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**INDIA FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY DURING** LAST 3 FINANCIAL YEARS: FM

Nidhhi Agerwal reportedly joins *The Raja Saab* 

the exam.

Telangana to secure a top rank in Kiran (27th rank), KN Chandana

About 50 from T states crack Civils

Donuru Ananya Reddy (3<sup>rd</sup> rank)

She is followed by Nandala Sai

the pioneer If we watch the CM speak and his shivering at public meetings we can assume that the people of Telangana have revolted. Survey reports are coming. The Congress won't get more than two seats in the state. Farmers are revolting. During the Narayapet meeting, if we see Chief Minister's fear and shiver then it means that the government may not last even a year. Who knows when who will join the BJP or whether the CM himself will jump to the BJP? The CM talks one thing here and in Delhi on TV he says vote for the BJP. Who is the B-team of whom?

Aditya Srivastava

gets top rank

PNS NEW DELHI

Aditya Srivastava,

a trainee Indian

Commission.

Police Service officer, has topped

the civil services examination 2023, results of which were

announced on Tuesday by the

A total of 1,016 candidates --

664 men and 352 women -- have

qualified in the examination and

have been recommended by the

tinued on Page 2

Union Public Service

Public

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- KCR, BRS chief

#### 52% works undertaken for..

Principal Secretary to the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Dana Kishore on Tuesday said 52 per cent of the works undertaken for flood control were completed and all the remaining works should be completed

He said, "In all, 125 water-logging locations have been identified within the GHMC; problems have been solved permanently in 22 locations, 40 locations should be removed on a war footing basis and suitable measures should be taken without storing water in the rest of the locations...

#### 'Breast cancer may cause a ...

Breast cancer is now the world's most common carcinogenic disease with the ailment likely to cause a million deaths a year by 2040, according to a new Lancet Commission on breast cancer. Around 7.8 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the last five years until 2020 and about 685,000 women died from the disease the same year, it said Further, in 2020, women around the world on average had a 1 in 12 risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer before turning 75 years old, and this incidence ...

#### **Equity investors** become poorer ...

Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 7.93 lakh crore in three days of market crash amid escalating tensions in the Middle East and weak global trends. Continuing its downtrend for the third day running on -share BSF tanked 456.10 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 72,943.68. During the day, it slumped 714.75 points or 0.97 per cent to 72,685.03. The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed companies was eroded by Rs 7,93,529.61 crore to Rs 3,94,25,823.46 (US\$ 4.75 trillion) in three days. In the ...

-PAGE: 8

#### Gujarat Titans, Delhi Capitals..

Gujrat Titans will be striving for much needed consistency when they meet Delhi Capitals in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

Unlike the past two editions, the Titans have not been able to play like a well-oiled machine though they still have time to fix the flaws A last hall win over table leaders Raiasthan Royals on April 10 was iust the kind of result the Titans needed to infuse fresh live to their campaign. They have only managed only two wins from their first six games but..



## 29 Naxalites killed in encounter with jawans

PNS KANKER

At least 29 Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Tuesday, the Border Security Force (BSF) said. Three security personnel suf-fered injuries in the fierce gunbattle and a large quantity of weapons was also recovered from the spot, the state police said. The gunfight took place at around 2 pm in Hapatola forest between Binagunda and Koronar

was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a statement issued by the BSF said.

The BSF has been extensively deployed in Kanker district for counter-insurgency operations. "Bodies of 18 Maoist cadres were recovered from the encounter spot. Seven AK series rifles and three Light Machine Guns were also recovered from the spot," the statement said.

'One BSF personnel sustained bullet injury on his leg in the gunfight and he is reported to be out of danger," the statement villages under Chhotebethiya added. The Chhattisgarh police police station limits, when a said three security personnel joint team of the Border Security were injured in the gunfight and Force (BSF) and the state police's they were being shifted to a hos-District Reserve Guard (DRG) pital for treatment.

not last for 1year: KCR Says Shiver in Revanth's voice indicates people's revolt PNS HYDERABAD people of Telangana would revolt. Survey reports are coming. Congress BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao

'Lilliput' Cong govt may

termed the Congress government as a "Lilliput Government" while addressing a public meeting in

Ananya bags third rank,

The Union Public Service

Commission (UPSC) declared the

civil service exam results on

Tuesday. About 50 candidates from

both Telangana and Andhra

hails from the Addakal Mandal of

Mahbubnagar secured the third

rank. She is the first woman from

Donuru Ananya Reddy who

Pradesh cracked the exam.

PNS HYDERABAD

Sultanpur. "They won and we want them to stay for five years. So we will know them in black and white. But if we watch the Chief Minister speak and his shivering at public meetings the one thing here and in Delhi on TV

won't get more than two seats in the state. In all districts, farmers are revolting. At the Narayapet meeting held on Monday, when we saw the Chief Minister fear and shiver, it meant that the government may not last even a year. Who knows when who will join the BJP or if the CM will jump (to the BJP). The CM talks



Jahnavi (50th rank) and Merugu

he says vote for the BJP.

## **BRS** charting KCR's Bus Yatra

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS is planning to hold an important party meeting at the Telangana Bhavan on April 18

under KCR's chairmanship. B forms will be given to BRS candidates who are contesting in Telangana's 17 LS seats. KCR will give also give cheques worth Rs 95 lakh to each candidate to meet election expenses. After that, a review meeting will be held with party

KCR has decided to conduct bus yatras across the state to reach out to farmers who are suffering from

## EC derails Revanth's Ram Navami plans at Bhadrachalam

PNS HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India derailed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's plans to celebrate Ram

The CM and the Endowments Minister had sought permission to present Pattu Vasthralu and Muthyala Talambralu on the occasion of Kalyanostavam at Bhadrachalam in Bhadradri Kothagudem.

Millions of devotees watch this grand festival every year live on TV. However, the ECI said, "The Commission has not agreed to the proposal contained therein."

The ECI said If necessary, the Secretary of the Department or any other officer may participate in the event. Initially, the ECI refused live telecast of the festival but later per-

Bhadrachalam has been a politically significant event in Telangana. Revanth adopted soft Hindutva, even though the BJP criticises the Congress for being anti-Hindu. Revanth visiting Bhadrachalam

on Ram Navami would have helped the Congress debunk the BJP narrative. During BRS rule, opposition parties came down heavily on KCR for not participating in the celebrations and instead or his grandson to do it.

Now, whenever Revanth is



quizzed about visiting Ram Mandir, he speaks about Bhadrachalam. Revanth said that he will eventually visit Ayodhya Ram Mandir, but says the BJP government and Modi didn't visit Bhadrachalam.

Recently Revanth visited Bhadrachalam during the launch of the Indiramma housing scheme.

In view of the importance of Bhadradri and the marriage cere-Celebrating Ram Navami at mony, the government had written to the Election Commission last month to give special permission for the live telecast of the events at the Bhadrachalam Temple on the occasion of Sri Ramnavami. The Election Commission rejected the

request on April 4. Still, the state government made another attempt. It wrote a letter on April 6 asking the ECI to reconsider its request. It requested to allow live telecast so that letting the Endowments Minister devotees in different parts of the country can watch it.

#### Sometimes defeat can be good, says CM

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy commented that sometimes defeat can lead to good things. He said that everyone cannot win and that it is common in a game or any contest. Win or lose is common in all

Addressing a meeting with Gulf victims at the Taj Deccan on Tuesday, the CM said that there is no doubt that determination will increase in those who lose, unlike the winners. "It has been proved several times. Take me as an example. It is good to lose elections. Losing will pave the way to big wins. I lost the 2018 Assembly election. However, I became an MP in the 2019 elections. T. Jeevan Reddy lost the 2023 elections but Jeevan will become a Union Minister after winning the Lok Sabha elections," Revanth said. Continued on Page 2

PNS HYDERABAD

## BJP will end reservations for SCs & STs, warns KTR this openly. If we get a two-thirds majority in this Lok Sabha election,

PNS HYDERABAD

Working President KTR said that many BJP leaders are talking about Constitution if the BJP comes to power again. He said that reservations for SC and ST will disaptĥe pear Constitution

changed. KTR was addressing a meeting organised in the Adilabad

Parliament constituency. He said that the BJP is the only danger in this country. "An MP

from Uttar Pradesh, another MP from Karnataka and a BJP candidate south India the BRS will oppose from Madhya Pradesh are saying

'Transfer all cops probing phone tapping

the files of the Punjagutta PS in

Hyderabad should be under the

supervision of the ECI. The

Commissioner of Police of

Hyderabad City, the Deputy Superintendent of Police of West

Zone, Hyderabad, the Assistant

Commissioner of Police of Banjara

Hills PS and the IO must be imme-

diately transferred and divested of

their supervisory powers over Crime

we will change the Constitution itself. We will remove reservations. They say they will remove all SC and ST reservations. So SC and ST reservations will disappear if the BJP comes to power again at the Centre, he said.

The BJP has vowed to change the Constitution and end reservations for SCs and STs. KTR called upon Dalits and tribal brothers to under-

stand the BJP's moves and vote. He raised the issue of delimitation

of constituencies and said that if Parliament seats are reduced for

an officer appointed by the ECI."

The BRS said that all the above

officers appointed by the present

government after coming to power

in December 2023, are dancing to

the tunes of the Chief Minster and

directed the police to implicate the

top leadership of the BRS and to

arrest them to damage the electoral

"It appears that Revanth Reddv

his colleagues.

prospects of the BRS.



PNS HYDERABAD

Congress

Former Union Minister Samudrala Venugopal Chary and former MLC T. Kajeshwara Rao of the BRS joined the Congress on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the CM's residence.

Nizamabad LS candidate T. Jeevan Reddy, Government Whip Adi Srinivas and others were also present on the occa-sion. The CM invited Venugopala Chary and Rajeshwar Rao into the Congress by offering them the party Kanduva.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday night, former GHMC Saroor Nagar councillors, the Anitha Dayakar Reddy couple, joined the Congress in the presence of the Chief Minister, GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijayalaxmi and Chevella LS Candidate G.

Ranjith Reddy.

#### the Parliament elections, the inves-No: 234 of 2024 and it should be tigation into FIR No: 234 of 2024 on conducted under the supervision of

The BRS has asked the Election

Commission of India to transfer all

police officials investigating the

phone tapping case including the

M. Sreenivas Reddy, the General

Secretary of the BRS wrote, "In order

to ensure a level playing field for the

opposition and the ruling party in

Commissioner of Police.

## Notices issued to 3,700 poll staffers

**SKIPPING ELECTION TRAINING** 

PNS HYDERABAD

The District Electoral Officer, GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose, said that notices have been issued to 3,700 polling staffers who failed to attend the Election Training Programme.

'FIRs will be filed against them. A total of 23,500 staffers were selected to supervise the district's election process including 1,700 Presiding Officers (POs), Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs), and 120 Micro Observers," he said.

District Electoral Officer Ronald said that arrangements are being made to ensure a transparent, peaceful parliament election in the dis-

He addressed media representa-

FIR to be filed if required, says DEO Ronald Rose

tives along with the Returning Officers of Hyderabad and Secunderabad at the Panwar Hall in GHMC headquarters on Tuesday.

Ronald announced that the notification for elections will be issued on April 18. Nominations are accepted from 11 am to 3 pm from April 18 to 25, excluding Sundays. The scrutiny will take place on April 26 and the deadline for with-

drawal is April 29. Polling is scheduled for May 13 and vote counting on June 4.

He said that candidates are allowed to file four sets of nominations, and only four others are permitted to accompany them. The

maximum expenditure allowed for candidates is Rs 95 lakh, and they must disclose any criminal cases against them in newspapers and TV channels.

The District Electoral Officer said that as per the final voter list published on February 8, 2024, the district has 45,70,138 voters, comprising 23,30,574 men, 22,39,240 women, and 324 third-gender individuals.

There are 402 service voters, 846 NRI voters, 22,995 PWD voters and 36,664 voters aged above 85. The EP ratio stands at 759, the gender ratio at 961, and there are 65,595 voters in the 18 to 19 age group.

## Apex Court pans EVM critics

#### Asks them to remember ballot paper era when booth capturing was rampant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday deprecated criticism of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and calls for reverting to ballot papers, saying the electoral process in India is a "humongous task" and attempts should not be made to "bring down the system".

It also recalled how polling booths were captured in the era of ballot papers to manipulate election

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas seeking complete cross-verification of the votes cast using EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), an independent vote verification system which enables an elector to see whether his vote was cast correct-

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta was critical of the argument that many European countries have gone back to ballot papers after having tried out voting machines.

"This is a humongous task. No European country can do this. You talked about Germany but what is the population there. My home state West Bengal is far more populous than Germany. We have to repose faith and trust in the electoral

**Continued on Page 2** 

# Akbaruddin says he might be jailed, poisoned

All India Majlis-e Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi said that he could be imprisoned and poisoned. "Don't know if Akbaruddin

Owaisi will also be poisoned and killed in jail," Akbaruddin said in a statement.

Making an indirect reference to Mukhtar Ansari's death he said, "I hope that it will not happen, but I don't know whether Akbaruddin Owaisi and Asaduddin Owaisi taken to hospital." Addressing a to be away from the public," he gathering at the Eid Milap, the added.



Chandrayangutta MLA asked people to imagine Hyderabad without the AIMIM and the Owaisi brothers. He appealed to the people to highlight the shortcomings of AIMIM so that they could be corwill be shot dead while being rected. "However, I am not ready







#### **AGRI LOANS**

## 'CM must waive Aug 15 or quit'

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been behaving like a 'Gajini,' BJLP leader Alleti Mahehew CM Reddy said that the CM should implement the promise to waive farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh by August 15 or resign from the CM's post.

He said that there was nothing new in the statement given by the CM who had assured that he would implement the Rs 2 lakh loan waiver scheme by August 15. He said the CM made the statement keeping in view the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing the media at the State BJP office here on Tuesday, Maheshwar said that Revanth is deceiving farmers with his fake assurances.

He said the Rs 2 lakh loan waiver scheme needs Rs

35,000 crore and the Congress' Rythu Declaration needs Rs 80,000 crore but the Congress government has allotted only Rs 19,000 crore in the budget.

"From where will the Congress government raise these funds? Revanth is a Gajini and he doesn't know what statement he gives. He has been delivering dialogues like Balakrishna and NTR once he gets a mic. Revanth, will you implement.

# BRS, BJP claim credit

PNS HYDERABAD

The opposition BJP and BRS in Telangana have claimed that the announcement of Rs two lakh farm loan waiver by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is a result of their agitations demanding it and sought to know when the other promises of ruling Congress government would be fulfilled.

Taking on the Congress government, BJP Rajya Sabha member K Laxman on Tuesday asked why should people vote for Congress in the Lok Sabha elections when promises like investment support of Rs 15,000 to farmers and financial assistance of Rs 12,000 to agriculture workers have not been implemented.

Addressing reporters here, Laxman also took exception to Revanth Reddy's charge that

there was a clandestine understanding between BJP and BRS MLA T Harish Rao claimed that the CM made the announcement to waive farmers' loans before August 15 only

with an eye on the Lok Sabha

The CM should apologize to farmers for not honouring his promise to waive the loan on December 9, 2023 soon after the Congress government assumed office, said Harish Rao, a nephew of former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Revanth Reddy made the announcement because of BRS agitation for loan waiver, he said on X (formerly twitter).

The BRS leader also wanted to know when the Congress

government would implement its other promises, including investment support of Rs 15,000 per acre, financial assistance of Rs 12,000 to farm workers, Rs 2,500 per month to poor women and increasing the benefit of social security pensions to Rs 4,000.

Meanwhile, state BJP spokesperson Amarnath claimed that the fast held by state BJP president G Kishan Reddy on farmers' issues on Monday led the Congress government to announce the loan waiver. BJP considers the CM's announcement to be its "first victory", he said in a statement

## Rahul slams Modi over electoral bonds issue

#### Calls it a 'form of extortion'

PNS KOZHIKODE/WAYANAD

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched an attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday over the electoral bonds issue, describing it as a "form of extortion" and alleging "intimidatory tactics" against targeted busi-

"There are some people in every small town or village who extort money on the streets by threatening physical harm. In Malayalam, you call this extortion 'kolla adikkal' (loot), but Modi calls it electoral bonds. What a common thief is doing on the streets, the PM is doing at an international level," Gandhi alleged.



Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, the Congress candidate accused the BJP-led central government of using sophisticated tactics to threaten targeted businessmen. He also lashed out at Modi, accusing him of helping a few rich businessmen in the country.

## EC issues notices to KCR for using offensive

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission served notices on BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday for levelling allegations against Congress leaders and using offensive language in Sircilla

The EC asked KCR to file an explanation before 11 am on April 18. The EC served these notices on KCR while responding to a complaint filed by TPCC Senior Vice President G. Niranjan.

EC Principal Secretary

Avinash Kumar said in the notices that KCR violated the election code and the EC examined primary evidence regarding this.

Avinash Kumar explained in his notice that the EC issued notices to KCR after getting a report based on facts from the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana and the Sircilla Election Officer.

It may be recalled that KCR used abusive words like 'Kukkalakodukullara,' and 'Donganakodukullara' and other words against Congress.

## 'Rs.10k crores scam in Yadadri Power Plant'

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress MLA from Munugode and Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency incharge Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy alleged that the former Minister G Jagdish Reddy indulged in Rs.10,000 crore scam in the name of Yadadri Power Plant. Rajgopal Reddy said that he will send KCR family and Jagdish Reddy, who looted thousands of crores of public money indulging in corruption, to jail. He alleged that Kavitha is already playing Bhathukamma in Tihar Jail.

Addressing the Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency preparatory meeting held at Bhongir on Tuesday, Rajgopal Reddy questioned Jagdish Reddy, who roamed on a scooter and stayed in rented houses till 2014, to tell how the latter got 100s of acres of lands and bungalows and Rs.1000s of crores money.



Rajgopal Reddy warned Jagdish Reddy that the Congress activists will not allow Jagdish Reddy to move freely if he speaks as he wished. He said that people know very well who wastes, as Congress won 11 MLAs in erstwhile Nalgonda district.

Rajgopal Reddy said that the BRS defeated him in Munugode by-poll using 100 MLAs, however, he said that he gave a return gift to them. He said that he showed what

would happen if touched Rajgopal Reddy. Rajgopal Reddy said that there is a responsibility on every one

to ensure the victory of Congress candidate Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy with a huge majority.

## BJP to field Vamsha Cantonment

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP announced its candidate for the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly bypoll. The party said on Tuesday that it is fielding TN Vamsha Tilak in the by-poll.

The BJP high command announced the list of by-polls being held in Telangana as well as in Uttar Pradesh

Vamsha Tilak is the son of the first Deputy Speaker of United Andhra Pradesh, TN Sadalaxmi. Sadalaxmi was also

a Minister in the cabinet of Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy. Vamsha Tilak is an MBBS graduate and is a practising doctor. The Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly bypoll will be held on May 13 along with Lok Sabha elec-

It may be recalled that the by-poll is being held due to the death of sitting BRS MLA Lasya Nanditha in a road accident. The BRS allotted its ticket to Lasya Nanditha's sister Niveditha.

## BRS charting KCR's Bus **Yatra**

Continued on Page 1 In the meeting being held on

Thursday BRS leaders will discuss the route map of KCR's bus Yatra and take a final decision on that.

"The people of Telangana, who are worried that they were deceived by the Congress party in the Assembly elections want KCR's leadership back. Surveys also make it clear that the people of Telangana will support the BRS in the LS elections. KCR will make a campaign plan as per the wishes of the peo-

ple," sources said.
"Considering the overwhelming public response to BRS public meetings, KCR has decided to reach out to more people," sources

## 'Transfer...

Continued on Page 1

Some media houses are hand in glove with the Congress and are publishthe prospects of the BRS and mould public opinion. It's a case of pure media trial," the BRS said.

The BRS said that one police officer who was working in different wings of the department was arrested and media leaks were given daily to tarnish the image of the BRS and its leaders. Investigating officers are working at the behest of the Chief Minister as the Home Ministry is with him. Thus the very objective of the investigation has been derailed to provide an advantage to the ruling Congress party, the BRS said. "After the announcement of general elections on 16.03.2024 by

the Election Commission and the coming into force of the Model Code of Conduct, the Chief Minister is monitoring the investigation and ins tions are given to target officers of a particular community with the ultimate aim to spoil the image of the BRS and its top leadership to promote the prospects of the Congress," the BRS said. The BRS said the police officers who are conspiring with the Chief Minster and the Congress are K. Srinivas Reddy, the Commissioner of Police of Hyderabad, S. Vijay Kumar, the DCP of West Zone and Venkatagiri, the investiga-

tion officer of the case. "They are taking orders from Revanth Reddy about whom to implicate and are acting as per the directions of the C M and the Congress.

### Apex Court pans... Continued on Page 1

Don't try to bring down the system like this," Justice Datta Bhushan, appearing for NGO 'Association for Democratic Reforms'.

Bhushan had pitched for a return to ballot papers while citing the German example.

The bench said there were roughly 98 crore registered voters in India. "There will be some mismatch in vote count due to some human errors but it can be countered and checked," it said.

Justice Khanna, while referring to booth capturing in the past, said, "Mr. Bhushan, we are all in our 60s. We have seen what used to happen earlier when there were no EVMs.

We don't need to tell you." Maintaining that he is not casting any aspersion on the Election Commission or say-

ing that EVMs have been manipulated, Bhushan said his only point is that these polling machines can be tin-

Normally, human intervention in a process creates problems including bias, while machines, without any wrong human intervention, work properly and give accurate results, Justice Khanna told Bhushan.

The bench posed a barrage of questions to the Election Commission officials present in the court about the functioning of EVMs, their storage and the possibility of data manipulation.

"We want you to apprise us of each and every detail from point A to Z on the EVMs, right from their assembling to storage after the counting of votes," the bench told senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the Election

#### EC derails Revanth's Ram Navami plans at Bhadrachalam

Continued on Page 1

In the same letter, the government said that from 1987 live telecast has been the norm and that in 2019, even though the election code was in force, the Srivenkateswara Bhakti channel conducted a live telecast and the commentary of the Kalyana Mahotsava was broadcast on the radio too.

In this context, considering the sentiments of crores of devotees, Telangana appealed to allow the live telecast of Sri Ramanavami celebrations in Bhadrachalam.

The ECI permitted the live telecast of Sri Rama Kalyanam subject to the provisions of the MCC.

## Notices issued..

Continued on Page 1

He said that a total of 3,10,979 claims and objections have been received from January 23, to April 15, 2024 they will be resolved by April

There are 1,675 locations in the district with EVM Demonstration Centres to educate the public about EVMs and VVPATs. Training is provided to election management staffers.

The DEO said that cash seized in the district is released within 24 hours of providing evidence to the District Grievance Committee. So far, Rs 2,39,92,730 has been requested for release in 73 cases. Rs 1.70 crore was released in the case of 70 cases.

He said that outreach programmes including video campaigns and door-to-door sticker campaigns are being

conducted to increase voter turnout. Awards will be given to the top 10 videos created to sensitize voters. Residential Welfare Associations are partnering in voter cencit and efforts are on to ensure participation from labourers

on election day. The District Election Officer requested everyone to cooperate to ensure peaceful elections in Hyderabad and Secunderabad Parliament constituencies and the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly constituency.

He said the Hyderabad Collector's Office and the Secunderabad Zonal Office will accept nomination papers for their respective seats. Additional Collector Hemant Keshav Patil will act as the Returning Officer for the Cantonment Assembly seat.

Hyderabad Collector and Returning Officer Anudeep Durishetti.

#### TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha Tithi: Navami: Apr 16 01:24 PM to Apr 17 03:14 PM Apr 17 03:14 PM to Apr 18 05:31 PM Nakshatram: Apr 17 05:16 AM Ashlesha to Apr 18 07:56 AM Soola Apr 16 11:16 PM to Apr 17 11:50 PM Rahukalam: 12:15 PM to 1:49 PM 7:35 AM to 9:09 AM Yamaqandam: 07:29 PM to 09:16 PM Varjyam: Gulika: 10:42 AM to 12:15 PM Amritakalam: Abhiiit Muhurtham:

**HYDERABAD WEATHER** 

Updated: April 16, 2024 5:00 PM

Forecast: Partly Sunny

**Temp:** 38<sup>∞</sup>

Humidity: 25% Sunrise: 5:59 AM

Sunset: 6:33 PM

#### 'Lilliput' Cong...

Continued on Page 1

What's happening? Who is the B-team of whom?" KCR said.

Describing the Congress admin in Telangana as a 'Lilliput Government,' the BRS chief said, "Some Lilliputs also get power. This Lilliput government couldn't pay floral tributes to the 125-foot Ambedkar statue. They closed down the gates and didn't even provide water to visitors. Is this arrogance or ignorance? Why are you shamelessly sitting in the secretariat named after Dr Ambedkar and built by the BRS? Why did you go to Yadadri which was redeveloped by the BRS admin? The MLA Quarters was also built by the BRS admin. Why is the new Congress MLA staying

there? Will you stop Mission Kakatiya."

"I am asking Dalits, is it okay to insult Dr Ambedkar? Is it okay to stop Dalit Bandhu," KCR

He said there is a need to give a shock to the Congress admin of TG in the Lok Sabha elections. KCR gave a call to all farmers to launch a postcard campaign demanding

the Rythu Bandhu scheme, loan waiver and MSP. "We demand that the police should do their duty. The BRS will come to power again. Then what will happen to you. DCP you should change. We are recording everything," he said. He said the DGP should probe BRS Karimnagar Karvakarta Salvaji Madhavrao, who was arrested.

#### Sometimes ... Continued on Page 1

Continued on Page 1

The CM said that the Congress government has decided to set up a 'Telangana Gulf, Overseas Workers Welfare Board' as 15 lakh families in the state depend on the Gulf. He said the government has decided to launch an action plan to help

"We will set up a special office at the Praja Bhavan to help Gulf workers. We will bring a special system under the supervision of a senior IAS officer. We have to take care of the salaries and the well-being of people who went to the Gulf for employment. We are conducting studies on policies implemented by other nations and states. The Philippines and Kerala have good policies regarding overseas workers.

## BJP will..

He said that South Indian states which adopted family planning will lose LS seats but those who didn't adopt FP like North Indian states will see an increase in LS seats.

He said Revanth will join the BJP with 25 to 30 MLAs after parliament elections. KCR announced the candi-

date in Adilabad four months ago. As had had given his word to Atram Sakku, KCR announced him as the Adilabad BRS candidate. Even though some people looked for other ways when power was gone, Sakku did not succumb to temptation, he said.

Those who held ministerial posts left the party when power was lost. But Atram Sakku is a person of values. He is an honest person and stayed with the party even in difficult times, KCR said.

The Congress came to power by making false promises. Revanth is singing a new tune saying that he will waive farm loans before August 15. KTR said the BRS has to

win if the public wants the Congress to implement its promises. "We failed to tell the people

about the things we have done. We gave 63,000 jobs. We could not tell them. We could not properly counter the poisonous campaign against us. These are elections that will decide the future of us and that of the party. If you work hard, we will win Adilabad. Our job is to explain to the people the frauds of the BJP and the Congress," he said.

KCR gave the highest salaries to government employees in the country. We gave the highest salaries saying that we have a good relationship with employees.

#### Aditya...

Continued on Page 1

Commission (UPSC) for appointment to various services.

Congratulating the successful candidates, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said their efforts will shape the future of the nation in the times to come.

In his posts on X, the prime minister also reached out to the unsuccessful aspirants for the coveted government services, saying they have chances ahead to success while noting that India is rich with opportunities where their talents can truly shine.

Three of the top five rank holders -- Srivastava, Ramkumar and Ruhani -- are IPS trainees and currently undergoing training at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Telangana, officials said.

#### About 50...

Continued on Page 1

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated the candidates of both the Telugu states for cracking one of the toughest exams in India. He congratulated Donuru Ananya Reddy for securing the third rank.

"I am very happy to crack this exam but I didn't expect to secure the third rank. I fulfilled my dream today. I used to study 10 to 12 hours. I took coaching only for anthropology and finally cracked it in my first attempt," Ananya Reddy said.

"I am very happy to crack this exam after five years of study. This is my third attempt. On my first attempt, I got into the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS) while on the second attempt, I was selected for the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) in 2022.

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MONSOON ACTION PLAN IN PLACE

# 52% works undertaken for flood control completed

Principal Secretary to the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Dana Kishore on Tuesday said 52 per cent of the works undertaken for flood control were completed and all the remaining works should be complet-

He said, "In all, 125 waterlogging locations have been identified within the GHMC; problems have been solved permanently in 22 locations, 40 locations should be removed on a war footing basis and suitable measures should be taken without storing water in the rest of the locations as well. To clean the culverts, to remove other utilities at the culverts, they want to plan. I want to everything to be clean by the Disaster Response Force



first week of June.' It is essential to focus on advanced planning ahead of monsoon so that the residents of the city do not face any difficulties or damage due to heavy rains and floods during the monsoon season. The

any emergency," Kishore added.

come and be ready in case of

With a focus on safety, 1304-km-long canals have been put in place to prevent untoward incidents during the monsoon season. "Canal audit activities should be completed on time, people are putting garbage in canals, and public awareness programmes should be made not to throw garbage in canals. It is advised to arrange small garbage bins there and take steps to collect garbage," the Principal Secretary stressed. Officials were asked to conduct monsoon awareness programmes for the public.

Earlier zonal officers briefed the Principal Secretary regarding the preparedness under the monsoon action plan.



#### Black magic material found near KCR's residence

PNS HYDERABAD

Material used for black magic was found near Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrashekhar Rao's residence at Nandi Nagar in Banjara Hills on Tuesday.

Lemóns, voodoo dolls, vermillion and turmeric traces among other things were found a few meters away from the former Chief Minister's house. As the news spread, police reached the spot and the area was cordoned off. Officials photographed the scene.

An investigation was launched into the matter. The police hasn't confirmed

## Traffic restrictions ahead of Ram Navami Shobha Yatra

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad traffic police on Tuesday announced traffic restrictions to be observed during Ram Navami Shobha Yatra on April 17. The restrictions will remain in

place from 11 am to 11:30 pm. In the West zone restrictions will remain in place from 11 am - 4 pm. When the procession starts at Seetarambagh temple, traffic coming from Asif Nagar will not be allowed towards Bhoiguda Kaman and it will be diverted at Mallepally X Road towards Vijaya Nagar Colony or Mehdipatnam, Mallepally X roads Vijay Nagar Colony, Nampally, Mehdipatnam When the procession reaches Friends Cafe, traffic coming from Aghapura and Bhoiguda Kaman bylanes will not be allowed towards Seetharam Bagh and it will be diverted towards Aghapura/Habeeb Nagar, Bhoiguda Kaman, Agapura/

es Bhoiguda Kaman, traffic coming from Darussalam will be diverted at Aghapura towards Ghode-ki-Khabar or New Aghapura, Charkhandil X Road, Nampally Aghapura x roads Ghode-ki-Khabar or New Aghapura Charkhandil X Road

When the procession reaches Jali Hanuman the traffic coming from Puranapool will not allowed towards Puranapool Gandhi Statue and it will be diverted towards Puranapool Bridge either towards Puranapool Darwaza/ Karwan/ Kulsumpura/ 100 feet Road .Puranapool X Roads Puranapool Darwaja, Karwan/ Kulsumpura & 100 feet road.

and Nampally.

When the procession reaches Rani Avanti Bai Statue, Jummerat Bazar, traffic coming from bylanes of Begum Bazaar Chartri will be diverted at labour adda towards Alaska towards Darussalam or Malakunta Labour Adda and Alaska T Junction.

In the East zone, the restriction will remain in place from 3 pm to11 pm; When the procession reaches Bartan Bazaar, the traffic coming from Afzalgunj will not be allowed towards SA Bazaar and diverted towards Central Library, Afzalgunj, Afzalguni T Junction, Central Library and Rangmahal Road; When the procession reaches Putlibowli and proceeds towards Andhra Bank X Roads, the traffic coming from Chaderghat bridge and Rangmahal will not be allowed towards DMHS and diverted at Chaderghat X Roads towards Nimboliadda/ Kachiguda X Road.

When the procession reaches Royal Plaza T Junction (Balaji Tiffin Centre), Ramkoti, the Traffic coming from Tilak Road and King Koti will not be allowed towards Hanuman Tekdi - Hanuman Vyayamshala road and diverted at Boggulkunta X Road towards Ramkote/Abids Bogulkunta X Road and Ramkote.

## **Section 144 in view of LS** nominations: CP Avinash

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Strict vigilance over rowdysheeters and the importance of check posts at strategic locations for inspections were empha-Cyberabad sised by Commissioner of Police Avinash Mahanty, during a review meeting held on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Cyberabad Zonal DCPs, Additional DCPs, ACPs, and other officials,

focused on discussing security arrangements and precautions for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Section 144

Cr.P.C will be imposed at the Lok sabha nomination centres, Malkajgiri office of the District Collector, Medchal Malkajgiri district and the Chevella office of the Returning Officer at office of the Tahsildhar, Rajendranagar mandal, Premavathipet (V), Ranga Reddy district.

This order is effective from 9 am to 6 pm, April 18, 2024, to April 29, 2024, at all Returning Offices (ROs) with-Cyberabad Commissionerate's jurisdiction. Any violation of this order will result in prosecution under Section 144 Cr.PC.

During the meeting, CP Mahanty emphasised the importance of conducting the elections smoothly and in compliance with Election Commission guidelines. He stressed the need to avoid any errors during the electoral

Suggestions were made to establish check posts at strategic locations across Cyberabad and to conduct thorough inspections, particularly focusing on detecting illegal money and liquor distribution.

CP Mahanty gave specific instructions regarding election duties to subordinates, along with the organisation of awareness meetings to train the staff with election rules. Visible policing is advised as a priority.

Officers and staff were advised to have a detailed understanding of election rules and to proactively manage polling centers under their jurisdiction.

#### **OU** organises mega blood donation camp

should be alert and ready at all

times. Fire, Water, GHMC,

Police and other departments

should organise a mock drill in

the last week of May or first

week of June to demonstrate

how to be prepared in case of

floods and to make people

believe that the officials will

PNS HYDERABAD

Osmania University Arts College organised a mega blood donation camp on its premises on Tuesday under the leadership of IPM, Narayanaguda. Students from many colleges partici-pated as NSS volunteers and donated blood.

Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Professor D Ravinder was the chief guest, NSS Regional Director Ramakrishna, Arts College Principal Professor Arjun Rao, IPM Medical Officer Dr Sashidhar and programme officers from other colleges participated.

About 325 units of blood were collected in collaboration with NSS units under Osmania University.

"On behalf of NSS Osmania University, we would like to express our special thanks to all the Principals, Ćollege Programme Officers, students and all who have contributed to the success of this programme," stated NSS Coordinator Professor Savin

## Hyd CP felicitates staff of Women's Safety Wing

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Kothkota Sreenivas Reddy on Tuesday felicitated the staff of Women's Safety Wing along with doctors and public prosecutors for their work during 2023-2024.

For the good work done by the Cyber Crime team of Hyderabad City Police in nabbing the accused located across India, recovering the lost money and facilitating the victims to get refund of the lost and frozen amounts through court orders and for all the technical work in extraction and analysis of data and other good work done in spreading awareness, all officers were rewarded.

Since the inception of the Women Safety Wing during June, 2023, Women Police Stations have effectively worked to help the victims of domestic violence. With the presence of SHE Teams, many red-hand cases were caught which resulted in convictions of 2-10 days along with a penalty.

Bharosa Support Centre



has catered to the needs of the victims of serious cases of violence by providing all kinds of support under one roof like counselling, medical, legal, prosecution, compensation, shelter, rehabilitation etc., to bring the victim to normalcy. AHTU and JB teams have

rescued hundreds of children and facilitated in repatriation.

Reddy visited the SHE at the centre.

Team Bharosa Centre and the Special Child Friendly Court, interacted with the staff and officials and motivated them to increase team mobility, spread the awareness campaign to reach each and every individual and provide a safe and secure environment to the people of the city.

He appreciated legal advisors, doctors and other staff

## Protection of women is the mission of SHE Teams: CP

PNS HYDERABAD

Rachakonda Women Safety Wing, under the auspices of SHE Teams, conducted counseling for eve-teasers at Rachakonda camp office, LB Nagar on Tuesday.

SHE Teams caught 122 (majors-79, minors-43) who were harassing women and young girls in Rachakonda Commissionerate. Counselling was conducted for them in the presence of counsellors and their family members.

Rachakonda CP Dr Tarun Joshi said that there is no way that the police of Rachakonda SHE Teams will let go of the hooligans who harass girls and

women. He said that they are going around bus stands, railway stations, Metro stations, schools, colleges, vegetable mar-kets and public places in mufti and carrying out SHE Team decoy operations. "About 148 complaints were

received from March 16 to 31, said Rachakonda Women Safety Wing DCP T Usha Vishwanath. She said that the investigation has been completed after taking up the inquiry on the complaints. Among the complaints

received, 14 cases were booked on harassment through phones, 36 cases booked through social media apps and 98 cases booked



## SC Collegium approves two permanent judges for HC

PNS HYDERABAD

The Collegium of the Supreme Court has recommended the names of two Additional Judges of the High Court for the Telangana State - Justice Jaggannagari Sreenivasa Rao and Justice Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao as permanent Judges of the High Court on Tuesday.
On February 13, 2024, the

Collegium of the High Court for the Telangana unanimously recommended for appointment of the Additional Judges whose names are set out as permanent Judges of that High Court. The Chief Minister and the Governor of Telangana have conveyed their concur-



rence with the recommenda-

terms Memorandum of Procedure, the Judges of the Supreme Court conversant with the affairs of the High Court for the State of Telangana were consulted with a view to ascertain the suitability of the above Additional Judges for being appointed as permanent

Judges. A Committee of two Judges of the Supreme Court constituted by the Chief Justice of India in terms of the Resolution on October 26, 2017 of the Supreme Court Collegium has assessed the judgments of the Additional Judges. The Committee has rated the quality of their judgments as "good".

With a view to assess the merit and suitability of the recommended Additional Judges for appointment as permanent Judges, the Collegium considered them as fit and suitable and appointed them as permanent Judges of the High Court against the existing vacancies.

## 2 held for investment fraud involving Rs 86.75 lakh

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police on Tuesday arrested two persons, including a lady for their involvement in an investment fraud worth Rs 86,75,500.

The accused were identified as Malikireddy Chandra Sekhara Reddy (51), Managing Director of Sandstone Infra India Pvt. Ltd, and a resident of Kondapur; Yeruva Srilaxmi (44), the wife of Chandra Shekhar and director of the Sandstone Infra India Pvt. Ltd. The firm was also booked in this case.

In their complaint, Mamidi Gnaneshwar and six others stated that the couple made false promises of high returns for investment in open plots at "Spring City Phase-I" and

"Spring City Phase-II" projects at Sultanpur village, Ameenpur Sangareddy district. An investigation into the matter revealed that the accused cheated over 25 people and took deposits from them. The couple did not complete the projects nor did they return the money.

The accused were produced before a court which sent them to remand. The entire investigation has been conducted by A Ram Reddy, ACP, EOW Team-VII, CCS, DD, Hvderabad and his team under the direct supervision of N Swetha, DCP, DD, Hyderabad and I/C Addl. CP Crimes and SIT and K.Srinivas Reddy, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad.

#### **SCORCHING HEAT**

## 'Reduced occupancy' prompts TSRTC to run fewer buses

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to reduce city bus services in Greater Hyderabad between 12 noon and 4 pm from Tuesday in view of the scorching heat.

As the occupancy rate has come down during the peak summer heat hours, the TSRTC authorities decided to ply fewer buses. TSRTC's Greater Hyderabad Zone Executive Director V Venkateshwarlu said the decision was taken in view of the drop in number of passengers. The state-owned transport body also cited the alert issued



by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to people to be cautious in view of the heat wave conditions. The municipal authorities have advised people not to go out unless inevitable.

The TSRTC officials said

additional services will be operated from 5 am and after

being extended until midnight to ensure continuous bus availability for public convenience. The public transport operator has not clarified on the number of services to be cut down during day time. The TSRTC city region has 2,550 buses and the authorities may not operate 50 per cent of them during peak summer heat hours.

Parts of Telangana are experiencing intense heat wave conditions. In Hyderabad, the mercury soared past the 40-degree Celsius mark on

## **Foreign national deported** for drug peddling in city

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (HNEW) on Tuesday deported a Moroccan national for engaging in drug peddling and ille-

gal stay in the country.
The accused was identified as Achbili Amine (27), a resident of Marocaine, Kingdom of Morocco. Amine's parents hail from Morocco but they migrated to Saudi Arabia for livelihood. The deportee completed his schooling at Taif, Saudi Arabia.

After that, he came to Hyderabad on a student visa which was valid till 2018. Amine's passport was valid upto 2021. He got admission in University of Foreign Relations Office (UFRO), Osmania University and joined Post Graduate College, Secunderabad for Bachelor of

Computer Application (BCA)

Since he indulged in illegal activities, he was very irregular to the college. The deportee used to attend parties and pubs in the city and got addicted to ganja consumption. He befriended a drug peddler, Saeed Ali Mohammad Al Kafri a Palestinian refugee and a local lady in Hyderabad.

Based on a tip off, the HNEW nabbed Al Kafri and a supplier identified as Romy Bharat Kalyani and seized 20 Ecstasy pills, MDMA, 200 gram loose ganja, one laptop, three mobile phones and OCB paper.

The two accused were arrested by Punjagutta police and sent to judicial custody. After the authorities learnt that Amine was overstaying, he was placed in the detention Centre

## DCA raids unlicenced medical shops, seizes medicines worth Rs 1,30,000

PNS HYDERABAD

Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, conducted raids at two separate locations, uncovering pharmacies operating without drug licences. The officials seized medicines worth Rs 1,30,000 along with the seizure of Type 2 Diabetes treating tablets for overpricing.

DCA Officials raided Sri Sai Super Speciality Dental Hospital in Wanaparthy on Monday, where Dentist M Venkata Suresh was found operating a pharmacy within the hospital without a drug licence. The raid uncovered a stock of medicines worth Rs 80,000 considered for sale. The officials said samples were collected for analysis and further investiga-



Dr V Balanaganjan, Assistant Director, Shameerpet, Dr B Lakshminarayana, Drugs Inspector, Uppal and G.Indira Priyadarshini, Drugs Inspector, Habsiguda, seen with

tion is underway. On the same day, DCA offi-

cials raided NAJM Pharmacy at Noor Khan Bazaar, Charminar, Hyderabad. Mir Hussain Hyder Razvi was operating a medical shop without a valid drug licence. The raid seized 36 varieties of medicines, including habit-forming drugs like

Alprazolam tablets and Codeine syrups, worth totaling Rs 50,000. The officials said, samples were collected and appropriate action

will be taken as per the law.
DCA officials advised the public to avoid purchasing medicines from unlicenced medical shops. Doing so poses signifi-cant risks to public health, as

regulation. It is advisable to purchase medicines exclusively from licenced medical shops. These legal establishments display their drug licences issued by the Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, confirming transparency and safety for consumers. Control

Drug Administration officials also seized type 2 diabetes treating tablets "Tenebetic-20" at Kothapet village in Uppal man-

The product was found to be overpriced compared to the ceiling prices set by the Central Government Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013. Further investigation will be conducted and necessary action will be taken against the violators

## **Call to ensure fire safety** in trains during summer

PNS HYDERABAD

R Dhananjayulu, Additional General Manager, South Central Railway, conducted a review meeting on safety of train operations and measures to be taken in view of summer season at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad on

Tuesday. He advised the officials to strictly observe all precautionary measures during summer season to avoid fire incidents in railway premises and trains. He informed the officials to carry out regular fire safety audits mainly on trains, stations, workshops and office

buildings. The officials were advised to conduct frequent checks to review maintenance of fire safety equipment like smoke detectors and fire alarm sys-

tem at all the railway establishments. "All the premises should be provided with water hydrants and other fire extinguisher equipment," he added.

South Central Railway has initiated several measures to ensure safety and comfort of passengers during summer season. In this regard,

arrangements have been made for water coolers and drinking water facilities at all stations and in trains. The Additional General Manager advised the officials to continue the same efforts

and monitor the water coolers and water vending machines on a daily basis. Any defects found in the water machines should be repaired immediately without delay. He also conducted a detailed review on safety of train operations in the

## Neutral voters bound to see Modi as ultimate beneficiary!

remain muces even minutes remain indecisive ahead of reaching the polling booth to cast their votes! It is because they hope that the candidate to whom they cast their vote would win with their support. In other words, they want to be a deciding factor in the election.

In an election in which clashing titans command equal public support in a peculiar political situation, neutral voters may influence the outcome of the contest. Even most experienced politicians would get confused and bite dust sometimes because of their inability to assess the situation on the ground. Ultimately, the neutral votes will succeed in including the outcome.

The situation, in which neutral voters play a vital role in candidates emerging victorious, is a rare phe-

Where is such a peculiar political situa-**POINT** tion prevailing? Which person /party will emerge victorious with unprecedented support offered by both rivals at the State level? Who will be the ultimate beneficiary of the electoral fight? How can it be possible for one party to take advantage of a sit-uation in which rival parties encounter fierce contest?

Such a situation is witnessed in Andhra Pradesh. Every political party has its own agenda in the ensuing general elections, particularly for Lok Sabha. The ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on one side and the principal opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on the other are decision-making that leads to at loggerheads. The ruling

The Congress, BJP's arch-rival party at the national level, is considered to be not at all a force in AP and BJP is fighting elections against Jagan by aligning itself with TDP and JSP. 'A friend in need is a friend indeed will be the way of approach for Jagan that can be applied to both the BJP and Congress.

party is going it alone in the elections whereas the opposition has the advantage of forming an electoral alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP). The BJP has been enjoying the status of ruling party at the national level for a decade and it is playing the role of junior partner to the TDP in AP. The BJP under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is striving to

score a hattrick and thus dealing a deadly blow to the Congress party. The Congress party has been making all-out efforts to make its presence felt in the AP Assembly.

Now coming back to the point of one party i.e. BJP's plan of action to get maximum benefit from a State like Andhra Pradesh where its presence is considered minimum. Earlier, the BJP benefited from the alliance with TDP



Senior Journalist

in erstwhile undivided AP on two occasions in two elections held in 1999 and 2014. The BJP got 7 Lok Sabha seats from AP and 12 Assembly seats in 1999 which is the biggest ever tally in its history as far as AP is concerned. The party won two LS and four Assembly seats in residual AP in 2014 in

occasions. It is pinning its hopes on the alliance this time and also on getting a good number of seats this time also. Now in 2024, the BJP is contesting 10 Assembly and six LS seats and it expecting good The TDP-led alliance that

comprises BJP and JSP also

would be a strength indeed for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) if the threeparty combine wins the electoral race. Surprisingly, it would benefit the same BJP in the event of YSRCP retaining power in the State. If YSRCP emerged victorious, its leader and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy may extend outside support to the BJP at the Centre helping the latter to form government at the national level. Jagan appears to be caught in a tangled web due to cases of financial offences

money laundering and disproportionate assets (DA) cases. No other leader in the entire country who is a sitting Chief Minister is facing such cases with serious possible repercussions. So, Jagan needs support from the Union government to safeguard himself from such serious cases of punishable offences.

In case of Congress coming to power at the Centre with the help of its alliance partners, Jagan will be compelled to become Congress' friend for

the same purpose.

Any political party which will come to power at the Centre may be compelled to have a flexible approach towards Jagan as it needs his support. The former chief minister of undivided AP N Chandrababu Naidu enjoyed political proximity with national leaders like the then

the deputy prime minister LK Advani because of his party's unprecedented number of 29 members in Lok Sabha.

Despite crossing swords even with BJP's alliance partners, Jagan's final possible approach towards the saffron party will be based on his party's strength in Lok Sabha.

The Congress, BJP's archrival party at the national level, is considered to be not at all a force in AP and BJP is fighting elections against Jagan by aligning itself with TDP and JSP. A friend in need is a friend indeed will be the way of approach for Jagan that can be applied to both the BJP and

In the same way, neutral voters may be in for a shock when they are likely to realise that whomever they vote for would become a friend of

# BJP cheating people with fresh set of false promsies

PNS HYDERABAD

Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday said that the Congress party would accomplish the 'Mission Telangana— 15' by winning at least 15 out of 17 Lok Sabha seats in the

Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Congress MLA N Padmavathi and Nalgonda candidate Raghuveer Reddy, participated in election campaign in Kodad and Huzurnagar segments under Nalgonda Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday. He was addressing a series of party meetings in Kodad and Huzurnagar and later addressed a large public meet-

ing in Miryalguda. Addressing the meetings, he said that the people would reject the BJP and BRS as both parties had betrayed the interests of Telangana. While the BRS lost its relevance in



Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at an election meeting in Miryalaguda on Tuesday

Telangana, the BJP lacked moral right to seek votes in the

He accused the BJP of making another attempt to cheat the common people with a fresh set of 'jumlas' (scams) in the Lok Sabha elections. He said the BJP government at the Centre, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had failed to deliver on its promises in the last two terms. This time, too, the BJP is trying to cheat the people by making fresh promises. However, he said that the BJP cannot be trusted, and its manifesto was nothing but another 'jumla patra' that cannot be trusted.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that BJP's national manifesto had nothing to offer to the common people as it is full of lies and deception. He said that the BJP's manifesto lacked the mention of unemployment which is at its peak across the country. He said PM Modi came to power in 2014 on the promise of giving two crore jobs every year. By

now, at least 18-20 crore jobs must have been created. However, about 15-16 crores jobs, including 2 lakh jobs from the Public Sector Units, were lost under Modi's regime. Shockingly, he said BJP's manifesto has no mention of unemployment. In contrast, he said the Congress party, in its 'Nyay Patra', has promised to create crores of jobs besides filling 30 lakh vacancies in various departments of the Central Government.

## Telangana will be safe only in hands of KCR: Jagadish Reddy

PNS DEVARAKONDA

Former Minister G Jagadish Reddy has felt that the farmers and people of Telangana will be safe only in the hands of former chief minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) K Chandrashekar Rao. He exhorted the BRS rank and file to undertake a door-to-door campaign and explain to people how the Congress party betrayed the people by making false promises.

He was addressing the BRS activist's preparatory meeting for the Lok Sabha elections. Lok Sabha candidate Krishna Reddy former MLA B Bikshamaiah Goud ex-MLA K Bhupal Reddy and others were present.

In the Devarakonda Assembly segment, the BRS leaders migrated to other parties but the people are sailing with the party.

Ever since the Congress regime came to power in Telangana, the Krishna River water management has been



Former minister G Jagadish Reddy speaking at BRS workers meeting in Devarakonda on Tuesday

given to the Centre. When KCR objected to it at the Nalgonda public meeting, the Congress moved a resolution in the Assembly not to entrust the Krishna River water to the

Moved by the spate of farmer suicides and noticing withered standing crops, KCR demanded a compensation of Rs 25,000 per acre to the affected farmers. He also sought the Cong regime to give

Rs 500 as a bonus per quintal. When KCR went to Karimnagar to inspect the damaged crops, the Congress government released water from Kaleshwaram. Though there is water for irrigation in the Nagarjunasagar project, the state government did not bother to release the same.

Jagadish Reddy attributed the "sorry state of affairs" in the agricultural sector in Telangana to the inefficiency of the government. He quoted the example of how KCR saved standing crops in three lakh acres when such a drought-like situation arose in Telangana in the past.

KCR by foisting false cases, he asserted.

The Congress had the record of tapping the phones of the protagonists of the Telangana movement, he said, claiming that his phone was also tapped then. First, action should be taken against TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu before taking action against anyone in the phone tapping case. In fact, was there any complaint stating that their phones were under surveillance? he questioned.

District Komatireddy Venkat Reddy alleged in the past that A Revanth Reddy bought the TPCC president post by paying Rs 25 crore, but now he was praising the Chief Minister to save his post.

He accused the Congress government of mobilising Rs 100 crore from rice millers to pay to Congress bosses in Delhi. The interest of the farmers was thrown to the winds, he said, charging the government with not procuring paddy.

The state government promised an unemployment allowance of Rs 4,000 a month, but evading to fulfil the promise, he alleged. The Congress promised a Rs 5 lakh bank guarantee card to students under YuvaVikasam, but failed to deliver on its

## Revanth's 'revenge politics' stirs up tension in BRS camp

SNCN ACHARYIII II ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister and TPCC President A Revanth Reddy's comments over BRS MLC K Kavitha's arrest and revenge politics are creating a stir in the BRS ranks. With CM Revanth's comments the BRS cadre is disturbed over what will happen after the Lok Sabha elections. When asked about the arrest of BRS MLC K Kavitha, the daughter of former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, CM Revanth said no one in Telangana is discussing it. "If KCR was arrested by the BJP during the Assembly elections there could have been little sympathy for him.. At present investigation is going on about phone-tapping, Kaleshwaram ed that action will be taken

irrigation project and on some more issues. In these cases, KCR was the central point. The investigation reports appearing in the media have damaged the image of KCR

and the BRS. The political circles feel that the arrest of KCR may be certain in these cases. But not taking any action on KCR before Lok Śabha elections was because there will be impact on politics. That means after the Lok Sabha elections CM Revanth may concentrate on KCR, the BRS circles feel. CM Revanth's comments, "In fact, I have not yet started taking revange. I don't target cats, but only lions," are strengthening the doubts of BRS circles. The BRS leaders feel that CM Revanth Reddy indirectly hintagainst KCR after the Lok Sabha elections.

It may be recalled that the BRS government headed by KCR sent Revanth Reddy to jail in vote for note case. Now Revanth Reddy got an opportunity to take such action on KCR as he became the CM. CM Revanth thought if any action is taken hastily against KCR, people may think that it was political revenge. CM Revanth wants to take action on KCR after getting full proof and evidence over the involvement of KCR in these issues. CM Revanth Reddy will get full support from the Central government headed by the BJP if any action is taken on KCR in these cases. The BJP leadership is also very serious over the phone-tapping issue.

# commits suicide in RGUKT-Basar

A student of Rajiv Gandhi dent in the Pre-University

Basar com-mitted suicide on Tuesday.

B Arvind (17) allegedly hanged himself in the hostel on the

campus of RGUKT, also known as IIIT Basar. Police shifted the body to the Government Hospital at Nirmal town for post-

He came from from Siddipet district. He was a stu-



examina-There were series of student

suicides in the RGUKT in recent years.

In February, a 17-year-old female student ended her life in the hostel as she was unable to digest the death of a relative.

## Yet another student | 1.30 lakh tons of paddy procured in 15 days

PNS NIZAMABAD

Paddy procurement has been stepped up in the district. A total of 1.30 lakh tonnes of paddy was procured in the past

However, in Bodhan area most of the paddy procurement was carried out by private traders as very few farmers brought paddy to the procurement cen-

In Armoor division, 60-70 per cent of the total paddy has been

harvested. Most of the farmers are taking the produce to procurement centres.

The government officials are confident of completing the paddy procurement targets. The total paddy yield in the

lakh tonnes. Not less than 7 lakh tonnes is expected to be sold to private traders.

To procure the balance of 4.70 lakh tonnes the district

machinery has set up 466 paddy procurement centres. Of the total paddy produced, 65-70 per cent is of the fine variety, while the rest of the paddy would be coarse

In Bodhan area, where the paddy was harvested first, most of the paddy produced was fine variety. The rice millers of Hyderabad and Karnataka regions have procured paddy at Rs 2100

or Rs 2200 a quintal. The traders procured a quintal at the above price with a discount of 4.5 kg of paddy per quintal. Many preferred discounting of paddy rather than incurring expenditure on drying of paddy and paying wages to the agriculture

workers. In Nizamabad and Armoor divisions, the harvesting of coarse variety commenced. The coarse variety is going to be brought to the government procurement

## Judson urges CM to wind up Amarraja Batteries unit

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Founder-president Committee to Safeguard Telangana State Resources Bakka Judson, along with residents of Divitipalle, appealed to the Collector Ravi Gugulothu to cancel the licence to the highly polluting Amarraja Batteries Company project and vowed to continue his fight against the company till its closure.

He said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would be held squarely responsible if anything untoward happened to anyone during the agitation against the company.
On Tuesday, a meeting was

held with Collector with participation of residents of Divitipalli on the polluting

The local villagers told the Collector that they had waged several agitations against the company, sanctioned by former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao govern-However, the Revanthheaded Congress regime is pursuing the KCR policies, he ANDHRA

The company will release 65 kinds of toxic gases into atmosphere and pollute ground water by releasing 170 kinds of poisonous gases. People living in a radius of at least 100 km from the company would be exposed to radiation, he said.

Quoting the government as saying, he stated that the establishment of the compa-ny would go ahead as planned unmindful of any protests against its establishment. During the movement for Telangana fought for water, funds and postings several students sacrificed their lives, he said, indicating that he would continued to

# Naidu stands for deceit: Jagan Urges voters to shun 'corrupt forces'

PNS BHIMAVARAM

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy interacted with the public, urging them to consider the welfare schemes of the State for the next five years and to prevent corrupt forces from gaining power.

Addressing a public meeting in Bhimavaram as part of his 'Memantha Siddham Yatra' on Tuesday, Jagan remarked, "This election is a choice between the support for the underprivileged under your Chief Minister and the corrupt practices associated with Chandrababu Naidu. Chandrababu Naidu seems to be perturbed even at the mention of my name, indicating his discomfort with questions regarding his own governance and achievements."

Reflecting on his rival, Jagan continued,

'When Chandrababu Naidu's name arises, it's not his accomplishments that come to



al, and dishonesty."

Turning his attention to JSP Chief Pawan Kalyan, Chief Minister Jagan criticized his shifting allegiances and personal choices. "Pawan Kalyan, you may make vows of commind, but rather notions of deceit, betray- mitment, but your actions speak different-

iour not only undermines commitments but sets a poor example for society," remarked the Chief Minister.

Drawing a comparison between his governance and that of his predecessors, Jagan emphasised, "While Chandrababu Naidu resorted to deceit and manipulation, my administration has prioritised welfare initiatives for all sections of society. Despite facing opposition from various quarters, our government has consistently delivered on its

Highlighting the achievements of the YSRCP government, Chief Minister Jagan underscored initiatives such as RBKs, village clinics, educational reforms, and pension schemes for the elderly. He further noted the substantial financial support provided direct-

ly to women beneficiaries. Asserting the readiness of his administrationise records before casting their ballots.

ly. Your tendency to change affiliations tion for the upcoming electoral battle, Jagan resembles trading in vehicles. Such behavrallied the support of the people. "I am not alone in this endeavour; every household is a part of the YSRCP movement. Despite attempts by certain sections of the media to mislead the public with baseless accusations, our track record speaks for itself."

Refuting claims of development under previous regimes, Chief Minister Jagan challenged the validity of Chandrababu Naidu's promises, citing unfulfilled commitments such as hyperloop projects and the attraction of major corporations to the state.

"In 2014, Chandrababu Naidu made grandiose pledges alongside his allies, none of which materialized. The people remember the broken promises of farm loan waivers and employment assurances. Now, these same parties are resurrecting similar assurances under new banners," remarked Chief Minister Jagan, urging voters to scruHYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | APRIL 17, 2024

#### Three workers hurt in explosion at firecracker factory in Indore

hree workers sustained burn injuries in an explosion at a firecracker factory in a forest area of Madhya Pradesh's Indore district on Tuesday afternoon, police said. As per preliminary information, the explosion occurred when the workers were making 'sutli' bombs in a shed-like structure at the factory, about 5 km from Amba Chandan village, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Umakant Choudhary said. The trio have been

admitted to Choithram Hospital in Indore, he said. One of the injured labourers is from Indore, while the others were from Yavatmal district in neighbouring Maharashtra, the official said Officials from the police and local administration have reached the spot and started a probe, he said, adding that the cause for the explosion is yet to be ascertained. The DSP said the initial investigation has revealed that the factory was run by one Shakir Khan, a resident of Rau town adjacent to Indore



#### **SC** to WB Governor : Appoint VCs from list sent by Mamata govt

he Supreme Court on Tuesday directed West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose, who is also the chancellor of state-run universities, to appoint six suitable persons as vicechancellors from a list of candidates provided by the state government Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the chancellor, apprised the top court that he has approved six names from the list sent by the Mamata Banerjee government.

The ruling TMC dispensation has a running feud with Bose over how the state's universities should be run. "Let these six be appointed immediately," said the bench comprising justices Surya Kant and K V Vishwanathan. It also asked the state government to send a fresh list of suitable candidates to the office of the chancellor, who may decide to appoint some more VCs from among them. The bench said it may consider setting up a search committee later for short-listing candidates



#### Four get life term for killing constable in Central Delhi

ore than 11 years after a Delhi Police constable was fatally stabbed in front of a brothel in Central Delhi's G B Road, a court here has sentenced four convicts to life Imprisonment for his murder, saying the offence was "heinous, diabolical and barbaric". Additional Sessions Judge Virender Kumar Kharta was hearing the arguments on sentencing against the four persons -- Ashish Bahuguna alias Ashu, Suraj, Manoj and

Aakash -- convicted under various Indian Penal Code offences, including murder and attempt to commit murder. According to the prosecution, the four accused had fatally stabbed constable Bijender besides causing stab injuries to two people -- Irshad and constable Sandeep -- on the intervening night of September 10 and 11, 2012. "Offences committed by the convicts are heinous, diabolical and barbaric. The trauma of the family members of deceased can be understood," the court said



## Not correct to take steps that can overlap legal and judicial process

PNS NEW DELHI

Amid the Opposition charge of being targeted by central probe agencies in the poll season, the Election Commission on Tuesday said it is committed to protecting level playing field but asserted that it is not correct to take any step that can overlap the legal and judicial

Several political parties from the INDIA bloc had approached the poll panel seeking its intervention in the alleged misuse of probe agencies by the government to target their leaders over graft.

Following the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam, the opposition parties had mounted renewed attack on the government for its alleged bid to silence their leaders ahead of parliamentary

In a statement, the EC said

it was guided by constitutional wisdom when presented with "live situations" involving political persons which have been under active consideration and orders of the courts based on criminal investiga-

"While the Commission remained unwaveringly committed to protection of level playing field and campaign entitlement of political parties and candidates, it has not found it correct to take any step that could overlap or overrun the legal judicial process," it

The poll panel said though it is not obliged to do so, it has put in public domain, for the first time, its enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during first month of its operation, along with details of action taken.

The EC said its move will help address and stop "misgivings and insinuations" coming from certain quarters, "however small or limited".

NIRVACHAN SADAN भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ELECTION COMMISSION

During the one-month period of the model code, 16 delegations from seven political parties met the commission to lodge their complaints on alleged violations of poll code and related matters.

Many delegations met its chief electoral officers at the

Nearly 200 complaints have been filed by various political parties and candidates at the level of EC and across states. Of these, action has been taken in 169 cases, it pointed out.

The total number of complaints received from the BJP were 51, out of which action has been taken in 38 cases.

action taken in 51 cases. Complaints received from other parties were 90, out of which action has been taken in 80 cases, the EC added.

Similarly, 59 complaints were

lodged by the Congress, with

The poll code came into force on March 16 with the announcement of the Lok Sabha election schedule.

With a month completed

since the model code came into effect, the EC said it is "broadly satisfied" with the compliance of the code by political parties. The campaign by various parties and candidates has remained "largely clutter free", it added.

At the same time, the commission said it has decided to keep under strict watch some disturbing trends and to keep special track of certain deviant candidates, leaders, and practices more than ever before.

The EC also underlined that while enforcing the model code, it has been guided by its mandated responsibility, legal premises, institutional wisdom, equality, and transparency in dealings and irrespective of status and influence of persons concerned and irrespective of political affiliations.

The poll panel also asserted that all political parties have been treated at par and time given to all even at short notice and their grievances heard

## Modi has given 'guarantee' to bring UCC: Amit Shah

PNS KOTDWAR (UTTARAKHAND)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a "guarantee" to bring uniform civil code in the country on the same lines as Uttarakhand, Union Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Addressing an election rally here, Shah said right from the inception of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, its leaders had made a promise that there would be no law based on religion in this country and that there would be a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

"For the first time in the country, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami has introduced UCC in the state. Modi has given a guarantee in our 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) to introduce UCC in the whole country on the same lines," the BJP leader said.

He also attacked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for questioning the "relevance" of Kashmir issue for other

"Congress national president Kharge says what do the people of Uttarakhand and

Rajasthan have to do with Kashmir.

"Kharge does not know that the soldiers of Garhwal shed maximum blood to save Kashmir," Shah said at the poll rally here in favour of BJP candidate for Pauri Garhwal Lok Sabha seat Anil Baluni.

He said during Congress-led UPA anyone would come from Pakistan and return after setting off explosions but after Narendra Modi took over, Pakistan got a fitting retaliation for its dastardly attacks in Uri and Pulwama through surgical and air strikes which eliminated terrorists on their turf.

Shah also accused the Congress of using "abusive words" against former CDS Bipin Rawat, saying the opposition party's culture allowed it to insult a brave warrior like

He also dismissed Kharge's claim that a third term for Modi as PM would end reservation in the country.

"Kharge says reservation would go away if Modi becomes PM for a third time. Modi ji is the biggest supporter of reservation. We would neither withdraw reservation nor let anyone do it," Shah

### FADNAVIS TAKES DIG AT INDIA BLOC

#### In Rahul Gandhi's train, every ally thinks it's the engine

PNS ■ SOLAPUR

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of a train to take a dig at the opposition INDIA bloc, saying that in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's train, every ally considers itself to be the engine. He also hailed Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, calling him the "powerful engine of development" followed by the coaches of allies, including the Shiv Sena, NCP, RPI (Athawale) and other region-Fadnavis, who was cam-

paigning for BJP candidates Ram Satpute and Ranjit Naik-Nimbalkar, said persons from all castes and religions have seats in the Mahayuti's train.

Satpute and Nimbalkar filed their nominations from the Solapur and Madha Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the engine of our

development. Modiji is a powerful engine, followed by other coaches comprising Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, Ajit Pawar's NCP, Ramdas Athawale's RPI and other regional parties. Every person from every caste and religion has a seat onboard Mahayuti's train," Fadnavis



The 'Mahayuti' (grand alliance) comprises the ruling BJP, Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and the Ajit Pawar-headed Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Targeting the INDIA bloc, the BJP leader said, "On the other side, there is Rahul Gandhi's train, of which NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, TMC's Mamata Banerjee and DMK chief M K Stalin think they are the

engine."
PM Modi is the only one who works for the country's progress, he said.

This year's election is about making Narendra Modi the Prime Minister for the third time," Fadnavis said.

#### Cong 'expert' in misleading public: Sitharaman

**PNS** ■ JAIPUR

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Tuesday targeted the Congress, saying it is an "expert" in misleading the public by making promises just for the sake of elections and forgetting them after taking votes.

"The Congress party is an expert in making promises just for the sake of elections, misleading the public, taking votes and then forgetting about it," Sitharaman told reporters at a

She also hit out at the previous Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan over restoring the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees.

She said, "The previous Congress government in the state made a wrong and impossible promise and tried to implement it even though its own party people had told it not to do so." She said the Congress made the same promise in the Himachal Pradesh elections and won too.

After its implementation here, Rajasthan's former chief minister said the money that went to the central pool through the National Pension

## Farmers disillusioned with political parties:Rakesh Tikait

Asserting that farmers are disillusioned with all political par-Rakesh Tikait on Tuesday said people should follow their conscience by voting for the right candidates in the Lok Sabha

Refusing to extend open support to any political party, Tikait said he won't even tell his wife whom to vote for when the model code of conduct is in place but those who know him already know which party or candidate is good for farmers.

In an exclusive interaction, Tikait, one of the key faces of the 2020-21 farmers' protest against the now-scrapped three agri laws, also claimed that peo-

An Indian Coast Guard ship

ing boat, which had encoun-

Karwar in Karnataka, officials

referring to 40 per cent reduced

deaths due to the disease

achieved in some high-income

countries (HICs). "However, we

can't ignore how many patients

are being systematically left

behind," said Coles.

said. ICG Ship Savitribai Phule had swiftly

responded to a distress call from Indian

on Tuesday rescued a fish-

tered engine failure nearly

215 nautical miles from

PNS NEW DELHI



but the party may still win as he alleged manipulation in the

He claimed that today's BJP is no more just a political party and it has become a front for rich industrialists who are out to grab farmers' lands.

Farmers ka moh-bhang ho gaya hai, lekin wo hataash nahin hain (Farmers are disillusioned but they have not lost

**Coast Guard ship rescues stranded fishing boat** 

hope).
"They'll cast their votes and come back to join the protest," he said when asked whether ty have become disillusioned with all parties including BJP, Congress, SP, BSP and RLD. The Bharatiya Kisan Union

(BKU) leader said the farmers can vote for anyone as per their conscience but they must stay with the movement.

"NOTA (None of the above) should not be pressed. Only those press the NOTA button who have lost any hope," Tikait said. Asked what would be his advice for farmers and his community, the prominent Jat leader said, "We have told people to vote as per their con-

boat amid adverse sea conditions, they said.

The ship successfully rescued 'Rosary', which

had encountered engine failure approximately

215 nautical miles from Karwar the Defence

Ministry said in a statement. "Upon its arrival, the boarding team of the ICG ship made

efforts to fix the seized engine, before the boat

was rendered immobile," it said. "The fishing

the help of Coast Guard District Headquarters

(Karnataka), in collaboration with the fisheries

boat was, then, towed towards Karwar with

department," the statement said.

## 'Accused opened fire outside Salman Khan's house in bid to kill him'

PNS MUMBAI

The Mumbai police's crime branch on Tuesday submitted to a local court that the two arrested accused opened fire outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's house here "in an attempt to kill him".

The accused, Vicky Gupta (24) and Sagar Pal (21), both

residents of Bihar, were on the run after the firing incident outside Khan's house at Galaxy Apartment in Bandra area here early Sunday morning.

They apprehended late Monday night from Mata No Madh village in Gujarat's Kutch district and later brought to Mumbai.

As per the police, Gupta was riding the motorcycle at the time of the incident and Pal, who was riding pillion, had fired shots at the actor's house.

The duo was produced on Tuesday before a magistrate's court here.

The police sought their custody for 14 days on the ground that custodial interrogation was required to unearth the

conspiracy and to identify the mastermind behind the inci-

Additional chief metropolitan magistrate L S Paden remanded the two accused in police custody till April 25. The crime branch in its

remand note submitted to the court said the duo had opened fire outside Khan's residence with an intention to kill him.

> accused opened fire outside Salman Khan's house in an attempt to kill Custodial interro-

gation is required to identify the mastermind and to also ascertain the motive," the note said.

The police said a preliminary probe has established that the duo "played an active role in the alleged offence".

During preliminary questioning, the two arrested accused accepted that they had carried

out the firing, the police said.
"Custody of the accused is required to probe if the accused had plans to attack anyone else other than Salman Khan," the police said in their remand

#### Fishing Boat (IFB) 'Rosary' on April 13, and, Scheme should be returned. soon, established communication with the

**WORLD'S MOST COMMON CARCINOGENIC DISEASE** 

## 'Breast cancer may cause a million deaths a year'

PNS NEW DELHI

Breast cancer is now the world's most common carcinogenic disease with the ailment likely to cause a million deaths a year by 2040, according to a new Lancet

Commission on breast cancer. Around 7.8 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the last five years until 2020 and about 685,000 women died from the disease the same year, it said.

Further, in 2020, women around the world on average had a 1 in 12 risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer before turning 75 years old, and this incidence is rising, researchers found. They estimated that cases

increase from 2.3 million in 2020 to more than 3 million by 2040, with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) being "disproportionately affected". By 2040, deaths due to the

disease will be a million a year, the team added. "This is neither acceptable nor inevitable as action now can prevent many of these future can-

cers," the authors wrote. Knowledge gaps, such as unknown numbers of women with metastatic breast cancer in which the cancer spreads to

other parts, continue to prevent effective action, they said. The scale of suffering associated with breast cancer, along



with other costs, are not wellmeasured, with the society and policymakers only seeing the tip of an iceberg," the authors of the commission said.

"Recent improvements in breast cancer survival represent a great success of modern medicine," said the commission's

data, and integrates patient voices to shed light on a large unseen burden, according to the authors. It points to "glaring inequities" and suffering from symptoms, despair and financial burden due to breast cancer, which are often "hidden and inadequately addressed". Laying out recommendations lead author, Charlotte Coles, University of Cambridge, UK,

for tackling these challenges in breast cancer, the commission suggested better communication between patients and health professionals as a crucial intervention that could improve quality of life, body image, and adherence to therapy, and positively impact survival.

previous evidence, presents new

## 'India aims to achieve debrisfree space missions by 2030'

**PNS** ■ BENGALURU

ISRO Chairman S Somanath on Tuesday announced that India aims to achieve debrisfree space missions by 2030.

Addressing the 42nd Interagency Space Debris Agency Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meet here, he said ISRO has a very clearly laid out plan as far as space exploration and space utilisation are concerned for the coming days.

"It is one of the intent or initiative of India to ensure that debris-free space missions are conducted so as to ensure the sustainability of space. I would



like to make this initiative a declaration today, possibly this can be discussed and debated in the coming days,' Somanath, also Secretary in the Department of Space, said.

This initiative aims to achieve debris-free space mis-

sions by all Indian space actors, governmental and non-governmental, by 2030. India also encourages all state space actors to follow this initiative for long-term sustainability of outer space," he said. "Currently, we have 54 spacecraft in orbit, plus there are non-functional objects." "We have been taking very

careful action wherever it is possible to dispose of or remove the space objects from its active role once it is over to deorbit and bringing them to a safe location has been one of the important topics that we have been taking action all throughout," he said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Shower of blessings**

For the first time in a decade, IMD predicts above-normal rainfall across the nation

he Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has marked a significant milestone by releasing its long-term forecast. For the first time in a decade, the IMD has predicted above-average rainfall across almost the entire expanse of the country. This forecast carries profound implications for various sectors, ranging from agriculture to water resource management and beyond. Policymakers and farmers will welcome this news, although ordinary individuals may find themselves contending with a more pronounced monsoon season than usual. It would indeed be a sigh of relief for all farmers. The agricultural sector, which forms the backbone of India's economy, is heavily reliant on timely and adequate rainfall. Adequate precipitation is essential for the cultivation of crops and the sustenance of agricultural activities. With an anticipated surplus in rainfall, farmers can expect better soil moisture levels, leading to improved crop yields. Additionally, the forecast offers them an opportunity to plan their cropping patterns and



maximise agricultural output. Besides, India's water resources are intricately linked to the monsoon patterns. Above-normal rainfall augurs well for the replenishment of reservoirs, lakes and groundwater aquifers. It provides the much-needed boost to water levels, especially in regions grappling with water scarcity. Adequate rainfall can alleviate the stress on water resources, ensuring better availability for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes. A bountiful monsoon also facilitates the generation of hydroelectric power, thus contributing to the energy sector.

However, it may be too early to celebrate a normal or above-normal monsoon. Weather forecasts are prob-

abilistic in nature; even a good monsoon across the country is a rare occurrence. While above-normal rainfall brings several benefits, it also presents certain challenges. Excessive precipitation can lead to flooding, particularly in low-lying areas and regions prone to inundation. Flooding not only causes damage to property and infrastructure but also poses risks to human life. Therefore, authorities must undertake pre-emptive measures such as strengthening infrastructure, improving drainage systems and implementing effective flood management strategies. Heavy rainfall increases the risk of soil erosion and landslides, particularly in hilly terrains. Adequate soil conservation measures and afforestation efforts are essential to mitigate these risks and safeguard vulnerable ecosystems. Also, authorities need to ensure efficient water management practices to prevent wastage and optimise the utilisation of water resources. The IMD's forecast heralds promising prospects for farmers to enhance productivity and for authorities to address water scarcity concerns. By adopting a comprehensive approach that combines preparedness, conservation and sustainable practices, India can harness the benefits of abundant rainfall while minimising associated risks, paving the way for socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.



Devotees stand in a queue to offer prayers at Dakshineswar Kali Temple on Bengali New Year, in Kolkata

# Ignoring neighbours to embrace the world-



The BJP Government has put Neighbourhood First Policy on backburner, leaving it underperforming amid rising anti-India sentiments in the region

JP government has made foreign policy a key election issue: Prime Minister Modi has stated, 'Neighbour first and Act East second.' Foreign Minister S Jaishankar is campaigning how G20 has enhanced India's image and influence as a global player. Quest for High Table has shifted focus from Neighbourhood First Policy (NFP) . S Jaishankar explained that politics can go up and down in neighbourhood but people generally have good feelings for India. That is certainly not the ground reality today when in almost every country, anti-India feeling is prevalent. NFP which was formally launched in 2008, has not performed optimally due to internal and external factors. Act East appended later has also failed to take off . Followed several add-ons: *sab ka saath sab ka* vikas; SAGAR; Vishva Mitra; First Security Responder and so

Former Minister Jaswant Singh in

his book Defending India, has noted that India is strategically confined by Macmahon Line, Durand Line, LAC and LoC. Still it was once the regional hegemon having promulgated the Indira Doctrine and employed military force in national interest. India's geography and asymmetry with neighbours are both sset and liability. Congenital problems with Pakistan and later China have made it the least connected South Asian region. NFP was designed to shape the neighbourhood, especially the periphery, extending the neighbourhood to Mauritius and Iran in the West and Myanmar in the East. Curating friendly regimes, winning the goodwill of people through economic linkages and connectivity, creating strategic assets, minimising liabilities and most of all, being sensitive to genuine concerns of neighbours were some objectives of NFP. Rubbing neighbours the wrong way was nor meshing domestic politics with diplomacy. That an aspirational India would create glitches for NFP was not envisioned. China, gate- crashed after hiding its strength and biding its time arriving with deep pockets, BRI, MSR and Wolf Warrior



diplomacy

With ups and downs in politics regional rivalries were in full flow. Nepalese scholars were first to note change. The founding father, King Prithvi Narayan Shah had observed that Nepal is a yam between two boulders: China and India. They corrected that gospel to three boulders, adding US. Till late last year, Maldives followed India First policy, the only country to publicly proclaim

the choice. That has changed to India Out with President Muizzu demanding the 88 Indian soldiers leave before elections next month. He even hinted that Delhi tried bullying Male. Its strategic geography is pivotal in the Indian Ocean. Maldives is for now China First but India could have been more gentle with its smallest neighbour. Raking up the Kachhatheevu issue that the government admitted it was settled in 2015, was a self goal but both Modi and Jaishankar wished to politically embarrass the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu and INC. Instead it has infuriated Sri Lankan media and ordinary Lankans, especially fisherfolk among the lakhs of Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils

US Assistance Secretary of State for South Asia and Central Asia, Donald Lu has called Sri Lankan's economic recovery a "comeback story" with concessional loans from India and USAID. That story

MOST, IF NOT ALL, REGIONAL **COUNTRIES WANT** SAARC TO BE REVIVED, BUT INDIA'S IRON-CLAD POLICY OF NOT **DEALING WITH** PAKISTAN UNTIL TERRORISM FROM ITS SOIL STOPS HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED BY THE REMOVAL OF ARTICLE 370

revival of anti-India sentiment and further tilt towards China to whom Lanka owes USD 10 bn. In Bangladesh BNP has started an India Out campaign. China is heavily invested in projects including constructing a submarine port near Cox's Bazar adequate for 8 to 10 submarines. Bhutan was within a whisker of a land swap with China by the previous government. Otherwise Doklam could have been lost to the Chinese which would have endangered Siliguri Corridor, the India-Bhutan-China trijunction dispute. The new Lotay Tshering government might delay the Doklam swap. In Myanmar, the military is rapidly losing ground in the civil war with Ethnic Armed Organisations and NUG. It has lost border control with China, Bangladesh, India and Thailand to EAOs. Most critical for India is Sittwe Port vital for the multi-modal Kaladan project and also the trilateral highway to Thailand. Reuters reported that junta troops nearby have fled and an attack on Sittwe is imminent. But Sohel Kazan, executive director, Bharat Freight, said last week that Sittwe will be safe following a deal between junta and Rakhine state government. If true, that is good

will suffer a setback lead to

Kaladan project was contracted in 2008 and is nowhere near completion dislocating India's two signature Act East projects.. Delhi has to rethink its relations with the junta. Most if not all regional countries want SAARC to be revived, But India's iron clad policy of not dealing with Pakistan till terrorism from its soil stops has been aggravated by removal of Article 370. Trade potential according to World Bank between Pakistan and India is between USD 15 and 20 bn. India's NFP has not worked because its global ambitions have diluted its zeal for the neighbourhood. Further, it has been unable to compete with China despite geography being on its side. Under NFP and Act East, India has concentrated mainly in the maritime domain resulting in neglect of inland connectivity.

The Government brags about North East shining (Manipur is a shame) but little progress is seen over connectivity of BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan India Nepal) or South East Asia. The Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) is also dead. India's focus on neighbourhood has wavered, failing to secure the periphery. Some diplomats have advocated India setting red lines? Winning over neighbours is now a h

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka and a founder member of the

Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence *Staff. Views are personal)* 

## Reflections on class and age discrimination



From a childhood encounter at a political rally to navigating workplace dynamics, an individual's journey unveils lessons in equality and empathy

about the rude language by a

junior colleague. His fault

was that he had used the term

tum to address a worker

rather than the more

respectable aap. This was

Bengal, where everyone is

expected to use a respectful

salutation when talking to

another person, whatever the

I tried to assuage the hurt sen-

timents by pointing out that

the junior colleague came

from north India where it was

a common practice to use the

more affectionate tum even

while addressing parents. The

he then Prime Minister was to address a public . rally in Ghaziabad. My father, posted as the head of the electricity department in the city, was responsible for the electrical arrangements at the venue. He took us to listen to her speech from a vantage point.

I do not remember the speech. What I do remember is that my father came back immediately after the event ended and rushed us from the venue. He kept looking back surreptitiously, asking us to walk faster. I was to learn that a supervisor working under my father and wanting to make a good impression, was also pursuing us to introduce his family. Much later, at a more mature age, I could understand that this was an incidence of class discrimination prevalent in our society. I was to learn quite a few lifealtering lessons a few years later as I joined Indian railway services.

During my first posting in Calcutta, I was asked to study an old machine and propose measures to improve its productivity, taking the assistance of an experienced

spent innumerable hours studying the machine. I became an apprentice to a more knowledgeable person, even though he was lower in the hierarchy. Then and even later in my subsequent postings, or even after I quit an active professional life, I learnt a lot about handling workrelated issues and even man management, from my junior colleagues, by not dwelling on the so-called finer nuances of a superior status.

I also learnt empathy for others. In yet another posting, as a branch head, I was tance of an experienced approached by irate union representatives were not done. supervisor. The two of us leaders who complained They pointed out that I was

always respectful even though I was from the same region. This was another lesson learnt, never to be forgotten, about the futility of status discrimination. We were visiting relatives a

few days back. My wife's uncle, now nearing 80, narrated a recent experience. He had gone to some office for work, where a much younger person jumped the queue. The uncle objected which was rudely brushed aside by the young man, "How is it material? Have I pointed a gun at you?" This was a status discrimination of another kind - a perceived superiority of the youth against old age. Or was it the gun power? We ought to remember what Nelson Mandela said, "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY**

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Constitutional Morality: The Pillar of India's Democracy", published on April 15, this is my response. India's electoral fervour every four years embodies the essence of democracy, echoing the aspirations of its constituent assembly. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality as the cornerstone of governance rings true today. It's a conscious cultivation, not merely a natural sentiment, vital for a vibrant democracy. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud aptly emphasises the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional values like dignity and equality.

This jurisprudence, evolving alongside societal dynamics, ensures the Constitution remains a living document. Recent landmark judgments, from LGBTQ+ rights to adultery laws, highlight the judiciary's commitment to constitutional morality over popular sentiment. Yet, navigating societal and religious intersections, as seen in the Sabarimala case, poses ongoing challenges. The court's role in reconciling evolving beliefs, evident in decisions on euthanasia and abortion rights, underscores its pivotal position in shaping India's moral landscape. As we navigate these complexities, constitutional morality stands as a beacon, guiding our journey towards a more just and equitable society.

Sunandna Sharma | Hisar

**HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS** Madam — Apropos the news article, "Unravelling the Roy family's legacy", published on April 15, this is my response. The political landscape for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections reveals not just contemporary rivalries but also echoes of Bengal's tumultuous past. Amidst accusations and justifications, the saga of Siraj-ud-Daula's downfall resurfaces, highlighting the intricate web of alliances and betrayals that shaped the region's destiny. Delving into history, one confronts the

#### **Revitalising railway realms**

EDIT



Apropos the news article, "Desolate railway tracks transformed into a verdant oasis", published on April 15. this is my response. The transformation of a once-ignored stretch of land into the lush oasis of 'Evergreen Nursery' is a testament to human innovation and environmental stewardship. This verdant haven, nestled amidst the bustling railway tracks, not only rejuvenates the landscape but also symbolises a paradigm shift in urban con-

clash between Bengali and Islamic cultures, symbolised by Siraj-ud-Daula's reign, echoes through the ages. The triumph of Clive and the merchant princes ushered in a new era, fostering a renaissance that birthed luminaries like Tagore

The revelation from Atlee underscores the lesser-known role of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a beacon of resistance of artisanal roasters like Industry Beans, against British rule. His legacy, intertwined with Bengal's ethos, stands as a testament to the region's indomitable spirit, shaping not just India's past, but its future. In this electoral battleground, as parties jostle for power, Bengal's historical tapestry reminds us of the enduring struggle for identity and freedom.

Roshan Kumar | Bhubaneswar

#### **CAFFEINE CHRONICLES**

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Exploring the world of single origins, flat whites and beyond!", published on April 14, this is my response. Melbourne's cafpivotal Battle of Plassey in 1757, altering feinated landscape is a saga of passion, the trajectory of Bengal's identity. The history and innovation, woven into the

servation efforts. The metamorphosis from a crime-ridden wasteland to a vibrant botanical sanctuary reflects the power of collaborative endeavours between public and private entities. The partnership between the Delhi Division of Northern Railway and Evergreen Nursery exemplifies a shared commitment to sustainable development and beautification.

Moreover, the altruistic purpose behind the nursery, where plants are nurtured not for profit but for communal enrichment, resonates deeply with the ethos of community service. It serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness between humanity and nature, where each leaf and bloom embodies a story of renewal and hope. As we traverse through these green corridors, we are reminded not only of the beauty of flora but also of our collective responsibility to safeguard our planet for future generations

Neeraj Shah | Delhi

city's very fabric. With an abundance of cafes that surpass a thousand, each sip of espresso unveils a narrative steeped in Italian heritage and modern-day craftsmanship. Monique Bayer's guided tour offers a portal into this world, where every alleyway hides a treasure trove of coffee delights. From the legacy of Pellegrini Espresso Bar to the emergence Melbourne's coffee evolution is palpable. Monique's curated journey delves deep, introducing nuances like filter coffee and cold drip variants, enriching the sensory experience.

In this city, coffee isn't just a beverage; it's a cultural phenomenon. From paleofriendly butter coffee to innovative frozen concoctions, Melbourne's cafes cater to every palate. With terms like cupping and AeroPress echoing through the streets, it's evident that coffee here is more than a drink—it's a way of life.

Kundan JM | Bhopal

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## **FIRST COLUMN STRIVE TO DEVELOP FAITH**

The pursuit of guidance from the Divine holds the promise of revelation



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

et me start with why we often don't endeavour to develop faith, as is commonly observed. Lord Krishna has aptly stated, "Out of thousands of men, hardly anyone strives for perfection" (The Bhagavad Gita 7.3). The essence of a perfect life lies in becoming a devotee of God, for He is the ultimate controller of the entire world.

There exist numerous reasons, or perhaps excuses, for this reluctance. Beginning with a straightforward argument: who has truly seen Him? If God holds such significance, why does He not present Himself so that we may behold Him? In this age of the internet, one might argue that He could easily make His presence felt. Some may argue that God is unmanifest, yet we lack any tangible experience of such an entity. If God is indeed a reality without whom we cannot thrive, then why do some ideologies, such as communism, appear to manage so well, especially in certain countries? Why is there pervasive poverty and suffering in the world? If God possesses omnipotence as described, why does He not rectify these injustices? We encounter many ascetics on the streets, leading some to conclude that only those who have failed turn to God, while they believe they can manage without divine intervention. Perhaps they might consider turning to God later if the need arises. These excuses, however, varied, ultimately lead us to a sense of emptiness.

In reality, it is often our ego that serves as the primary hindrance. We struggle to accept an entity so vast and incomprehensible, leaving us feeling insignificant and powerless. Another significant barrier lies in the acceptance of spiritual practices, which may seem unfamiliar and daunting. Yet, all these excuses only serve to deepen our sense of emptiness. Why not begin by praying for what we deeply desire? Even a child can pray and often does. If our prayers are sincere and aligned with righteousness, God may consider them.



The next step involves seeking guidance from God, who is eager to provide it. Given His omniscience, God communicates in various ways; to advanced devotees, He may impart intuition or even speak directly, while beginners may receive guidance through mediums such as family members, friends, or even seemingly random occurrences like messages in newspapers. It should be evident that following God's instructions is a wise course of action, yielding manifold benefits. Let us now explore some basic practices that are both accessible and highly rewarding. My personal favourite is 'darshan' — simply gazing upon an image or idol

Observing God's benevolent countenance, we can feel His attraction towards us. However, it's crucial to remember that adherence to righteousness, or 'dharma,' is of paramount importance to God. While deity forms or images serve as focal points, God's presence transcends physical limitations, permeating all existence. Another simple yet profound practice is offering 'namaskar' — paying homage to God with folded hands. This act serves to humble our egos, which often obstruct our connection with the divine and hinder our interactions with fellow beings. As we persist in these practices, we will gradually experience God's responses, not necessarily through miraculous events, but through subtle yet discernible manifestations. We can liken this experience to connecting to the internet—where there is a network, there is connectivity. Similarly, God, omnipresent as He is, can be experienced in various ways. God's subtle presence is accessible to all. He eagerly awaits our approach, desiring nothing but our well-being. Let us cast aside our doubts and excuses and wholeheartedly commit to forging a deeper connection with

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

# Iran strikes threaten regional stability



**NILANTHA** ILANGAMUWA

The assault, though primarily symbolic in nature, highlights the mounting tensions in the region. However, the US endeavours to uphold a balance of power



t a time when people in several countries in South Asia and East Asia were celebrating the traditional new year, Iran, the second-largest country in West Asia, launched a series of missile attacks targeting its arch-enemy Israel. Jordan and Saudi Arabia supported Israel and intercepted most of the missiles fired by Iran. The attack appears to be symbolic, aimed at boosting the morale of organisations such as Hamas in Palestine, Yemen's Houthis, pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Hezbollah in Lebanon, all of which have declared war against Israel in West Asia, as well as countries like Lebanon and Syria, rather than engaging in an official war against Israel. This attack serves as a morale booster. Shortly after the attack, Hamas rejected the Cairo agreement, a result of discussions between top intelligence agencies, the CIA and Mossad, together with other stakeholders mediated by Egypt, concerning Israeli

However, many encouraged Israel to respond quickly. However, United States President Biden stated that he would not yield if attacks were made against Iran. It is seen as a matter of prior agreement by both parties rather than a threat. The truth is, that the US administration cannot afford to assist Israel in another war at this point. At a time when the country's reputation has been tarnished at the international level and when Biden's political power is extremely weak if the United States makes such an unwise decision, it will have to face unprecedented consequences shortly, similar to how the United States has caused irreversible damage to world peace and order. Elon Musk's recent statement that the possibility of the United States becoming the victim of a September 11-style surprise attack is very high seems to hold deep truth. The consequences of these conflicts may not only affect Washington or New York but also American military bases around the world. The likelihood of an attack similar to the one on Pearl Harbor is high. The United States cannot always continue to create military conflicts in other countries for its war trade and keep its superpower status as it desires. The superpower, as history has proven, will inevitably crumble at any



THE ATTACK BY IRAN WAS RETALIATION. IT IS A RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI PROVOCATION AT THE IRANIAN CONSULATE IN SYRIA, A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS given point. Compared to its lifespan, the United States is a relatively young superpower in the grand scheme of civilisation, considering

the collapse of great empires.
Throughout history, mighty empires have risen and fallen, leaving lasting legacies. The Roman Empire, spanning from 27 BC to AD 476, peaked in the 2nd century AD, but internal strife, economic instability and external invasions, such as by the Visigoths and Vandals, led to its fragmentation. The Ottoman Empire, dominant in the 16th and 17th centuries across the Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa and Western Asia, declined due to internal conflicts and challenges from European powers like Russia and Austria. The Mongol Empire, founded by Genghis Khan in the 13th century, stretched from Eastern Europe to the Pacific Ocean, but internal divisions and the death of ey leaders led to its fragmentation by the late 14th century. Lastly, the British Empire, spanning from the 16th to the 20th century, faced economic strain and nationalist movements, ultimately dissolving due to internal weakness and external pressures. These collapses, driven by political, military and socioeconomic factors, reshaped the world, underscoring the transient nature of power and the enduring impact of history on modern geopolitics and

However, the deep state of the United States has certainly studied and comprehended global history better than many other countries. That is why the basic strategy of the United States has been to create new wars while talking about peace and turn those wars into long-term tragedies to keep uncertainties. This strategy can weaken its rivals and maintain its power continuously. These issues become clear when many conflicts are understood in their political and economic context. The ideology that Israel has continuously pursued against Iran in tance of prudent governance and national and international forums is not a single opinion or rivalry of Israel, but it is a long-term propagation through carefully selected facts and objectives together with the United States. On one hand, the West fuels wars against hostile countries. On the other, it manufactures internal crises in those nations by imposing international sanctions. This remains a persistent behaviour

of the West. The thing that should not be forgotten here is that the attack by Iran was a retaliation. It is a response to the Israeli provocation on the Iranian consulate in Syria, a gross violation of the Vienna Convention, which claimed the lives of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. Iran's calculation, as some analysts pointed out, was that if it did not respond, Israel would seek to push back and degrade the axis of resistance across the region. However, it is unreasonable to think that Israel miscalculated its attack on the Iranian diplomatic site in Syria as Israel continues to keep deep intelligence penetration of IRGC and Hezbollah networks in Syria, making those networks highly vulnerable to Israeli attacks. Iran must uphold its reputation among its allies and address internal political crises effectively. Therefore, prioritising attacks conducted through proxies is advisable, while occasional skirmishes from both sides should be acknowledged.

Moreover, it is very important to consider the government's domestic policies and openly mention Iran's inherent weaknesses amid escalating tensions among some politicians and officials in Iran. They highlighted the many crises facing the Iranian government and warned against engaging in direct conflict with Israel without first addressing these pressing issues, which they argued would only worsen the situation. They emphasised the imporeffective crisis management and the need to mitigate ongoing crises to prevent system collapse.

Economic challenges and psychological instability in society are urgent issues that need to be addressed as they are now breeding grounds for enemy penetrations. They advocated the adoption of conciliatory policies to reduce tensions and promote harmony and empathy in Iranian society. The regime's repressive domestic policies, particularly regarding the mandatory hijab enforcement cam-paign, have fuelled widespread discontent and delegitimised the government. Recent anti-Israel actions, like seizing a cargo ship, have caused Iran's markets to react negatively. The national currency's value has hit a record low. President Ibrahim Raisi faces criticism and calls for a cabinet reshuffle to address economic hardships affect

ing many Iranians. Over the years, Israel has demonstrated its capability in targeting Iranian nuclear scientists and infrastructure. Notably, the Stuxnet cyber-attack, jointly orchestrated by the United States and Israel, delivered a significant blow to Iran's nuclear ambitions. This proves that national interests are never compromised for domestic political issues, except for former President Trump. Stuxnet marked a pivotal moment, ushering in the era of cyberwarfare, where lines of code wielded the power to reshape geopolitical landscapes. Its impact reverberated globally, highlighting the evolving nature of warfare and the formidable role of technology in modern conflicts. In this situation, Iran cannot continue to be silent. It must prove its power numerically. Therefore, the recent attack was more a reputational-preservation move than a declaration of war.

(The writer is a Sri Lankan Journalist. Views are personal)

## Uttarakhand women: Agents of change in State politics

From leading environmental crusades to confronting social injustices head-on, they embody the spirit of the region, epitomising resilience and fortitude

omen in Uttarakhand are renowned for their extraordinary resilience and hard work, characteristics deeply rooted in their Himalayan heritage. Despite grappling with the challenges of life in this rugged terrain, Uttarakhand's women have consistently been at the forefront of social and environmental movements, epitomized by figures like Gaura Devi of the Chipko movement and Tinchari Mai (Deepa Nautiyal), who spearheaded the Anti-Liquor movement. These women have fearlessly confronted injustice, embodying the spirit of Uttarakhand. This article seeks to underscore the political engagement of women in Uttarakhand, shedding light on their role in bol-



stering democracy. The political participation of women in Uttarakhand can be delineated into two primary spheres: first, women assuming leadership positions within the political domain and second, women exercising their electoral rights as voters. Since the inception of the state, the representation of women in the legislative

albeit gradual rise. From four tion in the parliamentary arena women members in the first assembly, the number has increased by 50% in the 2022 elections, marking a commendable stride. However, despite this progress, women remain a minority in the assembly, constituting a mere fraction of the total members. Presently, the legislative assembly boasts eight women mem-bers, including three Dalit women, the highest number in Uttarakhand's history. Notably, Smt. Ritu Khanduri serves as the speaker, while Smt. Rekha Arya is the lone female minister in the cabinet. Despite these advancements, the disparity in political representation persists, underscoring the challenges women face in accessing political power. assembly has seen a significant While women's representa-

remains scant, with only two female MPs out of eight, the discrepancy between the female population (49%) and their political representation is stark. Despite their active participation in grassroots movements, women's presence in formal politics remains disproportionately low.

Women in Uttarakhand constitute the backbone of the rural economy, grappling with issues like migration, environmental degradation and inadequate healthcare services. However, societal norms and economic constraints often deter their political involvement. Moreover, political parties' reluctance to field female candidates exacerbates this disparity. For instance, in the



elections, the Congress has not nominated any female candidates, while the BJP has nominated only one, Mrs. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah.

Nevertheless, women voters in Uttarakhand have emerged as a formidable force, outnumbering men in recent elections. Their increasing political awareness, fueled by issues upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha directly affecting their lives,

coupled with higher literacy rates and government initiatives like reservation quotas, has galvanized their participation. Policies such as 30% horizontal reservation in government jobs and 50% reservation in Panchayats have bolstered women's political agency, enabling them to assume leadership roles at the grassroots level.

In the run-up to the 2024 Parliamentary elections, both major parties are vying for women's support, employing diverse strategies. Congress has pledged financial assistance and job reservations for women, emphasizing women's security and justice. Conversely, the BJP highlights its implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as

a milestone for women's rights,

coupled with grassroots mobilization efforts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal among women voters, attributed to his grassroots connect and initiatives like the Women Reservation Bill, further consolidates BJP's electoral prospects. The "Modi factor" has resonated with Uttarakhand's women, contributing to BJP's continued

dominance since 2017. To bolster women's empowerment, the state government has allocated a substantial gender budget for 2024-25, earmarked for bridging gender disparities and promoting equality. Additionally, measures like deploying women employees to oversee polling booths and facilitating pregnant women's access to voting booths underscore the commitment to

inclusive governance. In conclusion, Dr Ambedkar's assertion that a community's progress is contingent upon women's advancement holds for Uttarakhand. While women have historically been instrumental in social movements, their underrepresentation in formal politics remains a pressing concern. Addressing these challenges is imperative for ensuring women's political representation and expediting the state's development. As Uttarakhand gears up for the upcoming Chunav Kauthig, with women comprising 48.1 per cent of the electorate, their increased participation promises to be a harbinger of democracy's triumph in the

(The writer is a research scholar; views are personal)

## 'Apple's iPhone exports from **India almost doubled** '

pple's iPhone exports from India almost doubled to US\$ 12.1 billion in 2023-24 from US\$ 6.27 billion in the preceding fiscal, trade intelligence platform The Trade Vision Asaid on Tuesday. The total smartphone exports from India surged to US\$ 16.5 billion in 2023-24, up from US\$ 12 billion in the preceding year. This surge underscores the broader impact of Apple's presence on the industry, driving growth and innovation in the Indian manufacturing ecosystem, the company stated. Apple's iPhone exports from India witnessed a staggering increase from US\$ 6.27 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23 to US\$ 12.1 billion in 2023-24, representing a

massive surge of nearly 100 per cent. This exponential growth underscores the pivotal role that India now plays in Apple's global supply chain, The Trade Vision LLC stated "Apple's decision to ramp up its manufacturing operations in India has been motivated by various factors, including the need to diversify its supply chain, mitigate risks associated with geopolitical tensions, and capitalise on India's burgeoning consumer market.



## **Rupee falls 14 paise to close** at 83.57 against US dollar

he rupee depreciated 14 paise to close at 83.57 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and a strong greenback against major crosses overseas amid geopolitical tensions. Forex traders said a weak appetite for riskier assets and recent foreign capital outflows also dragged down the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.51 and finally settled at

83.57 (provisional), registering a loss of 14 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee declined 6 paise to settle at 83.44 against the US dollar. According to Anuj Choudhary Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the 10year US bond yields rose to 4.66 per cent, the highest since November 2023. Weak domestic markets and simmering geopolitical tensions too weighed on the rupee.



## **PHF Leasing raises US\$ 10 mn** in equity, debt

HF Leasing Ltd, a deposit accepting NBFC, on Tuesday said it has raised US\$ 10 Phillips capital through a mix of equity and debt which will be used for expanding into newer geographies. This includes around 60 per cent equity and 40 per cent into newer geographies. This includes around 60 per cent equity and 40 per cent debt, the Jalandhar-headquartered company said in a release. It offers mortgage loans against immovable property (LAP) and financing e-vehicles, primarily e-rickshaws, eloaders and EV–2 wheelers. "The US\$ 6 million equity infusion will help us maintain a healthy debt equity ratio as per industry norms. We will be utilising the funds to reach newer geographies and maintaining an over 50 per cent year-on-year growth", said Shalya Gupta, CEO, PHF Leasing. The debt has been raised from existing lenders as

well as by onboarding new lenders. Total 82 individuals and companies participated in the equity raising round and the company onboarded three new lenders in March 2024 including Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company, SMC Moneywise and Vivriti Financial



# **IMF** raises India's growth projection to 6.8 per cent

#### bullish domestic demand conditions and a rising working-age population

PNS WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday raised India's growth projection to 6.8 per cent from its January forecast of 6.5 per cent citing bullish domestic demand conditions and a rising working-age population.

With this, India continues to be the fastest growing economy of the world, ahead of China's growth projection of 4.6 per cent during the same period.

"Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.8 per cent in 2024 and 6.5 per cent in 2025, with the robustness reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population," said the latest edition of the World Economic Outlook released by the IMF ahead of

mated 5.6 per cent in 2023 to 5.2 per cent in 2024 and 4.9 per cent in 2025, a slight upward revision compared with the January 2024 WEO Update.

IMF in its January update had projected 6.5 per cent

"Growth in India is projected to remain strong at 6.8 per cent in 2024 and 6.5 per cent in 2025, with the robustness reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population," said the latest edition of the World Economic Outlook released by the IMF ahead of the annual spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

the annual spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. At the same time, growth in emerging and developing Asia

is expected to fall from an esti-

growth for India in 2024.

'Growth in China is projected to slow from 5.2 per cent in 2023 to 4.6 per cent in 2024 and 4.1 per cent in 2025, as the positive effects of oneoff factors -- including the post pandemic boost to consumption and fiscal stimulus -- ease and weakness in the property sector persists," the IMF said.

Global growth, estimated at 3.2 per cent in 2023, is projected to continue at the same pace in 2024 and 2025.

The forecast for 2024 is revised up by 0.1 percentage point from the January 2024 WEO Update, and by 0.3 percentage point from the October 2023 WEO, the IMF

Policymakers should prioritize steps toward greater economic resilience such as strengthening government finances and revitalizing economic growth prospects, said Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist of the IMF.



## Gold, silver prices hit fresh peaks

PNS NEW DELHI

Extending gains for the second day in a row, gold and silver prices hit fresh all-time high levels on Tuesday, tracking strong trends in the international markets amid fears of escalating tensions in the Middle East.

According to HDFC Securities, gold prices zoomed Rs 700 to hit its lifetime high of Rs 73,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday.

It had closed at Rs 73,050 per 10 grams on Monday. Similarly, silver price jumped Rs 800 to hit a record high of Rs 86,500 per



India fastest growing economy

"India has been the fastest growing economy in the last three consecutive financial years and this growth can continue in the coming years as

very critical for India," Sitharaman said in a dialogue programme with industrialists and businessmen.

She said that foreign investors are coming to invest in India due to the credibility of its economy.

"Due to the economic policy, larger macroeconomic stability, stable government, stable taxation policy, transparent tenders and procurement, there has been immense credibility of India's economy abroad. So, the investors are coming here to invest," she

## Power Grid Corp bags 3 transmission projects

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned Power Grid Corporation on Tuesday said it has bagged three inter-state transmission projects under tariff-based competitive bid-

Union Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman said here

on Tuesday that India has

been the fastest growing econ-

omy in the last three consec-

utive financial years and this

growth can continue in the

She said the next 25 years

will be critical for India. In the

financial year 2023-24, India

witnessed a growth rate of

eight per cent in three quarters

and is expecting a similar level

of growth in the fourth quar-

ter, she said, adding it has been

coming years as well.

a sustainable growth.

The three projects would help evacuate power from renewable energy projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat, the

company said in a BSE filing.
The first project is Transmission System for evacuation of power from Rajasthan (Jaisalmer/Barmer

Complex). It comprises establishment of new 765/400/220 kV pooling



substation at Mandsaur, 765kV D/C Transmission Line and extension of associated bays at existing substation in Madhya Pradesh. The second project --Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from potential renewable energy zone at Khavda in Gujarat -- comexisting substation in the state.

The third project is Transmission System for evacuation of power from Rajasthan involving the establishment of new 765 kV substation at Rishabhdeo, 765kV D/C transmission lines and extension of associated bays at other substations in Rajasthan

and Madhya Pradesh. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd has been declared as the successful bidder under tariff-based competitive bidding to establish inter-state transmission system for three proiects on build, own operate and transfer (BOOT), it stated.

## Equity investors become poorer by Rs 7.93 Lcr in 3 days



PNS NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 7.93 lakh crore in three days of market crash amid escalating tensions in the Middle East and weak global trends. Continuing its downtrend

for the third day running on Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 456.10 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 72,943.68. During the day, it slumped 714.75 points or 0.97 per cent to 72,685.03.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed companies was eroded by Rs 7,93,529.61 crore to Rs 3,94,25,823.46 (US\$ 4.75 trillion) in three days.

In the past three days, the BSE benchmark tanked 2,094.47 points or 2.79 per cent.

"Markets extended their losing streak for a third straight session on the back of weak global cues as a sharp rise in JS bond yields due to rising Middle East tensions has made equity markets less attractive and prompted investors to resort to profit-taking.

"Investors are fearing that the ongoing conflict could fuel buoyancy in crude oil prices and in turn weigh on inflation," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the Sensex basket, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finsery, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and Larsen & Toubro were the major laggards.

## Drone Destination plans to increase its headcount

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drone Destination is planning to grow its workforce by about four-fold to 1,200 people by the year-end, a senior company official said.

While announcing the expansion plan, Drone Destination CEO Chirag Sharma said the company



plans to set up 250 hubs

through which it will offer ser-

"We are a team of around 350 people. We are looking to deploy 250 hubs in the next two months, for which we will hire 500 people. Based on the response to technology adoption, we intend to be 1,200 people company by the end of the year," Sharma said.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ERA

## Kerala IT firms revamp hiring strategies

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPRUAM

Kerala IT firms are changing how they hire people as they believe conventional methods are no longer suitable for finding candidates who can thrive in today's digital era with the advent of Artificial Intelligence. Instead of the traditional

recruitment process, they are using longer tests to see if candidates can actually do the job and keep up with new tech-

action in today's fast-changing tech world, according to a release here on Tuesday.

Under the traditional system, candidates are selected through shortlisting based on marks in engineering, written tests, and interviews



Launchpad Kerala 2024, a month-long talent acquisition programme organised by the Kerala Section of the This helps find people who can put their knowledge into Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Group of Technology Companies (GTech) across the state, piloted the new hiring process, the GTech release

In the pilot edition, over 10,000 engineering students will undergo a series of tasks

designed to test and enhance their problem-solving capabilities, technical skills and adaptability to secure jobs offered by more than 100 IT companies, including multinational firms operating in the state, it said.

The organisers exuded confidence that companies across the country would replicate this model.

A job fair will follow on May 6, 8 and 10 at IT Parks in Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Kozhikode, respectively, under the new recruitment model.

Inaugurating the initiative, Dr Saji Gopinath, Vice Chancellor of Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation, and Technology (Digital University Kerala), and APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, said Launchpad is

a great learning experience and a new recruitment model in which graduates are being

taken at an accelerated pace. It helps youngsters get involved in problem-solving tasks, and it would be great if this model could be extended beyond IT to benefit other sectors.

"As per the pioneering model, a real-world problemsolving challenge will precede the interviews for jobs in software companies in the state," said V Sreekumar, secretary, GTech and Kerala head, Tata Elxsi.

Deepu S Nath, Convenor of GTech ATFG and MD of Faya India, said Artificial Intelligence (AI) agents like Devin and Devika and AI software engineers are redefining roles and responsi-

## Crisil Q1 profit slips 5 pc to Rs 138 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Ratings firms Crisil on Tuesday reported a 5.4 per cent drop in consolidated net profit to Rs 138 crore for the first quarter ended March 31.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 146 crore in the same period last year. Crisil's consolidated total

income rose to Rs 751 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2024, from Rs 732 crore a vear ago, the company said in a regulatory filing.

At the same time, expenses increased to Rs 563 crore during the quarter against Rs 539 crore in the year-ago period. Its board has also approved the payment of an interim div-

idend of Rs 7 per equity share

of face value of Re 1 each, for

the financial year ending

year as its financial year. The rating agency expects India's GDP growth to moderate to 6.8 per cent in fiscal 2025 due to high-interest rates, fiscal consolidation and uneven global growth.

December 31, 2024, which will

be paid on May 14, 2024, it said.

Crisil follows a calendar

On the other hand, healthy corporate balance sheets, a robust banking system, the government's capex focus, and the broad basing of private investment will be supportive of domestic activity.

## China's Q1 GDP grew by 5.3% amid realty crisis

PNS NEW DELHI

Beijing, Apr 16 (PTI) China's economy grew at 5.3 per cent in the first quarter, making a stronger-than-expected start to the year even as the downturn of its property market continued while the domestic

demand remained subdued. The GDP grew 5.3 per cent year on year to 29.63 trillion yuan (about US\$ 4.17 trillion) in the first three months of 2024, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Tuesday.

The pace accelerated from 5.2 per cent overall GDP growth for 2023, appearing on course to meet the target set by the government at around five per cent.

On a quarterly basis, the



economy expanded by 1.6 per cent in the first three months of this year, according to the

"China's high-quality development has made new achievements in the first quarter. The national economy has sustained recovery momentum and got off to a good start," Sheng Laiyun, Deputy Head of the NBS, said at a press confer-

'China's high-quality development has made new achievements in the first quarter. The national economy has sustained recovery momentum and got off to a good start," Sheng Laiyun, Deputy Head of

Sheng mentioned positive factors during this period, such as rising production demand, stable employment and prices, and growing market confi-

"These positive factors driving economic recovery are accumulating and strengthening, laying a good foundation for full-year growth," he

Sheng also noted that the 5.3 per cent GDP growth was mainly driven by a rebound in the industrial sector and an improvement in the service sector.

He, however, was silent on the continued crisis in the property sector, which accounts for 20 per cent of the world's second-largest economy, according to the International Monetary Fund

The home prices fell at a

faster pace for more than eight

years, according to the latest

In the same period, property investment fell 9.5 per cent, highlighting the challenges faced by China's real estate

'You cannot manufacture growth forever, so we really need to see households come to the party if China wants to hit that around five per cent growth target," Harry Murphy Cruise from Moody's Analytics told the BBC.

The real estate industry crisis was highlighted in January when property giant Evergrande was ordered to liquidate by a court in Hong China's other property devel-

opers, like Country Garden and Shimao, have also been hit with winding up petitions in

## HPE starts rolling out Made-in-India servers

#### Plans to enhance local sourcing

PNS NEW DELHI

Hewlett Packard Enterprise has started deploying its 'Madein-India' servers at a large scale in the country in less than a year after it announced plans for making them locally, the company said on Tuesday.

HPE unveiled its Make-in-India plan in July 2023 with Indian manufacturer VVDN Technologies and is planning to manufacture approximately USD 1 billion worth of high-volume servers in the

first five years of production. The company announced



that "its 'Made in India' servers are now being deployed at large scale to serve the growing demands of Indian customers ahead of schedule".

"HPE's plan to manufacture servers in India aligns with its broader objective of supply chain diversification and resiliency. The company is actively exploring opportuni-

ties to deepen localisation by leveraging VVDN's backward integration capability and expanding its portfolio of products manufactured from India," the statement said.

HPE said printed circuit board (motherboard) assembly through surface-mounted technology is one of the most technically complex and critical aspects of server manufacturing and the PCBA (printed circuit board assembly) capability in India creates significant local value enhancement for the servers beyond just assembly and testing.

# Hyderabad Contrabation Herein Property Contrabation Herein Prop

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Wednesday April 17, 2024

## **POOJA BHATT:**

When I was making *Tamanna*, people came up to me saying, 'Production is not for women'

TEIAL SINHA

he 'Boss Lady', who has been an inspiration to not only people of her times but of the current generations too, is the one who ruled the 90s era with her hits at an early age itself. Right from her debut with Daddy and further going ahead with Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin, Sadak, Prem Deewane, Kranti Kshetra, and so on, she has proved every now and then who Pooja Bhatt is, apart from being the daughter of the renowned director Mahesh Bhatt!

Apart from her finesse in acting, she has also donned the roles of producer and director. But of course, things didn't come to her plate as easily as they may seem. Recently, in one of our interviews with the star, she revealed her father was clear about not lying about whether she was good or not with her work and not giving the world the privilege of telling her that she can't act. Now, as we go ahead and bring to you

Now, as we go ahead and bring to you some personal insights, during our exclusive chat, she recalled the time when she had put on the producer's cap: "When I was making *Tamanna*, people had come up to me and were like it's not the work of a woman. Production is not for women. I made it." And guess what? *Tamanna* won Best Film on Other Social Issues at the 44th National Film Awards. But still, people didn't stop their bad talk there. "When I was making *Dushman* with Kajol, people pointed out, saying, 'Oh, you're taking a woman; now it's finished'. I was like, "I'm going to do what I want to do, and here I am doing it." When I became a producer, I was told why I wanted to become a producer. This is not for women; stick to acting and focus on your acting career. People are going to say so, and I was like, Do hell with you guys."

Going very much ahead, when she was back after a 21-year-long break with Bombay Begums, she recalled, "People were so generous. It was so overwhelming. The response I got for Bombay Begums was greater than that I got for my first 3–4 films to keep together. Even when I stopped, people were like, Why did you stop acting? When this came my way, I felt like life was bringing something to me. I just felt to take it upon myself to open the door to life, a dead life into my life! I did Bombay Begums, and I was privileged to play the part of a 49-year-old. The director would not want me to look younger, thinner, darker, or fairer. She just wanted me for what I was and who I was, and there can be no greater gift than a director can give an actor for who they are. You feel very comfortable in that person's gaze, and you want to give it your all. Being away from it for 21 years and understanding the nuances of filmmaking

and running a set has made me more respectful of the process. I can take instructions far better today and far more easily today."

The Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin star was recently seen playing the character of Anita Verma in Big Girls Don't Cry, winning many accolades for the same. Sharing some personal relatable aspects from the series, she strongly explains, "What I related to a lot was these young girls who are kind of like Anees character, for example, where she comes from this dysfunctional home, and supposedly the parents are trying to put on this facade. I mean, my parents were not like that, but I remember feeling relief when my parents decided to kind of sit me down and say that, you know, this relationship of ours is technically over but will never be over as far as you are concerned. That, for me, was such an important conversation. I realised the relationships are not made on paper or broken on paper either. Your father might shift from your geography, but he never stops being your father. In the conversation that Anees has in her head, she says that guys don't do it for me. It was also where she became the parents of her parents. That comes to a point in children's lives when you got to come and be generous back with your parents too."

Well, as we head towards the end, how could we not ask her about her darling niece Raha? In fact, in one of the posts wishing Pooja a happy birthday, Mahesh Bhatt shared how he could see the resemblance of Pooja's attributes to those of his granddaughter.

"I'm glad you are the first one who has read it clearly," she gleefully enthuses adding, "He felt the wide eyes of looking into the world and the passion and that is something that you bond with."

Infact, as we went on ahead, she shares that she still looks at the world with wide eyes and still gets butterflies in my stomach when she gave her first shot. "I feel so excited when I have a show coming out. We had a countdown before 12 and I couldn't sleep after that. Nitya was like even after so many years you feel like this and I was like the day I stopped feeling like this that means I am dead. The day we lose is the day when we die." sAnd so, "I just hope I always have the attributes of glorious Raha and if there's one thing that I'll fight not only with the world but even myself is to hold on to the child in me. No matter how cruel the world gets, it's a cruel place to live in right now and as an artist, you cannot be separated from it. Our job is to feel and if I can't only feel good and edit the bad. There's so much magic around you and as an adult, we tend to ignore the magic and thus it's important to keep the child within you

## Shattering stereotypes to become Telangana's first transgender PMEGP loan recipient

Asha Ashadam, a transgender photographer from Telangana who has had her share of struggles to set up her photo studio and take up her passion for photography, gets candid with *The Pioneer*, sharing her journey and hardships in this exclusive chat.

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY

sha, as we are all aware, refers to hope. Well, that's what kept Asha Ashadam, a transgender person from Telangana, keep up the zeal to set up a photo studio here. In the heart of adversity, Asha's journey is one of her extraordinary strength, determination, and victory of the human spirit. Asha faced societal judgment and personal tribulations. However, her firm desire to thrive led her to a transformative encounter with the transgender community, a pivotal moment that became the catalyst for her journey.

community, a pivotal moment that became the catalyst for her journey.

Asha holds a PG Diploma in Hotel Management from the city and lives in Karimnagar. She has always had a zeal to do something around photography, and it was in 2017 that she became a photographer.

something around photography, and it was in 2017 that she became a photographer. Speaking to *The Pioneer* about her journey, Asha shared, "I have a huge passion for photography. I love to take photos for my community, especially when there are events such as birthdays, weddings, and baby photo shoots. These photographs capture everyone in our community. The community members appreciated my talent and motivated me to pursue photography. Though I have learned photography on my own, I am still not aware of how to design or edit

aware of how to design or edit photos and make them creative and memorable. Since then, my desire to learn Photoshop and editing has led me to enroll in a computer

training institute. This decision has turned a new leaf in her life. When she enrolled in a computer training institute to learn Photoshop and editing. As encountered various challenges due to her gender. She said that, being transgender, her classmates looked down on her and made fun of her. Not only her classmates, but society negative-ly treats her due to her gender issues. At one point, she even asked her professor,

Shanti, to teach her

separately. However, her professor didn't approve her request but instead asked her to focus on classes.

On witnessing her burning passion, Shanti encouraged her to pursue Photoshop and editing courses. Asha blindly followed her professor's words; she completed her course in photo and video editing. She also overcame several societal judgments and personal tribulations.

During her journey as a professional photographer, the Karimnagar collector advised her to approach We Hub and apply for a PMEGP loan. This small piece of advice changed her entire life.

We Hub was the place where Asha could showcase her talent to the world. She became the first transgender person in Telangana to acquire a Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) loan. This is where the WE Hub came into play.

Asha said, "WE Hub is like God sent it to me. I am very grateful to the officials, as they have supported and guided me from the start of setting up a studio. With their aid, I have finally set up my own photography and design studio. Since then, a lot of opportunities have come where I can showcase my talents. People began appreciating my work. Currently, two more members are working with me"

However, Asha still faces societal judgment. She said, "Upon knowing my gender, some firms or clients don't approve of giving opportunities to me, while others give me opportunities upon seeing my work. So, no matter how many hurdles life throws at me, my talents speak volumes about me. I have confidence in my talents and myself. I only request that people around me change their perspective on transgender people. It'ss really pathetic to witness such people having narrow mindsets in the fast-moving world."

Finally, Asha proves the meaning of her name by capturing precious moments at special ceremonies

or occasions.



#### Hemophilia is a rare bleeding disorder manifested by the inability of the blood to clot. The disease occurs due to alterations in save the occurs due to alterations in genes that regulate our body to stop bleeding. As we celebrate World Haemophilia today, *The Pioneer* brings to you a detailed write-up on Haemophilia. Haemophila A and B are the most common. It is caused by alterations or mutations in the F8 or F9 genes, respectively, on X chromosomes. The genes associated with hemophilia A and B, F8 and F9, respectively, provide instructions for producing clotting factors VIII and IX. Mutations in these genes result in reduced or non-functional clotting factors, leading to bleeding disorders. The severity of hemophilia in affected individuals can vary depending on the specific mutation and the level of clotting factor present in their blood. Haemophilia C, caused by a deficiency in factor XI located on an autosome, however, is rare. Haemophilia A/B is an X-linked recessive genetic disorder. This means that the affected gene responsible for hemophilia is located on the X chromosome. Since males have one X and one Y chromosome (XY) and females have two X chromosomes (XX), haemophilia primarily affects males. Females can be carriers of the hemophilia gene if they inherit one normal X chromosome and one with a mutation, but they usually do not show symptoms themselves. Dr. Dipanjana Datta, a BGCI Level II certified genetic counsellor at Renew Healthcare, shares that though hemophilia A and B have treatment in the form of factor and gene therapy, males affected by hemophilia suffer from various co-morbidities, including joint pain, bone-related issues, swelling, and internal bleeds, apart from related issues, swelling, and internal bleeds, apart from excessive bleeding even in minor injuries. Undiagnosed, in the case of mild hemophilia, surgery or an accident can cause death! Thus, the diagnosis of the disease is of utmost importance. "Affected individuals are diagnosed through biochemical testing of the factors. Genetic testing can confirm the diagnosis of hhemophilia and help in understanding the specific type and severity of the condition. A carrier female will have normal factor levels in most cases. Thus, female family members may choose to undergo carrier testing by genetic studies to determine if they carry a mutation in the F8 or F9 gene, which could

be passed on to their children. Biochemical testing is not

a suitable method, as biochemistry might be normal."

## **DEMYSTIFYING HEMOPHILIA**

Actress-

director-

producer Pooja

Bhatt, who has

been very much

known as the

Boss Lady,

recalls the time

when she was

degraded for

donning the cap

of a producer,

her mark as

'Pooja Bhatt'

post her 21

years of hiatus, and more.

#### HEMOPHILIA AND PREGNANCY

Up to 50% of neonatal males with severe hemophilia have no previous family history. In these cases, there is a 90% chance that the mother is a carrier, with risk to the next male child.

A family tree should be constructed to assess the likelihood of hemophilia carriership in at-risk female families.

#### RISKS IN PREGNANCY FOR MOTHER AND BABY:

The levels of clotting factors VIII and IX should be checked before an invasive procedure or in association with bleeding symptoms. Carriers of hemophilia are at increased risk of bleeding with invasive procedures, termination, spontaneous miscarriage, and at the time of delivery. Male neonates with hemophilia are at increased risk of bleeding, including intracranial hemorrhage (ICH), extracranial hemorrhage (ECH), and iatrogenic bleeding following delivery.

Dr. Kinjal Kothari, Associate Consultant Obstetrician Gynecologist, Manipal Hospital, shares, "The baseline factor level should be determined before the onset of pregnancy. Before pregnancy, the general health of women who are carriers of hemophilia should be optimised. Genetic counselling should be provided to women at risk. Carriers of severe hemophilia should be offered a preimplantation genetic diagnosis. Antenatal care should be delivered in the context of a multidisciplinary team setting with hematologists and obstetricians with expertise in this field. Maternal factor VIII/IX should be checked at booking, before any antenatal procedure, and in the third trimester. Drugs like tranexamic acid, desmopressin (DDAVP), and recombinant factor VIII/IX

can be considered given the altered clotting factor profile. A clear plan for the intrapartum care of a carrier and the baby should be available in advance of 37 weeks of gestation. The woman should be seen in the anesthetic clinic, and the neonatologists should be informed of the intended delivery of a baby with hemophilia. A decision regarding the timing and mode of delivery should be agreed upon jointly between the woman and the multidisciplinary team."

There needs to be a full assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the mode of delivery and consideration of obstetric factors, maternal bleeding risk, patient preference, and reproduc-

tive expectations.
"Measures should be taken to

ensure expertise and necessary resources are avail-

External cephalic versions and the use of ventouse and mid-cavity forceps should be avoided for male babies at risk of hemophilia. Experienced clinicians should be involved in decisions about whether or not to perform a central neuraxial anesthetic technique, and the woman should be given all the information she needs to make an informed choice based on the level of clotting fac-

To minimise the risk of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), it is important to recommend or offer active management of the third stage of labour & management should be guided by the results of factor assays," shares Dr. Kinjal.

labour & management should be guided by the results of factor assays," shares Dr. Kinjal.

Genetic testing involves analysing a person's DNA to identify mutations in the F8 or F9 genes from blood or buccal swabs. In cases where there is a family history of hemophilia, invasive diagnostic methods like chorionic villi sampling and amniocentesis, followed by specific targeted genetic testing around 11 weeks (about 3 months) of pregnancy, can help determine the status of the fetus. This can help families make informed decisions about the pregnancy and prepare for the care of a child with hhemophilia. Aternatively, pre-implantation genetic testing can be performed by taking a biopsy of the embryos formed by IVF at 5th day and screening for the targeted mutation. This process is called PGT (M), which can help to identify healthy embryos without the trauma of repeated abortions after prenatal diagnosis.

Genetic testing and genetic counselling can play a pivotal role in diagnosis and management.
Understanding the genetic basis and inheritance patterns helps predict recurrence risk and plan a

healthy baby.

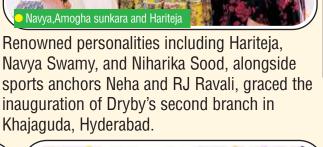
Haemophilia is a rare bleeding disorder, manifested by the inability of the blood to clot. The disease occurs due to alterations in genes that regulate our body to stop bleeding. As we celebrate World Haemophilia today, The Pioneer brings to you a detailed write up on Haemophilia.

# what's brewing?





Renowned personalities including Hariteja, Navya Swamy, and Niharika Sood, alongside sports anchors Neha and RJ Ravali, graced the inauguration of Dryby's second branch in













the autism spectrum and their families. Through Spectrum Sparkle, Buffalo Wild Wings Kokapet seeked to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels included and valued.









Masoom Minawala, a global influencer, entrepreneur, and investor announced

the release of her first-ever book, 'She'll Never Make It'. The book is about Masoom's journey from being ridiculed to proving everyone wrong. This part memoir part self-help book is packed with secrets from Masoom on how to build a new-age business and survive in a dynamic world.



The third anniversary of Ramesh Neuro & Critical Care (RNC) Hospital was celebrated on Tuesday, marking their relentless commitment, groundbreaking thinking, and outstanding service to the healthcare industry. The recent inauguration of cathlab and endoscopy facilities in Block C has been another proud moment for RNC.

Apple Green Diamond, proudly announces its pivotal role in enhancing one of India's most sacred traditions. The revered Ram Temple, now boasts a crown adorned with exquisite gemstones, including multiple Emeralds and a unique Ruby, courtesy of Apple Green Diamond's "Diamondlite from Japan."

In the UPSC Civil Services 2023 results declared on Tuesday, students of Reflections IAS Academy in Ashok Nagar continued their winning streak by bagging more than 23 All India Services. Donuru Ananya Reddy (AIR-3), Nandala Saikiran (AIR-27), Benzo P Jose (AIR-59), Ravula Jayasimha Reddy (AIR-104), and Ashwin Manideep Kakumanu (AIR-148) were among the rank holders from the institute.



#### **ARCHIE**

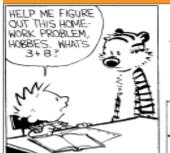








#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



OK, ASSIGN THE ANSWER A VALUE OF "X". "X" ALWAYS MEANS MULTIPLY, SO TAKE THE NUMBERATION (THAT'S LATIN FOR NUMBER EIGHTER') AND PUT THAT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EQUATION.



THAT LEAVES YOU WITH THREE GOSH, I THESE PROBLEMS SEEM AWRULLY ADVIANCED FOR ON THIS SIDE, SO WHAT TIMES MUST HAVE DONE ALL

#### GARFIELD

NANCY







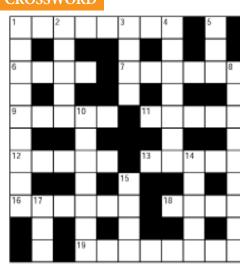


#### REALITY CHECK





#### **CROSSWORD**





**GINGER MEGGS** 





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#### **SUDOKU**

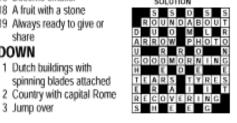
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- . The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

#### ACROSS

- Squirmed about
- 6 Tidy 7 The cold ocean at the
- North Pole
- 9 Perhaps 11 A gloved fighter
- 12 Permitted by law
- 13 The remains of a fire
- 16 Become smaller
- 18 A fruit with a stone 19 Always ready to give or
- share DOWN Dutch buildings with

spinning blades attached



4 Health professionals

5 7 in Roman numerals

8 An annual festival for

10 Burning strongly and

17 Cured meat from a pig

flaming brightly

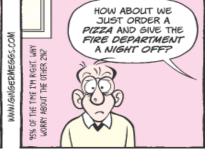
Christians

14 A greeting 15 The body's covering

## HEY, DAD. HOW COME YOU COOK ONCE A WEEK?







Hyderabad | Wednesday April 17, 2024

tollywood

K. RAMYA SREE

ctor and dubbing artist Shreyas Talpade has garnered significant Attention from Telugu audiences following his Hindi dubbing for Allu Arjun's character in *Pushpa*. Now, he is set to captivate audiences once again with his upcoming film, *Love You* Shankar, a composite animated film scheduled for a grand theatrical release on April 19 in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada languages. Set against the backdrop of the sacred city of Banaras, Love You Shankar promises to enchant viewers with its heartwarming tale of faith, friendship, and adventure. The film revolves around the endearing bond between an eight-year-old boy and Lord Shiva, offering a wholesome family entertainment experience.

As the release date draws near, Shreyas Talpade shared his excitement about the film's multi-language release. "Today, language is not a barrier for the audience if they like a particular story," expressed Shreyas, adding, "I will be extremely happy if it works in all those languages Telugu, considering I dubbed for a Telugu film that made major business in Hindi. So I would really like it if the Telugu fans also gave the same kind of love to our film, *Love You Shankar*, when it was released there."

In this exclusive interview, Shreyas provided insights into his character in the film, portraying a devoted pandit whose faith is put to the test by unfortunate events. He praised director Rajiv Ruia's narrative sensibilities and expressed gratitude for being part of the project: "My role is that of a man who works as a pandit in a temple and has a sweet family. There are certain events that happen to him that are very unfortunate. And after that, how his faith is restored, how his belief in the deity and Lord Shiva basically come to his rescue, is what my character is all about in this film."

He further continued, "I heard the story, and I was pretty impressed with the

# SHREYAS TALPADE TO PLAY A DEVOTED to was dealing with the nar-lally. These days, there are not hildren's films coming, and ressfully done quite a few in

way the director was dealing with the narrative, especially. These days, there are not too many children's films coming, and Rajiv has successfully done quite a few in the past, including Ganesha. His sensibilities and his psyche pretty much understand the psyche of kids. So I went with my gut feeling, and I said, Okay, let me give it a shot and see how it works out. I am glad that I said yes because I completely enjoyed the experience of working in this one."

Regarding the film's mythological theme, Shreyas clarified that Love You Shankar is a completely fictional story, blending elements of classic Hindi masala films with modern children's adventure tales. He expressed hope that the fusion would resonate with audiences upon

Reflecting on his experiences during filming, Shreyas fondly recalled shooting at the serene ghats of the river Ganga as one of the most memorable moments. He emphasised the film's underlying themes of faith and belief, which he believes resonate deeply with viewers. He shared, "The moment we stepped into Ganga, it was extremely calm and serene, and I think there are very few locations that have that kind of vibe and atmosphere. So that is something that I will never forget. We would sit for hours in front of the balcony and keep looking at the river flowing calmly and beautifully. The biggest takeaway from films like these is faith and our belief in whatever we believe in, whether it is God, nature, superpowers, or super energy. I think it is films like these and stories like these that just reinforce our faith and belief system in that power. So when you are part of a film that deals with your spirituality or your culture, I think it's very satisfying, and there are a lot of takeaways that you take from stories like these."

Shreyas further expressed eagerness to explore roles in various languages, includ-

ing Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and others. He hinted at an upcoming collaboration with a South Indian production house, showcasing his commitment to diverse linguistic and cultural experiences. They are releasing the film in Hindi, but it is also going to be released in multiple languages. When asked about his involvement in Pushpa 2, Shreyas revealed that dubbing has not yet begun, as the film is still in the shooting process. He expressed anticipation for the project and affirmed his réadiness to commence work once production concludes. In preparation for his role in

Love You Shankar, Shreyas credited director Rajiv Ruia for simplifying his approach. He recounted immersing himself in the ambiance of Banaras, observing local pundits to enhance his portrayal of the character: "My director, Rajiv Ruia, made my iob a lot easier here. When I went there, he asked me to just take a stroll around the ghats of the Ganga and said, You will

Actor and dubbing artist Shreyas Talpade, who has captivated the Telugu audience with his Hindi dubbing in Pushpa, gets candid with The Pioneer about his upcoming multilingual film, Love You Shankar.

> you know, maybe chanting some mantras and things like that.
>
> And you can go around and have a look. I iust went around at a local observing, what-ever I could, whatever they do, and I just, and of course then there is a certain character sketch that the director has in mind, so I combined the two and tried to perform it to the best of my ability." In conclusion, Shreyas encouraged

dits over there, either per-

forming some pujas or,

audiences to embrace Love You Shankar as a beautiful adventure film suitable for the entire family. He emphasised the film's educational value, providing insights into faith and beliefs while offering a delightful cinematic experience.





K. RAMYA SREE

In the bustling world of Tollywood, where innovation is revered, director VS Mukkhesh brings forth a refreshing narrative in his upcoming film, *Market Mahalakshmi*. Set to hit theaters on April 19, this film promises to captivate audiences with its intriguing storyline and heartfelt

In an interaction with the media on Tuesday, the director shed light on the journey of bringing Market

Mahalakshmi to life. Reflecting on his transition from short films to feature films, Mukkhesh shared, "I've made a lot of short films on the TeluguOne YouTube channel, close to 100+ videos, and there are videos on other channels too. I met Akhilesh and narrated the Market Mahalakshmi script, which then began my feature film journey." Discussing the film's unique premise, Mukkhesh emphasised, "Many people claim their films touch on new points. Honestly, we did touch on a new point that has not been explored until now, and that's going to be a

major conflict. I don't want to exploit this sensitive topic for promotions. We couldn't reveal it in the teaser or trailer, as it would spoil the experience."

Starring Parvateesam and Praneekaanvika in lead roles, Market Mahalakshmi delves into the intricacies of love and family dynamics. Mukkhesh shared insights into the casting process, stating, "I chose Parvateesam and an unknown actress because they fit the characters perfectly. As a debut director, it was challenging to attract established stars. This project was about proving my directorial capabilities." With meticulous attention to detail, Mukkhesh ensured that the film's authenticity resonated with audiences. "The film will be close to reality because

story. I've also observed a few people in the markets," he revealed. From innovative promotions to a crisp runtime, Mukkhesh highlighted the efforts put into every aspect of Market Mahalakshmi. Expressing confidence in the film's success, he remarked, "With confidence, I can say that even if only one person watched my film in theaters, they'll surely like it."

I know a man who loved a vegetable seller girl and married her. The film is based on a real-life love



Samyuktha Menon all set to make

her Bollywood debut

In the glitzy realm of Tollywood, one name has been shining brighter than ever: Samyuktha. With a string of consecutive successes under her belt, this talented actress has quickly ascended the ranks to become a household name

synonymous with meaningful roles and stellar performances

Since her debut in the industry, Samyuktha has captivated audiences with her

versatility and charm. Her journey to stardom reached new heights with five

consecutive super hit films. Each role showcased her depth as an actress and

solidified her status as a rising star in Tollywood.

Currently, Samyuktha is gearing up for two highly anticipated projects. She is set to star opposite Nikhil in the Pan India movie *Swayambhu*,

promising audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience. Additionally

she is slated to be the leading lady in Sharwanand's upcoming film,

further solidifying her presence in the industry. However, amidst her flourishing career in Telugu cinema, rumours

have been swirling about Samyuktha's potential foray into Bollywood. Speculation is rife that she has received an enticing

offer for an interesting project in Hindi cinema. Recently, photos of

sent social media into a frenzy, fuelling further speculation about

her Bollywood aspirations. It seems that Samyuktha is on the brink of making a significant announcement regarding her Bollywood debut. As she sets her sights on new horizons,

the actress is poised

to conquer hearts on a national scale with her talent

and dedication. With her sights set high, Samyuktha

**▼**ailed as one of the legends of Indian cinema, Singeetam
Srinivasa Rao had faded into the shadows, leaving behind a legacy of timeless classics. But now, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, he returns to the limelight in a stellar role, breathing life into the silver screen once again.

In the eagerly awaited film Bhale Unnade, Rao joins hands with the charismatic actor Raj Tarun, promising audiences a cinematic experience unlike any other. With music by the talented Shekar Chandra Musical and direction by J Sivasai Vardhan, expectations soar sky-high with this announcement Singeetam



Recently, a new song from the film was released and it received a good response from the audi-

Welcoming him aboard, the makers released a small video that showed him

#SingeetamSrinivasaRao who has enthralled

us all these years is now back again in anoth-

shooting some scenes. The makers announced: The legendary

er stellar role. Welcome aboard sir!

#BhaleUnnade (sic)."

While N.V. Kiran Kumar is producing the film as its *Production No*. 1 under the Ravikiran Arts banner, director Maruthi's Maruthi Team Product is presenting it. Actress Manisha Kandkur is making her acting debut in Tollywood with

Super Good Films, is coming to the audience with another crazy project. Bhavanam is a suspense thriller directed by Balachari Kurella, starring Saptagiri, Dhanraj, Shakalaka Shankar, Ajay, Malvika Satheeshan, and Sneha Ullal in lead roles. Produced by RB Chaudhary, Wakada Anjan Kumar, and Virendra Seervi! Recently, the first look and teaser of Bhavanam was released, and it got an incredible response

# GUJARAT TITANS, DELHI CAPITALS SEARCH FOR CONSISTENCY

ujrat Titans will be striving for much consistency when they meet Delhi Capitals in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. Unlike the past two editions, the Titans have not been able to play like a well-oiled

machine though they still have time to fix the flaws. A last ball win over table leaders Rajasthan Royals on April 10 was just the kind of

result the Titans needed to infuse fresh live to their campaign. They have only campaign. They have only managed only two wins from their first six games but with another eight matches remaining, the Shubman Gill-led team has enough time to turn things around.

The absence of Mohammad

Shami has hurt them but they must best use the available resources. Umesh Yadav has taken seven wickets but has leaked more than 10 runs per over. His new ball partner

seasoned Mohit Sharma too can improve on their economy

Star spinner Rashid Khan has been at his frugal best but would like to have more wickets in his kitty. His cameo in the last game helped Titans seal a thrilling win and the team would also be expecting more out of him with the bat. Delhi Capitals, on the other hand, have struggled to assemble their playing eleven due to form and fitness issues. After four losses in five games, they got a much needed boost with the win against Lucknow Super Giants but they still have a lot to sort out if they are to push themselves for a place in the play-offs.

The presence of a fit again Kuldeep Yadav made a huge difference as he broke the backbone of the opposition with three timely strikes in Lucknow. Kuldeep, who has added more speed to his craft, seems to be at the peak of his powers and it could be difficult





especially against his googlies. In Jack Fraser-McGurk, Capitals seem to have found an able number three and will be hoping that the Australian builds on the success of his

maiden IPL game.

Anrich Nortje, who has been taken to the cleaners by the batters so far in the IPL, did not play the last game.

Mukesh Kumar has conceded

10 runs per over in the five games and was also expensive in his comeback game against

The biggest positive for the team has been the batting form of skipper Rishabh Pant, who seems to be getting better with every outing. It would be fair to say that the southpaw is in prime position to make India's squad for the T20 World Cup despite stiff opposition from the likes of Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan.

Thin on Indian bating talent, the Capitals rely heavily on the likes of David Warner, who would itching to make an much in the last three games. THE TEAMS (FROM):

Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill (c), David Miller, Wriddhiman Saha, Sai Sudharsan, Shahrukh Khan, Matthew Wade, Kane Williamson, Azmatullah Omarzai, Abhinav Manohar, Rashid Khan, Vijay Shankar, Rahul Tewatia, Spencer Johnson, Kartik Tyagi, Joshua Little, Darshan Nalkande, Noor Ahmad, Ravisrinivasan S Kishore, Mohit Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Umesh Yadav, Sushant Mishra, Sandeep Warrier, Sharath BR, Manay Suthar.

Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (c), David Warner, Abishek Porel, Ricky Bhui, Yash Dhull, Shai Hope, Prithvi Shaw, Tristan Stubbs, Kumar Kushagra, Swastik Chikara, Sharma, Ishant Richardson, Rasikh Dar Salam, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Mukesh Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Praveen Dubey, Khaleel Ahmed, Sumit Kumar, Axar Patel, Mitchell Marsh, Lalit

## We want to attack Power Play: Head says, revealing SRH batting philosophy



PTI BENGALURU

Sunrisers Hyderabad have taken T20 batting to the next level with sustained range-hitting in the Indian Premier League, and Travis Head said maximising Power Play segment was central to their aggressive approach. Head, whose 39-ball 100 led

SRH to a record-setting 287/3 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday, underscored that approach with a fifty inside the Power

It was also the second time Head completed a half-century within the first six overs. "We've definitely got a lot of power through our top and

Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has decid-

ed to take an indefinite "mental and physical" break from the Indian Premier League, blaming his wretched

Maxwell's absence from RCB's match

against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on

Monday was initially attributed to a fin-

ger injury he suffered during the pre-

vious match against Mumbai Indians.

But he later admitted to dropping him-

"It was a pretty easy decision. I went to Faf and the coaches after the last

game (vs Mumbai Indians) and said it

was probably time we tried someone

else (in his place)," Maxwell said in the

post-match press meet.
"It's actually a good time to give myself a bit of a mental and physical

break, get my body right. If I'm required to get in during the tourna-

ment, I can, hopefully, get back into a solid mental and physical space where

This is the second time in his career

that Maxwell has opted out of compet-

itive cricket in order to gather himself.

He had taken a similar break in

October 2019, stating that he felt

mentally and physically ruined at that time. The 35-year-old made his come-

back a couple of months later.

I can make an impact," he added.

batting form for the decision.

self from the squad.

PTI BENGALURU

sort of got to tailor the way we want to play around that power that we've got, especially in power play," said Head in the post-match press conference.

The Australian opener has a perfect ally at the top in an equally belligerent Abhishek Sharma, who blunts slower bowlers upfront while Head

I guess Abhi and I at the top of the order try to maximise that (Power Play) as much as we can. It may be fours, it may be

goes about destroying the

"But yeah, we want to try to attack the power play with the two of us and then obviously

we've got a lot of power

through that middle-order," Head added.

It wasn't a mere tall claim as a quick check will reveal SRH's power play scores in six matches this season as 65/1, 81/1, 58/1, 78/1, 40/3 and 76/0, and none of the other nine teams have come close to those numbers.

numbers.
But it was not blind hitting.
Head revealed his approach in
the initial six overs.
"Depending on the field
positions, I try to sum up what
the bowlers are trying to do. In
the power play, with just two
fielders out, I try to think about
hitting the ball 360 around the hitting the ball 360, around the whole ground, as you only have to go over the infield or through the infielders for boundaries.

over the last couple of days. I did not execute the way I would have liked (in the last two matches). But today, especially in the power play, I was able to strike the ball the way I wanted," said the left-

The 30-year-old also lauded middle-order and I think we've Hyderabad bowlers, especially skipper and premier pacer Pat Cummins, for holding their nerves when RCB batters were scoring briskly.

We knew that we probably needed three or four really good overs in the game to win it. So, it's amazing to sit here and think that when we make 280, but it's going to be one of the nights for the bowlers to hold on and I thought Pat

bowled exceptionally well. "We were able to get wickets throughout the middle of the overs which set the game up. DK (Dinesh Karthik) played an unbelievable innings. But we did really well to get them back at 125 or 130 for five," he

#### PTI BENGALURUA

A crestfallen Royal
Challengers Bengaluru
skipper Faf du Plessis
conceded that a string of
defeats had taken a toll on the team and the confidence had hit an all-time low after losing by 25 runs to Sunrisers Hyderabad in a match where a plethora of batting records were eclipsed.

SRH posted an all-time IPL record total of 287 for 3 and then restricted RCB to 262 for 7 as 38 maximums were hit across two innings. The match also entered the record books for the highest cumulative match total of 549 scored by both teams.

"It's crazy the amount of runs scored today, a world record. I wouldn't say 270 is par, Danny. It's tough (to bowl on a day like this), we tried a few things and they weren't quite working,"

## No way to hide when your confidence is low: Faf du Plessis

Du Plessis said at the postmatch presentation ceremony. Just like winning provides a lot of confidence, back-to-back defeat can also rob teams off it, feels the former Proteas

"There's no way to hide when your confidence is low. The fast bowlers found it quite difficult out there. Similar to the batting perspective, we need to work on a few areas. Need to make sure the run rate doesn't go down after powerplay. The guys put up their hands and never gave up (in the run chose)" chase)

"It was good to see the fight, 30-40 runs from the bowling perspective was a bit too



much." Du Plessis admitted that the pressure is way too much and mind could explode

at any time. "It's important to go away and freshen your mind, it's such a mental game. Sometimes you feel your mind is going to explode. When you get back to the contest you have to give full commitment,"

Winning skipper Cummins, who was the best bowler on view among the two teams, also said in jest how he wished that he was a batter on days like these.

Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk.

"Wish I was a batter," Cummins could afford to smile after his team emerged victorious. The SRH skipper said that when his team scored 277 a few weeks back, he never thought that total could be surpassed.

"Against Mumbai a few weeks ago, I thought it won't happen again, but it has happened again. Give me a few more years please (on whether bowlers will go extinct)! It feels like you bowl an over for seven or eight feels great."

The Chinnaswamy track seemed a bit slower in earlier games but things have indeed changed.

"I've given up trying to read the pitches," Cummins said.

## Every game is like semifinal for us now: RCB coach Flower

PTI BENGALURU

After his side's sixth deteat in the fter his side's sixth defeat in Indian Premier ongoing Indian Premier League, Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Andy Flower confessed that each of their remaining seven matches will have to be treated like a semifinal.

In the latest setback to their playoff aspirations, RCB went down by 25 runs against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

"It is obviously knockout time and every game is like a semifinal for us now. But we will have to think that we will come back stronger," Flower said on RCB Game Day.

RCB conceded the highestever IPL total - 287 for three as the Hyderabad batters went



on a merry ride against their directionless bowlers. Flower admitted that it was a

tough night for his side. "It was a really tough night in the field, of course, as they finished so powerfully that it probably took the wind out of our souls," he said.

However, Flower found shards of positives during RCB's chase such as Dinesh Karthik's superlative 83 off 35 balls and skipper Faf Du Plessis' 28-ball

The Zimbabwean wanted to build on them in the coming matches.

"I am really proud of the way we fought with the bat out there in the middle. We lost the game but I was really proud of the way we fought," said Flower.

The former England coach lauded Karthik for the way he took on SRH bowlers, and said it would not be surprising if the wicketkeeper batter made it to India's T20 World Cup squad. "Dinesh Karthik is really making a push for the World Cup team (of India) as well and is only getting better on the field," he added.

RCB will next face Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens on April 21.

noted. Maxwell said luck was not on

"I probably just haven't got away. In the first few games, I feel I made reason-

ably good decisions (for shot selection).

searching and try too hard and forget

Maxwell experienced a similar barren

run in IPL 2020 while playing for

Punjab Kings. During that season, the

Australian scored a mere 108 runs from

11 matches and failed to hit a single six.

However, Maxwell did not draw par-

"I was bowling really well back then.

I was actually playing more as a spinner. We had KL (Rahul) and Mayank

thing to the Punjab management that

we can have an overseas bowler in my

allels between the two seasons.

the basics of the game," he said.

his side in this tournament.



## RCB-SRH game was one of sixes, not of batsmanship: Finch

Cunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru unleashing a barrage of sixes in their IPL match left little room for batsmanship and what mattered was who hit the most number of sixes, said Australia's T20 World Cup-winning skip-

per Aaron Finch. Travis Head's maiden T20 ton and Heinrich Klaasen's pillaging 67 drove SRH to a recordbreaking 287 for three, which helped them go past their own 277/3 against Mumbai Indians at Hyderabad this March 27.

Dinesh Karthik then smashed a blazing 35-ball 83 but RCB ended up losing the match in which 38 sixes were hit all around the park.

"It was never going to be a game where you talk about batsmanship. It's a game where you talk about who hit the most sixes and that was the difference," Finch said on Star Sports.

They (RCB) had to start at 14 (runs per over). And if you have one bad over it goes to 16." Finch said the Hyderabad side used the Powerplay segment well.

"They (SRH) were getting lucky in the first powerplay and they needed those sixes and Travis Head was the difference there. "He started off well, his intent to get the ball rolling and then a courageous move to keep Klaasen at No. 3 and say we need to keep going, we have a deep batting line-up and we are going to put the bowlers to the sword here," added Finch.

Head's destructive hundred, crafted off 39 balls, was the fourth fastest in the tournament, the cornerstone of SRH's 25-run Finch said IPL teams had started changing their strategies by bringing in big-hitters like Klaasen up the order as they play fearless cricket.

"A lot of times teams think that Klaasen has so much power to the back end, let's hold him back. Like (RCB's) Glenn Maxwell at times, you don't want to expose him right now because if he gets out, then we've got to rebuild. Teams don't think like that any-

(SRH coach) Dan Vettori has talked about that, play aggressive, play fearlessly and bear the consequence if it doesn't go right. If it does go right, you don't

Dinesh Karthik once again underlined his value making a 35-ball 83 at a strike-rate of 237. Finch said the ability to strike the ball comes naturally to Karthik, given his more than two decades of experience in the game.

"Well, once you've got 20-25 years of experience behind you, and you've got that bulk of balls you've hit throughout your whole career since you were five years old, you don't lose that ability to bat.

Śo, I think, it works in their favour because they train specifically for that role which they play for their team. They don't over train, they aren't trying to improve on their skills or they aren't trying to improvise any-more, they just train specificallv," said Finch.

The Victorian cricketer added that players like Karthik are examples for others preparing to be specific about their roles.

"That should be a lesson for players around the world, that you have to be really specific with your preparation and how you go about it.

#### RCB Maxwell takes mental **IPL 2024** physical break from get a boundary. You are 4 off 1, and you Twenty eight of those 32 runs came are away for the tournament," he

against Kolkata Knight Riders alone, helped to a great degree by two dropped catches.

"I have been in this situation in the past where you can keep playing and get yourself deeper into a hole. We have had a pretty big deficiency after the power play, which has been my area of strength over the last couple of seasons. "I felt like I wasn't contributing with the bat, and with the results and the position we find ourselves on the table, I think it's a good time to give someone else an opportunity to show their wares. and hopefully, someone can make that spot their own," a candid Maxwell said. The big-hitting Australian, however, still hoped to return and make an impact in the later stages of the tour-

"The management here has been outstanding. I don't think I've had a better six months in cricket leading into this tournament.

"So, it's frustrating when it ends up like this. But if I can get my body and my mind right, there's no reason I can't finish the tournament well if I do get another opportunity," he said.

In the ongoing IPL, Maxwell has been quite underwhelming with the bat in The sudden dip in his form was surthe six matches he has played this seaprising, considering the hot run he had son, contributing just 32 runs at an average of 5.33 and a strike-rate of 94. in the run-up to the IPL. Maxwell had made 552 runs from 17 T20Is from



November onwards, averaging 42 and his strike-rate was an impressive 185. But the Victorian started the IPL with a first-ball duck against Chennai Super Kings in an away match, and from that

Even if you look at the first game, I ran one off the middle of the bat to the keeper. I picked up the length, saw a scoring opportunity, but opened the face a little bit too much.

point his fortunes plummeted. "When you are going well, that goes "T20 cricket is a pretty fickle game. "wide of the (wicketkeeper's) gloves, you

(Agarwal) who were the two leading run-scorers at that time. CEAT "So, there weren't a lot of balls left in the game (for him). I wasn't able to get any match rhythm. So, I said the same

> But we didn't have an off-spinner, so, I sort of played as an overseas off-spin-ner who could bat a little bit," he