

**WOMENIA** Eye Protection during summer

Summer's bright sunshine can be a double-edged sword for our eyes. While it allows us to fully appreciate the beauty of the season, prolonged exposure to UV rays can pose a threat to our vision.

P11 EDIT

# THE Hans India

**A Tribute to Swami Smaranananda**

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the grand festival of Lok Sabha elections, the news of the demise of Srimat Swami Smaranananda Ji Maharaj brought my mind to a standstill for a few moments.

P6

**SINDHU advances to last 8**

Star Indian shuttler P V Sindhu continued her impressive run at the Madrid Spain Masters, advancing to the quarterfinals with a comfortable straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu-Hsun here on Thursday.

P10

YOUNG HANS

**Enhance your web developer career with 10 tools**

Web development is the art and science of constructing and maintaining websites. It incorporates a huge range of tasks, from creating traditional static web pages to complex dynamic web applications.

P9

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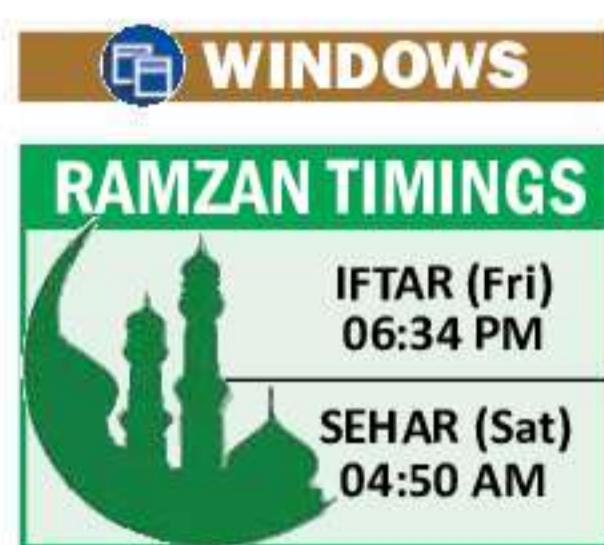
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## VITEEE 2024

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**VIT**  
Vellore Institute of Technology  
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)<https://viteee.vit.ac.in/>**BJP's move to field Navneet Rana invites wrath of allies**

MUMBAI: The BJP's decision to induct independent MP Navneet Rana into the party and fielding her from the Amravati Lok Sabha seat has not gone down well with some ruling allies in Maharashtra as they termed the development as "downfall of democracy" and "political suicide". Rana, who currently represents the Amravati Lok Sabha seat, joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the party's state unit chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's residence in Nagpur along with her supporters late Wednesday night. The BJP's Central Election Committee announced her name as the party candidate for the Amravati seat, and Bawankule said she would file her election nomination on April 4.



## E'KLIP'S! PFC drops bombshell

**Threatens to declare Kaleshwaram as NPA**PATAN AFZAL BABU  
HYDERABAD

THE Kaleshwaram mega project, touted as the world's largest lift irrigation project and the flagship programme of the previous BRS government, stands on the verge of being declared as a non-performing asset (NPA).

The state government has continuously been faltering on the payment of the EMI of the loan it had taken from the Power Finance Corporation (PFC). According to the corporation, the government owes Rs 1,400 crore now. It had missed three installments. Following this, the PFC has demanded the government to either clear the dues or else it would have to declare the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project (KLIP) as NPA.

Top officials said the government could not pay the installments due to



the financial challenges it was facing in the last quarter of 2023-24 financial year.

The Congress which came to power in the state in December has been struggling hard to meet the financial requirements as the previous government had spent all available financial resources before demitting the office in the last month of 2023. "We have no money to pay the interests as well as principal amount to the funding agen-

cies for the last three months, official sources told Hans India.

The previous government took loans liberally from the central financial institutions like the Rural Electrification Corporation and PFC. The REC has already sought a report from the government on damage of three barrages -- Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla -- recently and expressed concern over the repayment of the loans taken.

Top officials said Power Finance Corporation officials had met the top officials of Irrigation department and enquired about the delay in the payment of the monthly installments. The previous government borrowed nearly Rs 25,000 crore as institutional loan to construct the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project. The non-payment of loans would attract action against the government.

Continued on Page 7

## Kejriwal's ED custody extended till April 1

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

### 'Unacceptable, unwarranted': India again slams US' remarks

NEW DELHI

CALLING THE US State Department's remarks on the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal "unwarranted", India on Thursday said that any such external imputation on the electoral and legal process is completely unacceptable.

US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller reiterated on Wednesday its call for "fair, transparent, timely legal processes" as India summoned an American diplomat and lodged a strong protest over the remarks.

Continued on Page 7

### HC rejects PIL to remove Kejriwal as CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday dismissed a PIL seeking the removal of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal from the post of chief minister following his arrest in the excise policy-linked money laundering case. A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan refused to comment on the merits of the issue, saying the same fell outside the scope of judicial interference. "It is for the other wings of the government to examine in accordance with the law," the bench, also comprising Justice Manmohan PS Arora, said. During the hearing, the court asked petitioner Surjit Singh Yadav's counsel to show the legal bar on the continuation of Kejriwal as the chief minister.

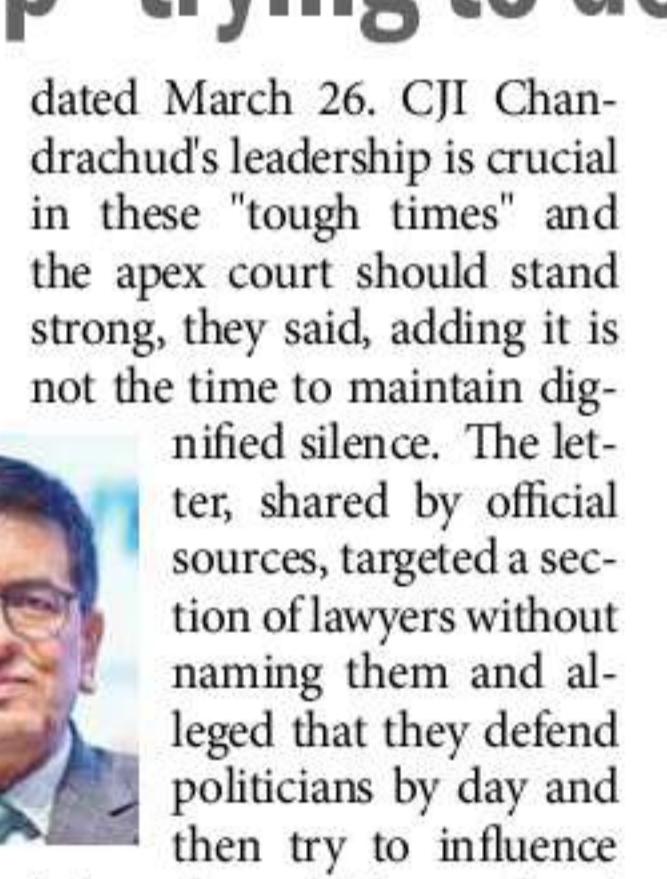
"These tactics are damaging to our courts and threaten our democratic fabric," the lawyers drawn from across the country said in the latter

## Lawyers write to CJI against 'vested interest group' trying to defame courts

**To browbeat, bully others is vintage Cong culture: PM**

To browbeat and bully others is vintage Congress culture. 5 decades ago itself they had called for a "committed judiciary" - they shamelessly want commitment from others for their selfish interests but desist from any commitment towards the nation. No wonder 140 crore Indians are rejecting them

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi



dated March 26, CJI Chandradhush's leadership is crucial in these "tough times" and the apex court should stand strong, they said, adding it is not the time to maintain dignified silence. The letter, shared by official sources, targeted a section of lawyers without naming them and alleged that they defend politicians by day and then try to influence judges through the media at night. This interest group creates false narratives of a supposed better past and golden period of courts, contrasting it with the happenings in the present, the letter said.

Continued on Page 7

## India, China talk to resolve issues along LAC

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Officials of India and China during the 29th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on China-India border affairs, in Beijing on Wednesday

Thursday. The key meeting was held in Beijing on March 27, it said in a statement.

Joint Secretary (East)

Asia) from the MEA led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was headed by Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statement said.

"In the interim, both sides agreed to maintain regular contact through diplomatic and military channels and on the need to uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols," it said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

said in a statement on Thursday said, "Both sides positively evaluated the progress made in the management and control of the situation in the China-India border area and had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the ideas of work for the next stage."

The two sides "agreed to focus on the relevant issues on the ground along the border, reach a solution acceptable to both sides as soon as possible, and promote the transition of the border situation into a normalised phase of control and management," it said.

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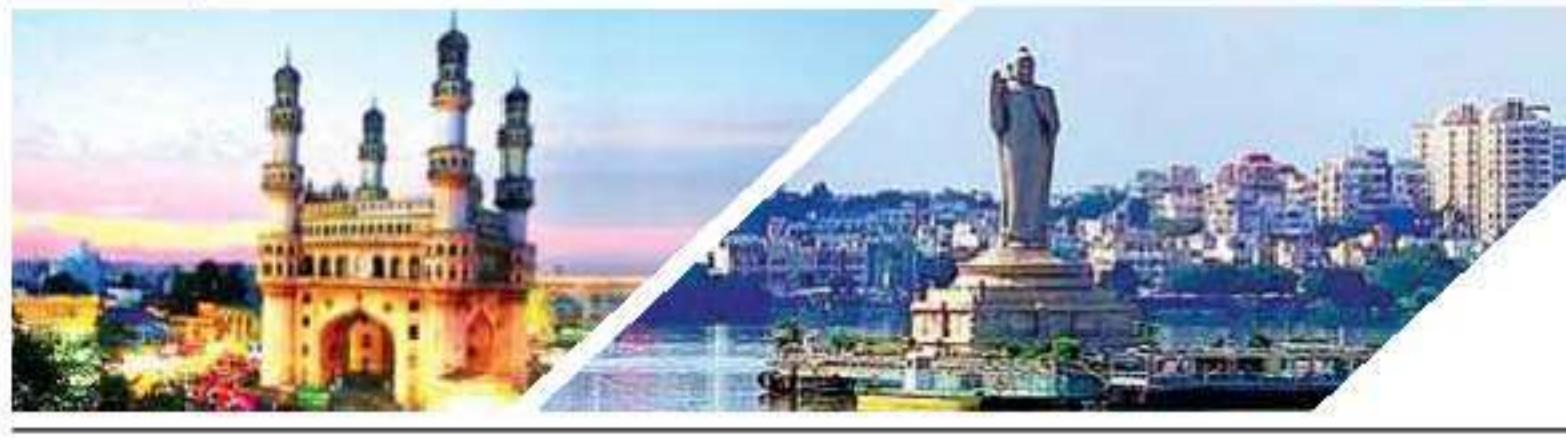
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The good deeds like service, kindness, and brotherhood taught by Jesus Christ, along with the message of peace and compassion, inspire mankind forever.

- Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy



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# City Hans



## 25 cars gutted in massive blaze at garage

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

A massive fire broke out in a warehouse in Gandipet in Ranga Reddy district on Thursday. As many as 25 cars that were kept in the garage were gutted down in the fire.

Due to the fire and huge flames, the air in and around was filled with smoke. After being alerted, the fire department officials reached the spot and started firefighting operations. Firefighting personnel brought the fire under control with the help of nine fire engines.

The fire accident occurred in Vattinagulapally village. Thick black smoke was billowing due to the huge fire, leading to commotion in the area. The local people panicked after the huge fire.

The fire officials said the fire started around 4 pm and fire tenders rushed to the spot. Firefighting continued till 6 pm and nine fire engines were deployed to completely douse the fire. The fire officials suspect the fire started due to a short circuit.

## Locals root for breathing life into Banda Cheruvu at E Anandbagh

MEGHNA NATH  
HYDERABAD

THE restoration and beautification works at Banda Cheruvu/Anandbagh Lake located at East Anandbagh seem never-ending, as in the name of beautification only digging took place. For the past year, sewage pipelines have been lying near the lake. Vexed by the issue, locals raised their concerns about protecting the lake. Currently, the lake stands as one of the fastest-shrinking lakes in the city, with little to no water remaining.

The lake area, which originally extended up to 132 acres, has now shrunk to only 60 acres due to encroachment by land grabbers, and the entire lake has also been covered with seaweed. At present, the surrounding area of the lake has become a garbage dump yard, and as sewage water is discharged into the lake, the colour of the water has changed. This has resulted in a severe mosquito menace in the nearby colonies.

Residents have noted that plans to develop the lake



- Locals frustrated, demand action to protect shrinking lake
- Encroachment reduces lake area, covered with seaweed; garbage dump nearby
- Irrigation dept initiated works, halted; funding speculated as issue
- GHMC redirects complaints, bureaucratic loop ensues, no resolution
- Sewage discharge changes water color, leading to mosquito menace
- Plans for lake development exist on paper, no progress seen

Locals doubtful of future lake enhancement, complaints unaddressed

similar to Durgam Cheruvu appear to exist only on paper. Last year the irrigation department took up lake development and beautification works, but only the surrounding area of the lake was dug. As a result, locals are encountering difficulties navigating the area due to haphazardly placed pipelines.

"Construction efforts commenced last year, but it remains unclear why they were halted. Specula-

tion suggests insufficient funding may be the cause. Consequently, the gradual deterioration of the lake is evident, posing challenges for local residents, particularly during the monsoon season. Additionally, negli-

gence from the GHMC has resulted in the indiscriminate dumping of garbage, exacerbating the situation. As we do not know when the development works will begin, it will be better that until then concerned officials fence the lake," said Robin, a local of East Anandbagh.

"Over the past year, we've been given nothing but false hope. Whenever we reach out to GHMC officials, they consistently redirect us to the irrigation department, claiming that lake development falls under their jurisdiction.

However, upon contacting the irrigation department, we find ourselves caught in a bureaucratic loop, as they simply pass us from one department to another without any meaningful resolution.

With no progress made, locals are understandably skeptical about whether the planned enhancement of the lake will ever materialize. Despite numerous complaints, no action has been taken towards its development," said Johnson, another local of Anandbagh.



## OU presents deficit budget of ₹487.03 cr for 2024–25

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

crore compared to the previous year's allocation. He outlined the estimated receipts of Rs 718.86 crore and the estimated expenditure of Rs 796.45 crore, indicating a deficit of Rs 44.68 crore.

Professor D Ravinder, vice chancellor, OU, highlighted the initiatives and accomplishments undertaken by the university from December 2023 onwards and also urged the government to consider providing an additional grant to bridge this deficit and ensure smooth operations.

## JNTUH, NEN ink MoU

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

JAWAHARLAL Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H), and the National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), Bengaluru, signed a Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) on Thursday, to develop entrepreneurial skills and mindset in students and empower them with a practical understanding of the roadmap to building a successful startup. According to officials, NEN will help to build and

## DCA seizes spurious tablets

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) officials confiscated an Ayurvedic tablet named 'Panion' from a Gandipet store due to misleading claims of treating rheumatism. According to DCA, Ayurvedic medicine was found to be circulating in the market with a misleading claim on its label that it treats rheumatism, which is a contravention of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

Ayurvedic medicine. It was found to be manufactured by Win Trust Pharmaceuticals Ltd, in Ludhiana, Punjab.

The label of the Ayurvedic tablet has a misleading claim stating that it is indicated for the treatment of 'rheumatic arthritis, gout, osteoarthritis, and fibromyalgia,' said Kamalasan Reddy. The advertisement of a medicine for the treatment of rheumatism is prohibited under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

D Swetha Bindu, drugs inspector, Gandipet, carried out the raid under the supervision of K Anil Kumar, assistant director, Serilingampally. Further investigation shall be carried out, and action shall be taken as per the law against all the offenders.

## Officials get ready to shore up voter turnout in LS elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TO boost voter turnout in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, election authorities are taking measures and listing out the unique measures being rolled out to enhance voter turnout. Due to a low voting turnout in recently held Assembly elections, voters will be encouraged to participate in early voting.

Hyderabad DEO directed the officers to create awareness about the importance and necessity of the right to vote, and they will start conducting door-to-door visits to apprise voters of their polling stations.

GHMC Commissioner and Hyderabad DEO Ronald Rose conducted a meeting on Thursday with Slum Level Federation (SLF), Town Level Federation (TLF) leaders, senior citizens, representatives of disabled associations, third gender, and representatives of self-help groups at GHMC headquarters as part of the sweep programme in the wake of the parliamentary elections.



- Measures include early voting encouragement due to low turnout
- Residential associations urge to increase voter participation
- Hyderabab DEO emphasises voter awareness through door-to-door visits
- SHGs tasked with educating eligible students, families
- Awareness campaigns planned to promote voting importance
- Emphasis on voter registration for individuals with disabilities, elderly

During the meeting, Ronald Rose directed the officers to create awareness about the importance of the right to vote. As a part of this, they have been ordered to make a wide campaign to exercise the right to vote and raise awareness among the voters.

He asked the residential associations to hold meetings with the residents and see if the voting percentage increased in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Moreover, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were asked to create awareness about voting among eligible students and their families. He directed the officers and SHGs to ensure that every student who is eligible to vote should exercise their vote.

For them, steps should be taken to ensure that all the polling centres are on the ground floor, ramp facilities, and minimum infrastructure are provided; they should be given a separate queue or priority and be taken directly to cast their vote without any difficulty; and a sufficient number of wheelchairs should be made available at each location.

The DEO recommended that all relevant authorities ensure the registration of all individuals with disabilities aged 18 and above, and their names should be included in the voter list. Elderly and PWD voters above 85 years of age can vote from home if they apply under Form 12D.

## Kapil Dev back in city to unveil unique art expo in NGO's aid

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

KHUSHII NGO founder, cricket legend Kapil Dev announced the return of the Art Caravan to Hyderabad. The private viewing of the exquisite collection of the Art Caravan was held at Park Hyatt, Banjara Hills. The 'Pop-Up Art Exhibition' was co-hosted by Parvathi Reddy, board member of KHUSHII Southern region. The Chief Guest for the launch was MS Raj Thakur, Ramagundam MLA and many esteemed patrons of KHUSHII. GV Lakshmi, Hari Babu, Sanjay Gaddipati, and Uma Chigurupati, Country Club Directors Varun Reddy, Siddharth Reddy and Manjula Reddy graced the occasion.

The Art Caravan is a renowned 'Pop-Up Art Exhibition' aimed at raising funds



in support of KHUSHII's initiatives. Showcasing exclusive artworks, the event provides a platform for art enthusiasts to contribute towards a noble cause while experiencing exceptional art forms.

Speaking on the occasion Kapil Dev said, it was my small way of some service to the society. It is a small responsibility. We started this NGO 21 years ago. Now im-

portant about 2 lakh children across India. While speaking he said that Hyderabad city has grown tremendously. In my eighties, the very same place where I am standing today (The Park Hyatt) was a jungle, now has an edifice.



## TS BIE ISSUES NOTICE

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) issued a notice on Thursday informing that the last working day for the academic year 2023–24 is March 30.

According to TSBIE, summer vacation will commence from March 31 to May 31, and any deviation will be taken seriously. Admissions should be made only in accordance with the admission schedule to be announced by the TSBIE.

The land acquiring agency (MoRTH/NHAI/NHIDC) has placed the required amount of compensation at the disposal of the undersigned. Notice has also been issued to the concerned landowners/interested persons as required under section 3 E of the NH Act, 1956.

Accordingly, all the concerned landowners/interested persons are hereby informed/notified through this additional Public Notice that the compensation amount is hereby offered to all the landowners. Further, it may be noted that:

The compensation amount in respect of all such landowners, who have already submitted their Bank account details, is being credited to their respective bank accounts through RTGS;

The landowners, who have not submitted their Bank account details, may do so immediately to the office of the undersigned and the amount shall be credited to their accounts within one week of the receipt of such Bank account details;

All other claimants entitled to receive the compensation amount may collect their amount of compensation from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM within a period of (60) days.

It may further be noted that since the amount of compensation has been determined and tendered to the concerned landowners/persons interested therein this additional public notice, any failure to collect the compensation amount would be to their account and the amount shall be deemed to have been paid on expiry of this period of (60) days from the date of publication of this notice.

The landowners/person interested therein are further called upon to surrender or deliver the possession of the subject land to the undersigned, failing which the possession of the subject land will be taken with police assistance on expiry of the period of (60) days.

Competent Authority for Land Acquisition and Revenue Divisional Officer, Warangal

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

# Jalpally civic body remains laggard in property tax collection in RR dist

● After 43% collection last year, ULB managed to reach 33% recovery this year

● Cash-starved municipality didn't even get support from MPLADS fund in last four years

ESA BIN ABDUL REHMAN  
RANGAREDDY



A constant below the bar collection of property tax in the Jalpally municipality, on the city outskirts, has raised concerns while the growing trend triggers a blame game between officials and the locals.

With just two days left to reach the last date, the civic body registered a mere 33% of overall collection against a total demand of over Rs.7.2 crore fixed for the current financial year 2023-24. This comes after a similar dismal recovery of 43% revenue last year. With this Jalpally earned a moniker of a low-

est performing municipality among all 16 ULBs in Ranga Reddy district.

According to official statistics, property tax demand of Rs.702.46 lakh has been fixed for 2023-24; a mere Rs.333.08 lakh has been recovered so far. Figures show there are 36,263 assessments in the municipality, including 32,886 residential and 3,180 non-residential.

"We have constituted eight teams to recover property tax and even issued red notices in some cases to the errant. The situation was found to be improving and everything was found moving smoothly in the right direction.

However, the campaign hit a roadblock due to festive season," informed A Vani Reddy, Municipal Commissioner, who took charge only last month.

"We have another round

crore, as against the combined target of over Rs.19.5 crore together with arrears," according to statistics.

"We have constituted eight teams to recover property tax and even issued red notices in some cases to the errant. The situation was found to be improving and everything was found moving smoothly in the right direction.

However, the campaign hit a roadblock due to festive season," informed A Vani Reddy, Municipal Commissioner, who took charge only last month.

"We have another round

Kapil Consultancy Ltd and Kapil Property Developers Ltd have added a new jewel to the commercial properties segment by inaugurating the Kapil Kakatiya Towers in Warangal on Thursday. Kapil Group Chairman K Vaman Rao inaugurated the Towers on Thursday



**TRUCK DRIVER HELD FOR RUNNING OVER 14-YR-OLD BOY**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

YACHARAM CI Narasimha Rao said that the tipper driver identified as Ismail (25) who rammed into a boy named Lokesh (14) with his truck causing an instantaneous death in Akulamailaram village under Hyderabad Green Pharmacy Police Station, was arrested on the same day at midnight. He said that they are investigating the accident. The last rites of the boy were held in Malaguda, Lokesh's hometown on Wednesday evening. Students and teachers of Mirkanpet High School participated in the funeral and offered condolences.

## ED attaches ₹32.34 cr in 580 bank accounts in part-time jobs scam case

HYDERABAD

job scam," said ED officials.

ED investigation revealed that cyber scammers would approach gullible persons on WhatsApp and Telegram apps and lure them by offering part-time jobs by performing simple tasks of giving 5-star ratings to tourist websites, hotels, resorts, tourist destinations, etc. with daily income ranging between Rs. 1000-Rs 1500.

Modus operandi

"The scammers used to collect basic details and ask the victims to join certain WhatsApp and Telegram groups using links provided by them, where the associates of scammers would speak highly of the jobs and post thanks messages showing high income for gaining the trust of the victims. The victims would then be asked to register on bogus websites/Android apps using their ba-

sic details including bank account numbers," the officials added.

The ED officials explained that the scammers would even offer e-money/tokens worth Rs. 10,000 on the e-wallets on bogus websites and apps to lure them further.

The victims were asked to deposit money to various bank accounts to top up their online wallets and start working. The wallet balance would get exhausted with every task set. The commission/earnings were initially allowed to be withdrawn to the bank accounts to gain trust.

Later, the agents on WhatsApp/Telegram would coerce the victims to deposit additional money to work more and earn more.

During the tasks of providing ratings, random pop-ups would appear with premium

"Leave alone providing better roads and sewerage, most areas in Jalpally are still reeling under acute water shortage, especially in Shaheen Nagar and Pahadi Shareef due to non-availability of tap water network. Pathetic condition of roads and lack of proper healthcare facilities too are adding to public woes," said Syed Saber of the Erra Kunta area.

Mohd Ashfaq, another resident, said, "For years the municipal authorities and leaders from the previous government took the public suffering of Jalpally for granted. Now authorities are coming to ask for property tax turning a blind eye to unwholesome state of civic issues in wards."

Ironically, it is learnt, the cash-starved municipality that comes under the Chevella LS constituency represented by Ranjith Reddy has received no support under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds during the last four years.

## Record tax revenues fill State govt coffers

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

being taken to streamline the derailed tax-collecting agencies.

The State economic condition was ruined for the last 10 years, and it impacted badly on the State fiscal condition until recently".

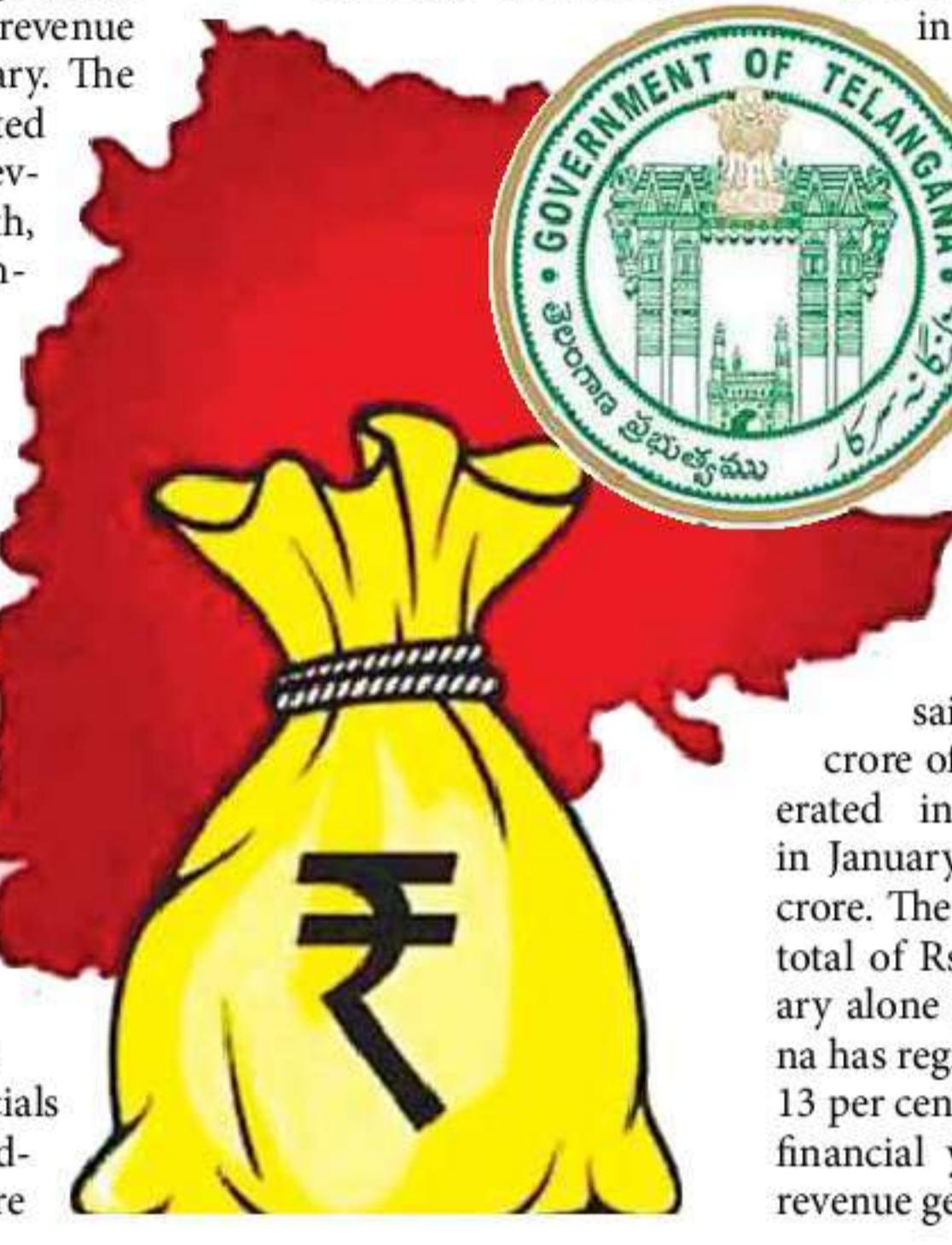
The real estate industry was picking up fast after the elections, and the in-

come from property registrations also increased.

"In the month of December, when the new government assumed power, income from stamp registrations was Rs 1,300 crore. It was Rs 1,044 crore in January 2024 and Rs 1,282 crore in February.

The State GST collection in December was Rs 4,100 crore, and in January, it was Rs 3,848 crore. The GST collections increased to Rs 4,446 crore in February. Revenue has increased through tax collections; officials said that Rs 12,609

crore of revenue was generated in December, and in January it was Rs 10,748 crore. The State has earned a total of Rs 13,703 in February alone this year. Telangana has registered a growth of 13 per cent over the previous financial year (2022-23) in revenue generation.



## Water Board tankers to operate 24X7 from first week of April

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

AS the demand for HMWSSB water tankers has increased, the board on Thursday stated that tankers will supply 24X7 from the first week of April.

The decision on 24-hour tanker delivery was taken during a summer review meeting. Municipal and Urban Development Chief Secretary M Dana Kishore, along with HMWSSB Managing Director Sudarshan Reddy, reviewed the board's summer activities.

Dana Kishore said, com-



pared to last year, the demand for tankers has increased by 50% this time. Strict measures are being taken to meet the demand from consumers. An action plan has been prepared to supply 9,000 trips of water per day. A special night shift

has been arranged to supply water for commercial needs. Three hundred additional trips for commercial customers will be supplied from each filling station; 250 new tankers are being arranged for this. The GHMC will provide 250

drivers.

Additional filling stations will be set up by the first week of April. Six within GHMC and 20 new filling stations are being set up in ORR, beyond GHMC, for future needs.. To cope with demand, arrangements will be made to purchase more tankers, if necessary. This will enable us to provide more services to the customers. The officials were ordered to supply water within 24 hours of booking a tanker. In case of delay, he added, providing information through SMS is suggested.



Film actress Nidhi Agarwal re-opened CMR shopping mall in presence of Vajram Constructions chairman Kola Anjaneyulu, CMR founder & chairman Mavuri Venkataramana, opposite to Uppal bus stand in Hyderabad on Thursday

Four education officials suspended for negligence during the SSC exam

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Education Department suspended four officials for negligence during the SSC Science Part II (Biological Science) examination. The officials who were suspended or relieved include one departmental officer and chief superintendent from Bhadrakali Kothagudem district, one invigilator from Karimnagar, and one invigilator from Sangareddy. They were found to be negligent during the conduct of the SSC Science paper, while it remains unclear as to what happened. A total of 4,93,741 students attended the exam, compared to 4,95,146 who had registered with an attendance rate of 99.72 per cent.

The nationwide election process has commenced with the announcement of the Lok Sabha General Elections schedule for 2024. There are 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in Telangana. In the 2014 general elections, BJP had won 4 seats, INC 3, TRS 9, and AIMIM 1. Despite completing all tasks, when the victims tried to withdraw money reflected in their online wallets, the transactions would be declined citing various random reasons and asking for depositing more money as a refundable withdrawal fee.

Despite completing all tasks, when the victims tried to withdraw money reflected in their online wallets, the transactions would be declined citing various random reasons and asking for depositing more money as a refundable withdrawal fee.

THE Income Tax Department in Hyderabad has established a 24-hour control room to monitor and prevent the misuse of illegal cash and jewelry in the run up to the upcoming general elections.

The general public can send email to cleantelanganaelections@incometax.gov.in, send WhatsApp message to 8688701400, or call

# TENNIS STAR SANIA MIRZA SET TO ENTER POLITICAL ARENA!

HYDERABAD

The Congress leadership is exploring various options to field a strong contender against AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi



already announced the name of Madhavi Latha.

The BJP candidate is a local, having grown up in the Yakutpura area of Hyderabad and gaining popularity with her work among the people, including the Muslim community.

Opinions are being expressed in the Congress party that Owaisi can be checked by fielding Sania Mirza in the Hyderabad constituency.

On the other hand, BJP has

Sania Mirza, who made the country famous at the international level, was previously the Ambassador of Telangana State. Moreover, her younger sister Anam Mirza is the daughter-in-law of former captain of Team India Cricket and Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin. Anam got married to Azharuddin's son Mohammad Asaduddin in 2019.

As a result, the friendship between Mirza and Azharuddin became a kinship. Azharuddin, who continues to be the leader of the Congress party, contested from Jubilee Hills in the recent Telangana Assembly elections and lost.



With scorching heat at its peak, the HMDA workers were seen watering the plants to protect the green cover, near Necklace Road at Indira Gandhi Statue on Thursday. Photo: Srinivas Setty

# Order CBI probe into phone tapping scandal, Dr Laxman urges Revanth



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

Corrigendum : NIT No. 2024-March-04  
March-04  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Due to unavoidable reasons NIT No. 2024-March-04 is cancelled.  
549/24 (A)  
f North central railways | @CPRNCR

BJP OBC Morcha national president and MP Dr K Laxman on Thursday demanded State Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to order a CBI probe into the phone tapping scandal in Telangana.

Addressing media here on Thursday, he said that police involved in the scandal were reportedly claiming that they were tapping phones of leaders of the opposition parties, business-

men and several others following the directions of the political bosses.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao claims that one or two incidents of phone tapping might have happened. Phone tapping is one among several scandals

steered by the BRS leaders. Feeling insecure KTR talked without rhythm and reason that the probe might unearth the corruption of the BRS. How could police form into a syndicate and resort to phone tapping without the involvement of the government. People of the state are scoffing at the BRS for its role in the phone-tapping scandal, he added.

He alleged that the State government has run the operation of phone tapping without the approval of the Centre to keep a tab on the phones of the opposition leaders during by-elections.

"The ruling Congress leaders are sent into cold storage, and there is no sign of taking action against the irregularities in the Dharani portal.

"What had happened to the inquiries into drugs and Miyapur land scam are not



manding whether his phone was also tapped be probed, Dr Laxman demanded CM Revanth Reddy order a CBI inquiry to prove his sincerity to bring those responsible to account.

The corruption allegations on the Medigadda project are sent into cold storage, and there is no sign of taking action against the irregularities in the Dharani portal.

"What had happened to the inquiries into drugs and Miyapur land scam are not

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(TH\_43096)

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, KAZA VENKATA GOPAL RAO, R/o.HNo.11-10-225, ROAD, NO, 2, VI-JAYAPURI Colony , Kothapet Saropnagar Hyd, 500035 TS. Changed My Name As KAZA GOPAL RAO S/o. KAZA SUBBA RAO. (TH\_43098)

I, MATTEGUNTA VENKATA LAKSHMI NARAYANA MURTHY R/o.11-6-231/G12, Sal Homes Saroornagar R.R, TS-35, Changed My Name As MATTEGUNTA LAXMI NARAYANA MURTHY S/o. MATTEGUNTA RAMA KOTESWARA RAO (TH\_43098)

I, SUBHASHINI GUNTUR R/o. 8-2-601/G/285 Rd No. 10 GOURI SHANKAR NAGAR Banjara Hills Hyd TS- 500034, Changed My Minor Son Name From UDESH GUNTUR to SRI UDESH NANDAN GUNTUR. (TH\_43098)

I, ASHISH KUMAR BHARDWAJ, R/o.HNo.501, Sky Crest-77, Rd No.4, Opp Oxy Park, Masab Tank, Shanti Nagar, Hyd, T.S. Changed my name as ASHISH BHARDWAJ S/o.BHAGWAT PRASAD BHARDWAJ. (TH\_43098)

I, ANCHALIYA SEJAL R/o. 202, Malaxmi Enclave, Syndicate City, West Marredpally, Secbad -500026 Changed My Name as ANCHALIYA SEJAL RANI JAIN D/o. ANCHALIYA DINESH KUMAR JAIN. (TH\_43098)

I, PREETI KUMARI MISHRA R/o.1910, 0' Block, Rainbow Vista Rock Garden, Opp IDL, Green Hills Rd, Moosapet, Cybad-Medchal, TS-500018 Changed My Name as PREETI MISHRA W/o. AVINASH MISHRA. (TH\_43098)

I, SANDHYA VANGAPALLY R/o.Fno 308, BEHIND HDFC BANK, JEEDIMETLA VILL, Qutubullapur Cybad -Medchal-500067, Changed my Name As SANDHYA KUMARI VANGAPALLY W/o/ NARSIMHA RAO VANGAPALLY. (TH\_43098)

I, Irfan Ahmed Bagdadji R/o. 5-6-462/A, Agahpura, Hyd. Holder of Aadhaar Card no. 6215-9393-373. I have changed my name as "Irfan Bin Moin S/o Moin Lateef. (TH\_43098)

I, SHIVA KUMAR BIJUJA R/o.4-1-121-128/A, VST CLY, SNEHAPURI CLY, NACHARAM, HYD-500076, TS, changed my name as BIJUJA SHIVA KUMAR S/o. BIJUJA RAJALINGAM. (TH\_43098)

I, KANYA KUMARI BIJUJA R/o.HNO.4-1-121-128/A, VST CLY, SNEHAPURI CLY, NACHARAM, HYD-500076, TS, changed my name as KANYA KUMARI JAISWAL W/o.BIJUJA SHIVA KUMAR. (TH\_43098)

I, AKBER SHAREEF R/o HNO 48-163, RAMIREDDY NAGAR, CHINTAL, BALANAGAR, RANGAREDDY-500037, CHANGED MY NAME AS AKBAR SHAREEF S/o JAHANGIR SHAREEF (TH\_43098)

I, BANDHULA VENKATA RADHEY SHYAM R/o P.No 237 G1,GAYATRI APTS, DEFENCE CLY, SAINIKPURI, HYD ,TS-500094 Changed My Name As BANDHUVULA SHYAM S/o BANDHULA VENKATA KRISHNA MURTHY. (TH\_43098)

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, VARALAXMI MADAM (OLD NAME) R/o. 11-4-671/A, A.C. GUARDS, LAKDIAKOPAL, KHAIRATABAD, HYD -500004, TS, changed my name as BANDARI SAVITA W/o/BANDARI GURUMURTHY. (TH\_43098)

I, Sasmita W/o Purushottam Ambati Fno 202 Sri Chaitanya Residency Narayana Reddy Colony Nizampet Hyderabad Telangana Pin 500090 changed my name from Sasmita to PURUSHOTTAM SASMITA W/o Purushottam Ambati (TH\_43098)

(TH\_43098)

I, SALEEMA MD R/o HNO 8-1-125/2 GOLLABAZAR BHADRACHALAM BHADRADI KOTHAGUDEM DIST TS. changed my name as SYED SALIMA WIFE OF SYED ABDUL AZEEZ. (TH\_43098)

I, PONNAGANDLA INDRA R/o. 2-48 KANDIBANDA MELLACHERUVU SURYAPATI DIST TS. changed my name as PONNAGANDLA INDRA DEVI W/o. PONNAGANDLA VENKATRAMI REDY. (TH\_43098)

I, ARUNA NAVIN HARIA R/o. 3-4-142/9/1, HARIA NIVAS, BARKATPU, LINGAMPALLY, HYD -500027, TS. Changed my name as ARUNABEN HARIA W/o. NAVINCHAND HARIA. (TH\_43098)

I, VEERA BHAVINI MAHENDRA R/o. 3-4-142/9/1, HARIA NIVAS, BARKATPU, LINGAMPALLY, HYD -500027, TS. Changed my name as BHAVINI HIREN HARIA W/o. HIREN HARIA. (TH\_43098)

I, MAHENDRA BANG R/o 1-1-514, GANDHI NAGAR, NEW BAKARAM, HYDERABAD-500080, TS. Changed my name as MAHENDRA KUMAR BANG S/o RAM VILAS. (TH\_43098)

I, VIDYA R/o. 1-1-514,GANDHI NAGAR, NEW BAKARAM, HYERABAD-500080,TS.Changed my name as VIDYA BANG W/o. MAHENDRA KUMAR BANG S/o RAM VILAS. (TH\_43098)

I, SHAIK MANSOOR S/o GOUSE MOHIDDIN SHAIK, R/o.s.Pno. 7, Surabhi Enclave, Medchal, Telangana-500010. Have changed only my Religion from ISLAM to HINDUISM w.e.f.. 08.03.2024. I changed my religion only and not my name. (TH\_52076)

**CORRECTION OF NAMES**

We, TAYYABA TAHERUNNISA BEGUM and MALIK MUHIBUR RAHMAN H/o. No. 10-1-18/(43) & 14, Shyam Nagar, Asifgar, A.C. Guards, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana, stat. that our names in the ICS Statement of Marks of our daughter : AAIHAR MALIK bearing Unique ID: 765513, are wrongly mentioned as TAYYABA, TAHERA UNNISA BEGUM and MALIK MUHIB UR RAHMAN, whereas the actual names as per document records (Passports) are TAYYABA TAHERUNNISA BEGUM and MALIK MUHIB RAHMAN. (TH\_43098)

I, VEERELLY SURESH KUMAR R/o.4-38/1A, DEENABANDHU CL, Kukatpally, Cybad- Medchal-500072, TS. Changed My Name As VEERELLY SURESH KUMAR S/o. VEERELLY SONARAYANA (TH\_43098)

I, AFZAL JAHAN TAIMORI D/o. MIRZA ZAHERUDIN BABAR TAIMORI, R/o.HNo.4-180, Hassan Nagar, Hyd-052, TS. Lost my Original Passport Bearing No. W2996929. anyone find Call 9700649717. (TH\_43098)

I, NAFIS FATHIMA , R/o. 1-4-482/A, 1,Beeran Street, Bholakpur, Musheerabad, Hyd, 500020, TS, changed my name as NAFEES FATIMA W/o. SHAIK MOHAMMED NOORUDDIN. (TH\_43098)

I, VENATALA SRINIVASU R/o. NO 2. NIVANA PURI CIY, STU, NEAR HANUMAN TEMPLE, KARMANGHAT, R.R.TS. HENCE FOURTH S/o. VENATALA SRINIVASU. (TH\_43098)

I, SALAUDDIN S/o. TAJUDDIN R/o 18-2-258/44, RANGELI KHIDIQI HO. 23. T.S. CHANGED MY NAME AND FATHER NAME AS SHAIK SALA UDDEEN S/o Late. SHAIK RAHID UDDIN (TH\_43098)

I, Venkat (Old Name) R/o. At H.no. 4-362/4/3, Sri Ram Colony, Jalgatty, Balapur -Mdrl, R.R Dist - Rank 500005, TS. Changed My Name As M Venkat (New Name) S/o.M Subhash. (TH\_43098)

I, G Anil Kumar F/O Gunturi Prasthavan, have lost my son's passport T4804009. If found pls call 9962292082. (TH\_43098)

I, SALAUDDIN S/o. TAJUDDIN R/o 18-2-258/44, RANGELI KHIDIQI HO. 23. T.S. CHANGED MY NAME AND FATHER NAME AS SHAIK SALA UDDEEN S/o Late. SHAIK RAHID UDDIN (TH\_43098)

I, UYYALA VEDHAKSHARI, D/o. UYYALA VENKATA RAJANI KANTHA RAO, R/o. Plot No. 566 565, Pravara Nilayam, Road No. 12A, Harihar Puram Colony, B.N. Reddy Nagar, Saheb Nagar, Kalan, K.V. Ranga Reddy-500070, T.S., lost/misplaced my original passport No. NO84548, from my Residence.If found cont 984597440. (TH\_43098)

I, Gopika Prasad Kodali Vidya Chaitanya (Old Name) R/o.Villa No. 55, Subshi Waterford, Mokila Village, Shankarpally, R.R-501203, TS. Changed My Name As Kodali Vidya Chaitanya (New Name) W/o.Kodali Gopika Prasad. (TH\_43098)

I, Venkata Rama Devi, R/o. No.12-13-240, 104 Street, No 1 Kintee Colony Tamka, Hyderabad Telangana Pin 500017 changed my name from Ambur Kiran S/o Ambur Ramesh Satyanarayana Babu. (TH\_43098)

I, AMBUR KIRAN S/o AMBUR RAMESH SATYANARAYANA BABU. (TH\_43098)

I, Gopika Prasad Kodali Vidya Chaitanya (Old Name) R/o.Villa No. 55, Subshi Waterford, Mokila Village, Shankarpally, R.R-501203, TS. Changed My Name As Kodali Vidya Chaitanya (New Name) W/o.Kodali Gopika Prasad. (TH\_43098)

I, Gopika Prasad Kodali Vidya Chaitanya (Old Name) R/o.Villa No. 55, Subshi Waterford, Mokila Village, Shankarpally, R.R-501203, TS. Changed My Name As Kodali Vidya Chaitanya (New Name) W/o.Kodali Gopika Prasad. (TH\_43098)

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# Cong grapples with task of picking winning horses for 4 parl segments

Md NIZAMUDDIN  
HYDERABAD

THE Congress party which has decided to clear all the remaining names of the candidates, particularly from key segments of Khammam, Warangal and Karimnagar by March end continues to struggle with proposed names. With top leaders from State including Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and other ministers fail to arrive at a consensus, the party is yet to arrive at a clarity.

According to party sources, even as meetings continued on Thursday at different levels including deliberations made by AICC secretaries for Telangana, aspirants made a



beeline before the party high command in Delhi, building more pressure on top brass. As the AICC has to make a final call over clearing the names, some of the aspirants continued to lobby in Delhi. As consensus could not be reached on these key constituencies during the CEC (Central Election Com-

mittee) meeting attended by AICC's top leaders. Discussions continued on Thursday at different levels, even as the aspirants kept their fingers crossed with the hope that their name will be listed this time. AICC secretaries including Rohit Chowdary, Mansoor Ali Khan and others had in depth discussions

over the four candidates to be finalised," said a senior leader.

Amongst these Khammam and Karimnagar remained hard nuts to crack. Given the fact that Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's wife Mallu Nandini and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy's brother Prasada Reddy remain the top contenders the party weighs options. While at Karimnagar, former Husnabad MLA Aligireddy Praveen Reddy, Velichala Raja Rao and Chintapandu Naveen (Teenmar Mallanna) were the names which made rounds within the party. While in Warangal which is SC reserved, the party found it difficult to finalise between D Sambaiah, a Madiga and

sitting MP P Dayakar, a Mala who recently joined from BRS.

Meanwhile the Congress has decided to chalk out a strategy to win the targeted 14 seats in the polls. The PCC's executive committee meeting to be presided over by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will be deliberating over strategies on March 29 (Friday). The agenda of the meeting is likely to include engaging national leaders in public meetings, mobilising ground support of party workers and financial resources, amongst others. With the experience of Assembly polls, the Congress aims to translate the crowds arriving at public meetings particularly of the Revanth Reddy into a clear mandate.



**CM Revanth extends Good Friday message of love and service**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy remembered the sacrifices and courage of Jesus Christ on the occasion of Good Friday. He said that good deeds like service, kindness, and brotherhood taught by Jesus Christ, along with the message of peace and compassion, inspire mankind forever. The CM hoped that all the Christian fraternity would celebrate Good Friday in memory of the valiant sacrifices rendered by Jesus Christ in his entire life.

PCC constitutes manifesto panel led by Sridhar Babu

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

PCC chief has appointed the committee. "The committee will submit its report to the PCC within a fortnight about the ways and means to ensure the national manifesto reaches the people across the State," he said. The committee comprises Prof AladasJanaiah, as its convenor, while the members include A Shyam Mohan, B Kamalakara Rao, B M Vinod Kumar, Dr Mohd Riyaz and B Janak Prasad.

THE PCC on Thursday constituted the 'National Manifesto Dissemination Committee in Telangana' led by IT Minister D Sridhar Babu as its chairman.

PCC working president and MLC, B Mahesh Kumar Goud informed that on the eve of ensuing elections to Parliament, Revanth Reddy

**'Cong back to its appeasement policy'**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA state BJP official spokesperson N V Subhash demanded immediate arrest of those involved in attacks on Hindus at Chengicherla. Taking a dig at the Congress for not changing its old appeasement policy and effectively implementing it after coming to power in Telangana and Karnataka states, Sub-

hash, said, it was unfortunate that police prevented BJP national general secretary and MP Bandi Sanjay from entering Changicherla village and condemned the house arrest of BJP MLA Raja Singh. He said ever since the Congress party assumed power in Telangana attacks on the Hindu community have been increasing and urged the government to protect the interest of Hindus.

## Abhay Kumar Patil appointed T BJP election in-charge

Says party will win more than 10 LS seats

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD



SOON after his appointment as in-charge of Telangana for the ensuing Parliament elections, Belgaum Dakshin MLA Abhay Kumar Patil said the BJP will win a minimum of 10 of 17 seats. Patil's appointment has come as part of party appointing State election in-charges for the polls. Earlier, the party had appointed in-charges for each LS constituency in Telangana. Patil will work with them to drive the electioneering.

The four-time MLA is known for meticulous distribution of five lakh laddus to every household in about 300 villages in his constituency to celebrate the consecration of Ram Mandir.

Patil is also responsible for electioneering in Chikkodi in Belgaum district. Reacting to the appointment, he said

he would focus on winning seats in Telangana as well as discharge responsibilities in Chikkodi.

The MLA shot into lime-light with his first election to the Karnataka Assembly in 2008, riding high as candidate of the Maharashtra Ekikarn Samiti (MES) that demanded unification of Belgaum district in Karnataka with Maharashtra.

## Communal provocation in Chengicherla a scripted political agenda: Kishan

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister and State BJP chief G Kishan Reddy has warned the government and the police for unilaterally acting by foisting false cases against the party leaders, cadre and victims in the slaughterhouse mafia attack at Chengicherla.

Reddy, who visited several divisions in the Secunderabad LS constituency on Thursday, alleged that 'the Congress has scripted disruption of peace and tranquility in Chengicherla with political agenda.'

He condemned the house arrest of Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh and filing of cases against party national general secretary and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar as intimidation tactics for supporting the victims of attack.

Leaders from other parties can visit Chengicherla and call on the victims. Restrictions are exclusively applied only to party leaders. He asked whether Indiramma Rajyam meant encouraging



communal rift and resorting to illegal arrests?

He reiterated that Hindu ST women and young people were attacked in Chengicherla on Holi. However, the police slapped attempted murder cases against the victims, who acted in self-defence, instead of attackers. "It is unbecoming of the police to put up barricades in the area to let the slaughterhouse mafia to operate."

Demanding immediate closure of slaughterhouse being operated in violation of law, Reddy wanted withdrawal of cases against party leader and cadre and suspension of the police who failed to prevent the attack.

Telangana should be ready to defeat the Congress which is walking in the steps of BRS."

He said people have defeated the BRS Razakar style of dictatorial governance suppressing people. "Removal of Dharna Chowk to stall dissenting voices, foisting illegal cases and arrests were the hallmarks of an undemocratic BRS regime. People have given power to the Congress by defeating the BRS. However, the Congress too has not changed its mind and walking the BRS way; it will also meet the BRS fate," he cautioned.

## Bike rally marks Vinod Rao's campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KOTHAGUDEM



ics and IIMs. He said that he will work for the development of industries so that employment opportunities will improve. He mentioned that he will regularise the house titles for the people of Kothagudem. He said that

construction of an industrial cluster and an airport in the 600 acres of land owned by the Sea are on his agenda. "The Central government under the leadership of Narendra Modi has provided funds of about Rs 1200 crores for national highways, Vaikuntha Dham, farmers' platforms, CC roads, side canals, sports grounds, and various welfare schemes under NREGS funds in villages and towns," said Rao.

During the rally Rao greeted the people along the way. The district centre rang with the slogans of BJP workers. Later, addressing a press conference Rao said, "As a child of this land, I have clear vision to serve with my experience in business, technology and service sectors for 30 years." Speaking on the occasion, Ranga Kiran called upon every worker to work hard for Vinod Rao's victory.

Rao announced that a vision document is being prepared with experts and veterans who have studied in London School of Econom-

ics and IIMs. He said that he will work for the development of industries so that employment opportunities will improve. He mentioned that he will regularise the house titles for the people of Kothagudem. He said that

construction of an industrial cluster and an airport in the 600 acres of land owned by the Sea are on his agenda. "The Central government under the leadership of Narendra Modi has provided funds of about Rs 1200 crores for national highways, Vaikuntha Dham, farmers' platforms, CC roads, side canals, sports grounds, and various welfare schemes under NREGS funds in villages and towns," said Rao.

## Drugs seized from RMPs

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
WANAPARTHY

THE district drug inspector Rashmi on Thursday warned of taking stringent action against medical shops if they are found selling medicines without licence. She was speaking during an inquiry at Suguru village in Pebbair mandal following which two RMPs managed to run away. The DRI found RMPV Srikanth selling allopathic medicines without a licence. She seized 35 types of medicines and registered a case under Section 18 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Mahabubnagar district drug inspector K Rabia was present during the inquiry.

## Maoist ACM, courier apprehended

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KOTHAGUDEM



tam Munna, also known as Sannal, hailing from Pusnar village in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh, and Jadi Peddabbai from Uppedu Veera-

puram in Mulugu district. Sannal, identified as the CPI (Maoist) party Kistaram LOS deputy commander, has been associated with the

Maoist party since 2004 and carries an SLR weapon. He was a member of the Maoist battalion led by Madvi Hidma, also known as San-

thosh, from 2011 to 2022, before being promoted to ACM in 2022. His involvement includes recent attacks on Dharmaram police camp and various incidents of violence, including the killing of CRPF jawans in multiple instances. Peddabbai, on the other hand, has been working as a courier for the Maoist First Battalion in Chhattisgarh for the past three years.

During the operation, security personnel seized ten gelatin sticks, two detonators, and leaflets from the detained individuals.

## BRS set to get another jolt with KK's exit

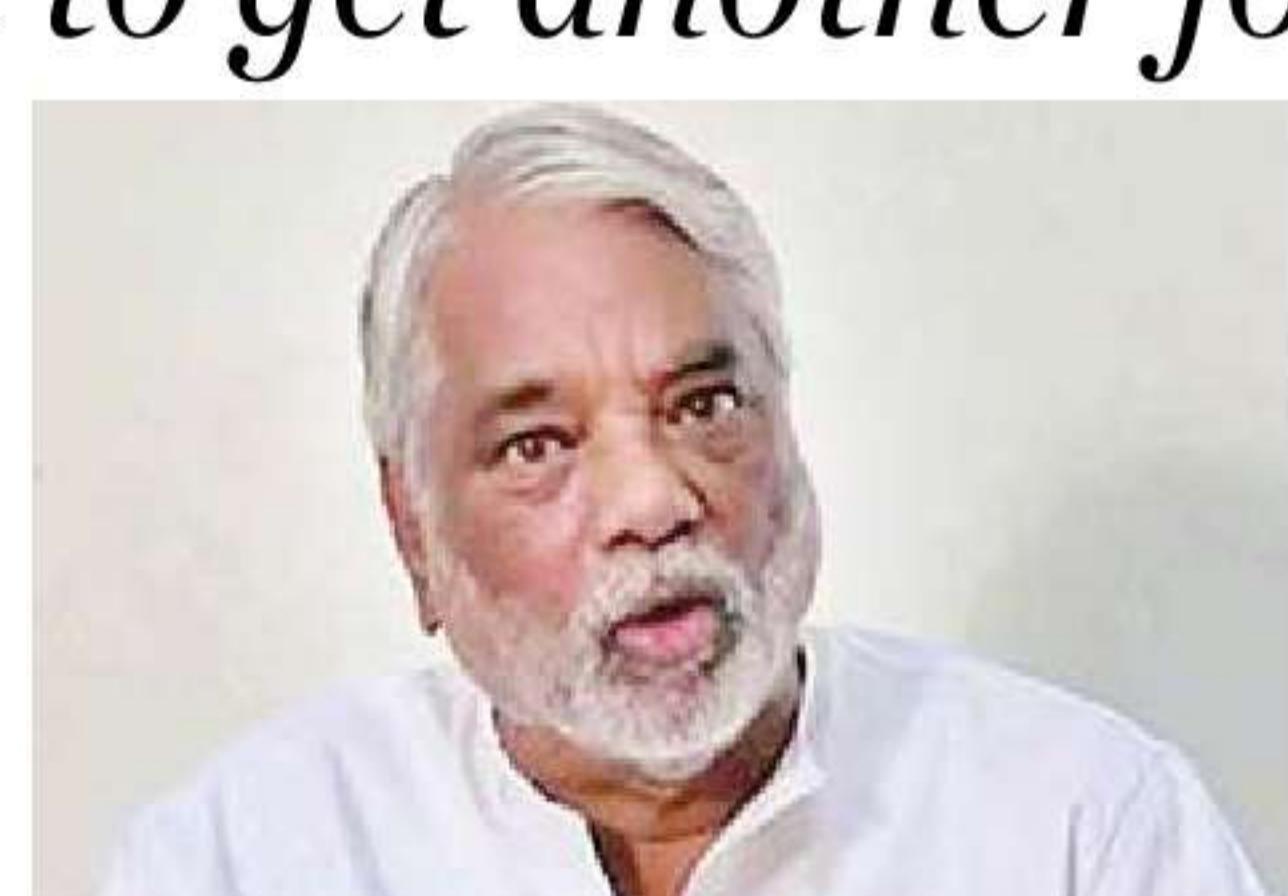
- Meets KCR at farm house
- Mayor to join Cong on March 30

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE BRS is set to face another jolt with party secretary-general and Parliamentary leader K Keshava Rao deserting it soon. The BRS veteran informed about his intent to party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao after meeting him at his farmhouse on Thursday.

KCR had summoned KK to his farmhouse after knowing the latter's plan to desert the party and to seek clarification on his comments against the party while speaking to a journalist. Sources said that Keshava Rao made it clear to the BRS chief that he will be leaving the party.

When confronted by KCR, Rao said he would die in the Congress party. "After enjoy-



him that the party had done a lot for the veteran leader's family.

KK, who was upset, came back to his residence at Banjara Hills and expressed displeasure to waiting media and went inside without speaking. Party leaders A Indrakaran Reddy and Gaddam Arvind Reddy were seen at Rao's residence.

There were speculations of

Keshava Rao and his daughter Gadwal Vijayalakshmi joining the Congress after the State in-charge along with government adviser Vem Narender Reddy met him at his residence recently. Along with this, Keshava Rao, while talking to the media had made some comments going against the party line.

He had said there may be role of KCR family in corruption in the government. He had also said the BRS will be third in the LS elections because people's focus is on Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi.

KK had also alleged that KCR had unnecessarily got involved in charge of Kaleshwaram project design. "Only one family, including KCR, KTR, Harish and Kavita, were seen on stage in public meetings during elections; no other leader got recognition.

He had targeted the party

on language used by leaders in politics and objected to KCR's language in Nalgonda meeting when he had referred to Medigadda as 'Bondalagadda' (graveyard). He went on to say that people were happy with the rule of CM A Revanth Reddy; joining of leaders in the ruling party was natural.

Son to remain in BRS

Meanwhile, KK's son Vijay Kumar said he had nothing to do with news regarding decision of his father or sister on changing the party. "I am very clear that I am not changing the party. I am a strong supporter of BRS and have a great belief in the leadership of our leader KCR. I will be able to talk more only after their confirmation of joining the Congress," he said.

Hyderabad Mayor Vijayalakshmi is set to join the Congress on March 30.

## Local bodies MLC byelection peaceful

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MAHABUBNAGAR

THE local bodies MLC by-elections were held peacefully under the strict vigil of security forces and the election authorities across Palamuru region on Thursday.

The polling was held across all the five districts of erstwhile Mahabubnagar including Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Gadwal, Narayanpet, and the residual Mahabubnagar district headquarters.

Of the 1439 total local body representative votes under the 10 polling centers in the Palamuru region by the end of 4 pm in the evening 1437 votes were cast recording 99.86 per cent of polling.

At the polling station set up in the MPDO office in Mahabubnagar district, all the 245 members casted their votes registering 100 per cent polling in the district.

The situation in Wanapar-

thy district was also conducive; of the 218 voters in the region almost all of them casted their votes by end of the day, with 99 male voters and 119 female voters casted their votes under the strict security of the police personnel and handed them over at counters set up at the reception centre located at the Government Boys Junior College in Mahabubnagar.

Election observers Vani Prasad, returning officer, district collector G Ravi Naik and others supervised the arrangements for storing ballot boxes and polling materials at the reception centre.

Soon after the concluding of the MLC elections, the election authorities collected the sealed ballot boxes under the strict security of the police personnel and handed them over at counters set up at the reception centre located at the Government Boys Junior College in Mahabubnagar.

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## Harnessing opportunities of AI to improve govt services

THE importance of AI in governance is fast growing and many of the developed countries are successfully using it for improving governance. United States stands to benefit significantly from harnessing the opportunities of AI to improve government services. It leverages AI to provide wide range of services in various sectors like health, transportation, environment, internal security, local governance etc.

India too is now fast catching up in the use of AI even in key sectors like Air Force. The observation made by AIR Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari that new technologies like AI and quantum communication are making existing weapons and inventories redundant is interesting. To be able to fight effectively in such an environ-

ment, there is a need to re-imagine, realign and reform conventional war fighting ways and means. He said, future conflicts will be characterised by a blend of simultaneous application of kinetic and non kinetic forces, high levels of battle space transparency, multi domain operations, high degree of precision, enhanced lethality, a compressed sensor to shooter cycle.

This indicates how India too can harness the opportunities of AI in many other fields including local governance. AI is rapidly becoming an integral part of local government operations, revolutionising the way cities are managed and services are delivered in many countries though we still believe in lot of paper work people running around offices and greasing palms to get work done.

It is time Modi 3.0 government focuses more on streamlining processes to improve decision-making. AI offers numerous benefits to local governments. By leveraging AI technologies, governments can automate administrative tasks, such as data collection and analysis, thus freeing up valuable time and resources.

Government employees can be trained to focus on more complex and strategic issues, leading to increased efficiency and productivity in local government operations. Furthermore, AI implementation in local government can enhance the quality and effectiveness of city services. For instance, AI-powered chatbots can provide citizens with round-the-clock assistance and information, reducing the need for human inter-

vention and improving customer service in the process.

When people talk about "local government," many of them complain too often about slow, ponderous, inaccessible and frustrating bureaucracies that are difficult to work with. That impression is only growing by the day. For example if there is any complaint of encroachment, the authorities will not respond unless there is pressure on them. Even then they will seek all kinds of documents which should normally be available with them in digital format and make every work time consuming and pocket filling.

Providing citizens with easier access to municipal and state services may initially be cost intensive yet the improvement in "living experi-

ence" can be dramatic. Smarter city and state government services mean improved responsiveness and higher service levels, leading to a better quality of life and reduced impacts on the environment. That is not happening though the NDA government has declared many smart cities. They are still anything but smart. Yes the officials of local government have become smarter in making more money.

By strategically leveraging AI technologies, citizen services can be redefined ensuring they are not only accessible but also seamlessly aligned with the ever-evolving needs of the community. The integration of AI into municipal services can enhance service delivery for positive change in municipal administration.

## A Tribute to Swami Smaranananda

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

**A**MIDST the hustle and bustle of the grand festival of Lok Sabha elections, the news of the demise of Srimat Swami Smaranananda Ji Maharaj brought my mind to a standstill for a few moments. Srimat Swami Smaranananda Ji Maharaj was a pioneer of India's spiritual consciousness and his demise is like a personal loss. A few years ago, the demise of Swami Atmasthananda Ji and now the departure of Swami Smaranananda Ji on his eternal journey has left many people bereaved. My heart, like that of crores of devotees, saints and followers of Ramakrishna Math and Mission, is deeply saddened.

During my visit to Kolkata earlier this month, I had gone to the hospital to enquire about Swami Smaranananda Ji's health. Just like Swami Atmasthananda Ji, Swami Smaranananda Ji are an indelible example of the motto of Ramakrishna Mission 'Atmano Mokshaartham Jagad-dhityaya Cha'.

We all are inspired by the work being done by Ramakrishna Mission for the promotion of education and rural development. Ramakrishna Mission is working on India's spiritual enlightenment, educational empowerment and humanitarian service. In 1978, when the disastrous flood struck Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission won the hearts of everyone with its selfless service. I remember, when an earthquake ravaged Kutch in 2001, Swami Atmasthananda Ji was among the first people to call me and offer all possible assistance for disaster management on behalf of the Ramakrishna Mission.

Under his direction, Ramakrishna Mission helped many people who were affected by the earthquake.

Over the past years, while holding various positions, Swami Atmasthananda Ji and Swami Smaranananda Ji laid great emphasis on social empowerment. Those who know the lives of these great personalities will definitely remember how serious these saints were towards modern education, skilling and women empowerment. Among his many inspiring traits, one thing that impressed me the most was Swami Atmasthananda Ji's love and respect for every culture and every tradition.



**Over the past years, while holding various positions, Swami Atmasthananda Ji and Swami Smaranananda Ji laid great emphasis on social empowerment. Those who know the lives of these great personalities will definitely remember how serious these saints were towards modern education, skilling and women empowerment. Among his many inspiring traits, one thing that impressed me the most was Swami Atmasthananda Ji's love and respect for every culture and every tradition.**

personalities will definitely remember how serious these saints were towards modern education, skilling and women empowerment.

Among his many inspiring traits, one thing that impressed me the most was Swami Atmasthananda Ji's love and respect for every culture and every tradition. The reason for this was that

he used to travel continuously and had spent a long time in different parts of India. He learned to speak Gujarati while living in Gujarat. He used to even speak with me in the language and I loved listening to his Gujarati!

At different points in India's development journey, our motherland has been

blessed by many saints and seers like Swami Atmasthananda Ji, Swami Smaranananda Ji who have ignited the spark of societal change. They have motivated us to work with a collective spirit and address all the challenges our society faces. These principles are eternal and will act as our source of strength

Om Shanti.

## The Scindias: Moving seamlessly between parties in different elections on home turf

ANIL DUBEY  
Bhopal

**T**HE Scindias, the influential members of the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior, have moved effortlessly between different political parties when it comes to fighting electoral battles on their home turf and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia will carry forward this tradition when he files his nomination as the BJP candidate from the Guna Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh.

Five years after losing unexpectedly from Guna as the Congress candidate, Jyotiraditya Scindia, representing the current generation of the family in MP's politics, is back in the fray in his backyard, but this time as the nominee of his erstwhile political rival and with a different election symbol against his name on the EVM. The 53-year-old politician is the grandson of one of the BJP founders, Vijaya Raje Scindia, and son of former Union

minister the late Madhavrao Scindia.

The Guna Lok Sabha seat, part of the Scindias' home turf which also includes Gwalior, is spread across eight assembly seats in Guna, Shivpuri and Ashok Nagar districts. The Congress, looking to settle scores with Jyotiraditya Scindia in the poll fray after it lost its government in Madhya Pradesh following his exit exactly four years ago, is yet to name its candidate from Guna. It was a rare electoral shock for former Gwalior royals when the Union Minister for Civil Aviation faced defeat in 2019 at the hands of the BJP candidate and his old loyalist, KP Yadav, by a margin of around 1.26 Lakh votes.

In 2024, Scindia is again testing electoral waters, but under the banner of a different party – the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Guna Lok Sabha constituency's history suggested the Scindias have never fought their first and last elections from the same party. The Union minister's grandmother, Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia, contested her first election from the seat in 1957 on a Congress ticket and won. She contested as the Swatantra Party nominee in 1967 then from the BJP in 1989. His father Madhavrao Scindia contested his first election from Guna on a Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS) ticket in 1971 and fought his last poll in 1999 as the Congress nominee before his death in a plane crash near New Delhi in 2001.

Scindia's political career began in 1967 when he contested as the Swatantra Party nominee in 1967 then from the BJP in 1989. His father Madhavrao Scindia contested his first election from Guna on a Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS) ticket in 1971 and fought his last poll in 1999 as the Congress nominee before his death in a plane crash near New Delhi in 2001. The BJS is considered the forerunner of the BJP.

Senior journalist, author and political analyst Rasheed Kidwai says the Scindias' political leanings seem to be settling down now. "After decades of consciously choosing divergent political parties, the house of Scindias is finally settling down as per their past and ideological leanings. The Sangh, Hindutva and right-wing has always been Scindia flavour in the monarchical era," Kidwai noted.

The Guna parliamentary seat was represented by Rajmata Scindia for 6 times, while her son Madhavrao Scindia won it on four occasions. Besides Guna, Rajmata Scindia represented the Gwalior Lok Sabha seat, part of the family turf, once.

Madhavrao Scindia was elected five times from Gwalior, once as the candidate of the Madhya Pradesh Vikas Congress, an outfit floated by him. Rajmata Scindia's

daughter Yashodhara Raje also represented the Gwalior seat in the Lok Sabha twice for the BJP.

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## LETTERS

**TDP head wants Muslims to believe in NDA**

**T**DP supremo Chandrababu Naidu says that Muslim minorities need not worry and should not believe false propaganda against NDA. He assured that their lives would witness progress and development in NDA regime. He was silent and never raised his voice when Muslims suffered under NDA regime due to various issues such as false FIRs against Muslims, triple talaq, mob lynching, love jihad, hate speeches, closure of Madrasas, cancellation of 4% reservation to Muslims, Hijab ban, beef ban, boycott of Muslim shop keepers, attack on religious places, suffering of Muslims due to CAA and NRC etc. He should clarify his stand on the atrocities carried on Muslims throughout the country.

Zeeshan, Kazipet

**Another 'ChunaviJumla' from BJP**

**S**PEAKING with their party candidate from Krishnanagar in West Bengal, Amrita Roy, PM Modi has said that he was exploring legal options to ensure that nearly Rs 3,000 crore allegedly "looted" from poor people in West Bengal and attached by ED was returned to them. In 2014, before becoming Prime Minister Modi made a similar promise to bring back the money stashed in Swiss Bank and deposit Rs 15 lakh each in people's bank account. Later, the Home Minister claimed that it was just an "election stunt" (ChunaviJumla). If the PM is so keen to distribute seized amounts to the poor, why not include the money collected from electoral bonds; after all it is not such clean money which corporates have donated.

Nagarajan, Hyderabad

**Karma catches up with Kejriwal**

**T**HE Delhi High Court denied interim relief to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last week in the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam case. The court gave the ED time till April 2 to file its response to Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest as well as his application seeking interim relief. Kejriwal, who is also head of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was arrested by the ED on March 21 and is accused of being the "kingpin" in the liquor policy case. Kejriwal has made irresponsible, baseless and wild allegations against Congress leaders including former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dixit in the past. They used the phrase "karma catches up," suggesting that he is facing the consequences of his past actions.

CK Subramaniam, Mumbai

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**T**HE law might not bar a sitting Chief Minister from functioning from a jail as long as he is not convicted in any criminal case, but on moral grounds a politician should respond to such situations and step down, albeit on a temporary basis, until the court concerned disposes of the case. Kejriwal's Deputy Manish Sisodia continues to be jailed as a remand prisoner in the same case and he has already resigned. There cannot be two ways to deal with the arrests and Kejriwal should very well know the basics. Moreover, it is totally and logically impractical for a Chief Minister to effectively run his office from behind the bars. Kejriwal is trying to defy the democratic norms citing loopholes in the laws.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

**Courts shall have all required amenities**

**O**UR Chief Justice of India in his inaugural speech in Hyderabad expressed his concern in simple words. Lakh of washrooms for women, providing ramps for the disabled or differently abled, creches and rest rooms for the young mothers are the most prominent facilities which he specified with concern. Instead of needy people roaming around the courts for justice, the kindness of all our judges shall reach across our country. The CJI, with his team, is requested to sort out cases with similarity so that any related case can be sped up. Thus litigations will come down.

G Murali Mohan Rao, Secunderabad

**Children missing out on simple joys**

**A**PROPOS: 'The thrilling rides on trains'. Children today have grown too sophisticated to enjoy the simple 'choo-choo-gadi' games of childhood with one child acting as the driver while the rest followed him hanging on the shirt of the previous child while the leader had the privilege of blowing the whistle. 'Rail gadi, Rail gadi' sung by Ashok Kumar in the movie Aashirwad was the forerunner of rap and was enjoyed immensely by children. Today's children have no idea of how much pleasure and joy it gave their grandparents as children too travel by train. Aeroplanes were only to be stared at as travel by air was the domain of the privileged few. In fact, a plane taking off from Santacruz in Mumbai was the center of attraction for those travelling by Mumbai locals and fortunate enough to be seated at the window. Now children nonchalantly take flights on their own, without a trace of wonder and curiosity.

Anthony Henrique, Mumbai

thehansreader@gmail.com

## BENGALURU ONLINE

**BBMP imposes Rs 200 fine for feeding pigeons citing health issues**

**B**ENGALURU: Pigeons are loved by all, but at present, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has started a trial by imposing fine for feeding pigeons that is commonly seen on few streets, trees, parks and apartment terraces. A board has been put up on Race Course Road in the city saying that if you feed pigeons, you will be fined Rs 200. Bird lovers who have seen this board are disappointed and fuming over the move of BBMP.

The number of pigeons is increasing day by day in Bengaluru City with hot spots of pigeons like Race Course Road, Cubbon Park, Sankey Tank Road. Asthma cases are increasing due to the wings of the pigeons. If the pigeons increase during this summer, it will affect the health. Also, the development work has started in the Race Course circle. There are thousands of pigeons on Race Course Road. Bird lovers come here daily and give them water and food.

**Read more at  
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>**



## KCR's loot is visible before our eyes: Jeevan Reddy

Says former CM K Chandrashekhar Rao could not achieve the aims of Telangana, and he diverted water for self-gain through the Kaleshwaram project, escalating its cost to Rs 40,000 crore

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
JAGTIAL



THE Congress candidate for the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency and MLC T Jeevan Reddy on Thursday described the ensuing elections as test for democracy.

Speaking after interacting at Indira Bhavan here, with Chennur MLA G Vivek and Peddapalli LS contestant Vamsi Krishna, he criticised the BRS chief and former CM K Chandrashekhar Rao for not being able to achieve the aims of Telangana and diverting water for self-gain through the Kaleshwaram project, hiking its cost of Rs 40,000 crore three times. He said KCR's loot is visible before our eyes.

Reddy hailed the State government as the sole Congress dispensation for implementing its promises within three months of coming to power. He recalled being in politics

since 1981 serving people disregarding either victory or defeat in elections.

The MLC called upon people to ponder over why and which party to vote for in the LS polls. He alleged that during the BJP rule industries are facing closure, while questioning PM Modi on the promise of unearthing black money. Reddy accused the Centre of burdening people with rising prices.

He said the Congress has history of making sacrifices for the country like a leader giving up life for averting Khalistan State, while the BJP was seeking to gain politically by promoting nationalist feeling even while criticising Pakistan; the Congress was able to bend the neighbouring country. "The Congress is a party known for sacrifices, while the BRS is sure

it will pose a threat to the country. The Congress is sure to win 15 LS seats in the elections; it could not achieve the expected results in the Assembly polls," Reddy asserted.

Vivek hailed the announcement of Reddy's candidature, while asserting that the party was sure to win 15 seats. He said CM A Revanth Reddy was implementing five guarantees, as promised, within three months.

He demanded an inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate into the KLIP project cost hike for getting commissions; donation of electoral bonds to BRS and an inquiry by the Centre into phone-tapping during the BRS regime.

Reddy hailed the State government as the sole Congress dispensation for implementing its promises within three months of coming to power. He recalled being in politics

## Mulugu district should be top in voting percentage: DC

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MULUGU



"MULUGU district should stand first in the Lok Sabha voting percentage; there should be 100% voting," said Collector Ila Tripati here on Thursday.

She administered the voter pledge to officials and youth near the collectorate, along with additional collectors P Srija and Ch Mahenderji and flagged off a cycle rally on voter awareness from the collectorate to Gattamma temple, under the auspices of Sweep. Tri-

pati, who is also the election officer, advised people, particularly youth aged 18 years, to exercise their right to achieve 100% voting in a festive atmosphere and secure the first place in State. She said special awareness

programmes are being organised in all villages on right to vote. The DC pointed out that vote in a democracy is crucial; hence everyone should utilise their right to vote for ensuring a bright future.

## 'Unacceptable, unwarranted': India again slams US' remarks

Continued from p1  
Addressing a weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said that "yesterday, India had lodged its strong objection and protest with a senior official from the US embassy.

Continued from p1  
Jaiswal said in response to a question.

Asserting that in India, legal processes are driven only by the rule of law, Jaiswal said that anyone who has a similar ethos, especially fellow democracies, should have no difficulty in appreciating this fact.

The recent remarks by the State Department are unwarranted. Any such external imputation on the electoral and legal process is completely unacceptable,"

He further said that India is proud of its independent and robust democratic institutions and is committed to protecting them from any form of "undue external influences".

"Mutual respect and

understanding form the foundation of international relations and states are expected to be respectful of the sovereignty and internal affairs of others," Jaiswal said.

up with the evidence. KTR also tried to tarnish the image of Revanth and that the latter will switch over to the BJP after the Lok Sabha elections.

"Instead of making baseless allegations against Revanth, KTR needs to come

with the evidence. KTR's allegations were aimed at tarnishing the image of Revanth. We will approach the Election Commission and urge it to cancel the recognition of the BRS party if KTR continues to talk irresponsibly," Bathini said.

45 minutes with India objecting strongly to the US stance on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor.

Earlier, India summoned a senior diplomat from the German Embassy and lodged a strong protest over comments on Kejriwal, saying that the Chief Minister is entitled to a fair and impartial trial.

## Cops ask gun holders to deposit weapons

WARANGAL: WARANGAL Commissioner of Police Amber Kishor Jha has instructed gun holders to deposit their weapons with the police in view of elections to the Lok Sabha. The Commissioner urged the licensed holders must hand over their guns to the police ahead of polls. According to the police, a total of 201 licensed guns are in the possession of people across the Commissionerate.

returned to the concerned persons after elections," he said. "Guards working with the banks and other government agencies are exempted," he said. The Commissioner urged the gun holders to cooperate with the police and ensure peace ahead of polls. According to the police, a total of 201 licensed guns are in the possession of people across the Commissionerate.

## Over 600 lawyers write to CJI against 'vested interest group' trying to defame courts

Continued from p1  
It claimed that their comments are aimed at influencing courts and embarrassing them for political gains. Adish Aggarwala, Chetan Mittal, Pinky Anand, Hitesh Jain, Ujjwala Pawar, Uday Holla and Swarupama Chaturvedi are among the signatories to the letter titled "Judiciary Under Threat-Safeguarding Judiciary from Political and Professional Pressure".

Though the lawyers behind the letter have mentioned no specific cases, the development comes at a time when courts are dealing with several high-profile criminal cases of corruption involving opposition leaders. Opposition parties have accused the central government of targeting their leaders due to its political vendetta, a charge refuted by the ruling BJP.

These parties, whose ranks include some noted lawyers, have joined hands against the recent arrest of Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case. Targeting the critics, the signatories to the letter accused them of suggest-

ing that courts in the past were easier to influence. This shakes the public's trust in courts, they said.

"We are writing to you expressing our deepest concern on the manner in which a vested interest group is trying to pressure the judiciary, influence judicial process and defame our courts on the basis of frivolous logic and stale political agendas.

Their antics are vitiating the atmosphere of trust and harmony, which characterises the functioning of the judiciary. Their pressure tactics are most obvious in political cases, particularly those involving political figures accused of corruption. These tactics are damaging to our courts and threaten our democratic process," they said.

Their antics are vitiating the atmosphere of trust and harmony, which characterises the functioning of the judiciary, they said in their letter to CJI Chandrachud. The critics have also concocted an entire theory of "bench fixing" which is not just disrespectful and contemptuous but an attack on the honour and dignity of courts, the letter said. "They have also stooped to the level

of comparing our courts to those countries where there is no rule of law and accusing our judicial institutions with unfair practices. These aren't just criticisms. They are direct attacks meant to damage the public's trust in our judiciary and threaten the fair application of our laws," it said.

These critics have adopted the "my way or the highway" approach at work as they hail the decisions they agree with, but any decision they disagree with, is trashed, smeared and disregarded, they said.

"This two-faced behaviour is harmful to the respect a common man should have for our legal system," the letter said and claimed that this cherry picking has been visible in very recent judgments too.

Some elements are trying to influence who the judges are in their cases and spread lies on social media to put pressure on them to decide in a particular way," they alleged in the letter.

Questioning the timing, the lawyers said it is all happening when the country is headed for the elections. "We are reminded of similar antics in 2018-2019 when they took to their 'hit and run' ac-

## Kejriwal's ED custody extended till April 1

Continued from p1  
consulting with his lawyers," it said.

It revealed that the candidate did not have any money and his election expenditure was "taken care of by the AAP Office Delhi only through their associates", the plea said that during the custody, data from the mobile phone of the chief minister's wife have been extracted and were being analysed.

"However, data from other four digital devices seized during the search at Kejriwal's premises on March 21 (belonging to Kejriwal) are yet to be extracted as the arrested (Kejriwal) has sought time in providing password and login credentials after

Continued from p1  
The application said the movable and immovable property details, income tax returns (ITRs), and other financial details sought from Kejriwal were yet to be provided by the chief minister, or his family members. The federal probe agency said it had sought the details regarding the appointments made with the chief minister in the online portal in his office. It said during the interrogation, summonses were issued to senior executive officials in Punjab who were "involved in the arm-twisting of certain (liquor) wholesalers of Delhi."

Continued from p1  
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Continued from p1  
There are about 4000 petrol filling stations in the state, but no financial guarantee or security is being provided to them, the dealers rue.

The oil companies, the dealers say, want a bank guarantee and land to set up the fuel outlet. In the past, the oil companies used to conduct a study of the financial viability of setting up a new petrol pump and then they used to issue a notification from the prospective investors, the association leaders said. But now the oil companies are only searching for investors by putting all norms at the bay, they added.

The association said sales were almost down by 50 per cent due to the increase in

the number of filling stations in the urban areas including Telangana. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) petroleum dealers association state secretary Anil said that running the petroleum pump outlets on a daily basis had become a herculean task.

Some outlets were unable even to meet the expenses incurred on the monthly maintenance of the filling stations, he said. During the farming season, the fuel outlets in rural areas used to sell considerable diesel and earn some profits, he added.

The association leaders said they are chalking out an action plan on how to launch a strike and put pressure on the Centre and oil companies to achieve their demands.

## LS POLLS: KARIMNAGAR TICKET

# Congress still in a fix over LS picks, mulls over fresh survey

- Potential candidates include former MLA Praveen Reddy, Velichala Rajender Rao, and Teenmar Mallanna, with Congress planning to conduct another survey for finalising candidacy
- A team of MLAs and Minister Pannam Prabhakar visited CM to discuss allotting the MP ticket
- Mallanna's name from the BC community adds a new dimension to the discussions
- Cong decision possibly leaning towards BC candidates due to strategic considerations

T VENKATESWARA SWAMY  
KARIMNAGAR

THE Congress party's goal is to take the Karimnagar Parliament seat, which is currently held by the BJP. In this regard, there seems to be a special exercise being conducted on the candidature for this position.

Reportedly, Congress is planning to conduct another survey on the candidacies of former MLA Praveen Reddy, Velichala Rajender Rao, and Teenmar Mallanna

who are contesting for the seat.

Two days ago, a team of MLAs along with Minister Pannam Prabhakar from the parliamentary constituency visited CM A Revanth Reddy and held long discussions. It was brought to the attention of the CM that either Rajender Rao or Praveen Reddy should be allotted MP ticket.

Meanwhile, the CM has taken a keen interest in the constituency as a key seat. Bandi Sanjay from BJP and



Boinapally Vinod Kumar from BRS are in contest so far. Rajender Rao and Praveen Reddy, who are hoping for a Congress ticket from Karimnagar, have the ability to face Bandi.

Notably, Mallanna's name was brought to the screen at the last moment in this process. A new name from the BC community has come to the fore surprisingly, even as the MLAs and Congress



ranks insisted on giving the ticket to Rajender or Praveen Reddy.

As a result, while the other parties give a lot of support to the BCs, there is a chance Congress will allocate the Karimnagar ticket to the BCs because it thinks that the BCs will distance themselves from Congress if allocated fewer seats to the BCs.



## Jagtial students selected for ISRO quiz

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
JAGTIAL

TWO students of Pragna Global School (CBSE)—Kaluva Ananya Pousari and Mohith—both from Lakshmpur in Jagtial district have created history by getting selected in the prestigious Yuvika Young Scientist Space Quiz programme and Science Project Contest conducted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

They are among the three students from private schools in Telangana of the 350 selected nationwide. School correspondent Janagam Anil described the students' performance as a 'matter of pride for the institution and the district.'

While congratulating the two students, he said their performance was due to their dedication and display of merit and the school's commitment to promote nuclear science.

Among those who congratulated the students were principal P Anil, academic in-charge Jingali Rajashekhar, science teachers Sagar, Sandhya and other faculty.

Congress leaders submitting a complaint with Hanumakonda police on Thursday

Bathini said that KTR also tried to tarnish the image of Revanth and that the latter will switch over to the BJP after the Lok Sabha elections.

"Instead of making baseless allegations against Revanth, KTR needs to come

up with the evidence. KTR's allegations were aimed at tarnishing the image of Revanth. We will approach the Election Commission and urge it to cancel the recognition of the BRS party if KTR continues to talk irresponsibly," Bathini said.

45 minutes with India objecting strongly to the US stance on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor.

Earlier, India summoned a senior diplomat from the German Embassy and lodged a strong protest over comments on Kejriwal, saying that the Chief Minister is entitled to a fair and impartial trial.

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Congratulations to MNREGA workers! The Prime Minister has increased your salary by Rs 7." "Now he might ask you, 'What will you do with such a huge amount of money? Thank you Modi' campaign soon?

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

## Boost to Ladakh stir as protesters threaten march to 'China'

SRINAGAR

THE agitation in Ladakh UT intensified on Thursday after the Leh Apex Body and climate activist, Sonam Wangchuk announced a march to the border on April 7.

Climate activist Wangchuk has called the decision to march to the border a

"Gandhian way of protest" to safeguard the interests of the fragile environment and the people of the region.

The Leh Apex Body is agitating for grant of statehood to Ladakh and inclusion of the region in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution for the protection of the environment.

The protesters have de-

cided to continue the ongoing hunger strike which the Leh Apex Body said will be followed by a chain of hunger strikes by women, youth, religious leaders and elders.

The April 7 protest march is proposed to be taken to Changthang which borders with China.

"This would be like Gan-

dhiji's Dandi March," the leaders said.

Climate activist, Sonam Wangchuk has alleged that the Changthang grazers, famous for producing Pashmina wool, are being forced to sell their animals because over 20,000 acres of grazing land was taken by industrialists to set up their plants.

"We do not want solar

energy at the cost of our people's livelihood and dislocation. They are taking away our land because there are no safeguards,"

Wangchuk alleged. He accused the BJP of backtracking from its promises to the people of Ladakh.



## U'khand Dera Karseva chief shot dead



DEHRADUN

THE dera karseva chief of the Nanakmatta Sahib Gurudwara in Uttarakhand was shot dead within the premises of the shrine by two motorcycle-borne assailants, police said.

Baba Tarsem Singh was rushed to a hospital in Khaitma where he died during treatment, Udharam Singh Nagar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Manju Nath told reporters.

"We have clear (CCTV) camera videos of the assailants. They are both Sikhs," he said and added that they fled after the incident.

"Two rounds were fired at Singh who was sitting on a chair. The first shot was fired from the front and the other from the back. Singh immediately fell on the ground," the SSP said.

Eight police teams have been mobilised to apprehend the dera karseva chief's attackers, he said.

THE government on Wednesday disputed the data put out by the International Labour Organisation which said that the employment scenario in India is grim, especially among youth. ILO, in its report, stated that youth form nearly 83% of the unemployed workforce in India. The study also showed that the number of educated youth among all jobless people has gone up from 54.2% to 65.7% in 2022.

"This indicates that the problem of unemployment in India has become increasingly concentrated among the youth, especially the educated ones in urban areas," the report said.

The ILO report claimed

## UNEMPLOYMENT

that India would add 70-80 lakh youths to the labour workforce in the next decade if it worked on 5 policy areas: job creation; quality of employment; inequalities in the labour market; strengthening

both skills and policies of the active labour market; and bridging the knowledge deficits on labour market patterns and youth employment.

But Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur said that

the data by Indian agencies painted a different picture.

"64 million people have registered on Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). It is a bigger number than the population of Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries," Thakur said at the NDTV Yuva Conclave.

"The 34 crore mudra loans that were given out, these are also creating job opportunities. Now they are job givers from being job seekers," he said. "Now people do not hesitate while launching a start-up. I have met so many people who studied at prestigious universities and took up jobs outside India, have now come back and are now running a start-up in India," he said.

PUNJAB Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his wife Gurpreet Kaur were blessed with a baby girl.

Sharing the news on X (previously known as Twitter), the Chief Minister said that both the mother and the newborn are doing fine.

In the post, the Chief Minister wrote [originally in Punjabi]: "God has given the gift of a daughter..

Both the mother and the child are healthy..."

He also shared his daughter's photograph in another post.

Mann married Gurpreet Kaur in 2022. He was previously married to Inderpreet Kaur, with whom he has one son and a daughter. They were divorced in 2015.

Before joining politics, Mann was a household name as a comedian, singer and actor.

## Employment scenario in India grim: UN body

The study also shows that the number of educated youth among all jobless people has gone up from 54.2% to 65.7% in 2022

NEW DELHI

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## Adani Family increases stake in Ambuja Cements to 66.7%

NEW DELHI

THE Adani family, the promoter of Ambuja Cements, on Thursday announced an infusion of Rs 6,661 crore, increasing its stake by 3.6 pc to attain 66.7 per cent holding in the country's second largest cement company.

The fund's infusion will be instrumental for the cement business of the Adani Group, which has plans to enhance its capacity to 140 million tonnes per annum by 2028, said a statement from billionaire Gautam Adani-owned Ambuja Cements. This investment follows an infusion of Rs 5,000 crore by the promoter into the company for exercising the warrants issuance approved by the board in October 2022.

"With this, Adani family have increased their stake in the company by 3.6 per cent to attain 66.7 per cent holding," said Ambuja Cements which also owns controlling stake in another cement firm ACC Ltd.

With this, promoters have infused Rs 11,661 crore in Ambuja post acquisition, giving Ambuja capital flexibility for accelerated growth, capital

**BIZ BRIEFS**

**WLL tops ESG rating**

Welspun Living Ltd(WLL), a leading player in home textiles, announced its latest S&P Global - Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) scores for 2023. With an overall score of 66, WLL has become the top ranked textile company from India in the textile, apparels & luxury goods category. The FY 3 scores has increased 11 per cent from the previous year's score of 59. Dipali Goenka, CEO & MD, WLL, said: "ESG is at the core of everything that we do at WLL and the substantial improvement in S&P Global ESG scores is a testament of our efforts."

**BUSINESS**

**Indian pharma cos will clock 8-10% revenue growth in FY25: Report**

NEW DELHI: Revenue growth of leading 25 domestic drug firms is expected to moderate to 8-10 per cent in the next fiscal year, rating agency Icra said on Thursday. The revenue of the companies, which account for 60 per cent of the overall Indian pharmaceutical industry, witnessed an increase of 13-14 per cent in the current fiscal year. Following the high base of 2023-24, the revenue growth momentum from the US and Europe markets is expected to moderate to 8-10 per cent and 7-9 per cent, respectively, Icra said. The markets are expected to witness a year-on-year expansion of 18-20 per cent and 16-18 per cent, respectively, in the current fiscal year, it added.

The additional investment will fortify the company's financial position, providing it with enhanced capabilities to pursue its ambitious growth plans and capitalize on emerging opportunities in the market," it said. This investment shall also be instrumental in fuelling various strategic initiatives including undertaking debottlenecking capex to enhance operational capabilities to ensure scalability as well as bringing efficiencies across resources, supply chain.

"This shall also drive innovation and product enhancement through advanced technology integration for better service offerings to tap the growing requirements of the sector," it said.

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## Sensex zooms 24.85%, Nifty up 28.61% in FY24

Power, auto, metals lead market gains, rupee weakens slightly on last trading day of FY24

MUMBAI

### SIGNING OFF IN STYLE

- Sensex, Nifty rally for 2nd straight session on Thursday
- Sensex zooms 655 points, Nifty gains 203 points
- Bajaj Finserv, Nestle, SBI among top gainers



Indian equities closed the day and fiscal year on an optimistic note. An upgrade in the domestic economy forecast hints at an encouraging outlook for the stock market in FY25

- Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services

### Investors gain ₹129L cr in FY24

NEW DELHI: Riding on a bull run, equity investors became richer by Rs 128.77 lakh crore in the 2023-24 fiscal, driven by robust fundamentals of the Indian economy, increased investment inflows and promising corporate earnings. After a muted performance in 2022-23, equity markets made a remarkable recovery in FY24, giving handsome returns to investors. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 14,659.83 points or 24.85 per cent in 2023-24. The benchmark hit its all-time high of 74,245.17 on March 7. Mirroring bullish investors' sentiment, the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed companies soared by Rs 1,28,77,203.77 crore to Rs 3,86,97,099.77 crore in FY24.

**Adani Family increases stake in Ambuja Cements to 66.7%**

**Ambuja Cement**

management initiatives and best-in-class balance sheet strength to accomplish its various strategic initiatives, the statement said.

"The additional investment will fortify the company's financial position, providing it with enhanced capabilities to pursue its ambitious growth plans and capitalize on emerging opportunities in the market," it said. This investment shall also be instrumental in fuelling various strategic initiatives including undertaking debottlenecking capex to enhance operational capabilities to ensure scalability as well as bringing efficiencies across resources, supply chain.

"This shall also drive innovation and product enhancement through advanced technology integration for better service offerings to tap the growing requirements of the sector," it said.

With this, promoters have infused Rs 11,661 crore in Ambuja post acquisition, giving Ambuja capital flexibility for accelerated growth, capital

## Ranbir Kapoor new face of Nilkamal Sleep

HYDERABAD: Nilkamal Sleep announced Hindi film actor Ranbir Kapoor as its brand ambassador. With a rich legacy spanning over 30 years, it has established itself as one of the leading furniture companies in India. This association with Ranbir Kapoor will play a pivotal role in elevating the brand as a thoughtfully designed sleep solution for the customers, particularly among the new-age audience. Eashan Parekh, Head of Nilkamal Sleep, said: "We are excited to welcome Ranbir Kapoor into the Nilkamal Sleep family as our brand ambassador. His dynamic personality perfectly aligns with our brand, and we are confident that his association will further amplify our message of promoting healthy sleep and unparalleled comfort."

Luminous opens solar panel factory

Luminous Power Technologies, an energy solutions company, inaugurated its solar panel manufacturing unit in Uttarakhand. This is aligned with the solar vision and sustainability objectives of the nation as outlined by Prime Minister during the launch of 'PM Suryodaya Yojana'. Equipped with the latest advancements in solar panel manufacturing, the facility has cutting-edge technology and infrastructure designed to ensure maximum efficiency and minimal environmental impact. The launch was graced by cricketer and Luminous brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar, accompanied by Preeti Bajaj, CEO & MD, Luminous Power and Manish Pant, Chairman of Luminous board.

## Ayodhya, other spiritual cities attracting big retail brands

NEW DELHI

WITH rising spiritual tourism, retail brands are expanding their presence in cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi, Amritsar, Puri, Tirupati, and Ajmer, and also offering products to cater to the needs of pilgrims, according to CBRE. Real estate consultant CBRE on Thursday released a report 'Decoding Real Estate through the Spiritual Tourism Lens', highlighting that retail chains are capitalising on the surge in spiritual tourism across 14 key cities in India. The report identifies Amritsar, Ajmer, Varanasi, Katra, Somnath, Shirdi, Ayodhya, Puri, Tirupati, Mathura, Dwarka, Bodh Gaya, Guruvayur, and Madurai as key cities witnessing this retail boom. The consultant noted that retail brands are strategically adapting their offerings in both established mall clusters and high-street locations to cater to the growing tourist population. In Ayodhya, Manyavar, Reliance Trends, Raymonds, Market99, Pantaloons, Domino's, Pizza Hut, and Reliance Smart have opened their retail stores, the report said. Manyavar, Reliance Trends, Zudio, Pantaloons, Shoppers Stop, Burger King, Domino's, Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Spencer's, Reliance smart, Cromax and Reliance Digital are present in Varanasi. Anshuman Magazine Chairman & CEO, India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said, "The rapid expansion of spiritual tourism in India is



## IIT Kanpur introduces innovative eMasters Degree for future-ready finance professionals



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KANPUR (UP)

**T**HE IIT Kanpur is inviting applications for new batches of its eMasters Degree programs in Climate Finance, Business Finance, Fintech, and Quantitative Finance.

These programs are designed to create future-ready finance professionals and cater to the growing demand for skilled talent in the finance industry. The flexibility of completing the eMasters degree programs within 1-3 years, makes it a unique and preferred choice for working professionals.

Moreover, selection into these programs does not require GATE score.

Management focuses on improving risk management skills through research and practical training.

The eMasters in Business Finance helps professionals advance in finance and economics, equipping them to make strategic decisions.

The eMasters in Climate Finance and Sustainability meets the rising demand for expertise in carbon management and ESG, offering specialised training in finance and environmental sustainability.

The offered eMasters programs equip professionals with the modern skills needed to excel in these industries. These programs are offered by the Department of Management Sciences and Department of Economic Sciences of IIT Kanpur, providing a high-impact learning experience featuring live interactive weekend classes and self-paced learning.

As faculty and accomplished researchers from IIT Kanpur lead the way, the program's 60-credit curriculum, tailored for the industry, allows for seamless credit transfers towards higher education opportunities like MTech and PhD programs at IIT Kanpur, with the potential for waiving up to 60 credits.

## MIT's new rapid gene-editing screen to spot cancer mutations

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

**S**CIENTISTS at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed a novel gene-editing screen that can rapidly find cancer mutations and help develop new therapies for the deadly disease.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Biotechnology, researchers focused on p53 - a tumour suppressor gene mutated in over 50 per

cent of all cancer patients. Their technique, based on a variant of CRISPR genome-editing known as prime editing, screened cells with more than 1,000 different mutations of p53, from more than 40,000 patients.

Instead of introducing an artificial version of the mutant gene, the method just edits the genome, the researchers said.

They noted that the method can greatly help in precision medicine as well as help physi-

cians understand how a patient's tumour will respond to a particular treatment.

"In one experiment, you can generate thousands of genotypes that are seen in cancer patients, and immediately test whether one or more of those genotypes are sensitive or resistant to any type of therapy that you're interested in using," said Francisco Sanchez-Rivera, Assistant Professor of Biology, at MIT.

### Key Features:

- Task tracking.
- Collaboration.
- Agile planning.

### 4. Chrome Developer Tools

Built into the Chrome browser, these tools provide a set of net authoring and debugging features.

**Key Features:**

- Integrated Git control.
- Syntax highlighting and IntelliSense.
- Extensive extensions for personalization.

### 2. Postman

A user-friendly tool for testing and automating application programming interface (API) requests, making it easy to develop and manage APIs without coding.

**Key Features:**

- API testing
- Automation
- Collaboration

### 5. AWS (Amazon Web Services)

AWS is a cloud computing platform that provides various services like storage, computing power, and databases, allowing businesses to scale and deploy applications easily.

**Key Features:**

- Scalability



**Web development is a dynamic subject where staying updated and the usage of the right tools could have an impactful effect on your profession. By adopting these vital tools and following the tips, you can carve a thriving path in the ever-evolving world of web development. Stay curious, keep studying, and include the thrilling challenges that come your way.**

## New paper-based device to make on-spot glucose testing using smartphone

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
JODHPUR

**R**ESEARCHERS at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur have developed a new low-cost, paper-based analytical device that can be connected to smartphones to provide on-spot detection of glucose levels.

The device carries a lab-based functionalised biodegradable paper which changes colour based on the level and amount of glucose present.

When connected to a smartphone, it provides quick, easy-to-access, and even personalised results.

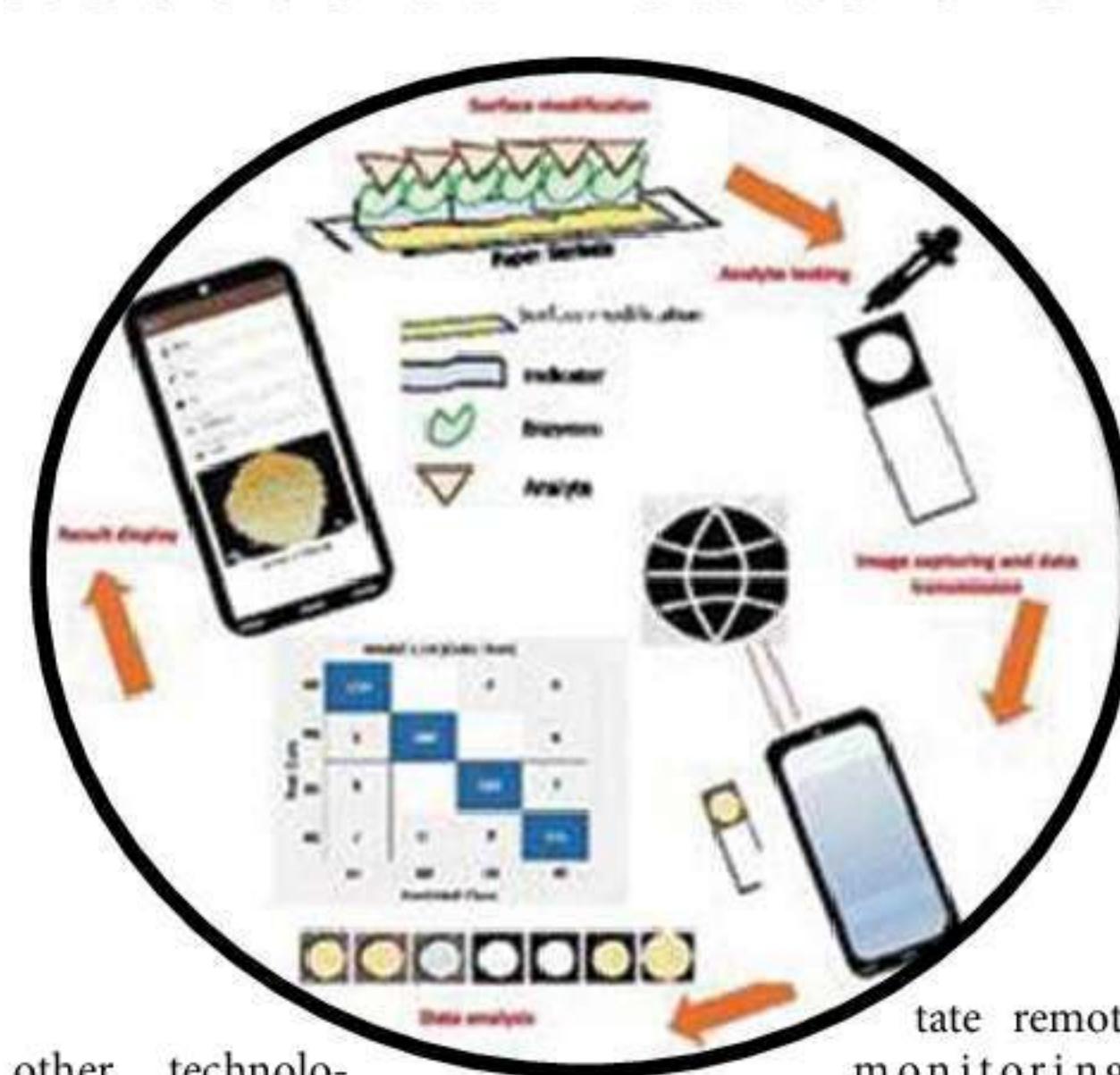
"This device can provide on-the-spot glucose testing results without requiring technical or sophisticated

laboratory settings. Additionally, it is designed to be cost-effective and biodegradable, with the current cost at only about Rs. 10 in the lab."

The team hopes to further make it even cheaper during mass production, at Rs. 5," said the researchers in a statement.

While paper-based analytical devices have been in use earlier, they required specific light conditions to work.

However, the researchers employed machine learning to make the device compatible with all smartphones to work and transmit information seamlessly under nearly all possible light conditions. "Smartphones offer seamless integration with



other technologies and platforms. The ability to connect the smartphone-based spot detection framework to a larger network or database can facilitate remote monitoring, data storage, and sharing of results. This connectivity can be crucial for healthcare professionals or researchers," said Ankur.

Gupta, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Jodhpur, in the statement.

The researchers noted that the technology can be adaptable for the screening and diagnostic analysis of uric acid, and other diseases. The findings are published in the journal ACS Publications.

"This study demonstrates that this developed system is equipped for initial disease screening at the user end. By incorporating machine learning techniques, the platform can provide reliable and accurate results, thus paving the way for estimating the accuracy of the results for improved initial healthcare screening and diagnosis of any disease," Ankur said.

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# Young Hans

BEYOND THE BASICS

## Enhance your web developer career with 10 tools

### Key Features:

- Repository website hosting.
- Collaboration tools (Issues, Pull Requests).
- GitHub Pages for hosting static websites.

### 10. Slack

A team collaboration platform that provides real-time messaging, file sharing, and integration with various tools, enhancing communication and productivity for teams.

### Key Features:

- Real-time Messaging.
  - File Sharing.
  - Integration.
- To carve a successful career as a web developer: Points to keep in mind

To excel in the web development profession, keep in mind the following pointers:

### Continuous Learning

Staying abreast of the latest trends, languages, and frameworks is essential. Dedicate time to learning new technologies to maintain competitiveness within the job marketplace.

### Networking

Forge connections within the developer network by participating in meetups, and online forums, and engaging with fellow developers. Networking not only creates possibilities but also gives valuable mentorship and insights into industry trends.

### Problem-Solving Skills

Successful developers own robust problem-solving capabilities. Cultivate a logical and analytical attitude to effectively address challenges that arise in the course of the development procedure.

### Building a Robust Portfolio

Showcase a diverse array of projects to highlight your versatility and skills. A well-curated portfolio offers potential employers tangible proof of your capabilities. In conclusion, web development is a dynamic subject where staying updated and the usage of the right tools could have an impactful effect on your profession.

### 8. Stackoverflow/ ChatGPT

A Q&A platform where people can seek and share programming knowledge, while ChatGPT is an AI language model that provides information and assistance in natural language.

**Key Features:**

- Community-driven Knowledge
- Natural Language Understanding (ChatGPT).
- Information Retrieval.

### 9. GitHub

Web-based platform for version control using Git. It facilitates collaborative development and code sharing.

(The author is Managing Partner at MobiKasa)

## RESEARCH

## New paper-based device to make on-spot glucose testing using smartphone

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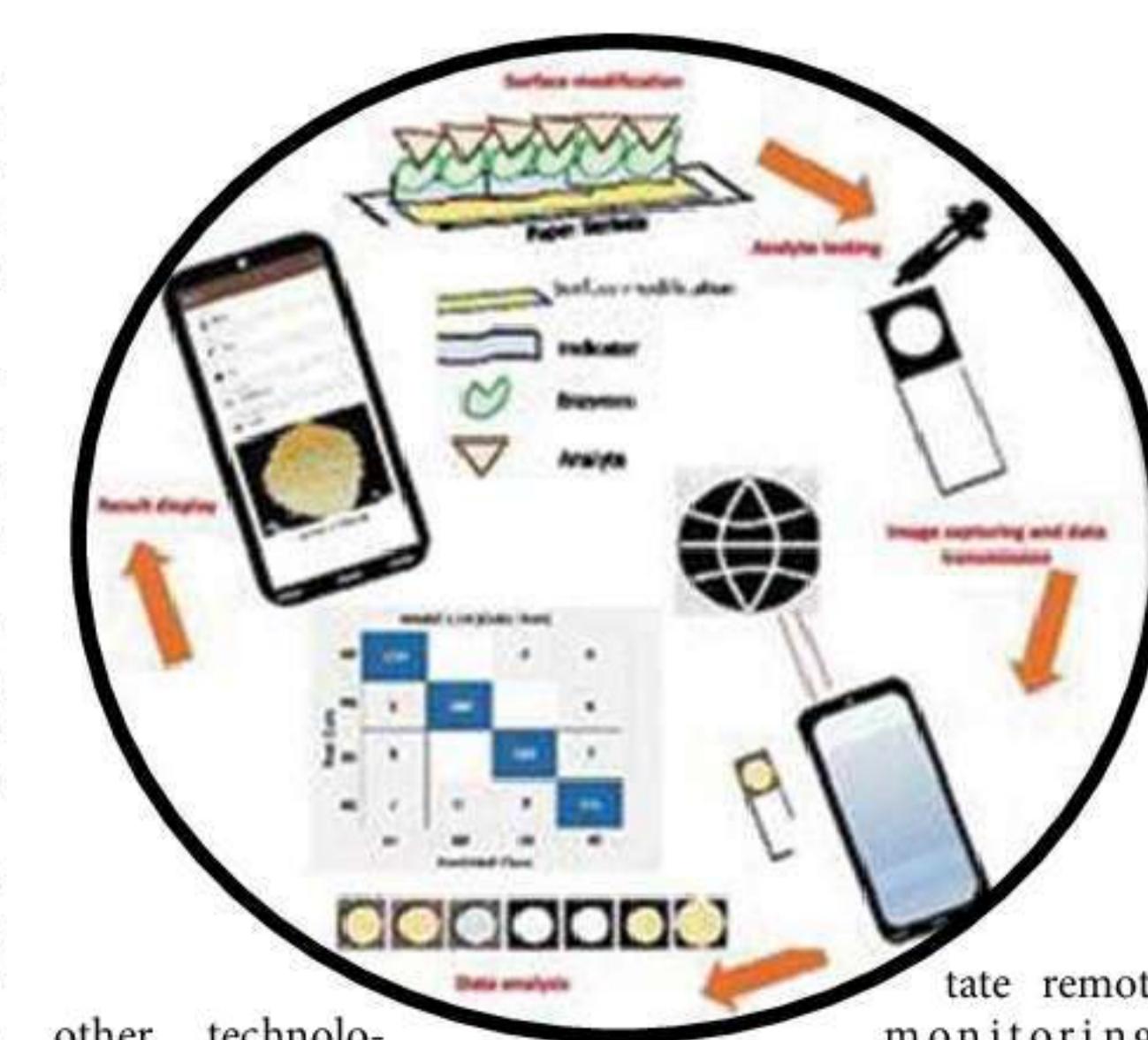
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66

"I am extremely happy to win the award. But it is not an individual achievement. I wouldn't have achieved it without the help of my teammates and coaches. We are like a family in Odisha FC. What gives me more pleasure is that I am the captain of Odisha FC this season,"  
—Indumathi Kathiresan, Odisha FC player

## 'Perplexed, beyond my understanding', Smith, Pathan slam Hardik's tactics of using Bumrah vs SRH

HYDERABAD

MUMBAI Indians skipper Hardik Pandya's decision not to give Jasprit Bumrah more than one over until the 13th over of the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) innings during the IPL 2024 match on Wednesday night came in for criticism from all the corners as the hosts blazed to 277/3, the highest total in the history of IPL.

After bowling one over in the Power-play, Bumrah was introduced into the attack again only in the 13th over. By this point, the Sunrisers had amassed a formidable 173-3 on the scoreboard, putting them in a strong position to accelerate their scoring.

Bumrah completed his four-over quota conceding 36 runs, emerging as the most economical bowler for MI with an economy rate of 9 runs per over.

Speaking to Star Sports on Crick-

et Live show about the tactics employed by Pandya in the game, Australian cricketer Steve Smith said he was perplexed with the bowling changes for MI in the match. "I was perplexed with some of their bowling changes in the first innings for Mumbai. Bumrah bowled in the 4th over he went for 5 and then we didn't see him again till the 13th over when they were on a 173. All the damage had been done, you needed your best bowler to be coming back and take some wickets in that period and I think they missed a trick there bringing him back only in the 13th over," said Smith.

Smith further said that if Bumrah had been pressed into attack earlier, then SRH would have been reduced to 240. "When the ball is going around like that, you've just got to bring your best bowler back earlier than you would have liked. It's just about adapting on the go and I'd

have almost bowled Bumrah out by the 15th, 16th over, try to get some wickets, if he gets wickets, you slow the rate down anyway. If the guy is batting at the end, doesn't matter who is bowling, we saw that really with Bumrah in the last two overs and he still got smacked with the bat at the back end."

"So if he came back earlier and had taken some risks, things would have been really different and they got 277 and they could have been reduced to 240 and might have chased those down, so I was just perplexed that he bowled only 1 over up until the 13th over."

Local lad Tilak Varma made a stunning 64 off 34 balls in the run chase, but his efforts went in vain as Sunrisers Hyderabad recorded a 31-run win over Mumbai Indians a six-hitting run fest.

"It was an incredibly difficult wicket, we've seen the most runs

ever in a T20 game, so you've got to give some credit to the batters as well. I think he got a few things wrong, and that was the main one for me. I mean you can't have one of the best bowlers in the world bowling 1 over," added Smith.

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan also didn't hold back in criticising Pandya's captaincy and the decision to keep Bumrah away from the attack when MI was in a difficult situation.

"The captaincy of Hardik Pandya has been ordinary to say the least. Keeping Bumrah away for too long when the carnage was on was beyond my understanding," Pathan wrote on X. He further went onto slam Hardik's batting strike rate 120 during the chase. "If the whole team is playing with the strike of 200, Captain can't bat with the batting strike rate of 120," Pathan wrote in another post on X.



MADRID SPAIN MASTERS

## Sindhu advances to last 8

MADRID

STAR Indian shuttler P V Sindhu continued her impressive run at the Madrid Spain Masters, advancing to the quarterfinals with a comfortable

straight-game win over Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu-Hsun here on Thursday.

It was a smooth performance from Sindhu as she was hardly tested by the Taiwanese qualifier, ranked world no. 63, resulting in a 21-14 21-12 win in 36 minutes. The former world champion, who finished runner-up in the last edition, will take on either sixth seed Supanida Katethong of Thailand or Japan's Natsumi Nidaira.

In the opening game, Sindhu was 3-0 up initially but then entered a phase where she often found the net or went long, while her rival produced some precise returns to grab a 7-6 lead before taking a one-point

advantage with a straight down-the-line smash.

The Indian, however, produced a better show after resumption, taking a 18-12 cushion with Yu-Hsun making errors. She soon grabbed eight game points, wasted two of them before sealing the opening game with her trademark smash. After the change of sides, Yu-Hsun struggled to control the shuttle as her lifts repeatedly went long. The Taiwanese shuttler tried to use her drops and placements but she didn't have power in her smashes. The result was Sindhu quietly waited for her opponent to commit errors. Soon she had a five-point advantage at the break. Every time Yu-Hsun tried to extend the rallies, she ended up with unforced errors.

Soon a smash handed another eight match points to Sindhu and she wrapped it up when her opponent sprayed into net again. With top seed Carolina Marin of Spain pulling out of the tournament after her title-winning run at the All England Championships and Swiss Open in the last two weeks, Sindhu is now the favourite to claim the crown and end a long wait. Sindhu won her last BWF tour title at the 2022 Singapore Open Super 500. (PTI)



## Sharfuddoula first Bangladesh umpire to enter ICC elite panel

### Chris Broad excluded from Elite Match Referees' Panel

NEW DELHI



SHARFUDDOULA Ibne Shahid has become the first umpire from Bangladesh to be included in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires following the International Cricket Council's annual review and selection process, said the governing body on Thursday. Sharfuddoula has been on the International Panel since 2006 and his first international appointment as an umpire came in an ODI between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at Mirpur in January 2010. He has been an on-field umpire in 10 men's Test matches, 63 men's ODIs, and 44 men's T20Is, apart from featuring in the same capacity in 13 women's ODI matches and 28 women's T20I games.

Sharfuddoula, whose assignments include the ICC Women's Cricket World Cups in 2017 and 2021, the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2018, said in a statement that he was excited about his inclusion in the Elite panel, after the retirement of Marais Erasmus from the panel. "It is a great honour to be named on the ICC Elite Panel. To be the first from my country on the panel makes it extra special and I look forward to justifying the faith shown in me. I have had a fair bit of experience over the years and am ready for more challenging assignments."

"I would like to thank

the ICC and the BCB for backing me and my other colleagues for all their help and guidance. I would also like to thank my family and friends for standing by and supporting me."

Sharfuddoula was elevated from the Emirates ICC International Panel of Umpires by a selection panel consisting of ICC General Manager – Cricket, Wasim Khan (Chair), former player and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar, retired New Zealand umpire Tony Hill, and consultant officiating expert Mike Riley. Meanwhile, the Elite Panel of Match Referees: David Boon (Australia), Jeff Crowe (New Zealand), Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka), Andrew Pycroft (Zimbabwe), Richie Richardson (West Indies), Javaid Srinath (India).

**ICC Elite Panel of Umpires:** Kumar Dharmasena (Sri Lanka), Christopher Gaffaney (New Zealand), Michael Gough (England), Adrian Holdstock (South Africa), Richard Illingworth (England), Richard Kettleborough (England), Nitin Menon (India), Ahsan Raza (Pakistan), Paul Reiffel (Australia), Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid (Bangladesh), Rodney Tucker (Australia), Joel Wilson (West Indies).

He also officiated in four ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups, and two ICC Women's T20 World Cups. "Chris Broad has been a valuable member of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees over many

years and has performed his role with distinction."

"He was prepared to take difficult calls in the best interests of the game and was respected by players and officials from all over the cricketing world. On behalf of the ICC, I would like to thank Chris for his long and distinguished contribution to the game."

"I would also like to congratulate Sharfuddoula for his inclusion on the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires and to acknowledge his achievement of being the first umpire from Bangladesh to be selected on this panel. This is a well-deserved reward for many years of consistent performances in international matches and ICC tournaments," said Geoff Allardice, ICC Chief Executive.

ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees: David Boon (Australia), Jeff Crowe (New Zealand), Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka), Andrew Pycroft (Zimbabwe), Richie Richardson (West Indies), Javaid Srinath (India).

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Rajasthan Royals batter Riyan Parag plays a shot during the IPL match against Delhi Capitals, at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Thursday

JAIPUR

front glove to give wicket-keeper Sanju Samson an easy catch.

David Warner cut loose by scooping and lofting Trent Boult for a brace of sixes, before taking a four and six off Burger as DC ended Powerplay at 59/2. Warner continued to be DC's aggressor, driving and pulling to collect boundaries, apart from surviving a run-out chance in the ninth over. From the other end, Rishabh Pant took his time to get going but used his hands well to steer and cut for two boundaries, before a slog-sweep against Chahal was palmed over by deep mid-wicket to give him his first six post return to the competitive game.

**Brief Scores:**  
Rajasthan Royals 185 for 5 in 20 overs (Riyan Parag 84 not out, Ravichandran Ashwin 29; Axar Patel 1/21, Khaleel Ahmed 1/24) beat Delhi Capitals 173 for 5 in 20 overs (David Warner 49, Tristant Stubbs 44 not out, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/19, Nandu Burger 2/29) by 12 runs.

Chasing 186, Mitchell Marsh thumped five boundaries, before being castled through the gate by a 146kph delivery from Burger in the fourth over. After Ricky Bhui survived a lbw call, Burger bounced out the batter with a fiery bouncer which got big on him and lobbed off the

bat.

## RCB, KKR eye quick course correction



G UNNIRAKSHAN

BENGALURU

VICTORY in their respective

previous games might have eased the initial nerves but imperfections remain, hence Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders will eye a quick course correction to add steam to their campaign in an IPL 2024 match here on Friday.

The Royal Challengers defeated Punjab Kings by four wickets, while the Knight Riders elbowed out Sunrisers Hyderabad by four runs to garner some early points. But entering the points table has not really eased some of the worries -- particularly pertaining to the top and middle-order batting.

The Bengaluru dugout might be a happy space after star batter Virat Kohli made a classy fifty on an unusually gripping Chinnaswamy pitch while chasing 177 against Punjab the other night, but that's only one part of the story.

Skipper Faf du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Cameron Green and Rajat Patidar are yet to hit the overdrive, and for the win against PBKS they had to rely on the last-minute cameos of Dinesh Karthik and 'Impact Player' Mahipal Lomror. The Kol-

katans have a much more capable bowling unit, at least on paper, and such a collectively overwhelming effort by frontline batters might push RCB into deep troubles against them.

Once they iron out that rough edges, RCB can look at their bowling unit that still needs to fill a couple of unticked boxes despite good outings by pacers Mohammed Siraj and Yash Dayal.

Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudesai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karr Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh, Saurav Chauhan.

**Kolkata Knight Riders:**

Shreyas Iyer (c), KS Bharat, Rahamanullah Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvarsh, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Saikia, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hussain, Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

## Telangana throwball teams to take part in national c'ship

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Throwball Association announced the men's and women's teams is all set to take part in the 33rd Throwball Federation Cup National Championship to be held from March 29-31 at Sri Sai Pallki, Shiridi, Maharashtra.

**Brief Scores:**  
Rajasthan Royals 185 for 5 in 20 overs (Riyan Parag 84 not out, Ravichandran Ashwin 29; Axar Patel 1/21, Khaleel Ahmed 1/24) beat Delhi Capitals 173 for 5 in 20 overs (David Warner 49, Tristant Stubbs 44 not out, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/19, Nandu Burger 2/29) by 12 runs.

The men's team is lead by



Abbas and the women's team by Varsha Reddy. **Women Team:** Abbas (Captain), Varsha (Captain), Jahnavi, Sarayu, Akshita, Lavanya, Sindhu, Shaili, Mahima, Snigdha, Christiana Paul, Archana, Mukitha, Keerthi, Pavani, Vinay, Sriramulu. **Coach:** Siddeshwar Reddy. Manager: Sharath Kumar Siddhu.

MAR 29, Friday

Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Kolkata Knight Riders



M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru

7:30 PM

Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudesai, Will Jacks, Mahipal Lomror, Karr Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Mayank Dagar, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Cameron Green, Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Tom Curran, Lockie Ferguson, Swapnil Singh, Saurav Chauhan.

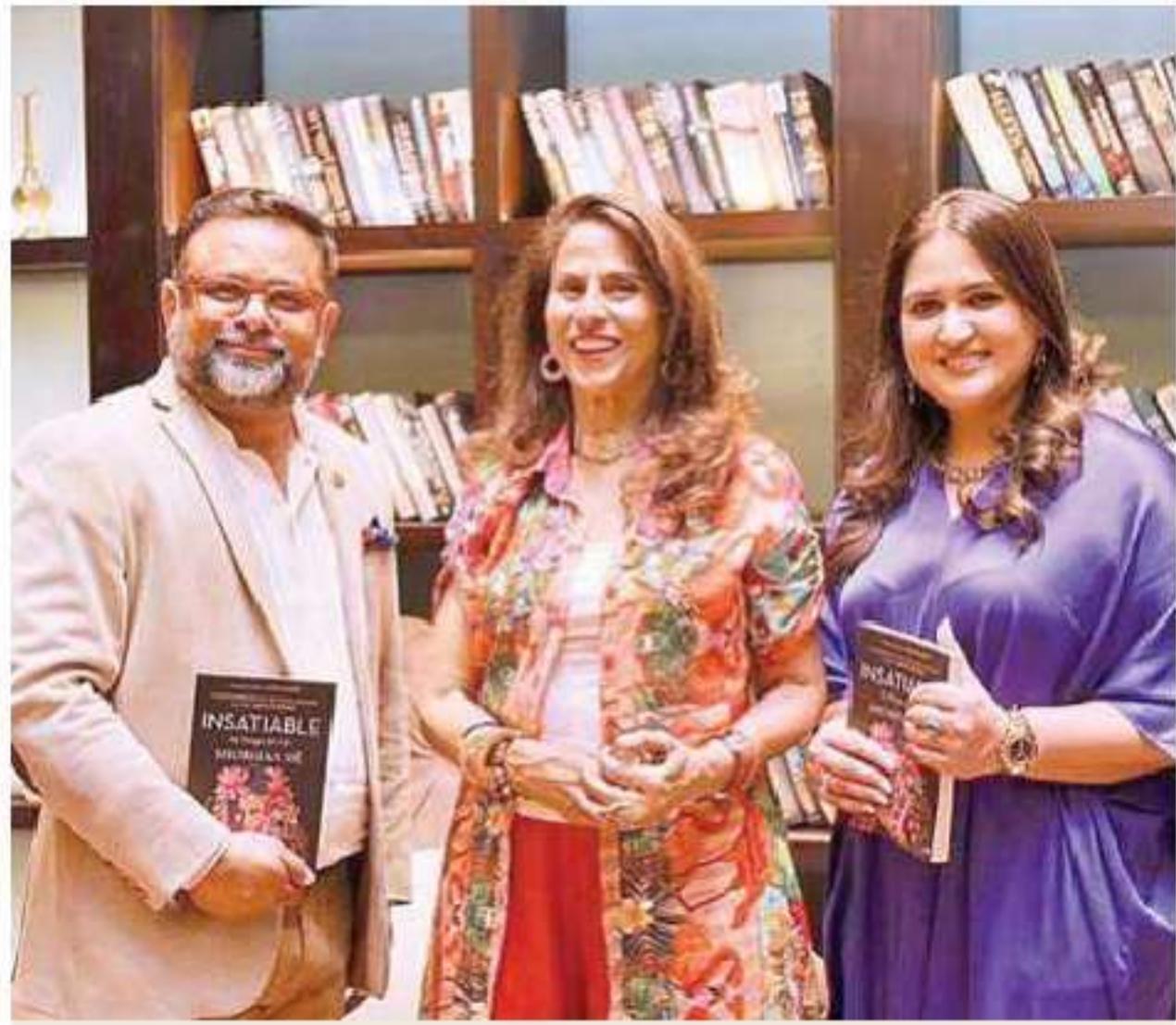
**Kolkata Knight Riders:**

Shreyas Iyer (c), KS Bharat, Rahamanullah Gurbaz, Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvarsh, Sherfane Rutherford, Manish Pandey, Andre Russell, Nitish Rana, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Chetan Saikia, Harshit Rana, Suyash Sharma, Mitchell Starc, Dushmantha Chameera, Sakib Hussain, Mujeeb Ur Rahman.

**Team:** Varsha(Captain), Jahnavi, Sarayu, Akshita, Lavanya, Sindhu, Shaili, Mahima, Snigdha, Christiana Paul, Archana, Mukitha, Keerthi, Pavani, Vinay, Sriramulu. **Coach:** PB Chakrapani. Manager: Mallikarjuna Siddhu.



# Womenia



## Unforgettable rendezvous with Shobhaa De

The guests engaged in a lively discussion with acclaimed Indian Novelist and Columnist

Against the backdrop of the Raffles Udaipur, the hotel's Writers Bar hosts an evening of literary enchantment, leaving an indelible mark on all those in attendance. The event unfolded seamlessly with esteemed guests and literature enthusiasts gathered for an unforgettable rendezvous with acclaimed Indian Novelist and Columnist, Shobhaa De.

The evening commenced with a champagne reception, a nod to the elegance and sophistication that permeates every corner of Raffles Udaipur. As guests mingled and immersed themselves in the ambiance of the Writers Bar, anticipation mounted for the main event - a captivating reading session by none other than Shobhaa De, a luminary

in the literary world. She mesmerized the audience with excerpts from her latest book, 'Insatiable', with her words weaving a tapestry of emotions and drawing guests into the heart of her narrative. As the event drew to a close, guests had the privilege of having copies of 'Insatiable' personally signed by Shobhaa De, transforming each book into a cherished memento of the evening's festivities.

Nestled within the magnificent walls of Raffles Udaipur, the Writers Bar stands as a testament to the legacy of literature and the art of storytelling. With a collection boasting over 3500 books, including works by some of the world's most prolific writers, the Writers Bar has long been revered as a sanctuary for literary connoisseurs.

Dr. ASHWIN SANTOSH SHETTY

**S**ummer's bright sunshine can be a double-edged sword for our eyes. While it allows us to fully appreciate the beauty of the season, prolonged exposure to UV rays can pose a threat to our vision. The impact of summer fun on young and old alike. Our vision is truly a gift, allowing us to navigate the world and experience its wonders. The human eye is a complex and marvelously designed organ, far more sophisticated than a simple camera. It's this intricate design that makes it vulnerable to sun damage.

Summer brings vacations and sunshine, but with it comes the risk of UV damage. We plan trips, stay hydrated, and boost our diets, but often forget eye protection. Just like skin, eyes need shielding from UV rays. Even small amounts over time can raise the risk of cataracts and macular degeneration. Unlike visible light, UV rays penetrate deep into eye

tissues, increasing the risk of eye problems. Other than dryness, wrinkles, accentuated skin furrows, sagging, loss of elasticity and mottled pigmentation exposure to UV rays can cause serious eyesight problems that include:

- » A cataract is caused when the overall exposure to sunlight weakens the eye's natural lens and causes blurry vision or less color.
- » Macular degeneration is a change or damage to the eye that weakens the Macula - a light-sensitive retinal tissue nerve responsible for seeing things through a direct line of vision. This condition may cause a blurry line of vision.
- » Sunshine and outdoor adventures are calling for kids this summer, but with that fun comes sun safety! Did you know a whopping 80% of lifetime UV eye damage occurs before age 18? Protect your little ones' precious peepers! Make sure they wear sunglasses that block UV rays while enjoy-

ing summer sports and activities. It's not just about looking cool (although they will!), it's vital to keep their eyes safe from harmful UV rays. Some of the best ways to safeguard your eyes during this summer season are:

- » Wearing sunglasses/hat: One of the simplest and coolest ways to maintain fashion and protect your eyes is to wear sunglasses or a hat. But keep in mind to choose a sun glass that protects fit well and blocks light from entering your eyes. Sunglasses are now available in all sizes.
- » Wear SPF 15 or higher: When you remove your glasses, it is important to protect your skin under them. Thus choose an SPF that is safe for your face and the skin under your eyes.
- » Stay Indoors: Choose to stay indoors during the part of the day when the sun is the strongest, usually between 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Make sure to check

the weather forecast before you step out. Protect your eyes when it is cloudy as it could damage your eyes. Make sure to not look directly at the sun, as it could damage your retina.

### OTHER MEASURES TO KEEP IN MIND:

- » Choose suitable sunscreen: It is a known fact that sunscreen prevents skin cancer. Often misplaced sunscreens can cause redness and burning and if left unnoticed it may lead to blurred vision in the eyes.
- » Underwater Eye Protection: Enroll in swimming classes during summer. Make sure you wear goggles to protect your eyes from irritation caused due to the water.
- » Stay hydrated: Dehydration can contribute to dry eyes, and it can cause eyestrain, blurred vision, dryness, and irritation in the eyes, which can cause a lot of discomfort during the

summer. Drink plenty of water and fluids which are not added with artificial sweeteners throughout the day.

» Exercise for eyes: Follow the 20:20:20 rule, i.e., every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds), which can strengthen eye muscles, is recommended.

Thus, with adequate safety precautions, it is possible to protect your eyes and enjoy your summer to the fullest. Prevent sun damage beforehand by following these above steps. If you continue to face issues with your eyes or eyelids, consult an eye doctor as soon as possible.

Just like applying sunscreen to your skin, wearing sunglasses that block UV rays is crucial. By prioritizing healthy habits like sun protection, one can safeguard their precious sense and continue to see the world in all its vibrant glory.

(The writer is a Consultant, Ophthalmology, Aster CMI Hospital)



SANYA PANDEY

RASIIKA Dugal, who gained national visibility with her appearances in shows like 'Mirzapur' and 'Delhi Crime', said that given a chance to be an actor in another time zone, she would opt for 1960s

"Otherwise, this (current time) is the next best option," she said.

In a conversation with Aseem Chhabra, film journalist and Director of the New York Indian Film

Festival, at the Cineves International Film Festival 2024 (CIFF) here, Rasika spoke in detail about

whether she has entered the industry at a good time.

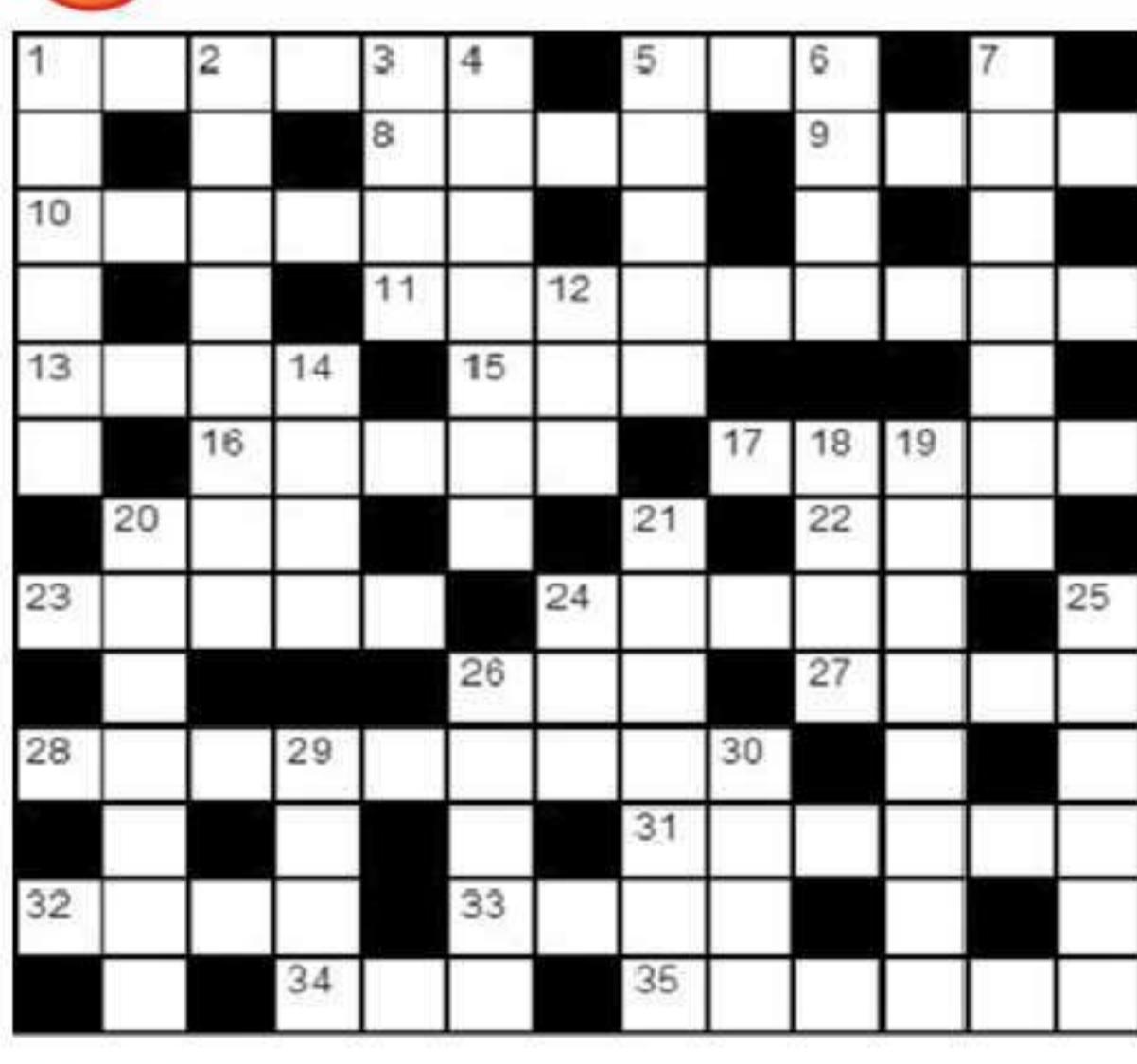
"When I started working after graduating from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in late 2006, Rs 1 crore film had become 'the thing'. 'Bheja Fry' had released, and everybody was quite inspired by the kind of attention it got. And things had started turning digital in terms of shooting equipment. So the cost of production of a film had gone down," Rasika said. The actress, who was

most recently seen in the horror thriller 'Adhura', said: "There were many smaller films which were being made at that time. I thought that was a very interesting time for an actor like me to come into the industry. Of course, the bottleneck remained 'distribution'. Small films were being made, but nobody knew how to make them see the light of the day."

Continuing on the theme, Rasika said: "And there were lovely initiatives like the PVR-sponsored directors and film festivals, without which I wouldn't have a career. So, I think that was very encouraging for me as an actor. Had I joined the industry a few years earlier, maybe I would have felt disappointed with the 'mahaul'."

"And later, the arrival of the streaming services was a way to access a wider audience and break that bottleneck of 'distribution'. So, I think it's been a fascinating few years. If I want to be an actor in another time, it would be the '60s, but otherwise, this is the next best option."

### CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Spread out (6)
  - Outfit (3)
  - Prefix for wine (4)
  - Cattle (4)
  - Fuel (6)
  - Lie detector (9)
  - Acting job (4)
  - Actress Thurman (3)
  - No bid (1,4)
  - Mischiefous (5)
  - Red Indian tribe (3)
  - Over in verse (3)
  - Hair stylist's need (5)
  - Unrefined (5)
  - Cry of disapproval (3)
  - Small whirlpool (4)
  - Satan (9)
  - Hold in custody (6)
  - Picture on your desktop (4)
  - Small insect (4)
  - Chap (3)
  - Rumpus (6)

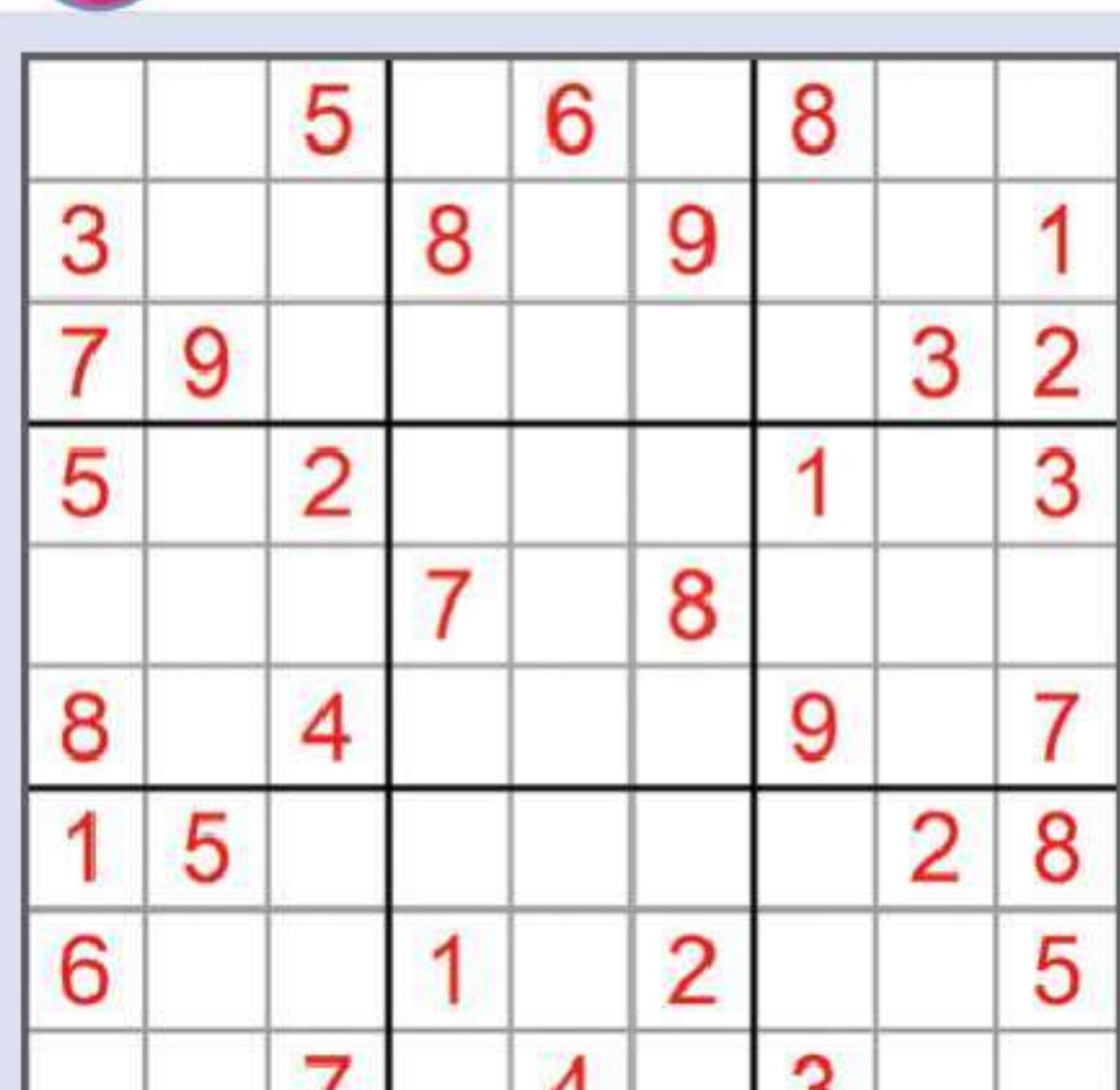
### DOWN

- Referee (6)
- Uselessness (8)
- A kind of noose (4)
- Remove lice (7)
- Nairobi is its capital (5)
- Long trip (4)
- Hopelessness (7)
- Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery, acronym? (3)
- Fencer's blade (4)
- Rich vein (4)
- Informative reaction or response (8)
- Pressing need (7)
- More arrogant (7)
- Male swan (3)
- Swan constellation (6)
- Brawny (5)
- Breathing apparatus (4)
- Male admirer (4)



Solution to March 28

### SUDOKU



Solution to March 28





# Entertainment



## 'Family Star' trailer blends class and mass elements



**E**xcitement is at its peak as the theatrical trailer for 'Family Star,' featuring Vijay Deverakonda and Mrunal Thakur, made its grand debut today. Directed by Parasuram Petla, the film promises a captivating romantic journey that has already captured the hearts of audiences with its enticing promotional material.

In the trailer, viewers are introduced to Go-

vardhan (Vijay Deverakonda), an architect, and Indu (Mrunal Thakur), his tenant, whose blossoming romance forms the crux of the narrative. Vijay Deverakonda impresses with his impeccable dialogue delivery and dynamic action sequences, while Mrunal Thakur exudes elegance and charm, creating a mesmerizing on-screen chemistry.

Anticipation for the

film's release on April 5, 2024, continues to mount as audiences eagerly await the opportunity to immerse themselves in this enchanting tale firsthand.

With Rashmika Mandanna making a special appearance and a stellar supporting cast including Jagapathi Babu, Achyuth Kumar, Abhinaya, Vasuki, Rohini Hatangadi, and Ravi Babu, 'Family Star,' produced

by Dil Raju, promises to deliver an unforgettable cinematic experience across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi languages.

As the countdown to the release date begins, fans can expect 'Family Star' to sweep them off their feet with its compelling narrative, captivating performances, and engaging storytelling, making it a must-watch film for audiences across the board.

**A**CRESS Aayushi Patell recently shared details about her role and journey in the upcoming film 'KalyugamPattanam' during a media interaction. Portraying a multifaceted character alongside Vishva Karthikeya, Aayushi highlighted the uniqueness and depth of her role, which transcends typical heroine archetypes. She revealed that her character undergoes significant development throughout the narrative, with her perspective evolving dramatically between the interval and climax, adding layers to the storytelling. Aayushi expressed her lifelong passion for cinema, citing legendary actor Pawan Kalyan as her inspiration. She recounted her journey from receiving the opportunity to participating in extensive workshops with co-star Vishva Karthikeya. Praising the picturesque locations and supportive environment in Kadapa where much of the filming took place, Aayushi expressed gratitude for the positive feedback received

**MY FOCUS IS ON QUALITY OVER QUANTITY: AAYUSHI PATELL**

during promotional tours and commended director Ramakanth Reddy for his clarity and the producers for his hospitality and commitment. In conclusion, Aayushi shared her admiration for co-star Vishva Karthikeya's supportive nature and discussed her future projects, emphasizing her preference for roles

that prioritize acting over commercial appeal. With a focus on quality over quantity, Aayushi expressed her dedication to delivering memorable performances in meaningful cinematic endeavors.

## 'Tillu Square' is more energetic and entertaining: Siddu Jonnalagadda

SUHAS SISTU

AS the release of "Tillu Square" draws near, actor and writer Siddu Jonnalagadda shares his insights into the film's essence, his character Tillu, and the challenges of creating a sequel. Expressing a blend of nervousness and excitement, Jonnalagadda reflects on the unexpected success of the first installment, "DJ Tillu," and the pressure to meet audience expectations with the sequel. In "Tillu Square," Tillu emerges as an insecure individual masking his vulnerabilities with a flashy demeanor, a departure from Jonnalagadda's own reserved nature. Despite this contrast, Jonnalagadda finds playing Tillu liberating, allowing him to express his unique perspective on life through the character's comedic antics.

Jonnalagadda emphasizes that "Tillu Square" offers a fresh take on Tillu's escapades, promising a vibrant yet concise narrative within the crime comedy genre. While retaining core characters, the sequel explores a new universe, presenting Tillu in a more energetic light. Collaborating with a new director for the sequel posed its challenges, with Mallik Ram stepping in seamlessly. Jonnalagadda acknowledges the invaluable insights provided by director Trivikram, whose contributions enhanced the project's depth and narrative trajectory.

Addressing the prospect of expanding "Tillu"



Directors Anil Ravipudi, Bobby, 'Bommarillu' Bhaskar along with the team of "Tillu Square" at the film's pre-release event.

into a franchise, Jonnalagadda reveals aspirations but emphasizes that nothing is finalized yet. As both actor and writer, Jonnalagadda's dual role enables a deeper understanding of character dynamics, enhancing his performance on screen. He credits Thaman and Bheems Cecileo for their distinct musical contributions to the franchise, enriching the film's experiences with their compositions.

Navigating the pressure of living up to expectations from the first film, Jonnalagadda likens it to revisiting a favorite dish at a restaurant. Despite the challenge, he embraces the journey, focusing on evolving with

each iteration. Looking ahead, Jonnalagadda plans to delve into acting projects with a keen interest in exploring diverse genres and showcasing a grittier side through storytelling endeavors.

As "Tillu Square" prepares for its theatrical release, Jonnalagadda's candid insights provide a glimpse into the film's evolution and the creative process behind this highly anticipated sequel.



### SHARWANAND'S 'MANAMEY' STARTS MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH A FOOT-TAPPING SONG



**I**n a blend of style and anticipation, the first look poster of Sharwanand's landmark 35th film, "Manamey," has been unveiled, sparking curiosity among fans. Directed by the talented Siriram Aditya and produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory, the movie promises a unique cinematic experience. With Krithi Shetty as the female lead, alongside a stellar cast, the project holds considerable promise.

Adding to the excitement, the makers initiated the musical journey with the release of the film's first single, "Ika Na Maate." Composed and sung by the acclaimed Hesham Abdul Wahab, known for his recent blockbuster albums "Kushi" and "Hi Nanna," the song taps into the pulse of today's youth. With electronic beats and catchy lyrics penned by Krishna Chaitanya, the track celebrates the essence of being single, resonating with the young audience.

Captured against the picturesque backdrop of London, the song's music video showcases Sharwanand's graceful and stylish moves, choreographed by Shrasti Verma. Vishnu Sharma and Gnana Shekar VS's stunning cinematography adds to the visual allure, while Sharwanand's trendy styling elevates the overall appeal. The song's energetic vibe and infectious hook step are expected to make it a favorite among fans.

Director Siriram Aditya's discerning taste in music is evident as "Ika Na Maate" sets the tone for the film's musical promotions. The production design, coupled with Sharwanand's never-before-seen stylish avatar, promises a grand cinematic experience.

