoyment, nurtured from a young age, forms the foundation of strong reading habits. Reading not only enhances vocabulary and communication but also sharpens analytical thinking and improves writing skills.

Parents play a critical role by reading with their children regularly. These shared moments help children experience the joys of storytelling, cultivating a lasting love for books. Every child learns differently — while some may take to reading naturally, others need encouragement and exposure to find their spark. Let us instil the value of reading early, so the next generation grows up with the tools they need to suc-

ceed and the imagination to dream big.

Let us nurture a love for reading from an early age, guiding children toward knowledge, creativity, and success. With consistent encouragement and shared reading moments, we can empower young minds to embrace books, build essential skills, and unlock their full potential. As they books are our best friends. Let this friends him begin!

tial skills, and unlock their full potential. As they books are our best friends. Let this friendship begin! CK SUBRAMANIAM | MUMBAI

Nation stands united against terror

Madam — India stands united in sorrow following the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, on Tuesday, 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," many said in their condolences. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. May they find peace and strength in these dark times," many people said in their emotional posts. It is a moment which can destroy all the gains humanity has made till date and plunge into negativity. But let us be sane and not spread hate, Interestingly, while bilateral cricket 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 at 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.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

WORLD MALARIA DAY: REIGNITING THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA Malaria is a life-threatening paraMalaria Day 2025 Theme: This year, World

sitic disease transmitted by the female Anopheles mosquito.

Despite being preventable and treatable, 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 fatalities occurring in the African region, which accounts for 82 per cent of cases and 95 per cent of deaths. Unfortunately, malaria control efforts are being hampered in low-income endemic countries due to extreme weather conditions, armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, and economic instability.

These challenges leave millions with limited access to preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services. If not treated promptly, malaria can quickly become a severe and life-threatening illness. World

Malaria Day 2025 Theme: This year, World Malaria Day, observed annually on April 25 since 2008, is themed "Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite." It is a global call to action that urges individuals, communities, and leaders to intensify efforts, champion innovation, and ensure sustained investment in the fight to end malaria. Common symptoms of malaria include fever, chills, sweating, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle and joint pain, anaemia, cough, and abdominal discomfort.

Preventive measures such as using insect repellents, wearing long-sleeved clothing, using mosquito nets, and eliminating stagnant water around homes are vital in reducing mosquito bites and keeping communities malaria-free.We have the knowledge and tools to end malaria. The choice is ours — act now. Ending malaria is not only a health necessity but also a step toward a fairer, safer, and more prosperous future for all.

is future for all. BURRA M REDDY | KARIMNAGAR

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. 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 terror in Kashmir remains a calculated lever in the regional and international balance of power



D 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 the two nations in their fight against terrorism.

Yet, this orchestration of diplomatic victories quickly unravelled, as within days of these highprofile 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, accentuated 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 had become a symbol of India's Kashmir renaissancea 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 India's 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 insur-



gency 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 executionstyle 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 Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan — based organisation responsible for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Although the Pakistani state has officially denied any involvement, the attack bears the hallmarks

FROM THE CHATTISINGHPORA MASSACRE IN MARCH 2000, WHERE consequences from an Indian strike on Pakistan's 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, though ostensibly autonomous, often operate under the shadow and sanction of foreign state apparatuses. This week, newly declassified US intelligence documents, released by the National Security Archive, highlight a chilling historical continuity with the current crisis.

A 1981 memorandum warned of catastrophic Karacĥi 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. This was 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 rivalry, cross-border militancy, and rising extremism could turn even minor skirmishes into a regional disaster. What emerges from these archival assessments is a grim continuity: terror

in Kashmir has consistently been a strategic tool wielded not merely to express ideological dissent but to force geopolitical recalibration. This is not a theatre of mindless extremism; it is a crucible of meticulously calibrated violence. From the Chattisinghpora massacre in March 2000, where 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. Civilian targeting escalates in moments of diplomatic progress, suggesting an ideological commitment by militant actors to challenge not only the Indian state but also its evolving position within the global order.

The present attack comes at a moment when

India is enjoying heightened diplomatic engagement with the Arab Countries and the West. Saudi Arabia, traditionally a close ally of Pakistan, has in recent years pivoted towards Índia as a key economic and strategic partner. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and even Iran have signalled similar recalibrations.

This realignment was most visible during the 2019 India-Pakistan standoff when the Gulf states played a critical role in de-escalation, and again when they muted their responses to India's abrogation of Kashmir's autonomy. The Kashmir issue, once a central rallying cry in Islamic internationalism, has lost its salience in the Gulf's strategic calculus. For militant organisations and their state backers, this diminishing global sympathy poses an existential challenge. Reinvigorating the Kashmir discourse through acts of horror appears to be the chosen mode

It would be naïve to view the Pahalgam massacre 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.

In the wake of this attack, Prime Minister Modi faces a dilemma reminiscent of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's conundrum following the Hamas assault in October 2023. A tempered response could be construed as weakness, emboldening adversaries and fuelling domestic political critiques of failed security assurances. Conversely, muscular retaliation-especially if aimed at Pakistan or its proxies-risks internationalising the Kashmir dispute once again, undoing years of diplomatic effort to position it as an internal Indian matter. Moreover, in the context of escalating global multipolarity and emergent regional axes, a misstep could precipitate a broader crisis, pulling in actors far beyond South Asia.

(The writer is a columnist based in Colombo.

Mental Health: A silent crisis demanding urgent action

Mental well-being can no longer be treated as secondary to physical health. As Government initiatives take shape and public awareness grows, the time has come for a collective, compassionate response to protect our nation's mental health and with it, our future

here is an old saying that a healthy mind leads to a healthy body could not agree with it more! Ever since the pandemic, we are witnessing a steep rise in mental health related conditions. It's 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 this 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 their 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 com-

mitting 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 demo-

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

as depression or bipolar disorder. This finding is significant as it points to a series of progressions before this most tragic final

step.
When we look deeper into the mental health scenario in India, multiple issues that have a profound impact on mental ANIL health — come to **RAJPUT** the fore.

In the case of the students and the young, many are too busy searching for material things as the entire space for them has become extremely competitive. there is reduced focus on relaxation and unwinding, and as a result burn outs and

depression encircle their lives. In all this, the impact of the internet and social media in aggravating pressures

and setting unattainable and overambitious goals — courtesy of peer pressure, is also creating a havoc in the lives of the youth.

In the case of the elderly, we are witnessing the rise in loneliness as their children are either not living with them, due to studies or jobs, 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 — about who will take care of them, when they reach their physical limits due to advancing age.

Since the pandemic, we are witnessing a renewed focus and much greater emphasis on mental health issues. They are now being increasingly considered as much of a priority as many physical issues.

The Indian Government has launched several initiatives to address mental health, including the National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele

MANAS) and the Ayushman Bharat, HWC Scheme.

Tele MANAS provides free, 24/7 mental health support through a toll-free helpline, while the Ayushman Bharat scheme integrates mental health services into primary healthcare. Additionally, the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) are key components of India's mental healthcare services. For the elderly, the Government has launched the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) and the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana

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 programs. Additionally, the National Helpline for Senior Citizens (Elderline) offers support and guidance, including emotional support for those struggling with mental nealth issues.

It is extremely reassuring that the highest levels of our nation — are aware and alive, to the seriousness of the situation. In fact, our hon'ble Prime Minister has led from the front with his views and possible solutions that can go a long way in addressing this critical subject. In his popular monthly program 'Mann Ki Baat', he highlighted the importance of mental health, especially among the youth in the current era, and spoke with crystal clarity about the role of physical activity, diet, yoga, along with the use of technology like artificial intelligence to elevate mental health.

This should be seen as a nudge, and it requires a collective approach that involves the families, academia and the community to create an enabling ecosystem that safeguards our students and the generations to follow. These guardrails should both protect and strengthenprotect against the perils of social media,

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 instils the spirit of

All of these, will ensure, that the dejection from failure or pressure of exceling, 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.

It's 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.

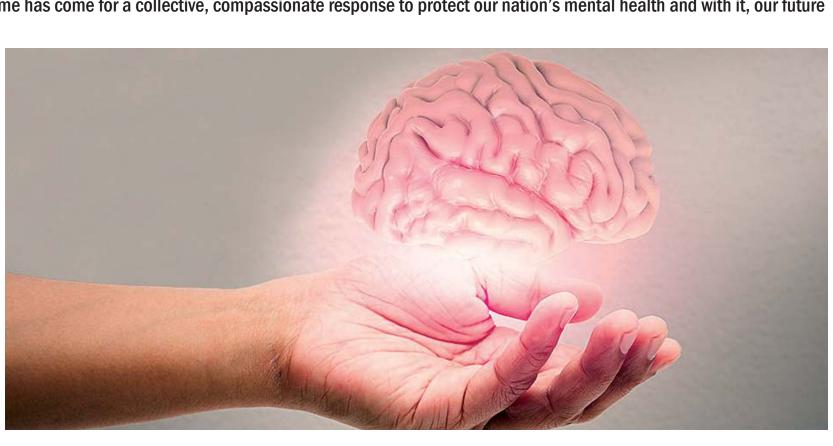
This will play an impactful role in the creation of a quintessential complete establishment — one that focuses not just on the studies but also creates avenues of growth for the all-round development of its students.

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

has a huge bearing on our country. Mental health is a significant component of a 'Swastha Bharat' dream, and has a direct and crucial impact on national creativity and productivity. While factors that contribute to mental ailments will only increase in the coming times, it's our proactive and head-on engagement, that will 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.



IN BRIEF



Rupee gains 16 paise to settle at 85.29 against US dollar

After a two-day pause, the rupee gained 16 paise to 85.29 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, on weak greenback and overnight decline in crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee strengthened on the weak US dollar and overnight decline in crude oil prices amid slowing US business activity. The US Treasury yields also declined with the 10-year yield falling 3 basis points to 4.35 per cent. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.60 and moved between the intra-day high of 85.25 and the low of 85.67 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 85.29 (provisional), registering a gain of 16 paise over its previous closing level. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 26 paise and settled for the day at 85.45 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias as weakness in the US dollar is likely to remain intact amid trade tariff uncertainties. However, risk-on sentiments in the global markets and FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels.



Cisco bags networking gear deal from Vodafone Idea

Tech major Cisco on Thursday said it has bagged a networking gear deal from telecom firm Vodafone Idea to boost its 4G and 5G services. Vodafone Idea (Vi) last year announced an investment of Rs 30,000 crore in network expansion for which it has already roped in Nokia, Ericsson and Samsung. "Vi has announced its partnership with Cisco to transform its network infrastructure. As part of this collaboration, Vi will deploy a cutting-edge Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS)based transport network powered by Cisco," Cisco said in a statement. The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the deal. The MPLS technology helps in slicing networks into multiple layers for transmission of various services like voice, data, video etc



NFCSF, IFGE to promote cane-based bioenergy

he National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) on Thursday said it has signed an agreement with the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) to collaborate in promoting sugarcane-based bioenergy and sustainable practices in the country. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by NFCSF Managing Director Prakash Naiknavare and IFGE BioEnergy Committee Chairman and President Praj Industries (Bio Energy) Atul Mulay. According to a statement issued by NFCSF, the collaboration aims to foster innovation, policy advocacy and the adoption of practical green energy solutions, leveraging the strengths of both organisations. As per the terms of the MoU, NFCSF will share its expertise and knowledge related to the use and applications of sugarcane and its downstream by-products for green energy, facilitate access to research publications and reports, and collaborate in joint promotion and policy advocacy efforts. IFGE will actively promote sugarcane-based green energy in India and globally, organise knowledge-sharing events such as workshops and seminars in partnership with NFCSF, and facilitate stakeholder engagement with policymakers and

Govt working to reduce regulatory issues in logistics sector

The government is working to reduce the regulatory issues in the logistics sector to enhance ease of doing business, and attract more investments, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Addressing an event here, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Pankaj

(DPIIT) joint secretary Kumar said discussions are underway make the PM Gati Shakti data more accessible to the private sector. "We are work-

ing to further reduce the regulatory issues (in the logistics sector) to enhance ease of doing business and attract more investments,"

Kumar said. Observing that India is a complex and geographically huge country, he said logistics is all about transporting both people and goods from one place to another quickly so that lives can be saved, and businesses thrive, leading to a

better quality of life.

"You can get groceries delivered to you in 10 minutes, but cannot reach the hospital in 10 minutes," Kumar said.

He said there are several other initiatives being taken by the government to enhance the ease of doing business, and attract more investments. "But it is not easy, and the

government alone can not achieve the targeted goals. Every stakeholder, including the industry and business community, must participate to further boost the logistics sector in the coun-

try," Kumar said. Also, speaking at the event, Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) chairperson Anita Praveen highlighted India's progress in logistics and ware-

housing. "The process of warehouse licensing is being streamlined and expedited to ensure faster approvals and greater ease of doing business," she said.

Come together to build a resilient, steel-strong India: PM

PNS MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked the industry to come together to build a "resilient, revolutionary and steel-strong India".

Speaking at the India Steel 2025 event, the PM also said that the country needs to strengthen its global partnerships for securing raw materials and called on the industry to start extracting iron ore from unused greenfield mines to increase steel production.

Terming steel as a "sunrise sector", Modi underlined the need to up production of the commodity which is the "backbone" of development, adopt newer processes, undertake innovation, exchange best practices within and also look at import substitutions in coal.

"Let us come together to build a resilient, revolutionary and steel-strong India," Modi said in his address to the steel industry participants.

He acknowledged that getting raw materials is a "major concern" for the steel sector, and urged all to strengthen global partnerships and secure supply chains.
"One major concern is raw



material security. We still depend on imports for nickel, coking coal and manganese. And hence, we must strengthen global partnerships, secure supply chains, and focus on technology upgrades," Modi said in a virtual address at the

Stating that there are unused greenfield mines, Modi said it is very important to their proper and timely utilisation, and warned that both the country and the industry will suffer due to this.

He said the country also needs to explore alternatives like coal gasification and better utilisation of its reserves to reduce coal imports.

The industry must be future ready, and adopt new processes, new grades and new scale, the Prime Minister said.

Modi said the country is aiming to increase the steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030, from the 179 MT in FY24, and added that the per capita steel consumption is also targeted to grow to 160 kg from 98 kg at present in the same time

He said the country is also 'advancing" the USD 1.3 trillion national infrastructure pipeline and there is "extensive work underway" to transform cities into smart cities on large scale.

'Unprecedented pace of development in roads, railways, airports, ports and pipelines is creating new opportunities for the steel sector," Modi said, adding that the growing number of mega projects will increase the demand for high grade

He also noted that the steel used in the maiden indigenously built aircraft carrier Vikrant and the Chandrayaan mission was manufactured

locally. The PM said the country aspires to build modern and large ships with an eye on the export market, and added that high grade steel will be needed for such initiatives.

Stating that the goal should be "zero imports and net exports" when it comes to steel, Modi pointed that the country aims to increase the exports to 500 MT by 2047, from the present 25 MT of

India is not just thinking of domestic growth, but also "global leadership" in the sector, Modi said, pointing out that the world looks at India as a trusted supplier of high grade steel.

Apart from that, welfare schemes like the PM Awas Yojana and also the Jal Jeevan Mission are also helping create opportunities for the steel

Govt help to push growth of domestic comics industry: ICA

PNS NEW DELHI

The government's support such as providing funding and strengthening distribution infrastructure will help the domestic comics industry achieve healthy growth, ICA said on Thursday.

Indian Comics Association (ICA) President Ajitesh Sharma said at present the domestic comic creators face challenges in distribution, financial viability, and cultural acceptance.

Initiatives like the formation of this association and Comics Creator Championship (CCC) are aimed at addressing these challenges by providing a formalised structure for creators, fostering collaboration, and promoting innovation.

The CCC provides a platform for aspiring and profestheir talents.

The ICA's efforts aim to nurture new talent and position Indian comics as significant players on the global

Sharma said that estimating the exact market size of the industry is challenging due to the unorganized distribution system.

'India, Pak trade small; now will come to halt'

PNS NEW DELHI

With Pakistan suspending all trade ties with India, including that routes through third countries, the two-way commerce will now come to a complete halt, apex exporters' body FIEO said on Thursday.

Following the terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists, India took a series of measures including immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, used for movement of certain kinds of goods.

Besides, India has announced expulsion of



Water Treaty of 1960. In retaliation, Pakistan announced suspension of 'all trade' with India, including that routes through third countries.

Commenting on the deci-Pakistani military attaches, and suspension of the Indus try, Federation of Indian

Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said India's bilateral trade with Pakistan is miniscule and is just 0.06 per cent of India's total trade.

'We have minuscule trade with Pakistan, which is constantly declining. During million, respectively.

April-January 2024-25, the same was not even USD 500 million as against the overall trade of over USD 800 billion in the same period. The trade will now come to a complete standstill affecting supply of some key products to Pakistan, hitting their economy fur-ther," Ralhan said. Terrorists opened fire in Pahalgam in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in India's exports to Pakistan

in April-January 2024-25 stood at USD 447.65 million, while imports were meagre USD 0.42 million. The exports and imports in 2023-24 were USD 1.18 billion and USD 2.88

Databricks to invest \$250 mn in India

PNS NEW DELHI

US-based data and AI company Databricks on Thursday announced its plans to invest over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,134 crore) in India over the next three years to accelerate innovation in data and artificial intelligence (AI).

The investment will fuel training, R&D, and marketing efforts, including a 50 per cent headcount boost to over 750 local employees by the end of this fiscal year, a company statement said.

The company follows a February-January calendar. India is one of the key growth markets for Databricks, with the compa-

ny's clientele, including CommercelQ, Freshworks, HDFC Bank, Swiggy, TVS Motors, and Zepto, said Ed Lenta, Senior Vice President & GM for Asia Pacific & Japan at Databricks.



Startups, MSMEs filed 310% more patents in past 5 yrs

PNS NEW DELHI

MSMEs have increased by 310 per cent in the last 5 years from 1,492 in 2018-19 to 6,120 in 2023-24, an official said on Thursday.

N Kamchander, Joint Controller, Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, further shared that in about three years over 2.4 million students and faculty across Mission launched in 2021.

Addressing an event organised by ASSOCHAM, he informed that the filing of patent applications in India has surged by 116 per cent rising from 42,763 in 2014-15 to 92,172 in 2023-24.

"Patent grants have been an even more remarkable increase of 1,624 per cent, jumping from

India have been educated about 5,978 in 2014-15 to 103,057 in The patent rules have been IP rights through the National 2023-24. India has seen biggest amended in 2024 in order to furident distribution over past 10 years with the share of resident filling increasing from 24.8 per cent in 2013 to 60 per cent in 2024," said N Ramchander.

India's IPR policy has provided a comprehensive framework for IP creation, protection and commercialisation but continuous evaluation and updation are the procedure and create conducive environment for innovation and protection of Intellectual Property (IP) in

Also, a certification of inventorship has been introduced to enhance patenting ecosystem in India by formally recognising efforts of the inventors in the patented inventions.

Gold climbs Rs 200 to Rs 99,400/10 gm

Gold prices climbed Rs 200 to Rs 99,400 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday following fresh buying by stockists and jewellers and a weak dollar, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity took a U-turn from the historic Rs 1 lakhmark and declined Rs 2,400 to Rs 99,200 per 10 gram on Wednesday.
Gold of 99.5 per cent puri-

ty also increased Rs 200 to Rs 98,900 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 98,700 per 10 grams.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Wednesday said



the current trade standoff between the US and China could continue for a while.

Adding to this, there were reports that President Donald Trump signalled that China may receive a new tariff rate in the next "two to three weeks" while countries that are currently in the negotiation phase might see reciprocal tariffs come in if negotiations are not going the way he

According to commodities market experts, remarks by Trump and Bessent help revive demand for the safehaven bullion following a corrective slide from the all-time peak.

Meanwhile, silver prices appreciated Rs 700 to Rs 99,900 per kg on Thursday. The white metal had settled at Rs 99,200 per kg in the previous close

In futures trade, gold contracts for June delivery bounced Rs 1,046, or 1.1 per cent, to Rs 95,768 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange. "Gold opened with a strong

gap-up of over Rs 1,000, hitting Rs 95,700 on MCX, as Comex gold held firm above USD 3,300. The renewed upside came after a sharp shift in the Trump administration's tone -- indicating that tariffs may still remain a central part of the conversation before any concrete trade talks with China begin.

"This delay in diplomatic progress, coupled with uncertainty around China's official response, continues to keep risk sentiment elevated," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Stock markets break 7-day rally to end lower

ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and a

India Inc revenue growth to remain flat, profitability to widen

PNS MUMBAI

India Inc's revenue growth will remain flat at about 5-6 per cent in the March quarter, but profitability will widen, a domestic rating agency said on Thursday.

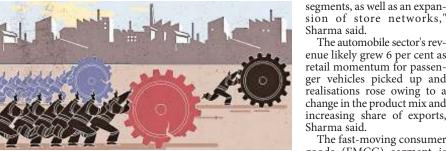
An arm of Crisil Ratings said the operating profit margins are seen at 8 per cent, a widening of up to 0.60 per cent, when compared with the year-ago performance.

The agency analysed over 400 companies accounting for over 50 per cent of NSE's market capitalisation to arrive at its estimates. Some compa-

nies, especially in the information technology sector have already announced their earn-Improved showing by the

consumer-driven sectors excluding staples will be a key contributor for the topline growth, while the bottom line will benefit from a mixed set of aspects which are unique to a sector, it said.

Crisil Intelligence's director Pushan Sharma said consumer discretionary products, services and staple services segment is expected to see 8-9 per cent on-year increase in rev-



duction of premium 5G plans "This would be led by an expected 15 per cent surge in by telecom operators. "The retail segment likely telecom services revenue saw a robust 17 per cent resulting from significant targrowth, led by demand in the iff hikes implemented in the second quarter and the introvalue, and food and grocery

The automobile sector's revenue likely grew 6 per cent as

Sharma said.

retail momentum for passenger vehicles picked up and realisations rose owing to a change in the product mix and increasing share of exports, Sharma said. The fast-moving consumer

sion of store networks,

goods (FMCG) segment is expected to see 4-6 per cent revenue growth led by price hikes amid subdued volume growth, it said, adding that rural demand has been resilient and urban demand

has stayed subdued.

Overall exports revenue is likely to grow 4 per cent, including 2-3 per cent growth in IT services revenue following a marginal improvement in demand and project pick-ups and 8 per cent in the pharmaceutical sector.

In the agriculture sector, including fertilisers, revenues are likely to grow 17-19 per cent with consumption improving, following a stable summer crop acreage and higher disposable incomes stemming from better yields and remuneration for kharif

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. Selling in blue-chips

largely muted trend in Asian and European equities also dragged the markets down. The 30-share BSE benchmark declined 315.06 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 79,801.43. During the day, it dropped 391.94 points or 0.48 per cent to 79,724.55.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JAGTIAL NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTERESET

File No.129/NICVE1/MGF/E01/25 Expression of interest is invited in sealed covers from experienced (in similar type of works consultants for Preparation of DPRs for Comprehensive Under Ground Drainage Scheme Water Supply Project, Development of Roads, Parks, Junction improvements, Buildings, Drain and other various developmental works in Jagtial Municipality under any grants for Two years is lagital Municipality. They can apply for RFP Document by submitting the Demand Draft of Re:10,000-in favor of the Commissioner, Jagtal Municipality.

Last date for the issuing of schedule : Dt: 26-04-2025, Time: 04.00 PM ast date for submission of sealed expression : Dt: 03-05-2025 , Time: 03:00 PM

CONDITIONS: 1) Consultant should be empaneled in any department in any state Should have worked not less than Rs. 100.00 crores project in single ULB in Telangaria State.
 The firm should have Rs.5.00 Crores of average as financial tumover in last 5 years.
 Experience consultants in similar nature of works shall only be considered. 5) The firm fulfilling Agreeing above conditions only need to apply. 6) Commissioner, Jagtial Municipality has a owers to accept or reject the sealed E.O.I

Any other details contact on Engineering section Jaglial Municipality in Working hours Contact Mobile No: Dy Executive Engineer, Jaglial Municipality - 9348806255. DIPR R.O. No.: 799-PPICL/ADVT/1/2025-36, Dt. 34-04-2925

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TENDER NOTICE No. EE-HI/GWMC/CTN/03/e-proc/2025-26, Date: 24.04.2025 enders are invited from Registered Contractors/Agencies for the works listed on online tender platfor tender.telangana.gov.in" for (21) work under General Funds for Rs. 520.22 Lakhs, ABSTRACT OF WORKS
Reserved for SC (4 No. of works): Rs.74.30 Lakhs; Reserved for ST (1 No. of work): Rs.22.00 Lakhs;

Seneral (16 No. of works): Rs.423.92 Lakhts; Total (21 Nos. of works): Rs.520.22 Lakhts SCHEDULE OF TENDER PROCESS 09-05-2025 up to 4.00 P.M

Last date for downloading: Opening of Bids (Technical) Contact Details: Executive Engineer, Nakkalagutta Cincle, GWMC, Cell No. 7680888982, ornal Further details can be seen on @ "e" procurement market place @ https://tendectelangana.gov/in

vinloading of viorks starts from 30-84-2825, 10.38 A.M onwards Sdi- Executive Engine DER R.O. No.: TES-PRICL/ADVIT/13025-35, Dr. 36-04-2925 Greater Warrangal Municipal Corporati

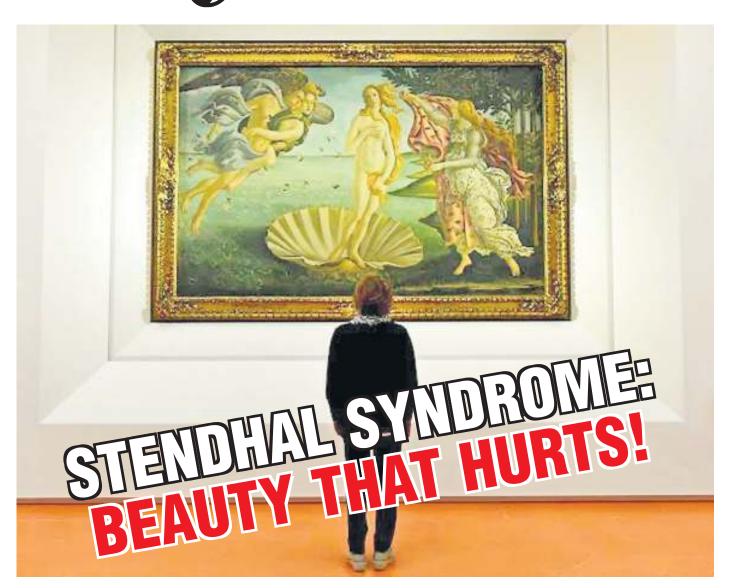
The Pioneer rabad

G Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2025



SULOGNA MEHTA mehta.sulogna@gmail.com

magine yourself walking through the numerous galleries of the Louvre Museum in Paris. From Leonardo da Vinci's paint-'Monalisa' Alexandros of Antioch' marble statue of 'Venus de Milo, from Delacroix painting 'Liberty Leading the People,' to the Antonio Canova's sculpture 'Psyche Revived by Cupid's Kiss,' from the Renaissance masterpieces of Michelangelo and Raphael to Byzantine 'Barberini Ivory' artworks and Bernini's marble sculptures, they are coming alive before

Awestruck and overwhelmed at this never-ending display of beauty, you keep looking at the masterpieces from the world of paintings, architecture and sculptures in the world's largest art museum. And then you feel your heart rate racing, your eyes watering, you even feel a bit giddy and get goosebumps. Perplexed? You are experiencing what is known as Stendhal's Syndrome.

your eyes one

after the other.

From palpitations to even hallucinations, beautiful and grand works of art, architecture and museum visits can trigger strong psychological and physical reactions in people. If one experiences palpitations, goose-bumps, dizziness, strong emotions, tears in the eyes, confusion or even hallucinations while looking at certain works of art, especially paintings and sculptures, they may be experiencing an aesthetic syndrome called Stendhal Syndrome. It is named after French writer

Marie-Henri Beyle, rather known by his pen name Stendhal (1783-1842). The syndrome was first diagnosed in the early 1980s. However, there is not much awareness about it.

In psychiatry, Stendhal Syndrome is not formally classified as a men-

tal disorder but it is said to be a psy-chosomatic condition (physical ill-ness or conditions influenced or triggered by emotional factors). It is marked by certain strong emotional and subsequent physiologi-cal responses when exposed to works of exquisite artistic beauty.
Stendhal Syndrome is also called

'Of Florence' because there is an interesting connection to the Italian city of Florence or Firenze. It was

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, we 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

> observed that sometimes European tourists were admitted in local hospitals with symptoms like rapid heartbeats, dizziness, confusion, hallucinations etc and these used to be triggered during their visits to muse-ums and places showcasing wonderful works of art including paintings, architecture and sculptures.

It seems most of those who experienced Stendhal's Syndrome were European tourists visiting Italian cities of art. Interestingly, Italians themselves did not report to be suf-fering from any such syndromes while they travelled elsewhere.

Stendhal himself, during his Italy tour in 1817 described it as, "I had reached that level of emotion, where celestial sensations given by the arts and passionate feelings meet."

Speaking about such emotional responses to art and beauty, Dr



ics are emotionally stimulated by artworks. Also, sometimes a person can suffer from hallucination, confusion, disorientation or even faint if there is some kind of personal connection or some deeply personal memories of life events are triggered while viewing a particular work of art."

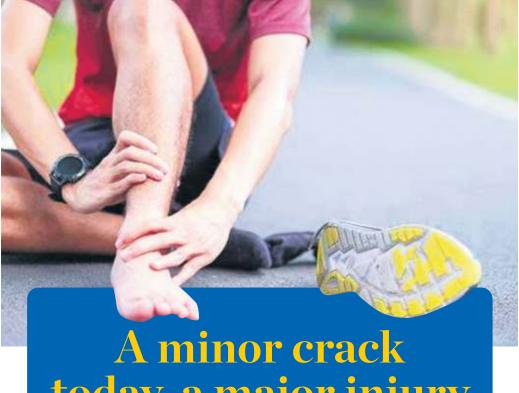
It is usually the adults who are affected by artworks but children don't display Stendhal's Syndrome given their limited understanding about a work of art. "At the most, they can feel frightened looking at a scary painting. For adults, it is the happy, mood-elevating hormones and positive neurochemicals like dopamine, serotonin, endorphin and also hormones like cortisol come into play while one admires and becomes awestruck by works of art," adds the doctor who specialises in child and

adolescent psychiatry.

Explaining why Italians themselves were not affected by the symptoms unlike other tourists, Dr Charan Teja Koganti, neuropsychiatrist at KIMS hospital, Hyderabad, says, "A possible reason is that Italians grew up watching those sculptures and paintings as the country was extremely rich in artworks right from the Renaissance era. So, their eyes and brains got used to those unlike other tourists, for whom witnessing a plethora of colourful artworks including paintings, frescoes, mosaics etc. within a short time during their visit to Italy, became an overwhelming experience."

"It is a o a proven fact affect the human brain and mostly generates positive feelings. All senses are stimulated to the extent of sensory overloading. People experience a range of progressing emotions starting with enthusiasm to elation to euphoria and though uncommon, can even extend to agitation and aggression. Physically, the three parameters namely blood pressure, pulse rate and heart rate variable (HRV) are affected," adds the neuropsychiatrist.

Explaining further, the doctor avers, "When a person is exposed to multiple and colourful artworks within a short span of time, the posterior aspect of the brain or the occipi-tal lobe gets activated. Especially bright colours like red, golden, green, orange etc. stimulate the brain. The orange etc. stimulate the brain. The oxygen uptake goes up and the brain utilises more glucose due to high metabolism. The person may feel hungry due to rapid utilisation of the glucose by the brain. The eyes may feel strained, the overstimulated and oversaturated brain might give rise to other syndromes like dizziness, palpitations, hallucinations etc. In the process, various hormones and neurochemicals (catecholamines) are released including dopamine, norepinephrine and epinephrine or adrenaline, stress hormone cortisol etc. And that is how aesthetically beautiful art works can affect humans.



today, a major injury tomorrow

Experts warn against the dangers of overlooking minor bone injuries

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

tress 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 with physically demanding routines.

At the onset, symptoms may appear mild. "Early on, the pain from a stress fracture might go away with rest and not seem so bothersome, prompting some to ignore the injury. However, this complacency can be dangerous. Without treatment, the fracture can pro complete break," says Dr. Reddy.

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 cause malunion (improper alignment) and nonunion (failure to heal), is another major risk of leaving stress fractures untreated," notes Dr. Reddy. These conditions can result in chronic pain, decreased mobility, and functional deficits.

In more severe cases, stress fractures may even impact nearby nerves and blood vessels. "Untreated fractures can in some cases harm nearby nerves and blood vessels, causing numbness and tingling or difficulty with blood flow," he adds. Maintaining regular physical activity on a stress fracture can worsen the injury. "It can lead to a complete break of the bone, requiring surgery 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.

Left unresolved, a stress fracture can lead to chronic pain and hinder basic movement. "Over time it can lead to chronic pain and would prevent you from doing your daily work, meaning mobility problems and you would need to go for other 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, Consultant - 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 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," Dr. Mummigatti advises. "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 takes longer, prolonging symptoms and delaying an athlete's return to peak performance.'

TREATMENT APPROACHES

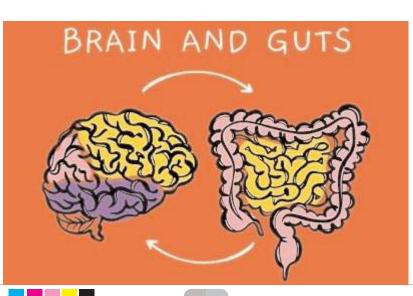
The good news? With timely medical intervention, stress fractures are highly treatable. "Management of stress fractures typically involves rest, bracing, crutches, and bone-stimulating medications to promote healing," says Dr. Mummigatti. Both experts underline the need for awareness and

caution. A seemingly minor crack, if ignored, can evolve into a major health setback. Recognising the early signs, seeking prompt medical care and following the right treatment plan can ensure full

MANAGING AUTISM THROUGH GUT-BRAIN AXIS

ou must've heard doctors and other healthcare professionals refer to something known as the gutbrain axis. But what is the gut-brain axis? Simply put, it's a group of nerves that connect your gut and brain and send 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 well beyond the brain. A lot of evidence points to the gut-brain axis, the twoway 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 twomonth probiotic intervention showed



improved behaviour and gastrointestinal issues, but GI improvements were significantly higher. This matches global research that probiotics can be one tool

in autism management. Cutting-edge neuroimaging studies show that specific microbial profiles have been linked to function and brain structure changes, especially those regions associated with memory, attention and emotion. Interestingly, probiotics even modulate brain activity patterns in adults and individuals with GI disorders, showing their positive

Children become more attentive, sleep better and respond more effectively to

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.)

WHAT'S BREWING? 10



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











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.



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

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

ri 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 styleforward consumer. Sri Jagdamba Pearls is a legacy brand in India's jewelry 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.

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 Constitution 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

Transforms India's Water Pumping Industry

cross the country, water pumping stations are struggling with unplanned hreakdowns, 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 Al-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 has earned significant recognition from the Government of Karnataka.

CELEBRATING FASHION, **CULTURE & CREATIVITY**

ommy Hilfiger announces Tommy Hilfiger's visit to Mumbai, India, vibrant day of fashion, cultural exchange, and connection — reinforcing the brand's presence in one of the world's most dynamic style capitals. The day began 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 creative force 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,

PILOT ORIENTATION DAY IN HYD ON APRIL 26

AA Training Academy is all set to host its Pilot Orientation Day Bin Hyderabad on Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Hyderabad. This free-toattend 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

FUN

ARCHIE

Priya grace















GARFIELD



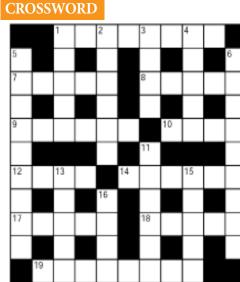






REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP ARE YOU CARRYING ANY FOOD. PLANTS OR DANGEROUS IDEAS 9-JEATIUOS SROM A TUOBA Wealth care system?



NANCY







SUDOKU

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

any row or column must

egual 45

						6		Yesterday's solution									
						О		3	7	9	8	6	4	5	1	2	
	6	3	5	1			4	2	4	6	1	3	5	8	7	9	
	_	Ĭ	_	Ė		0	_	1	8	5	2	9	7	3	6	4	
,		/				8		8	1	3	5	4	2	6	9	7	
					8	3	5	7	5	2	9	1	6	4	8	3	
-			_		-	÷		9	6	4	3	7	8	2	5	1	
,			2			4		6	2	7	4	8	1	9	3	5	
7	Ω							5	9	1	6	2	3	7	4	8	
	0							4	3	8	7	5	9	1	2	6	
				6		5		4 3 8 7 5 9 1 2 6 Rules									
		4	8	5	7		1	 Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once. 									
)								The sum of all numbers in									

DIFFICULTY RATING: ***

ACROSS

- 1 Observing
- A thrown weapon
- 8 A large stream 9 The writer of a book
- 10 A small green creature
- 12 Weapons 14 Purchased
- 17 Beneath 18 Railway coaches pulled
- by an engine 19 Soft shoes worn indoors

DOWN

- 1 Grind this up for flour
- 2 Extreme fear 3 Difficult



4 Not ever

6 Scares

5 A green pointy vegetable

11 A container for a drink

13 A soldier's award

15 Sheep eat this

Q: What is the collective noun for a group of criminals?

GINGER MEGGS









SAMANTHA AND RAJ NIDIMORU FUEL RELATIONSHIP RUMOURS

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkaviravani@gmail.com ctress 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 multi-ple occasions. Samantha was seen ple 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 publicly. Reports claim that they took the same flight but exited separately to avoid media attention. Raj Nidimoru co-directed The Family Man ason 2, which featured Samantha in a breakthrough role. The duo also collaborated on the web series *Citadel: 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

Rarthik Subbaraj, known for hits like *Pizza*, *Jigarthanda, Mercury, Petta* and *Mahaan*, is gearing up for the release of his latest film Retro, starring Surive and Posic starring Suriya and Pooja

Game Changer, the Telugu political drama directed by Shankar and starring Ram Charan.
Karthik Subbaraj was credited with the story of the film, which was released during the Sankranthi festival and turned out to be a major disappointment at the box office.

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 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

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

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

ctress Iman Esmail, professionally known as Imanvi, has addressed a wave of misinformation surrounding her background, following the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam. Imanvi, who is set to star alongside Prabhas in director Hanu Raghavapudi's upcoming period drama, took to ing period drama, took to Instagram to release a heartfelt statement, condemning the baseless rumours about her heritage and standing firmly against hate and misinformation

In her note, Imanvi began by extending her deepest condolences to the victims of the Pahalgam attack, stating, "First 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 tragic and weighs heavy on my heart. I strongly condemn the violent acts."

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 criticised 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 emphasised 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 Angeles, California after my par-

ents 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

unity and not divisiveness." Imanvi will be making her Telugu film debut opposite Prabhas in an untitled period drama directed by Hanu Raghavapudi and backed by Mythri Movie Makers. The film, set in the 1940s, blends histori-

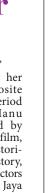
cal fiction with alternate history, and also features legendary actors Mithun Chakraborty and Jaya Prada in pivotal roles. An excerpt from the film's synopsis teases a gripping narrative: nis historica history set in the 1940s is the tale of a warrior who rose from the

shadows, emerging from a soci-

ety that believed war was the only

answer to the buried injustices

and forgotten truths that history kept hidden from the world." Imanvi concluded her statement on a hopeful note: "I will work hard to ensure that this legacy carries on through my work and uplifts the experiences of my Indian heritage. Lots of love, Imanyi.



scheduled for May 1. Retro. starring Suriva and Pooja Hegde, is poised to be one of the biggest blockbusters of 2025. Directed by Karthik Subbaraj, the film has been making waves for its unique blend of romance and action. But in a surprising revelation, the director shared that the film was originally conceptualised for none other than Superstar Raiinikanth.

Contrary to rumours linking the script to

Thalapathy Vijay, Karthik clarified that the original version of Retro was written with

Nani teases explosive

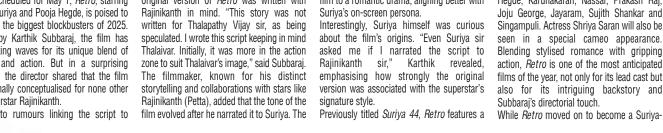
narrative gradually shifted from a pure action film to a romantic drama, aligning better with

KARTHIK SUBBARAJ INITIALLY PENNED RETRO

power-packed ensemble including Pooja Hegde, Karunakaran, Nassar, Prakash Raj, Joju George, Jayaram, Sujith Shankar and Singampuli. Actress Shriya Saran will also be seen in a special cameo appearance. Blending stylised romance with gripping action, Retro is one of the most anticipated films of the year, not only for its lead cast but also for its intriguing backstory and Subbaraj's directorial touch.

have plenty to look forward to. The superstar is currently working on Jailer 2 with director Nelson Dilipkumar. He is also headlining Coolie, an upcoming film by Lokesh Kanagaraj, which boasts an impressive cast including Nagarjuna, Shruti Haasan, Upendra and Soubin Shahir

Though Rajinikanth didn't end up in Retro. his cinematic universe continues to expand with several big projects underway.



surprises in HIT 3

s the release date of HIT: The Third Case (HIT 3) draws clos-Aer, excitement is mounting among fans. Slated for a May 1 release, the third installment in the HIT franchise stars Natural Star

Addressing the buzz surrounding HIT 3 in a latest interview, especially rumours about Tamil star Karthi making a cameo appearance, Nani carefully avoided giving anything away. When asked directly, he responded with a knowing smile, "There are many interesting surprises in the film, but they are meant to be experienced in the theater only. So who is it, what is it? I think it's better not to have that conversation at this point because that's the whole point. If it's a cameo, it's meant to be a sur-

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 theatrical moments it has—you get in a mass

film where you can really cheer, root, whistle and clap kind of a moment," Nani said. He emphasised that such elements are rare in thrillers, as they often struggle to

include 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 happened with HIT 3," he added.

With Nani's passionate insights and the franchise's reputation for gripping narratives, HIT: The Third Case is shaping up to be a must-watch this summer, promising not only suspense and intensity but also the kind of crowd-pleasing highs that fans love.

Siddu Jonnalagadda refocuses efforts on Telusu Kada after Jack setback

ctor Siddu Jonnalagadda, who found massive success with DJ Tillu and Tillu Square, faced a major setback with his latest film Jack. Directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar and featuring Vaishnavi Chaitanya as the female lead, Jack failed to impress both audiences and

In the wake of the film's failure, Siddu is now focusing intently on his next project Telusu Kada, which marks the directorial debut of popular Tollywood stylist Neeraja Kona. Produced by People Media Factory, the film was initially set for a release soon, but sources now suggest a delay as Siddu is getting involved in every aspect of the production.

"After Jack, he's taking no chances. He knows the audience expects punchy one-liners and highenergy dialogues from him," a source close to the team revealed. "He's now deeply involved in the script and other departments to ensure Telusu Kada meets those expectations."

Siddu's Tillu Square recently entered the Rs 100 crore club within just seven days of release, solidifying his status as a bankable star. With Telusu Kada, he's looking to bounce back and continue his upward trajectory

STANDALONE



making headlines, not just for his stellar box-office streak with Pushpa 2, 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 Ariun exuded effortless charm fueling speculation that his appearance might hint at his look for Atlee's upcoming

Allu Arjun is once again

CSK vs SRH: Battle of survival

hennai Super Kings (CSK) will eye a crucial turnaround at home when they face an equaldesperate 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 unchartered 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

CSK have lacked firepower in the batting department and captain Ruturaj Gaikwad's absence due to an injury has only made it worse for the storied outfit.

MS Dhoni has returned as full-time captain. While his knee continues to limit mobility, the former Indian captain's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Hyderabad



leadership remains invaluable.

His death-overs batting, field placements, and ability to recalibrate the bowling attack could be key in CSK's

In encouraging signs, 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre made a promising debut against MI with the bat. The franchise has also roped in South Africa's Dewald

Brevis in a bid to strengthen their powerhitting department.

SRH, meanwhile, have endured an equally erratic campaign. A bright start gave way to inconsistency, with their ultraaggressive, attack-at-all-costs strategy falling flat.

The explosive opening pair of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, so vital last season, have failed to hit the same heights

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: Pat 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 Malinga.

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

SRH need support from middle order: Coach Vettori

"I think the whole side, the whole Mumbai Indians squad possesses some world-class players and obviously Rohit needs no introduction in that regard," Boult said at the post-match media inter-

tributing at some points, but Rohit's doing a fantastic job of late and playing nicely just at the right time. So he's going to play a huge role for us in the remaining part of the season. I think you just need to be pre-

Pandya for his leadership style, calling it a refreshing experience.



Boult backs Rohit Sharma, calls him world-class player

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Hyderabad

umbai 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-centuries that signalled his timely return

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

After SRH collapsed to 143/8, MI, powered by Rohit's commanding 46-ball 70, chased down the target in just 15.4 overs. The emphatic win not only boosted their net run rate but also propelled them to third place on the points table.

"I am sure everyone wants to be conpared for any role," he added.

Boult also praised captain Hardik

"Hardik's a passionate cricketer, obvious-

ly very skilful. He's a great leader, I think. He leads from the front.

"He's a great communicator. He's one of my favourite Indian cricketers, so to get the chance to play underneath him is a great experience

Boult, who has adjusted seamlessly into a new role after shifting from Rajasthan Royals to MI, emphasised the importance of adaptability in a long tournament like the IPL.

"At Rajasthan I was prepared to bowl at any stage of the match. I've been lucky enough to play 10 IPL seasons where it hasn't always been the same recipe every time. So I think the first thing is you've got to always want the ball.

There's some great players in there. Obviously, (Jasprit) Bumrah needs no introduction either, so it's great to be having ball back in hand with him."

Mumbai Indians had just one win in their first five matches, and now they have four on the trot, keeping them firmly placed for a playoff berth. But Boult is not ooking too far ahead.

'Momentum wasn't on our side to start with, but to turn it around to have four wins in a row was the focus, just to get a bit of momentum, a bit of rhythm. Guys playing nice cricket at certain points. We're not going to look too far ahead.

"It can quickly change. Looking forward to getting back home, playing in some conditions that we know pretty well, but there's a long way to go in this tournament," he added.

from what we'd seen before, and while we dramatic top-order collapse couhad discussed the possibility of a 250-280 pled with a wrong "assessment" of the surface, the conditions changed dramat-

unrisers Hyderabad (SRH) head coach Daniel Vettori admitted that a pitch proved decisive in their a crushing defeat to Mumbai Indians.

The big-hitting SRH top order slumped to 24/4 in the powerplay, and despite a 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 has

already seen two 240-plus totals this season. "The toss was important — we wanted to bowl first. The wicket was different ically. It was tough to assess the par score early on," he said at the post-match press

Once we got through two overs, the assessment was that it was not the 250-260 wicket that this has been the last couple of games. And we obviously went out of depth." He said their strategy was to go all out in the powerplay but the plan

unravelled quickly.

'We wanted to maximise the powerplay, but unfortunately we kept losing wickets and once we realised that the surface wasn't what we anticipated, then we needed to build towards that sort of 180 score, and that unfortunately became difficult to do when you're 24/4 after the power play.

Vettori said Ishan Kishan's bizarre dismissal only added pressure to the team. Batting at number 3, Ishan Kishan

stunned everyone by walking off, indicating a faint edge, even as none of the MI players appealed and the on-field umpire was on the verge of signalling a wide.

"Ishan's dismissal was obviously disappointing, and that put pressure on everyone coming in. When you are in a power play situation, you still want to try and maximise those two fielders out."

Vettori said there's a need for better game awareness and support from the middle order when the aggressive top-order duo of Head and Abhishek fail

"Travis and AB, when they go, they are very aggressive and they take the game on and it's led to a lot of success for us. And when they don't succeed, then it's the responsibility of the other batsmen.

Real Madrid beats Getafe 1-0 in Spanish league

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Madrid

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

Arda Güler scored a first-half goal for points of Barcelona. The Catalan club edged Mallorca 1-0 on Tuesday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti used many reserves ahead of Saturday's Copa final in Seville. Brazil forward Endrick made his first Spanish league start with the club, and Vinícius Júnior was substituted in the second half. Jude Bellingham came off the bench in the second half.

Midfielder Eduardo Camavinga had to be replaced because of an apparent muscle injury in the final minutes and is doubtful to be available for Saturday's final. He had entered the match at halftime to

Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made a couple of difficult saves late to

Madrid, which endured a Champions League elimination against Arsenal in the competition's quarterfinals.

of its last five league games. The club from southern Madrid sits in 12th place.

The match was briefly stopped in the second half as fans from Getafe chanted

CELTA WINS AGAIN

Celta Vigo moved to seventh place by routing fifth-place Villarreal 3-0 at home with goals by Fer López, Borja Iglesias and Iago Āspas.

The victory ended a two-match losing streak for the Vigo team. Villarreal, winless in two matches, played a man down

from the 37th after Eric Bailly was sent off

Iñaki Williams scored five minutes into the

match to give fourth-place Athletic Bilbao

a 1-0 win over Las Palmas, helping the

Basque Country club to open an eight-

point gap above Villarreal, which remains

Las Palmas, sitting in 18th place, was coming off two wins in a row after a 12-

Alaves moved out of the relegation zone

by beating ninth-place Real Sociedad 1-0

at home with a goal by Nahuel Tenaglia in

match winless streak in the league.

WILLIAMS SCORES EARLY

with a straight red card.

with a game in hand.



replace defender David Alaba, who also is doubtful because of a muscle ailment.

"We'll see, but it's unlikely that they will be available on Saturday," Ancelotti said. Madrid had demoralizing losses in both "clasicos" against Barcelona this season - 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final

the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. Güler scored the winner with a wellplaced right-footed shot in the 21st minute at the Coliseum in Getafe.

and 4-0 in their first league encounter at

"Fortunately, I scored the goal that gave us the three points," Güler said. "We knew it was going to be a tough match. It was important to give us confidence for the final (on Saturday)."

secure Madrid's victory. It was the third league win in a row for

"Die (Dani) Ceballos, die Ceballos."

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

ne more point. That's all Liverpool needs to secure a record-tying 20th English topflight title after second-place Arsenal

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 win would ensure Liverpool cannot be caught by Arsenal with four more rounds remaining and therefore clinches a second title in five years, tying with fierce rival Manchester United on number 20 overall.

Becoming the champion in 2020 ended the storied club's 30-year title 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 weekend. Arsenal twice squandered the lead at Emirates Stadium, with Jean-Philippe Mateta taking advantage of a defensive

error by William Saliba to score Palace's minute, only for Palace to reply when second equaliser in the 83rd and leave Arsenal 12 points behind Liverpool.

Arsenal, which started with star forward Bukayo Saka on the bench, looked vulnerable throughout against Palace, the Champions League semifinals against Paris Saint-Germain starting next week.

"We have the most important game of the season in six days," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "We need to get our energy back."

ARSENAL BATTLING TO HOLD OFF RESURGENT CITY

Arsenal has been runner-up to Manchester City in the Premier League the previous two seasons and is facing a third straight second-place finish.

However, an improving City — a 2-1 winner over Aston Villa on Tuesday is only six points back in third place after Arsenal's 13th draw of an inconsistent

The hosts went ahead through Jakub

playmaker Éberechi Eze met a corner with a brilliantly taken downward vollev that skimmed off the turf and flew in off the post in the 27th.

Leandro Trossard wriggled free in the ea and scored with a the 42nd minute to restore Arsenal's lead. Mateta, a second-half substitute, had the final say, though, by capitalising on Saliba's poor pass and floating a shot over stranded goalkeeper David Raya from around 40 meters.

PALACE SWITCHES FOCUS TO THE FA CUP

Palace remained in 12th place and has little to play for in the Premier League. It is, however, heading into an FA Cup semifinal game against Aston Villa on Saturday in better heart.

"It's important to keep this energy and confidence for the semifinal on Saturday," Palace manager Oliver Glasner said.

"It was not our goal to decide the title, it was our goal to win the game. I think

Kiwior's header at a free kick in the third a draw is a very good result.

AC Milan ruins Inter's treble bid with derby win to reach Italian Cup final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Milan

C Milan has not achieved much this season — except when playng city rival Inter Milan. Milan ruined Inter's bid for a treble and advanced to the Italian Cup final

tesy of two goals from Luka Jovic. It was Milan's third win over Inter this season, having also beaten the Nerazzurri

with a 3-0 derby win Wednesday cour-

in the Italian Super Cup final in January. "It was a very important game for us. 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 despite the seven-time European

champion sitting ninth in Serie A. Winning the Italian Cup — which carries a Europa League berth — could be Milan's only route to a spot in continental play for next season.

Milan advanced on 4-1 aggregate fol-

lowing 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 in Rome. Inter pressed forward early on and

Federico Dimarco struck the crossbar in

minutes later with a powerful header and then doubled the advantage from close range shortly after the break.

Tijjani Reijnders added another for Milan in the 85th by finishing off a full "We have a lot of belief," Reijnders said.

If Milan can win another trophy, coach Sergio Conceicao might have a chance at keeping his job —

despite the seven-time

ninth in Serie A

European champion sitting

know this is the fastest way to reach (Europe). And if we play like we did today we can win this trophy."

It was Inter's second straight loss after the Serie A leader fell 1-0 at Bologna on Sunday. Inter will play Barcelona in the Champions League semifinals.

JUVENTUS POSTS FIRST LOSS UNDER TUDOR

Iuventus wasted a chance to move back into the Champions League places following a 1-0 loss at Parma in a rescheduled Serie A match. the 23rd. But Jovic put Milan ahead 13 Parma forward Mateo Pellegrino scored

with a header in first-half stoppage time. Juventus remained fifth, one point behind Bologna, with five rounds remaining. Making matters worse for Juventus was that center forward Dusan Vlahovic came off at halftime with an apparent thigh issue. Juventus was also "We have difficulties in the league but we in fifth place when it fired Thiago Motta last month and hired Igor Tudor as its new coach for the remainder of the season. It was Juventus' first loss under Tudor, following two wins and a draw. Cristian Chivu took over as Parma

coach in February and the team is on a six-game unbeaten run that also includes a 2-2 draw with Serie A leader Inter Milan this month.

Parma-Juventus was one of four matches postponed from Monday due to the death of Pope Francis. Each game was preceded by a moment of silence to mourn the pope, who died Monday at

LAZIO BACK IN 6TH

Lazio leapfrogged city rival Roma and moved back into sixth place — level on points with Juventus — with a 2-0 win at 10-man Genoa.

Valentin Castellanos and Boulaye Dia scored for Lazio after Genoa defender Sebastian Otoa was shown a direct red card in his Serie A debut for pushing down Mattia Zaccagni.

Italian teenager Federico Cina wins ATP Masters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Madrid

talian teenager Federico Cina picked up his second ATP Masters 1000 victory ▲ by defeating Coleman Wong in straight adrid Open Monfils became the oldest winner in the tournament's history. The 38-year-old 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 42ndranked 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

The 18-year-old Cina won 7-6 (5), 6-1 to back up his victory over current No. 70 Francisco Comesaña in Miami last month, which marked his ATP 1000 debut. He saved both break points he faced against Wong and finished with 19 winners. "Before the match I was a little bit tight but after a few games I started to feel good," said the 373rd-ranked Cina, a wild-card entry who will next face American Sebastian Korda.

"It is really special to win a match at this event." Monfils next meet seventh seed defending champion Andrey Rublev, who defeated Monfils two weeks ago in the round of 32 in Monte Carlo. Alexander Bublik beat Alex Michelsen 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4), while Comesaña got past Spaniard Pedro Martinez 6-4, 6-4 at the clay-court tour-

nament. Nuno Borges of Portugal rallied to defeat home-crowd favorite Pablo Carreno Busta 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 6-3, while Arthur Rinderknech defeated Roman Safiullin 7-6 (4), 6-1. Christopher O'Connell got past

Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-3, 6-4. **RETURNING MOTHERS**

Belinda Bencic, who returned from maternity leave last October, defeated Zeynep Sonmez 6-0, 6-2 on the first birthday of her daughter, Bella. Three-time Madrid Open champion Petra Kvitova, who was back from her maternity leave in February,

lost 6-4, 6-0 to Katie Volynets. Anastasija Sevastova, who has played infrequently since giving birth in late 2022, defeated Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 7-5. Emma Raducanu had her first win on outdoor clay since 2022, coming from a break down in both sets to beat Suzan Lamens 7-6 (4), 6-4.

The 2021 U.S. Open champion had missed most of the 2023 clay season because of wrist and ankle surgeries. She then cut short her 2024 season on the surface after losing in her Madrid opener.