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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



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should resign as he could not ensure a Congress victory in his own constituency Mahabubnagar. 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

P4

**DON'T MISS...**

### Heavy rain forecast in Andhra Pradesh...

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next 24 hours. The conditions are favourable for further advance of the Southwest Monsoon into remaining parts of central Arabian Sea, the remaining parts of Karnataka, some parts of south Maharashtra, some more parts of Telangana & Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next three to four days. Conditions are also favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some parts of south...

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### 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..."

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### 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 colours. The T20 trophy...

-SPORTS

# Naidu stands by NDA

## TDP chief, JSP Pawan president meet NDA leaders in Delhi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam chief N Chandrababu Naidu has reiterated that TDP is with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre and highlighted that they contested the general elections 2024 with the support of the Jana Sena Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party collectively and registered a massive landslide victory. Naidu was sitting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting, as TDP support is key for the NDA to form the government at the Centre.

Naidu was accompanied by JSP chief Pawan Kalyan and others to the NDA meeting on Wednesday evening.

He questioned whether it is possible to contest in alliance, if not part of alliance. After the meeting with the NDA top leaders in Delhi, Naidu said that the meeting was held on a positive note.

Later, after the meeting with the NDA leaders, Chandrababu Naidu took to 'X': "Honoring the mandate given by the people of our country. All NDA partners unanimously endorsed Narendra Modi ji as our coalition leader at a meeting held in Delhi today."

Naidu said that the meeting was held on a positive note.



### Sajjala, other govt advisors resign

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Many Government Advisors have resigned from their posts following YSRCP's loss in the Assembly elections. More than 20 Advisors, including Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, who played a key role in YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's government, have sent their resignation letters to Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy.

National Media Advisor Devalapalli Amar, Higher Education Council Chairman Hemachandra Reddy and others have already submitted their resignation letters.

Bhumana Karunakar Reddy resigned from the post of TTD Chairman immediately after the results were announced. Information and Public Relations Commissioner Tumma Vijay Kumar Reddy applied to the government to relieve him.

He also sent an application to the government to extend the term of office before the election results.



## STAGE SET FOR MODI 3.0

NDA ELECTS MODI ITS LEADER, GETS READY TO FORM GOVT

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.

TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar were among the 21 leaders from 16 parties who attended the meeting. [Continued on Page 2](#)

## Chandrababu to take oath as CM in Amaravati on June 12

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu will take oath as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth time on June 12, after the TDD-led alliance registered a landslide victory in the 2024 elections. The oath-taking ceremony will be held on the banks of River Krishna at Rayapudi in Amaravati.

Narendra Modi will be taking the oath as the Prime Minister of India for the third time in a row on June 9, and Chandrababu Naidu and other key leaders will attend the function. Earlier, it was primarily decided to conduct Chandrababu's oath-taking ceremony on June 9 in the auspicious muhurat, but due to Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony, the TDP decided to postpone Naidu's programme.

On October 22, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the

foundation stone for Amaravati as the futuristic world class capital of Andhra Pradesh. Naidu reiterated that his government will retain Amaravati as AP's capital and will make it as the World's best capital. It was primarily decided that the swearing-in ceremony will take place at 11.53 am on June 9, but now the party leaders are consulting vedic pundits for muhurats on June 12 in view of the changed schedule.

The materials for the swearing-in ceremony like big scaffoldings, tables, big displays, lighting and addressing systems were moved in 12 lorries to Rayapudi in Amaravati region of the State capital on Wednesday and these vehicles were parked at Rayapudi on the Amaravati Seed Access Road to start the arrangement on Thursday. TDP sources said that many political dignitaries, guests, public representatives, leaders, and officials will attend the programme. Vast parking spaces will be arranged.

The sources said that a meeting will be held on June 7 to elect Chandrababu as the leader of the TDP Legislative Party. TDP legislators are preparing to hand over a letter to Governor S Abdul Nazeer asking to invite Naidu as their leader to form the new government. Sources added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend Naidu's oath-taking programme with other top dignitaries.



## People of AP have got freedom: Naidu

'Massive win is about more responsibility, not enjoying power'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu has thanked the people of Andhra Pradesh and the alliance partners for the big win in the general elections. Addressing the media a day after the announcement of the election results, Chandrababu Naidu said that the massive win is about more responsibility, not enjoying power. He said that he joined hands with Pawan Kalyan to ensure that the votes do not split. Even BJP joined the alliance before the election that ensured the big win.

"The voters extended massive support to the call given by the alliance that the 'people should win and the State should survive,'" Chandrababu Naidu said, addressing his maiden media conference after the election win. The TDP chief acknowledged that the resounding victory has been made possible only by the coordinated efforts of all the leaders and activists of the alliance partners.

Chandrababu said that the nation, democracy and political parties are permanent, not individuals. Several parties have disappeared from the political scenario. With this verdict, the people of the State have got freedom, he stated.

"For the first time I have witnessed such historic elections as even expatriates travelled to the State to exercise their franchise spending lakhs of rupees," an emotional Naidu said. Recalling that TDP had won 200 Assembly seats in the elections held immediately after the party was founded, Naidu said that in 1994 polls the then

Opposition party did not get back the deposit in certain seats.

"The people of the State have suffered a lot in the past five years," he said. The alliance polled 55.38 per cent of votes, of which the TDP alone polled 45.6 per cent. YSRCP got a mere 39.37 per cent of votes. Many TDP candidates won with over 95,000 vote margin, he pointed out.

Recalling how the TDP leaders were harassed in the past five years by framing illegal cases against them, Naidu remarked that he is feeling ashamed how the media and common man were harassed in the past five years. Even the Jana Sena chief, Pawan Kalyan, was not allowed to move freely in the port city of Visakhapatnam, he said.

"We have decided to function not as rulers, but as servants and we feel that the power given to us is a responsibility," he said. [Continued on Page 2](#)



Ready to work with India to advance bilateral ties: China P5

## Dokka raises phone-tapping allegations against Sajjala

Seeks inquiry into phone tapping carried out by YSRCP government

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and TDP leader Dokka Manikya Varaprasad has alleged that phone tapping was carried out in Andhra Pradesh as it happened in Telangana State. He alleged that phone

tapping was carried out as per the directions of YSRCP State general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy. Dokka added that personal conversations of people's representatives were recorded and the government made threats based on them. Dokka Manikya Varaprasad demanded an inquiry into the phone tapping by the YSRCP government.



Senior politician Dokka had resigned his MLC post and quit the Telugu Desam Party to join the YSR Congress in March 2020. He said that he had wanted to join YSRCP in 2014, but instead joined the TDP for some reasons. "The attitude of the TDP leadership left me anguished," he had said. Interestingly, Dokka quit YSRCP in April this year. Sources said that he was

not allowed to talk to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Appointment was denied by Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy and other core leaders around Jagan. He finally said that if an appointment was not fixed with Jagan, he would quit the party and did accordingly, sources say.

With the TDP-led alliance registering a massive mandate in the general elections 2024, Dokka has raised allegations of phone tapping against Sajjala.

## Vizag's resounding rejection of YCP's capital relocation strategy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The defeat of Botsa Jhansi Lakshmi, eclipsing the underperformance of YS Vijayamma in 2014, reverberates as the rejection of the YCP's strategic maneuvers concerning the proposed capital relocation from Amaravati. Lakshmi's staggering loss by a margin of 5,04,247 votes to TDP's M. Sriharat serves as a poignant indicator of the profound disillusionment permeating the streets of Visakhapatnam.

Sriharat's commanding victory, clinching an astonishing 65.42 per cent of the votes, unequivocally articulates the people's discontent with YSRCP's vision for the city's capital status.

This electoral outcome emerges as a clear rebuff to YSRCP's aspiration to anoint Visakhapatnam as the

administrative capital, as manifest through the unmistakable verdict conveyed in the recent referendum election.

The verdict resonates with deep dissatisfaction toward the party's leadership and heralds a decisive recalibration of public sentiment. This paradigm shift finds resonance in the sweeping triumphs of opposition stalwarts across Visakhapatnam.

Palla Srinivasa Rao in Gajuwaka, Ganta Srinivasa Rao in Bhimili, Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu in Visakha East, and Panchakarla Ramesh Babu in Pendurthi constituencies have all clinched resounding mandates, underscoring the pervasive discontentment with YSRCP's proposals.

## 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, we also need to think about how it impacts groundwater, critical to life on the planet.



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 tem-

perature 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 current 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. [Continued on Page 2](#)

"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

# Kesineni Chinni sets record in victory margin in Vijayawada

## Defeats his brother and YSRCP candidate Kesineni Srinivas

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP debutant Kesineni Sivanath alias Chinni has defeated his brother and sitting YSRCP MP Kesineni Srinivas alias Nani by a record margin of 2,82,085 votes in Vijayawada Lok Sabha constituency. Kesineni Chinni surpassed the previous record of 1,14,487 votes, which was set by former MP Lagadapati Rajagopal.



TDP Vijayawada Lok Sabha candidate Kesineni Sivanath alias Chinni receiving a declaration from NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao at Nimra College at Jupudi near Vijayawada

In the 2009 elections, former MP Lagadapati Rajagopal won by 1,14,274 votes against Dr Vallabhaneni Vamsi (TDP). In 2014 and 2019, Kesineni Srinivas won by 74,842 and 8,726 votes, respectively.

The entire party machinery worked hard for the victory of the TDP candidate, and their efforts have borne fruit.

In the Mahalipatnam Lok Sabha segment, sitting MP and Jana Sena Party candidate Vallabhaneni Balashowry defeated YSRCP's Dr Simhadri Chandrasekhar Rao by a margin of 2,16,772 votes. Balashowry polled 7,11,713 votes and Chandrasekhar Rao, 4,94,941 votes.

his vote margin increased with every round.

Since 2004, no candidate has registered a victory margin of over one lakh votes in

Vijayawada. In the 2004 elections, Congress candidate Lagadapati Rajagopal beat Aswini Dutt by a margin of 1,14,487 votes. In the 1996



## President Murmu dissolves 17<sup>th</sup> 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 issued 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," a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan read.

# Alliance victory brings hope amid VSP privatisation threat

### Workers have rallied behind the alliance, encouraged by promises to safeguard Steel Plant

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Amidst the jubilation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) workers, a sense of hope resonates through the VSP Township following a significant victory for the alliance in the State elections.

With the specter of privatisation looming over the steel plant, employees and workers have rallied behind the alliance, encouraged by promises to safeguard the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant if brought to power.

The labour community has voiced their support for the alliance, highlighting their discontent with the YCP government's perceived ambivalence towards the issue of plant privatisation.

Tensions escalated as TDP candidate Palla Srinivasa Rao initiated a hunger strike, drawing support from prominent figures like party chief N Chandrababu Naidu.

workers as promises remained unfulfilled. The failure of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to address the issue of privatisation, despite multiple visits to Delhi, further fuelled resentment within the labor community. Furthermore, amidst the GVMC elections, the YCP leaders paraded in support



of safeguarding the Visakhapatnam Steel plant, offering numerous pledges to the workforce. Regrettably, none of these commitments came to fruition. This perceived betrayal of both the working class and the steel plant prompted all the workers to endorse the alliance during the election.

The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, situated within the

Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli parliamentary constituencies, has been a focal point for political pledges. Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan have consistently vowed to safeguard the plant, a commitment echoed by winning candidates from these constituencies.

The victory of TDP's MP candidate M Sribharat from Visakhapatnam, BJP's CM Ramesh from Anakapalli, TDP's Palla Srinivasa Rao from Gajuwaka Assembly constituency, and Jana Sena's Panchakarla Rameshbabu from Pendurthi has instilled hope among workers for the plant's future prosperity.

Convenor of Visakha Ukku Parirakshana Porata Committee KSN Rao expressed profound satisfaction over the alliance's victory. Praising the assurances of Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, Sribharat, and Palla Srinivasa Rao to protect the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, KSN conveyed the collective optimism among workers for brighter days ahead.

## AP Assembly dissolved

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A notification has been released stating the Andhra Pradesh Assembly has been dissolved. In this regard, GO MS No 25 has been released. Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer issued a gazette notification dissolving the Assembly on the advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 174 Class 2B.

## People of AP...

Continued from Page 1

Super-Six and Praja Galam have gone deep into people's minds, Chandrababu said and stated that he appreciates Pawan Kalyan's efforts to bring the three parties together to ensure that the anti-incumbency votes do not get divided. "I also appreciate BJP State unit president Purandheshwari and profusely thank the BJP national leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The caretaker chief minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy's is a case study which clearly indicates how a leader should not function," he said.

## Naidu stands...

Continued from Page 1

Under his able leadership, we shall all strive to ensure that our country continues to prosper and emerge as a global leader." On the other hand, sources say that Chandrababu is likely to have a talk with PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss key issues pertaining in the interest of the State of Andhra Pradesh as TDP has assured the people with many promises. As per the TDP manifesto, 'Super Six' has many promises to the women, farmers and the people of AP and to fulfil those, the TDP alliance needs a big share of help from the BJP at the Centre. Naidu is likely to discuss many other issues like the Polavaram project, Special Category Status, Railway Zone, Kadapa steel factory and many other promises incorporated in the AP Reorganisation Act.

# Meena thanks officials after peaceful completion of vote counting

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena has congratulated all the District Election Officers, ROs and other election officials on the peaceful completion of the counting of votes across the State and conducting the entire process in a highly professional manner. He said that he is very proud to lead such a talented team of officers during the entire election process. He expressed the need to create a standard in a way that the best practices followed in all the districts across the State in the process



of counting votes will be a guide for the future generations.

In this context, he asked to send the reports to his office within three days to bring to the attention of the Election Commission of India the innovative methods followed by the districts. Based on the

reports from all the districts, a comprehensive report will be prepared and sent to the Election Commission of India.

CEO Meena thanked everyone who discharged their duties successfully. He said that in the context of this general election, the list of clean votes prepared without any scope for criticism is the beginning of the successful conduct of the entire election process. He extended special thanks to the officers, staff, representatives of all political parties and the people who worked hard to prepare the accurate voter list.

Similarly, from the time the Election Commission of India announced the election schedule on March 16 until the counting of votes was completed on June 4, the election machinery and police machinery from the State level to the district and mandal levels have been working diligently and properly performing their duties. He appreciated that the police force worked tirelessly to maintain law and order in the wake of the elections. Similarly, he expressed special thanks to the representatives of political parties, and print and electronic media.

## Mudragada to change his 'Kapu' tag to 'Reddy'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Veteran Kapu leader and former minister Mudragada Padmanabham has decided to give up his Kapu community tag and convert himself into a Reddy after Jana Sena Chief Pawan Kalyan won the Assembly elections from Pithapuram constituency.



Before the recent Assembly elections, Mudragada joined the YSR Congress party in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and was given the responsibility of campaigning for party candidate Vanga Geetha in Pithapuram.

During the electioneering, Mudragada vowed to defeat Pawan Kalyan in the elections and challenged that if at all Pawan Kalyan won the elections, he would give up his Kapu tag and change his name as Mudragada Padmanabha Reddy. Though Pawan did not respond to his challenge, Mudragada stuck to his word. Even his daughter found fault with him for making such a challenge and asked him to get ready for the name change.

Now that Pawan Kalyan won the Pithapuram assembly seat by a huge margin, Mudragada responded quickly. At a press conference held at his residence at Kirlampudi, the former minister announced that he was changing his name to Padmanabha Reddy. He said he was applying for a gazette notification for change of his name from Padmanabham to Padmanabha Reddy. He showed the application documents for the same. He regretted that he could not fulfill his vow of defeating Pawan Kalyan. Mudragada observed that the people had not voted for the welfare schemes of Jagan Mohan and no government in future will implement the welfare schemes.

## Vizag's resounding...

Continued from Page 1

The unprecedented mandates secured by these candidates -- with Palla Srinivasa Rao amassing a staggering majority of 95,000 votes and Vamsi Krishna Srinivas garnering over 81,000 -- reinforce the vehement opposition to the notion of Visakhapatnam as the administrative capital. It is glaringly apparent that the residents of Visakhapatnam harbour deep-seated reservations regarding YSRCP's blueprint for the city's future. The overwhelming electoral verdict serves as an emphatic reminder that public trust is a fragile commodity, not to be taken for granted.

# Sribharat secures historic victory in Vizag

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate Mathukumilli Sribharat emerged victorious in the Visakhapatnam parliamentary constituency, achieving the highest majority among all MP candidates in the State. Sribharat defeated YSR Congress Party (YCP) candidate Botsa Jhansi Lakshmi by a staggering 504,247 votes. Garnering 907,467 votes, which accounts for 65.42 per cent of the total 1,387,125 votes cast, Sribharat's victory marks a significant political milestone.

The election results highlighted the overwhelming support for Sribharat, with YSRCP's Jhansi Lakshmi securing only 29.07 per cent of the votes, totaling 397,821. Notably, the votes for Jhansi Lakshmi were fewer than the margin by which Sribharat won. Congress candidate

## Votes polled by YSRCP's Jhansi Lakshmi were fewer than the margin by which Sribharat won

Sathya Reddy and Prajashanti Party president KA Paul received 29,430 and 7,529 votes, respectively, with Paul garnering a mere 0.55 per cent of the total votes, far less than even one per cent of Sribharat's tally.

Out of 20,330 postal ballots, Sribharat received 13,583 votes, significantly outpacing Jhansi Lakshmi's 5,399 votes. Sathya Reddy and KA Paul received 837 and 167 postal votes, respectively. Sribharat's commanding victory is particularly notable as he contested the same seat in 2019 but lost to YCP candidate MVV Satyanarayana by a narrow margin of 4,414 votes. The absence of vote-splitting by the Jana Sena party, which



aligned with the BJP this time, contributed to Sribharat's overwhelming win.

Speaking to reporters, Sribharat expressed his commitment to fulfilling the remaining promises from the state bifurcation law with the support of the NDA government at the Centre. He empha-

sised that the people's decisive mandate was a clear rejection of complacency and a call for accountable governance.

Reflecting on his victory, Sribharat shared that he harboured doubts about whether society would recognise good leadership amidst rampant power and money politics. However, the electorate exercised their voting rights without fear, leading to a victory that exceeded his expectations. Originally confident of winning by 150,000 to 200,000 votes, Sribharat's actual majority surpassed 400,000, signifying broad public support.

During the campaign, Sribharat addressed key issues such as establishing a railway zone for Visakhapatnam,

resolving the steel plant problem, curbing ganja transportation, job creation, and enhancing peace and security. He assured that some of these objectives would be achieved within a year, with the remainder to follow swiftly. Criticising YSRCP's five-year rule, Sribharat highlighted the media harassment and attacks that occurred, promising that the new alliance government would stand against such practices. He urged the media to hold the government accountable and pledged to correct any missteps.

Sribharat also condemned divisive politics based on caste and religion and vowed to support honest officials while ensuring that erring leaders face public judgment.

# Stage set for Modi 3.0

Continued from 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

## Groundwater...

Continued from Page 1

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. 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 chemistry 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.

TODAY ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Amavasya: Jun 05 07:55 PM to Jun 06 06:07 PM
Sukla Paksha PratiPadam: Jun 06 06:07 PM to Jun 07 04:45 PM
Nakshatram: Rohini: Jun 05 09:16 PM to Jun 06 08:16 PM
Mrgashirsha: 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
VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 36°C
Humidity: 67%
Sunrise: 5:34 AM
Sunset: 6:39 PM
Updated: June 5, 2024 5:00 PM

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# NTPC-Simhadri leads the charge for a greener tomorrow

Stress on critical role each individual plays in preserving environment for future generations

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Amidst a wave of green zeal and fervour, NTPC-Simhadri marked World Environment Day on Wednesday with a series of impactful initiatives aimed at fostering environmental consciousness and sustainable practices. The event, attended by S K Sinha, CGM (Simhadri), commenced with the solemn administration of the Environment Pledge, underscoring the commitment of all participants towards safeguarding our planet.

A poignant message from the Director of Operations at NTPC Limited resonated with attendees, emphasising the critical role each individual plays in preserving the environment for future generations. The theme of the day, "Cleaner Air for a Better Tomorrow", echoed throughout the proceedings, setting the tone for the day's activities.

The highlight of the event was an awareness walk, a uni-



fied stride taken by employees, associates, residents of the Deepanjaninagar Township, and children associated with the 'Girl Empowerment

Mission' programme. This symbolic walk served as a powerful demonstration of solidarity towards environmental stewardship, as partic-

ipants marched in unison to advocate for sustainable practices and a cleaner environment.

In line with the theme, mass

tree plantation drives were organised, symbolising a tangible step towards mitigating carbon emissions and promoting biodiversity. Additionally, free vehicle emission check-ups were conducted, underscoring the importance of reducing vehicular pollution for a healthier ecosystem. RR Parida, CGM (CPG-3), along with other esteemed dignitaries including GMs, HoDs, and senior officials, actively participated in the programme, reinforcing NTPC-Simhadri's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability.

As part of the festivities, various competitions such as photography, videography, quiz, slogan, and poster making were organised, engaging participants of all ages and backgrounds. These creative endeavours served as a platform to amplify the message of environmental conservation and inspire innovative solutions for a greener future.

# Collector commends officials for exemplary efforts during polls

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The District Election Officer and Collector, Dr A Mallikarjuna, has lauded the exemplary efforts of Visakhapatnam district officers and staff during the general election process. Mallikarjuna expressed his appreciation for their dedication and responsible conduct throughout the electoral proceedings.

From the initiation of the election cycle with the publication of the notification to the declaration of results, officers and staff diligently participated in various processes. The Collector particularly highlighted their role during the vote-counting process on June 04, emphasising their commitment to ensuring timely and accu-



rate result announcements. The Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) across all Assembly constituencies in Visakhapatnam received praise for their effective management, contributing to a peaceful electoral environment. Lower-level staff members were also recognised for

their enthusiastic involvement in report preparation and media support during result announcements.

Acknowledging the crucial role of the media in facilitating a smooth electoral process, special thanks were extended to all media representatives. Mallikarjuna also expressed gratitude to political parties, candidates, election observers, and district Revenue and police officials for their support. Highlighting the enthusiasm demonstrated by voters, he emphasised their active participation, which contributed to the success of the election. He reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to conducting the electoral process transparently and in accordance with Election Commission rules.

# TDP-led NDA alliance creates history

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Politically aware and active in all aspects, combined Krishna district has created a new record in the recently concluded general elections. For the first time in the history of the Krishna district, all of the existing 16 Assembly constituencies and two Lok Sabha segments were won by an alliance led by the opposition TDP, Jana Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The NDA alliance comprising the TDP, JSP, and BJP achieved a clean sweep by winning all 16 Assembly constituencies and two Lok Sabha segments. This was the first time in the district's history that the TDP-led NDA alliance emerged victorious in all 16 assembly and two Lok Sabha segments.

The TDP secured victory in all contesting 13 seats, BJP in two, and Jana Sena Party in one. Remarkably, this marked a significant change from the 2014 elections, when the TDP alliance won 10 seats and the YSRCP won 6. Furthermore, in the previous elections, the YSRCP secured 14 seats while the TDP only managed to win two.

In the recent elections, the TDP and Jana Sena Party emerged victorious in the Vijayawada and Machilipatnam Lok Sabha segments, respectively. Notably, first-time TDP candidate Kesineni Sivanath alias Chinni defeated his brother and YSRCP candidate Kesineni Srinivas alias Nani by a margin of 2,82,085 votes. Additionally, Vallabhaneni Balashowry registered his victory over the YSRCP's Dr.



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Simhadri Chandrasekhar Rao by a margin of 2,16,772 votes. Notably, the ruling YSRCP failed to secure a single MLA seat in the combined Krishna district. Since the district's division, seven assembly seats belong to Krishna, seven to NTR, and two to Eluru. In all 16 segments, the TDP, BJP, and JSP candidates garnered substantial margins of votes over their YSRCP rivals.

The Krishna district hadn't witnessed such election results since 1983. Previously, the elections were closely contested between the TDP and Congress, and later between the TDP and YSRCP. In the 2009 elections, the Congress party secured six MLA seats, while the TDP won 8 and Praja Rajyam won 2. Subsequently, in the 2014 elections, the TDP won 10, YSRCP won 6, and BJP secured one seat. In the 2014 elections, both Lok Sabha seats were won by the TDP, whereas in 2009, Machilipatnam was won by the TDP and Vijayawada by the Congress party. Even after the inception of the TDP in 1983, and in the general elections, the new party has won 13 MLA seats out of a total of 17 segments in the Krishna district. The TDP lost in four segments, Nuzvid, Mudinepalli, Kaikaluru and Avinigadda assembly constituencies. However, after four decades, significantly, the TDP-led NDA alliance swept all 16 assembly constituencies.

# People should be role models for future generations by protecting Nature

APPCB Member Secretary Sridhar stressed this during the World Environment Day Programme



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) Member Secretary B Sridhar has given a call to the people that everyone should stand as a role model for future generations by protecting Nature. Nature must be preserved for human survival, he said.

APPCB conducted World Environment Day at the NAC Kalyana Mandapam at Gurunanak Nagar in Vijayawada on Wednesday. As part of this programme, artists performed cultural activities explaining the importance of the protection of the environment.

During this programme, Sridhar emphasised the importance of sapling plants and the involvement of pollution control programmes. He said that people should be aware of Plastic, Waste Management and other activities, if not the next generation's future would be spoiled. So, people should be striving to protect the Earth, Air, and Water from pollution, he suggested.

JNTU-Kakinada Academics Director Prof KVSG Muralikrishna, APPCB Zonal Joint Chief Environmental Engineer P Muniswami Naidu, Regional Officer P Srinivasa Rao and others were present.



# Election victory enhanced our responsibility: Pawan

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Jana Sena Chief K Pawan Kalyan has said that the landslide election victory has enhanced their responsibility and exhorted the cadres to reach out to people.

The Jana Sena held a meeting in its state office at Mangalagiri with newly elected MLAs. Addressing them, Pawan Kalyan said that people trusted them and gave an unprecedented election victory.

"Every vote we have received reminds us of our responsibility. We must be accountable to five crore people," he told them.

He made it clear that he

would take full salary as an MLA. "If I take my salary, people can question me as I am taking my salary from taxes paid by the people. If I take a salary as an MLA that remains my responsibility," he observed.

Pawan Kalyan said that he would take his honorarium as an MLA and strive hard to do justice to the people by resolving their grievances. The JSP chief exhorted the newly elected JSP MLAs to behave with discipline in the Assembly as the preceding telecast live.

"If it is a cinema, there will be censors. But if it is a TV telecast, there will be no censors," he told his newly elect-

ed MLAs. He advised them to be exemplary to other leaders. "Let us show the people how a transparent government works with accountability," he stated.

Now Andhra Pradesh has become vital to the Centre. The two MPs of Jana Sena should raise the state issues in Lok Sabha, he told them, asking to participate in every debate and express their opinion in the Parliament. No regional party has registered such an election victory which the JSP has registered in 2014 elections, Pawan Kalyan highlighted. JSP leaders Nadendra Manohar and K Nagababu were among those who were present.

# EVM tampering allegation sparks row

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former YSRCP minister Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao has said people think that EVMs were tampered with in Bhimavaram constituency ahead of counting of votes on Tuesday, and added that the party leadership also doubted it.

Speaking to media persons here on Wednesday, Nageswara Rao said TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu succeeded in running a smear campaign against the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy regime over the AP Land Titling Act by claiming that the YSRCP government led by Jagan was 'grabbing their land'.

He said the former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy always worked for the welfare of the poor and the farmers. How could the YSRCP government 'grab lands' from the people when it has distributed 31 lakh house site pattas and constructed more than eight lakh houses for the poor, he wondered.

# TDP's gambit with new faces yields gains in Vizianagaram, Srikakulam

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a bold move that has paid off handsomely, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) embraced fresh faces and strategic reassignments, resulting in substantial political victories in Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. This experiment not only

underscored the party's adaptability, but also showcased its ability to strategically place candidates in constituencies where their strengths could be best utilised.

TDP's parliamentary candidate, Kaliseti Appala Naidu, embodies this strategy. Originally aiming for the

Etcherla Assembly seat, Naidu was redirected to contest the MP seat after the Etcherla constituency was allocated to the BJP as part of an alliance agreement.

Despite this unexpected shift, which placed him in the Vizianagaram Lok Sabha constituency that includes parts of Srikakulam district,

Naidu leveraged his role as the in-charge of TDP's North Andhra internal training centre to build strong local support, securing a landslide victory with a majority exceeding 2,00,000 votes.

Cheepurupalli witnessed another significant TDP triumph with former Home Minister Kimidi Kala

Venkata Rao. Despite initial reluctance due to family dynamics in the constituency, Venkata Rao defeated YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) nominee and Education Minister Botcha Satyanarayana by a margin of 10,000 votes, showcasing TDP's strategic acumen in candidate placement.

# Vijayawada Rly Division celebrates World Environment Day

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway, celebrated World Environment Day across the Division on Wednesday. At Vijayawada Railway Station, Narendra A Patil, DRM, Vijayawada Division, administered the World Environment Day pledge to the branch officers and staff. PE Edwin, ADRM, (Infrastructure) and Srinivasa Rao Konda, ADRM (Operations), officers, staff, Bharat Scouts & Guides, and school students gathered at Clock Tower, East Main Entrance at Vijayawada Station on the occasion.

Later, Narendra Patil released a World Environment Day brochure featuring the achievements of Vijayawada Division in the



field of energy conservation. The DRM, along with the branch officers and staff, planted saplings in the circulating area of Vijayawada Railway Station. A huge

awareness rally was also conducted from Clock Tower to Babu Waiting Hall on Platform No.1 of the Vijayawada Railway Station. At Babu Waiting Hall,



Nukkad Natak was performed by Bharat Scouts & Guides on the theme "Beat the Plastic Pollution", to create awareness among the passengers and the general public, which was well received with an overwhelming response from the passengers. Live "Drum Beat" performance was demonstrated by Bharat Scouts & Guides to mark the occasion and avoid the use of plastic.

The DRM distributed prizes to the Bharat Scouts & Guides for designing beautiful placards on environmental protection and sustainable living.

Speaking on the occasion, Narendra Patil congratulated the Environment and Housekeeping Management (EnHM) Department on undertaking various envi-

ronmental conservation measures. "On World Environment Day, we must reignite and renew our commitment to the green ecosystem in letter and in spirit," he said.

He also underscored the importance of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, total ban on plastic and segregation of wet and dry waste at source.

The DRM appealed to the public to avoid single use plastic and voluntarily contribute for achieving all environmental goals and clean and green India. He also appreciated the EnHM Department for their hard work and contribution in bagging the third place for SCR Zone in Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 in the Indian Railways.

# Election Code to be lifted today evening

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Election Code will be lifted by the evening of June 6 as the process of counting of votes concluded on Tuesday.

The Central Election Commission released a notification for the general elections 2024 to be held across the country on March 16, when the Election Code came into force. After that the election schedule was also released. Polling was done in seven phases and the results were released on June 4.

The election process in all the States and the country will end on Thursday. All kinds of government programmes can be organised after the code is lifted.

# Naidu, Pawan Kalyan should utilise political situation to get SCS: Shivaji

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Vice-president Kolanukonda Shivaji advised to Telugu Desam party chief N Chandrababu Naidu and JSP chief K Pawan Kalyan to achieve Special Category Status (SCS) by availing the political situation.

Talking to the media here on Tuesday, Shivaji said that the BJP led NDA fell short of seats

to form government at the Centre on its own. The BJP led NDA must need the support of Naidu and Pawan Kalyan and they have 18 MP seats.

"At the present political scenario, 18 MP seats are vital to the NDA. Naidu and Pawan Kalyan should utilize the opportunity to get SCS to AP," he added.

The APCC Vice-president urged Naidu and Pawan Kalyan to make the Centre



extend required funds for the completion of Polavaram project and establishment of steel plant in Kadapa. The establishment of a railway zone in Visakhapatnam is still pending. The two leaders should expedite efforts for the railzone, he added.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the Capital city Amaravati construction foundation day programme. The construction of the capital city

Amaravati is still incomplete. Naidu and Pawan Kalyan should convince the Centre to make Hyderabad city as a common capital for both AP and TS for another 10 years," Kolanukonda Shivaji asked them.

The Congress senior leader congratulated Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan for coming to power by registering a historical election victory.

# People of the country wish Modi to be PM: Purandeswari



PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

**Daggubati Purandeswari participated in a party meeting held here on Wednesday to congratulate her on the occasion of being elected to the Parliament from Rajahmundry constituency. Speaking on the occasion she said that false cases registered by the YSRCP led government against the leaders and activists should be faced legally**

BJP state President Daggubati Purandeswari, who was elected to Lok Sabha from Rajahmundry constituency, stated that people of the country want Narendra Modi to be the Prime Minister for the third time.

Daggubati Purandeswari participated in a party meeting held here on Wednesday to congratulate her on the occasion of being elected to the Parliament from Rajahmundry constituency. Speaking on the occasion she said that false cases registered by the YSRCP led government against the leaders and activists should be faced legally.

Thanking the BJP, Jana Sena and the TDP activists, who strove for her election victory, she opined that people of the country want Narendra Modi should be the Prime Minister of the country as long as possible for the interests of country, adding that people of the

country supported Modi in 2024 also, she claimed.

She underlined the need of further bolstering the BJP in Andhra Pradesh. The cases, including the case filed against Chandrababu Naidu, which led to his arrest, should be fought legally in the courts. Though being in the government, struggles to resolve the grievances of people should be continued, she called upon the cadres.

"Since there will be no Opposition in the AP Assembly, every decision taken by the Government should be reviewed twice. The State Government and the Central

Government should coordinate to overcome financial constraints," the BJP leader advocated. Emphasizing the need of protecting the historical significance of Rajahmundry and surrounding places, she assured of taking steps to improve amenities including drinking water, transport and roads in the city. She also promised for the establishment of new educational institutions in the constituency. Being elected to Lok Sabha, Purandeswari was felicitated by the leaders. BJP senior leader Somu Veerajulu, State vice president R Sridhavi and other leaders were present.

# TG 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 Komatireddy 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 demand-



ing 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.

Aruna said that she will not try to get a Union Minister post. "The party will take a decision and I will obey whatever the decision it may be," she said.



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

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.

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?

NMDC reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability and its role as a responsible corporate citizen. The company continues to prioritize environmental stewardship, ensuring its operations contribute to the well-being of the planet and future generations, he added.

# 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.

# AINEF urges new government to focus on Journalists welfare

PNS ■ MACHILIPATNAM

All India Newspaper Employees Federation (AINEF) has urged the new government to focus on the welfare of journalists, ease restrictions to issue accreditation cards and adopt liberal policy to issue advertisements to small and medium newspapers.

In a statement here on Wednesday, AINEF vice-president Chaladi Purnachandra Rao conveyed his wishes to Telugu Desam national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan and BJP state unit president D Purandeswari.

Purnachandra Rao regretted that the YSRCP led government had disregarded the welfare of journalists during the last five years. Many restrictions were imposed to issue accreditation cards to the journalists. The Jagan Reddy headed



government did not issue advertisements to the small and medium range newspapers, he lamented.

At the same time, the government issued plenty of advertisements to the newspapers which were loyal to the government, he criticized.

Purnachandra Rao demanded the new government to set up an inquiry on the irregularities that took place in issuing advertisements to newspapers.

# Heavy rain causes uprooting of electric polls, trees



PNS ■ ELURU

Rain, accompanied by heavy gales, created havoc in Polavaram mandal and many electric poles and trees were uprooted.

Rain accompanied by gusty winds lashed for about thirty minutes uprooting trees and electric poles. Many villages plunged into darkness due to power failure. The road leading to Tahsildar office from Polavaram was blocked due to falling trees across the road.

An electric pole uprooted and fell on a residential building near SBI in Polavaram. Since the power supply disconnected at the time, a major mishap was averted.

Electric polls were uprooted at various places. A tree uprooted and fell on a house at Kotta Nutana Gudem. An electric poll connecting 132 KV substation uprooted resulting in power supply disconnected to several villages. However no casualty reported from any village, officials confirmed. Officials said that efforts are being made on war footing to replace the uprooted electric polls and restore power supply to the villages.

# Heavy rain forecast in AP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next 24 hours.

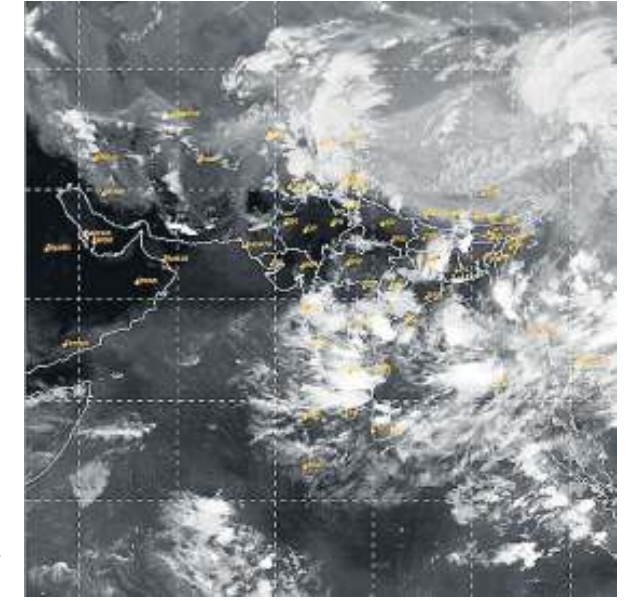
The conditions are favourable for further advance of the Southwest Monsoon into remaining parts of central Arabian Sea, the remaining parts of Karnataka, some parts of south Maharashtra, some more parts Telangana & Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next three to four days.

Conditions are also favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into some parts of south Chhattisgarh and South Odisha, some more parts of Westcentral and Northwest Bay of Bengal during the same period, Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday.

In a daily weather report here, it said that the cyclonic circulation over south coastal Andhra Pradesh lies over Rayalaseema between 3.1 & 5.8 km above mean sea level.

Under its influence, Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and

Rayalaseema during the next 24 hours. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds with speed 30-40 Kmph are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next four days.



Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next seven days.

Rain occurred at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, at a few places in Rayalaseema and dry weather prevailed during the last 24 hours. The highest maximum temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Amaravati in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, the report added.

Rain occurred at one or two places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, at a few places in Rayalaseema and dry weather prevailed during the last 24 hours. The highest maximum temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Amaravati in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, the report added.

# Leopard kills calf, caught in CCTV



PNS ■ ELURU

A leopard killed a calf at Kanchanagudem village in Chintalapudi mandal on the night of Tuesday.

A leopard strayed into the village, killed a calf and ate it.

The calf belonged to the farmer P Nageswara Rao. The movements of the leopard were captured by the trap cameras.

installed by the forest officials at the village.

The forest officials launched a search to find out the movements of leopards in the area. The forest officials warned the villagers and farmers not to go alone to agriculture fields. The villagers are in a grip of fear and hesitating to go out.

# Collector underlines need for planting of saplings



PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh advocated the planting of saplings to protect the environment.

The Collector here on Wednesday participated in a programme organized to plant saplings on the Collectorate premises and planted saplings.

Speaking on this occasion, he asked everyone to plant saplings for environmental protection. Planting saplings is the responsibility of all to protect the environment, he stated, adding that trees prevent pollution and contribute a lot in environmental protection.

It has been decided to grow fruit plants in 4,500 acres under the authority of DWMA under the Mahatma

Gandhi Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) across Eluru district, the Collector said.

He informed that 3,000 acres of land was identified and estimates made. He directed the officials to plant saplings on the premises of educational institutions in each mandal and prepare estimates for the cultivation of fruit plants on the premises of public schools and institutions which have compound walls.

Steps were taken to grow trees on either side of roads and embankments of canals to a length of 75 KMs, adding that 225 acres of land was identified to raise green grass to be used as fodder. DWMA PD A Ramu and Collectorate AO K Kashivisweswar Rao and other officials took part in the programme.

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 he 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."



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 stand-off.

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."

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,

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 stand-off, 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 Bharti 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.

## 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

### WORLD MEDIA ON INDIAN ELECTION

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 of a decade into Mr Modi's transformational 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 wouldn't 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.

## 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.

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.



## 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



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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.



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

"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.

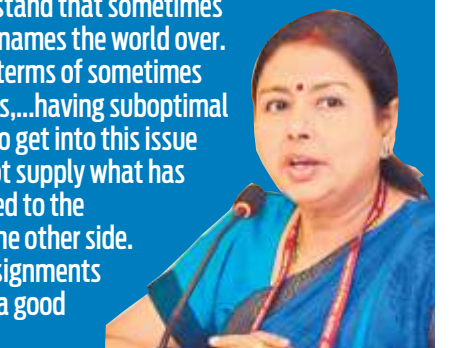
## Food industry should be more responsible, says Secretary

### '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 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 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."



## 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 debt securities worth up to Rs 2 lakh and other than debt 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 and up to Rs 10 lakh, the charges should be Rs 100, and Rs 150, respectively. 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

### To start construction of stalled projects

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

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 Pharmaceutical 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

India and has more than three decades of experience in taxation and finance. He has experience of more than a decade in managing the real estate development activity and infrastructure business through Suraksha Realty and other associates having activity in real estate. According to sources, Suraksha Group will infuse an equity fund of Rs 125 crore in Jaypee Infratech by June 15 and will soon start the construction process. It will also start making payment to YEIDA as per the schedule.

## 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 Ashish Kumar 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 3:30 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 agricultural research 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."



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 ADVICS 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

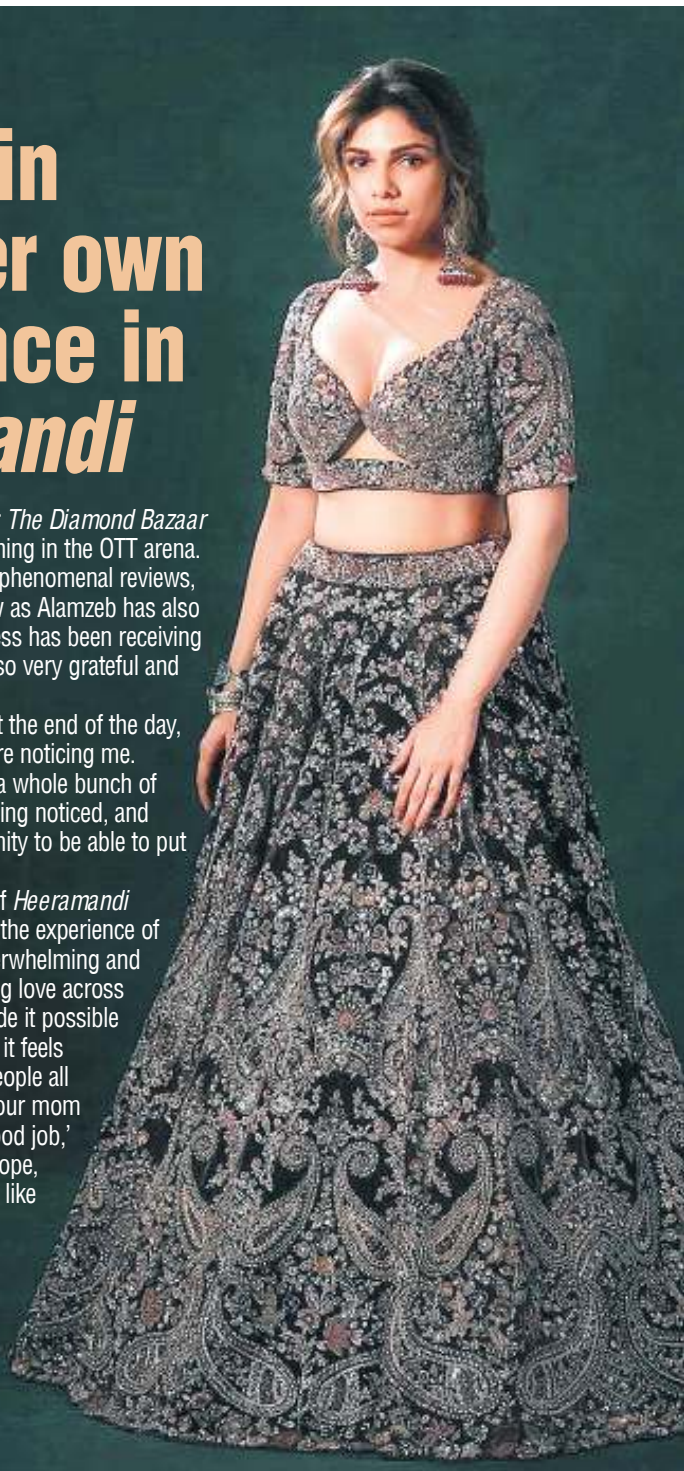
companies across advanced global technology, localisation capabilities, quality systems, manufacturing processes, among others, it said. "There is growth of hybrid and battery electric vehicles (HEV/BEVs) in India and increased demand for autonomous driving features. Our investments in R&D and localisation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





# Sharmin reviews her own performance in Heeramandi

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* has indeed arrived as the next big thing in the OTT arena. While the show has been receiving phenomenal reviews, Sharmin Segal's performance in the show as Alamzeb has also been receiving much praises. As the actress has been receiving positive reviews from all across, she is also very grateful and expressed her gratitude for the same. In a recent interview, she said, "I mean, at the end of the day, I'm just thankful for the fact that people are noticing me. There's positive, there's negative, there's a whole bunch of stuff that goes with the fact that you're being noticed, and I'm just grateful that I've got this opportunity to be able to put my craft out there for people to see." Sharmin also spoke on the global reach of *Heeramandi* through the OTT platform. She described the experience of receiving amazing reviews globally as overwhelming and humbling. She said, *Heeramandi* is getting love across the globe. And OTT as a platform has made it possible to reach end number of people. Honestly, it feels overwhelming to get appreciation from people all over the world. There's one thing when your mom and dad tell you, 'Okay, beta, you did a good job,' and then there are people in America, Europe, and Germany who appreciate you. It feels like your work is reaching people, and they're connecting with you," Sharmin said. Helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* is an eight-part series that is soon going to have a sequel.



# ALIEN: ROMULUS TRAILER PROMISES A RETURN TO CLASSIC XENOMORPH HORROR

The terrifying new trailer and poster for *Alien: Romulus* are here! The all-new horror thriller from producer Ridley Scott and director/writer Fede Alvarez opens exclusively in cinemas nationwide in August 2024. *Alien: Romulus* takes the phenomenally successful *Alien* franchise back to its roots. While scavenging the deep ends of a derelict space station, a group of young space colonists come face-to-face with the most

terrifying life form in the universe. The film stars Cailee Spaeny, David Jonsson, Archie Renaux, Isabela Merced, Spike Fearn, and Aileen Wu. Fede Alvarez directs from a screenplay he wrote with frequent collaborator Rodo Sayagues based on characters created by Dan O'Bannon and Ronald Shusett. 20th Century Studios India releases *Alien: Romulus* this August in English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, only in cinemas.



# Evangeline Lilly steps away from acting

Marvel actress Evangeline Lilly has made a heartbreaking announcement concerning her career. She has also appeared in the Marvel Cinematic

Universe and the *Hobbit* trilogy. Her acting career began over two decades ago, and her fans are upset about her decision, but they wish her the best.



The *Ant-Man* actress got into show business after being spotted by a Ford Modelling Agency agent. She became well-known for her part in the six-season television series *Lost*. Her celebrity fan base grew after she participated in the highly acclaimed film *The Hurt Locker*.

She starred in *Real Steel*, starring Hugh Jackman, in 2011, and when the latter reportedly offered her a job in the *X-Men* franchise, Lilly declined because she was not a fan of superhero flicks.

Evangeline Lilly joined *The Hobbit* trilogy in 2012, and in 2015, she debuted as Hope Van Dyne, aka the Wasp, in the *Ant-Man* film series. She also appears in *Avengers: Endgame*. In 2023, Lilly reprised her role as Hope in *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*.

On Monday, she posted a 20-year-old video on her Instagram and wrote, "Praise God, I feel so grateful for my blessings. Stepping away from what seems like the obvious choice (wealth and fame) can feel scary at times, but stepping into your dharma replaces the fear with fulfillment." It continued, "I might return to Hollywood one day, but for now, this is where I belong. A new season has arrived, and I AM READY...and I AM HAPPY."

# Meenakshi hopes to reunite with her old co-stars

Meenakshi Seshadri is back, and she intends to do things differently. Meenakshi, who was a star in the 1980s, relocated to the United States following her marriage in 1995.

The actor stated that in her new phase, she hopes to reunite with old film business friends, such as Sangeeta Bijlani.

In an interview, the *Damini* actress revealed that when she returned to India, she initially contacted her co-star Jackie Shroff. Not surprisingly, she stated that Jackie made her feel comfortable in Mumbai and invited her to film activities. "He is one person I contacted after returning. He has graciously invited me to various occasions in Mumbai. Perhaps he wants me to feel included and accepted. That's his distinguishing quality! In my first innings, I didn't believe in establishing friends and hanging out with them, but this time, I do. Another acquaintance I'd like to meet is Sangeeta Bijlani," she remarked.

The actor then discussed *Hero*, the 1983 Subhash Ghai film that made her an overnight sensation alongside Jackie Shroff. Despite their popularity as an on-screen couple, she regrets not being able to recreate the same chemistry with Jackie in another project. "*Hero*'s success could not be replicated since the audience did not receive what they expected in the few films Jackie and I made after that. They did not understand the romance between Jackie and Meenakshi. I feel horrible about it because, with the appropriate films, Jackie and I could have made some really good movies together," she continued. Meenakshi Seshadri was one of the most prominent female actresses of her period, appearing in films such as *Hero*, *Meri Jung Shahenshah*, *Ghayaal*, *Damini*, and *Ghatak*. After *Ghatak*, Meenakshi left the film industry and married investment banker Harish Mysore, with whom she had two children.



# Cillian Murphy will return as Tommy Shelby in Peaky Blinders



Oscar winner Cillian Murphy will reprise his role as Birmingham gangster Tommy Shelby in a *Peaky Blinders* movie, streaming platform Netflix has confirmed.

Set to arrive on OTT, the new film is made in association with the BBC. It will be directed by Tom Harper and written by Steven Knight. Murphy, who earlier this year won his first best actor Oscar for *Oppenheimer*, dedicated the upcoming movie to admirers of the series. "It seems like Tommy Shelby wasn't

finished with me. It is very gratifying to be recollaborating with Steven Knight and Tom Harper on the film version of *Peaky Blinders*. This one is for the fans," the actor said in a statement.

The series, about the titular *Peaky Blinders* crime gang in the aftermath of the First World War, had ended with its sixth season run in April 2022. Creator Knight had maintained he would like to continue the story "in another form." Harper, who helmed episodes of the show's first season in 2013, said he is thrilled that a *Peaky Blinders* movie is

about to happen. "It will be an explosive chapter in the *Peaky Blinders* story. No holds barred. Full on *Peaky Blinders* at war," he added. The film, which goes into production later this year, will be an epic continuation of the multi-award-winning gangster saga. Set in Birmingham between 1919 and 1934, *Peaky Blinders* followed the rise of the Shelby family as they navigated a world wracked with radical social, economic, and political change.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



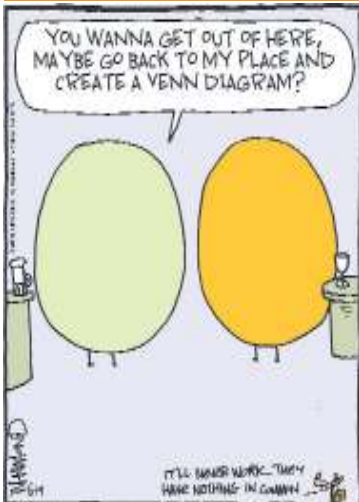
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



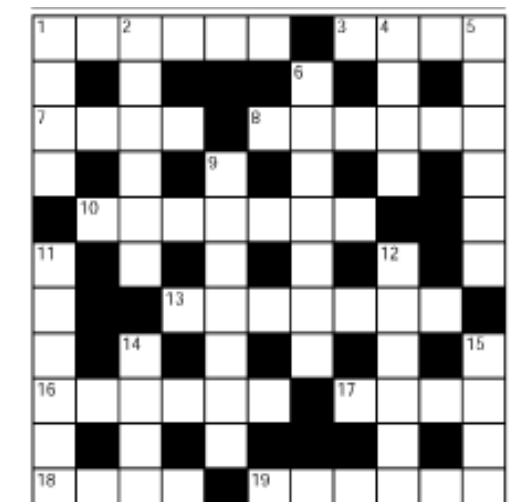
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

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Yesterday's solution

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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

- A precious metal
- A game played with clubs
- A holder for picked flowers
- Just about
- Where Danes live
- Took no notice of
- A season
- Young woman
- Make music with the voice
- Wanting food
- Airborne
- The room you spend most time in
- Picture in your mind
- People invited to dinner
- Using needle and thread
- This metal goes rusty
- Stuff used by potters

### DOWN

- Rescue
- Use your ears
- Yours and mine



# Vijayawada

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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 protection 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.)



# 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,



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 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

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 Ranjani, Frank Nsubuga, Henry Ssenyondo, Bilal Hassun, Robinson Obuya, Riayat Ali Shah (vc), Juma Miyaji, Ronak Patel.

## 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 Ruturaj 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).

## '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.

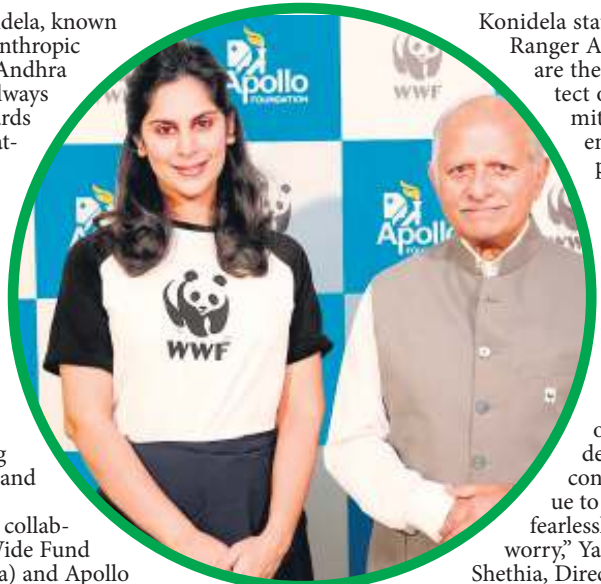
Upasana Kamineni Konidela, in her capacity as National Ranger Ambassador, has played a pivotal role in advocating for the welfare of frontline forest staff. Her appointment underlines the importance of collaboration between the healthcare sector and conservation organisations in safeguarding the well-being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

