

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should resign as he could not ensure a Congress victory in his own constituency Mahbubnagar. He will soon get problems from Nalgonda leaders, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and the Komatireddy brothers. Who is Revanth to say that Modi should not become the PM again? It is better if the CM changes his language or else he will have trouble  
 — DK Aruna, BJP MP-elect

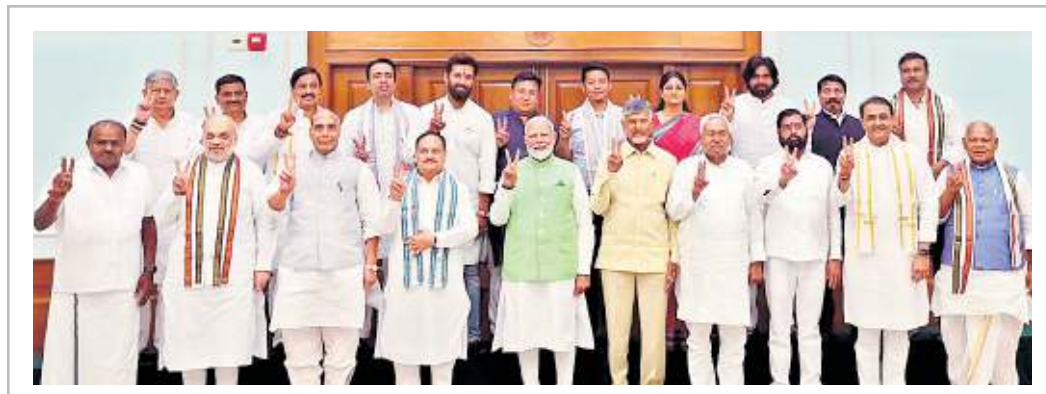
**Delhi court dismisses Arvind Kejriwal's interim bail plea**

**'SLIM MAJORITY FOR BJP POSES CHALLENGES TO REFORMS AGENDA'**

**Chandrika Ravi becomes the first Indian actress to host a radio show IN THE US**

# Stage set for Modi 3.0

**NDA ELECTS MODI ITS LEADER, GETS READY TO FORM GOVT**



- In terms of their parties' strength, Naidu, Kumar and Shinde are the three biggest NDA constituents in that order after the BJP.
- Naidu has reiterated his support to the BJP, a view echoed by JD(U)'s Jha as well.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Preparing to take oath for a third straight term as the head of a coalition government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's members who unanimously elected him as its leader.

NDA MPs will meet on June 7 to formally elect Modi as their leader and the alliance leaders will then go to the President to submit their letters of support, HAM (Secular) leader and former Bihar chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said after attending the meeting. The new government may be sworn in over the weekend, some sources said, adding that there is a view to wrap up the formalities quickly to not allow any mood of uncertainty to build up, something a buoyant opposition may push. How soon the BJP and its allies reach an agreement on matters like the share of ministries each party

may get and other terms of negotiations could also be a factor in deciding the timing of the swearing-in or they could put off the tricky issues for resolution at a later stage. TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, LJP(R) leader Chirag Paswan, JD(S) leader H D Kumarawamy, Jana Sena's Pawan Kalyan, AGP's Atul Bora and NCP's Praful Patel were among the 21 leaders from 16 parties who attended the meeting besides Modi and BJP's Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda.

## President Murmu dissolves 17th LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu dissolved the 17th Lok Sabha on Wednesday on the advice of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet, according to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Cabinet, in its meeting held on Wednesday, advised the President to dissolve the current Lok Sabha with immediate effect, it said. "The President has accepted the advice of the Cabinet on 05.06.2024 and signed the Order dissolving the 17th Lok Sabha in exercise of the powers conferred upon her by Sub-clause (b) of Clause (2) of Article 85 of the Constitution,"



## 'INDIA will take steps at right time'

**Congress chief Kharge after Oppn meet**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc partners will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise the people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP government, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday following the opposition alliance's first meeting after the Lok Sabha poll results. Addressing the media after the nearly two-hour meeting which was seen as the alliance keeping its options open and not staking claim at government formation for now, he said the opposition leaders resolved to continue their fight against the "fascist rule" of the BJP led by Narendra Modi even as they thanked the people for their over-

whelming support to the INDIA bloc. "We will take appropriate steps at the appropriate time to realise people's desire not to be ruled by the BJP's government," Kharge said while reading out a statement adopted by all the alliance constituents after the deliberations at his residence. He said the decision has been taken by all constituents of the INDIA bloc in one voice. The Congress president had convened the meeting to discuss the political situation and the election results, explore any possibility of government formation and whether to reach out to their old partners Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu.

**DON'T MISS...**

### Metro services disrupted...

Metro services along the LB Nagar-Miyapur route encountered significant disruption on Wednesday evening, leaving commuters stranded and inconvenienced due to a technical glitch. The malfunction caused the suspension of operations for three metro trains, leading to overcrowding at stations and within carriages for several hours. Passengers faced delays and inconvenience as they waited for services to resume. In an update provided by L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd...

-PAGE: 4

### Warming climate affecting...

Across the Northern Hemisphere, declining snowfall is affecting seasonal river flows, thereby increasing the risk of summer droughts, a new research has found. Researchers explained that this could threaten water and food security, ecosystems and hydropower generation. The team, led by researchers from the University of Bristol, UK, found that as the planet warms, snowy regions in the Rocky Mountains of North America, the Alps in Europe, along with those in northern Europe, are thawing...

-PAGE: 5

### Every Re 1 in agri R&D yields Rs 13...

As the newly-formed government charts its 100-day agenda, the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) president Himanshu Pathak on Wednesday underscored the need for a major overhaul in India's agricultural research and education system. His call comes amid challenges such as high cultivation costs, low productivity, and climate change impacts. "As we move ahead, there is a need to address these challenges. There is a need to transform the way agri-research and education is..."

-PAGE: 8

### Australia chase history, Pakistan...

With the World Test Championship mace and the 50-over World Cup trophy already in their bag, Australia will look to hit the ground running in their quest to become the first team to simultaneously hold all three world titles when they take on Oman in their T20 World Cup opener here. To accomplish the feat, the former champions will rely on their wealth of experience, with several of Australia's greatest modern-era players, preparing for their final farewell in international...

-SPORTS

## BRS committed political suicide to make BJP win: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the BRS sacrificed itself to make the BJP win in Telangana. "The BJP won four LS seats in 2019 and eight LS seats in 2024. The BJP's vote share increased to 35 per cent from 20 per cent. The BRS sacrificed itself to make the BJP win. The BRS lost deposits in seven LS seats the BJP won. The BRS leadership transferred its votes to the BJP in Siddipet Assembly constituency. Harish ensured the victory of BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao at the cost of the weaker section candidate of the Congress. KCR cheated BRS candidate Venkat Ram Reddy," he said while addressing a press conference on Wednesday. "The BRS sacrificed itself to ensure the BJP's victory in seven LS seats," Revanth said. "The BRS secured 37.5 per cent votes in the Assembly elections and in the Lok Sabha elections, its vote dipped to 16.5 per cent. The BJP's vote share in the 2023 Assembly elections was 13 per cent and now it has increased to 35.5 per cent. KCR, KTR and Harish mortgaged the self-respect of BRS MLAs to the BJP. KCR committed political suicide by transferring his party's votes to the BJP. KCR ruined himself for the BJP. The people have rejected the BRS and its conspiracy politics," Revanth said. He asked BRS to change the politics it had practised so far. "Harish turned himself into a suicide squad



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy addressing a press conference on Wednesday

to damage the Congress. Eventually, the BRS will disappear," Revanth said. KCR is bargaining with the BJP for Kavitha's bail, he said. On defections, Revanth said, "BRS MLAs should act according to their conscience. KCR is a political gambler. Political conspiracies will continue as long as KCR is active. The BJP branded KCR as the most corrupt political leader. Let us see how KCR and BRS join hands," Revanth said. "We are ready to address all pending bifurcation issues with the new AP government. The Congress is committed to give special category status to Andhra Pradesh," he said. On AP poll results the CM said, "If Miya Biwi Raazi, Toh Kya Karega Qazi. Chandrababu welcomed it, Jagan welcomed it, so I also welcome it."

## Telangana Talli Utsavalu on Sonia's birthday: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sonia Gandhi's birthday will be celebrated as Telangana Talli Utsavalu, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said during a chat-chat on Wednesday. He said they will unveil the 'Telangana Mother statue on December 9. "We will be celebrating it in the Secretariat and all government offices. We are inviting Sonia Gandhi for the celebrations. We will install the statue at the Secretariat. Every year on December 9, we will have 'Telangana Talli celebrations,' the CM said.



**IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi among top 150 varsities in the world**

P5

## BJP is the alternative to Congress in TG: Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajigiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said the Telangana people gave a verdict clearly indicating that the BJP is the alternative to the Congress. He said the people taught a lesson to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy who boasted that Malkajigiri is his seat and that Mahbubnagar is his native constituency. Speaking to the media at the state BJP office here on Wednesday, Eatala said that the BJP's vote share increased to 35 per cent in the Lok Sabha elections. The Telangana people had voted for the BJP to see that Modi becomes the Prime Minister once again, he said. He said the BJP came second place

## Ponnam: Plant trees, protect environment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar asked everyone to plant trees to protect the environment. He planted trees on Wednesday at his residence to mark World Environment Day. Speaking on the occasion, Ponnam said that every citizen should plant trees to ensure the well-being of future generations.



## CSMRS team visits Medigadda Barrage

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central Soil and Material Research Station (CSMRS) team visited the Medigadda (Lakshmi) Barrage in Mahadevpur Mandal's Ambatpally village. The visit follows the government's recent allocation of funds to the CSMRS and the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) teams to study performance deficiencies in the barrage. During their inspection, the CSMRS experts focused on the damaged seventh block, particularly the 19th, 20th and 21st piers.

## Groundwater to get over 3°C warmer by century's end

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Groundwater is projected to warm by 2-3.5 degrees Celsius before the turn of this century, potentially risking water quality and safety, apart from threatening ecosystems depending on the resource, a new research has found. The "world's first global groundwater temperature model" predicted the highest warming rates in Central Russia, Northern China and parts of North America, and the Amazon rainforest in South America. A team of researchers, led by those from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, said while a lot of focus on climate change concerns weather events and water availability, it also needs to think about how it impacts groundwater, critical to life on the planet.



"Rivers rely on groundwater to keep flowing during dry times. Warm waters hold less dissolved oxygen," explained study co-author Gabriel Rau from the University of Newcastle, UK

Warming of groundwater can adversely impact ecosystems relying on them, they said. "Rivers rely on groundwater to keep flowing during dry times. Warm waters hold less dissolved oxygen," explained study co-author

Gabriel Rau from the University of Newcastle, UK. The model also estimated that by 2100, 60-600 million people globally could be living in

areas where groundwater exceeds the highest threshold for drinking water temperature guidelines set by any country. According to the World Health Organization, currently only 18 out of 125 countries have temperature guidelines for drinking water. Warmer groundwater raises the risk of disease-causing microbial growth, thereby, affecting drinking water quality and potentially the lives of people, said Rau. "This is especially concerning in areas where access to clean drinking water is already limited, and in areas where groundwater is consumed without treatment," he added. Based on how heat spreads in water, the researchers modelled cur-

rent groundwater temperatures and also projected changes between 2000-2100 around the world. Groundwater is present beneath the Earth's surface in pore spaces in rocks and soils. "We show that groundwater at the depth of the water table (excluding permafrost regions) is conservatively projected to warm on average by 2.1 degrees Celsius between 2000 and 2100 under a medium emissions (scenario)," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Nature Geoscience. Under this scenario, emissions trends do not markedly change from historical patterns. The model, however, showed that under a high-emissions scenario, or fossil fuel-driven development, the groundwater temperature could rise by 3.5 degrees Celsius.

## TO GET 'RYTHU BHAROSA'

## Farmers remove 'trees & mounds' from farms

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government has not yet announced the rules and regulations for Rythu Bharosa. However, farmers have been removing 'trees and mounds' from their fields after some Ministers and Congress leaders said that farmers will not get Rythu Bharosa funds if there are 'trees and mounds' in their fields and that funds will be given only for cultivated lands.

In general, farmers keep some land to rear livestock like cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats and it is common for 'trees and mounds' to be present on such lands. It is part and parcel of agriculture. However, now farmers are removing them. Environmentalists say that the 'trees and mounds' on agricultural lands balance the environment.



## CM must quit as Cong got only 8 LS seats: Aruna

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The newly elected Mahabubnagar BJP MP, DK Aruna, demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should resign as he had said that the LS polls were a referendum on his admin.

She also said that the CM would soon get trouble from Nalgonda Congress leaders, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and the Komatreddy brothers as he had failed to ensure a Congress victory in Mahabubnagar LS constituency.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Aruna said that Congress leaders are demanding that the CM should resign as he had failed to ensure the victory of the Mahabubnagar Congress candidate. She criticised the CM for



saying that Modi should not take charge as the PM position a third time.

"Who is Revanth to say that Modi should not take up the PM post? What has Revanth got to say as the Congress won only eight LS seats although the CM had said his party would win 14 seats? People do not consider Revanth as their CM. It is better for the CM to change his language or else he will face trouble," she said.

# Raghunandan challenges CM to arrest KCR, Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP MP representing Medak, M. Raghunandan Rao, challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to show his "Telangana valour" by arresting former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao by June 30 based on the statement of DCP Radhakishan Rao.

He also challenged the CM to arrest BRS MLA T. Harish Rao based on the statement of ACP Bhujanga Rao if he has the guts.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office here on Wednesday along with MLAs Alleti Maheshwar Reddy and Palvai Harish Babu, he criticised the CM's statement that he won in Medak due to the transfer of BRS votes to BJP.



Raghunandan warned the CM saying, "Mr Revanth Reddy, be careful when you speak about me and my party. I fought for Telangana with the police shouting 'Jai Telangana'. I am not afraid of people like you. I have been fighting against KCR and Harish Rao since 2013 after quitting the BRS." He criticised the CM say-

ing that Revanth has been speaking a lot but failed to ensure victory in the Mahabubnagar MLC by-poll and in Malkajgiri LS constituency. He asked the CM to explain whether the BRS shifted its votes to the Congress as it had won eight LS seats.

Raghunandan said that Revanth had failed to ensure the victory of the Congress candidate in Medak district.

"Mr CM, I am ready to take an oath at any temple if Harish made BRS voters vote for me. I am ready to come to the Bhagalaxmi Temple. Revanth should bring his friend Harish Rao to that temple. Revanth made Neelam Madhu a scapegoat as Neelam is a supporter of Harish. Who is protecting Harish Rao in the phone tap-

ping case," Raghunandan said.

He asked the CM who said that corruption took place in the Kaleshwaram Project to explain why the government is not taking action against Harish who was the then Irrigation Minister.

"Is it not true that the CM and Harish travelled in business class on the same flight to New Delhi and discussed it? It is not appropriate for the CM to make allegations against me just because I and Harish belong to the same caste," Raghunandan said.

He said that during elections the BRS candidate in Medak, Venkatrami Reddy, distributed money indiscriminately but the police did not arrest him even after filing several complaints.

## Congress MLAs, Bhongir MP Kiran Kumar meet CM



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency in-charge Munugode MLA Komatreddy Raj Gopal Reddy and MLAs Khumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Beerla Ilaiah, Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Vemula Veeresham, Mandula Samuel and Jangaon DCC President Kommuri Prathap Reddy for ensuring a huge victory for Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

The MLAs paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday at the CM's residence.

Meanwhile, the TPCC executive committee congratulated

the CM for getting good results in the Lok Sabha elections.

They expressed happiness at the party which had only three MPs winning eight LS seats in these elections. They said the party won eight seats because of the hard work of Revanth as the TPCC president and as the CM.

TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, government advisors Vem Narendar Reddy, Harkara Venugopal, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, newly elected Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi, Khairatabad DCC President Rohin Reddy, Phayem Qureshi, Eravatri Anil and others were present.

## Results for all LS constituencies declared; BJP wins 240 seats, Cong 99: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India has declared results for all Lok Sabha constituencies, with the BJP winning 240 of the 543 seats and the Congress 99.

The last result to be announced was that of Beed constituency in Maharashtra, where NCP (Sharad Pawar) candidate Bajrang Manohar Sonwane defeated the BJP's Pankaja Munde by 6,553 votes. While the Lok Sabha has 543 members, counting was held for 542 seats after the BJP's Surat candidate Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed. According to the final results, declared early on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to form the government for a third consecutive term with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) getting a majority in the Lok Sabha.

## Climate change affecting lives, livelihoods: Murmu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of World Environment Day, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday that climate change is affecting lives and livelihoods and called for collective efforts to build a better and greener world based on sustainability.

In a post on X, she said protecting Mother Earth is everyone's fundamental responsibility.

"We are trustees and not owners of natural resources. Climate change is affecting lives and liveli-



hoods, particularly in vulnerable communities. Let us make collective efforts for building a better and greener world based on sustainability," Murmu said. World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 every year

## President...

Continued on Page 1

a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan read.

The term of the current Lok Sabha was to end on June 16.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi tendered his resignation to President Murmu, who accepted it and asked him to continue till the new government assumes office.

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a majority in the Lok Sabha election.

While the NDA is comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha, the BJP, which won 240 seats, has fallen short of the magic number for the first time since 2014 and is critically dependent on its allies for government formation.

## UK PM Rishi Sunak congratulates Modi, to meet at G7 Summit in Italy

PNS ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday to congratulate him on his election victory, which he said will see the bilateral relationship "thrive".

Both leaders agreed to stay in touch in the coming days before they meet at the G7 Summit in Italy, where the Indian Prime Minister has been invited by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for the Outreach Sessions. Sunak is currently campaigning for the UK general election, to be held on July 4, and is hoping his Conservative Party led government is re-elected for a record fourth term.

"Today I spoke to Narendra Modi to congratulate him on his election victory," said Sunak in a social media post.

## US President Biden congratulates PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Democratic Alliance for their victory in the Lok Sabha polls.

In a post on X, the US President also said the friendship between India and the US is only growing as both sides

unlock a shared future of unlimited potential.

"Congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Democratic Alliance on their victory, and the nearly 650 million voters in this historic election," Biden said. "The friendship between our nations is only growing as we unlock a shared future of unlimited potential," he said.

## BRS committed..

Continued on Page 1

Revanth said that BJP leaders fought the Lok Sabha elections in the name of Modi's guarantee.

"The BJP won only 240 seats. The people said Modi's guarantee is out of warranty. They rejected Modi. Modi should immediately resign. He should not accept the Prime Minister's post again. Modi will be respected as a leader with values if he stays away from the PM post. The BJP should change its undemocratic behaviour. Even Lord Ram punished the BJP for using God's name for politics by defeating them in Ayodhya's Faizabad constituency," he said. "We have been working for 18 hours. From now on, we will work for two more hours. I am fully responsible for the victory of the defeat of the Congress in the state," he said. the defeat in both

Mahabubnagar and Malkajgiri, he said the Lok Sabha poll results are like 'Ugadi Pachhadi' (pickle) for him. "The Congress's performance in the Lok Sabha elections is satisfactory. Rahul united all democratic forces through his Bharat Jodo Yatra. In the 2023 Assembly elections, the people gave a mandate to the Congress with a 39.5 per cent vote share. The Congress formed a people's government in the state. The government has already implemented five of its guarantees in 100 days and fought the Lok Sabha elections. The Congress won eight out of 17 LS seats and got 41 per cent votes. The Congress vote share in Assembly elections was 39.5 per cent," he said. "The Congress vote share has increased. The Lok Sabha election results indicate that people are happy with my

## BJP is the..

Continued on Page 1

He criticised the CM for stating that INDIA would come to power and added that Chandrababu Naidu contested elections in alliance with the BJP.

There is no meaning in the

words of the CM that INDIA will meet Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar soon. Eatala said the NDA will be in power for five years and that the BJP will take responsibility for constructing houses for the poor in Telangana.

## Groundwater to..

Continued on Page 1

The warming of groundwater can be a cause for concern, although it depends on whether the climate change issue can be mitigated by cutting down greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers said.

Warmer groundwater can also impact water quality by affecting its chem-

istry and microbiology, they said.

"If temperatures increase, we may see significant impacts to our local aquatic animals, including their spawning processes which will impact industries and communities that are reliant on these ecosystems," said co-author Dylan Irvine, Charles Darwin University, Australia

## CSMRS team visits..

Continued on Page 1

They also examined the upstream and downstream conditions of the barrage. In line with the recommendations of the National Dam Safety Surveillance (NDSS), they reviewed the repair and grouting at the site.

The team collected samples to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the causes of the subsidence. They also gathered information about the work from officials of the Heavy Water Irrigation Department and representatives of the construction company.

Justice PC Ghosh, the chairman of the commission, constituted by the state government to investigate the irregularities in constructing the Kaleshwaram project, arrived in Hyderabad. He is likely to stay for 10 days to hold the inquiry.

## Ponnam..

Continued on Page 1

He called upon people to protect trees and become part of the exercise to protect coming generations.

He asked people to make their children water the trees. He said the environment will protect humans if humans protect the environment.

Ponnam warned that problems will increase if the use of plastic increases and trees are not planted. He said that the number of cancer patients has increased due to pollution and that everyone should try to make the state pollution-free. Kisan Congress Vice-President M. Kodanda Reddy planted trees on Gandhi Bhavan premises on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that many calamities are taking place due to the destruction of the environment.

## PM launches tree plantation campaign on World Environment Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling at the Buddha Jayanti Park here to mark World Environment Day.

Under the campaign, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', millions of trees will be planted across the country.

In a series of posts on X, Modi said he was delighted to launch the campaign.

"This morning, I planted a tree in line with our commitment to protecting Mother Nature and making sustainable lifestyle choices. I urge you all to also contribute to making our planet better," he said.

"It would make you all very happy that in the last decade, India has undertak-

en numerous collective efforts which have led to increased forest cover across the nation. This is great for our quest towards sustainable development. It is also commendable how local communities have risen to the occasion and taken a lead in this," he added.

The prime minister urged people to plant trees in their mothers' names and share pictures online using #Plant4Mother.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena joined Modi at the event. The Environment Ministry, in a statement, later in the day said Central and state government departments and local bodies will identify public spaces to assist the #Plant4Mother campaign.

## Farmers remove..

Continued on Page 1

Flora and fauna will be alive if there are 'trees and mounds' on agricultural lands. These 'trees and mounds' attract rain too, they say.

The BRS government used to give Rythu Bandhu funds for all lands. However, the Congress announced before and after coming to power that it will give Rythu Bharosa funds only for cultivated land and not for lands having 'trees and mounds'.

Another fact is that the amount disbursed under Rythu Bharosa is bigger than Rythu Bandhu and it is better for farmers as they are going

to get substantial amounts as well as food grains.

As far as farmers are concerned, the removal of 'trees and mounds' to cultivate lands is good for farmers as rearing cows, buffalos, bullocks, sheep and goats is a tough job. Now farmers will get Rythu Bharosa funds as well as some grain additionally after the removal of 'trees and mounds'.

Leave the environment to God. Farmers have now started removing 'trees and mounds' from fields. They are also selling cows, buffalos, bullocks, sheep and goats along with removing 'trees and mounds' on their lands to get Rythu Bharosa funds.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha  
Tithi: Amavasya Jun 05 07:55 PM to Jun 06 06:07 PM  
Sukla Paksha Pratipada: Jun 06 06:07 PM to Jun 07 04:45 PM  
Nakshatram: Rohini: Jun 05 09:16 PM to Jun 06 08:16 PM  
Mrigashirsha: Jun 06 08:16 PM to Jun 07 07:43 PM  
Rahukalam: 1:52 PM to 3:30 PM  
Yamagandam: 5:44 AM to 7:22 AM  
Varjyam: 01:44 AM to 03:18 AM  
Gulika: 8:59 AM to 10:37 AM  
Amritakalam: 05:12 PM to 06:44 PM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:40 PM  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms  
Temp: 33°C  
Humidity: 68%  
Sunrise: 5:41 AM  
Sunset: 6:49 PM  
Updated: June 5, 2024 5:00 PM

# Stage set for..

Continued on Page 1

Janata Dal (United) leader Sanjay Jha, who was present in the meeting, said the formalities related to the formation of the government at the Centre under Modi are expected to be over soon.

All parties expressed confidence in Modi's leadership, he added.

A resolution passed at the meeting said the NDA government will continue working to lift people's living standards for the country's all-round development while conserving its heritage.

"We are all proud that the NDA fought the 2024 Lok Sabha polls unitedly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and won. We all NDA leaders

unanimously elect Narendra Modi as our leader," it added.

The resolution also said that people have seen the country being developed in every sector in the last 10 years due to the pro-people policies of the NDA government under Modi.

The NDA has won 293 seats in the Lok Sabha election, comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member House, paving the way for Modi to take the oath for a third consecutive term, a first for any ruling alliance since 1962.

However, it will be a different act for him this time as the BJP has fallen well short of the majority and depends on allies for the government formation after enjoying a comfortable majority on its

own in the previous two terms of his government.

Hosting the meeting, the BJP presented a picture of collective partnership with its allies with Naidu, Kumar and Shinde seated to the left of Modi while Nadda, Singh and Shah flanked the prime minister on his right.

In terms of their parties' strength, Naidu, Kumar and Shinde are the three biggest NDA constituents in that order after the BJP.

The parties of Naidu and Kumar, who together command the support of 28 MPs, have rubbished speculation on their future moves. Naidu has reiterated his support to the BJP, a view echoed by JD(U)'s Jha as well.

Asked by a reporter if he is in the NDA, Naidu shot



back, "We contested the elections together. Why do you doubt." All leaders congratulated the PM for his leadership and the strides our nation has made under him. They appreciated the PM's hard work and efforts in nation-building, he said.

Modi said at the meeting that it was a historic mandate for the NDA's third consecutive government which, he

noted, was last received in the country over 60 years back. His allies lauded Modi for his clear vision for "Viksit Bharat" and asserted that they are partners in this goal. They also praised him for enhancing India's pride in the world, besides his efforts towards poverty eradication and pledged to continue the good work, the sources said.

# 'INDIA will..

Continued on Page 1

He also said that the opposition would continue to work together and would definitely stand by the promises made to the people and keep them.

"The constituents of the INDIA bloc thank the people of India for their overwhelming support. The people's mandate has been a befitting reply to the BJP and their politics of hate, corruption and deprivation," Kharge said.

"This is a mandate in defence of the Constitution of India, and against price rise, unemployment and crony capitalism and also to save democracy," Kharge added while announcing the decision of the alliance partners.

While the BJP won 240 seats and the Congress emerged as the second largest party with 99 seats, the NDA

has the majority number with 293 seats and is holding a parallel meeting on government formation. The opposition alliance has 234 seats.

While the BJP on its own fell short of a majority, it may, as things stand, form the government on the back of its allies. With support from Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which won 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, and other alliance partners, the NDA has crossed the halfway mark.

The TDP and JDU have already dismissed suggestions of defecting to the opposition alliance and have clearly stated that they will remain with the NDA. Sources, however, said the Congress and some other party leaders are already trying to woo them and have been in touch.



### 135 students of BC Gurukula qualified in NEET 2024

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

About 135 students of Mahatma Jyothiba Phule BC Gurukula institutions qualified in NEET as per the results released by National Testing Agency (NTA) on Wednesday. About 171 students took the NEET exam out of which 135 students qualified. Out of 135, 120 students are girls while 15 students are boys. Seven girls and seven boys scored over 400 marks. Among Boys, M Chandu secured the highest marks - 680 in the exam and secured 33th rank followed by S. Vineeth Reddy - 652 (3410-rank), K. Ramesh - 630 (22,083-rank) M. Laxman - 498, T. Pawan - 473 marks. In the case of girls, M. Manasa secured the highest marks in the exam with 488 marks followed by B. Rishita with 437 marks, B. Nagalakshmi - 433, P. Sushmita - 429, B. Harshita - 424, B. Anusha - 419 and M. Prashodhi - 394 qualified for MBBS.

## Parking facility to be built at Secretariat worth Rs 30 crore

Secretariat given building permission sans parking

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy directed officials to expedite the Secretariat parking project worth Rs 30 crore. The Minister held a review meeting with senior Road and Buildings officials regarding the construction of four TMS hospitals across Hyderabad, the CRIF and other road constructions across the state worth Rs 2,000 crores, the establishment of Secretariat parking, the new NIMS Hospital building, and the construction status of the new Hyderabad Collectorate. Regarding the lack of parking at the State Secretariat, causing difficulties for ministers, leaders, employees, and staff, the minister directed officials to expedite tender processes for the Rs30 crore



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy holding a review meeting at Secretariat in Hyderabad on Wednesday

parking project. Questioning the approval of building plans without parking provisions, he instructed immediate construction of toilets for vehicle drivers on both sides of the parking area. He asked officials how the building permission was given without sheds for parking in Secretariat where 750-1000 vehicles are parked.

Officials committed to swift construction, revealing plans for solar-powered parking and integration of generated electricity into the grid for Secretariat use. Minister gave suggestions to parking plan. The Minister expressed concern over the poor condition of roads due to lack of construction over the past five years,

leading to significant public inconvenience and frequent road accident reports. He noted that the election code immediately after the government's formation hindered progress. He urged officials to promptly commence road construction to alleviate public distress, suggesting a 24/7 operational strategy. The Minister also examined the construction status of the new Hyderabad Collectorate and the four TMS hospital buildings, each spanning 50,000 square feet and comprising 14 floors. Despite adequate funding from bank loans, the minister expressed dissatisfaction with delays. He demanded prompt action on NOCs for LB Nagar and Alwal TMS hospitals and emphasized timely completion without negligence.

### Boy found dead with dog bite injuries

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A six-year-old boy, identified as Bosala Satwik, was found dead with dog bite injuries on his body at dumping yard at Maktha Mahaboobpet in Miyapur here on Wednesday, police said. However, a civic official said the cause of death was not known and it cannot be immediately confirmed that the boy died in a stray dog attack. The body was swollen and is suspected that he might have fallen into a water body adjacent to the dump yard. It was not clear when the dogs bit the boy, the official said adding that the cause of death can be ascertained only after post-mortem examination. The boy stayed near the dumping yard along with his father and grandmother and used to play with the dogs at the yard, they said.



On Tuesday evening, he was playing with dogs and did not return home. Locals found the boy's body on Wednesday morning and alerted the police, who reached the spot and found dog bite marks on the boy's back. The boy's grandmother in a complaint to the police stated that the boy died due to injuries caused by dog bites. A case has been registered and investigation is on.

### Interstate marijuana peddler arrested, 22 kg contraband seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Based on credible information, the HNEW, along with Market Police, apprehended an interstate marijuana peddler, identified as Kureshu Paik alias Kuresh, and seized 22 kg of narcotics and a cell phone all worth Rs.5,55,000 from his possession. The accused Kureshu Paik alias Kuresh (31), who hailed from Gajapati in Odisha State, was sent to judicial remand. On the instructions of his friend, he came to Secunderabad Railway Station, along with a bag containing 22 kg marijuana on June 2 to hand over the contraband to someone. The HNEW team, along with Market Police, apprehended him at the Clock Tower in Secunderabad Railway Station, according to a media statement.



GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose examining the rain water logging points and flowing channels in the city on Wednesday

### Officials told to monitor rainwater stagnation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose ordered officials to take strict measures to avoid rain water problem in Somajiguda and Khairatabad areas in the city. On Wednesday, the water stagnation points were inspected along with the Commissioner, Engineer-in-Chief Zia Uddin. They exam-

ined water stagnation points at Taj Krishna Hotel. The Commissioner directed officials to send proposals for construction of bunds at Taj Hotel, RTA office Lake view Guest House to direct the flood coming from Irrum Manzil metro station. Khairatabad Zonal Superintendent Engineer Ratnakar, Executive Engineer Indira Bai and others inspected areas in the city.

### DOST Phase I seat allotment today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) announced that Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST-2024) Phase -I seat allotment will be released on Thursday at 3 pm during a press meet at the conference hall of TSCHE.

Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary of Education and Commissioner of Collegiate Education and Prof R Limbadri, Chairman, TGCH and convenor, DOST, will release DOST-2024 Phase-I seat allotment. Prof V Venkata Ramana, Vice Chairman, TGCH, Prof SK Mahmood, Vice Chairman, TGCH, Prof G Yadagiri, JD, CCE, Prof DSR Rajender Singh, JD, CCE, Prof P Balabhaskar, Academic Guidance Officer(I/c), CCETS and other concerned officials will be present in the meeting.

### 67 students top NEET UG this year

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Testing Agency (NTA) declared National Eligibility cum Entrance Test UG results on Wednesday. A total of 24,06,079 candidates registered for the examinations out of which 23,33,297 attempted the examinations. About 67 students secured 99.997 percentile in this year. Anuran Ghosh from Telangana secured the 77th rank with a percentile of 99.996614 in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test. NEET UG examinations were held on May 5, 2024 in 13 languages across 4,750 centres spread throughout 571 cities in

India. About 9,96,393 male candidates, 13,31,321 female candidates and 17 transgender candidates appeared for the exam. As per the NTA, 56.4 percent of candidates qualified the exam. About 47,371 students from Telangana qualified in the exam while 43,858 students from Andhra Pradesh qualified in NEET. Students can check their results and download their scorecard from the official website exams.nta.ac.in. The cut-off for the general category candidates has increased from 720-137 last year to 720-164 this year. As many as 13 students from Resonance scored over 700 marks. Purnachandra Rao, Managing

Director, Resonance Educational Institutions, said, "We are very happy with these national ranks, we are also giving a small contribution from the Telugu states and congratulations to all the students and their parents on this occasion. About 13 students scored over 700 marks in NEET 2024 while 75 percent of Hyderabad students qualified in the exam." Aisha Masarath Khanam, Secretary of Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) stated that 137 students qualified in the exam out of which 85 are boys and 52 are girls. About 47 students will get free MBBS medical seats.



Officials of Resonance institute awarding students with certificates for scoring over 700 marks in NEET examinations, in Hyderabad



NMDC CMD Amitava Mukherjee, Directors Vinay Kumar, and B Vishwanath, at the World Environment Day 2024 celebrations in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024 NMDC conducts plantation drive, essay competition

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The celebrations began with a ceremonial lamp lighting, where NMDC's senior management, Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), and B. Vishwanath, CVO, led the employees in pledging to protect the environment. A special video on the theme Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience was unveiled. NMDC CMD Amitava Mukherjee emphasised the importance of sustainability, stating, earth is the only planet that supports life and can heal itself, but the question is, who will heal us?

Plantation drive at major project sites, along with poster-making and essay writing competitions were conducted for students and employees, creating greater awareness on environmental conservation by India's miner and iron ore producer, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). The NMDC celebrated World Environment Day 2024 on Wednesday at the Head Office in Hyderabad and at various projects across India, pledging to nurture the environment.

### OVERSEAS EDUCATION GRANT BC Welfare Assn demands release of Rs 7,000 cr dues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

National BC Welfare Association president and Rajya Sabha member R Krishnaiah on Wednesday urged Principal Secretary of Higher Education Burr Venkatesham Goud to release Rs 7,000 crore dues for students studying abroad and sought increase in allowance for inter-caste marriage couple. Krishnaiah, along with along with Backward Classes leaders Guja Satyam, Neelam Venkatesh, Raj Kumar, Niranjana, and others, met with the Principal Secretary. To Renew the scheme of paying full fees for Backward Classes students studying engineering, MBA, MCA, PG, degree, and intermediate courses, similar to the benefits given to ST, SC, and Minority stu-



National BC Welfare Association president R Krishnaiah and BC leaders submitting a memorandum to Higher Education Principal Secretary Burr Venkatesham Goud on Wednesday.

300 crore to provide for 3,000 students. He urged the government to increase the stipend for BC advocates from Rs 1,000 to Rs.10,000 per month along with sanctioning Rs 500 per month as pocket money for BC college hostel students and increase in mess charges.

They also urged the Principal Secretary to sanction two Patashalas for each Assembly Constituency and two degree colleges for the district along with increasing the budget for the foreign education stipend scheme from Rs 60 crore to Rs

### AP election triggers clashes in city, two groups file cases against each other

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The results of Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh sparked a fight between two groups at Gachibowli here. More than 10 people had fought with plastic pipes, bricks and sticks. Rival groups filed cases against each other. One of the complainants, Mallineni Subba Rayudu, who is managing hostels for his livelihood, alleged that on the day of AP elections result, the neighboring hostel owner Koteswara Rao and his son Sai Krishna, and 10 others came to his place, raising slogans in favour of TDP and they burst the crackers. In the complaint it mentioned that when he requested them to go and do the same at their hostel, they turned angry, and beat him. On seeing the incident,

Rayudu's son-in-law Surendra came there and tried to rescue him from the clutches of the accused. But they beat Surendra also with pipes. Surendra suffered head injury. Meanwhile, Sai Krishna also filed a complaint against his rivals and alleged that on June 4, he got a call from Rajesh who is the owner of a women's hostel threatening him that he would hit his family members and used filthy language against him. All of sudden Rajesh and four other persons attacked them with pipes and brick, due to which Rajesh's uncle Srinivas Rao got serious injuries to his head and other parts of the body. After taking both the complaints, the Gachibowli police registered cases against both the groups under 324,506/r/w 34 IPC sections.

### Kanha Shanti Vanam celebrates World Environment Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

World Environment Day was celebrated at the Heartfulness Institute's world headquarters at Kanha Shanti Vanam, the largest meditation hall complex in the world, on Wednesday. The Assistant Director of Tourism Krupakar Ravipati, attended as the Chief Guest and planted a sapling on the campus. In his address, Ravipati emphasised the importance of the environment, stating, "The environment is very important to our lives, it is the foundation of our existence. By nurturing and protecting it, we ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for ourselves and the generations to come." He commended the efforts at Kanha Shanti Vanam as an essence of nature conservation, believing the initiatives that would inspire future



Assistant Director of Tourism Krupakar Ravipati planting a sapling at the Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

generations. Ravipati also highlighted the issues of plastic pollution and deforestation, stressing the need for greater efforts to combat these problems. He appreciated the role of the Heartfulness Institute, under the guidance of Rev. Daaji, in promoting environmental conservation and inspiring people worldwide. The Guide of Heartfulness and President of Shri Ram

Chandra Mission, Rev. Daaji, currently on tour in the US, shared his thoughts on World Environment Day. He expressed happiness at the growing enthusiasm for environmental conservation, noting, Our environment reflects the state of our inner being. This adjustment with nature not only preserves our surroundings but also nurtures our inner peace, He added.

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 'Railways take initiative towards sustainable environment'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

South Central Railway (SCR) observed World Environment Day on Wednesday. R Dhananjayulu, Additional General Manager, SCR, was the chief guest on the occasion. C Shekar Reddy, Vice President, Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), and Saurav Choudhury, CII-IGBC, were present on the occasion. This year's theme is "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience". Dhananjayulu stated that the action to conserve, preserve and protect the environment must start at individual level. He called upon the railway staff to implement environmentally friendly practices from their

homes. He emphasised on the importance of cleanliness and encouraged the staff to regularly participate in cleaning activities of their surrounding areas such as Railway colonies and offices. Railways, he said, has been continuously undertaking various measures towards environmental sustainability such as rain water harvesting and rejuvenation water bodies, energy conservation, afforestation, bio-toilets etc. In addition to implementing these facilities, it is also important to ensure the maintenance throughout the year. Further, he advised the officials to undertake special drives to spread awareness among the local public to prevent them from dumping garbage or light-



SCR Additional General Manager R Dhananjayulu, vice president Green Building Council and Saurav Choudhury at a meeting in Hyderabad on Wednesday

ing fires near railway lands/tracks. He also advised the field level supervisors to strictly monitor railway lands and other railway premises to prevent such activities. "It is important to spread awareness on the importance of a green environment

and clean energy to create a better life for our future generations. The measures taken towards a greener environment should become a way of life and not just a one-time thing. The way to protect our environment is to reduce, recycle and optimize

resource utilisation", he added. Earlier, officials from different departments such as mechanical, electrical, engineering and medical etc. presented detailed reports on their contributions and action plans towards sustainability of the environment.

Saurav Choudhury, CII-IGBC also gave a detailed presentation on building a sustainable future and the scope of green living. C. Shekar Reddy, Vice President, IGBC appreciated SCR for its efforts towards the protection of the environment. Some measures undertaken by SCR towards sustainability include planting of 73 lakh saplings during 2023-24. Additional General Manager presented mementos to winners of drawing competition on the theme of "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience" for the children of Rail Nilayam employees as part of the World Environment event. Principal Heads of the Departments and senior officials participated in the programme.

### Food safety officials find expired food in bar, eatery

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Task force team of food safety conducted an inspection in Halo Cocktail Bar and Kitchen, Jubilee Hills on Tuesday and found expired food in the kitchen and some other lapses. During the checking the officials found expired items of Golden Rings Keora Water, Half Baked Malabar Parotta and Spicy Black Bean Sauce and hence discarded on the spot. The officials seized Food Articles like Corn Flour, American Garden Apple Cider Vinegar, Black Pepper, Tea Powder, and other items for not having proper labels. In the scrutiny, the food



inspectors found most of the semi prepared food articles stored inside the refrigerator were found with expired or beyond use by dates and hence discarded on the spot. Medical Fitness Certificates for food handlers was not available with the Food Business Operators (FBO). Vegetarian and non-vegetarian food articles were stored together. FSSAI License true copy was displayed at the billing counter.



TRANSCO TRIP

# Metro services disrupted on LB Nagar-Miyapur route

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Metro services along the LB Nagar-Miyapur route encountered significant disruption on Wednesday evening, leaving commuters stranded and inconvenienced due to a technical glitch.

The malfunction caused the suspension of operations for three metro trains, leading to overcrowding at stations and within carriages for several hours. Passengers faced delays and inconvenience as they waited for services to resume.

In an update provided by L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd., it was revealed that the disruption was attributed to the



tripping of an incoming TRANSCO feeder at the MGBS station. This unforeseen technical issue prompted an immediate response from the metro

authorities. Efforts to rectify the problem were swift, with engineers managing to resolve the issue within a span of just 7 minutes. An

In an update provided by L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd., it was revealed that the disruption was attributed to the tripping of an incoming TRANSCO feeder at the MGBS station. This unforeseen technical issue prompted an immediate response from the metro authorities.

alternative feeder at Miyapur was swiftly connected, allowing for the resumption of normal train services shortly after the glitch was addressed.

As per LTHMRL, "Hyderabad Metro Rail services were briefly affected this evening due to the tripping of an incoming TRANSCO feeder at the MGBS. The issue was resolved within 7 minutes, as an alternative feeder at Miyapur was connected and train services resumed normal operations shortly thereafter. Inconvenience caused is regretted."

While the interruption caused inconvenience to commuters during the evening rush hour, authorities have expressed regret for any inconvenience caused and assured passengers that measures are in place to prevent such occurrences in the future.

## Nehru Zoo denies reports of guard selling ticket in black

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Nehru Zoo management, Hyderabad, denied report that went viral video on social media platform claiming that a female security guard sold tickets in black at a higher price is false.

According to the Zoo's Director and Curator, an investigation revealed the truth. On Wednesday at 1 pm, a visitor asked a female security guard to buy a ticket for him to avoid waiting in line. She bought Rs 70 ticket and the visitor gave her Rs 100, telling her to keep the change. Another visitor recorded this and misunderstood the situation of selling black tickets, leading to the viral video.

## 'Learning karate will help students academically'

PNS ■ NALGONDA

MVN Vignana Kendra, executive secretary P Narsi Reddy, has opined that students will shine at their best in all spheres of activity if they learn ancient martial art form like Karate. He traced the origin of Karate to India 3400 years ago.

Speaking in connection with taking part in Karate belt grading test held here on Wednesday, he said the learners of the martial art form will inculcate discipline and self-confidence besides excelling in academic and achieving life skills. He said that free karate training is being provided free of cost and several students of the MG Vignana Kendra excelled in statelevel and national level karate events. To



MVN Vignana Kendra secretary P Narsi Reddy with students in Nalgonda on Wednesday

expand the activities of the kendra, free coaching would be given in karate to more in students. He asked the students to avail themselves of the free library of competitive examinations and study halls.

Japan Karate Association south Indian states chief examiner Sensai

R Sudarshan Master said that learning karate would be useful as it has become one of the events in Olympic sports. Therefore, parents should send their wards to free karate classes. He said that Nakrekal would host the state level Karate level championship in August while the international

level championship would be hosted in Hyderabad during next January.

Karate has been made part of the school games. Therefore, the students should learn karate, he said.

Karate Masters K Nagesh, Sagar, Pawan Kalyan, Nikhil, Vishnu, Lokesh and others were present.

# BRS losing ground, BJP displacing BRS in Telangana

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

In every election after the 2014 Assembly elections to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BRS has been gradually losing vote share and the Congress has been increasing its vote share. The BJP is gradually displacing the BRS in Telangana.

After the formation of the Telangana state, in the first Assembly election, the BRS secured 52.94% of votes and in the current Lok Sabha elections the percentage of votes secured by the BRS fell to 16.68%.

At the same time in the 2014 Assembly elections, the Congress secured 17.65% votes. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the percentage of votes secured by the Congress increased to 40.10%.

This means that from the 2014 Assembly elections to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections the vote share of the BRS had decreased by 36.26%. At the same time, the vote share of the Congress increased by 22.45%.

From the 2014 Assembly elections to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections the vote share of the BRS has been decreasing in every

After the formation of the Telangana state, in the first Assembly election, the BRS secured 52.94% of votes and in the current Lok Sabha elections the percentage of votes secured by the BRS fell to 16.68%.



election and the vote share of the Congress has been increasing.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, the BJP secured only 4.20% votes and in the current Lok Sabha elections the vote share of the BJP increased to 35.08%. That means that from the 2014 Assembly elections to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections the BJP's vote share increased by 30.88%.

The BJP is gradually increasing its vote share by capturing votes lost by the BRS. In the 2023 Assembly elections, the BRS got 37.62% votes, the Congress 39.69% and the BJP 13.90%. But in the 2024 Lok

Sabha elections the BRS got only 16.68% votes while the Congress got 40.10% and the BJP 35.08%.

In the last four months, the BRS lost 20.94% votes and the Congress increased its vote share by 0.41%. However, the vote share of the BJP increased by 21.18%. It shows that BRS votes are getting transferred to the BJP.

As a result, the BJP has increased its Lok Sabha seats and the BRS failed to win even a single seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. At the same time, the Congress has increased its vote share and that helped it

to win eight Lok Sabha seats.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BRS won nine, the BJP four and the Congress three seats. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress and the BJP won eight seats each and the BRS no seats.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BRS got 41.29% votes and in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections the BRS got only 16.68% votes. The Congress got 29.48% votes and the BJP 19.45% votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress bagged 40.10% votes and the BJP 35.08% votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BRS secured 52.94% votes



BARRELAJKA POLLED ONLY 3,087 VOTES

PNS ■ NAGARKARNOL Karne Sirisha, known as Barrelakka, who became a social media sensation during the last Assembly elections, tried her luck in the Lok Sabha elections too in Nagarkarnool constituency by contesting as an independent. She actively campaigned in the elections, yet the results disappointed her. Congress nominee Mallu Ravi won the seat with a margin of only 3,087 votes, which is less than the number of votes she got over 5,000 — when she had contested the Assembly elections from Kollapur constituency last year.

## 'Cong achieves moral victory in Adilabad LS seat'



PNS ■ ADILABAD

Khanapur legislator VedmaBojju has said that Congress achieved moral victory in Adilabad constituency in spite of the Congress nominee losing the battle at the hands of the BJP.

Addressing the media at the Praja Seva Bhavan here on Wednesday, along with Congress leaders, Congress nominee Atram Suguna who unsuccessfully contested from Adilabad Lok Sabha constituency, noted that the vote share of the party, compared to the last Assembly elections held in 2023, has gone up in

all the seven Assembly segments of the Lok Sabha constituency.

Welcoming the people's verdict, she said that she along with the elected people's representatives of the party will work with sincerity in resolve people's problems and promoting development of the region.

She said that she would remain accessible to the people, in spite of her electoral defeat, and ensure that fruits of government schemes trickle down to them.

Congress leaders Sri Hari Rao, Kandi Srinivasa Reddy and Ade Gajender and others were present.



BRS OPENLY SUPPORTED BJP, SAYS ASADUDDIN

PNS ■ HYDERABAD Just like Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi blamed the BRS leadership for actively helping BJP candidates to win by transferring their votes. "In many places, the BRS openly supported the BJP. Why did they do that we don't know. As a political strategy, it was wrong. This is a fact," Asaduddin said. "I was surprised that this happened in many places in Telangana. They should not have compromised. It is an open secret. That should not have happened. In politics, you are in power or you may lose power. You lose elections but you continue your struggle," he said. Responding to Asaduddin BRS spokesperson Krishank said, "Asad saab, with due respect every BRS social media warrior posted about the theatrics of the Hyderabad BJP candidate. KCR fielded his confidante against the BJP State President.

## Madhavi: A Hindutva proponent who garnered attention

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Multi-faceted personality and BJP pick for Hyderabad to take on its long-time MP Asaduddin Owaisi, K Madhavi Latha, is said to have given a run for his money in the May 13 Lok Sabha polls.

Latha lost to Owaisi with a margin of over 3.38 lakh votes. A philanthropist, classical dancer and entrepreneur, Madhavi Latha surprised many when the BJP announced her candidacy, pitting her against AIMIM chief Owaisi in the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency.

She has the image of being a strong Hindutva proponent. Madhavi Latha, as a social activist, had collaborated with

several Muslim women groups on triple talaq. She had also created a fund for destitute Muslim women.

The 49-year old Latha landed in controversy following a complaint that she hurt the sentiments of the Muslim community by gesturing to shoot an arrow towards a place of worship during a Ram Navami procession on April 17.

## Need for safeguarding environment stressed

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Food Corporation of India divisional manager Sushil Kumar Singh has called upon one and all to take steps to safeguard the environment as it is essential for the sustenance of the humankind.

He was taking part in a plantation drive held on the premises of the FCI here on Wednesday in connection with observing the World

Environment Day. He called for collective responsibility in safeguarding the environment.

He underlined the need for increasing the greenery in tune with the growing population. Mindless application of chemical fertilisers has been eroding the soil fertility and erosion of the soil leading to occurrence of floods in low-lying areas. Therefore, to prevent such natural calamities every citizen should plant a sapling.

## They all quit BRS to contest Lok Sabha polls unsuccessfully

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All candidates, barring Kavya, who quit the BRS and contested the Lok Sabha polls tasted defeat. Kavya is the daughter of Kadiam Srihari.

After the Assembly election results, sitting MP of Chevella Ranjit Reddy quit the BRS and joined the Congress. He contested again from Chevella but suffered defeat at the hands of BJP rival Konda Visweswar Reddy.

Zaheerabad Sitting MP BB Patil also quit the BRS and joined the BJP and tried his



luck at the hustings but tasted defeat at the hands of Congress rival Suresh Shetkar.

Sunita Mahender Reddy, who quit the BRS, contested as Congress candidate from Malkajgiri Lok Sabha constituency was trounced by BJP leader Eatala Rajender.

Nagarkarnool sitting MP Ramulu quit from the BRS and joined the BJP. His son Bharat contested on BJP ticket but was defeated by Congress leader Mallu Ravi.

Khairatabad legislator resigned from BRS to join the Congress and later contested from Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat. He tasted defeat at the hands of BJP Minister G Kishan Reddy.

Sanampudi Saidi Reddy who quit the BRS to contest as MP candidate from Nalgonda was trounced by Kanduru Raghuvver Reddy with a margin of over 5.51 lakh votes.

## Collector reviews steps for holding Group-1 exam

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Collector S Venkat Rao has directed district officials to make all arrangements to conduct the Group-1 preliminary exam from June 9.

He reviewed the arrangements for the examination with chief superintendents, route officials, bio-metric invigilators and flying squads along with additional collector Ch Prianka, additional SP M Nageswara Rao.

He wanted the Preliminary exam to be held from 10.30 am to 100 pm on June 9 should be held in a peaceful environment in the district. He suggested providing exclusive amenities for the physically challenged.

He wanted the examination material should be brought to the

exam center from the strong room and against deposited the exam material in the strong room at the conclusion of the examination carefully.

In all, 9725 candidates are going to take the exam in 32 exam centers in Suryapeta. The officials should provide all amenities for the examinees, especially uninterrupted power supply, toilets and drinking water, he said. Under any circumstances, candidates should not be let inside the examination center after 10.15 am.

The invigilators have been asked not to allow candidates carrying electronic wathes, mobile phones, tablets, pen drives, pouches, writing pads, calculators and those wearing boots.

## Rural schools grappling with shortage of teachers

PNS ■ RANGA REDDY

As reopening of schools after the summer holidays is a few days away, the Shadnagar constituency grapples with a severe shortage of teachers in its rural schools. This shortage has led to school closures and significant disruptions in students' education. The migration of government teachers from villages to urban areas on deputation has further complicated the situation.

Reports indicate that the majority of the 1,120 government teachers in Shadnagar, who are working in 284 schools, commute from Hyderabad. Increasingly,

Approximately 50 teachers have been deputed to schools on the outskirts of the city. While they perform their duties in urban schools, their salaries remain linked to their original rural postings, causing discontent among parents and students



these teachers are seeking deputation to suburban schools, worsening the teacher shortage in rural areas.

The problem is especially

acute in Farooqnagar, Keshampet, Kondurg, Chaudharyguda, Nandigama, and Kothur. In these areas, 469, 195, 93, 94, 135, and 134 teachers respectively have

moved to urban schools. This migration has left rural schools severely understaffed, leading parents to transfer their children elsewhere due to incomplete syllabuses and

frequent teacher absences.

Approximately 50 teachers have been deputed to schools on the outskirts of the city. While they perform their duties in urban schools, their salaries remain linked to their original rural postings, causing discontent among parents and students.

Shankarrathode, the Mandal Education Officer of Farooq Nagar, defended the reassignment of teachers, citing orders from superiors and low student numbers in rural schools. However, this rationale offers little comfort to the students left without proper education as their schools close.

A parent, Sivakumar, highlighted the situation at Thanda school, lamenting, "No teacher is coming to our school. The education authorities appointed another teacher. But because that teacher did not attend school regularly, our children did not attend school. Consequently, our Thanda school was closed."

As the academic future of rural students hangs in the balance, there is an urgent call for intervention from higher authorities in the education department to address this crisis. Without prompt action, the educational prospects of the region's rural youth remain at serious risk.



INDIA CORNER

Devotees visiting Vaishno Devi shrine to get plants as 'prasad'

Devotees visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine will now get a plant as a "prasad", the shrine board said on Wednesday. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) launched a new initiative under which they will offer plants to pilgrims from a newly established nursery "Vaishnavi Vatika". The nursery was launched by Board's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anshul Garg in Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Situated in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district, the Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine is one of the most revered sites in Jammu and Kashmir, attracting nearly one crore devotees annually. Garg highlighted the board's ongoing commitment to ecological preservation, including water conservation, afforestation, and water treatment efforts. "On this World Environment Day, I congratulate everyone."



31 fishermen rescued after boat develops technical snag mid-sea

A group of 31 fishermen, who were stranded in the sea off Parappanangudi coast as their boat developed a technical snag, were rescued and brought back to the shore, the Fisheries Marine Enforcement wing here said on Wednesday. Personnel of the Fisheries Marine Enforcement wing's unit in Beypore brought the stranded fishermen and their vessel, which got stuck mid-sea due to an engine failure, to safety, an official statement said. A rescue mission was launched based on information that the vessel "Nathan" which had ventured into the sea from Beypore harbour, was stuck in the waters off Parappanangudi area due to an engine failure, it said. As per directions of the Fisheries Assistant Director, Beypore, the Enforcement wing carried out the mission with the assistance of a marine ambulance, it said.



Arora moves court for interim bail in excise case

Businessman Amit Arora, the director of Gurugram-based Buddy Retail Pvt Limited, arrested in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise scam, on Wednesday urged a Delhi court for interim bail. He prayed for two months interim bail claiming his wife has to undergo a surgical procedure and he needed to take care of her. Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for the accused, told special judge for ED and CBI matters Kaveri Baweja that Arora was earlier granted interim bail on similar ground and "there is no allegation that misused the relief". "There is no allegation that he misused the relief. He appeared before the ED whenever he was asked to," Pahwa told the court. He added that the accused was in custody for over 480 days. The judge is likely to pass an order on the application on Thursday. Arora was arrested by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on November 29, 2022.



Ready to work with India to advance bilateral ties: China

PNS ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the victory of the BJP-led NDA coalition in the general elections and said both countries should "look to the future" to advance bilateral relations, frozen since the Galwan incident four years ago, on a "healthy and stable track."

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 240 of the 543 seats and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is comfortably above the majority 272 mark as per the result announced on Tuesday.

Relations between the two countries hit a low except for trade ever since the eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Tso (lake) area near Galwan. "We noted the results of India's general election and extend congratulations on the victory of the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and



the National Democratic Alliance," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here.

"A healthy and stable China-India relationship is in the interest of both the countries, and conducive to the peace and development in this region and beyond," Mao said while responding to a question by the official media seeking China's comment on Modi's win.

"China stands ready to work with India to act in the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples,

work in the same direction and work for a healthy and stable China-India relationship," she said.

Since the 2020 clashes, the two sides have so far held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the standoff.

According to the Chinese military, the two sides so far agreed to disengage from four points, namely the Galwan Valley, the Pangong Lake, Hot Springs, and Jianan Daban (Gogra) in eastern Ladakh.

India is pressing the People's Liberation Army to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas, maintaining that there cannot be restoration of normalcy in its relations with China as long as the state of the borders remains abnormal. For its part, China continues to maintain that the boundary question does not "represent the entirety of China-India relations, and it should be placed appropriately in bilateral relations and managed properly."

bear in mind the overall interest of our ties, look to the future and advance bilateral relations on a healthy and stable track," she said.

Asked whether China will advance any new initiatives to revive the bilateral ties deadlocked since May 2020 over the Eastern Ladakh military standoff, Mao said China's consistent and clear stand is that a healthy and stable China-India relationship is in the interest of both countries.

"We also hope that the two countries will act in the fundamental interests of the two peoples,

LS POLLS RESULT

215 out of 265 candidates in Gujarat lose security deposits

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Out of 265 candidates who contested Lok Sabha elections across 25 constituencies in Gujarat, a staggering 215, including all contestants from the BSP, failed to meet the required vote threshold and consequently lost their security deposits.

At 118, most of these candidates were Independents, besides all 24 nominees fielded by Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party, as per data.

As per Election Commission rules, candidates must secure at least one-sixth of the total votes polled in a constituency to retrieve their security deposit, which amounts to Rs 25,000 for general candidates and Rs 12,500 for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe nominees, said Joint Chief Electoral Officer for Gujarat, Ashok Patel.

IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi among top 150 varsities in the world MIT remains best university: QS Ranking

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Bombay and Delhi are among the top 150 universities in the world, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained the top rank globally for the 13th time, according to the QS World University Ranking, 2025 announced on Wednesday.

While IIT Bombay has climbed from 149 last year to 118, up by 31 ranks, IIT Delhi improved its rank by 47 points to bag the 150th position globally.

According to the coveted ranking published by the London-based higher education analyst, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the University of Delhi stood out for the employability of its graduates and has been ranked 44th globally in the category of 'employment outcomes'.

Boasting 46 universities in this edition of the rankings, the Indian Higher Education sys-



tem is the seventh most represented globally and the third in Asia, trailing only Japan (49 universities) and China (Mainland) (71 universities).

India has one more university within the top 150 rankings, IIT Delhi (150th) and two more entries in the world's top 400 with the University of Delhi (ranked 328th) and Anna University (ranked 383rd) making their debut in this tier.

"India's Employment Outcomes score is 10 points below the global average of 23.8, reflecting the need to

bridge the gap between job requirements and graduates' skills and to create more opportunities for new graduates.

"Additionally, India's sustainability score is also about 10 points below the global average and highlights the need to prioritise and strengthen sustainability initiatives within the higher education system," a senior QS official said.

The QS highlighted that despite the achievements, India faces challenges in internationalisation.



73 women elected to Lok Sabha, lower than 2019

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 73 women have won the Lok Sabha elections, a slight dip from 78 elected in 2019.

Of the total women MPs elected to the Lower House from across the country, West Bengal is leading with 11 female MPs.

A total of 797 women candidates had contested the elections with the BJP fielding the maximum at 69 followed by the Congress at 41.

This is the first election since the passage of the women's reservation bill in the Parliament to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women.

The law is yet to come into effect. According to an analysis of the Election Commission data, BJP's 30 women candidates won the polls this time, Congress 14, TMC's 11, four of the Samajwadi Party's, three of the DMK, and two each of the JDU and LJP(R).

With over 13.44 per cent

female MPs, the 18th Lok Sabha will have one of the highest number of women members since 1952.

The 17th Lok Sabha had the highest number of women parliamentarians at 78, constituting over 14 per cent of the total strength.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, 64 women were its members, while 52 women were elected to the 15th Lok Sabha.

BJP's Hema Malini, TMC's Mahua Moitra, NCP's Supriya Sule, and SP's Dimple Yadav retained their seats in the Lok Sabha polls, but candidates like Kangna Ranaut and Misha Bharati stole the show with their victories.

Samajwadi Party's 25-year-old candidate for Machhlishahr, Priya Saroj, and 29-year-old Iqra Choudhary of Kairana seat, were among the youngest nominees to secure a victory.

Notably, the parties like Naam Tamilar Katchi has achieved equal gender representation with 50 per cent women candidates.

'40 out of 40' win will help lead the nation: DMK chief Stalin

PNS ■ CHENNAI

INDIA bloc will take up the task of leading the country in protecting the constitutional principles and the great victory of DMK and its allies which have won all the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu and one in Puducherry, the 40 out of 40 win will be greatly helpful in that endeavour, Chief Minister M K Stalin said on Wednesday.

INDIA bloc's victory in Tamil Nadu and at the national level has reined in autocracy and green shoots of democracy appear now, he said.

Asserting that people have rejected the BJP's communal politics in the very soil where Ram temple was constructed in Uttar Pradesh, he explained the DMK's campaign strategy in the just concluded Lok Sabha polls, the results for which were declared on June 4.

Writing a letter of thanksgiving to party workers, Stalin said people have handed the DMK and allies a spectacular victory and cadres worked hard for such a grand show.

Wholeheartedly thanking the people for their full support, the DMK chief said the success was on a pretty grand scale shattering BJP regime's 'abuse of power and defamatory propaganda,' ensuring that 'communal forces' do not have a chance in Tamil Nadu.

World Media on Indian Election: Aura of 'invincibility' around Modi 'shattered'; Oppn energised

PNS ■ WASHINGTON/LONDON

The "aura of invincibility" around Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been "shattered" by the Indian voters who gave the Opposition a new lease on life, this is how the international media described the outcome of India's general elections.

According to the results for all Lok Sabha constituencies, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 240 of the 543 seats and the Congress 99. The BJP-led National Democratic

Alliance has comfortably crossed the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha though the BJP lost its outright majority.

The New York Times started its report by noting, "Suddenly, the aura of invincibility around Narendra Modi has been shattered."

Termining the results as "unexpectedly sobering," it noted that they were a "sharp reversal a decade into Mr Modi's reformational tenure."

For the past decade, India has been "synonymous interna-

tionally with its prime minister, Narendra Modi. But on Tuesday, as final election results poured in, the electorate appeared to show dissatisfaction with the status quo and placed the serial winner onto shaky ground," The Washington Post wrote.

There was "tepid support for his Hindu nationalist party, piercing the air of invincibility around the most dominant Indian politician in decades, it said.

"Going into this election, Modi had set a goal of winning

400 seats in the lower house of parliament, or Lok Sabha. But as results began to trickle in Tuesday night, it quickly became clear his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party would not even have enough to form a simple majority. Instead, for the first time since coming to power a decade ago, Modi will be reliant on longstanding local coalition partners to keep him in government," CNN said.

Tuesday's result is a humbling moment for a leader whose lead in the polls was

lauded by supporters as unassailable, it said.

The verdict marks a surprising revival for the Congress Party-led INDIA Opposition alliance, defying earlier predictions of its decline, and sharply diverging from both exit polls and pre-election surveys, the BBC said.

The election results show that Brand Modi has lost some of its shine, indicating that even Modi is susceptible to anti-incumbency. In other words, he is not as invincible as many of his supporters believed.

MAMATA HOLDS ON TO PERSONAL AURA

Obfuscates corruption charges with 'beneficiary politics'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Mamata Banerjee 'magic' worked yet again for the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal even as the party romped home with 29 of the 42 parliamentary constituencies in the state, reducing the BJP to 12, six seats less than its previous count, and restricting the saffron camp to less than 39 per cent votes.

Although Banerjee attributed the win to the people of the state and called the results "people's rejection of those opposed to Bengal", there's little doubt that the leader's political charisma, her street-fighter image and feisty

opposition to the BJP worked wonders behind the retention of her followers' trust that allowed her to nearly replicate the TMC's 2021 state election performance despite the palpable anti-incumbency.

What seems to have worked in Banerjee's favour, besides the personal popularity she has more or less managed to retain, is the 'beneficiary politics' she actively practised during her tenure in state power which clearly obfuscated the anti-incumbency arising out of large-scale allegations of corruption and coercive management of opposition voices.

Mamata to hold meeting with newly elected TMC MPs on Saturday

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called a meeting of newly elected Lok Sabha MPs of TMC on Saturday, party sources said. The TMC maintained its dominance in the state as Banerjee led her party to a resounding victory by bagging 29 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats, whereas the principal opposition BJP was down to 12 and the Congress to one seat.

Delhi court dismisses Arvind Kejriwal's interim bail plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another setback to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a city court on Wednesday dismissed his application for interim bail on medical grounds in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja directed the Tihar jail authorities to take care of his medical needs in judicial custody. The judge also extended Kejriwal's judicial custody till June 19.

The court is scheduled to take up on June 7 his application seeking default bail in the case.

During the hearing on Saturday, the ED had opposed the application, saying he campaigned throughout the Lok Sabha elections but "now when he has to surrender, he suddenly claims to be ill".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener surrendered on Sunday at the Tihar jail as the tenure of his interim bail granted by the Supreme Court expired on June 1. The case relates to alleged corruption and money

laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

The judge had observed that the application was for grant of interim bail on medical grounds and not for the extension of the interim bail granted by the Supreme Court.

The top court had on May 10 granted 21-day interim bail to the chief minister to enable him to campaign during the Lok Sabha polls. It had directed him to surrender on June 2, a day after the last

phase of the seven-phase poll got over. Kejriwal campaigned in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Maharashtra after being released on interim bail.

During the hearing of his application, Kejriwal's counsel told the court that he was ill and needed treatment.

The ED's counsel opposed the application, citing his campaign during the Lok Sabha polls and his "sudden" claim about being ill.

"Kejriwal campaigned throughout his interim bail period and now he suddenly claims he is ill.

Warming climate affecting snowfall, raising risk of droughts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Across the Northern Hemisphere, declining snowfall is affecting seasonal river flows, thereby increasing the risk of summer droughts, a new research has found.

Researchers explained that this could threaten water and food security, ecosystems and hydropower generation.

The team, led by researchers from the University of Bristol, UK, found that as the planet warms, snowy regions in the Rocky Mountains of North America, the Alps in Europe, along with those in northern Europe, are thawing prematurely.

Further, seasonal stream flows in less snowy areas are delayed as winters are becoming drier and warm-season rain arrives later in the year becoming a more dominant source of river flow, they explained.

"The increased (year-on-year) variability of streamflow seasonality implies greater uncertainty in seasonal streamflow patterns, posing challenges for water resource planning and management," said Ross Woods from the University of Bristol and lead author of the study published in the journal Nature.

"Water managers need different strategies to adapt to this,



depending on their location. Future planning for water infrastructure will need to take account of these changes in

seasonal river flow," said Woods. For the study, the researchers looked at climate and river flow

data from 1950-2020 for more than 3,000 river basins across the northern hemisphere. For every year, they calculated the amount of precipitation falling as snow, how this amount changed with time, along with its timing in every season, and river flows.

The team then compared these values with those observed during two ten-year periods - one with the highest snowfall amount, and the other with the lowest snowfall amount.

As climate around the world warms, seasonal river flow peaks tend to decrease, thereby resulting in a more uniform river flow over the entire year,

said the researchers.

The timing and seasonal changes of river flows showed greater year-on-year changes with declining snowfall, which means planning for these changes in the future is essential, said Woods.

The changing trends in seasonal river flows affects water resources availability and has "wide-ranging implications for ecosystem functioning, food security, and natural hazard management," said Woods.

Previous studies have shown that with climate change, snowfall is reducing, snowpacks are changing and the river flows resulting from melt water were also changing.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The enigma

The BJP 'loss' amid victory and Congress 'win' in defeat is a perplexing question

Predicting the course Indian politics will take is akin to forecasting monsoon or betting on the next World Cup winner — notoriously unpredictable. Election results routinely buck conventional wisdom, leaving even the most astute political pundits perplexed and scratching their heads. This time round, these pundits may want to hang their boots as well; they have no clue as to what happened, or what will happen, for that matter. Intriguing is also the fact that no one knows for sure which side won and who lost; and if there was a clear winner. The latest results present a paradoxical landscape where victories feel like defeats and losses masquerade as triumphs. The BJP seemingly tasted defeat despite emerging the single largest party, while the Congress celebrated a moral victory despite just about touching the 100-mark. This electoral paradox underscores the nuanced dynamics at play beyond mere seat counts, reflecting the intricate interplay of factors such as voter sentiment, strategic alliances and the evolving political narrative.



The BJP, known for its formidable electoral machinery and strategic acumen, found itself grappling with an unexpected conundrum: It falls short of reaching the coveted '300 ke paar,' let alone Narendra Modi's ambitious target of '400 ke paar.' Despite securing the most seats in Parliament, the party failed to meet its lofty expectations. This phenomenon can be attributed to several factors, including anti-incumbency sentiment, regional variations in voting patterns and the emergence of INDIA bloc, economic hardships of people, disgruntled elements in the party and many more. One crucial aspect contributing to the BJP's "loss despite victory" narrative is the erosion of its traditional vote base in certain constituencies. Issues such as agrarian distress, unemployment and socio-economic inequalities have fuelled disenchantment among segments of the electorate, leading to a dent in the BJP's support base. Additionally, the party's religious undertones, emphasis on the construction of the Ram temple and attempts at polarisation along religious and caste lines failed to resonate with the electorate. Lastly, what we observe is a noticeable decline in the appeal of 'Brand Modi'. For the first time under his leadership, the party must rely on its allies to form a Government, thereby subjecting it to the whims of these allies. At the other end, the Congress is desperately gasping for an oxygen mask. Despite facing a decline in its traditional support base, the Congress has pulled off a moral victory from the jaws of defeat. This paradoxical triumph stems from the party's ability to exceed dismal expectations, mount a credible challenge to the ruling dispensation and portray itself as a resilient Opposition force, though it needs to work more on it. In every conflict, perception often outweighs tangible triumphs. The NDA lost the battle of public perception, while the Congress ascended to the moral high ground, validating its political approach and ideology.

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# Agenda for the Modi Government 3.0

If Modi gets his next term, he might bring about transformative changes and ambitious plans to navigate India's diverse challenges and opportunities



KALYANI SHANKAR

**E**lections have resulted in surprises and upsets before. India's stability lies in its ability to transition power smoothly. The verdict is out now and the winner is announced. To fortify its democracy, India requires a stable government and strong Opposition.

After the seven-phase elections, the June 4 results indicate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will likely be the next prime minister. The INDIA bloc, a coalition of regional parties, also competed, but its chances were slim. Election results often surprise. 2004, the U.P.A. formed the government even though the B.J.P.'s "India Shining" campaign did not click. Regardless of the outcome, the winning party and the Opposition bloc will face challenges. Modi has claimed that his last ten years in office have been the appetizer, and the main meal will come in his third term. Modi stated, "Wait for bigger decisions in the third term. I'm already working on a roadmap that will be completed soon."

Modi's aspiration for a third term is not just about securing his legacy across all sectors. It's a daring attempt to surpass Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's three-term record. However, this ambitious pursuit has challenges, including public opinion and internal party dynamics that could significantly influence the political landscape.

While Modi's previous terms have seen significant achievements, his 'Modi 3.0' government will not be without its challenges. These include navigating the post-pandemic recovery, addressing social unrest, managing foreign policy issues, and meeting the diverse expectations of the electorate.

Modi has an unfinished agenda of BJP's core issues. This means implementing a Uniform Civil Code, 'one nation-one poll', propelling India to become the third largest economy and continuing to make essential changes to land and labour policies. Over the past three months, the Modi government has been working on a '125-day plan' for the next phase of governance. Initially, the plan was for 100 days, but it was



extended by another 25 days, with a focus on the youth. The agenda is expected to cover 50 to 70 key objectives and will set out the direction and priorities of the new government.

Modi might discredit his opponents and potentially break up the Indian coalition, which could significantly change India's political landscape. Modi wants to simultaneously hold all elections in the country, from local to national, which he calls 'one nation, one poll.' This change could make the electoral system more efficient and organized, but it could also concentrate power in the hands of the ruling party and reduce the frequency of elections. Modi has already laid the groundwork for this proposal. A committee under former president Ram Nath Kovind's leadership has suggested holding Lok Sabha and all state elections together.

However, the delimitation exercise involves redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies. The decennial census must be completed before that. The delimitation could have significant political implications, especially for the



NO DOUBT, THE CLAIM "MY KURTA IS WHITER THAN HIS" EXTENDS TO POLITICS. BUT IT SHOULD NOT LEAD TO AN EXERCISE OF ABUSING AND BELITTLING THE RIVALS. THE SPEECHES DELIVERED BY SOME OF THE LEADING POLITICAL PARTIES WERE DEPLORABLE AND DESPICABLE

Southern states. An affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court stated that the delimitation is expected to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 888 and Rajya Sabha seats from 250 to 384. Modi has ensured that there will be enough seating in the new Parliament building.

The South's population control policy has led to a decrease in its population, potentially resulting in a loss of at least 100 seats for Southern states in the delimitation process. This could create a North-South divide, causing contention among regional parties in the South.

The BJP is pushing for a Uniform Civil Code applicable to all citizens of India, regardless of religion. Uttarakhand, governed by the BJP, is taking steps to implement it, and other BJP-ruled states will soon follow. However, this raises concerns about potential social disruption and backlash from religious communities. During the campaign, the Opposition expressed concerns that the B.J.P. might change the Constitution to remove the word 'secular.' A Modi government with a substantial majority could alter the

Preamble and eliminate the terms 'socialist' and 'secular' added by the 42nd Amendment but that did not happen.

Modi aims to make India the world's third-largest economy through 'Viksit Bharat', prioritizing manufacturing, technology, infrastructure, and clean energy. However, funding, implementation, and public acceptance challenges could impact its success and the Indian political landscape. Despite being hamstrung by arrests and other crackdowns, the Opposition mustered its most united front in years. Still, exit polls indicated it could not cut into the BJP's parliamentary majority. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh claims that the Opposition bloc will get more than 272 seats and will choose the PM candidate in 48 hours.

If the Indian coalition manages to form a government despite the odds, it could herald a significant shift in India's political landscape. It would face challenges, such as selecting a Prime Minister and executing its ambitious plans.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

### PICTALK



A pedestrian walks past a mural, made to create awareness on the environment and reforestation, in Mumbai

PTI

## Virtual communication over spoken words

Each one of us needs appreciation, or validation, through a kind or loving word, and sometimes through a touch or even an occasional hug

**W**e were fond of a nursery rhyme during our hostel days, "One for sorrow, two for joy, three for letter, four for toy..." I realised much later that we had tweaked the rhyme to suit us, to help us cope with separation. The original did not have any reference to letters. Most of us had come out of the sheltered life of our familiar surroundings for the first time.

Emails and mobiles were not even on the horizon in 1974. Many homes did not have landline telephones. We were homesick and eagerly looked forward to handwritten letters from home. Each day, we anxiously crowded around the table outside the mess where the postman dumped all the posts. A few would gleefully pull out theirs, while others walked into the dining hall dejected.

A few years later, I was engaged to be married to a young girl within the next five months. It was a long-distance courtship. I was posted in a government job in Calcutta, she was in the final year of her graduation in Delhi. I did not have the benefit of telephone facilities either at the office or



at home. I did the next best thing — I wrote her a letter every day. She also responded, with almost the same frequency. Almost four decades later, I do not recall the contents of our letters; but I am sure they would have served the same purpose that today's practice of youngsters going out several times over months serves. We have begun to rationalise and accept the change in the younger generation for a better understanding before committing to a future relationship; while we did it after we had been engaged in an arranged relationship by our parents.

The traditional has given way to the new to suit the changing times. Age and familiarity bring inevitable changes in life. As years rolled on, we also

got busier in our daily lives — jobs, raising children, and many other things, which some may call mundane, but which I call as the flow of life. There would be bickering between the two of us, interspersed with silences, which we had not even envisaged through the rose-tinted glasses that we wore while writing those long letters during our courtship.

Now in our sixties — my wife is short of that magical number by less than a year — we even communicate through these silences. We are more like the couple of birds that I recently spotted sitting a little apart from each other on an electric wire looking in different directions, contemplating life, and probably in silent communication with each other.

Technology has also changed our lives in many ways. Virtual communication is the new order over the verbal or the written word. There are more messages of greetings on social media from and to family members living under the same roof. In the earlier days, when we did not have social media at our beck and call, a written note was something to be preserved and cherished.

One might argue that it is better than not communicating at all. My counterpoint is that not all communication should be silent or on the net. Each one of us needs appreciation, or validation, through a kind or loving word, and sometimes through a touch or even an occasional hug. Lord Tennyson said almost two centuries back, "The old order changeth, yielding place to new." Change is inevitable and needs to be welcomed with open hearts. To not change is to stagnate. It is within us to differentiate and embrace the good.

(The writer conducts workshops on creative writing for young adults and corporate executives. Views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

### SAFEGUARDING GANGETIC DOLPHINS

Madam — Regarding the news story "Small is beautiful for Gangetic dolphin," published on June 4, here are my thoughts. As a daily newspaper reader, it's heartening to see smaller rivers in the Ganga basin finally getting the attention they deserve for their crucial role in preserving the endangered Gangetic dolphin. The joint study by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga highlights the often-overlooked importance of these smaller rivers. Despite covering 1,290 kilometers of tributaries and identifying 620 kilometers of critical habitats, it's clear that these smaller water bodies need more focused conservation efforts.

The dwindling range of the Gangetic dolphin in various rivers, now extirpated from several key areas, is alarming. These smaller rivers harbour significant portions of the dolphin population and contribute to the overall biodiversity and health of the Ganga river system. The study emphasises engaging local communities, addressing their concerns and linking them to broader conservation initiatives. This holistic approach is essential for the long-term survival of these majestic aquatic mammals.

Meera Kakkar | Mumbai

### ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME

Madam — Regarding the news story "Crime and Conscience," published on June 4, here are my thoughts. The tragic hit-and-run involving a teenager and two IT professionals is a stark reminder of the complex nature of crime. Criminal psychologists argue that crimes often occur in moments of high tension or uncontrollable passion. This suggests that if individuals could resist these impulses, many crimes could be prevented.

Our legal system punishes criminal actions, but it seldom addresses the psychological state preceding these actions. Anger, jealousy, greed and fear drive

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Market volatility amid elections



**A**propos the news story "Uncertainties dwindle investors' confidence," published on June 4, this is my response. The recent stock market plunge from 76,010 to 73,866 highlights the market's sensitivity to political and economic uncertainties. Despite the RBI's 7 per cent growth forecast, investor confidence remains shaky, with major institutions predict-

ing slightly lower growth rates. This cautious sentiment is compounded by rising US bond yields and global market pressures.

Investor anxiety is further aggravated by the prolonged election period. The extended phases, particularly in northern and eastern India, not only increase administrative costs but also disrupt economic activities. Shortening the election duration could help stabilise the market and restore investor confidence. Meanwhile, the RBI's actions, such as targeting 4.5 per cent inflation and addressing banking risks, are steps towards economic stability. However, the ongoing volatility and heavy foreign fund outflows underline the need for innovative financial policies. The new government faces the challenge of navigating these uncertainties to rejuvenate the market and economy, balancing political and economic priorities effectively.

Isha Joshi | Pune

people to commit crimes. To truly reduce crime, society must focus on eradicating these negative emotions through spiritual education and meditation. Such measures could enhance individuals' resilience against stress and temptation, ultimately preventing criminal behavior. The cost of implementing widespread psychological and spiritual education is significantly less than maintaining the legal and penal systems. By addressing the root causes of crime, we could create a more harmonious society, reducing the burden on our judicial and penal systems.

Aryan Nair | Ranchi

### WE ARE EXPLOITING OUR PLANET

Madam — Apropos the news story "Is it possible to restore the lost vigour of our planet?" published on June 4, this is my response. Humans often only consider our planet during celebrations or catastrophes. In normal times, we exploit it mercilessly, forgetting that resources are finite and meant for future generations too. Historically, we

have always harmed the environment, but the last two centuries have seen unprecedented destruction due to advances in science and technology. We have abandoned the sustainable practices our ancestors valued for short-term gains. As a daily newspaper reader, it's evident that this neglect is leading us toward a bleak future for our children. We must ask ourselves: What good is wealth if our descendants inherit a degraded planet?

Efforts to restore our environment, such as reforestation and wetland restoration, show promise. Successful examples like China's Loess Plateau and Srinagar's Khushal Sar Lake illustrate the potential of coordinated, large-scale environmental rehabilitation. This year's World Environment Day, focusing on land restoration, reminds us of the urgent need to act and reverse the damage for a sustainable future.

Arjun Desai | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN MINIMISE E-WASTE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Forge a greener future by maximising resources and minimising waste



SHAINY SHARMA

Living in the so-called globalised world, the term electronic waste/E-waste is a time bomb for it comprises electronic devices that are unwanted, not working or have reached the end of their "useful life". However, it is not just a technology-based problem but everyone's problem. Around 80 to 85 per cent of electronic products are discarded in landfills. While it's good to recycle, at the same time it is crucial to prioritise safety and proper practices when handling such waste. No doubt that recycling does aim to reduce pollution, but it should not contribute to environmental harm just because of human irresponsible practices.

However, the serious environmental risks associated with e-waste are significant and multifaceted, affecting ecosystems, wildlife as well as human health.

As per several research studies, the fastest increase in e-waste output is people's insatiable need to own technological devices. With the growing age and generation, the rapid technological innovation has led to frequent releases of new models of electronic devices. Moreover, human greed too has encouraged consumers to upgrade to the latest versions, resulting in the disposal of older but still functional devices. Frequent disposal of small equipment such as microwaves, toasters, mobiles, laptops, computers, printers, and televisions followed by large equipment such as washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators and many more just to maintain the status quo makes Asia generate the most e-waste by the America, Europe, Africa and Oceania with a recycling rate of just 17.4%. Not only this, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), several adverse health effects are also caused by exposure to e-waste like negative birth outcomes such as premature birth, changes in lung



functions and respiratory issues. And not to be surprised, these challenges are emerging day by day.

With recycling and dumping issues emerging, today many electronic products are often designed with shorter lifecycles due to planned obsolescence, where manufacturers intentionally limit the lifespan of a product to encourage repeat purchases, but improper e-waste disposal leads to habitat destruction. For example, when e-waste is dumped in natural areas, it can disrupt local wildlife habitats, leading to a loss of biodiversity. In some countries, regulations governing e-waste management are either lacking or not effectively enforced, leading to improper disposal and recycling practices. In regions without Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies, manufacturers are not held accountable for the end-of-life management of their products, contributing to the accumulation of e-waste. By addressing these underlying factors through comprehensive policies, public awareness campaigns and improvements in recycling infrastructure, it is possible to mitigate the growing e-waste problem and promote more sustainable practices in electronic consumption and disposal. Also, by addressing the environmental risks of e-waste, one can work towards more sustainable and safer management practices that protect both the environment and public health. While recycling e-waste is generally better for the environment than disposing of it in landfills, some recycling processes are energy-intensive and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Improving the efficiency of recycling technologies and processes can help mitigate this impact.

It is time to embrace the power of circular thinking as one transforms waste into opportunity, by taking one step at a time. It's time to break free from the linear mindset and forge a path towards a greener future, where resources are maximised and waste is minimized.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

# Fight to preserve our fragile ecosystems

It is crucial to adopt sustainable practices to protect our environment and ensure a secure future for the coming generations, or it may be too late before we realise it



RAJDEEP PATHAK

The planet is grappling with unprecedented environmental challenges. According to media reports on May 29, 2024, Delhi recorded the highest temperature of over 50 degrees Celsius, a record-breaking event in 80 years. Then, there is the impending water crises, looming large in the Capital City – between politics and their blame game. Meanwhile, forest fires ravage the hills amidst the political fire ignited by the biggest dance of democracy, the Lok Sabha Elections which has finally ended and a new government will soon join the league of service within this 'democratic' panorama.

Not only this, according to media reports, a massive fire broke out in Kashmir's Rannagar forest division early Sunday, June 2, 2024, causing immense damage and an estimated loss of crores of rupees in timber and other natural resources. Another major fire has been raging for three days in Daya Dhar of Ghordi Block, Udhampur District, intensifying, despite continuous firefighting efforts. The Daya Dhar forest, home to a significant population of peacocks, has suffered extensive harm, impacting these birds and other wildlife. The forest fires in Udhampur pose severe threats to the environment, wildlife, and local communities, with the destruction of vegetation and the release of harmful pollutants having far-reaching consequences.

Not just this, the social media 'Instagram' is upbeat with a heart-wrenching visual display of hundreds of people of all age groups raising their solidarity in preventing the authorities from felling over 2000 trees of the Khalanga forest, prominently the Sal trees in the hill state of Dehradun. The reason for felling the trees – to address the water crises faced by the City. This proposal has sparked significant opposition from local activists and citizens, who are protesting, pleading, and urging officials, including authorities – from the Chief Minister to the bureaucrats – to reconsider this move. They highlight that the Khalanga Forest, a vital green lung for the city, contains century-old trees and diverse species, crucial for maintaining ecological balance. Activists suggest constructing the reservoir in Dwara village, which has barren land and suffers from water scarcity, as a more sustainable alternative.

According to a report, dated May 9, 2024, published at <https://groundreport.in/latest/dehradun-2000-trees-will-be-cut-in-khalanga-forest-to-make-a-reservoir-4550484>, activists are voicing strong opposition, citing the ongoing climate challenges like wildfires, etc. Citizens believe that the plan to cut 2,000 trees from the reserve forest requires serious rethinking. Further, residents of Doon, led by Colonel Vikram Thapa (retd), president of Bal Bhadra Khalanga Vikas Samiti, suggest using barren land instead of encroaching on lush green forests. Initially proposed for the Kulhan Mansingh area, the site was shifted to Khalanga. Demonstrators, including 'Nature Buddies', 'Citizens for Green Doon', 'Balbhadra Vikas Samiti', 'Toy Foundation', 'Proud Pahadi', and 'Pahadi Peddlers', symbolically tied "Rakshasutra" (see Instagram video) on marked trees.

Not only this, in another such incident, the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway construction, aimed at improving connectivity, resulted in the felling of over 7,500 trees, along a 16-km section. Approximately 4,983 trees were in Uttarakhand, while



DESPITE COMMITMENTS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13 BY 2030, CLIMATE CHANGE PERSISTS WITH ESCALATING DEVASTATION. GLOBAL TEMPERATURES ARE RISING, FUELLING CATASTROPHIC EVENTS LIKE EUROPE'S 2019 HEATWAVE AND AUSTRALIA'S 2019-2020 BUSHFIRE SEASON.

2,592 were in Uttar Pradesh. To compensate, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) proposes to plant 1.76 lakh trees.

Welcome to the celebrations that marked the 2024 World Environment Day on June 5. Amidst these glaring adversities and threats to the environment, the World Environment Day 2024 celebrations – whose underlying theme this year is "Our land. Our future" – are #GenerationRestoration, calls for global action for protecting the environment and rethinking the decisions, that could be detrimental to Mother Nature and her inhabitants. No doubt, this year's World Environment Day (WED) campaign, focused on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the 2024 World Environment Day global celebrations.

Despite commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 13 by 2030, climate change persists with escalating devastation. Global temperatures are rising, fuelling catastrophic events like Europe's 2019 heatwave and Australia's 2019-2020 bushfire season. Melting ice caps imperil coastal regions and islands like the Maldives, Miami, and Venice. Extreme weather events, including record-breaking hurricanes and deadly typhoons, wreak havoc, exacerbating water scarcity through prolonged droughts and shifting precipitation patterns.

Addressing climate change requires a comprehensive approach: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to changing conditions,

and promoting sustainable development. Transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal is crucial, with countries like Germany and Denmark leading in adoption. Enhancing energy efficiency in buildings, transportation, and industries can further reduce emissions.

Sustainable agricultural practices, like agroforestry and organic farming, help lower emissions and enhance food security, while urban farming and vertical agriculture offer innovative solutions. Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, which act as carbon sinks, is vital. Efforts like the Bonn Challenge and Costa Rica's reforestation initiatives demonstrate the benefits of increasing forest cover and biodiversity.

Promoting a circular economy can reduce resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by minimizing waste and reusing materials.

The European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan exemplifies this approach, aiming to transition from a linear "take-make-dispose" model. Sustainable urban development, focused on creating resilient, low-carbon cities, emphasizes public transportation, green building practices, and smart city technologies.

Education and awareness are also critical, as schools, universities, and community organizations play essential roles in fostering environmental stewardship. Through environmental education programmes and campaigns, individuals can be empowered to make informed decisions and take action to protect the environment.

In this context, Mahatma Gandhi's poignant reflection on our connection to the Earth resonates profoundly in these times: "If Earth is not we are not. I feel nearer to God by feeling Him through the Earth. In bowing to the Earth, I at once realise my indebtedness to Him, and, if I am a worthy child of that Mother, I shall at once reduce myself to dust and rejoice in establishing kinship with not only the lowliest of human beings, but also with the lowest forms of creation whose fate-reduction to dust I have to share with them." This profound statement encapsulates the essence of environmental stewardship and the need for sustainable development.

James Lovelock, a British scientist, proposed the Gaia hypothesis, which views the Earth as a self-regulating system. This idea aligns with Mahatma Gandhi's view of the Earth as a living entity with which we share a deep connection. Lovelock's work emphasizes the interdependence of all living and non-living components of the Earth, suggesting that harming one part affects the whole system. As we face the pressing issue of climate change, it is imperative to adopt sustainable practices to protect our environment and secure the future for coming generations. Individual actions, combined with collective efforts, can pave the way for a sustainable world, ensuring that future generations inherit a healthy and thriving planet. It is now or never.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

# Reshaping film festivals and cinemas with OTT platforms

By embracing a hybrid approach that combines virtual access with in-person screenings, festivals have the opportunity to broaden their audience reach

In the age of instant communication and paradigm shifts, transformative changes are progressively taking place in the content domain as it is being collated, consumed and distributed across media platforms. The communication landscape is witnessing a sea of opportunities, being available to access content in a form suitable to viewers, audiences and stakeholders. Cinema also is witnessing an innovation & disruption bringing, forth a change in the status quo of viewing on the silver screen.

The exponential growth of OTT platforms has redefined the mode & matrix of cinema viewing globally. Apart from promoting binge-watching, and accessible viewing, OTT



CHAITANYA KUMAR PRASAD

has become a convenient pastime for home viewing. Today the OTT domain is a witness to a recalibration of distribution channels, new revenue models, focus on artistic merit and reconfiguration of the content with outreach mechanisms. India has also been seeing a rise in the OTT domain with quality content being produced in huge numbers.

The global film festival circuit is also witnessing winds of change giving rise to new collaborative partnerships, renewed style of storytelling, narration, participation and branding of cinematic appeal. As a consequence, film festivals have repositioned themselves as platforms with broadened appeal, wider audiences and a variety of diverse themes related to storytelling. Cannes Film Festival 2024, is responding to these changes by forging new collaborative partnerships and adopting fresh storytelling techniques. This dynamic is evident as film festivals broaden their thematic scopes and embrace diverse cinematic expressions, integrating OTT content that resonates with global audiences. Notable examples include Alfonso

Cuarón's "Roma" and Pawel Pawlikowski's "Cold War," both of which received significant accolades at major international festivals, underscoring the increasing acceptance and influence of OTT-produced content within the mainstream cinema landscape. This is evident in the case of Indian OTT content representation as well, with many big-name international film festivals accepting its nominations.

India's representation at Cannes 2024 exemplifies this trend, showcasing films that bridge traditional Indian narratives with contemporary global themes, thus appealing to a wide array of audiences. The increasing inclusion of Indian OTT content at Cannes highlights a strategic shift

towards embracing digital storytelling platforms, reflecting a broader trend of film festivals adapting to the digital age.

This evolution is mirrored in the increased recognition of web series and digital features, which are now celebrated for their creative quality and innovation at such international platforms. Indian presence at Cannes 2024 has been a testament of diversity, talent and unique identity; which was showcased by the multiple nominations in various categories and innumerable wins that Indian creators and films have bagged this year.

Since 2023, there has been an increase in the inclusion of OTT content in film festivals showing a shift influenced by the popularity of direct-to-

consumer streaming platforms. Major film festivals are integrating digital content into their programs, recognising the potential of OTT to bring innovative storytelling and diversity. Some have even introduced awards for web series to highlight the creative quality of OTT productions. Over the years IFFI, Goa has created unique templates for integrating the festival with the OTT narrative, reinforcing storytelling with fresh perspective, imagination participation & collaboration. The 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) made history by introducing a hybrid format in 2021.

This innovative approach allowed attendees to participate both in person and virtu-

ally showcasing the benefits of blending digital components. The pioneering move not only tackled the challenges posed by the pandemic but also set a new gold standard for Film Festivals worldwide. The success of IFFI in 2021 as a hybrid model inspired other prestigious festivals like TIFF to adopt similar formats in subsequent years ensuring ongoing engagement and inclusivity.

The 52nd IFFI kept up the momentum. More than 50 films were screened simultaneously on OTT platforms. 10 Masterclasses. For the 54th edition, IFFI introduced the Best Web Series (OTT) Award and honoured "Panchayat Season 2", from Amazon Prime Video, for its authentic depiction of rural Indian life.

This move has fostered bridging the gap between traditional and digital film realms. By embracing a hybrid approach that combines virtual access with in-person screenings, festivals have the opportunity to broaden their audience reach and promote inclusivity.

Collaboration between festivals and streaming services could encompass sponsorships, premieres, acquisitions or joint projects with filmmakers enriching the festival experience and aligning with audience preferences for personalised viewing options.

(The writer is a Former Addl. DG DFF & Festival Director IFFI. Views are personal. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad, and Vaishnavie Srinivasan)



MONEY MATTERS

### Gold slips Rs 80; silver plunges Rs 1,200 amid weak global cues

Gold prices slipped Rs 80 to Rs 72,820 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak trends globally, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,900 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver prices also plunged Rs 1,200 to Rs 91,900 per kg. In the previous session, it had settled at Rs 93,100 per kg. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,332 per ounce, down US\$ 3 from the previous close. "Gold prices dropped due to a firm US\$ and technical selling pressure, even though there were indications of a weakening US labour market. This has further strengthened the expectations that the US Federal Reserve will lower interest rates soon," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In addition, silver also dropped to US\$ 29.75 per ounce. Moving forward, traders will focus on macroeconomic data, including ADP non-farm employment and ISM non-manufacturing PMI data, which will be released later on Wednesday, Gandhi added.



### Rupee rebounds 14 paise to 83.37 against US dollar

The rupee recovered 14 paise to close at 83.37 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking strong buying in domestic equities and lower crude oil prices in international markets. However, a surging greenback against major crosses overseas and fresh foreign fund outflows restricted gains in the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.50 and touched the intra-day peak of 83.28 against the domestic unit during the session. It finally settled at 83.37 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 14 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the domestic currency plunged 37 paise to settle at 83.51 against the dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the rupee appreciated as domestic markets recovered some losses of the previous day and reports of intervention by the RBI. "...a recovery in the US dollar and disappointing macroeconomic data capped sharp gains," he said.



### Maruti Suzuki to invest Rs 450 cr in renewable energy initiative

Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said it will invest Rs 450 crore over a span of three years towards commissioning renewable energy projects linked to solar power and biogas. In FY24, the company invested Rs 120.8 crore in the vertical. The company will increase this investment around four-fold to Rs 450 crore spread over three years starting FY25, it said in a statement. "As we ramp up our production capacity from around 2 million to 4 million by 2030-31, we are also accelerating our efforts to increase the share of sustainable and renewable energy sources across our operations," Maruti Suzuki Managing Director & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said. Just as the company is bringing multiple technologies in products, it would also focus on multiple renewable energy sources to make the operations greener, he added.



## 'Slim majority for BJP poses challenges to reforms agenda'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP losing its outright majority and now having to rely on allies to form a government may delay more far-reaching elements of economic and fiscal reforms like land and labour and impede progress on fiscal consolidation, global rating agencies said on Wednesday. Fitch Ratings and Moody's Ratings in separate notes spoke about the implication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP losing its majority for the first time since 2014, winning 240 seats in the 543-seat Lok Sabha. BJP now plans to form a government with smaller parties in the National Democratic Alliance, which won another 53 seats, giving the alliance a 293-seat majority. "It appears the BJP-led NDA is likely to form the next government, returning Prime Minister Modi for a third term, but with a weakened majority that could pose challenges for the more ambitious elements of the government's reform agenda," Fitch said. As the BJP fell short of an



outright majority and will need to rely more heavily on its coalition partners, "passing contentious reforms could prove more difficult, particularly around land and labour, which have recently been flagged as priorities by the BJP to boost India's manufacturing competitiveness," it said. Moody's said it expects policy continuity, especially with regards to budgetary emphasis on infrastructure spending and boosting domestic manufacturing, to support robust economic growth. "However, the

NDA's relatively slim margin of victory, as well as the BJP's loss of its outright majority in parliament, may delay more far-reaching economic and fiscal reforms that could impede progress on fiscal consolidation," Moody's said in a note. Fitch too expected policy continuity to persist despite a slimmer majority. It expected the government to retain its focus on capex push, ease of doing business measures, and gradual fiscal consolidation. "We expect India's strong medium-term growth outlook to remain intact,

"However, the NDA's relatively slim margin of victory, as well as the BJP's loss of its outright majority in parliament, may delay more far-reaching economic and fiscal reforms that could impede progress on fiscal consolidation."

underpinned by the government capex drive and improved corporate and bank balance sheets. But upsides to medium-term growth prospects are likely to be more modest if reforms prove more challenging to advance," it added. India's fiscal outcomes will remain weaker than Baa-rated peers, even as the final budget for the fiscal year ending March 2025 (fiscal 2024-25) to be released in the next few weeks provides some indications of India's fiscal policy over the course of the term of the incoming government through 2029, Moody's said.

### MONETARY POLICY



RBI rate-setting panel starts deliberations, decision tomorrow

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rate-setting panel of RBI on Wednesday started its three-day deliberations to decide the next monetary policy amid expectations of continuation of the current interest rate. Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das will announce the decisions taken by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday. Experts are of the view that the central bank is unlikely to cut the benchmark interest rate (repo) as inflation still remains a matter of concern. The MPC may also refrain from rate cut as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated repo rate of 6.5 per cent prevailing since February 2023. The central bank last hiked repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has maintained status quo 7 times in a row.

## Food industry should be more responsible, says Secretary

'Returning consignments gives bad name'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India earns a bad name whenever a food consignment is returned over quality concern, Food Processing Industries Secretary Anita Praveen said on Wednesday asking food companies to become a little more responsible. Addressing a FICCI 'FOODWORLD India 2024', she asked the industry to supply top-quality products in domestic and overseas markets by meeting international quality standards. The secretary highlighted that the food processing sector is important for the Indian economy and provides huge employment opportunities. Praveen said the food processing sector plays an important role in improving the income of farmers. She noted that India is a big market for processed foods and therefore many global companies are interested in entering this space. "Let us be the suppliers

"We do understand that sometimes we do get bad names the world over. It's not just in terms of sometimes having residues,...having suboptimal quality, we also get into this issue when we do not supply what has been committed to the consumer on the other side. Returning consignments do not give us a good name."

rather than letting someone else do that. It is our industry's responsibility to make sure that supplies are sustained not just in quantity but also in quality," Praveen told senior management of food companies participating in the event. The secretary rued that the country's share in the global export market of food as well as processed food items was very low and asked food companies to focus on export markets without compromising

on the quality of products. She said India should not cater only to NRIs but to all consumers globally. Talking about quality, Praveen said, "We do understand that sometimes we do get bad names the world over. It's not just in terms of sometimes having residues,...having sub-optimal quality, we also get into this issue when we do not supply what has been committed to the consumer on the other side.

## Sebi mulls raising limit for basic service demat account to Rs 10 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday proposed to enhance the threshold for the basic service demat account (BSDA) to Rs 10 lakh from the current Rs 2 lakh in a bid to boost the participation of retail investors in the securities market. A basic service demat account, or BSDA, is a more basic version of a regular demat account. The facility was introduced by Sebi in 2012 for reducing the burden of demat charges on investors with small portfolios. At present, an individual can hold demat securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh and other than demat securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh in a single demat account to be eligible for BSDA. In order to further boost participation in the securities market and to facilitate ease of doing investments, the facility of BSDA has been comprehensively reviewed, Sebi said in its consultation paper. The regulator proposed that the value of securities held in the demat account should not exceed Rs 10 lakh for debt and



other than debt securities combined at any point of time. Listing on eligibility criteria, Sebi said an individual needs to have only one demat account where he/she is the sole or first holder and the individual needs to have only one BSDA in his/her name across all depositories. Additionally, the regulator has proposed to review the maximum annual maintenance charges (AMC) for BSDA. For portfolio values up to Rs 4 lakh has proposed that annual maintenance charge for a BSDA should be nil and for portfolio values of between over Rs 4 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh, the charges should be Rs 100. However, if portfolio value exceeds Rs 10 lakh then BSDA should automatically be converted into a regular demat account.

## Investors become richer by Rs 13.22L cr as markets bounce back after rout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after facing massive erosion from their wealth, equity investors became richer by Rs 13.22 lakh crore on Wednesday with markets making a strong comeback. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,303.19 points, or 3.20 per cent, to settle at 74,382.24. During the day, it rallied 2,455.77 points, or 3.40 per cent, to 74,534.82. In line with optimism returning at the Dalal Street, the market capitalisation of



BSE-listed companies jumped Rs 13,22,847.05 crore to Rs 4,08,06,552.32 crore (USD 4.89 trillion) on Wednesday. "Indian market exhibited a spirited recovery driven by broad based buying across various sectors, as political sta-

bility appears assured. However, attention will remain on the formation of the government and the forthcoming RBI policy meeting," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. All the 30 Sensex companies ended in the green, with IndusInd Bank jumping nearly 8 per cent. Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever, and JSW Steel also emerged

big gainers. Tuesday's big laggards NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid also ended in the green. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 4.41 per cent and smallcap index rallied 2.93 per cent. All the indices ended in the green, with telecommunication soaring 6.01 per cent, services jumping 5.74 per cent, metal (5.36 per cent), auto (4.50 per cent), commodities (4.48 per cent), and consumer discretionary (4.29 per cent).

## Suraksha Group takes control of bankrupt Jaypee Infratech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to over 20,000 homebuyers, Suraksha Group has taken control of the debt-ridden realty firm Jaypee Infratech by constituting a three-member board and will soon infuse Rs 125 crore equity fund to start construction of stalled housing projects across Delhi-NCR. The takeover follows insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT decision on May 24, upholding Suraksha Realty's bid to acquire Jaypee Infratech while directing it to pay an

additional Rs 1,334 crore as farmers' compensation. According to a regulatory filing by Jaypee Infratech on Wednesday, Suraksha Group informed the IMC (Implementation and Monitoring Committee) that May 24, 2024, i.e., the date of the NCLAT order should be treated as the 'Approval Date' as defined in the approved resolution plan. The IMC in its meeting held on Tuesday approved the appointment of Sudhir V



Valia, who is promoter of Suraksha Group, as a Non-Executive Director. It approved the appointment of Aalok Chhampak Dave as

Executive Director and Usha Anil Kadam as independent Director. Dave has also been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. According to the filing, Valia was an Executive Director in Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd. He is a co-founder of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies and world's fifth largest generic pharmaceutical company. Valia is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of

## Domestic air traffic likely to touch 164 mn in FY25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's domestic air traffic is expected to rise 6 to 8 per cent to 161 to 164 million in the current financial year, according to a report. Aviation advisory firm CAPA India in a report on Wednesday said international air traffic is projected to jump 9-11 per cent to 75 to 78 million in the fiscal ending March 2025. The domestic carriers are projected to report consolidated losses in the range of USD 0.4 to 0.6 billion this financial year. The losses are estimated

at US\$ 1.3 to 1.5 billion, excluding IndiGo, which is profitable. One of the reasons for the losses would be on account of capacity shortage due to the grounding of aircraft. At present, around 130 planes are grounded due to various reasons, and the number would be about 180, including the aircraft of Go First, it said. Go First stopped flying last year. In terms of the total fleet, CAPA India said net inductions are expected to be 84, taking the total number of planes with domestic carriers to 812 at the end of March 2025.

### NSE SETS WORLD RECORD Handles 1,971 crore transaction in single day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday created a world record with processing 1,971 crore transactions in a single day, its MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said. "NSEIndia handled the highest ever - world record - number of transactions in a single day today on June 5, 2024, in a 6 hours and 15 minutes (915 am to 330 pm) single trading day - 1,971 cr (19.71 billion) orders per day; 28.55 cr (280.55 million) trades per day," Chauhan said.

## Sebi makes process of securities payout directly to client account mandatory

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To enhance operational efficiency and reduce the risk to clients' securities, markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday decided to make the process of direct payout of such securities to the client's account mandatory. This will become effective from October 14, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. Currently, the clearing corporation credits the pay-out account of the broker, who then credits the same to the respective client's demat accounts.

## Every Re 1 in agri R&D yields Rs 13 return: NAAS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the newly-formed government charts its 100-day agenda, the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) president Himanshu Pathak on Wednesday underscored the need for a major overhaul in India's agricultural research and education system. His call comes amid challenges such as high cultivation costs, low productivity, and climate change impacts. "As we move ahead, there is a need to address these challenges. There is a need to transform the way agriculture and education is done in the country," Pathak said at the NAAS Foundation Day Programme. He emphasised that the

"We need to have research in high impact areas, diversify agriculture, focus on climate resilient varieties, low carbon, nitrogen and energy footprints to combat climate change, and integration of alternative technologies."



vision for Indian agriculture should be "globally competitive and sustainable farming". Highlighting the substantial returns on agricultural research investments, Pathak said, "For every one rupee investment in R&D is prof-

itable. The returns in the livestock sector are even more." The NAAS president, who also serves as the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), outlined several impediments in the farm sector. These include limited diversification, low-value addition, soil degradation, natural resource depletion, and increasing pest and disease issues, all exacerbated by volatile markets and climate change. Consequently, agriculture's share in GDP has dwindled to

19.2 per cent, with fewer people depending on the sector. "We need to have research in high impact areas, diversify agriculture, focus on climate resilient varieties, low carbon, nitrogen and energy footprints to combat climate change, and integration of alternative technologies," Pathak said. He also advocated for promoting value addition and addressing post-harvest losses. To achieve these goals, he suggested leveraging new tools like ICT, AI, GIS, and genome editing. "There is a need to increase demand for quality and nature-friendly food with increasing income, facilitate cooperation across partners, increase funding and quality manpower," he added.

## Brakes India forms JV with Japanese firm for advanced braking products

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Brakes India on Wednesday announced its plans to develop and manufacture advanced braking products for the domestic light vehicle market in a 51:49 joint venture partnership with Japanese AISIN Group company ADVICS at an investment of Rs 500 crore over the next three years. The joint venture entity will focus on developing these products in a phased manner of which Electronic Stability Control (ESC) will be among the initial products to be rolled out, Brakes India said in a statement. The green field facility will be funded by both partners, who will leverage strengths of both

companies across advanced global technology, localisation capabilities, quality systems, manufacturing processes, among others, it said. "There is growth of hybrid and battery electric vehicles (HEV/BEVs) in India and increased demand for autonomous driving features. Our investments in R&D and localisation combined with global technology of ADVICS will accelerate adoption of these advanced braking systems while leveraging decades-old collaboration between the TSF and AISIN Group. To begin with, the products manufactured at the JV company will be supplied to the Indian light vehicle market through the parent companies."





# Hyderabad

the pioneer

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Thursday  
 June 6, 2024



Working to preserve and restore lakes, Dhruvansh an NGO, has undertaken a number of restoration efforts for giving facelift to lakes across Hyderabad city.

SHRADDHA NEWARE

Dhruvansh, a Hyderabad-based environmental non-profit organisation, is determined to preserve and restore the lakes in and around Hyderabad to their former beauty. The group has carved out a place in lake preservation and restoration, by employing tried-and-true scientific approaches!

Lakes in Hyderabad are at risk due to chemical sewage disposal, land invasion by eager real estate developers, and threats to indigenous flora and fauna. The organisation's goal is to conserve lakes that are in desperate need of rehabilitation. They have undertaken a number of restoration efforts in the hopes of developing a paradigm for long-term lake preservation.

It employs an environmentally friendly form of integrated wetland management that includes floating treatment, ecological beds, tailored floating aerators, and phytoremediation plants. Some examples include bioremediation, storm water treatment and management, and catchment area development. So, what does it mean? Madhulika Choudhary, the NGO's founder and CEO, and her team have been working for almost nine years to return the lakes to their natural calm form. She refers to her method as 'Integrated floating wetlands

treatment' technology, which uses small artificial platforms to allow aquatic emergent plants to flourish in water that is generally too deep for them. "It is a combination of phytoremediation and aeration. This technology not only improves lake health, but it also addresses biodiversity issues and human mindset," explains the founder, who is also known as "Lady of Lakes" in Hyderabad city.

The NGO has used crowd-funding to keep the restoration efforts on track. In addition, little CSR financing from various groups has been critical to their objectives. They run numerous awareness activities in the surrounding community, schools, and colleges to educate young people about their sustainable lake restoration concept. They include plantation drives, cleaning drives, composting, bioenzyme production, and bird nesting, among others. These activities also involve the construc-

tion of paths and gazebos surrounding the lake, which promotes a sense of responsibility within the community. They also have social media warriors who raise awareness on various social media platforms, which aids in bringing the topic to the public, particularly the youth.

The group has restored several lakes, including the first Nekkampur Lake, Novotel Lake, Mushki Lake, Chandana Lake, Ibrahimpatnam Lake, and Pleasant Valley Lake. Dhruvansh initiated this project in 2014 but has yet to meet its goal. It is evident that this is an uphill battle, as Madhulika notes, using Nekkampur Lake as an example: "So, it has been 8 years now that I'm restoring the Nekkampur Lake, and I still feel that I need 7 more years to actually say that Nekkampur Lake is a complete restoration model."

She goes on to say, "So when you poison a lake,

even for just 5 years, you pollute not only the water but the entire area and psyche as well. So it will take around 15 years to re-engineer everything. You don't just have to rehabilitate the lake, but also the brains."

NITI Aayog has named Nekkampur Lake the best restoration model for the past two years, and it is included in the 'Compendium of best practices in water management 3.0'. This accomplishment benefits not only the organisation, but also all environmentalists working to restore such water bodies throughout India.

When it comes to the issues that the organisation faces on a regular basis, the majority of them stem from a lack of knowledge of lakes and their protection. According to Madhulika, "Residents who have built their homes in the catchment region, which is land that collects water after rainfall and is surrounded by hills, are experiencing water-relat-



ed concerns. The problem emerges when educated people refuse to grasp, or remain ignorant, about how the lake is restored. People desire to live in lakefront apartments yet don't seem to care about conserving lakes. They also have a strong front of social media warriors eager to battle for lake preservation and restoration, but there aren't enough on the ground. I don't understand how a perpetually deteriorating environment can be rebuilt without conflict. Change can only occur when there is resistance, and when you meet obstacles, you have the opportunity to change. A few people, like me, are prepared to face that resistance. The issue is that individuals are not able to fight directly for the lakes. They want to battle on social media and feel like they've made a difference."

When asked about the durability of her work, the water conservationist says, "I find that lakes are ecologically equal to temples. A staff works on a regular basis to keep temples in good condition. Each of them has specific responsibilities, and then people arrive and contribute in the form of donations. The same model aids in the restoration of lakes because they contain the same living gods, known as *Pancha Bhuta*. We have a team constantly watching and protecting." She also highlights the importance of community actions, saying, "I am simply a conduit for you to truly restore the lake. Whatever you do to help the environment, you are benefiting both yourself and future generations."

Dhruvansh's community participation projects have rejuvenated many afflicted lakes in Hyderabad. Hope for the future of their ecosystem radiates through the organisation's determination to address this issue!

## PRESERVING AND RESTORING THE LAKES IN AND AROUND HYD

## Skillfully combining captivating tracks with his heartfelt lyrics

TEJAL SINHA

Samarth Swarup is a multi-talented singer, songwriter, and composer who has developed remarkable original songs, covers, and mashups for his YouTube channel, which has a large following. He recently debuted as a music director and lyricist for a Bollywood film. He has now released a new EP under T-Series.

*Sama* is a musical journey that transcends boundaries, inviting listeners to immerse themselves in a fusion of genres, cultures, and emotions.

An ecstatic Samarth, who is no less than overwhelmed with the response that he has received for the EP, shares in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, "I'm thankful for the love that the audience has given to my EP *Sama*." Speaking of *Sama*, he reveals that it's a hand-picked bunch of songs that he's been working on for the last few years. "I initially planned to drop them as singles, but luckily I got to work with T-Series and package them all into an EP, and it turned out fabulous, and that's how *Sama* happened. I'm sure the listeners can relate to these songs, as they are basically today's sound and very modern. These have that kind of melody and something that lights up the listener, and they instantly relate to it. All the songs I have made sure have some sing-along vibe to them because they have such hooks that I have tried to curate around each song."

The EP consists of four songs:

**Dholna:** This joyful and celebratory love song acts as an anthem for young love. It brilliantly combines a great melody with a catchy beat to highlight the beauty of pop music.

**Lage Na Jiya:** This composition is a love song for Samarth's wife, reimagining traditional melodies and rhythms from a contemporary viewpoint. It was a gift from Samarth to his wife for their wedding in Jaipur in December. It has a particular place in Samarth's heart and was the best dedication and gift he has ever given to his wife. This track has the potential to become the

wedding song for Indian couples all around the world.

**Mann Jugnoo:** This is a contemplative and emotional piece about the depths of human experience. It transports listeners on a profound voyage of love, self-discovery, and inner reflection, using haunting melodies and expressive lyrics.

**Kol Aaja:** Carrying the global pop sound while being connected to the Indian melodic feel, this music challenges the boundaries of sound and genre. It's a captivating combination of distinct parts held together by a sense of harmony and cohesiveness.

Describing his approach to the first track, he shares, "Dholna has a highly relatable tune in the hook lines, which I composed originally before progressively building the rhythms around them. As a writer and producer, I wanted *Dholna* to be a song that focused on the beats while also delivering a fantastic melody. Melody is always the essence of a song, while beats are its body. When paired with a groovy beat, it creates the ideal combination. So the melody came first, and then I composed the entire song."

Then comes the most special song from his EP, *Lage Na Jiya*. Speaking of the same, he shares, "This song is about me and my wife, Isha. It was our song until its release, but now it's being loved by the world. This is the story of me and my wife. I recently got married, and I wrote this song for her. I gave her a surprise, and I performed this song on our wedding day, and it's that love song for us! After reading the comments on the song, I am extremely overwhelmed, and I'm happy that this song, which was our story, is now relatable."

For him, it's all about consistency and honesty, the two key elements that he also follows. There's also another thing he stresses about: "The forever scholar attitude, which means that I'm always open to learning new things and always open to exploring new things. Music being such a big ocean and vast, you get to learn every single day. I also want to stress upon one thing, not just the music, but there are various other aspects, such as the music business, which is also very important."

Taken aback by his journey, he shares that it's a journey that he is going to cherish every time that he recalls and talks about it. "I have been a music junkie since forever, and it's been a decade-long journey in the music field. I started doing music in school, then started making it full-time. The journey is still on, and it's fascinating to imagine how it's going to be in the near future. There's still a long way, and I'm excited about what's there for me," signs off Samarth on a concluding note.



Multifaceted musician Samarth Swarup, who is currently overwhelmed with the response to his now-released EP *Sama*, speaks to *The Pioneer* about the making of *Sama*, collaborating with T-Series, and shares tidbits about the tracks.

## Boost your family's well-being with Vastu secrets

In the realm of traditional Indian architecture, *Vastu Shastra* plays a pivotal role in enhancing the living conditions of a household by aligning architectural elements with the natural forces. Known for its profound impact on the health and well-being of individuals, *Vastu* offers time-tested guidelines that can foster an environment conducive to physical and mental health. This article delves into the essential *Vastu* secrets that can significantly improve the health and well-being of your family.

**ENTRANCE: Your gateway to positive energy**

The main entrance of a home is considered the gateway through which energy enters. According to *Vastu*, a well-placed entrance can attract health and prosperity while a poorly placed one can lead to negative outcomes. Ensure your main door faces north, east, or northeast to maximise the inflow of positive energy. These directions are associated with prosperity and health, as they harness the beneficial rays of the morning sun. Keep the area around the main entrance well-lit and clutter-free to invite good vibes into your home.

**LIVING ROOM: Center of family harmony**

The living room, where family members spend a considerable amount of time, should be in the east, north, northeast or the central part of the home. These areas are imbued with qualities that promote social interactions and familial harmony. Ensure that the furniture is arranged in a square or a circle to promote equal and open communication, which is vital for mental well-being. Avoid placing heavy furniture in the center of the room as it may obstruct the flow of energy, causing stress and disagreements.

**BEDROOM: for a restful sleep**

Sleep is crucial for health, and *Vastu* places significant emphasis on the positioning of bedrooms. The master bedroom should ideally be in the southwest or south part of the house to ensure stability and strength. On the other hand, children's bedrooms are best placed in the west or northwest. These placements ensure that the energy conducive to rest and relaxation is maximised. Make sure the beds are placed away from sharp corners and beams overhead, which can create subconscious stress.

**KITCHEN: for nutritional health**

The kitchen is often regarded as the heart of

the home and plays a critical role in the nutritional health and well-being of the family. Positioning the kitchen in the southeast or South corner of the home harnesses the element of fire, which is essential in *Vastu*. Ensure the cook faces east while cooking to encourage positive health. The placement of the water sink and fire stove should not be directly opposite each other, as water and fire are opposing elements and can disturb the harmony in the home.

**BATHROOM: Eliminating negative energy**

The location of bathrooms can significantly affect the health of residents, as they can be sources of negative energy if not placed properly. According to *Vastu*, bathrooms should ideally be in between the southeast southwest or between west and northwest part of the home. This placement helps in eliminating negative energy effectively. Additionally, always keep the bathroom doors closed to prevent negative energies from flowing into other parts of the home.

**GARDEN:**

Incorporating a garden or indoor plants can dramatically improve air quality and enhance the overall health of family members.

According to *Vastu*, planting basil in the northeast corner of the garden can purify the air and create a serene environment conducive to mental and physical well-being. Indoor plants like ferns and peace lilies can also help in detoxifying the indoor air.

**Corrective measures for vastu defects**

Sometimes, structural changes might not be feasible. In such cases, *Vastu* offers remedies that can neutralise negative impacts without physical alterations. Using mirrors effectively can help in correcting the flow of energy, and the placement of specific *Vastu* geometries can mitigate vastu defects. Additionally, the sound of wind chimes can recalibrate energy flows within the home.

Adhering to *Vastu* principles can profoundly influence the health and well-being of your family. By arranging your living space according to these guidelines, you not only create a harmonious and positive environment but also pave the way for good health, happiness, and prosperity. Remember, the goal of *Vastu* is to align your home with the laws of nature, and in doing so, it nurtures and protects the health of all who dwell within its confines.

(The author, Manoj Shrivastava is a vastu acharya.)





# what's brewing?

## UNMISSABLE ENTERTAINMENT THIS JUNE ON DISNEY+ HOTSTAR

June is set to be an exhilarating month, with Disney+ Hotstar bringing a fantastic lineup of entertainment content that will keep you hooked all month long. Check out the full list of movies and shows below, and prepare for an unforgettable

Witness how Karl Lagerfeld became a legend.

### Queenie (Coming in June) (English)

Queenie Jenkins is a 25-year-old Jamaican British woman living in south London, straddling two cultures and slotting neatly into neither. After a messy breakup with her long-term boyfriend, Queenie seeks comfort in all the wrong places and begins to realize she has to face the past head-on before she can rebuild. The series is based on the best-selling novel by Candice Carty-Williams.

### Cult Massacre: One Day in Jonestown (Season 1) (Coming in June) (English)

The story of an idealistic religious organisation led by the infamous Jim Jones, who set out to establish a utopian community in Guyana. What began as a peaceful movement seeking social justice ultimately spiralled into a mass casualty event that left 918 dead. Told by survivors and eyewitnesses, the series gives an immersive look into the final harrowing hours leading up to one of America's darkest chapters.

### Not Dead Yet (Season 2) (June 19) (English)

From creators David Windsor and Casey Johnson and starring Gina Rodriguez, *Not Dead Yet* follows Nell Serrano, a self-described disaster, who writes obituaries for her local newspaper while navigating relationships in her personal and professional life. The twist - she can see the dead people she's tasked with writing about, and they don't hesitate to give her life advice. The series is adapted from the book *Confessions of a 40-something F\*\*k Up* by Alexandra Potter.

### Code Geass: Roze of the Recapture (Season 1) (June 21) (Japanese)

Set four years after the events of *Code Geass: Lelouch of the Re;surrection*, *Code Geass: Roze of the Recapture* follows two highly skilled mercenaries called Ash and Rozé. After successfully rebelling against the occupying forces of the Britannia Army for over four years, the mercenaries get recruited to work alongside a Japanese resistance group in a last-ditch attempt to repel the occupiers for good.

### Lucrecia: A Murder in Madrid (Season 1) (June 27) (Spanish)

A poor, black immigrant woman is shot and killed in an abandoned nightclub in Madrid. The crime shocks Spanish society and triggers an unprecedented social reaction. Who killed Lucrecia? Why? The first clues point to far-right groups. Beneath the image of a modern and democratic country that Spain projects to the world with the Olympics and Expo '92, a disturbing movement ascends to themes of extremism, racism, and violence. Three decades since her murder, Lucrecia's story stands as a journey to the roots of hatred. With previously unpublished footage, this moving narrative brings to light a crime that goes down in Spanish history as its first racist murder.

### Ice Road Rescue Highway Havoc (Season 1) (Coming in June) (English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu)

Deep in the frigid mountains of Norway, brave rescue workers help stranded people stuck in the snow and clear the roads in some of the most dangerous areas.

### Super Reefs (Coming in June) (English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu)

*Super Reefs* will highlight the importance of coral reefs and how the race is on to rescue reefs from extinction.

### Erased: WW2 Heroes of Color (Coming in June) (English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu)

*WW2 Heroes of Color*. Narrated by Idris Elba, this is a gripping story about a little-known Indian regiment in WW2, which evacuated allied forces in Dunkirk.

### Protecting Paradise: The Story of Niue (Coming in June) (English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu)

National Geographic's Pristine Seas team returns to Niue to study how a new marine reserve helps safeguard its ocean resources for generations to come.

### Bad Cop (Coming in June) (Hindi)

Ek khatarnak villain, ek janbaaz cop aur bahut twists? Disney+ Hotstar announces their upcoming action-drama series *Bad Cop*, a classic cop vs villain story with a lot of twists and turns. Karan, a fierce cop trying to chase down Kazbe, a villain more powerful and deadly than him and simultaneously managing his personal relationships. The show marks Fremantle India's first fictional series production in India Hotstar Specials' *Bad Cop* will be released soon exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar.

### Nagendran's Honeymoon (Coming in June) (Malayalam)

Nagendran, who lived a lackadaisical life, taking up no responsibilities and living on his mother's hard work and sweat, one day was overpowered by a desire: Gulf. To chase the luxurious life awaiting him once he crosses the oceans, Nagendran gets ready for a reckless plan with his friend Soman's help. "We will make money for the VISA and the ticket through downy." With this plan in mind, Nagendran sets foot into a marriage fraud series. However, he ends up in a bottomless pit where no escape is possible.

**Cast :** Suraj Venjaramoodu, Grace Antony, Kani Kusruti, Ammu Abirami

### Yakshini (Coming in June) (Telugu)

An unlikely relationship forms between Krishna, a desperately hopeless romantic and Maya, a Yakshini living on earth with a mission to find the last amongst the hundred men she has to kill in order to undo her curse and save her clan.

**Cast :** Vedhika Kumar, Manchu Lakshmi, Rahul Vijay, Ajay

### For the First Time in Forever: The Making of World of Frozen (June 7) (English)

Ten years after the first *Frozen* film, fans could finally step into the world's first Frozen-themed land. Embark on the multi-year journey to bring the beloved kingdom of Arendelle from screen to life in an unprecedented and fully immersive theme park experience. From the artistry of majestic mountain fjords and Nordic-inspired architecture to the latest all-electric Audio-Animatronic figures and new paradigms in character encounters and storytelling, discover the passion and ingenuity of the Disney Imagineers and Entertainment cast members who brought this beloved world to life. This is an insider look at the 7-year journey in the making of World of Frozen in Hong Kong Disneyland.

### FX's The Bear (Season 3) (Coming in June)

FX's critically acclaimed series *The Bear* is about food, family and the insanity of the grind. It's a losing battle every day in the restaurant business, and as Carmy pushes himself harder than ever and demands excellence from his crew, they do their best to match his intensity. Their quest for culinary excellence propels them to new levels and stresses the bonds that hold the restaurant together.

### Becoming Karl Lagerfeld (Season 1) (June 7) (French)

In 1972, Karl Lagerfeld was an unknown 38-year-old designer of ready-to-wear fashion, largely unknown to the public. His encounter with the young Jacques de Bascher, an ambitious and seductive dandy, changes everything. Karl is finally ready to go up against his friend, haute couture genius Yves Saint Laurent, and his formidable associate, Pierre Bergé. Glamour, ego battles, extravagant celebrations and destructive passion:

Sri Chaitanya has accomplished a great success in the NEET 2024 results, with nine students achieving the All India open category first rank in the examination. Sushma Boppana, the group's academic director, also reported that over 127 students received scores of 700 or higher.



Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) has declared the excellent achievement of 15 students from Hyderabad who scored 679 or above in the NEET UG 2024 examination. The results were announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA).



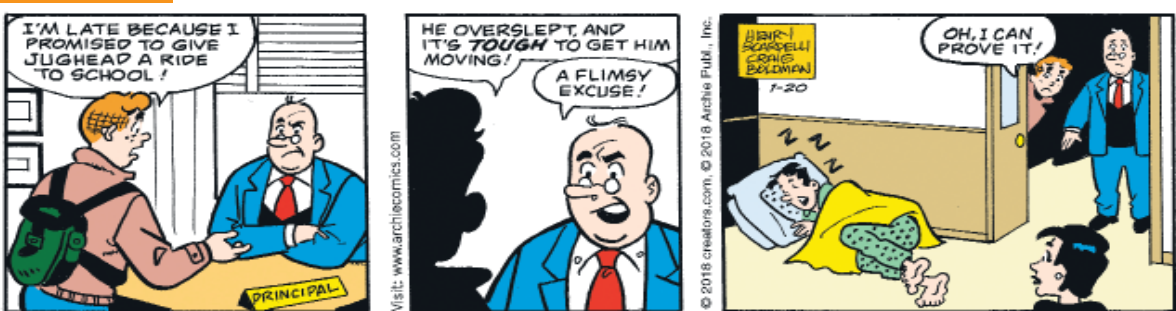
Two Hyderabad students have achieved prominent places in the SOF Olympiad exam for 2023-24. Munjuluri Satwik, a fifth-grade student at the Future Kid's School, finished second in the National Commerce Olympiad, receiving an international silver medal and an honour certificate. Shubhayu Banerjee, an eighth-grade student from Delhi Public School-Nacharam, also finished second in the National Commerce Olympiad, earning an international silver medal and a recognition certificate.

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

## FUN

### ARCHIE



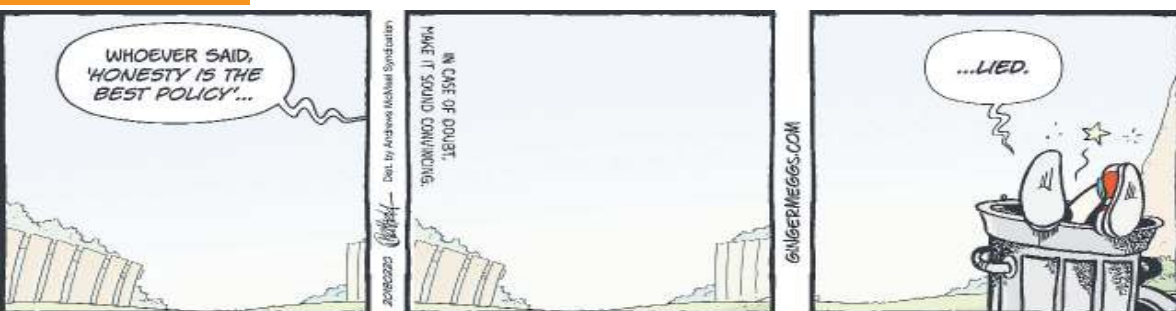
### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



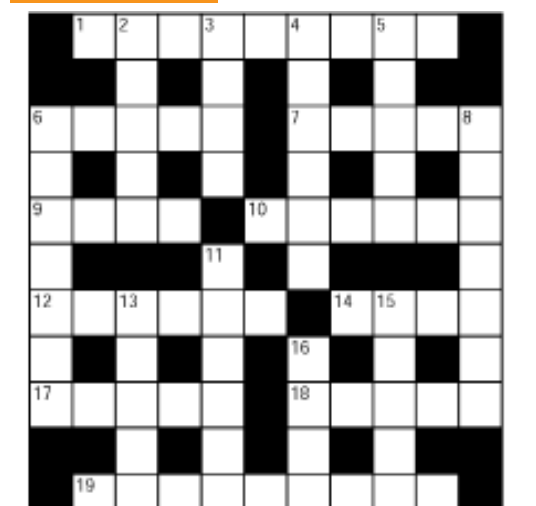
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

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

### ACROSS

- Not sure
- Meadow
- A measuring stick
- The colour made by mixing black and white
- Nearly
- Say again
- A hired car
- A feared sea creature
- Telling fibs
- Carried on

### DOWN

- A female relation
- Comes to a finish
- An animal with a shell
- A house made of snow
- Numbers
- Decaying
- A short type of coat
- A keyboard instrument
- Similar
- A drawing of a building showing all the rooms

### SOLUTION





# 'With Manamey, I got an opportunity to express my out-and-out musical knowledge'

K. RAMYA SREE

Riyadh-born Hesham Abdul Wahab is having a glorious time in India with a handful of work. The music composer and singer rose to fame after his composition in *Hridayam*. After the film, there is no looking back for Hesham, who is giving back-to-back hits. Be it *Kushi* or *Hi Nanna*, the composer-singer has gained his own niche in Tollywood in very little time with his work.

He is now given tunes for the Sharwanand and Krithi Shetty starrer *Manamey*. The film, directed by Sriram Aditya and bankrolled by People Media Factory, is all set to hit theatres on June 7. Meanwhile, as part of the movie promotions, Hesham interacted with us, where he spoke about composing music for this movie, which has 16 songs and more.

Now, as soon as Hesham came on board the project, many were wondering if the music in *Manamey* would be similar to *Hi Nanna*, and he clarified, "These two are completely different films with separate storylines. There is no comparison between these two films."

*Manamey* has very different emotions in its story. We shouldn't reveal much about the plot now, but *Manamey* is a proper commercial film. Making such a different film is a first for me."

When asked about his musical journey for a film like this, he shared, "When we began the music, we didn't imagine we would end up with 16 songs. Director Sriram Aditya is very smart. He provided me with ample opportunities to create excellent music for the film. We had composed ten songs by the time the first half was completed. We thought of needing six more songs for the second half. Making 16 songs for a movie is a first for me. Eleven proper song tracks. The rest are dips, bit songs."

"Personally, I like all the tracks in the movie, and some songs are very close to my heart. This film is a new experience for me,



Music composer-singer Hesham Abdul Wahab, who is all set to captivate the audience yet again with the upcoming film *Manamey*, interacted with us as he spoke of composing the music for this film.

and it will give the audience a new experience," he added.

Furthermore, speaking about his association with family entertainers, he expressed, "Working on such good projects feels like a blessing. They received a great response from the audience for my music. Now, with *Manamey*, I have the opportunity to express my complete musical knowledge. I enjoyed working on this project a lot. I worked harder than on my previous projects. I am very confident about the film. We worked for two months on the music. *Manamey* offers a completely different musical experience. It glues the audience to their seats with songs and background music."

In short, the composer says, "*Manamey* is a musical film. It feels like an experiment for me to compose so many songs. The songs narrate the narrative even more wonderfully. They add more value to the movie."

On the work front, the composer is busy with Rashmika Mandanna's *Girlfriend*.



## Kalki 2898 AD trailer release date is here

The countdown to the unveiling of the much-awaited trailer for the sci-fi spectacle *Kalki 2898 AD* is officially on. Scheduled for release on June 10, 2024, this trailer promises to offer a tantalizing glimpse into a futuristic world like no other.

Starring powerhouse performers including Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani, *Kalki 2898 AD* has been a subject of immense anticipation since the successful launch of its prelude title, *B&B Bujji & Bhairava*, on Amazon Prime.

The announcement of the trailer launch came accompanied by a striking new poster, showcasing Prabhas as Bhairava standing atop a mountain with the cryptic message, "Everything is about to change."

With its ensemble cast and captivating storytelling, *Kalki 2898 AD* has garnered attention both domestically and internationally, promising audiences an unparalleled cinematic experience. Produced by Vijayanthi Movies, the film is slated for a global release on June 27, 2024. Brace yourselves for a journey into the future unlike any other!

## Venkat Prabhu confirms his brother's wedding

In recent days, speculation has been rife about actor Premgi Amaren tying the knot this year, fuelled further by a circulating wedding invitation on social media. Shedding light on the matter, filmmaker Venkat Prabhu, Premgi's elder brother, has addressed the rumors.

Confirming the news on Wednesday, Venkat Prabhu revealed that Premgi is indeed set to embark on a new chapter in his life as he exchanges wedding vows on June 9, 2024.

In a statement shared with the public, Venkat Prabhu expressed gratitude for the outpouring of interest in their family's joyous occasion. He humorously acknowledged the prevalent curiosity surrounding Premgi's marital status, likening it to the intrigue of popular cinema mysteries. Venkat Prabhu assured that Premgi's marriage, a cherished event for their late mother, will be celebrated in a modest manner, blessed by family and friends.

Addressing the unintended publicity surrounding the wedding invitation, Venkat Prabhu clarified that while the news spread widely and included speculation about the bride's profession, the bride is not associated with the media. He promised to share photographs of the wedding once the ceremony concluded.

The statement, shared under the hashtag #PremgiKuKalyanam and accompanied by three heart emojis, concluded with Venkat Prabhu's earnest plea for privacy and well wishes for the couple. He extended an invitation to all well-wishers to join them at the wedding reception.

With this announcement, fans and followers eagerly anticipate celebrating Premgi Amaren's milestone moment as he embraces married life.



## Upasana Kamineni Konidela partners with WWF to save forests and rangers

Upasana Kamineni Konidela, known for her dedicated philanthropic efforts in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has always had a deep commitment towards wildlife conservation and creating access to quality healthcare for staff, who work around the clock for the protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitat. Reaffirming her dedication to the cause, she has been appointed the National Ranger Ambassador for WWF-India for four years in a row. This prestigious appointment comes as a recognition of her unwavering commitment to conservation and humanitarian causes.

The appointment follows a collaboration between the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) and Apollo Hospitals Charitable Trust (AHCT). With this, Upasana Kamineni Konidela, Vice Chairperson CSR at Apollo Hospitals, promises to provide specialized medical treatment at Apollo Hospitals for forest staff injured in and around protected areas, forest divisions, and tiger reserves. Treatment is also provided to members of local communities in cases of injuries due to human-wildlife conflict.

Upasana Kamineni Konidela, in her capacity as National Ranger Ambassador, has played a pivotal role in advocating for the welfare of frontline forest staff. Her appointment underlines the importance of collaboration between the healthcare sector and conservation organisations in safeguarding the well-being of those who protect our natural heritage.

Commenting on her impactful role, Upasana Kamineni

Konidela stated, "I am happy to serve as the National Ranger Ambassador for WWF-India. Forest rangers are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to protect our wildlife and natural habitats. I am committed to supporting their well-being and ensuring that they receive the care and support they deserve."

"The partnership between Apollo Hospitals Foundation and WWF-India has created a unique opportunity to provide critical and life-saving medical care to frontline staff of the forest departments across the country in times of emergency. The jobs of frontline staff involved in conservation are high-risk; the reassurance that they will be well looked after in the event of an unfortunate accident gives them the confidence to continue to do their jobs fearlessly and without worry," Yash Magan Shethia, Director, Wildlife and Habitats Programme.

Under the WWF-India AHCT partnership, more than 50 rangers and local community members have been treated free at Apollo hospitals. As the National Ranger Ambassador, Upasana Kamineni Konidela will continue to champion the cause of conservation and humanitarianism, embodying the spirit of service and compassion towards both people and nature.



## Thug Life action unleashed in Pondicherry

Amidst the scenic beauty and coastal charm of Pondicherry, the much-anticipated action-packed film, *Thug Life*, is shaping up to be a spectacle worth the wait. In an exclusive update, it has been revealed that the film began its new shooting schedule in Pondicherry. The film promises to deliver adrenaline-pumping sequences that will leave audiences at the edge of their seats.

One of the highlights of this shoot is a riveting fight scene featuring none other than Kamal, Simbu, and Ashok Selvan, adding an

extra layer of excitement to the film's narrative. Set against the backdrop of the Pondicherry airport, the crew has been meticulously crafting each frame to ensure maximum impact. The production has also been bolstered by the presence of 150 junior artists, adding depth and dimension to the scenes being captured. With two full days dedicated to this segment of filming, *Thug Life* is poised to raise the bar for action cinema in Indian cinema.



## Chandrika Ravi becomes the first Indian actress to host a radio show in the US

After having mesmerised the audience with her acting and dance moves in films like *Irutthu Araiyl Murattu Kutthulu* and Nandamuri Balakrishna-starrer *Veera Simha Reddy*, Chandrika Ravi has now taken her film career to the next level. The Australian actress of Indian origin is set to host an American radio talk show named *The Chandrika Ravi Show*.

Learning about Chandrika's story—on how she always fought for her identity—the founder of Rukus Avenue Radio, Sammy Chand, had reached out to her with an offer. Since it was a great platform to share her life and experiences with the world, the actress was elated with the opportunity. "I have actually been working on my own talk show for a couple of years with the hopes of one day bringing it to life, and I finally have," shares an elated Chandrika, who is also co-producing the radio talk show.

The show is being released on iHeart Radio, which is one of the biggest networks in the US. According to her, the show is like her baby, so she's very hands-on with every aspect of the show, including designing it. "Most of the promotions that have been released so far have been edited and produced by me," she shared, adding, "It's been a great experience. A bit stressful, but rewarding. Being 'behind the camera' has been a different experience from my years of performing. People can get to see the real me."

Before her film career, Chandrika hosted several live shows on radio and television. Public speaking has always been something that she has been interested in. The actress also became the first Indian woman to host a radio show in the US. "I may be the first, but I won't be the last," she smiles. "This one show, I just couldn't wait to tell the world. Having a platform to show who I am behind closed doors and to be able to use my voice definitely makes me feel like I've been rewarded," shares Chandrika.

*The Chandrika Show* is aired on one of the biggest networks in the US, iHeart Radio and Rukus Avenue Radio, every Thursday at 7:30 AM India time. The full episode releases every Friday on YouTube for everyone internationally.





# AUSTRALIA CHASE HISTORY, PAKISTAN OPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST USA

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

With the World Test Championship mace and the 50-over World Cup trophy already in their bag, Australia will look to hit the ground running in their quest to become the first team to simultaneously hold all three world titles when they take on Oman in their T20 World Cup opener here. To accomplish the feat, the former champions will rely on their wealth of experience, with several of Australia's greatest modern-era players, preparing for their final farewell in international colours. The T20 trophy evaded Australia for the longest time but the maiden title in 2021 changed that. However, a year later, they failed to progress from the league stage on home soil. However, Australia have no dearth of match-winners in their squad, starting from newly-appointed skipper Mitchell Marsh. The all-rounder will be a key factor batting at No.3. Travis Head has been in red-hot form and

was the side's star performer in the WTC final and ODI World Cup final.

Australia might experiment in the group stage to find their best XI. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa will play a crucial role while left-arm spinner Ashton Agar is also expected to be in the mix.

The ever-reliable trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood will run the pace unit. Oman lost their opening game after against Namibia. While they did a commendable job with the ball by taking the match into the Super Over, the batters will have to be more responsible if they want to pull off an upset win over the mighty Australians.

**SQUADS:**

**Australia:** Mitch Marsh (c), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

**Oman:** Aqib Ilyas (c), Zeeshan Maqsood, Ayaan Khan, Kashyap Prajapati, Shoab

Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Pratik Athavale, Naseem Khushi, Khalid Kail, Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad, Rafiullah. Reserves: Jatinder Singh, Samay Shrivastava, Sufyan Mehmoed, Jay Odedra. **Match starts 6am IST.**

**PAKISTAN LOOK TO PUT BEHIND OFF FIELD DRAMA:** Last edition's runners up Pakistan will take on co-hosts USA in the day's other match. While on paper, the Babar Azam-led side looks the outright favourite to win the clash, Pakistan's recent form suggests that it might not be a cake walk.

Pakistan lost a T20 International in Ireland and then suffered a 0-2 defeat in England this week, not the ideal result before a global event. Before that, they drew 2-2 at home with a New Zealand side that was missing many of its World Cup squad members. The run-up to the marquee event has been chaotic to say the least with change in captaincy, shuffling of the top-order and players coming out



of retirement. Babar was reinstated as skipper after Shaheen Afridi was handed the T20 captaincy for a short time. The pacer was offered vice-captaincy later but he refused to take it.

Babar and Mohammad Rizwan are Pakistan's most consistent T20 performers but their strike rate has been a cause of concern as the duo has struggled to accelerate. But if Pakistan is known to

excel in something, it is their unpredictability. They can surprise their opponents and or implode any time. They will bank heavily on their fiery pace department that features Shaheen Afridi,

Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Amir, who has come out of retirement.

USA will be high on confidence after their seven wicket win in the tournament opener against Canada.

**SQUADS:**

**Pakistan:** Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Fakhar Zaman, Usman Khan, Azam Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Abbas Afridi, Haris Rauf, Abrar Ahmed.

**USA:** Monak Patel, Shayan Jahangir, Andries Gous, Nitish Kumar, Steven Taylor, Harmeet Singh, Corey Anderson, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Shadley van Schalkwyk, Ali Khan, Jessy Singh, Saurabh Netravalkar, Nosthush Kenjige. **Match Starts 9pm IST.**

PNG bowlers. Even though the Assad Valled side lost, it will fancy its chances in the clash.

Meanwhile, debutants Uganda crashed to a 125-run loss to Afghanistan in their opener.

While their bowlers led by skipper Brian Masaba showed stomach for fight, the batters completely surrendered and their fielding was also found lacking. The African nation would hope to improve on these to aspects and register its first-ever T20 World Cup win.

**SQUAD:**

**Papua New Guinea:** Assadollah Vala, CJ Amini, Alei Nao, Chad Soper, Hila Vare, Hiri Hiri, Jack Gardner, John Kariko, Kabua Vagi Morea, Kipling Doriga, Lega Siaka, Norman Vanua, Sema Kamea, Sese Bau, Tony Ura.

**Uganda:** Brian Masaba, Simon Sesazi, Roger Mukasa, Cosmas Kyewuta, Dinesh Nakrani, Fred Achelam, Kenneth Waiswa, Alpesh Ramjani, Frank Nsubuga, Henry Ssenyondo, Bilal Hassun, Robinson Obuya, Riayat Ali Shah (vc), Juma Miyaji, Ronak Patel.

**PNG TAKE ON UGANDA:** The third match of the day features Papua New Guinea and Uganda.

PNG put up a strong show against the West Indies. The two-time champions were put under extreme pressure by

## Scotland, England share point each as rain abandons T20 World Cup match

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Intermittent rain forced abandonment of the T20 World Cup clash between England and Scotland here on Tuesday with both teams sharing a point each.

Rain arrived right at the innings break once again after having already truncated the game to a 10-overs-per-side affair, with Scotland reaching 90 for no loss in the first half.

England's target was revised to 109 runs needed off 10 overs via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method as Ireland kept the opposition bowlers under the pump for the majority of the contest. Michael Jones made a 30-ball 45 not out with two sixes and four fours while George Munsey hit an unbeaten 41 not out off 31 balls with as many boundaries to lead the charge for their side.

Munsey was also lucky when Mark Wood, who had bounced him out on the third ball of the fifth over, was found to have overstepped the crease with skipper Jos Buttler taking a fine catch running behind.

Both the Scottish batters displayed attractive array of strokes to put their team in a strong position.

The contest witnessed multiple rain interruptions starting with a delay in start of the game.

A passing shower right after the toss left a wet



spot on the pitch which forced a delay of 20 minutes, while the longest break came right after the powerplay.

Scotland were on charge reaching 51 for no loss in 6.2 overs when a heavy shower forced players into the shed and the long interruption forced the officials to cut short the game by 10 overs each in the two innings.

For the defending champions England, both Chris Jordan (0/24) and Adil Rashid (0/26) lacked control with the ball in the team's first outing in this World Cup and the bowling overall could not really trouble the Scottish opening pair.

Scotland will now prepare for the next clash against Namibia to be played here at the Kensington Oval on Friday, whereas England will gear up for a contest against arch-rivals Australia at the same venue on Saturday.

## Afridi looking forward to cricket's Super Bowl on June 9, says it will be battle of nerves

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Shahid Afridi sees the India-Pakistan contest as an equivalent to the hugely popular 'Super Bowl' in USA and reckons whichever team handles nerves better will come out on top in the T20 World Cup contest in New York on June 9.

The last time the two teams played at the T20 World Cup, it turned out to be a game for the ages with Virat Kohli pulling off a special win for India.

Cricket's biggest game will take place on American shores for the first time and former Pakistan captain Afridi too will be keenly following it from the stands.

"For those Americans discovering the tournament, they should know that Pakistan's game against India is like our Super Bowl," Afridi, who is the T20 World Cup ambassador, told ICC. "I used to absolutely love

playing India and I really believe it is the biggest rivalry in sport. When I played in those games, I got a lot of love and respect from the Indian fans and it means so much to both sides.

"Against India, it is about handling the pressure of the occasion. There is so much talent in both teams, they just need to put it together on the day. That will be the case in that game and in the tournament overall. The team that can hold its nerve will come out on top."

The event is being co-hosted by the USA and Caribbean, where the Super 8 stage and knock-outs will be held. Afridi said it is hard to pick a favourite in the shortest format.

"T20 cricket is so unpredictable, and teams can bat so deep now. You can have a batter coming in at No.8 and smashing the ball at a strike rate of 150 to win a game. I



hope that will be Pakistan this time around, but it is hard to pick a favourite," said the former all-rounder.

Pakistan have not had the best of build ups for the tournament, having lost the series in England. They lost a game to Ireland in the preceding rubber.

"Even though their form has been inconsistent in 2024, I

believe they have all the ingredients to put it all together in the West Indies and USA.

"The conditions in the Caribbean will definitely suit them. There is so much talent in the side, particularly when you look at the bowling attack which should thrive over there. "The fast bowlers are as good as any team in the world and

there is so much depth as well. That class is much more important than recent form," he said referring to the 2022 T20 World Cup finalists.

He is also confident the American public will warm up to the sport.

"This is also a huge tournament for American cricket. I have always had a great time when playing in the USA and for those who have not experienced it, the conditions are similar to playing in the West Indies.

"People are going to love the support in the States. There is a great expat community over there which absolutely loves cricket. And the Americans absolutely love their sport, whether it is American football, basketball or baseball. "I really believe that cricket will hit the mainstream over there in the next few years, which is very exciting for up-and-coming cricketers," Afridi added.



## Ashwin returns to CSK family, will take charge of their High Performance Centre and academies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier off-spinner R Ashwin is set to take charge of the Chennai Super Kings High Performance Centre, potentially paving the way for his return to the franchise that propelled him into national reckoning.

CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan told PTI that Ashwin will oversee the centre as well as the team's various academies in India and abroad.

"Ashwin is one of the greats of India and Tamil Nadu and his presence will be a big boost to the high performance centre and our academies," he said. The centre is located on the outskirts of Chennai.

The 37-year-old, who recently became the second Indian bowler to take 500 Test wickets after Anil Kumble, got to play for India following his exploits at CSK. He was part of the storied franchise from 2008 to 2015.

With the mega auction lined up, Ashwin could be back in

the market and CSK would be more than happy to bring him into the fold. He played for Rajasthan Royals in the recently-concluded IPL season. When asked if CSK would look to buy him at the auction, Viswanathan said: "We can't control what happens at the auctions. We will see what happens."

Back in the India Cements family, Ashwin will also be eligible to play for its team in the TNCA first division. The great Mahendra Singh Dhoni looked at his dangerous best in the season that went by. He is 42 and his future at CSK remains a subject of constant speculation.

"Only MS can decide for himself. We and his fans would wish for him play but it will ultimately it will be his call and we will respect that," Viswanathan added. Dhoni stepped down from the team's captaincy at the beginning of this season, handing over the leadership role to Rituraj Gaikwad.

## Netherlands open Twenty20 World Cup campaign with six wicket win over Nepal

AP ■ TEXAS

Netherlands beat Nepal by six wickets with eight balls remaining in a tight contest that was delayed by rain at the Grand Prairie here.

The Dutch opted to bowl first and dismissed Nepal for 106 in 19.2 overs, led by captain Rohit Paudel's 37-ball 35.

Tim Pringle (3-20 in four overs) and Logan van Beek (3-18 in 3.2 overs) did the damage as Nepal lost wickets at regular intervals on a surface suited for fast bowlers. Dutch opener Max O'Dowd led the successful chase, hitting 54 not out in 48 balls as his team finished on 109-4 in 18.4 overs.

Sompal Kami, Dipendra Singh Airee and Abinash Bohara took a wicket apiece. Nepal's hopes were briefly raised when



Netherlands dropped to 80-4 in the 16th over after Bohara bowled Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (5).

But O'Dowd and Bas de Leede (11 not out) shared an undefeated 29-run partnership for victory.

India and Ireland meet in New York in the first of Wednesday's three games. Australia takes on Oman at Bridgetown, Barbados and Papua New Guinea is against Uganda in Providence, Guyana.

## Cummins joins MLC, signs four year contract with San Francisco Unicorns

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Pacer Pat Cummins has signed a four-year contract with San Francisco Unicorns, becoming the latest Australian to join USA Major League Cricket.

The second season of the USA franchise T20 league, which has acquired List A status from the global governing body ICC, is slated from to be played from July 6 to 29.

"MLC is developing at a rapid rate, and the US market potential is huge for cricket," Cummins said in a video post on the franchise's X handle. The Australian Test and ODI skipper has so far played only in one overseas league -- the IPL. He has also not played Australia's Big Bash League since the 2018-19 season.

"While cricket is integral to my involvement, the global network and long-term possibilities offered by the owners specifically, and Silicon



Valley more broadly, presented a unique opportunity for me and my life beyond cricket."

With Australia scheduled to tour the West Indies for a full series in June-July next year, it remains to be seen if the frontline pacer is available for the T20 league. Cummins will have explosive Aussie batter Jake Fraser McGurk as his teammate at the franchise.

Glenn Maxwell, Travis Head and Steve Smith have inked deals with Washington Freedom, who have also signed New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra.

Shakib Al Hasan and David Miller (Los Angeles Riders), Anrich Nortje and Romario Shepherd (MI New York), Aiden Markram and Daryl Mitchell (Texas Super Kings), and Nandre Burger and West Indies' Obed McCoy (Seattle Orcas) have also signed up for the MLC.

## Praggnanandhaa loses to Carlsen; Vaishali beats Muzychuk

PTI ■ STAVANGER (NORWAY)

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down fighting against top seed Magnus Carlsen of Norway while his elder sister defeated overnight sole leader Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine in the eighth round of Norway chess tournament here.

With the win, Carlsen stretched his lead to a full point over Hikaru Nakamura of United States, who lost to Firouzja Alireza of France. Meanwhile, World champion Ding Liren of China's dismal run continued as he lost to Fabiano Caruana of United States.

With just two rounds to go in the six-player double round-robin tournament, Carlsen has 14.5 points ahead of Nakamura on 13.5. Praggnanandhaa on 12 is in third spot, a full point clear of Alireza. Caruana is on nine occupying the fifth spot while Liren seemed to have resigned to his fate in this event being distant last on 4.5 points. In the women's section, world



champion Wenjun Ju of China scored over Pia Cramling of Sweden to surge ahead of the field on 14.5 points benefitting from Muzychuk's loss against Vaishali.

The Ukrainian remained in the second spot on 13 points, 1.5 points ahead of Vaishali and Tingjie Lei of China who accounted for Koneru Humpy in the other game of the day.

Humpy on eight points remained fifth in the standings, 3.5 points more than Cramling in the USD 161000 prize money tournament in both the sections.

All the three games in the men's category ended in draws in the Classical leading to Armageddon game as per tournament rules. Carlsen could not really dent

Praggnanandhaa's solid play in the Classical and with a laboured effort the world number one won a pawn but only ended up reaching a theoretically drawn rooks and pawns endgame.

However, in the return game, Praggnanandhaa could not match the guile of Carlsen and lost a handful of pawns while reaching the endgame wherein the Indian had two minor pieces against a rook. Eventually white's extra material had the final say. In the Armageddon, the white player has ten minutes compared to black's seven but white needs to win the game.

For each win under Classical time control the players are awarded three points while in the Armageddon the winner gets 1.5 points compared to losers' one. Nakamura remained within striking distance of Carlsen despite losing to Firouzja Alireza in an exciting contest.

For Alireza, it was a good comeback and the Frenchman might fancy his chances in the last two rounds now.

Vaishali defeated Muzychuk for the second time in the event in the Armageddon. It was a finely played Classical game wherein neither players could reach an advantage but in the Armageddon Vaishali took advantage of her better placed rooks to call the shots.

Both players ran very short of time and Muzychuk was the one to falter. Humpy's aspirations to make a comeback suffered a setback as she lost to Tingjie Lei. Humpy, known for bouncing back from difficult situations, now needs two wins to have a good finish in the event.

**Results round 8 men:** Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 14.5) beat R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 12) 1.5-1; Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 11) beat Hikaru Nakamura (Usa, 13.5) 1.5-1; Ding Liren (Chn, 4.5) lost to Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 9) 1-1.5.

**Women:** R Vaishali (Ind, 11.5) beat Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 13) 1.5-1; Wenjun Ju (Chn, 14.5) beat Pia Cramling (Swe, 5.5); Tingjie Lei (Chn, 11.5) beat Koneru Humpy (Ind, 8).