



ఇచ్చిన హామీ నిలబెట్టుకుంటూ...



మత్స్య కారుల సేవలో

వేట నిషేధకాల భృతి
రూ.10,000 నుంచి
రూ.20,000లకు పెంపు

గంగపుత్తులకు వేట నిషేధకాల భృతి పంపిణీ కార్యక్రమం

'మత్స్య కారుల సేవలో' పథకానికి

గౌరవ ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ముఖ్యమంత్రి

శ్రీ నారా చంద్రబాబునాయుడు గారిచే శ్రీకారం

తేదీ

26/04/2025

వేదిక : బుడగట్లపాలెం బీచ్,

ఎచ్చెర్ల మండలం, శ్రీకాకుళం జిల్లా

ప్రతి ఏటా 2 నెలల పాటు ఉండే చేపల వేట నిషేధ కాలంలో మత్స్య కారు కుటుంబాల జీవనం కోసం ఇచ్చే భృతినీ రెట్టింపు చేస్తానని శ్రీ నారా చంద్రబాబునాయుడు గారు మాటిచ్చారు.

ఆ మాటను నిలబెట్టుకుంటూ రూ. 10 వేల నుంచి రూ. 20 వేలకు పెంచిన భృతినీ స్వయంగా పంపిణీ చేస్తారు.

రూ.258.356 కోట్లు నిధులు ముందుగానే విడుదల

నేరుగా లబ్ధిదారుల ఖాతాల్లో రూ.20 వేలు చొప్పున జమ

మొత్తంగా 1,29,178 మంది మత్స్య కారులకు లబ్ధి





The Pioneer

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Goyal asks steel makers to raise bar on production target

STRONG SUPPLY CHAINS START WITH EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING



Shraddha Srinath, Kishore lead in a high-concept SCI-FI THRILLER



QUOTE OF THE DAY

The Pioneer

BRS leaders should have some shame. The NDSA report clearly stated that the design was faulty, construction was faulty, operation and maintenance were faulty. Soil testing was not done properly and no proper geophysical investigations were conducted. Kaleshwaram Project is a direct indictment of the previous BRS government, exposing serious flaws in its design, construction and maintenance



- N Uttam Kumar Reddy, TG Minister

DON'T MISS...

'Govt support for differently-abled'

The State government has reaffirmed its commitment to empowering persons with disabilities through a range of inclusive initiatives, said district in-charge Minister Dr. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy here on Friday. Speaking at an assistive device distribution programme organised at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, the Minister said the administration is adopting a holistic approach that goes beyond aid, aiming to create infrastructure and opportunities for differently-abled persons to thrive with dignity. As part...

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Pawan lays stone for 100-bed hosp

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj K Pawan Kalyan on Friday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 100-bed regional hospital and upgrading the 30-bed community health centre in Pithapuram. The new regional hospital will be constructed at a cost of Rs 34 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan said that with the upgrade, the hospital would extend better medical facilities not only to the three lakh people in Pithapuram constituency but also to those in neighboring...

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US to loosen rules on Tesla

The Trump administration is loosening rules to help US automakers like Elon Musk's Tesla develop self-driving cars so they can take on Chinese rivals. US companies developing self-driving cars will be allowed exemptions from certain federal safety rules for testing purposes, the Transportation Department said on Thursday. The department also said it will streamline crash reporting requirements involving self-driving software that Musk has criticized as onerous and will move toward a single...

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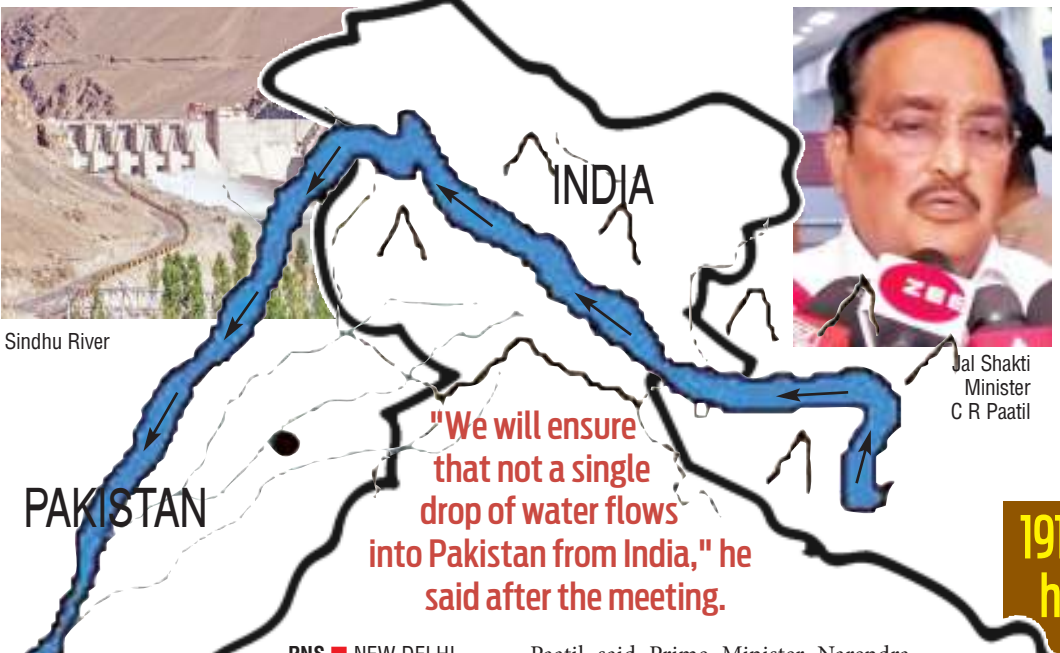
High-stakes clash in IPL 2025

The man who led them to glory just a season ago could now stand in the way of Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) playoff qualification when the side hosts the Shreyas Iyer-led revamped Punjab Kings (PBKS) in a high-stakes IPL clash here at the Eden Gardens on Saturday. Twelve months ago, Iyer had led KKR to their first IPL title in a decade. On Saturday, he returns in opposition colours, at the helm of a rejuvenated Punjab side chasing a playoff spot. Let go by KKR in one of the most surprising off-season ...

-SPORTS

SHAH HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL MEET

Not a single drop of water for Pak: Paatil



"We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India," he said after the meeting.

191 Pak nationals return home through border

2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working on a strategy to ensure that not a single drop of water flows from India into Pakistan, Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil asserted on Friday following a high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah.

Paatil said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a slew of directives, and the meeting was held to follow up on them and Shah made several suggestions at the meeting for their effective implementation. "We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India," he said after the meeting.

Sources said the government is working on a long-term plan to ensure the effective implementation of its decisions.

Continued on Page 2

Pak Def Minister admits country funded, trained terrorists

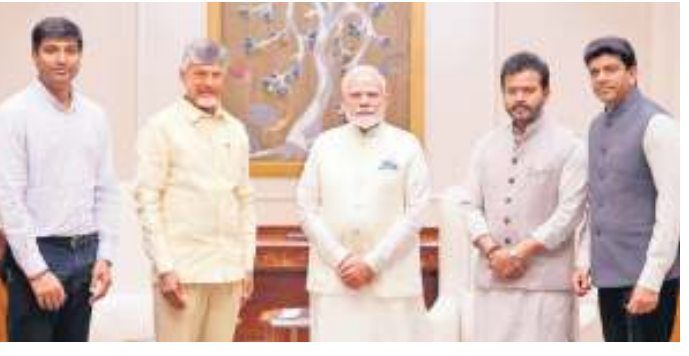
PNS ■ LONDON

Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif has admitted the country's history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations as "dirty work" for the West, a mistake for which he said Pakistan had suffered.

In an interview with Sky News aired overnight, news presenter Yalda Hakim questioned Asif on Pakistan's response and stance on terrorism in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people earlier this week.

"You do admit, sir, that Pakistan has had a long history of backing and supporting and training and funding these terrorist organisations," asked Hakim. "Well, we have been doing this dirty work for the United States for about three decades, you know, and the West, including Britain," replied Asif.

Continued on Page 2



Pahalgam terror attack: CM extends solidarity to Centre

Invites PM to Amaravati for relaunch of works on May 2

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA/DELHI

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Friday and extended wholehearted support to the Central government in the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

Condemning the attack in the strongest terms, Chandrababu Naidu described it as "an act of cowardice" and assured the Prime Minister, "We are with you, and the whole country stands with you in whatever decision you take in the interest of the nation."

He expressed confidence in Modi's strong and stable leadership to guide the country through such difficult times.

During the meeting, Chandrababu thanked the Prime Minister for his continued support to Andhra Pradesh's development journey. He conveyed gratitude for the progress on the Polavaram Project and briefed him about ongoing works. He also thanked the Prime Minister for considering the sanction of the BPCL Refinery and Petrochemical Complex in the State, noting that early finalisation of the ARAMCO partnership would bring added advantages to the project.

Continued on Page 2

Minister orders action against 6 govt doctors

Charges include unauthorised absence, issuing fake disability certificates in exchange for bribes

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has ordered a thorough inquiry and disciplinary action against six government doctors accused of serious misconduct. The allegations include marking attendance without being present, prolonged unauthorised absence, issuing fake disability certificates in exchange for bribes, and negligence in official duties, leading to financial losses to the government.

A complaint against Dr Indira Devi, Medical Superintendent at the Government Area Hospital in Gudivada, revealed that she was signing the attendance register without being present at the hospital. A review by DSH officials confirmed that she was absent for 22 days during January to March last year, yet her attendance was marked. Further, facial recognition attendance system (FRS) data showed that she was in Machilipatnam for one day, Visakhapatnam for 13 days during those absences. The explanation provided by Dr Indira Devi was found unsatisfactory. Minister Yadav instructed officials to take appropriate disciplinary action as per rules.

Continued on Page 2



CM reviews key development issues in NTR district

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Stronger publicity planned to boost AP handlooms

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

With the aim of enhancing the market presence of Andhra Pradesh's handloom and handicraft sectors, Special Chief Secretary RP Sisodia chaired a high-level review meeting on Friday with officials from the Handlooms and Textiles Department, APCO, Lepakshi and the Andhra Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board (APKVIIB).

Sisodia stressed the urgent need for robust publicity strategies and the adoption of modern marketing tools, including digital outreach, to align with evolving consumer trends. He proposed setting up additional APCO and Lepakshi showrooms at major tourist destinations to attract a broader customer base.

A notable proposal included the immediate introduction of antique wood furniture under the Lepakshi brand, citing its high market potential. He also called for a new Lepakshi showroom in Tirumala to reflect the rich culture and traditions of Andhra Pradesh.

Continued on Page 2

Smear campaign against NRIs investing in AP: MP

Challenges Jagan to prove claims that government land was allocated for 99 paise

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Strongly condemning what he called a smear campaign against NRIs investing in Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada MP Keshineni Sivanath (Chinni) issued a stern warning to Pulivendula MLA YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his associates. Speaking to the media persons at the Vijayawada Parliamentary office on Friday, Sivanath said such actions would not be tolerated. Sivanath said that many NRIs are returning to invest in Andhra Pradesh purely because of their faith in Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision and leadership.

Continued on Page 2

'One Family-One Entrepreneur': A call for industrial progress

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminisha has called for a movement to advance industrial progress under the banner of 'One Family - One Entrepreneur'. He said that the initiative aims to establish at least one female entrepreneur in every family, transforming women from self-help groups into business leaders.

Dr Lakshminisha inaugurated a workshop on 'One Family - One Entrepreneur' at the Vijayawada Agricultural Training Centre on Friday. During the event, representatives of the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) shared insights into transforming small ideas into successful projects and highlighted their vital role in supporting women entrepreneurs.

Eight successful entrepreneurs currently thriving in different industries discussed their initiatives and expressed their readiness to mentor aspiring women entrepreneurs. Shakti Vele, Ch Jitendra, Keertana, Madhuri, Srikanth, Naveen, D Vijaya Durga, and Parvati offered valuable advice to women in self-help groups.

Dr Lakshminisha explained that the State government is keen on sustainable development in all sectors, with a vision to eliminate poverty through the Suvarna Andhra @ 2047 initiative.

Continued on Page 2



Olectra unveils game-changing GFRP Rebar

Ideal for demanding environments where conventional steel falls short

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a significant technological leap for the infrastructure sector, Olectra Greentech Limited has officially entered the construction space with the launch of its next-generation GFRP Rebar (Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer Rebar). The unveiling took place during the prestigious MEIL Budget Meet, heralding a new era in concrete reinforcement technology.

The launch was led by MEIL Managing Director PV Krishna Reddy, in the presence of Olectra CMD KV Pradeep and MEIL Group Directors Ch. Subbiah and B Srinivas Reddy.

Continued on Page 2

AP moving towards an AI-digital revolution

300 officials undergo intensive training

AI Champions are being trained to act as strategic leaders within their departments. Their role includes formulating department-specific AI strategies, identifying and leading AI projects, assessing emerging technologies, and enabling upskilling of team members



The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant leap toward digital governance with the launch of an intensive Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programme aimed at transforming public service delivery. On the second day of this groundbreaking initiative, 100 designated AI Champions and 200 AI Catalysts from various departments continued their hands-on training to drive AI-led innovation and reform in government operations.

The initiative, fully funded by the State government, is part of a four-day residential training programme being conducted in collaboration with the Wadhvani Centre for Government Digital Transformation (WGDT). The programme aims to equip officials with the knowledge and tools to lead AI-powered projects that improve efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centric service delivery.

AI Champions are being trained to act as strategic leaders within their departments. Their role includes formulating department-specific AI strategies, identifying and leading AI projects, assessing emerging technologies, and enabling upskilling of team members.

AI Catalysts, on the other hand, are being groomed to support these digital transformation initiatives by managing projects, sharing domain expertise, facilitating communication, building internal capacity, and monitoring project outcomes.

The programme is being executed in three phases. In In-Person Training Phase the participants are gaining deep insights into AI's role in government transformation, project implementation, and technology integration.

Continued on Page 2



Pakistani nationals ordered to leave by April 27

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has announced stringent measures targeting Pakistani nationals residing in India.

Continued on Page 2

Editor's TAKE

Lessons from Chernobyl disaster

Its remembrance day is a stark reminder of nuclear perils and human resilience

Every year on April 26, the world pauses to commemorate International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day...

On April 26, 1986, Reactor No 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, located in what is now Ukraine, exploded during a late-night safety test gone wrong.

The blast released radioactive material across much of the western Soviet Union, affecting territories now known as Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.

What made Chernobyl particularly harrowing was not just the scale of the disaster but also the delayed and inadequate response.

History records only two instances where nuclear explosions directly led to large-scale human casualties: the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and the industrial disaster at Chernobyl in 1986.

In response to the disaster, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 45/190 in 1990, launching a global movement to mitigate the consequences of the explosion.

Over the years, more than 230 projects have been implemented in health, nuclear safety, environmental restoration, clean food production, and education.

The launch of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN) in 2009 further reinforced this developmental vision.

Technological advancements have significantly improved nuclear safety since 1986. Modern reactors are equipped with passive safety systems, improved materials, and fail-safes that automatically shut down operations during emergencies.

As the world grapples with climate change and searches for clean energy alternatives, nuclear power is once again in the spotlight.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is not only about looking back; it's about ensuring we never repeat the mistakes of the past.

A crime against humanity

As India reels from the horror, pahalgam massacre underscores the persistent threat of cross-border terror, the fragility of peace in Jammu and Kashmir, and the urgent need for a robust national and global response

In the deadliest terror attack on civilians in the country since the Mumbai mayhem of 26/11, a picturesque meadow near Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam...

The ghastly and barbaric attack was not merely aimed at tourists or individuals; rather, it is seen as an assault and atrocity on humanity that has shattered the subtle fabric of cohesive society.

It appears that they have tried to create inflammatory narratives in India, which is currently fending off the kerfuffle caused by the Waqf Bill and communally charged Aurangzeb rhetoric.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a splinter group of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, is suspected of orchestrating Tuesday's terrorist attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran, which claimed 26 lives.

The assaults were carried out when Prime Minister Modi was visiting Jeddah for diplomatic engagement and bilateral talks to boost the centuries-old economic and socio-cultural ties between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The attack unfolded while US Vice President JD Vance's ongoing four-day visit to India marked an important milestone for the diplomatic push to deepen bilateral dialogues during Trump's trade tariff global gung-ho.

The Pahalgam terror attack, which mirrors former US President Bill Clinton's 2000 trip to India when LeT carried out a Sikh massacre in Chittisinghpura in Anantnag district of J&K, could be seen in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's reluctance to entertain Pakistan's Kashmir clamour.

The Pahalgam incident took place exactly a week after Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir made the most provocative comments filled with anti-India rants and called Kashmir Pakistan's "jugal vein."



RAMAKANT CHAUDHARY

caused great concern for China, which has significantly invested in several projects, including energy, transport, and infrastructure, in Pakistan.

The growing alienation of the population, driven by the denial of democratic and economic rights, has fuelled anger, especially among the youth.

The brutal attack on tourists, which rarely happened even during the heydays of militancy in the Valley, vividly shows the frustration and desperation of Pakistan-based terror outfits.

The barbaric attack happened just ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, which attracts huge

numbers of Hindu tourists and pilgrims. The perpetrators aimed at blunting the sole growing tourist-based economy of J&K and tried to dismantle the perception that the Valley is steadily marching towards stabilisation after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

With peace limping back to the Valley in the face of a slump in terror attacks in the Valley, lakhs of tourists have made a beeline to the Valley. It prompted huge investment in the region to win the hearts of tourists.

As tulips bloom and tourism booms — this year Srinagar has witnessed huge footfalls of domestic and international tourists. The growing tourism endorses the success saga of the Government and the engagement of locals and Kashmiri youths for harvesting income, heralding normalcy in the Valley.

Modi Government took a strong stand: Keeping the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in Abeyance, Shutting of Attari Integrated Check Post, Stopping of SAARC Visa Scheme for Pakistanis, Cutting of High Commission Strength to 30, and Declaration of Military Advisors in the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi Persona Non-Grata.

A swift and strategic response will not only deter future attacks but also reinforce India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens and restoring peace in the Valley.

By addressing the root causes of unrest and strengthening security measures, India can ensure that such heinous acts do not derail the progress towards stability and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention a famous quote of Kofi Annan to end terrorism: "The only way to deal with the scourge of terrorism is to address its root causes and unite against it with unwavering resolve."

(The author works with PRP Group as Content Head. Views are personal)

Towards economy with a conscience

Opinion

BY RAJYOGI BRAHMKUMAR NIKUNJJI

During the last two decades or so there has been a growing trend towards globalisation of trade and commerce and a free-market economy.

But one has to take into account not just these benefits but also the overall consequences of globalisation and the free play of market forces.

Like, the globalisation of business and trade without a global view of society as a global family would lead to social tensions and economic strife and this is what we are experiencing today.

Also, globalisation in economics is an outward-looking view and if it has no corresponding inward-looking view, it would unleash bitter competition and in the absence of the inward-looking balancing forces, it would lead to stark materialism and commercialism, diminishing or setting at naught the values of sympathy, kindness, compassion, world-brotherhood,

co-operation and so on. Thus, it would not only destabilise the financial markets but create disharmony in human relations as well.

Thus, due to better mobility and flexibility of capital in contrast to that of labour, international portfolio investors, and not the labour, would benefit the most.

Thus, globalisation would result in disproportionate profit to those who can invest capital and it would lead to uneven distribution of benefits and social and economic deprivation.

Thus, the whole economy would never return to some kind of equilibrium. In this state of instability, the business and industrial class would tend to adopt all sorts of unfair means to prevent any dwindling of its profit and, thus, the whole atmosphere would be vitiated, for the portfolio investors would try to take the politicians and the bureaucrats also with them to survive or thrive.

This would further give rise to corruption, black money and other evils. Thus, it is strange that our leaders talk of moral

values on the one hand and of globalisation on the other hand without making any efforts to make popular a global spiritual view of society as a global family.

We should ask ourselves the question as to why we want a free-market economy or a state-controlled one. We should be clear in our mind about our desirable goal and see whether a particular form of economy takes us towards that goal.

This should be judged by those who are neutral and have no vested interests in either form of economy. So, in the present world situation, we must have globalisation, then we should have a global open society that has some sort of state control in certain sectors and constantly strives to correct and improve.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist. Views are personal)

Leaderspeak



The whole country is with the bereaved families. The Government is trying its best to ensure the well-being of those injured. Someone has lost a son, someone has lost a brother, someone has lost life partner... From Kargil to Kanyakumari, there is grief and rage. This attack was not just on innocent tourists; the country's enemies have shown the audacity to attack India's soul.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Letters to the Editor

A selfless act of a pony operator

Madam — I wish to pay my heartfelt tribute to Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the 30-year-old pony operator who displayed unimaginable bravery during the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Adil selflessly attempted to shield tourists he had escorted to Baisaran Meadow, ultimately losing his life in the process. Reports state he even tried to snatch a weapon from one of the terrorists before being shot thrice in the chest.

In contrast, religious zealots who push a narrative of "our god versus their god" only undermine the very essence of spirituality. Adil's story deserves national recognition. Let us remember him not just as a brave man from Pahalgam, but as a true son of India.

SUJIT DEI | KOLKATA

Bullish sentiment reflects optimism

Madam — The Indian stock market witnessed a remarkable upswing on April 24, 2025, with the BSE Sensex closing at 74,339.44 — an increase of 486.50 points (0.66 per cent).

The momentum was largely driven by robust performances in the banking, financial, and metal sectors. Investor sentiment appears buoyant, with consistent buying indicating renewed faith in India's macroeconomic outlook.

Foreign investment has also shown encouraging signs, reflecting global confidence in India's economic resilience. These gains are not just numbers — they signify broader economic stability and the potential for sustained growth.

However, while optimism is warranted, it's essential to remain cautious and well-informed. Markets can be volatile, and policy decisions — both domestic and international — can influence future trends. Nevertheless, this surge offers a promising indicator for investors and the economy at large.

AAMIR ZAMAN | MUMBAI

An urgent appeal against rising hate

Madam — It is deeply distressing to witness the growing atmosphere of hostility and organised propaganda against minorities, particularly Muslims, in our country.

Unfortunately, a segment of political and ideological forces seems determined to distort this legacy. Every day, Muslims are subjected to suspicion, hate, and vilification — under the guise of nationalism, patriotism, or allegations of extremism.

Such developments are a betrayal of India's constitutional ideals and its centuries-old tradition of unity in diversity. When citizens are targeted based on their faith, we do not just harm the targeted community — we weaken the fabric of the nation itself.

I urge your esteemed platform to bring attention to this pressing issue. The public must be made aware of these undercurrents of hate, so they can reject the politics of division and stand up for truth and justice.

OMAR FARUQUE MONDAL | GOALPARA

PAHALGAM ATTACK: A NATION'S ANGUISH DEMANDS STRONG ACTION

This is in reference to the headlines and editorial on the Pahalgam tragedy (April 24). The entire nation is engulfed in grief and anger over this horrific attack.

While diplomatic steps such as suspending the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down the Attari check post, withdrawing from the SAARC visa exemption scheme, recalling our diplomats, and asking Pakistani officials to leave are substantial in the long term, they fall short of addressing the immediate public outrage and sorrow.

These symbolic gestures do little to shake or impact Pakistan. The Jammu and Kashmir Government must accept accountability for this grave security lapse. Inviting tourists without ensuring their safety is a betrayal of trust.

Yet, had there been adequate police or paramilitary deployment along the route, this tragedy could likely have been prevented.

Tourists were left vulnerable, ferried on ponies through remote and risky paths by pony operators, many of whom are reportedly insensitive to the needs of travellers.

The Northeast, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Odisha offer equally, if not more, breathtaking views without the shadow of constant threat.

Mere symbolic gestures — candle marches, market closures, and all-party condemnations — are not enough. It calls for another surgical strike echo across the nation, but the question remains — have previous strikes served as a deterrent? The public deserves justice, not platitudes.

VINOD JOHRI | DELHI

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

Building a new world economic order

A new, multipolar economic order is taking shape, led by nations like India, whose demographic strength, resource wealth, and deeply rooted ethos of fairness position it as a key architect of a more just and sustainable global economy

FIRST
Column

The world economy is in for a big churning, a severe shake-up. The reasons are primarily two — a debt-based capitalistic model of development and the dominance of the dollar as the international monetary currency, delinked from any traditional tangible material resource like gold.

In the last 75 years, the economic models of the USA, Europe, and a major part of the rest of the world have been built on a typical capitalist ecosystem in which large funds, banking institutions, and a dominant global currency — the US dollar — have been the driving elements.

This model has begun to wear out, naturally, because it was unsustainable and out of sync with the fundamental economic principles that drive the economic growth of institutions, including that of nations.

It is the widely held view in the present times that economic growth occurs through the production of valuable goods and services and their sale to those who consume such goods or services.

But this understanding or definition needs clarification. Today, the economic growth of nations is defined and measured in terms of GDP, of which trade forms a major component.

Trade here connotes exports as well as imports. However, economic status depends on accumulated wealth due to the net inflow of money. Accumulation of money takes place through two modes — international trade and domestic production and sale. But for a nation to grow rich, it has to be sovereign and politically independent — because the terms of international trade and domestic business need to be in tune with fairness and equity.

This was not the case during the British rule in India, which was a saga of depredation and plunder. This also is not true in the wake of an inequitable global economic order where rules of business are skewed in favour of the mightier and more influential nations.

The world economic order over the last 80 years since the cessation of the Second World War has been determined and drawn by the victor block of the war — the Allied powers.

The Allied power group created vassal or semi-vassal states out of the vanquished Axis power states and other states.

Military might created political hegemony, and this gradually transformed into economic hegemony through one-sided trade rules that perpetuated the poverty of third-world countries and further enriched the first-world countries.

The establishment of the UNO and its sub-organisations did not do much to alter the tilt of the economic order towards the First World block. Things became worse 30 years later when the US dollar, the reserve currency of the world, was delinked from gold, thus giving it overriding and overwhelming dominance.

Growth potential was always with the resource-rich third-world countries, and the high econom-



ic growth of these countries through the eighties and nineties of the twentieth century could not be matched by the economically saturated and stagnating first-world block, WTO and a set of trade rules thereunder, like GATT and TRIPS, were established.



ATUL SEHGAL

inhuman and naturally unsustainable too. The world is staring at a new economic order because of the changing power equations across the globe. Today, military and industrial technol-

6
MILITARY MIGHT CREATED POLITICAL HEGEMONY AND THIS GRADUALLY TRANSFORMED INTO ECONOMIC HEGEMONY THROUGH ONE-SIDED TRADE RULES THAT PERPETUATED THE POVERTY OF THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES AND FURTHER ENRICHED THE FIRST-WORLD COUNTRIES

ogy is not the sole preserve of the designated first-world nations of the twentieth century.

China, India, Brazil, and Iran are some of the ex — third-world countries that, besides being resource-rich, also have industrial and military technologies.

China and India possess nuclear arsenals, and even Iran is on its way to acquiring nuclear capability. So, neither military might nor economic might of the erstwhile powers can sustain the old world economic order.

The mammoth debt of China, pegged at 300 per cent of GDP, and of the USA, estimated at 36 trillion US dollars (more than 100 per cent of its GDP), is already showing its detrimental effects in both these countries, evidenced by the economic recession, inflation, and unemployment.

The Belt and Road initiative of China has landed in a quandary, and WTO rules are being thrown to the winds by the Trump administration in the USA.

The new world economic order will, inexorably, see the decline and demise of the US dollar as the dominant currency and the emergence of a mul-

tipale — currency basket for trade.

The natural laws of economics are manifesting their work in the resurgence of India, and there seems to be no stopping the slow-stepped elephant after the dragon in its neighbour seems to have fagged out.

The unique positive naturally endowed features of India are its plentiful, productive Human Resources and its economically strategic agro-climatic location along with its rich mineral resources.

Today, this country is mostly free from exploitative interference and arm-twisting by global powers and is poised for rapid take-off to become a developed nation.

The new economic order will, therefore, inevitably, see a strong economic resurgence of the Indian subcontinent, regression of the eurozone countries, and a relatively slow growth of Latin American and African countries. The latter will pick up growth led by a resurgent India in the years and decades to come.

The Indian subcontinent, in its growth and development journey, will not indulge in the exploitation of the smaller and weaker states, unlike its colonial masters and their new avatars. It is not in the DNA of India to invade, conquer, and plunder other nations.

The Indian ethos underlines the philosophy of 'live and let live' instead of 'survival of the fittest'. That is another area where India is different and unique.

In conclusion, the global economic landscape is undergoing a profound transformation driven by the unsustainability of a debt-fuelled, capitalist model and the waning dominance of the US dollar.

The era of Western economic hegemony — rooted in military might, exploitative trade practices, and the artificial supremacy of fiat currency — is rapidly eroding. Emerging economies like India, China, Brazil, and Iran, rich in resources and technological capabilities, are reshaping the balance of power.

Among these, India stands uniquely poised for sustained and inclusive growth, bolstered by its demographic advantage, strategic location, and ethical economic philosophy.

As the global order pivots toward a multi — currency trading system and more equitable partnerships, India's non-imperial ethos positions it as a natural leader in the evolving economic era.

The new world economic order will not just be about wealth accumulation but about fairness, sustainability, and mutual progress — principles deeply embedded in India's civilisational values. A future rooted in cooperation, not domination, is now within reach.

(The writer is a management consultant based in New Delhi. Views are personal)

Ramanujan: Eternal lamp in the temple of mathematics

On April 26, 1920, the nation lost Srinivasa Ramanujan a rare mathematical genius. His mathematical consciousness illuminated the world for eternity. This is not merely his death anniversary; it is a celebration of a saint — like devotee of numbers who elevated mathematics to the realms of philosophy and the divine

When numbers resonate and equations seem to dance with the soul, one name echoes through the very fabric of creation — Srinivasa Ramanujan. On April 26, 1920, a dark day in Indian history, the nation lost this priceless gem.

Yet, in that moment, his mathematical consciousness illuminated the world for eternity. This is not merely a death anniversary; it is a celebration of a saint-like devotee of numbers who elevated mathematics to the realms of poetry, philosophy, and divine connection. Ramanujan was no ordinary mathematician — he was a mystic of numbers, a seeker of hidden truths, a visionary who saw the universe through the lens of infinite equations.

His story is a spark that turns the impossible into the possible. Born on December 22, 1887, in the small town of Erode, Tamil Nadu, Ramanujan's life was nothing short of a modern fairy tale. Raised in a humble Brahmin household, surrounded by financial hardships and lacking formal education, he faced walls that would deter most.

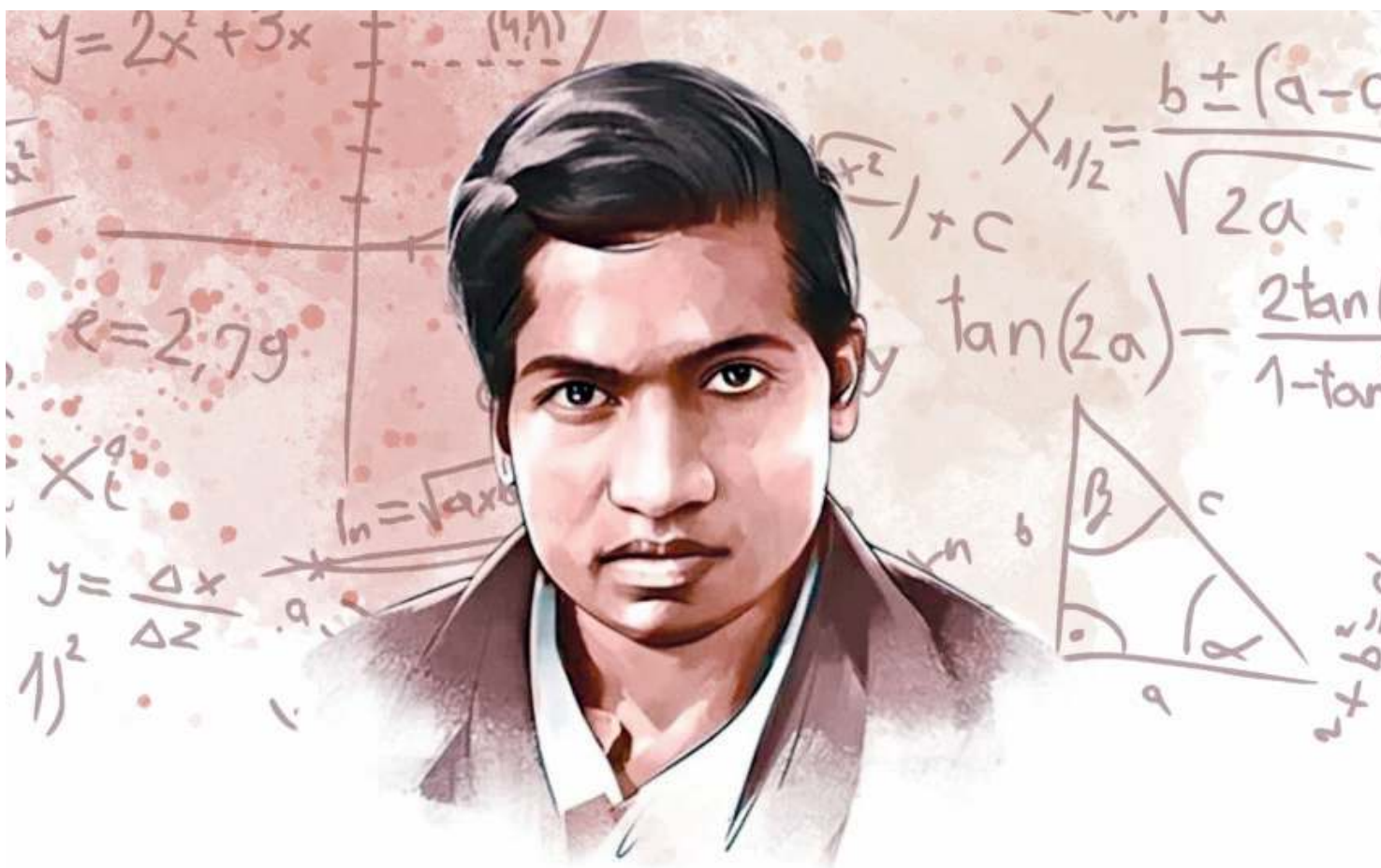
But his genius was a relentless wave that shattered every barrier. From a young age, numbers were his companions and his playground. While other children played with toys, he delved deep into the mysteries of mathematics.

School textbooks quickly proved inadequate, and he began exploring advanced mathematical concepts on his own. At the age of 15, he discovered A Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure Mathematics by GS Carr — a book that became his sacred scripture. It fuelled his imagination and transformed his notebooks into treasure troves of original formulas and theorems.

To Ramanujan, mathematics wasn't just about calculations — it was a spiritual quest. He often credited his insights to his family deity, Goddess Namagiri, saying, "Every formula that comes to my mind is by the grace of the Goddess." To him, mathematics and divinity were two expressions of the same truth. His work — be it infinite series, continued fractions, or partition functions — read like verses of a cosmic poem.

His formulas for calculating p are so elegant and precise that they are still used by modern supercomputers. His partition function transformed number theory, and his discoveries in theta functions and modular equations have found applications in cryptography, physics, and even black hole theory. The world took notice of his genius in 1913, when he sent a letter filled with groundbreaking formulas to the eminent Cambridge mathematician GH Hardy.

Initially sceptical, Hardy was soon astonished. Upon meeting Ramanujan, he said, "Ramanujan's



RK JAIN ARUJEET

— thousands of formulas, many without proofs, that took mathematicians decades to fully understand.

His mock theta functions, penned during his final days, baffled mathematicians for nearly a

mathematics is beyond the human mind; it is divine inspiration." Ramanujan was invited to Cambridge, and his collaboration with Hardy sparked a revolution in mathematics. The Hardy — Ramanujan formula on the distribution of prime numbers, along with their other contributions, are considered monumental achievements.

6
FROM A YOUNG AGE, NUMBERS WERE HIS COMPANIONS AND HIS PLAYGROUND. WHILE OTHER CHILDREN PLAYED WITH TOYS, HE DELVED DEEP INTO THE MYSTERIES OF MATHEMATICS

century but are now essential in quantum physics and string theory.

His contributions to the Riemann zeta function continue to influence research on one of mathematics' most profound mysteries — the Riemann Hypothesis.

Yet, Ramanujan's journey was not without immense struggle. At Cambridge, he battled cultural isolation, dietary challenges, and the harsh English climate. Diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1917, his health deteriorated, and he returned to India in 1919.

Just a year later, on April 26, 1920, at the age of 32, he passed away in Kumbakonam. But though his mortal life ended, his spirit lives on through his work.

The discovery of his "Lost Notebook" in 1976 reignited excitement and opened new doors in mathematical research. Ramanujan's influence goes far beyond mathematics. His story is a bea-

con for dreamers and doers who dare to rise above adversity. In 1987, India marked his birth centenary by declaring it National Mathematics Day. His legacy continues in the world's top institutions, and his life inspired Robert Kanigel's biography The Man Who Knew Infinity, later adapted into a global film.

In his honour, December 22 is now celebrated as National Mathematics Day in India. Ramanujan's life is proof that genius needs no degree, wealth, or privilege. His journey is a testament to passion, faith, and the boundless potential of the human mind. His discoveries not only advanced science but also revealed a deep philosophical truth — that within each of us lies the power to touch the infinite.

Today, as we remember him on April 26, we do more than pay tribute — we renew our commitment to nurturing the spark within us. Like Ramanujan, may we turn our dreams into devotion. Equations may evolve and theorems may change, but there will never be another Ramanujan.

He is the eternal lamp in the temple of mathematics — forever radiant. His legacy is not India's alone — it belongs to all of humanity. As long as numbers are written and equations are solved, Ramanujan will remain immortal — a soul who touched infinity and offered its light to the world.

Srinivasa Ramanujan was not just a mathematician — he was a visionary who transformed numbers into a divine language. On April 26, we don't just mourn his passing; we celebrate a life that elevated mathematics into art, spirituality, and cosmic truth.

Despite humble beginnings and relentless hardships, his passion and genius blazed trails that continue to shape modern science.

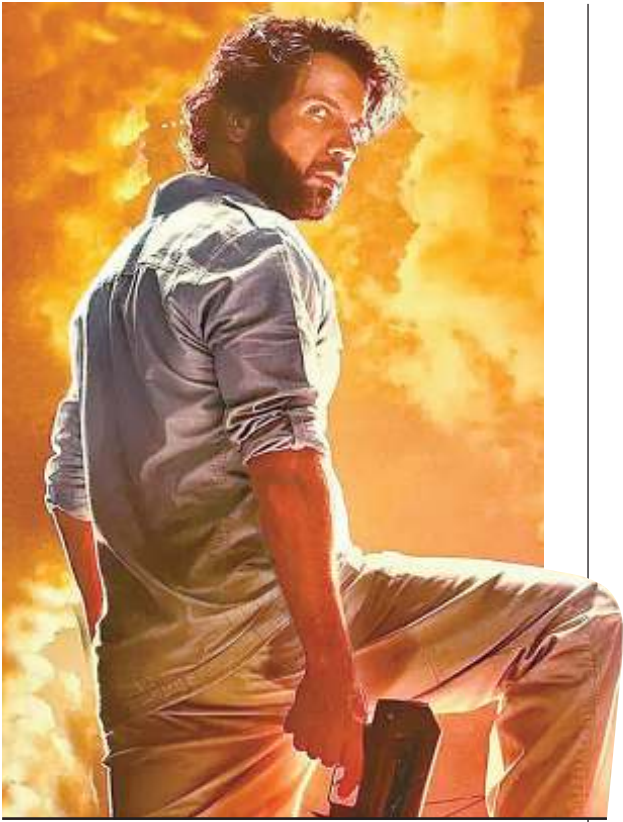
His discoveries — ranging from infinite series to mock theta functions — remain cornerstones of mathematics, physics, and beyond. Ramanujan's journey proves that brilliance needs neither privilege nor pedigree.

His life is a testament to what the human spirit can achieve with faith, curiosity, and devotion. Today, his legacy lights the path for dreamers, thinkers, and seekers of truth across the world. As we remember him, we also honour the infinite potential within us all.

Ramanujan lives on, not just in equations, but in the eternal quest for knowledge he so passionately embodied. He is, and always will be, mathematics' guiding flame.

(The writer is a columnist and a blogger. Views are personal)

SUNIEL SHETTY WIELDS THE AXE OF VALOR IN KESARI VEER: LEGENDS OF SOMNATH



Starring Suniel Shetty, Vivek Oberoi, and Sooraj Pancholi, *Kesari Veer: Legends of Somnath* is swiftly establishing itself as one of the most eagerly awaited historical dramas of 2025. Rooted in the legacy of one of India's most sacred sites — the Somnath Mandir — the film delves into a forgotten chapter of valiant warriors who rose to protect their faith and land from ruthless invaders. The makers recently released a gripping new poster, unveiling Suniel Shetty in a fierce and commanding avatar as Vegda Ji — a battle-scarred warrior whose very presence speaks of grit, rage and righteous fury. Bloodied axe in hand and clad in rugged traditional armor, Shetty's look is a raw embodiment of resistance. His blazing eyes, set against the backdrop of a besieged Somnath temple, set the tone for a narrative charged with emotion and action.

While Shetty anchors the narrative with intensity, the film also brings to light lesser-known figures from history. Sooraj Pancholi plays the young Rajput prince, Veer Hamirji Gohil — an unsung hero whose bravery and sacrifices form the beating heart of the

film. His character's emotional arc is said to bridge personal stakes with national pride, giving audiences a fresh lens on valiant resistance. Opposing these warriors is Vivek Oberoi as Zafar, the central antagonist. Zafar is no ordinary invader — he is portrayed as a cold, calculating force determined to erase the sanctity of Somnath. Oberoi's portrayal promises to bring gravitas and menace in equal measure. The film also introduces Akanksha Sharma in her acting debut. Her role, though shrouded in secrecy, is said to provide emotional ballast to Sooraj Pancholi's character, offering a tender counterpoint to the intensity of the battlefield.

Directed by a team committed to authenticity and scale, *Kesari Veer* boasts a rich visual palette, detailed period costumes and immersive war sequences. A stirring background score heightens the dramatic tension, while the cinematography captures both the spiritual beauty of Somnath and the chaos of war.

Produced by Kanu Chauhan under Chauhan Studios and distributed by Panorama Studios, the film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on May 16, 2025.



Rajkumar Rao goes full gangster in *Maalik*; release locked for July 11

The wait for Rajkumar Rao's much-anticipated transformation into a gritty gangster is almost over! Tips Films and Northern Lights Films have officially announced the theatrical release date for *Maalik* — July 11, 2025. The first-look poster already has fans abuzz, showcasing Rao in a fierce new avatar that screams power and intensity.

Rajkumar Rao, known for his versatility and commitment to his craft, steps into the titular role of *Maalik* — a dark, dangerous gangster rising through the underworld ranks. This is a marked shift from his previous characters, and early glimpses suggest an explosive performance packed with action and emotional depth. With piercing eyes and a commanding presence, Rao's look is already making waves across social media.

Produced by Kumar Taurani under the Tips Films banner and Jay Shewakramani of Northern Lights Films, *Maalik* brings together two production houses known for backing commercially strong yet content-rich cinema. Their collaboration hints at a film that will blend mass appeal with intense storytelling.

Slated for a theatrical release on July 11, 2025, *Maalik* is all set to bring audiences back to the big screen with a mix of grit, action, and Rajkumar Rao's sheer screen power.

Vikrant Massey steps into the role of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in *White*



After delivering some of Bollywood's biggest blockbusters, Siddharth Anand is now setting his sights on a project of global significance. The director-turned-producer is joining hands with filmmaker Mahaveer Jain for *White* — a gripping international thriller inspired by the real-life peace efforts of spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Vikrant Massey, fresh off a string of critically acclaimed performances, has been roped in to portray Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Sources close to the project have revealed that the actor has begun intense prep to embody the spiritual guru, whose teachings and diplomacy played a significant role in ending Colombia's brutal civil war — one of the longest-running conflicts in modern history.

The film is slated to begin production in July 2025, with groundwork already underway in Colombia. A mix of international and Indian talent is expected to join the project, with much of the cast and crew being sourced from Los

Angeles to ensure authenticity and global appeal.

White dives into a lesser-known yet powerful chapter of modern history — how ancient Indian spiritual philosophy helped bring peace to a war-torn nation. The film will spotlight Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's role in facilitating peace talks and fostering reconciliation during Colombia's 52-year civil conflict, marking a rare intersection of diplomacy, spirituality, and cinematic storytelling.

"This is a largely untold chapter of peace-building in recent times," said a source associated with the project. "With *White*, Siddharth Anand and Mahaveer Jain are bringing the world's attention to how Indian wisdom played a transformative role in resolving one of history's longest civil wars."

While Anand has built a reputation for stylish action thrillers like *War*, *Pathaan* and *Fighter*, *White* represents a new phase in his career — one that merges commercial storytelling with real-world impact. The project is being produced under his banner Marflix, co-founded with his wife Mamta Anand.

Babil Khan is ready for love — in his next rom-com and maybe in life too

After stirring hearts with his complex portrayal of a social media addict in *Logout*, Babil Khan is now ready to dive into the world of love — both in fiction and perhaps, in reality. In a latest interview, the rising star offered a glimpse into his upcoming projects and shared a cryptic yet heartfelt take on his personal life.

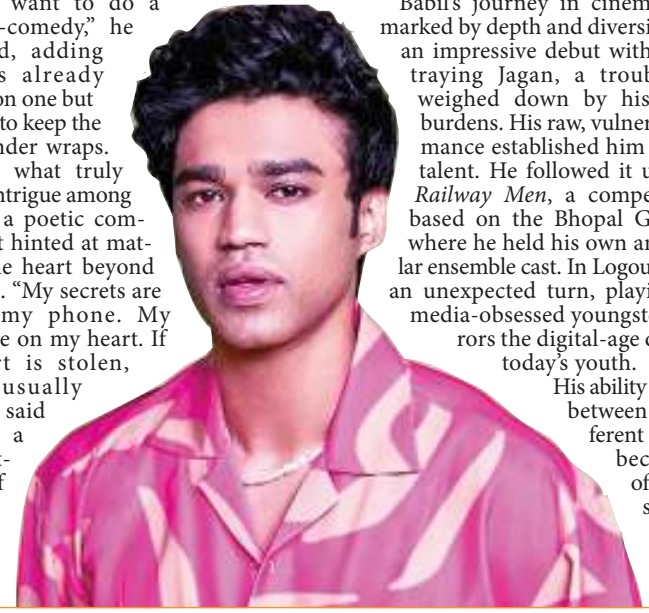
Babil revealed that his next venture will explore the romantic-comedy space, a genre he's long wanted to be part of.

"I really want to do a romantic-comedy," he confessed, adding that he's already working on one but preferred to keep the details under wraps. However, what truly sparked intrigue among fans was a poetic comment that hinted at matters of the heart beyond the script. "My secrets are not on my phone. My secrets are on my heart. If my heart is stolen, which usually is..." he said with a smile, setting off speculation.

While he's embracing lighter genres on-screen, Babil continues to navigate the weight of legacy off-screen. In another interview, he addressed the recurring accusations of riding on his late father Irrfan Khan's reputation. "If that were true, I wouldn't be going to auditions today," Babil said candidly. "I was simply sharing the love because everyone showed us so much love and support."

Babil's journey in cinema has been marked by depth and diversity. He made an impressive debut with *Qala*, portraying Jagan, a troubled singer weighed down by his emotional burdens. His raw, vulnerable performance established him as a serious talent. He followed it up with *The Railway Men*, a compelling series based on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, where he held his own among a stellar ensemble cast. In *Logout*, Babil took an unexpected turn, playing a social media-obsessed youngster who mirrors the digital-age dilemmas of today's youth.

His ability to transition between vastly different roles is fast becoming one of his defining strengths.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



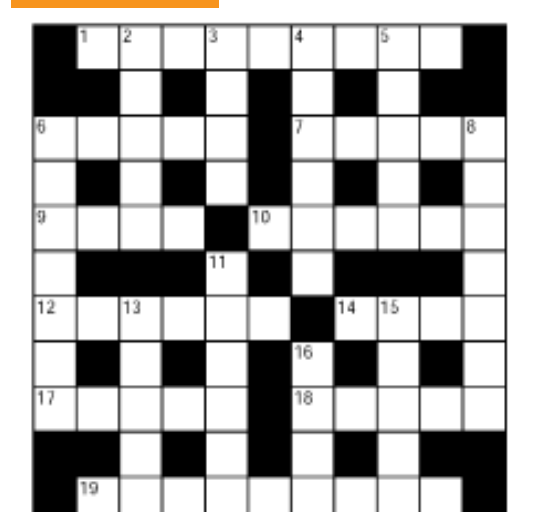
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

ACROSS

- Look at the stars through this
- Naming words
- Memorise
- Awful to look at
- Say again
- A team game with sticks
- Trip over
- A short spell of very wild weather with wind and rain
- Instructions for building houses
- Played make-believe

DOWN

- Of the same length
- A compass direction

4 Less hot

- A flat dish
- Zeros
- Stinging plants
- A hard safety hat
- A large group of singers
- Not asleep
- Unlock

SOLUTION



HEART-POUNDBING AND RAW – GROUND ZERO BRINGS THE HEAT

REVIEW

DIRECTED BY: Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar
WRITTEN BY: Sanchit Gupta and Pritadarshee Srivastava
PRODUCED BY: Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar
CAST: Emraan Hashmi, Sai Tamhankar, Zoya Hussain, Mukesh Tiwari, Deepak Parmesh, Abhay Dheeraj Singh and more
RATING: 4.5/5

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

PLOT

Ground Zero, directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, is a high-octane action-thriller inspired by the real-life events surrounding BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey (played by Emraan Hashmi). The film takes place in Srinagar in 2001, a turbulent time when a terror gang led by Jaish-e-Mohammed chief, Ghazi Baba, is wreaking havoc across the region. Their methodical killings, including the death of a teenager who was an informer, push the protagonist, Narendra, into a corner where he must decide whether to remain in Kashmir or move to Indore. His journey involves unraveling the terror network while struggling with personal guilt and the weight of his

responsibilities. The screenplay follows Narendra's investigation into the terror attacks that have claimed the lives of over 70 jawans, leading to a gripping cat-and-mouse chase between the BSF officer and Ghazi's gang. The film's edge lies in its portrayal of the mental and emotional toll that comes with serving on the front lines of a battle that never ceases.

HIGHLIGHTS

The film shines in several areas, particularly with its raw and visceral depiction of the ongoing conflict in Kashmir. The action sequences are intense and impactful, offering an authentic look into the reality of military life during insurgency. The storyline, which touches on themes of sacrifice, guilt, and patriotism, ensures that the stakes feel personal and human. The narrative's pacing is spot-on, capturing both the urgency of the military operation and the psychological unraveling of its lead character. The inclusion of emotional moments, like the tragic death of Hussain, adds depth to the characters and gives a poignant touch to the high-tension scenes. The film also explores the larger ramifications of counter-terrorism and military decisions in a sensitive yet gripping manner, making the audience feel the constant danger and moral dilemmas faced by those in uniform.

DRAWBACKS

While the film does a lot right, there are moments where the pacing slows down, especially when the narrative dives into the internal struggles of the protagonist. Some viewers may feel that certain emotional beats could have been fleshed out more, giving more screen time to secondary characters, which would have enhanced the overall depth of the story. Additionally, while the film stays grounded in its storytelling, there are moments where the dialogue becomes heavy-handed in its messaging, which could have been toned down for greater impact.

PERFORMANCES

Emraan Hashmi's portrayal of Narendra is nothing short of compelling. Known for his versatility, Hashmi brings a grounded performance, blending the strength and vulnerability of a man grappling with both personal guilt and his duty to his country. His nuanced approach to



the character ensures that the audience can connect with his emotional journey as much as with the action-packed sequences. Supporting performances from Abhay Dheeraj Singh, Lalit Prabhakar and Deepak Parmesh add great value to the film, as they portray Narendra's colleagues who each bring something essential to the table in the fight against the terror network. Sai Tamhankar and Zoya Hussain also stand out in their brief but impactful roles, showcasing a fierce determination that complements the lead performances.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Visually, *Ground Zero* maintains a raw and gritty aesthetic that complements its intense storyline. The cinematography captures the bleak landscapes of Kashmir and the tense atmosphere of military operations effectively. The action choreography is well-executed, delivering high-impact moments without feeling over-the-top or exaggerated. The sound design and background score are powerful, heightening the emotional stakes of the film and underscoring the urgency of the narrative. Director Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar excels in creating a tight, focused film that doesn't deviate into unnecessary subplots or distractions. His direction ensures that the film maintains its momentum, providing an engaging viewing experience from start to finish.

VERDICT

Ground Zero is a solid action-thriller that balances gripping military operations with emotional depth, providing a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of unsung heroes like BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey. With strong performances, especially by Emraan Hashmi and a well-crafted narrative, the film makes for a compelling watch for fans of action-packed dramas. Its raw portrayal of conflict, both external and internal, elevates it beyond a typical thriller and places it in the realm of meaningful storytelling. At a time when the entire country is reeling from the recent Pahalgam attack, this movie serves as a powerful reminder of the relentless dedication and sacrifices made by army personnel who tirelessly work to protect the nation from such threats.



Strong supply chains start with employee well-being

In this dynamic and interconnected global marketplace, an organisation's adaptability and agility with its supply chain has evolved to become a core pillar of its success. Yes, optimising logistics and embracing tech is undeniably important, but the oft-forgotten key element is employee well-being. Think about the fact that businesses focused on well-being, and therefore are organisations with a high employee engagement score are 21% more profitable. Recognising this crucial link, enterprises deeply invest in delivering quality and value, understand that a healthy, engaged, and supported workforce is not just a matter of ethics, but the very bedrock upon which a strong and adaptable supply chain is built. Failure to meet their requirements opens up vulnerabilities that can bleed through the operations resulting in lost time and money but above all else undermine the ability to serve the customers.



and training time while retaining the current operational staff.

Why employee well-being is critical in a robust supply chain?

There are many strong reasons with compelling data and research to suggest why the focus on employee well-being would be an enabler in building a strong supply chain.

Increased work productivity and effectiveness:

When employees are valued, are taken care of and supported, they prove to get more accomplished. A McKinsey Health Institute report of January 2025 expects that a comprehensive investment into employee health would create a mind-blowing global economic benefit of \$3.7-11.7 trillion including increased productivity. Furthermore, Gallup data indicates that engaged employees show 21% higher profitability compared to disengaged teams. In the tough landscape of the supply chain, in which productivity matters most, an adequately supported employee directly corresponds with maximised production and better-flowing workflows.

Fewer errors and better quality:

The complex operations in the supply chain are prone to human mistakes, which cause expensive defects and delays. Research has revealed that stress has a great influence on cognitive ability and attention to detail. On the other hand, focusing on employee welfare can counteract these risks.

Higher employee involvement and retention:

High employee turnover is a major resource and institutional memory drain for the supply chain. Supply Chain Management Review's 2023 Employee Satisfaction Survey revealed that 77% of employee turnover is caused by bad management and is often tied to management's failure to consider employee support and well-being. For employee turnover and engagement, teams that are engaged have 59% less turnover. Placing well-being first is paramount to establishing a culture of well-being that reduces costs and hiring

Improved safety and fewer accidents: This is especially the case for most supply chain jobs where physical production is included in the job (warehousing and logistics) and knowledge of employee safety is key. Investing in employee wellness programs in the form of physical health that guarantees rest is very significant.

Increased adaptability and resilience:

The world is not static, and neither are the disruptions to the supply chains in the modern world. Ideally, physically and mentally robust employees are better equipped to handle such interruptions. Research on worker resilience indicates that the well-being of employees is positively related to stress adaptation, which is important in ensuring that the activities in the organization are stable when there are hardships.

Stronger Stakeholder and Reputation Trust:

Ethical working practices and employee well-being are increasingly critical to upholding a good brand reputation. Customers and stakeholders will be more likely to favour organisations that promote a sincere interest in their staff. Social media and the press can rapidly escalate examples of bad working environments to create damage to reputations. In contrast, a focus on employee well-being increases trust and builds its credibility with all stakeholders.

STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN THROUGH EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

Well-being isn't only a philosophy; it is operationalised, strategically positioned, and practically shaped by available best practices and relevant literature. Organisations ought to work towards strengthening the supply chain by:

Fostering a culture of care: Make employees feel valued and cared for. This involves, but is not restricted to, developing positive relations, mental health support and cre-

ating a sense of community.

Health and wellness initiatives: Search for and establish programs addressing workforce physical and mental well-being. Such initiatives might consist of projects focused on preventive care, stress management and wellness access generally. Businesses provided with comprehensive wellness programmes are often noted to have low rates of absenteeism and lower healthcare costs.

An employee's personal and family time should also be regarded to be as important as the time that is spent working. That is why the workload should be balanced, flexible work arrangements offered, and staff encouraged to take holidays and other leave days.

Ensuring safe and ergonomic work environments:

Allocate safe working conditions for all operations. Go beyond the bare minimums set by policies and regulations for safety. This will involve providing ergonomic equipment, providing safety training, and implementing other measures that will save operational resources and improve employee outcomes in terms of accidents and injuries. **Providing opportunities for growth and training:** Offer training and educational programmes as a means to improve employee prospects

and invest in them. Employees tend to be more engaged and more likely to remain long-term with the organisation when they perceive genuine upward mobility options within the organisation due to training and development programmes.

Recognising and rewarding contributions: Appreciate efforts and the commitment put forth by employees through recognition programmes and employment policies that provide proper compensation alongside respect.

To sum up, integrating well-being programs into organisational processes on a proactive basis can lead to a more resilient, effective, and ethical supply chain. Employees should not be viewed as mere parts of the system, and instead be recognized as the true body's heart: the system's forte. Their well-being correlates with the strength and sustainability of the supply chain, meaning by prioritising their betterment, organisations are quite literally strengthening the foundations of their business.

(The author, Salloni Ghodawat, is the CEO, of Ghodawat Consumer Ltd.)



'The industry is producing only same old Naagin-type or saas-bahu drama— unfortunately, with not many options'

Actress Anupama Solanki, who has been a part of shows like *Yeh Hai Mohabbati*, *Nath- Krishna Aur Gauri Ki Kahani*, *Kuch Reet Jagat Ki Aisi Hai* and *Jamuniya*, says that she has often been at the receiving end of being typecast. She adds that it has both pros and cons.

"I've been typecast many times. In my latest Shemaroo TV show, I played the negative lead character named Sulekha, who is always involved in planning and plotting. This isn't new for me. My first negative lead was in Ekta Kapoor ma'am's show *Dayan*, where I played the Devil's Queen. Since then, I've been receiving back-to-back offers for negative lead roles. The list is huge now," she says.

She adds, "On one side, it's a drawback because I keep getting cast in negative roles, but on the other side, it's actually more interesting. It's you versus a hundred people in the show. Positive lead characters get work once in a blue moon, but negative leads are always in demand. The chances of a positive lead getting repeated work are around 20%, while negative characters remain consistently in demand. Of course, there are pros and cons. Positive characters gain a huge fan following, while negative ones don't, because people often associate us with our on-screen actions like harassing or harming others. But in real life, I'm the complete opposite of the characters I play. I talk less, I'm calm, cool, and spiritual—but the audience doesn't care about that. Of course, there are pros and cons. Positive

characters gain a huge fan following, while negative ones don't, because people often associate us with our on-screen actions like harassing or harming others. But in real life, I'm the complete opposite of the characters I play. I talk less, I'm calm, cool, and spiritual—but the audience doesn't care about that."

Talking about TV content, she says, "To be honest, I'm not very happy with the kind of content the entertainment industry is producing these days: same old *Naagin*-type shows, same saas-bahu drama. But unfortunately, we don't have many options."

She adds, "Sometimes when we actors give creative input or suggestions to directors, they don't agree or simply ignore us. There are some directors who are supportive, but they are very few." Meanwhile, she says that she has certain parameters for choosing her characters. "I've also received some unbelievable offers from South cinema that people can't even imagine. But I have my own boundaries and limitations. I'm an actor and an artist, and I work on my own terms and conditions. Honestly, I'm very happy. I give my 100% to every project I do. If you look at each of my characters, you won't see Anupama Solanki in them. Whether it's Mohini in *Vighnaharta Ganesh* on Sony TV, Kalawati in *Nath* on Dangal TV, Dayan from Balaji Telefilms, or Tapo Maa in *Bindiya Sarkar* by Jai Mehta Productions every role is different and I give my all to bring them to life."

SARANGAPANI JATHAKAM

A few laughs and lot of lags

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Indraganti Mohana Krishna is a sensible director, but he needs a good break. Now, after a long time, he is coming up with *Sarangapani Jathakam*, with Priyadarshi as the lead actor. Priyadarshi earlier delivered a successful film, *Court* and is now banking on that success. Roopa Koduvayur is the female lead, while Vennela Kishore plays an important role. Here is the story and how it goes.

STORY

Sarangapani (Priyadarshi) is a strong believer in astrology and whatever he does, he first looks at the astro predictions. He works in a car showroom as a salesman and is engaged to Maithili (Roopa Koduvayur), who also works in the same showroom and happens to be Saranga's immediate boss. Joginder (Avasarala Srinivas), a palm reader who predicts the future by reading lines on the hand, happens to see Sarangapani's hand and foretells that he is destined to commit a crime in the future.

Thinking about his future with Maithili, Sarangapani decides to commit the crime before the marriage, so he takes help from his friend Chandu (Vennela Kishore). They both plan to murder a person—harmlessly, or in a way that doesn't feel like a crime. For that, Sarangapani asks Maithili's parents to postpone the wedding for a few months. Did they really murder someone? What happened to Sarangapani's wedding? The entire drama shifts to a hotel in Vizag and what happens there is the crux of the story.

ANALYSIS

Director Indraganti Mohana Krishna, after the successful *Sammohanam* in 2018, made two films—one that released directly on OTT and another that was a disaster. He now seeks a much-needed break and has chosen a comic backdrop for *Sarangapani Jathakam*. He added a hint of crime to



REVIEW

Cast: Priyadarshi, Roopa Koduvayur, Vennela Kishore, Harsha Chemudu, Avasarala Srinivas, VK Naresh, Thanikella Bharani, Rupa Lakshmi, Kalpa Latha and others

Music: Vivek Sagar **Cinematography:** PG Vinda

Producer: Sivalenka Krishna Prasad

Writer and Director: Indraganti Mohana Krishna **Rating:** 2.5/5

it. Indraganti is known for his sensibilities and signature writing, which often sets expectations high.

When you cast actors who can't pull crowds to theatres, you have to rely heavily on either an interesting or highly entertaining story. With *Sarangapani Jathakam*, Indraganti succeeds only halfway. The film starts with a routine story, and once Joginder enters and predicts Sarangapani's future, the plot becomes interesting. But again, Indraganti doesn't manage to narrate it engagingly. Some scenes are dragged—especially the ones where Priyadarshi attempts to murder the old woman and

the birthday sequence also feels boring.

There's no logic in the premise where a palm reader tells Sarangapani that he will commit a crime in the future, prompting the protagonist to try and commit a crime before marriage—that's a silly leap. The second half, however, saves the film, thanks to the comedy by Vennela Kishore, Harsha Chemudu and Priyadarshi. Indraganti's writing—particularly his one-liners—stands out. While the film is predictable, a few laughs here and there and a stronger second half help salvage the viewing experience. Indraganti seems to have put more effort into this film

compared to his previous two outings.

PERFORMANCE

Priyadarshi, as Sarangapani, delivers a good performance. His chemistry with Vennela Kishore and Harsha Chemudu is very entertaining. Vennela Kishore actually plays an important role, parallel to the lead, and emerges as one of the film's saviours. His dialogues and comic timing are on point. Harsha Chemudu, or Viva Harsha, enters in the second half and keeps the laughs coming. "Manaki trolling lo block-belt," and many other one-liners give weight to his short but impactful role. He truly carries the second half with ease.

Roopa Koduvayur looks pretty, though she doesn't get a meaty role.

She appears in only a few scenes but handles them with grace. Naresh, Rupa Lakshmi, Kalpa Latha and all the supporting actors perform well. Thanikella Bharani makes a cameo, though the director doesn't use him effectively. Avasarala Srinivas plays his part well and appears in a different look this time.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The cinematography by PG Vinda is good, and the visuals suit the comic tone of the film. Vivek Sagar's music is also decent and blends with the narrative. Technically, the film is well-made.

VERDICT

Sarangapani Jathakam definitely provides a few laughs, especially in the second half. Vennela Kishore and Harsha Chemudu are the saviours with their one-liners. Indraganti is back with his strong writing after a couple of flops. In a season full of blood and gore, this clean comedy offers a light-hearted alternative worth a watch—for a few laughs, if nothing more.



Akhanda 2 heads to Georgia for key schedule

The combination of Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Boyapati Sreenu has delivered multiple hits including *Simha*, *Legend* and *Akhanda*. The duo is now back with the much-anticipated sequel, *Akhanda 2: Thandavam*. Boyapati kickstarted the shoot at the Kumbh Mela a few weeks ago and is now scouting locations in Georgia. In fact, the director celebrated his birthday on Thursday in Georgia. The production house has also confirmed that the team will soon travel to Georgia for an important schedule of the film. The makers have already locked the release date—September 25, 2025—coinciding with the Dasara festival.

While *Akhanda* featured Pragya Jaiswal as the female lead, the sequel sees Samyuktha replacing her. Aadhi Pinesetty is also set to play a key role in the film. After wrapping the Georgia schedule, the team will return to India to shoot a few crucial sequences.



Rajamouli's film with Mahesh Babu resumes shoot in Hyderabad with tight security measures

Director SS Rajamouli's much-awaited film with Mahesh Babu is set to resume its shoot in Hyderabad. Mahesh Babu, who was on a brief vacation with his family, has returned to the city and Priyanka Chopra is also in Hyderabad for the shoot.

Reports suggest that Rajamouli was spotted at the Khairatabad RTA office, where he renewed his

driving license, signaling his readiness to resume work. After the Hyderabad schedule, the team is expected to head to Kenya for further shooting, with additional international locations planned.

In light of leaks from the Odisha schedule, Rajamouli has reportedly taken extra precautions to ensure the secrecy of the shoot. The director has instructed the production team to implement

stringent security measures, even banning mobile phones on set and hiring additional bouncers to prevent unauthorised access to the filming location.

The film, an adventurous tale akin to Indiana Jones, will feature international actors, with Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran already confirmed in key roles.

Sudheer Attavar's Koragajja blends traditional music with modern innovation



Koragajja, directed by Sahitya Akademi Award-winner Sudheer Attavar, explores the fascinating story of Koragajja, a principal deity worshipped in the Karavali (Tulu Nadu) region of Karnataka, Kerala, and parts of Mumbai. The film delves into the transformation of an indigenous youth into the divine figure of Koragajja over 800 years ago. Music composer Gopi Sundar, who collaborated with Attavar, calls the project a 'unique musical experience'.

Gopi Sundar explains that composing music for *Koragajja* took more time than usual, as he had to immerse himself in the traditions and customs of the region. "The tunes I created came after understanding these customs, and I'm glad the director liked my work," Sundar says. He added, "This story allowed me to invent a new genre, exploring fresh musical territories." The soundtrack features songs composed in different styles and languages, with lyrics written by Sudheer Attavar.

The film features a track by Shankar Mahadevan that blends verses from the Shiva Tandava, merging traditional elements with a modern perspective. Director Sudheer Attavar highlights that *Koragajja* offers a unique storyline, distinct from *Kantara*, despite both films being rooted in regional deities and cultural heritage. *Koragajja* shines a light on the 5000 Daivas of Karnataka and Kerala, with *Kantara* focusing on just one.

The cast includes Kabir Bedi, choreographers Sandip Soparrkar and Ganesh Acharya and South Indian actors Bhavya and Shruthi.



Meenakshi Chaudhary is on a roll with back-to-back films

After the success of *Lucky Bhaskar* and *Sankranthiki Vasthunnam*, actress Meenakshi Chaudhary is riding high on demand. The actress is currently busy with multiple projects—she has officially signed two new films and has more in the pipeline.

Recently, Meenakshi visited Tirumala and spoke about her upcoming ventures. "I'm doing a film with Naga Chaitanya and another one with Naveen Polishetty," she revealed.

Naga Chaitanya's film is being directed by Karthik Varma Dandu of *Virupaksha* fame.

The film reportedly has a mythological backdrop and will be a thriller with extensive visual effects. The team is currently busy with pre-production work, and Meenakshi has officially been signed as the female lead. The shoot is expected to begin soon.

Meenakshi is also playing the female lead opposite Naveen Polishetty in *Anaganaga Oka Raju*. Initially, Sreeleela was cast for the role, but due to scheduling conflicts, she had to opt out. Meenakshi stepped in, and the shoot is already underway. The makers have released a teaser and a few promotional videos for the film.

KALIYUGAM 2064

Shraddha Srinath, Kishore lead in a high-concept sci-fi thriller

Shraddha Srinath, renowned for her powerful performances in films like *Jersey*, *Krishna and His Leela* and *Daaku Maharaaj*, stars in the upcoming sci-fi adventure thriller *Kaliyugam 2064*. Set in the future, the film promises a gripping and exciting narrative. Alongside Shraddha, the movie also features Kishore, Iniyan Subramani, and Harry in pivotal roles. The film marks the directorial debut of Pramodh Sundar, with KS Ramakrishna producing.

The film, made in both Tamil and Telugu, is slated for release on May 9, 2025, capitalising on the summer holiday period. The first-look poster was launched by the celebrated director Mani Ratnam and now another iconic filmmaker, Ram Gopal Varma, has unveiled



the trailer. On this occasion, RGV lauded the filmmakers, calling it a futuristic experience with impressive visuals. The film's grand sets and visually stunning effects bring the world of *Kaliyugam 2064* to life, aided by K Ramachandran's remarkable cinematography. The story is set in 2064, focusing on humanity's struggle for survival in a world where resources like food and water are scarce, and kindness has almost disappeared. Drawing inspiration from mythological themes related to *Kaliyugam*, the movie promises a captivating blend of visual effects and a powerful background score.