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Disciplined approach balances Suhas' busy SCHEDULE P12



QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

If the YSR Congress Party wins the Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy will continue reservations for Muslims. The people of Andhra Pradesh will teach a lesson to Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan for joining the BJP-led NDA. Can Naidu change Modi's stance on Muslim reservations?



— Asaduddin Owaisi

DON'T MISS...

YSRCP launches final door-to-door...

With elections just 10 days away, the ruling YSR Congress party, which has been leading the ferocious 'Siddham' campaign across the state, launched the party's final door-to-door electioneering campaign termed 'Jagan Kosam Siddham' on Thursday. Launching the campaign, YSRCP general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy stated, "We have launched our new campaign, 'Jagan Kosam Siddham,' where party volunteers will visit door to door with our collateral and manifesto, stating that we have...

-PAGE: 3

Jagan failed to modernise...

Continuing a blistering attack against Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has alleged that the YSRCP government failed to modernise the Thotapalli reservoir modernisation works and the government failed on all fronts. Addressing an election meeting at Palakonda on Thursday, Pawan Kalyan wooed voters to elect alliance candidate Kottapalli Geeta to Lok Sabha and Nimmaka Jayakrishna. Coming down heavily on Jagan Mohan Reddy, Pawan Kalyan said...

-PAGE: 4

Stop illegal mining in Aravallis: SC..

Observing that a balance between sustainable development and protection of the environment has to be made, the Supreme Court asked the Centre and state governments on Thursday to stop illegal mining in the Aravalli area. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Abhay S Oka said the governments must ensure that action is taken against erring officials. "Illegal mining in the Aravallis has to stop. The authorities have to ensure that the...

-PAGE: 5

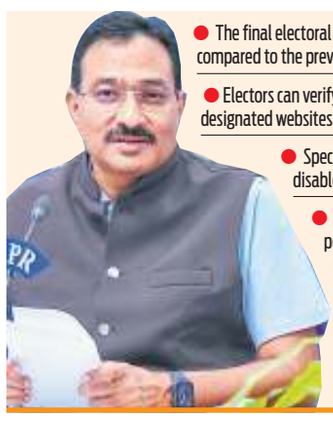
KKR look to iron out flaws against...

Kolkata Knight Riders will look to iron out their flaws and get the better of a mis-firing Mumbai Indians when the two teams, placed on the opposite ends of IPL points table spectrum, clash here on Friday. With six wins in nine games giving them 12 points and the second position in the IPL points table, a berth in the playoffs looks within the grasp of two-time winners KKR. But the Shreyas Iyer-led side will have to find consistency across departments and avoid any slip-ups in order to make it to the final...

-SPORTS

4.14 cr voters in AP: CEO

46,389 polling centres set up across State



- The final electoral roll shows a net increase of 5,94,631 electors compared to the previous count.
- Electors can verify their details and polling stations online through designated websites and apps.
- Special provisions have been made for elderly and disabled voters, including home voting options.
- Security measures include identifying critical polling stations and proposing webcasting for 64.45% of stations.
- Significant amounts of contraband, including cash, liquor, drugs, and precious metals, have been seized during preparations for the elections, totalling Rs 20,380.20 lakh.

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In an announcement on Thursday, State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Kumar Meena said that the total number of voters in Andhra Pradesh is 4.14 crore.

Meena disclosed this information during a media conference held in Vijayawada.

According to Meena, the State has set up an impressive 46,389 polling stations, with each accommodating up to 1,500 electors.

The final electoral roll, published under SSR 2024, showcased a significant uptick with 4,08,07,356 general electors, marking a net increase of 5,94,631 electors. These rolls are now available on the CEO website – www.ceoandhra.nic.in.

Breaking down the numbers, Meena reported a composition of 2,02,74,144 male electors, 2,10,56,137 female electors, and 3,421 electors identifying as Third Gender, summing up to 4,13,33,702 general electors. Additionally, there are 65,707 male service electors and 2,478 female service electors, bringing the total count, including service electors, to 4,14,01,887.

Meena emphasised the convenience for electors to verify their details and polling stations online through the designated website https://electoralsearch.eci.gov.in/ or via the Voter Helpline App / voters.eci.gov.in, following registration with their mobile numbers. Information regarding Booth Level Officers (BLO), Electoral Registration Officers (ERO), and District Electoral Officers (DEO) is also accessible through these platforms.

Continued on Page 2

YSRCP trashes TDP-JSP manifesto

Sajjala says Oppn's poll promises are a collection of falsehoods

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP State general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy criticised the TDP-JSP manifesto, labelling it as a collection of falsehoods.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Sajjala asserted that while CM Jagan's manifesto contains promises realistically deliverable to the public, the Opposition's manifesto is riddled with unattainable pledges. He emphasised the public's awareness of the deceptive nature of Chandrababu's manifesto, contrasting it with YSRCP's commitment to responsible governance in manifesto formulation.

Sajjala further highlighted Chandrababu's misinformation campaign regarding the Land Titling Act, attributing its formulation to the BJP government at the Centre. He urged Chandrababu Naidu to direct his inquiries about the Act to their coalition partner, rather than baselessly accusing the YSRCP and CM Jagan. Describing Chandrababu Naidu's ignorance of the Act's origins and propagation of false claims as politically inept, Sajjala challenged Chandrababu's allegations, questioning the logic behind his assertions.

Demanding clarity on the Land Titling Act from BJP state and national leadership, Sajjala referenced the formation of a committee by NITI Aayog on November 25, 2019, tasked with drafting the Model Act and Rules on Conclusive Land Titling. He emphasized YSRCP's understanding of the state's financial constraints, ensuring the announcement of only feasible initiatives. Sajjala criticised Chandrababu Naidu's contradictory stance on welfare, citing past unfulfilled promises by the TDP/BJP/JSP alliance.

Continued on Page 2



- Naidu accused of spreading misinformation about the Land Titling Act, which was formulated by the BJP government at the Centre.
- Sajjala demands clarity on the Act from BJP state and national leadership, citing the formation of a committee by NITI Aayog.
- YSRCP emphasises realistic promises in their manifesto compared to unattainable pledges by the opposition.
- Sajjala recalls past instances of unmet electoral assurances by the TDP-led alliance.
- Warning of dire consequences if the TDP-led alliance returns to power, Sajjala predicts a return to oppressive governance practices.
- YSRCP expresses dismay at obstacles faced by pensioners in accessing entitlements due to the opposition's obstructionist tactics.
- The absence of BJP representation in the alliance manifesto and the refusal of BJP's AP unit to endorse it raises questions about the viability of manifesto promises.

BJP leaders GVL, IYR disown TDP-JSP poll promises

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



During the unveiling of the joint manifesto on Tuesday, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu asserted that the manifesto had received the endorsement of the BJP and had been crafted after consulting with BJP leadership. However, senior BJP figures such as former chief secretary IYR Krishna Rao and former Rajya Sabha member GVL Narasimha Rao publicly disavowed any association between the BJP and the manifesto unveiled by Naidu for the upcoming



elections.

Krishna Rao dismissed the manifesto released by Naidu and Pawan Kalyan as wholly impractical and unenforceable. "The promises outlined by Naidu in the manifesto are simply unattainable," he remarked.

Continued on Page 2

Polavaram project not completed due to 'politics': Gadkari

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



The mega Polavaram irrigation project aiming to take the water from the Godavari river up to south Tamil Nadu was not completed due to "politics" in Andhra Pradesh, senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday. Addressing a rally in the Araku Lok Sabha constituency in support of BJP candidate K Geetha, he said migration to urban areas from rural and tribal areas in India was due to the wrong economic policy of the previous governments, while asserting that the present NDA regime is now planning on how to make the rural and agriculture and tribal economy grow.

Talking about water resources utilisation, Gadkari said that there was no proper planning and priorities after independence during former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's time.

Stating that at present agriculture and its allied sectors contribute only 12 per cent to the country's GDP, Gadkari said he is confident that if the water is made available in rural and tribal areas of India, the growth would be tripled.

"I (when he was previously water resources minister) sanctioned a big and important project in Andhra Pradesh-Polavaram.

Continued on Page 2

96% of beneficiaries receive pensions

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Government has released an amount of Rs 1,945.39 crores for the disbursement of Social Security Pensions to 65,49,864 pensioners in the state. Pension distribution started on May 1 and as of Thursday 63,31,470 pensions (96.67 %) have been disbursed.

In all, 15,13,752 pensions (91.34 %) have been disbursed out of 16,57,361 pensions through door-to-door.

Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode 48,17,718 pensions (98.47 %) have been disbursed out of 48,92,503 pensions.

Continued on Page 2

Owaisi backs YSRCP, says Jagan will continue Muslim quota

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on May 1 expressed confidence that if the YSR Congress Party wins the Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would continue reservation for Muslims in the State.

"People of Andhra Pradesh will teach a lesson to the Telugu Desam Party supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan for joining the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA," Owais said. While addressing a rally in Hyderabad, the AIMIM chief stressed that the reservation provided to Muslims in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is based on socio-economic status and not on religious basis.

The Hyderabad MP asked Naidu if the latter could alter Modi's stance on Muslim reservation. Owaisi expressed confidence that Reddy would win the Assembly elections and uphold Muslim reservation in the State. He then accused the BJP of trying to alter the Indian Constitution and deleting Articles 29 and 30 which protect the rights of the minorities in India.

AAROGYASRI SCHEME

No cashless treatment at network hospitals from tomorrow

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



In a sudden development just 10 days before the general elections, Aarogyasri network hospitals have announced their decision to cease cashless treatments starting May 4.

The decision was communicated to the State government via a formal letter, where the network hospitals expressed their intention to discontinue cashless services.

The AP Specialty Hospitals Association, representing these hospitals, has voiced its frustration with the State government's failure to address long-standing financial obligations spanning six months. In their letter, they highlighted the adverse financial impact caused by the government's non-payment of dues, leading to a state of indebtedness among the hospitals. In response to this dire situation, the network hospitals have officially notified the CEO of Aarogyasri Trust about their decision to halt cashless treatments effective May 4.

'Jagan misusing power to market himself'

PNS ■ RAYACHOTI

TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday slammed CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for deceiving people through his Land Grabbing Act.

Addressing the people in his 'Praja Galam' meeting in Rayachoti, Nara Chandrababu Naidu cautioned the people of Andhra Pradesh to be vigilant of the act. "If the Act is passed, the land will no longer belong to you, instead you'll receive only Xerox copies, but don't worry once we're in power again, we'll remove those duplicates and will return your rightful properties," affirmed the TDP chief.

Further, Naidu highlighted the fact that Jagan has been misusing his power to market himself just before the elections, by printing his picture on the land passbooks. "Kiran Kumar was a chief minister, and I too was the chief minister before him. Did either of us print our photos on the land documents?" he asked.

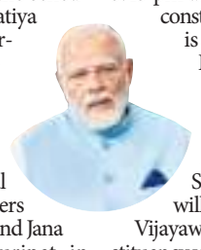
Naidu lambasted AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for disregarding his own district. He highlighted the fact that despite the area being prone to droughts, CM Jagan ignored it.

Continued on Page 2



Modi to visit AP on May 7, 8

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Andhra Pradesh to campaign in the elections on May 7 and 8. However, according to the schedule released by the Bharatiya Janata Party national leadership, he will be campaigning only in those constituencies where the party is contesting. On March 17, Modi addressed the first election rally of the National Democratic Alliance partners - BJP, Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena Party at Chilakaluripet in Palnadu district and shared the dais with TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan.

But now, as per the schedule of the BJP, Modi will be campaigning only in three Parliamentary constituencies and an assembly constituency where the BJP is contesting and not in other constituencies where the two NDA allies are in fray. He will address a rally at 3.30 pm on May 7 at Vemagiri near Rajahmundry where Daggubati Purandeshwari is in the fray and at 5.45 pm at Rajupalem in Anakapalli constituency where CM Ramesh is contesting. On May 8, the Prime Minister will conduct a public meeting at Pileru to campaign for BJP candidate N Kiran Kumar Reddy from Rajampet Lok Sabha constituency. Later, he will address a road show at Vijayawada (West) assembly constituency where BJP candidate Sujana Chowdary is contesting on the BJP ticket. It is not immediately known whether Naidu and Pawan Kalyan will share the dais with Modi in these public meetings and road shows, in the wake of reports that all is not well between the BJP and the other two alliance partners of NDA.

Govt can't supervise CBI probe: Centre to SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI is not under the "control" of the Union and the government can't supervise either the registration of offence by the agency or its investigation, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Thursday.

The Centre's submission assumes significance as the opposition parties have been accusing the government of misusing central probe agencies like the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to target its rivals.

The Centre raised preliminary objections before a bench of justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta on the maintainability of a lawsuit filed by the West Bengal government which alleged that the CBI is going ahead with its investigation without securing the prerequisite nod from the state. However, the West Bengal government countered the Centre's submission and said once a foothold is given to the CBI in a state, the ED enters and this has huge ramification on the polity of the country.

The West Bengal government has filed an original suit in the apex court against the Centre under Article 131 of the Constitution, alleging that the CBI has been filing FIRs and proceeding with its investigation, despite the state having withdrawn the general consent to the federal agency to probe cases within its territorial jurisdiction.

Article 131 deals with the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction in a dispute between the Centre and one or more states.

During the hearing on Thursday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that Article 131 is "one of the most sacred" jurisdiction conferred upon the apex court and can't be allowed to be misused or abused.

He said the cases referred to in the state's suit have not been filed by the Union of India. "The Union of India has not registered any case. CBI has done," Mehta said, adding that state has arrayed the Union of India represented by secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) as party in the suit.

"CBI is not under the control of Union of India," he said.

The solicitor general said that cases referred to in the suit include those which were ordered to be registered by the Calcutta High Court.

"The supervision (of CBI) is not with the Union of India. I (Centre) can't supervise either registration of the offence, I can't supervise the investigation and I can't supervise how it would lead to either a closure or a charge sheet or conviction or acquittal," said Mehta, who also referred to the provisions of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.

He said the suit filed by the West Bengal was not maintainable because there was no cause of action against the Union of India. "This (Article 131) is a very sacred jurisdiction and therefore, the principles which would govern entertaining of the suit or dismissing the suit on the ground of maintainability etc. will have to be examined more rigorously considering that this is a very sacrosanct provision and can't be allowed to be abused or misused," he said. Mehta said the similar issue and same question is already pending adjudication before the apex court in a special leave petition (SLP) and this fact has been suppressed by the state in the suit.

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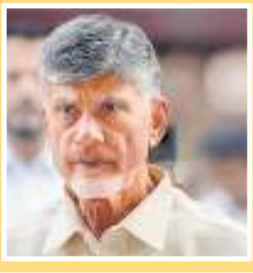


The Centre's submission assumes significance as the opposition parties have been accusing the government of misusing central probe agencies like the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to target its rivals.



Can Naidu ever take on opponents solo?

K SRIRAMULU
■ VIJAYAWADA



Naidu, after succeeding NT Rama Rao, allied with Communists against Congress and Lakshmi Parvathi's outfit. Later, joining BJP, he faced anti-incumbency in 1999 but benefited from their increased vote share. However, the YSR-led Congress fiercely contested, challenging TDP's dominance with 91 seats.

Amid the fervent discussions surrounding the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, a contentious discourse has emerged regarding the strength of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo N Chandrababu Naidu in facing off against his opponents single-handedly. A comparison has been drawn, highlighting the contrasting approach of the late chief minister YS Rajasekhar Reddy, who was known to confront opposition with the ferocity of a tiger. Throughout his illustrious political journey, YSR, as he is affectionately remembered, remained an indomitable force from his inception into politics in 1978 until his untimely demise in 2009.

Present-day Andhra Pradesh finds itself deeply polarised as key political entities, viz, YSRCP, TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena. They spare no effort to outmanoeuvre one another. The coalition of TDP-BJP-Jana Sena has even resorted to inflammatory rhetoric, threatening to metaphorically 'crush the skull' of YSRCP president and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. In local vernacular parlance, Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan brazenly articulated, 'Tala meeda kalu petti pathala lokaniki tokkestam," signifying a violent metaphor aimed at Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Such vitriolic exchanges have been met with disdain from the underprivileged segments of society and a portion of the middle class. Naidu's derogatory remarks branding Jagan Mohan Reddy as a 'demon' have irked many, especially the rural masses, who have benefited from the welfare initiatives spearheaded by the YSRCP administration.

However, it is imperative to note that criticising Jagan Mohan Reddy's governance should not entail dismissing his achievements outright. The endorsement he receives from the marginalised sections underscores the impact of his policies aimed at uplifting the downtrodden, akin to the transformative measures initiated during VP Singh's tenure with the implementation of the Mandal Commission report.

Amid the prevailing discourse, urban areas exhibit signs of anti-incumbency, challenging Jagan Mohan Reddy's bid for a resounding victory. Now the question is whether he can effectively counter this sentiment and secure a larger mandate compared to previous elections.

Turning to the debate surrounding Naidu's electoral strategies, it is evident that he frequently sought alliances rather than contesting solo. Following his ascension to the chief minister's office succeeding his father-in-law NT Rama Rao, Naidu forged alliances with Communist parties to counter the resurgence of Congress and the faction led by NTR's widow, Lakshmi Paravathi.

His alliance-building extended to using helicopters to transport Communist leaders during campaign rallies.

Subsequently aligning with the BJP, Naidu navigated through formidable anti-incumbency sentiments in 1999, aided by the BJP's increased vote share in combined Andhra Pradesh, which bolstered his electoral prospects.

However, the Congress, under YSR's leadership, put up a fierce fight, securing 91 seats and challenging the dominance of the TDP.

Botsa denounces misinformation campaign on Land Titling Act

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



In response to criticism of the coalition manifesto, Minister Satyanarayana questioned the integrity of opposition leaders Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan, highlighting discrepancies in their alliance and manifesto acceptance.

Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana has slammed opposition leaders Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, accusing them of spreading misinformation and falsehoods about the AP Land Titling Act. He highlighted that the claims made by the opposition are baseless and lack any understanding of the legislation.

Speaking to the media people on Thursday, Botsa Satyanarayana refuted claims that only Xerox copies of documents are provided to claimants during the registration process, asserting that the original documents remain with the government. He criticized the opposition for indulging in what he termed as "evil propaganda" and compared them to criminals for misleading the public.

Minister Satyanarayana clarified that the AP Land Titling Act is still under consideration and highlighted the efforts of the Chief Minister in initiating the resurvey process after a century. He urged the opposition leaders to refrain from politicising the issue and recognize the positive impact it could have on land dispute resolution. The Minister called for criminal action against those spreading false information, particularly targeting media mogul Ramoji for his alleged misleading writings. He highlighted the need for responsible journalism and warned against the consequences of deceptive reporting.

Addressing concerns about transparency, Minister Satyanarayana outlined the registration process, highlighting the use of digital signatures and permanent records prepared by the registration department. He assured that there is no room for doubt in the implementation of the Land Titling Act. Minister Satyanarayana criticized opposition leader Chandrababu for his stance on the Land Titling Act, accusing him of playing politics without considering the welfare of the people. He hailed Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's efforts towards corruption-free governance and urged political leaders to prioritize the public interest over political affiliations.

While acknowledging the ongoing work at the central level regarding land-related laws, Minister Satyanarayana reiterated that the AP Land Titling Act would only be enforced after careful consideration and without causing any inconvenience to landowners. He emphasized the need for clarity and transparency in the implementation process. Minister Satyanarayana commended Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his innovative approach to governance, citing the comprehensive manifesto and commitment to fulfilling electoral promises as a testament to his leadership.

In response to criticism of the coalition manifesto, Minister Satyanarayana questioned the integrity of opposition leaders Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan, highlighting discrepancies in their alliance and manifesto acceptance. He called for accountability from the opposition regarding their manifesto's viability and acceptance among coalition partners.

Govt can't...

Continued from Page 1

"This is a suit filed before the highest court of the country and my submission as a constitutional proposition is going to be that the suppression of fact must led to dismissal of the suit only on that ground...," he said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for West Bengal, said the CBI is not a statutory authority and it is an investigating agency. "Why can't it be considered to be a statutory authority," the bench asked.

Sibal said, "It (CBI) is an investigating arm of the government."

He referred to the provisions of the DSPE Act, including section 4 which deals with superintendence and administration of special police establishment. "In the administrative structure of the Union of India, the supervision of the police establishment is with the Department of Personnel and Training," he said.

Sibal said when a question is asked in Parliament about the CBI, it is the minister of state for DoPT who answers it. Referring to section 6 of the DSPE Act, which deals with consent of state government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction, he said once the state has withdrawn its consent, the CBI can't enter the state and investigate.

Amarnath unveils manifesto for Gajuwaka

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Setting an example for other party leaders, Gudivada Amarnath, the candidate for the Gajuwaka Assembly constituency for 2024, for the first time unveiled a vision-oriented manifesto aimed at understanding Gajuwaka's evolving needs and challenges. The manifesto outlines a visionary roadmap for the constituency's future with a focus on industrial development, environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, and infrastructure enhancement.

Addressing the media people during the launch of the manifesto on Thursday, Amarnath outlined the careful process behind the finalisation of the manifesto, which involved extensive consultations with local residents over the past three months. He highlighted the inclusive nature of the manifesto, designed to promote the prosperity and well-being of all segments of society within the constituency. Acknowledging Gajuwaka's transition from an agricultural to an industrial hub, Amarnath expressed concerns over rising pollution levels impacting public health and economic prospects. He underscored his commitment to attracting eco-friendly industries while preserving the area's economic vibrancy.



Central to the Gajuwaka 3.0 manifesto is the promise of skill development initiatives tailored to match local talent with industry demands. Amarnath pledged to establish vocational, degree, and polytechnic colleges, alongside coaching centres and digital libraries, to nurture educational excellence and entrepreneurship. Moreover, Amarnath aims to strengthen the local economy by supporting MSMEs and small businesses through an incubation program, while also promoting indigenous products. His vision includes the establishment of centres of excellence for digital media studios, clean manufacturing units, e-waste recycling, and biodegradable packaging to foster a sustainable circular economy.

Addressing pressing civic issues, Amarnath vowed to conduct a comprehensive audit of sanitation, street lighting, and road infrastructure within three months of assuming office. He also pledged to construct community halls, install CCTV surveillance for crime control, and revitalize local markets. In a bid to alleviate traffic congestion, Amarnath proposed the construction of flyovers and the initiation of metro rail projects. Additionally, plans for a multi-level car park and modernization of markets aim to enhance urban livability and commerce.

Beyond infrastructure, the manifesto champions cultural enrichment, promising annual festivals and support for local sports personalities. Amarnath also affirmed his commitment to environmental stewardship, outlining plans for tourist development in Yarada Beach into a leisure hub and addressing pollution concerns at the Gangavaram port. Notably, Amarnath's manifesto aligns with the broader ideological stance of the YSR Congress Party, particularly its opposition to the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He assured constituents of unwavering advocacy on this issue and reiterated the party's steadfast commitment to public welfare over corporate interests. Amarnath's visionary manifesto sets a high standard for political leadership, reflecting a commitment to holistic development and inclusive progress within the Gajuwaka Assembly constituency. As the election approaches, his proposals offer a roadmap for a brighter future for the region's residents.

TAMMINENI'S BOLD CAMPAIGN

Championing welfare schemes and political loyalties in Amadalavalasa

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM

Assembly speaker Tammineni Sitaram left no stone unturned in his tireless campaign, holding his party flag boldly and reaching out to every nook and corner of his constituency, Amudalavalasa. His sole motive is to highlight the welfare schemes of the ruling party, which he thinks no party in India dared to do. His hands-on approach to campaigning is rooted in his devotion to his constituents. Asserting his proactive stance, he justifies that first, he is an MLA and then a speaker next. People will forget me if I am sitting in my home, he claims. Despite raising eyebrows and accusations of breaking protocol, his close associate Neela Rao, was confident about his winning streak with a good majority this time also.

Sitaram's journey into the political realm marked by a huge amalgam of experiences and achievements. A stalwart in the political landscape, Sitaram served as a minister for nine years and has been elected as an MLA on many occasions since 1983. His affinity with various political parties, including the Telugu Desam and Praja Rajyam, reinforces his flexibility and tactical expertise. The core element of his campaign trail is the game-changing narrative of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's Navaratnalu welfare schemes. Highlighting schemes like Nadu Nedu and Rythu Bharosa Kendras, Sitaram claims that they have truly changed the living standards of weaker sections of the communities and empowered women

Nevertheless, the opposition candidate Kuna Ravi Kumar of Telugu Desam Party (TDP), remains critical, alleging a lack of requisite development in the constituency during his stewardship as MLA.

4.14 cr...

Continued from Page 1

To accommodate areas with elector numbers surpassing 1500, 224 auxiliary polling stations have been established alongside the main stations, increasing the tally to 46,389.

The state also addressed special voting needs, revealing that 2,11,257 electors aged 85 and above have been accounted for, with 14,577 opting for home voting. Moreover, 5,17,227 Persons With Benchmark Disability (PWBD) were registered, with 14,014 choosing home voting, totalling to 28,591.

A keen focus on security measures was evident, with 12,438 critical polling stations identified. Authorities seized contraband, including cash amounting to Rs 4,775.81 lakhs, liquor totalling 8,44,924.75 litre worth Rs 2,883.07 lakh, drugs weighing 58,79,905.01 gram valued at Rs 365.40 lakh, precious metals amounting to 15,45,266.87 gram valued at Rs 10,515.68 lakh, freebies numbering 4,92,095.00 worth Rs 393.03 lakhs, and other miscellaneous items totalling 13,12,628.72, amounting to Rs 1,447.21 lakh, summing up to a staggering Rs 20,380.20 lakh.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Dashami:	May 03 01:53 AM to May 03 11:24 PM
Ekadashi:	May 03 11:24 PM to May 04 08:39 PM
Nakshatram:	
Shatabhisha:	May 03 01:48 AM to May 04 12:06 AM
Purva Bhadrapada:	May 04 12:06 AM to May 04 10:07 PM
Rahukalam:	10:38 AM to 12:13 PM
Yamagandam:	3:23 PM to 4:58 PM
Varjyam:	05:58 AM to 07:26 AM
Gulika:	7:27 AM to 9:02 AM
Amritakalam:	05:25 PM to 06:54 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:47 AM to 12:38 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 43°c
Humidity: 48%
Sunrise: 5:41 AM
Sunset: 6:27 PM

Updated: April 25, 2024 5:00 PM

YSRCP trashes TDP....

Continued from Page 1

Recalling historical instances of unmet electoral assurances, such as the TDP's unfulfilled promise of providing one crore jobs to unemployed youth in undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1999, Sajjala underscored the YSRCP's consistent implementation of welfare measures even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He condemned the opposition's obstructionist tactics, including legal challenges and complaints to electoral authorities, aimed at impeding welfare distribution.

Sajjala warned of dire consequences for Andhra Pradesh if Chandrababu and the alliance were to return to power, predicting a return to the oppressive Janmabhoomi Committees and the elimination of the volunteer system established by CM Jagan. He attributed the current hardships faced by senior citizens and the disabled to the actions of the TDP-led alliance, expressing dismay at the challenges encountered by pensioners accessing their entitlements.

Questioning the absence of BJP representation in the alliance manifesto and the refusal of the BJP's AP unit to endorse it, Sajjala highlighted previous instances in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh where BJP leaders featured prominently in joint manifesto publications.

He interpreted the BJP's distancing from Chandrababu's manifesto promises as an acknowledgement of their implausibility and a strategic decision to abstain from endorsing the alliance's collective pledges.

BJP leaders...

Continued from Page 1

Concurrently, Krishna Rao noted that some of the pledges made by YSR Congress party president and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy were also not feasible and could not be realised.

Highlighting that the BJP's national-level manifesto was grounded in realism, Krishna Rao juxtaposed it with the manifestos of CM Jagan and Naidu, which he deemed divorced from reality. "The BJP distanced itself from the TDP manifesto precisely because Naidu's promises are unworkable," he emphasized, cautioning that any attempt by Naidu to fulfil his commitments would precipitate a complete collapse of the state's economy within six months. "Back in 2014, the BJP had integrated several suggestions into the manifesto, only to retract them at the behest of the national leadership," he added. Similarly, GVL Narasimha Rao clarified that the manifesto unveiled by Naidu belonged solely to the TDP and Jana Sena Party, with no involvement from the BJP. He expressed dissatisfaction with how the TDP and Jana Sena had sidelined Modi's image during their election campaign.

Polavaram project not...

Continued from Page 1

The project cost was Rs 60,000 crore and I visited the site of Polavaram four times when Chandrababu (TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu) was the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh. I am really unhappy because of the politics in the state, still, the Polavaram project is not yet completed," he said.

He said his idea was to take water from Godavari up to down south of Tamil Nadu through Krishna, Penna and Cauvery Rivers.

Gadkari said the Centre has given special priority to water conservation, storage, drinking water, and completing the big dams and projects in the country.

The union minister said despite India being the leading producer of sugar, corn and rice, their rates globally are decided by other countries.

He said the NDA government has been encouraging the making of ethanol from sugarcane juice, molasses, broken rice, food grains, corn, bamboo and rice straw, aiming to cut the huge import bill for fossil fuel.

The former BJP president said the Centre has been spending huge amounts on road projects such as Visakhapatnam and Raipur (Rs 35,000 crore) and Rajahmundry to Vizianagaram Greenfield Express Highway (Rs 22,000 crore) in Andhra Pradesh.

'Jagan misusing...

Continued from Page 1

Countering Jagan Mohan Reddy over his false claims of implementing YSRCP's election manifesto by 99%, the former AP CM highlighted how CM Jagan failed miserably in his promise, to provide jobs, release a job calendar, ban liquor and revoke CPS, Jagan Mohan Reddy has no right to seek votes," he added. Furthermore, highlighting the prevalent irregularities in the Aarogyasri Scheme, the TDP Chief vowed to provide health insurance of Rs 25 lakhs yearly for every family in the state. He also assured of reinstating the Chandranna Bima Scheme and distributing free medicines for people who have BP and diabetes. In addition to this, he also promised to provide Rs 6,000 monthly pension for the disabled and Rs 15,000 for fully disabled people. Furthermore, he also vowed to ban all toxic liquor brands in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

96% of beneficiaries....

Continued from Page 1

The transaction of 74,399 pensions failed and could not be transferred to the account of the pensioners due to inactive bank accounts and these 74,399 'failed transactions' cases will be converted into Door to Door disbursement mode.

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Format C-1
(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgment dated 25* September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy, Door No. 3-9-77, Pulivendla, YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh - 516390

Name of political party: **Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party**

Name of Election: **Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly 2024**

*Name of Constituency: **129 - Pulivendla**

I Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy, candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and date	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 3 OF 2021	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
2	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 OF 2021	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
3	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 1 OF 2021	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
4	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad [Previous Court: The Court of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad]	SC No. 1 OF 2020 [OLD CASE NO. SC No. 92 OF 2016]	Consideration of charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 And Section 8 (5) Of Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering. (III) Section 8 (5): Where on conclusion of a trial for any scheduled offence, the person concerned is acquitted, the attachment of the property or retention of the seized property or record under sub-section (3) and net income, if any, shall cease to have effect.
5	Judge, SPL. Court for Trial of cases relating to elected MPs and MLAs, Vijayawada cum VIII Addl. District and Sessions Judge cum V Addl. Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Vijayawada, Krishna District	C.C. No. 33 of 2018	For Appearance	Sections 499, 500, 501, 502 r/w Section 34 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 499 of IPC: Defamation. (II) Section 500 of IPC: Punishment for Defamation. (III) Section 501 of IPC: Printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory. (IV) Section 502 of IPC: Sale of printed or engraved substance containing defamatory matter. (V) Section 34 of IPC: Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention.
6	The Court of Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 OF 2018	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 r/w Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
7	The Court of Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 1 OF 2018	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 r/w Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
8	FIR filed with: Nandyala III Town Police Station, AP (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 192/2017	Investigation Pending	Sections 188, 504,506 of Indian Penal Code And Section 125 of Representation Of People Act, 1951 (I) Section 188 of IPC: Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public Servant. (II) Section 504 of IPC: Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace. (III) Section 506 of IPC: Punishment for criminal intimidation. (IV) Section 125 of RPA, 1951: Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.
9	The Court of Principal Special Judge for CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 of 2017	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 R/W Section 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: The act of money laundering.
10	FIR filed with: Nandyala III Town Police Station, AP (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 177/2017	Investigation Pending	Section 125 of Representation of People Act, 1951. (I) Section 125 of RPA, 1951: Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election.
11	FIR filed with: Kakinada III TOWN POLICE STATION AP (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 122/2017	Investigation Pending	Sections 153A & 506 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 153A of IPC, 1860: Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony. (II) Section 506 of IPC, 1860: Punishment for Criminal Intimidation
12	FIR filed with: Police Station Ramagiri (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 23/2016	Investigation Pending	Sections 116, 153A, 500 OF Indian Penal Code, 1860. Section 116 of IPC, 1860: Abetment of offence punishable with imprisonment-if offence be not committed. Section 153A of IPC, 1860: Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony. Section 500 of IPC, 1860: Punishment for Defamation.
13	FIR filed with: POLICE STATION: MANGALAGIRI (R), GUNTUR URBAN	FIR No. 59/2016	Investigation Pending	Sections 425, 427, 505(II) R/W 24 OF Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 425 of IPC: Mischief. (II) Section 427 of IPC: Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees. (III) Section 505(ii) of IPC: Statements conducing to public mischief by creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes (IV) Section 24: Dishonestly
14	FIR filed with: Police Station, Ponnur Rural, Guntur (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 45/2016	Investigation Pending	Sections 500 and 501 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 500 of IPC: Punishment for Defamation. (II) Section 501 of IPC: Printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory
15	The Court Of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	SC No. 2 of 2016	Consideration of Charges	Section 4 r/w section 3 of prevention of money laundering act, 2002. (I) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (II) Section 3: the act of money laundering.
16	The Court of Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad Previous Court: The Court of The Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Nampally, Hyderabad	New Case No. SC No. 1 of 2016 Old Case No. SC No. 106 of 2015	Consideration of Charges	Section 3, 4 & 8(5) Of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (I) Section 3: Offence of money-laundering. (II) Section 4: Punishment for money-laundering. (III) Section 8 (5): Where on conclusion of a trial for any scheduled offence, the person concerned is acquitted, the attachment of the property or retention of the seized property or record under sub-section (3) and net income, if any, shall cease to have effect.
17	The Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C no. 26 of 2014	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-b, 420, 409 of IPC and u/Sec 11, 13(2) r/w 13 (1) (c) & (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 409: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent. (IV) Section 11, 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (c) & (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 11 of PC Act: Public servant obtaining valuable thing. (b) Section 13 (2): Punishment for Criminal misconduct by a Public Servant. (c) Section 13 (1) (c) & (d): Criminal misconduct by a Public Servant.
18	FIR filed at Sanoor Nagar Police Station, Cyberabad, Hyderabad (No Cognizance taken yet)	FIR No.: 861/2013	Pending Investigation	Section 3 Of Prevention Of Insults To Honour Act, 1971 Section 3 of Prevention of Insults to Honour Act, 1971: Prevention of singing of Indian National Anthem
19	Court Of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 28 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B R/W 420, 468, 471 Indian Penal Code, 1860 & Sec. 9 Of Prevention OfCorruption Act, 1988 (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 468: Forgery for purpose of cheating. (III) Section 471: Using as genuine a forged (document or electronic record) (IV) Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
20	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 27 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 of Indian Penal Code & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
21	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 26 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B r/w 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
22	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBICases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 25 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 Indian Penal Code, 1860 And 107 Of IPC r/w 13(2) r/w 13(1) (D) Prevention of Corruption Act. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 107 of IPC r/w 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (d) Prevention of Corruption of Act: (a) Section 107 of IPC: Abetment of a thing. (b) Section 13 (2) of P.C.Act: Punishment for Criminal misconduct by a Public Servant. (c) Section 13 (1) (d): Criminal misconduct by Public Servant
23	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 24 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B r/w 420, 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 And Sec.9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 9: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant. b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of PC Act.
24	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 12 of 2013	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 And Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act. (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III)Section 9 of Prevention of Corruption Act: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
25	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 14 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420, 409 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 And Section 9 And 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act. (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 409: Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent. (IV) Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 9: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant. b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of PC Act.
26	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 10 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B, 420 & 471 of Indian Penal Code And Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act (I) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. (II) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (III) Section 471: Using as genuine a forged (document or electronic record) (IV) Section 9 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act: a) Section 9: Taking gratification, for exercise of personal influence with public servant. b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of PC Act.
27	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 9 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 120-B r/w 420, 420 & 471 Of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 120-B r/w 420 of IPC: a) Section 120-B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. (II) Section 420 & 471 of IPC: a) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property. b) Section 471: Using as genuine a forged (document or electronic record)
28	Court of Hon'ble Principal Special Judge For CBI Cases, Hyderabad	C.C NO. 6 of 2012	Consideration of Charges	Section 12 r/w 11 of Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B r/w 420 Of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (I) Section 12 r/w 11 of Prevention of Corruption Act: (a) Section 11: Public servant obtaining valuable thing, without consideration from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant. (b) Section 12: Punishment for abetment of offences defined in Section 7 or 11 of P.C. Act. (II) Section 120 B R/w 420 of I.P.C: a) Section 120 B: Punishment of Criminal Conspiracy. b) Section 420: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.
29	FIR Filed With Police Station, Vempalle Police Station Andhra Pradesh No Cognizance taken yet	F.I.R No. 114/2008	Investigation Pending	Section 177 Of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 & Section 34 of Indian Penal Code, 1860. (I) Section 177 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988: General provision for punishment of offences (II) Section 34 of Indian Penal Code: Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

Sl. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum punishment imposed
NOT APPLICABLE			

Sd/-
Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy

advt

Format C-2

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party (For political party to publish in website, newspapers, TV)

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party: **Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party**

Name of Election: **General Election 2024 / House of Parliament**

Name of the State: **ANDHRA PRADESH**

Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Name of Candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases			(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
			Case No. & status of the case(s)	Name of Court	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed.
1	Ananthapur	Shankar Narayan Malagundla	1) CC 295(2019) 2) CC No. 19 (2017) 3) CR No. 90 (2017) 4) CC No. 1580 (2015) 5) CR No. 343 (2013)	1) Judicial first class magistrate court, penukonda 2) Executive magestrate, Dharmavaram, 3) Judicial first class magistrate court, Ananthapuram, 4) First Special Magistrate, Ananthapuram, 5) Judicial first class magistrate, Ananthapuram,	1) U/S 341,143,118 r/w 34 IPC 2) U/S 151 CRPC, 3) U/S 188 IPC 4) U/S 143,341,427,506 & 353 r/w 149 IPC & Sec of PDPP act & Sec 7(1) & 8 of public security act 5) U/S 188,341,290 r/w 34 IPC	NA	NA	NA
2	Guntur	Venkata Rosiah Kilari	1) Summons not yet served as such not aware of the Case number and court	Summons not yet served as such not aware of the Case number and court	Disobedience to an order lawfully promulgated by a public servant	NA	NA	NA
3	Kadapa	Yeduguri Sandinti Avinash Reddy	Principle Special Sessions Judge for CBI Cases Nampally, Hyderabad, Telangana State, Cr. No. 418/2018, 84 (2019)	RC- (S)/20220/CBI/SC-III/New Delhi, 84 (2019)	Sec.120-B, 302, 201, 341, 188, 34 IPC	NA	NA	NA
4	Kurnool	Boya Yella Ramaiah	Not Known, Cr. No. 68/2024	Not Known	u/s 188 r/w 34 IPC of Aspari PS.	NA	NA	NA
5	Narsaraopet	Anil Kumar Polubolina	In the court of Hon'ble Spl. Judge for trail of cases relating to elected MPs and MLAs, Vijayawada, C.C. No. 69/2018	In the court of Hon'ble Spl. Judge for trail of cases relating to elected MPs and MLAs, Vijayawada.	143, 341, 188 r/w 149 IPC	NA	NA	NA
6	Vijayawada	Srinivas Kesineni (Nani)	IPC Sec : 353,188,143,341, r/w 149 (Assault or Criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty.)	1) II Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at Vijayawada.	1) IPC Sec : 353,188,143,341, r/w 149	NA	NA	NA
7	Vizianagaram	Bellana Chandra Sekhar	1) It is alleged that to caused and nuisance to public by obstructing them and also made slogans against the then Chief Minister 2) It is alleged that there is house trespass, threatened the complainant and insulted her. Complaint given by TDP MPTC 3) It is alleged that there is a house trespass, damage to the property of the De facto complainant and beat her. Complaint given by TDP MPTC 4) It is alleged that the accused trespassed into their house, damaged some articles, taken away some articles and threatened the complainant, and the complaint filed by TDP MPTC 5) It is alleged that the candidate canvassed without permission from RO	1) The Hon'ble VIII th Addl. District Judge cum Special Court for trial of cases relating to M.Ps and M.L.As at Vijayawada. 2) The Honourable Judicial First Class Magistrate (Special mobile) Court at Vizianagaram 3) The Honourable Judicial First Class Magistrate (Special mobile) Court at Vizianagaram 4) The Honourable Judicial First Class Magistrate (Special mobile) Court at Vizianagaram 5) N.A.	1) CC No. 29/2018 2) CC No. 2639/2022 3) CC No. 2638/2022 4) CC No. 2640/2022 5) Cr.No.78/2024 of R.A.Valasa PS	NA	NA	NA
8	Nellore	Shri. Venumbaka Vijaya Sai Reddy	(1) FIR NO.44/2024, Kandukur rural police station, SPSR Nellore District. (2) FIR NO.47/2024, Kandukur rural police station, SPSR Nellore District. (3) FIR NO.83/2023, II Town PS, East Sub division Visakhapatnam City & District. (Received the information regarding the case today i.e 25.04.2024) 4) E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 5) E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 6) E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 (7) E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 (8) E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 9) E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 (10)E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 11)E.C.I.R.No.09/HZO/2011, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT, 3rd Floor, Shakar Bhawan, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500004 (12)R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (13) R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (14) R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (15) R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (16)R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (17)R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. 18)R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (19)R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. 20) R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095. (21)R.C.No.19(A) OF 2011-CBI/HYD, CENTRAL BUAREAU OF INVESTIGATION, B-6,3RD FLOOR, KENDRIYA SADAN, HEAD OF ZONE, SULTAN BAZAR ROAD, KOTI, HYDERABAD-500095.	1) Case No not allotted , Judicial magistrate of First Class, Kandukuru, SPSR Nellore District 2) Case No not allotted , Judicial magistrate of First Class, Kandukuru, SPSR Nellore District 3) Case No Not Allotted , Judicial Magistrate Of First Class, Visakhapatnam 4) S.C.No.03 Of 2021 In The Court Of Principal Spl.Judge For Cbi Cases – Cum- Spl.Court For Trial Under Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002: Hyderabad 5) S.C.No.02 OF 2021 IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES – CUM- SPL.COURT FOR TRIAL UNDER PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING 6) S.C.No.01 OF 2020 IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES – CUM- SPL.COURT FOR TRIAL UNDER PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING 7) S.C.No.02 Of 2018 In The Court Of Principal Spl.Judge For Cbi Cases – Cum- Spl.Court For Trial Under Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002: Hyderabad 8) S.C.No.01 Of 2018 In The Court Of Principal Spl.Judge For Cbi Cases – Cum- Spl.Court For Trial Under Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002: Hyderabad 9) S.C.No.02 Of 2017 In The Court Of Principal Spl.Judge For Cbi Cases – Cum- Spl.Court For Trial Under Prevention Of Money Laundering Act, 2002: Hyderabad 10) S.C.No.02 OF 2016 IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES – CUM- SPL.COURT FOR TRIAL UNDER PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT, 2002: HYDERABAD 11) S.C.No.01 OF 2016 IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES – CUM- SPL.COURT FOR TRIAL UNDER PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT, 2002: HYDERABAD 12) C.C.No. 26 OF 2014, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 13) C.C.No. 28 OF 2013, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 14) C.C.No. 27 OF 2013, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 15) C.C.No. 26 OF 2013, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 16) C.C.No. 25 OF 2013, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 17) C.C.No. 24 OF 2013, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 18) C.C.No. 12 OF 2013, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 19) C.C.No. 14 OF 2012, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 20) C.C.No. 10 OF 2012, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD 21) C.C.No. 09 OF 2012, IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SPL.JUDGE FOR CBI CASES: HYDERABAD	1) Section 171 -E of IPC, 125,123 (3) r/w 136(2)(b) RPA 1951. 2) Section 171 -E of IPC, 125,123 (3) r/w 136(2)(b) RPA 1951. 3) Section : 354, 323, 509, 341, 326(A), 326(B), 506 r/w, 147, 120b, r/w, 34 IPC, 156(3) CrPC. 4) Section 4 r/w 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 5) Section 4 r/w 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 6) Section 3 & 4 & 8 (5) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 7) Section 4 r/w 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 8) Section 4 r/w 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 9) Section 4 r/w 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 10) Section 4 r/w 3 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 11) Section 3 & 4 & 8 (5) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. 12) Section 120-B, 420 & 468 IPC. 13) Section 120-B r/w 420, 468, 471, 477-A IPC & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. 14) Section 120-B, 420 IPC & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. 15) Section 120-B r/w 420 IPC & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. 16) Section 120-B, 420 IPC & Section 13(2) r/w 13(1) (d) Prevention of Corruption Act. 17) Section 120-B r/w 420, 420 IPC & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. 18) Section 120-B r/w 420, 420 IPC & Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. 19) Section 120-B, 420 & 468 IPC. 20) Section 120-B r/w 409, 420 & 468 IPC. 21) Section 120-B r/w 420, 420, 468 & 471 IPC and Sec.9 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Supplementary Charge sheet: Section 13(2) r/w 13(1) (d) Prevention of Corruption Act.	NA	NA	NA

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9	Ongole	Dr. Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy	1) FIR No. 99/2024, Markapur, Town, P.S. Ongole District, A.P. 2) FIR No. 68/2019, M.R.Palli P.S. Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 3) FIR No. 66/2019, M.R.Palli P.S. Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 4) FIR No. 16/2019, II town P.S, Chittoor, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh 5) FIR No. 434/2018, M.R.Palli P.S. Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 6) FIR No. 20/2014, (CC No. 1814/2023), Gajulamandyam P.S. Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 7) FIR No. 261/2012, M.R.Palli P.S., Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 8) FIR No. 109/2012, Chandragiri P.S. Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 9) FIR No. 259/2010 (Criminal appeal No. 405/2016), East P.S., Tirupati, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 10) S.C. No. 2/2018 (FIR No. 27/2009), M.R.Palli, P.S., Tirupati, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh 11) FIR No. 15/2019, 2 town P.S., Chittoor, Chittoor District, A.P. 12) FIR No. 259/2012 East P.S., Tirupati Urban, Tirupati District, A.P. 13) FIR No.27/2009 M.R.Palli P.S., Tirupati, Tirupati District, A.P.	1) Judicial Magistrate of 1st class Court, Markapur, 2) III rd AJFCM, Tirupati 3) IIIrd AJFCM, Tirupati 4) IVth AJMFC, Chittoor 5) IIIrd AJMFC, Tirupati 6) 1st AJMFC, Tirupati 7) Special Judicial 2nd class Magistrate, Tirupati. 8) Special Judicial Megistrate, Tirupati 9) IVth ADJ Court, Tirupati 10) IV th ADJ cum S.C.,S.T. Court, Tirupati 11) IVth AJMFC, Chittoor 12) IVth Additional District Judge Court, Tirupati, Tirupati District, A.P. 13) IVth ADJ cum S.C., S.T. Court, Tirupati	1) Section 171F, 171H IPC, 155 (2) CRPC 2) Section 341 R/w 34 IPC 3) Section 153, 341 R/w 34 IPC 4) U/s. 143, 341, 353, 188 R/w 149 IPC 5) U/s. 353, 448, 506 R/w 34 IPC 6) U/s. 143, 283, 341, 506 R/w 149 IPC 7) U/s. 283 IPC 8) U/s. 341, 283 IPC 9) FIR 147, 353, 341 R/w 149 IPC 10) Section 3(5) of S.C.&S.T.(Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989) 11) U/s. 143, 341, 353, 188, 149 IPC 12) Section 147, 353, 341, R/w. 149 IPC 13) Special S.C. No. 10/2020	NA	NA	NA
10	Amalapuram	Rapaka Varaprasad Rao	1) Cr.No. 183/2019 2) Cr.No. 206/2018	1) Judicial First class magistrate Razole, Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema, AP 2) Judicial First class magistrate Razole, Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema, AP	1) U.Sec 143,147,148,431,353,427 r/w 143 of IPC. 2) U.Sec 323 of IPC	NA	NA	NA
11	Bapatla	Nandigam Suresh Babu @ Suresh Nandigam	1) Cr.No. 390/2020 2) Cr.No. 34/2020 3) FIR No. Rc.0362020s0015/2020.	1) Thulluru PS 2) Amaravathi PS	1) U/s 147,148,302,324,109 r/w 149 of IPC 2) U/s 323,354,506,509 r/w 34 IPC 3) U/s 153-A,504,505 (2),506 of IPC. U/s 67 of information technology Act 2000.	NA	NA	NA
12	Narsapuram	Uma Bala Guduri	1) CC No.1227/2021 2) DVC No. 86/2022	First Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court Judge, Visakhapatnam	1) 498-A, 354-(a), 506 IPC 2) Domestic Violence Act.	NA	NA	NA

Sd/- Lella Appi Reddy, State General Secretary
Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party

INDIA CORNER

CIK arrests youth trying to join terrorist ranks in J&K

Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested an alleged radicalised youth, who was on his way to join terror ranks in Budgam district of the Union Territory, officials said. "The CIK arrested one hard-core, radicalised individual Waseem Ahmed Shaikh of Beerwah village who was about to join terrorist ranks on the motivation of some Pakistan based terrorist handlers," the officials said here. The officials said the CIK on Monday launched an operation after getting reliable intelligence input that terrorist outfit Ansar Gazwat-Ul-Hind, an offshoot of the global terror outfit ISIS, was trying to re-establish its base and revive its cadres in Kashmir. "In furtherance to this criminal conspiracy, one Pakistan based terror handler of AuGH identified as Hamzah @Gazi has been brainwashing/ radicalizing Kashmiri youth to join terrorist ranks.



Man killed while making reel with gun in Rajasthan's Kota, 2 detained

A day after a 22-year-old man died while making a reel with a country-made pistol, two accused have been detained for questioning, police said on Thursday. The victim's father, Rodulal has alleged that two of his son's friends, Ajay Salvi and a boy conspired to kill Yashwant Nagar under the pretext of shooting a video, police said. The matter came to light on Wednesday when Yashwant Nagar suffered a bullet injury in the chest while shooting a video with a country-made pistol at a tea shop near Maharishi Gautam Bhawan in Mahaveer Nagar Extension. He was immediately rushed to New Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, police said. While talking to the reporters, Rodulal said that as per the video that he had seen of his son, a boy was loading the gun and shot Nagar in the chest while Ajay was standing nearby.



Misa calls PM Modi 'old', gets slammed by BJP, JD(U)

RJD president Lalu Prasad's eldest daughter Misa Bharti on Thursday drew flak from the BJP-led NDA in Bihar for an uncharitable reference to the "old" age of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Bharti, who is the RJD candidate from Patliputra, made the remarks while canvassing in the constituency where she attacked the NDA government at the Centre for bringing in the Agniveer scheme of recruitment in armed services.

In a video clip, purportedly of Wednesday, now viral on social media, the Rajya Sabha MP can be heard as saying: "What did this government do in 10 years? It brought in Agniveer. Young people fighting for the country will be retired at the age of 22. On the other hand, we have an old Prime Minister who at the age of 75 wants a third consecutive term". Predictably, the BJP flew in rage and sought to remind the RJD leader that her father, too, was at a ripe age.



'BJP not against Muslims'

PM Modi respected by several Islamic countries: Rajnath

PNS ■ SUPAUL/SARAN (BIHAR)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday debunked the opposition charge that the BJP was creating a Hindu-Muslim divide, highlighting the goodwill enjoyed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in several Islamic countries.

The former BJP president, who addressed election rallies in Supaul and Saran Lok Sabha constituencies of Bihar, also urged the minority community to be wary of the Congress and its ally RJD, charging the opposition parties with "seeking votes by kicking sand in your face".

"In at least five Islamic countries of the Arab world, Modi has been conferred with the highest honour. And they (the opposition) have the temerity of charging us with (creating divisions) between Hindus and Muslims," Singh asserted.

"I would, however, urge my Muslim brethren not to be ensnared by these people, the parties like RJD and Congress, which are trying to get your votes by kicking sand in your face," he said.

Singh, in his address, also said reservations along religious lines is not possible under the constitution.

"Of course, there is a provision for quotas for the backward classes and those sections of Muslim population that are lagging behind are covered under the same," he said.

"Muslims should also understand our motive behind illegalising triple talaq. How can one tolerate such a practice which had inflicted untold miseries upon so many Muslim sisters and daughters?

We took action without worrying about electoral consequences. I am glad to see that our stand against triple talaq has also been appreciated by many Muslims," the defence minister said.

Singh also claimed that the NDA was on course to achieve its target of 400-plus Lok Sabha seats, and "a beginning" has been made in Surat, where the BJP candidate got elected unopposed, and in Indore, where the Congress nominee withdrew his nomination papers and joined the saffron party.

"Now, the opposition is crying hoarse that this would imperil democracy. Let me tell you that since Independence, at least 28 candidates have got elected unopposed. Twenty of them belonged to the Congress and two were from its ally Samajwadi Party," Singh said, without elaborating.

'Religion being weaponised in 'new India'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Political economist Parakala Prabhakar on Thursday asserted that the "new India" under the BJP dispensation has "weaponised" religion for political purposes.

Prabhakar, while addressing a press conference here, said attempts have been made to destroy federalism, and the federal structure in the country signifies the "undemocratic manner in which the government at the Centre is functioning".

"Religion was always there. But, the new thing in this 'new India' under the BJP dispensation is weaponisation of religion for political purposes and interests," he said on the sidelines of the Kolkata launch of his book 'The Crooked Timber of New India Essays on a Republic in Crisis'.

Claiming that there is a crisis in the economic and social sphere of the country, Prabhakar said in this "new India", it is difficult to be critical of the government.

Stop illegal mining in Aravallis: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that a balance between sustainable development and protection of the environment has to be made, the Supreme Court asked the Centre and state governments on Thursday to stop illegal mining in the Aravalli area.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Abhay S Oka said the governments must ensure that action is taken against erring officials.

"Illegal mining in the Aravallis has to stop. The authorities have to ensure that the requisite steps are taken in this regard. Otherwise, what is the benefit of having only skeletal structures in the name of mountains? A balance has to made between sustainable development and protection of the environment," the bench said.

The top court is dealing with a matter related to alleged illegal mining in the Aravalli range.

In 2009, the top court imposed a blanket ban on the mining of major and minor minerals in the eco-sensitive Aravalli hills.

The Rajasthan government had earlier told the court that the issue regarding the classification between the Aravalli hills and the Aravalli ranges, insofar as mining activities are concerned, needs to be decided by the apex court.

"We, prima facie, feel that if the state is of the view that the mining activities in the Aravalli range are also detrimental to the environmental interest, nothing stops the state government from preventing mining activities in the Aravalli range as well," the top court had said



Air coolers for tiger, bird enclosures in Tripura zoo

PNS ■ AGARTALA



With Tripura reeling under a severe heatwave over the past couple of weeks, seven air cooler machines have been installed in various animal enclosures in Sepahijala Zoo to provide comfort to the animals, including tigers, an official said on Thursday.

All the water tanks in the zoo were repaired and made operational much before the onset of heatwave.

"We knew there would be a long dry spell and heatwave during April. Accordingly, we procured seven air coolers and placed them in different enclosures to beat the heat. Two air coolers have been installed at the tiger enclosure, while three installed at the enclosures for exotic and sensitive birds", Zoo Director Biswajit Das told PTI.

In addition, two coolers have been kept at the veterinary hospital inside the zoo. The Sepahijala Zoo is situated 27 away km from the state capital.

"We are changing the water stored in tanks to ensure the supply of fresh water for the animals. Due to proactive measures, the animals at the zoo are fine amid the adverse climate condition," he said.

All animals, including the carnivores, are given cold drinking water mixed with ORS.

The floors of the enclosures are being sprayed with water to keep the enclosures cool, the director said.

AMIT SHAH'S DOCTORED VIDEO

Delhi Police summon Jharkhand Congress chief

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Congress president Rajesh Thakur was summoned by Delhi Police on May 2 in connection with its investigation into the doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a party spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Thakur has been asked to join the investigation at Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) office in connection with an FIR registered on April 28 by its Special Cell, he said.

"I received the notice from Delhi Police on Tuesday. But, it is beyond my understanding why the notice was served to me. This is nothing but anarchy," Thakur said.

"If there is any complaint, they should first verify the content on my X account.

MEA ON PRAJWAL REVANNA'S TRAVEL TO GERMANY

No political clearance was either sought or issued

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said that no political clearance was either sought from or issued by it in respect of travel of suspended JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna to Germany.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said that no visa is required for diplomatic passport holders to travel to Germany.

Revanna, the grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, is accused of sexual harassment of several women and is believed to be in Germany.

The Janata Dal (Secular) has already suspended the Hassan MP.

"No Political Clearance was either sought from or issued by MEA in respect of the travel of the said MP to Germany," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing while replying to a volley of questions on the MP's reported travel to Germany.

"Obviously, no visa note was issued either. No visa is required for diplomatic passport holders to travel to Germany. The Ministry has not issued visa note for any other country," the MEA spokesperson said.

Asked about whether the MEA may consider revocation of his passport in view of the allegations of sexual harassment against him, Jaiswal did not give a direct reply.

"As regards the possible revocation of the passport of any individual, I would refer you to the relevant provisions of the Passport Act 1967. We are not in receipt of any directions from any court in this regard," he said.

The government of Karnataka has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the allegations against Revanna.

EXCISE POLICY 'SCAM'

Sisodia moves Delhi HC seeking bail in CBI, ED cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia approached the high court on Thursday seeking bail in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the CBI and the ED respectively in relation to the alleged excise policy scam.

The bail pleas are scheduled for hearing before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on Friday.

Sisodia approached the high court after a trial court refused to grant him bail in the matter on April 30.

The bail pleas were mentioned by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader's counsel before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet P S Arora for an urgent hearing, which agreed to list the same for Friday.

"Let the judge go through the file. So let it come tomorrow," the bench said.

Advocates Rajat Bhardwaj and Mohammad Irshad, representing Sisodia, told the bench that the petitioner is an MLA and requested that both the pleas seeking bail be listed for an urgent hearing.

The trial court had dismissed Sisodia's bail pleas in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by the Central Bureau of

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VIJAYAWADA | FRIDAY | MAY 3, 2024

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Voter inertia

Low turnout in early phases of Lok Sabha polls is a cause of concern for parties, EC and democracy

The lukewarm voter response in the first two phases of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections raises several questions about the underlying reasons for their apathy. Is the weather a deterrent, or is it disillusionment with governance, scepticism towards nominees/parties, or lack of faith in electoral procedures like Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)? Indeed, there is a pressing need to rekindle voter enthusiasm and participation in the electoral process. An initial speculation regarding low turnout often points to adverse weather conditions. The scorching heat can indeed discourage voters, especially in regions prone to extreme climates. However, while the weather may play a role, it is seldom the sole determinant of voter participation. A more substantial factor contributing to voter apathy lies in the prevailing disillusionment with governance. Citizens, disappointed by unfulfilled promises, rampant corruption and inefficient administration, often perceive their votes as inconsequential. This disenchantment can lead to voter inertia, where individuals feel disengaged from the political process altogether. Also, scepticism towards parties and their nominees exacerbates voter apathy. In an era marked by populism, polarisation and political opportunism, many voters struggle to identify with candidates or parties that truly represent their interests. The prevalence of dynastic politics and candidate selection based on nepotism only deepens this distrust. The leaders' conduct leaves much to be desired. Many times, they switch sides making a mockery of the voters' decision. Sometimes even the party the voters voted for joins hands with its arch-rival. In such scenarios, voters have reasons to feel cheated.



As if all this were not enough, there are doubts about the efficacy of the electoral process itself. Many people are given to doubt the machinery employed, including the EVMs. The introduction of EVMs was hailed as a milestone in ensuring transparent and efficient elections. However, over time, scepticism and conspiracy theories surrounding EVMs have proliferated, eroding public trust in the process. Allegations of tampering, malfunctioning machines and lack of transparency in EVMs handling have sowed the seeds of doubt in the minds of voters. Their perceived vulnerability to hacking or manipulation, coupled with the absence of a paper trail for verification, has fuelled apprehensions about the sanctity of elections. In such an environment, restoring faith in electoral procedures becomes imperative to bolster voter confidence. The situation turned so grave that the matter was taken to the Supreme Court. On this front, introducing measures such as VVPATs alongside the EVMs can go a long way in rebuilding voters' trust. Indeed, it would take an effort by the Election Commission as well as the political class to instil a sense of confidence among people that their vote is sacrosanct. By demonstrating integrity and a genuine commitment to serving the public interest, political parties can rebuild the trust with for-now disillusioned voters.

PICTALK



People visit the seafront on a hot summer day, in Mumbai PTI

Upholding the Fourth Estate in digital age



SANTOSH **MATHEW**

In an era marred by misinformation, censorship and threats to journalists, the celebration of press freedom assumes greater significance than ever before

Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a Government without newspapers, or newspapers without a Government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter - Thomas Jefferson



Every year on May 3rd, the world comes together to celebrate World Press Freedom Day, a day dedicated to honouring the fundamental principles of press freedom, defending the independence of the media and paying tribute to journalists who risk their lives to report the truth. In an era marked by misinformation, censorship and threats to journalists worldwide, this day holds more significance than ever. Press freedom is the cornerstone of democracy. It empowers citizens by providing them with access to diverse viewpoints and information, enabling them to make informed decisions. A free press serves as a watchdog, holding Governments and powerful entities accountable for their actions. It acts as a voice for the voiceless, bringing attention to social injustices and human rights violations.

Despite the crucial role they play, journalists around the world face numerous challenges in their pursuit of truth. They encounter threats, harassment and violence, both online and offline. Many journalists risk imprisonment or even death for daring to report on sensitive issues. Censorship, propaganda and attacks on press freedom have become increasingly prevalent, hindering the ability of journalists to fulfil their vital role in society. World Press Freedom Day. Since 1993, it has been observed globally to honour a declaration made by African journalists in Windhoek, Namibia, in 1991. It commemorates press freedom principles and acknowledges journalists' courage. UNESCO awards the Guillermo Cano Prize to those preserving press freedom.

While technology has revolutionised the way information is disseminated, it has also presented new challenges for press freedom. Social media platforms have become powerful tools for spreading information, but they have also been weaponised to spread misinformation and silence dissenting voices. Journalists must navigate through a digital landscape fraught with fake news and online harassment, often at great personal risk. India, home to one of the world's largest and most vibrant media landscapes, has faced scrutiny in recent years regarding its press freedom record. According to the World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), India's ranking has seen fluctuations. In the 2023 index, India was placed at 163 out of 180 countries, indicating significant challenges to press freedom within the country.

"When asked to bend, the media crawled. And when asked to crawl, it cringed."This statement was made by Advani in the context of the Indian media's behaviour during the Emergency period (1975-1977), imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. During this time, press freedom faced severe restrictions, with journalists being arrested, newspapers censored and the Government exerting tight control over media outlets.

> PRESS FREEDOM IS THE CORNERSTONE OF A DEMOCRACY. IT EMPOWERS CITIZENS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH ACCESS TO DIVERSE VIEWPOINTS AND INFORMATION, ENABLING THEM TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

Advani's quote reflects his criticism of how certain sections of the media capitulated to Government pressure and failed to uphold journalistic integrity and independence. It suggests that instead of resisting unjust demands or censorship, some media outlets complied with the Government's wishes, even to the point of degradation. This quote serves as a reminder of the importance of a free and independent press in holding those in power accountable and safeguarding democracy. It highlights the need for journalists to remain vigilant in upholding the principles of press freedom, especially in times of political turmoil or authoritarian rule. British politician Edmund Burke is often credited with coining the term in the late 18th century, referring to the gallery of the House of Commons as the fourth estate, symbolising the press's influence on political affairs. The term "fifth estate" underscores the transformative role of social media in democratising access to information, enabling individuals to participate in public discourse and challenging established institutions and power structures. Social media platforms empower users to share news, opinions and perspectives instantaneously, bypassing traditional gatekeepers of information.

On World Press Freedom Day, we must reaffirm our commitment to defending press freedom and protecting journalists worldwide. Governments must uphold the principles of free speech and ensure the safety of journalists within their borders. Civil society plays a crucial role in advocating for press freedom and holding those who seek to suppress it accountable. Media organisations must continue to strive for independence, transparency and ethical journalism, even in the face of adversity. World Press Freedom Day is also a day to celebrate the courage and resilience of journalists who risk their lives to report the truth. It is a day to honour those who have faced persecution, imprisonment and even death for their commitment to upholding the principles of press freedom. Their dedication serves as a reminder of the invaluable role journalists play in safeguarding democracy and promoting transparency.

(The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

Time to curb fake videos in elections



VIVEK **SHUKLA**

A deepfake video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah sparks outrage during the Lok Sabha election campaign

The ongoing Lok Sabha election campaign has suddenly taken a very ugly turn after a fake video involving Union Home Minister Amit Shah has surfaced. Accusations and counter-accusations are common during campaigns and are not considered harmful. However, it is unacceptable for anyone or political party to resort to using 'deep fake' technology to release fake videos against their opponents to win elections.

In a recent case, the country's Home Minister, Amit Shah, has become a victim of 'deepfake' technology. Amit Shah delivered a speech at a BJP election rally in Siddipet, Medak district of Telangana on April 25. The video of this speech was allegedly tampered with and shared on social media. Fact checks have proven this video to be completely fake.

In this fake video, Amit Shah is allegedly seen announcing the abolishment of reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC). Now, imagine if someone could abolish the reservations provided to the



above-mentioned classes in the country. It is an impossible thing.

In reality, an old video of Amit Shah has been edited, in which he was talking about ending Muslim reservations. In this original video, ST and ST have been added in place of Muslims. However, the question arises as to how the fake video may look exactly like the real one.

Fake videos are created with the help of software. As we know, the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence tools has increased in the market these days. In this technology, the tone and voice of a person are captured with the help of machine learning.

In fact, with the help of new technology, the face of a person who is not even a part of that video is fitted into the video. It is difficult to tell the difference between real and fake in a video manipulated through this technique.

Whoever leader or political party created and released fake videos showing Amit Shah announcing the abolishment of reservations, how serious an act they have committed to spreading hatred in society.

A complaint has been lodged by Prateek Karpe, an office bearer of BJP's Mumbai unit, at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) Cyber Police Station. The complaint states that a deepfake video of Amit Shah was created, posted and shared on the internet, to defame BJP leader Amit Shah. The complainant also requested the police to immediately remove the fake video and register a case against those accused who allegedly shared it to create enmity and hatred among various castes. Based on the complaint, a case has been registered against the social media handle of Maharashtra Youth Congress and 16 others under various sections of the IPC and IT Act at Bandra-Kurla Cyber Police Station in Mumbai.

Of course, technological development has taken place rapidly in the world in the last few decades. The increasing use of digital platforms has made life easier and faster, but along with this benefit, some serious risks related to cyber security are also coming to the fore. With the boundless nature of cyberspace, the threats associated with it and the deceitful methods and tools of cyber criminals, the trend of cyber-attacks is constantly changing.

Apart from this, terrorism and fundamentalism are also finding shelter in cyberspace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Cybersecurity is no longer limited to the digital world.

It has become a matter of national security." Cyberspace has become the new battleground. The Government must take strict action against these elements. Meanwhile, one only hopes that the authorities concerned would curb the menace of deep fake videos sooner rather than later with an iron hand.

(The writer is a senior journalist and author of two books; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMPOWERING VISUAL NARRATIVES

Madam — Apropos the news article, "A picture is worth a thousand words," published on May 1, this is my response. The depiction of sexual violence against women in the media often portrays them as helpless victims, reinforcing stigma and shame. Ankita Anand, a survivor herself, challenged this narrative by spearheading a campaign urging media outlets to rethink their imagery. Instead of portraying women as passive victims, she advocated for images that reflect their resilience and agency. Anand's efforts, along with initiatives like the image bank by the Hri Institute, mark a significant step in reshaping visual narratives around gender-based violence.

Through campaigns like "I Never Ask For It," survivors are reclaiming their stories, using mediums like textiles to challenge societal attitudes towards gender-based violence. These initiatives underscore the transformative power of imagery in shaping public perception and fostering empathy. Ultimately, the portrayal of sexual violence in the media should prioritise dignity and empowerment, amplifying the voices of survivors and challenging ingrained biases. It's a collective responsibility to ensure that visual narratives reflect the strength and resilience of those affected, rather than perpetuating harmful stereotypes.

Rian Mehta | *Chandigarh*

CHINA'S SHADOW POLITICS

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Why is the BJP avoiding China in campaigning?" published on May 1, this is my response. The discourse surrounding China in Indian politics is a delicate dance where words and actions are carefully measured. While the former Army Chief's blunt assessment of China as India's primary threat is refreshing, it also underscores the gravity of the situation. The recent revelations about the India-China confrontation shed light on systemic failures and diplomatic intricacies shaping bilateral relations.

The Government's cautious approach, aiming for diplomatic disengagement while hinting at alternative alliances reflects the complexity of the issue. However, the opacity surrounding critical events like the Kailash Heights incident raises questions about political oversight and decision-making during times of crisis. As the election rhetoric tiptoes around recent confrontations, focusing instead on historical grievances, individuals like Naravane risk overshadowing the valorous efforts. Amidst the political manoeuvring, one thing remains clear: addressing the China challenge requires strategic foresight and resolute action.

Zara Khan | *Mumbai*

DANCE UNITES PEOPLE

Madam — Apropos the news article, "Celebrating the Universal Language of Dance," published on April 30, this is my response. Dance is a lot more than just body movements. It is a universal language that speaks to the soul. By using dance as a tool for change, you can turn your passion into a powerful force for social good. The wonderful aspect of dance is its ability to speak volumes without uttering a single word.

It is a great way to share one's passion for dance, impart new skills and foster a sense of unity. One of the greatest strengths of dance is its finesse and ability to touch people emotionally. Remember, every little step counts when it comes to making a difference through dance. Dance comes in many forms, from ballet to hip-hop and from contemporary to folk. A talented dancer will naturally embrace all these styles and weave them into choreography. This not only enriches the dancer's performance but also acknowledges the global tapestry of dance. A dance community is a great space for everyone, regardless of their age, race and gender. After all, diversity is the lifeblood of creativity. Said John Dryden, the literary critic and an accomplished poet from England: "Dancing is the poetry of the feet."

Ranganathan Sivakumar | *Chennai*

India's semiconductor mission



Apropos the news article, "Semicon ecosystem: A revolution in India," published on May 1, this is my response. The surge of semiconductor development in India marks a pivotal juncture in our technological evolution. As our reliance on technology deepens, so does the significance of these minuscule chips, which power everything from smartphones to space missions. India's strategic vision to foster a robust semiconductor ecosystem is commendable, as evidenced by ambitious projects and partnerships aimed at reducing import dependency and fostering innovation. Initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission and skill development programmes underscore a concerted effort to nurture indigenous talent and infrastructure. Geopolitical shifts, especially amidst the China-US trade tensions, offer a timely opportunity for India to emerge as a preferred destination for semiconductor manufacturing.

However, challenges persist, particularly in bridging the skill gap and accessing advanced technology. Collaborations with global leaders and initiatives to attract talent back to India are steps in the right direction. The road ahead is promising, with India poised to not only meet its self-sufficiency goals but also emerge as a global leader in semiconductor innovation, contributing significantly to economic growth.

Advait Rao | *Bengaluru*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRST COLUMN

THE ROLE OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

The mastery of emotions is a pivotal factor in shaping success and fulfilment



SAKSHI **SETHI**

In a busy world, as individuals navigate through various personal and professional challenges, their ability to understand and manage emotions plays a critical role in determining success, well-being and overall fulfilment. It is the emotions that shape how individuals interact, communicate, lead and innovate, thereby ultimately driving organisational success and fostering a positive work culture. Often it is found that much of an individual's behaviour is the result of emotions. However, these emotions are not a great guide to how one should behave in challenging situations. That is why identifying and working through them helps make better decisions. Feelings and needs are intertwined and knowing one helps an individual understand the other. it is the feelings that are the gateway into what health needs are thereby, promoting the individual to take appropriate action and enabling the self to grow and heal. If one is not in touch with their feelings, one may end up not knowing what they need which may further lead to indecision or emotional outbursts and the same is being faced in today's scenario be it the corporate world or the world of education.

The importance of emotional intelligence cannot be overstated in this fast-paced and interconnected world. At the workplace, what forms the utmost need is the combination of self-awareness, emotional intelligence, effective communication and a supportive work environment. By implementing such strategies, organisations can foster a culture where employees feel empowered to manage their emotions positively, leading to increased productivity, job satisfaction and overall well-being. Emotional intelligence positively correlates with job satisfaction. Employees with higher emotional intelligence are more satisfied with their jobs, as it fosters purpose, belonging and commitment.



Employees with high emotional intelligence excel in interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution and adaptability, while emotionally intelligent leaders inspire trust, motivate teams and cultivate a positive work environment. By promoting emotional well-being, organisations optimise employee performance and achieve better business outcomes. Recognising the importance of emotional well-being, organisations implement initiatives to support employees' mental health be it wellness programmes, counselling services or flexible work arrangements. Stress-reducing activities, workload management, work-life balance and emotional validation can reduce absenteeism, turnover and healthcare costs, promoting a healthier and more resilient workforce.

Organisations should look for silver linings or alternative perspectives that can help reframe the situation in a more positive light, for emotionally intelligent employees can bounce back from failures, learn from setbacks and thrive in the face of uncertainty. By practicing self-compassion, focusing on strengths and investing in ongoing learning and skill development to enhance competence and confidence, can an individual effectively manage challenging emotions in the workplace and foster a more positive and productive work environment.

Remember, a workplace that acknowledges and supports the emotional needs of employees can promote mental health, reduce stress and prevent burnout. Emotions are not only inevitable but the most essential ingredient in the workplace. Recognising them and then cultivating them can lead to a more engaged, collaborative and resilient workforce which will ultimately contribute to the organisation's success and sustainability.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

AFSPA repeal: A step towards 'Naya Kashmir'



ABHINAV **NARAYAN**

Amit Shah's proposal to repeal AFSPA in J&K could restore normalcy, but it must consider the broader implications and evolving security of the region



Recently, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Centre will consider the removal of AFPSA in J&K. This statement assumes significance as it reflects the Government's vision towards J&K and most importantly Prime Minister's promise of Naya Kashmir. Soon, after the Lok Sabha elections, the focus will be panned towards J&K as the Union Territory is scheduled to go for polls in September this year. After abrogating article 370, the Government seems to turning towards solving another long-standing conundrum in J&K- AFSPA. At the security and strategic level, this attempt will accelerate the cleaning of Pakistan's propaganda by cleaning up their psychological warfare designs in J&K and will provide full throttle for holistic development. Before the Government sets its approach, it must see the bigger picture first.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act gives sweeping powers to armed forces (which also extends to CAPF under Section 2) and most significantly provides them legal immunity for their actions under Section 7 of the act. However, the Supreme Court in 2016 struck down this blanket protection from prosecution. The Supreme Court said "It does not matter whether the victim was a common person or a militant or a terrorist, nor does it matter whether the aggressor was a common person or the state. The law is the same for both and is equally applicable to both". The sweeping powers under Section 4 of the act include

·1, Arrest without warrant,

·2. Fire (After due warning) upon or use other kinds of force even if it causes death, against the person who is acting against law or order in the disturbed area for the maintenance of public order.

·3. To enter and search any premises in order to make such arrests, or to recover any person wrongfully restrained or any arms, ammunition or explosive substances and seize it.

·4. Stop and search any vehicle or vessel reasonably suspected to be carrying such person or weapons. The AFSPA debate stems from two perspectives first is security necessity and second is cases of extrajudicial killings in the Northeast. The most debatable part is the second one which has made this act controversial. In 2004, a thorough review of the act of was done by the Justice Jeevan Reddy Commission which concluded that the act should be repealed and observed that "agitations such as in Manipur and elsewhere are merely the symptoms of a malaise, which goes much deeper" and called on the Government to address the "core issues.". However, the importance of National security somehow gets shadowed by a few cases of misuse of the act.

> THE IMPOSITION OF AFSPA IN THE STATE OR UT ITSELF EXPLAINS THAT THE STATE HAS ALMOST LOST ITS CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION AND WHEN THE STATE LOSES ITS CAPACITY, IT MEANS THAT THE ADVERSARY OR ANY ADVERSE SITUATION WILL SOON GRIP THE STATE, LEADING TO MAYHEM AND A BREAKDOWN OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Call for AFSPA comes under extraordinary situations which if not controlled or mitigated can result in serious consequences from the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990, 1986 Kashmir riots killing 2000 2000 people primarily Hindus, Sopor firings in January 1993 killing 40 people to Bij Behara firings in October 1993 killing 60 people. Such horrifying incidents need stringent measures in place and a certain amount of free pass to operate efficiently. "We feel that by revoking special legal provisions, which are in place here, definitely our operational capabilities will be compromised," General Officer Command (GOC) of Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain said in 2011. To deal with a situation that is spiralling out day by day in a state requires effective operational dominance over the adversary which can only be possible if armed forces can freely operate.

The imposition of AFSPA in the state or UT itself explains that the state has almost lost its capacity to deal with the situation and when the state loses its capacity then it means that the adversary or any adverse situation will soon grip the state leading to mayhem and breakdown of national security. Such situations of breakdowns are not ordinary and demand extreme measures and interventions to normalise and any constraints in intervention will affect the normalisation process therefore to let "normalisation" progress an effective emergency response mechanism is required which AFSPA provides. A call for the removal of AFPSA should only come when the security environment is significantly improved or secured as hurried removal might bring back the old situation. The case of a fresh wave of radicalisation in 2018 in J&K after the killing of terror poster boy Burhan Wani is one incidence where a cautious decision must be made to decide the removal of AFSPA.

AFSPA is not immune; it has its limitations and misuses. For example, the Nagaland case in 2021 of killing innocent 14 civilians or the 1995 Kohima Massacre where 16th Rasthtriya Rifiles fired upon civilians mistaking the sound of the tyre bursting for a bomb attack killing 7 and injuring 36. The free pass or the freeness in the name of operational efficiency or capabilities has also led to some serious consequences which are eroding the primary objective of the act. The AFSPA Act is in place to mitigate the extreme situation in the state and to aggravate it. Such incidents aggravate the situation and further complicate the situation in a state. Therefore, these immunities either required a removal or needed a proper check to put caution in the exercise of powers by the armed forces which later was done by the Supreme Court in 2016.

AFSPA cannot stay for long as extraordinary or exceptional situations are temporary and once under control, AFSPA could be withdrawn. If it goes beyond necessity, then AFSPA's presence would hinder the normalisation process. The normalisation process does not only include fighting with the adversary it also includes the restoration of a peaceful and harmonious environment. A state of being normal is only when the state begins to function without any constraints, fear and anxiety. AFSPA being in place distorts the state of being "normal" and rather heightens the anxiety and fear which in the long run affects the democratic ecosystem and governance in a state that might further lead to socio-political instability if overlooked. The case of J&K ever since the removal of Article 370 has significantly improved there was a 66 per cent drop in terror cases in J&K. The union territory has also seen a significant drop in terror recruitment under Army's Operation Sahi Raasta. According to reports only seven youth joined terror groups last year.

As the security environment in J&K is significantly improved, a call for the removal of AFSPA is well reasoned. Now, the CAPF presence would easily tackle any security situation if arises as the substantial threat of terror now seems to be subsiding. Like the Government withdrew AFSPA from Punjab in 1997 it should soon take a call on J&K as well, though few CAPF presence can be there considering bordering areas the operation of the act must be withdrawn.

The removal of AFSPA will facilitate and exhort confidence and peace among people. Most importantly, eliminates the sense of fear and accelerates the pace of normalisation and developmental processes at socio-political levels. The Prime Minister's promise in Naya Kashmir lies beyond the security to society and politics which will only strengthen after the removal of AFPSA.

(The author is an Advocate based out of New Delhi, views are personal)

Engaging in the theatrics of India's electoral carnival

In the realm of political theatre, candidates await their turn in the merry-go-round of power, setting the stage with tension and anticipation



RAJDEEP **PATHAK**

In anticipation of the 18th Lok Sabha elections in India, political parties have fervently engaged in pre-electoral activities, including candidate selection, issue advocacy and public discourse—all these, much before the official announcement by the Election Commission (scheduled from April 19 to June 1, 2024). Of particular significance is the burgeoning cohort of 18 million first-time voters, who observe the electoral spectacle with keen interest as parties vie for their support by proffering ambitious pledges. Within this theatrical milieu, the composition of the Lok Sabha, comprising 543 parliamentary constituencies nationwide, assumes paramount importance. Each constituency plays a pivotal role in electing a singular representative, who assumes the mantle of voicing their constituents' concerns within the Lower House of Parliament. Thus, amidst the cacophony of democratic fervour, the formation of the (18th) Lok Sabha emerges as a focal point, embodying the democratic ethos and the intricacies of electoral representation within India's diverse polity - as we witness this chaotic carnival (read dance) of democracy.

Now picture this: Rallies echoing with rehearsed oratory; meetings buzzing with the monotonous drone of 'scripted' discourse; and the landscape littered with towering hoardings and captivating advertisements—all vying for attention like desperate contestants in a reality TV show. Each candidate, eagerly awaits their fate in this grandiose spectacle, hoping to shine bright enough to avoid being relegated to the shadows of political obscurity. But, as they say, once a politician, always a politician.

This grand orchestra of democracy will see nearly a billion people herded like cattle into over a million polling booths, expected to cast their votes in a choreographed charade to determine the future Government.

In the realm of electoral politics, politicians assume the role of adept illusionists, skillfully concocting promises tailored to captivate the electorate. Through artful rhetoric, they conjure visions of development and inclusivity, appealing to voters' emotions despite the potential disparity with reality. Parties engage in a theatrical spectacle, donning elaborate garb and competing for attention with promises of infrastructure, welfare and prosperity. However, voters' decisions ultimately reflect both their susceptibility and the manipulative prowess of politicians. This electoral charade underscores the complex interplay between rhetoric, perception and voter agency in contemporary democratic processes. Here past performances matter.

Enter the Narendra Modi Government, riding high on the waves of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' with a later addition of 'Sabka Prayas'. Since 2014, the Modi administration has been pulling rabbits out of hats faster than a magician—from electrifying villages to construction of toilets across the country in a bid to make India defecation-free, to digitising governance (Digital India), Startup India and standing up for the people and the world during emergencies like Covid19. Of course, like any good magic show, there's always a healthy dose of criticism to keep things interesting - after all, what's a political spectacle without a little touch of drama? India's diplomatic endeavours have bolstered its global stature, marked by strategic alliances with major powers and initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, etc., fostering collaboration in trade, technology and sustainable development. Concurrently, domestic developments such as Ayushman Bharat for healthcare, Saubhagya for rural electrification, Jan-Dhan Yojana for financial inclusion and so on, underscore efforts toward inclusive progress. Nonetheless, socio-economic disparities persist, emblematic of the ongoing challenges amidst India's democratic evolution on the world stage.

The Indian electoral process is characterised by extravagant rallies, serving as vibrant showcases of democracy where ordinary citizens are swept into the extraordinary theatre of politics. Whether attendees arrive voluntarily or are transported en masse, these gatherings epitomise the essence of democratic engagement. Amidst a backdrop of waving flags and resonant slogans, the democratic spirit radiates, offering a glimpse of both the triumphs and tribulations of competing political factions. Central to this spectacle, is the tireless efforts of party workers, orchestrating the mobilisation of supporters for these occasions.

One cannot forget that in this grand symphony, the Election Commission stands as the linchpin, ensuring the sanctity of free and fair elections despite recurrent criticisms. Imagine the stalwart veterans anxiously clinging to their phones, praying for one more display of their experience in the political limelight, while the current faces (read chosen MPs) pace like restless lions in the corridors of authority, fearing either the sweet embrace of reselection or the bitter sting of rejection.

But there's nothing to fear. For in the unpredictable world of politics, one never knows when the pendulum of fortune will favourably swing back. So, let us Vote so that the elected parties work to fulfil their manifesto.

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

'JAGAN KOSAM SIDDHAM'

YSRCP launches final door-to-door campaign

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



With elections just 10 days away, the ruling YSR Congress party, which has been leading the ferocious 'Siddham' campaign across the state, launched the party's final door-to-door electioneering campaign termed 'Jagan Kosam Siddham' on Thursday.

Launching the campaign YSRCP General Secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy stated, "We have launched our new campaign, 'Jagan Kosam Siddham,' where party volunteers will visit door to door with our collateral and manifesto, stating that we have completed 99% manifesto promises earlier and we will do that again if voted to power."

The campaign aims to take the promises made under YSRCP's manifesto - Navaratnalu plus to all 1.67 crore households through this visionary door-to-door initiative.

As part of this campaign, party Members will personally visit every household, delivering Jagananna's vision directly to the common people. The same message will be taken to the 47,000 booths set up by the party across the state.

Through this campaign, ordinary citizens will also be declared as the Star Campaigners of Jagananna, reaffirming his belief that they are his backbone when he stands unwavering in front of his rivals.

Speaking further about making commoners the star campaigners, Sajjala stated, 'We have selected 12 commoners as our star campaigners as Jagan Mohan Reddy believes that people are his star campaigners. While other parties choose Cinema heroes as their star campaigners, we have chosen people of the state. These star campaigners will be campaigning for the party and would spread the word on how Jagan Mohan Reddy is working to uplift the society.'

Now, YSRCP's NRI wing embarks on 10-day bus yatra

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



The YSRCP's NRI wing is primed for action in the urban hubs of Andhra Pradesh, as the State braces for the upcoming polls in the next 10 days. Unlike the conventional approach of overseas support from other political parties' NRI wings, YSRCP's representatives are making a bold statement by gathering on the ground, alongside the people of Andhra Pradesh, to champion CM Jagan's vision and campaign fervently for the party.

A group of around 123 supporters from diverse global backgrounds has converged on their native soil to bolster CM Jagan's bid for a second term. Despite the Opposition's attempts to peddle a narrative of 'No Development,' these individuals have traversed continents to dismantle false propaganda and showcase the tangible impact of CM Jagan's governance. They will be highlighting his policies and initiatives that have propelled the state's development, emphasizing the importance of self-reliance and sustainable growth.

The NRI wing representatives have embarked on a 10-day tour across the State, traversing all three regions aboard four buses as part of the 'Why Needs Jagan' campaign. This initiative will focus on urban areas such as Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Nellore, Rajampet, Tirupati, Kamalapuram, and Anantapur.

Commenting on the commencement of the bus yatra, YSRCP Global NRI Convener Venkat Medapati stated, "The primary objective of this bus yatra is to educate the public about the transformative impact of CM Jagan's policies and programmes, driving the state towards progress and development."

He further remarked, "We, the NRIs and intellectuals, have taken the initiative to organise this bus yatra to endorse CM Jagan in the major cities of our state. CM Jagan's focus on development, welfare, industrial growth, investments, job creation, and establishment of industries in every district has made a significant impact. We are here on the ground to share these success stories with the public. Under CM Jagan's leadership, the children of our state are assured of a brighter future. Over the past 59 months, CM Jagan has championed social justice by providing equal opportunities to individuals from all walks of life.

This is a feat achievable only by CM Jagan."

During the bus yatra, party representatives will actively participate in campaigns alongside MLA/MP candidates, conduct meetings with people from various sectors, and engage with key stakeholders.

28,591 people chose to 'vote from home' mode: CEO

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has implemented 'vote from home' for the first time in the ongoing general elections, and as many as 28,591 senior citizens have chosen home voting out of the 7,28,484 eligible voters in the State, said Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Kumar Meena. Of them, 2,11,257 persons are above 85 years and 5,17,227 have a minimum of 40 per cent disability, he said.

The process is to be completed by May 8

Addressing the press people at the CEO's office at the Velagapudi secretariat on Thursday, Meena said that the home voting process has begun in some districts where the printing of ballot papers was completed. A total of 28,591 voters have been given the option to cast votes at home. Of them, 14,577 are old people and 14,014 are disabled. The home voting process should be completed by May 8, he added.

Rahul to visit AP for campaign

Manickam Tagore says Cong will form government at the Centre, repeating 2004 results

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



AP Congress in-charge Manickam Tagore addressing a press conference at the Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday (Photo: **Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar**)

Congress leader Manickam Tagore, who oversees the party's affairs in Andhra Pradesh, has announced that former All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Rahul Gandhi will be visiting Andhra Pradesh to participate in the election campaign. He said the specific details of Rahul Gandhi's campaign tour will be announced in one or two days, after holding discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) leaders.

Manickam Tagore was in Vijayawada to discuss the election campaign with the party leaders and candidates. Along with AICC secretary CD Meyyappan, he addressed the media at the party office at Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Tagore expressed confidence that the Congress party will form the government at the Centre repeating the 2004 results, and Rahul Gandhi will assume the Prime Minister post. He believes the Congress party-led INDIA bloc can win 60 per cent of seats.

He stated that in Andhra Pradesh, the Congress is expected to achieve better results. The party is contesting 158 Assembly seats under INDIA, while CPI, CPM, and CPI (ML) are contesting the remaining seats.

Tagore also alleged that the NDA-backed YSRCP and TDP are making money through corporate politics in the State. Both parties have been allotted Rs. 5,000 crore for the election expenses.

Corporate giants Adani and Ambani are supporting the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance and YSRCP. YSRCP has allotted a Rajya Sabha seat for the Ambani family, he alleged.

He criticised the election manifestos of both the YSRCP and TDP-JSP-BJP alliance since they did not mention the Special Category Status (SCS) for Andhra Pradesh. The Congress, if elected, will grant SCS to Andhra Pradesh for 10 years. The Congress has also promised to provide four per cent reservation for Muslim minorities.

Manickam Tagore challenged TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu to make this promise.

He also expressed happiness that the registrations for the Maha Lakshmi scheme will start soon in Andhra Pradesh. This scheme had received a good response from the people of his constituency Virudhunagar, he said.

He commented that TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu is the trusted son of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while YSRCP chief and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is an adopted son. TDP is backed by Adani, and YSRCP is backed by Ambani. However, there is no difference between YSRCP and TDP, he alleged. So, he urged the people to vote for the Congress-led INDIA bloc.

DC urges vigilance ahead of elections

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



District Election Officer and Collector Dr A. Mallikarjuna highlighted the necessity for officials to be fully aware and courageous to facilitate seamless proceedings. He provided instructions to officials to comply with election conduct regulations and execute their responsibilities efficiently. Addressing a training programme held on Thursday, the Collector directed Resource Sector Officers (RSOs) to prioritize infrastructure development at polling centers and take stringent measures to prevent errors.

Highlighting the crucial role of sectoral officers, the Collector stressed the importance of their vigilance and communication with Polling Officers (POs) and Assistant Polling Officers (APOs). He mandated the identification and swift action on infrastructure requirements at the district's 1991 polling centers, including provisions for separate queues for different voter demographics, shading arrangements, and accessibility aids such as wheelchairs.

Moreover, Dr Mallikarjuna emphasized the importance of meticulous planning regarding electrical arrangements and sanitation facilities at polling centers. He urged for the commencement of mock polling at 5:00 am on polling day and the timely completion of technical procedures. In light of 33 candidates contesting in the Visakhapatnam parliamentary constituency, special arrangements were recommended at each polling center, including the provision of adequately sized tables to accommodate voting equipment. Officials were instructed to wear identification cards, and measures were outlined to counter misinformation on social media platforms.

Joint Collector K. Mayur Ashok, District Revenue Officer K. Mohan Kumar, and other officials participated in the comprehensive training session, which included live demonstrations on EVM usage and addressed queries from attendees. The conference, attended by Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Sectoral Officers, and Route Officers, focused on various topics including the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Awareness drive lays emphasis on voting in democratic process

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) conducted a voter awareness programme today at BVK College to strengthen democratic participation and to highlight the significance of voting, especially among the youth. Prof. DVR Murthy, the Dean of Examination Departments at Andhra University, stressed the importance of upholding the right to vote bestowed upon citizens by the constitution. He particularly emphasised the role of the youth, urging those above 18 years of age to register as voters and actively engage in the upcoming elections. Murthy cited statistics, noting the exponential increase in voter participation from 1962 to the present, underlining the responsibility that comes with the privilege of voting in a democratic system.

Renowned sociologist Palamuru Seshamamba echoed Murthy's sentiments, highlighting that voting empowers the youth to shape their future by wielding administrative power. Seshamamba encouraged not only voting but also the dissemination of awareness about its importance among peers and communities. Dr PLK. Murthy, the National General Secretary of PRSI, shed light on the disparity in voting percentages between rural and urban areas, attributing lower participation in urban regions to higher levels of education. He emphasized that voting is a fundamental responsibility and called upon all citizens to actively engage in the democratic process.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including PRSI South India Vice President US Sharma, Visakhapatnam PRSI Chairman MKVL Narasimham, and National Working Committee members NV Narasimham, Vijayaprasad, and Vagdevi Satyanarayana. Additionally, spiritualist Rajasekhar and BVK College Principal T. Govinda Rao also participated.

Collector inspects 'vote from home'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna District Collector DK Balaji, on Thursday, inspected the home voting process for Divyangajan and those above 85 years. The inspection was carried out in Pedana, Gudlavalleru, Unguturu, and Pamidimukkala mandals in the district.

During the surprise check, he advised the officials to take declarations from the voters and ensure the secrecy of votes. He also visited the election strong rooms in these places to observe the EVM commissioning.

Collector Balaji personally assisted the bedridden voters in casting their votes during the inspection.

He mentioned that the Election Commission of India (ECI) arranged the vote-from-home facility for those who are unable to go to polling booths to cast their votes. He urged them to make good use of their voting rights. He appreciated the home voting teams for collecting data and visiting the voters' homes to assist them.

After the inspection, Balaji visited the strong rooms in various Assembly constituencies such as Gannavaram, Pedana, and Gudivada, and gave instructions to the respective Returning Officers.



Krishna District Collector DK Balaji assisting a senior citizen in casting her vote at Gudlavalleru in Gudivada constituency on Thursday

Book train tickets with ease using UTS app

Rlys has relaxed distance restriction, facilitating more convenience to unreserved passengers

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Railways has relaxed the restriction on distance for purchasing tickets through the 'UTS' mobile app, giving a huge relief to rail commuters. Now, unreserved tickets can be purchased from any place beyond five meters from the station premises without any distance restriction or outer limit.



UTS mobile application was introduced by the Railways to provide a hassle-free and convenient ticketing system for passengers purchasing unreserved tickets, and the response has been really good. Since its introduction, the number of people utilising the app has been steadily increasing. To further encourage the rail passengers to use the app, the Railways has relaxed the distance restriction facilitating more convenience to the unreserved passengers to use the digital purchase option. The previous outer distance restriction limit for using the app to purchase unreserved paperless tickets, which was 20 km and 50 km for suburban and non-suburban stations, has been removed. The rail users can purchase tickets from any place without any distance restriction.

Generally, a huge section of rail passengers travel by purchasing unreserved tickets, for whom UTS app is a more convenient option to obtain hassle-free train tickets. The app works on smart phones with Android, iOS and Windows versions of operating system and the same can be downloaded free of cost.

The main benefits of this app are that passengers can purchase paperless unreserved journey, platform and season tickets through their mobile as per their convenience without standing in the queue at booking counters. The payment can be made through R- Wallet, traditional wallets or through internet banking.

Narendra A Patil, DRM, Vijayawada Division, has requested the rail users in general and passengers travelling in unreserved compartments in particular to book tickets through the app.

Three-tier system to regulate liquor sales

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Prohibition and Excise Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh, Vineet Brijlal, has announced the implementation of a three-tier system to regulate liquor sales in the State in the run-up to the general elections. The department is taking measures to prevent the distribution of liquor, as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), he said.

The Commissioner has stated that a three-tier security system will be established at all depots, bars, and clubs in the State. The department will also keep a close eye on liquor production at distilleries and breweries through Closed Circuit Cameras and strictly monitor the supply of liquor from these facilities to depots, shops, and bars, he said in a press release here on Thursday.

He added that to prevent illegal transportation of liquor, the department will work with the Special Bureau of Enforcement and conduct raids. A 24x7 Command Control Room has been established at the APSBCL headquarters in Vijayawada to register complaints from the public on illegal transportation and storage of liquor. Control rooms have been set up in all 26 districts under the supervision of an Inspector rank officer to prevent such activities, he explained.

Meanwhile, he stated that these measures are aimed at ensuring transparent and fair regulation of liquor sales during the general elections. Around 31,992 litres of duty-paid liquor worth Rs.2.49 crore has been seized, and 181 people have been arrested in 204 cases. SEB has registered 30,840 cases and seized 8,126 litres of arrack, 22,624 litres of liquor, and arrested 27,174 people in those cases, he explained.

RINL's PULSE INITIATIVE

Empowering young minds for innovative solutions

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



In a bid to foster innovation and problem-solving prowess among its young workforce, the Management Services department of RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, conducted a one-day interaction cum training programme at the Learning & Development Centre (L&DC). This initiative centered around the acronym PULSE, which stands for "Professional Utility by Leadership Support & Encouragement."

Fifteen teams comprising 55 young engineers and professionals from various departments of the Visakhapatnam steel plant actively participated in the program. The objective was clear: to instigate creative thinking, promote a culture of teamwork, and empower these budding managers to become catalysts for change within their departments. PULSE operates as a collective of young officers within the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, dedicated to scrutinizing departmental issues and brainstorming viable solutions. Regular meetings are convened to discuss challenges and devise strategies for improvement, drawing from both personal experiences and informal interactions.

Under the PULSE scheme, notable success was achieved in the Light and Medium Merchant Mill (LMMM) -1 project. The indigenization of lubricants for Furnace Discharge Roller Bearings resulted in substantial cost savings, exemplifying the initiative's tangible impact. Speaking during inaugural function Atul Bhatt, CMD of RINL applauded the implementation of the Think Tanks policy within RINL, emphasizing the vital role of such initiatives in the current landscape. He lauded the active participation of teams in undertaking innovative projects aimed at cost reduction within RINL. Dr Suresh Chandra Pandey, Director (Personnel), RINL, and other high-ranking officials graced the occasion.

Polls: Focus on bank deposits and withdrawals

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



State Election Special Expenditure Observer Neena Nigam has directed the election expenditure observers that they should concentrate on suspicious and unprecedented banking transactions. Also, she asked them to exchange information speedily and cooperate in enforcement.

Neena Nigam held a review meeting along with NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao, Police Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna, District Observers V Justin Sourabh Sharma and Madan Kumar, and Assistant Collector Shubham Nokhwal at the collectorate on Thursday.

Firstly, the Collector gave a PowerPoint presentation on the district. He told her about the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee giving political advertisements, pre-certification and other activities. He also presented a detailed note about the election seizures from March 16 to May 1. Later, he elaborated on the grievances received and solutions.

Commissioner PHD Ramakrishna explained the working of C-Visil, voter helpline, NGSP, call centre, social media activities, implementation of the Election Code of Conduct and checking at the inter-State and inter-district check-posts.

Speaking on the occasion, Neena Nigam said that as per the directions from the ECI, expenditure observers should focus on candidates' election expenses. Officials must concentrate on banking transactions, postal orders, UPI payments and other money-related activities.

Daniel Radcliffe saddened with JK Rowling's stance on transgender rights



Daniel Radcliffe has expressed sadness about author JK Rowling's attitude toward transgender rights, telling an interviewer that he has not communicated with the *Harry Potter* creator for years. Daniel Radcliffe, who portrayed *Harry Potter* in the enormously popular film adaptations of Rowling's best-selling books, has found himself at odds with Rowling over the contentious question of gender identification.

JK Rowling has been accused of transphobia for prioritising biological sex over gender identity, but Radcliffe has for long advocated for LGBTQ organisations that protect the rights of trans women.

"It makes me really sad, ultimately," Daniel Radcliffe told.

"Because I do look at the person that I met, the times that we met, the books that she wrote, and the world that she created, and all of that is to me so deeply empathic."

Gender identification has become a divisive political issue in several nations, including Rowling's own Scotland and the United States, where Radcliffe is now appearing in a Broadway play.

J.K. Rowling has been at the forefront, claiming that transgender rights threaten women. She has raised concerns that transgender women entering female-designated changing rooms, restrooms, or prisons causes harm.

Travis Knight to direct *Master of the Universe*



The live-action movie adaptation of the *Masters of the Universe* series is moving forward at Amazon MGM Studios, with Travis Knight coming aboard to direct the project. *Masters of the Universe* is based on Mattel's famous toy line that spawned a successful animated TV series as well as a 1987 film. According to entertainment news outlet Variety, Amazon, MGM Studios, and Mattel Films have set the project for worldwide theatrical release on June 5, 2026. Knight, best known for directing *Kubo and the Two Strings* and *Bumblebee*, will helm the movie from a screenplay by Chris Butler, following initial drafts written by David Callaham and Aaron and Adam Nee.

The project was earlier being developed at Netflix, but the streaming service dropped it in July this year. The streamer reportedly spent nearly USD 30 million in development costs over two years for the project, which was meant to star Kyle Allen as Prince Adam, aka He-Man. The story revolves around the warrior He-Man, the only hope for a magical land called Eternia. Dolph Lundgren featured in the original movie as the title character, while Frank Langella played the villainous Skeleto. The movie will introduce a 10-year-old Prince Adam, who crashed to Earth in a spaceship and was separated from his magical Power Sword—the only link to his home on Eternia, according to the official plotline. "After tracking it down almost two decades later, Prince Adam is whisked back across space to defend his home planet against the evil forces of Skeletor. But to defeat such a powerful villain, Prince Adam will first need to uncover the mysteries of his past and become He-Man, the most powerful man in the universe," it read.

Hyderabad's Sudha Reddy to attend the Met Gala 2024

Ahead of the Met Gala 2024, philanthropist and businesswoman Sudha Reddy has aligned creative forces with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This exciting collaboration will allow her to lend her valuable support to the museums mission of celebrating art's power to inspire and connect people across cultures, further reflecting the museum's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and global engagement.

In other exciting news, Reddy is also confirmed to grace the extravagant gala this year, which will be held on May 6 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and will be one of the handpicked few Indians to watch out for on the red carpet! Her attendance marks a much-awaited return, following her captivating 2021 debut in a sophisticated custom-designed Falguni Shane Peacock, which solidified her status as a global fashion icon. All eyes will be on Reddy to see how she interprets the Met Gala's 2024 theme of *The Garden of Time* for her second showcase.The Met Gala is a star-studded event that not only celebrates fashion but also raises critical funds to support the Costume Institute's mission.

As director of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, she skillfully navigates the business world, showcasing her leadership and acumen. Yet, her influence extends far beyond the boardroom.

A devoted mother and wife, Reddy also dedicates herself to extensive philanthropic work through the Sudha Reddy Foundation, UNICEF, the Global Gift Foundation, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the Fight Hunger Foundation, and Action Against Hunger. This unwavering commitment to social causes, particularly those empowering women and children, solidifies her reputation as a multifaceted leader who makes a significant impact on the world!





Panchayat returns with season 3

Following the first two seasons, *Panchayat S3* takes an interesting turn with fresh challenges and conflicts within the village of Phulera, entangling the lives of the characters. The new season will bring back the series' endearing cast, including Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta, Raghubir Yadav, Faisal Malik, Chandan Roy, and Sanvikaa. Created by The Viral Fever, *Panchayat S3* is directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra and written by Chandan Kumar. The new season will premiere in Hindi, with dubs in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, on May 28.

The streaming platform engaged its fans in classic Phulera style to unveil the launch date for the highly anticipated series. With each *lauki* plucked on the microsite, fans inched closer to the release date reveal. Billboards were adorned with Phulera's iconic *laukis* building up to the date announcement, while the online activity was live.

Over three days, nearly one million fans enthusiastically clicked through Phulera's finest, ultimately unveiling the series launch date.

"We are excited to bring another season of laughter and warmth to our audiences with *Panchayat S3*. This season, audiences can anticipate even more hilarious antics and heartfelt moments as our characters dive deeper into the quirks and complexities of life in Phulera," said Vijay Koshy, President, The Viral Fever. "We first premiered *Panchayat* back in 2020, and it has been truly an incredible journey, with audiences from not only India but from around the world showering their love and appreciation for this rural life-based comedy drama that has managed to captivate the hearts of audiences with its simplicity and authenticity."

Dive into an unknown chapter of India's Independence with *Freedom at Midnight*

Sony LIV and Emmy Entertainment have joined forces to bring audiences the highly anticipated series, *Freedom at Midnight*. This riveting political drama delves into India's fight for independence, weaving together untold tales and critical moments from the partition era. With a stellar cast including Sidhant Gupta, Chirag Vohra, and Rajendra Chawla, who embody iconic figures like Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the series promises to captivate viewers globally.

The story is penned by Abhinandan Gupta, Adwitiya Kareng Das, Gundeep Kaur, Divya Nidhi Sharma, Revanta Sarabhai, and Ethan Taylor.

Talking about his dream project, *Freedom at Midnight*, director Nikkhil Advani said, "The show has been a result of unwavering dedication and relentless determination, sparked by a simple conversation with Danish Khan about the iconic book. This show is a profound tribute to the luminaries of our freedom movement—Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—who courageously led the charge for independence."

Further, he added, "So many of us know the major milestones of the sacrifices and struggles that led to the independence of India. Dominique Lappiere and Larry Collin's goal was access to Dickie Mountbatten's diaries and notes. To the man himself. And so in between all those major milestones, we have some very personal accounts that make that time come alive, and the moments sing with truth. We have tried to capture that. Danish Sir and Saugata's only mantra has been "authenticity," and we have followed it blindly."



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



SUDOKU

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				9	5		3	8
				1				7
	2			7				3
6			3		1			9
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

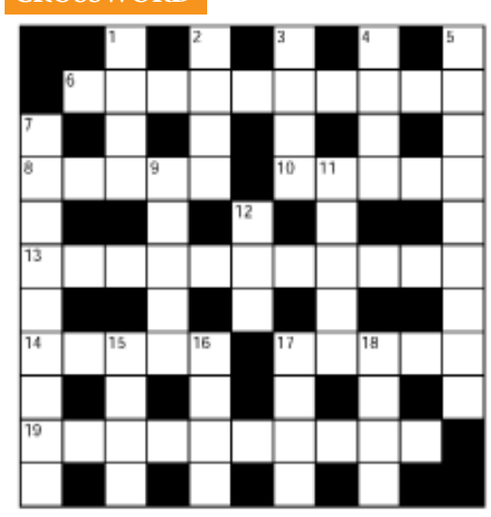
Yesterday's solution

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

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6 Television advertisement
8 Group of eight
10 A black and white animal in China
13 A kind of small glass tube for showing temperatures
14 Time of darkness
17 Comes to a standstill
19 Rang up

DOWN

1 Mislaid
2 Leave out
3 Put paper around something
4 A large African cat
5 A very large seabird
7 Lucky
9 Our planet
11 Watchful, ready for anything that might happen
12 Plaything
15 A very strong wind
16 Adhesive strip
17 Shortly
18 Unlock

SOLUTION

S	P	I	D	E	R		S	P	O	T
A		C				F		A		W
F	A	I	L		P	O	L	I	T	E
E		C		A	R		R		N	
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S		E		P		I		A		Y
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V	I	O	L	I	N		L	I	M	P
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the pioneer
Vijayawada

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Friday
May 3, 2024

‘Ladakh was a haven untouched by commercialism and few dared to venture’

Travelling being a self-discovery for Hyderabadi influencer Shagun Segan, *The Pioneer* connects with him for an exclusive chat with our exclusive Travelogue segment as he embarks on savouring the culture in his every travel.



SUBODHINI PUROHIT

Travel is love, and food is life! Well, this is how the Hyderabadi travel influencer Shagun Segan describes himself. An intrepid traveller, he has embarked on adventures across 36 countries, from the idyllic beaches of Bali to the bustling streets of Singapore, the cultural richness of Vietnam, the scenic landscapes of the Netherlands, and the hospitality of Thailand, among others.

With a passion for exploration and a thirst for cultural immersion, his journey has not only taken him to iconic tourist destinations but also to off-the-beaten-path gems, where he delves deep into local cultures, savours culinary delights, and forges meaningful connections with people from diverse backgrounds.

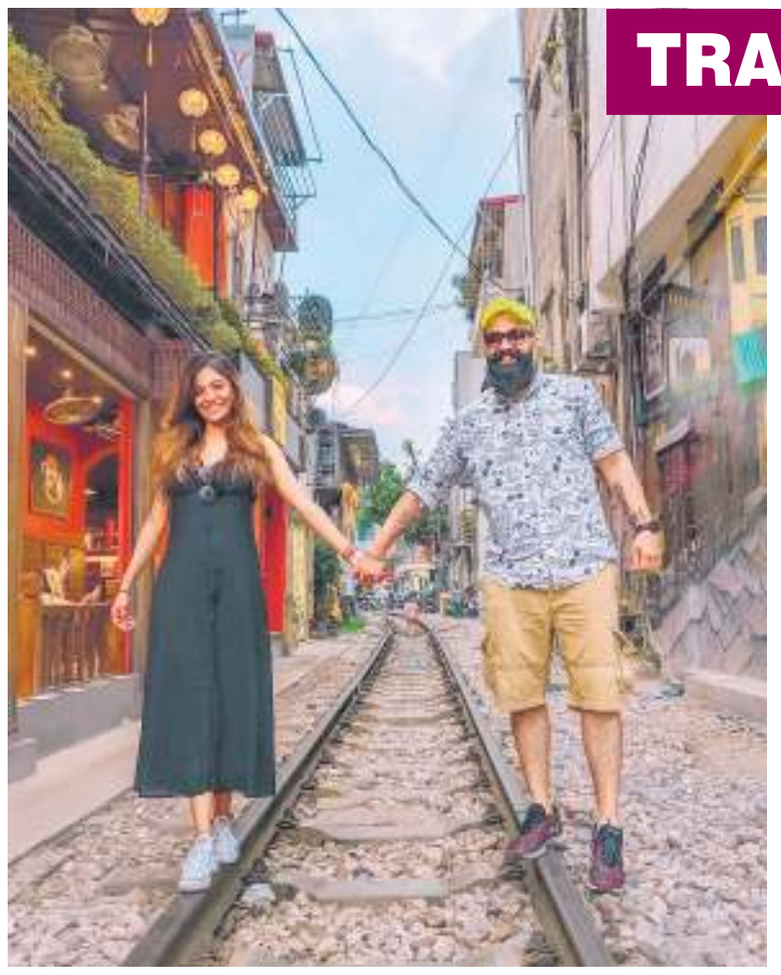
From enriching experiences to invaluable life lessons, he explains, “Travelling is akin to a lifestyle for me, offering a rich tapestry of experiences at every turn. It’s a journey of self-discovery, where each trip, whether big or small, solo or planned, presents an opportunity to understand oneself better and hone one’s planning skills. Through traversing the world’s landscapes and encountering diverse cultures, we glean invaluable lessons about life and humanity. Every adventure is a chance to broaden our perspectives, challenge our comfort zones, and foster personal growth.”

He recently got to travel to the picturesque Bali, which, he says, left him utterly enchanted. Unlike the typical week-long visits, he shares, “I decided to delve deeper into the island’s vast offerings and extended my stay to a month. Bali’s expansive landscape, stretching from the north to the south, offered a plethora of experiences waiting to be explored. Spending ample time allowed me to discover hidden gems, venture to nearby islands, and immerse myself in the vibrant beach culture. Opting to rent a bike proved to be the perfect way to traverse the island’s diverse terrain, granting me the freedom to journey at my own pace. From lush landscapes to pristine shores and coral reefs.”

Gili Trawangan boasted an abundance of natural beauty and thrilling underwater adventures, making it a must-visit destination for him seeking tranquillity and exploration. He reveals, “During my recent trip to Bali, I stumbled upon a hidden gem known as Gili Trawangan. This small island, spanning a mere 15 kilometers, offered a unique experience devoid of bikes or cars. Exploring the island required either walking, taking a horse cart, or cycling, which added to its quaint charm. Despite its small size, Gili Trawangan boasted breathtaking sites ideal for scuba diving and snorkelling enthusiasts.”

But again, in India, his heart yearns to return to Ladakh, a place that captured his soul when he first visited in 2008. “It’s been 16 years since that unforgettable journey, and now I’m eager to witness how Ladakh has evolved. Back then, Ladakh was a haven untouched by commercialism, a destination few dared venture into. Now, as I contemplate returning, I wonder how the landscape has transformed, how the influx of tourism has shaped its identity, and how the spirit of Ladakh endures amidst change.”

He highly recommends a visit to Ladakh in the north, where majestic landscapes and vibrant culture await. Moving towards central India, lesser-explored gems like Orchha, Khajuraho, and Varanasi beckon with their rich history, culinary delights, and cultural heritage beyond spirituality. “The heart of India offers a tapestry of experiences waiting to be uncovered. Venue to the coastal regions; while Goa and the Konkan coast have their charm, don’t miss the pristine beaches of Varkala in Kerala, offering a serene escape and a refreshing perspective on coastal beauty.”



Thailand, according to him, consistently tops the list for ease of travel, thanks to its exceptional tourist infrastructure. “The country is renowned for its unparalleled hospitality and tourist-friendly environment, offering seamless experiences from shopping to sightseeing and transportation. With a well-organised system in place, navigating through Thailand is effortlessly convenient, ensuring a hassle-free journey for visitors.”

Discovering new foods can be a joy, especially if you are a foodie. Each place has its own selection of local and popular dishes. When it comes to eating, travelling offers you a variety of culinary experiences. What’s it with him, we ask and he shares, “I deeply appreciate Turkish cuisine, particularly its emphasis on Mediterranean and Arabian flavours. What truly captivates me is the simplicity of their approach to cooking, where fresh vegetables like potatoes and tomatoes take center stage. Turkish dishes are prepared with minimal seasoning, allowing the ingredients’ natural flavours to shine through. Whether it’s indulging in a succulent Turkish kebab or savouring a refreshing salad, each bite is a celebration of freshness and authenticity. The focus on showcasing the quality of ingredients, rather than masking them with excessive spices or oils, sets Turkish cuisine apart and makes it a culinary delight.”

With extensive travel experience, he has developed a keen sense of caution and awareness, particularly in certain European cities like Paris and Rome. While these vibrant metropolises offer incredible experiences, he reveals, “They also pose potential risks, especially in crowded areas where pickpocketing is common. Additionally, exploring lesser-known lanes or rural areas at night can increase the likelihood of encountering shady individuals or falling victim to theft. Vigilance is key in navigating these situations, understanding the areas to avoid, and maintaining a heightened sense of awareness to safeguard against potential risks.”

Engaging deeply with local communities is a cornerstone of his travel approach, eschewing whirlwind tours for immersive stays of 10–15 days in one destination. “This allows me to connect with locals and learn about their lifestyles, preferences, and historical perspectives, offering insights into their daily routines, favourite spots, and cultural heritage. Bali, with its stunning landscapes and welcoming atmosphere, exemplifies this spirit of hospitality, where conversations with locals reveal their genuine desire for visitors to experience the beauty and warmth of their island home,” he shares on a concluding note.

The Broken News Season 2 raises the stakes!

TANISHA SAXENA

Director: Vinay Waikul **Writer:** Sambit Mishra
Cast: Sonali Bendre, Jaideep Ahlawat, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Faisal Rashid, Indraneil Sengupta, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, Taaruk Raina, Akshay Oberoi, Suchitra Pillai, and Geetika Vidya Ohlyan **Production:** BBC Studios and Zee5
Streaming on: Zee5 **Rating:** 3

Review



PLOT:

Season 2 of *The Broken News* picks up right where Season 1 left off. Radha Bhargava (Shriya Pilgaonkar) finds herself behind bars, while Dipankar Sanyal (Jaideep Ahlawat) of Josh 24x7 dominates the airwaves with his sensationalist brand of journalism. During her time in jail, Radha comes to a stark realisation: if she wants to clean up the system, she must be willing to get her hands dirty.

Meanwhile, Amina Qureshi (played by Sonali Bendre) is left to fight for the truth all on her own. As the stakes get personal this season, the battle between Radha and Dipankar takes center stage, driving the narrative forward with intensity and intrigue.

THE HIGHLIGHT:

The Broken News fearlessly delves into contentious subjects such as electoral bonds, a clandestine organisation exploiting big data to compromise the privacy of countless ordinary Indians, and power-hungry, corrupt ministers. It's commendable how the show seamlessly tackles these pressing issues.

The performances in the show are truly remarkable. Jaideep Ahlawat as Dipankar Sanyal embodies the essence of an ambitious journalist whose moral compass guides him through complex decisions, sometimes leading to the downfall of a colleague and other times pushing him to pursue justice in a news story. These moments reflect the shades of grey within us all and the nuanced nature of morality.

This season also features Akshay Oberoi, who plays a pivotal role as Ronnie, the CEO of Awaaz Bharati. He adds a layer of mystique to the show, gradually revealing his involvement in a larger scheme. Oberoi's portrayal effectively captures Ronnie's outward focus on financial matters while hinting at deeper complexities beneath the surface.



THE DRAWBACKS:

The series is divided into eight episodes, each concluding with the melancholic tune of *Bol Bol Bol*. While the episodes maintain a consistent tone of drama and tension, the choice of soundtrack feels somewhat discordant. It fails to encapsulate the emotional resonance established throughout the episodes, leaving a sense of disconnect for viewers.

Ameena's character, portrayed by Sonali Bendre, suffers from underdeveloped writing, rendering her portrayal less impactful. She lacks the depth and complexity needed to fully engage the audience, coming across as too one-dimensional and lacking in nuance. To solidify her character, incorporating elements of her backstory or inner conflict could have provided a more compelling narrative arc, allowing viewers to connect with her journey on a deeper level.

Another notable drawback is the overloaded storyline, inundated with numerous events addressing various societal issues. Furthermore, the portrayal of journalists' lives remains superficial, lacking exploration of the fundamental struggles within broadcast media. While the show depicts newsroom environments, it neglects to authentically convey the challenges faced. For instance, the edited meetings depicted are hastily concluded, failing to capture the essence of genuine newsroom dynamics.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS:

Harendra Singh's cinematography of the show aptly captures the bustling energy of the newsroom, portraying the fast-paced environment with dynamic camera movements and framing. Through skillful use of lighting and angles, it immerses viewers in the chaotic yet organised world of journalism. The juxtaposition of intimate close-ups during tense moments and wide shots of bustling newsrooms effectively conveys the multifaceted nature of the profession.

The direction by Vinay Waikul is also impressive in the climax, especially.

VERDICT:

Despite minor loopholes, the series remains a compelling watch. Its portrayal of real and contemporary issues offers viewers a window into the complexities of society. While some aspects may lack depth, the overall narrative provides valuable insights into pressing social and political issues.

The untold story of India’s nano-entrepreneurs

The recent Indian entrepreneurial narrative is often dominated by the meteoric rise of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). According to the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), India has over 24 million registered MSMEs. These businesses, with their audacious but practical ideas and growth potential, are the darlings of investors and policymakers alike.

Their contribution of about 30% to India’s GDP and 45% to exports is a testimony to the immense impact their growth has on the country’s economy. Among these are micro-enterprises, defined as businesses with an investment in plant and machinery not exceeding. They form about 97% of the registered MSMEs and significantly contribute to employment generation, GDP, and exports.

However, in this focus on the contribution of microenterprises, we often risk overlooking a crucial segment at the very base of the pyramid: the nanoentrepreneur.

Nanoenterprises are often defined as businesses with less than INR 1 crore in annual turnover. India boasts over 10 million nanoentrepreneurs, with each nanoenterprise estimated to employ an average of 1.5 to 2 individuals. These are undocumented networks of nanoentrepreneurs—individuals with innovative ideas, often operating from their homes or local communities, with minimal investment.

There are a few programs in the country that focus on nanoentrepreneurs. From traditional handloom weavers to small street food vendors, these individuals are the lifeblood of local economies. But the challenge is recognising and nurturing this potential. Nano-entrepreneurs often lack access to training, mentorship, credit, and basic infrastructure. They operate on the fringes, and their ingenuity is often unrecognised. But Swakalpa is solving this problem one step at a time!

Swakalpa: A self-employment and entrepreneurship development program

“Swakalpa,” a program that aims to equip 10,000 ambitious youth with the necessary skills and knowledge on self-employment and entrepreneurship and establish at least 1,000 micro-businesses in the states, with a minimum 25% representation of women at all stages. It offers a 100-hour entrepreneurship skills training program with a curriculum that goes beyond technical skills, delving into critical areas like market research, financial management, and business planning.

Shortlisted candidates will receive 24 weeks of personalised mentoring, helping them navigate the challenges of establishing and running their microbusinesses. It empowers nano-entrepreneurs across diverse sectors by facilitating bank linkages, fostering innovation through digital tools, and supporting traditional businesses to stay competitive in evolving markets.

So far, the program has trained and certified more than 8,500 candidates across 27 districts of Odisha, set up more than 300 nanobusinesses with more than 70% owned by women and some by transgenders, facilitated 300+ financial linkage applications, on-boarded 15+ ecosystem partners, and increased the revenue of many enterprises through mentorship.



Jagan failed to modernise Thotapalli reservoir: Pawan

PNS ■ ARAKU



Continuing a blistering attack against Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has alleged that the YSRCP government failed to modernise the Thotapalli reservoir modernization works and the government failed on all fronts.

Addressing an election meeting at Palakonda on Thursday, Pawan Kalyan wooed voters to elect alliance candidate Kottapalli Geeta to Lok Sabha and Nimmaka Jayakrishna.

Coming down heavily on Jagan Mohan Reddy, Pawan Kalyan said that the modernization works of the Thotapalli reservoir had come to a halt while the left canal works were going in a tardy manner. The canal provides irrigation water to 32,000 acres, he said.

The government had spent Rs 2,300 crore on painting the government buildings with the YSRCP flag colours and later erased them on the court order. If the government had spent Rs 214 crore, the Thotapalli left canal and Japarakota project works would have been completed, he pointed out.

"Jagan Reddy has not announced mega DSC, could not complete Thotapalli project modernization works, and did not spend ST sub-plan funds properly. He failed to resolve the CPS issue. He hiked the liquor prices exorbitantly," he slammed.

The JSP chief lamented that over 30,000 women had gone missing in the state but the Chief Minister did not take steps to trace them. "Jagan Mohan Reddy has no right to ask people to vote for the YSRCP," he observed.

"People of the state showed mercy on Jagan Reddy as he had become fatherless and voted him to power. But after coming to power, he has ruined the state on all fronts," he stated. He urged the people to vote for the alliance candidate for the progress of the state.

Pawan Kalyan assured of generating 20 lakh job opportunities, disbursement of Rs 3000 unemployment dole, unveiling mega DSC, hiking old age pension to Rs 4,000, if voted to power. He also promised to provide Rs 25 lakh health insurance to every family.

He said that the construction workers' welfare fund would be restored by earmarking Rs 450 crore if voted to power. He assured of constructing a multi-specialty hospital in Sitampet and ensuring that all doctors are available in the hospital. A permanent solution would be found to protect crops from the elephants, he told them.

The Jana Sena chief promised that steps would be taken to provide protected drinking water to every household in Sitampet and Bhamini mandals. The Uddanam problem would also be resolved permanently. The 16 welfare schemes, which were scrapped by the YSRCP government, would be restored if the alliance is voted to power, he told them.

Man slits throat of wife

PNS ■ NAGARKARNOOL

In a gruesome incident, a person murdered his wife to death by slitting her throat at Vanapatla village in Nagarkarnool mandal on Thursday and fled, the police said.

The accused was identified as Bhushipaga Ramulu. He married Jyoti 20 years ago. He used to clash with his wife quite often as he was addicted to alcohol.

His wife used to admonish him and pleaded with him to quit the liquor habit. On Thursday too, a similar argument took place between the wife and husband.

In a fit of rage, Ramulu, under the influence of alcohol, slit the throat of his wife using a kitchen knife, killing her on the spot.

Her body was found lying in the house in a pool of blood.

Two sons of the victim lodged a complaint against their father with the police. Police are investigating the case.

EOs, Collector, inspect counting centres

PNS ■ ELURU



Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh, Election Observers and SP inspected the counting centre on Thursday.

Election Observers Krishnakanth Pathan, SA Raman, along with Collector Prasanna Venkatesh and SP Mary Prashanthi, inspected the counting centres located on the CR Reddy Engineering College campus.

They inspected the Eluru Parliamentary constituency and 7 Assembly constituencies counting blocks. Strong rooms and counting halls were examined by them as part of this inspection.

They examined the counting hall to find out whether needed facilities have been provided for the counting of votes. The Collector explained that precautions have been taken to locate the counting centre next to the strong rooms. The Collector briefed the observers about the counting tables, the route for the polling agents and the security measures in the vicinity.

The Collector showed the bus routes, vehicle parking, polling material stalls, ballot boxes, strong rooms for securing EVMs, micro observers waiting rooms, food stalls, arrangement of CC cameras in the counting hall, setting up of media centre, postal ballots counting hall, counting hall area, result board to the observers.

The election observers expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, DRO D Pushamani, DSP Srinivas and other officials were among those who accompanied them.

Conduct flag marches in problematic villages

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal has directed the heads of security forces to conduct flag marches in problematic villages to infuse confidence among the voters.

The SP held a meeting with heads of three TSSP and 2 BSF battalions here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the SP directed the armed forces officers to conduct election duties impartially and with a commitment to maintain peace and security in the elections.

The SP explained to them the geographical area, topography of the district boundaries, details of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies and the prevailing conditions.

In the meeting, the SP said that the people should exercise their right to vote in a peaceful atmosphere without any fear. The security forces should conduct flag marches in the problematic villages to infuse confidence among voters. They should be reassured that the police department is there to provide security.

As there is a possibility of using cash, liquor and other items to tempt the voters, vehicle checks should be conducted in coordination with the local police to curb the illegal transportation of liquor and cash.

"Strong security should be provided to the strong rooms where EVMs and VV PAT are preserved. The security forces should provide 24 hours security. The security forces should follow the Election Commission's rules and regulations. The security personnel should ensure that elections are held without any untoward incidents in the district, the SP told them. BSF Assistant Commandants RK Bharati, GD Sanjay, Telangana state Special Police Assistant Commandants T Kashidas, Sitaram, M Srinivasa Rao and AR DSP S Chandramohan attended the meeting.



YSRC lodges 3 complaints with EC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSR Congress leaders led by MLA Malladi Vishnu lodged three complaints with the Election Commission on Thursday, against Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena founder Pawan Kalyan for abusing Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and misleading the public regarding the Land Titling Act.

The leaders said that along with Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan, who are violating the election rules, Telugu Desam Party leaders and Leo's YouTube channel are spreading false campaigns against CM Jagan and the YSRC government, hence they have complained to the Election Commission.

Malladi Vishnu stated that Chandrababu Naidu is misleading people with malicious statements about Jagan and YSRC on the party website. He claimed that this is against the model code of conduct and they have submitted evidence. He further said that Pawan Kalyan made inappropriate comments and baseless accusations against YS Jagan personally in the Pendurthi election campaign public meeting on May 1. Further, Naidu and Pawan are spreading lies about the Land Titling Act and it is against the Model Code of Conduct. He asked the Election Commission to take action against Leo's YouTube channel, which is allegedly spreading false information about the Land Titling Act and creating panic among the people.





Manifesto promises will help us win: Chintamaneni

PNS ■ ELURU

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Denduluru candidate Chintamaneni Prabhakar has exuded confidence that the manifesto assurances of the alliance would help to win the election.

Chintamaneni Prabhakar, who is a controversial TDP leader and former MLA, has speeded up election campaigns in his Denduluru constituency. He is facing the YSRCP candidate, sitting MLA K Abbayya Chowdary in the Denduluru constituency. Chintamaneni received a rousing welcome at various places. He explained to voters the necessity of the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance coming to power.

Chintamaneni held door-to-door election campaigns in various villages in Pedavegi mandal on Thursday. YSRCP leader and former sarpanch of Kokkirapadu, Mareedu Ramaiah, along with his followers, joined the TDP in the presence of Chintamaneni Prabhakar on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Chintameneni Prabhakar said that the manifesto of an alliance is welfare-oriented, benefiting all the eligible.

He said that Chandrababu Naidu is an experienced politician and he knows how to generate wealth to fulfil the manifesto promises. Chintamaneni wooed the voters to elect him keeping in mind the progress of the state and the welfare of all the poor.

'Be wise while casting vote as it can change your future'

PNS ■ KADAPA



APCC president YS Sharmila has appealed to the people to be wise when casting their vote as their vote will change their future.

Addressing an election meeting in Yerraguntla on Thursday, Sharmila asked the voters to elect the candidate, who works for them after being elected. Kadapa steel plant is considered to be a lifeline to the district. YSR laid the foundation stone for the construction of the steel plant in the district. If the steel had been constructed, it would have generated over 25,000 jobs, she said.

After the demise of YSR, the establishment of the steel plant was ignored. After YSR, Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone again for the steel plant but there was no progress. After coming to power, Jagan Mohan Reddy also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a steel factory twice, she stated.

The Congress has included the construction of the steel factory in Kadapa district in the AP Reorganisation Act 2014 provision but Naidu and Jagan Reddy failed to pursue the issue and failed to construct the plant. If the Congress had been voted to power, the steel plant would have been established by the time, she opined.

"TDP and YSRCP have used the SCS issue for their political mileage but they failed to exert pressure on the Centre to accord the SCS. Naidu and Jagan Reddy have become remotes in the hands of Modi," she lashed out.

YS Rajasekhar Reddy opposed the policies of BJP during his entire life but Jagan Mohan Reddy, who claimed that he is the real heir of YSR, has never questioned the wrong policies of BJP. "Jagan Mohan Reddy has supported every bill introduced by the BJP-led Central government in the Parliament. When innocent people were killed in Manipur, Jagan Reddy did condemn it," the APCC President lashed out.

YS Sharmila slammed that Jagan Mohan Reddy has become the foster son of Narendra Modi. "Voting for Chandrababu Naidu or Jagan Mohan Reddy amounts to voting for the BJP," she reiterated.

Sharmila vehemently objected to the government selling liquor. There is no progress in the state except in selling huge quantities of liquor, she ridiculed. The Congress party must come to power in AP for the progress of the state. The entire nation is looking towards Kadapa as she is contesting for the Lok Sabha.

"Voters should think wisely before voting and decide whether they want Vivekananda Reddy killers or her who entered politics for the progress of the state. The CBI investigation proved that YS Avinash Reddy is one of the accused in Viveka's murder case," she criticized. The Jagan Reddy-headed government protected Avinash Reddy from being arrested by the CBI, she alleged.

MEDICAL DEVICES PARK OF HYD

UoH startup ties up with US unit for cancer diagnostics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Eliciton Innovation Pvt Ltd, a startup incubated at ASPIRE BioNEST of the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has tied up with Vivi Biologics, a US-based company to develop a low-cost cancer diagnostic kit to detect breast cancer on Thursday.

The collaboration between Eliciton Innovation and Vivi Biologics was formalised through an MoU, emphasising their joint mission to develop early cancer detection technologies that are both cost-effective and accessible. The primary goal of their partnership is to create novel diagnostic tools that can detect cancer at its earliest stages, facilitating timely and effective intervention.

The startup has already specialised in producing microbial-based nutritional supplements with enhanced health benefits beyond basic nutrition.

It has also expanded its portfolio of human and animal diagnostics and plans to establish a diagnostic manufacturing facility at Medical Devices Park of Hyderabad. In a strategic move to advance this new venture, the company has partnered with the US-based Vivi Biologics, founded by Dr Kiran Velpula, an acclaimed cancer researcher and a member of Peoria City Council, to validate early cancer diagnostics. Dr Velpula is an alumnus of University of Hyderabad from School of Life Sciences, a professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria and head of the Velpula Neuro-Oncology Lab. He is pioneering in cancer research focusing on new treatments and early diagnostic tools.

A new entity named VIVIGEN Bio Labs has been established and incubated at ASPIRE-BioNEST.

This collaborative effort aims to democratise cancer diagnostics and significantly improve global health outcomes in oncology through innovative solutions.

Rs 2.40 cr seized from pvt transport bus



PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

The police and election officials, during their checking of vehicles, seized Rs 2.40 crore in cash while being taken in a private travels bus.

Circle Inspector Bala Suresh Babu told the media that they conducted a checking of vehicles at Jagannadhapuram village in Gopalapuram mandal on the national highway.

They found Rs 2.40 crore was being taken in a private travel bus which was going to Visakhapatnam from Hyderabad. Since the person, who was taking the cash failed to produce relevant documents regarding the cash, the police seized it.

1,050 liquor bottles seized, 2 held

NARASARAOPET: The police seized 1,050 liquor bottles worth over Rs lakh in Piduguralla town in Palnadu district on Thursday. The flying squad and the police conducted a checking of vehicles. They found 1,050 liquor bottles in a car seized them and held two persons. The liquor bottles belonged to a bar and restaurant but were shifted to another place illegally. The officials also sealed the bar and restaurant.



Two-day live surgical workshop from today in Hyd

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Renowned Surgeons Consortium (AWRSC), in collaboration with Manipal Hospitals, is set to host a highly anticipated live surgical workshop on Hernia and Road to Surge at Vijayawada, on May 3 and 4.

The workshop aims to highlight the latest advancements in hernia repair surgeries, attracting medical professionals and enthusiasts keen on expanding their knowledge in this dynamic field. Attendees can anticipate live surgical demonstrations, engaging discussions, and expert insights.

Dr Surendra Jasti, Gastrointestinal Surgeon at Manipal Hospitals, says, "Uniting over 200 delegates, this groundbreaking workshop is a milestone for healthcare in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Recognised by the government and endorsed by prestigious bodies like the Association of Surgeons of India and the CRSA, our focus on live surgeries, best practices, and evidence-based treatments ensures that practitioners leave equipped to deliver top-tier care. With Manipal Hospitals leading the charge, we're not just teaching techniques; we're spreading hope and healing to even the most remote areas, where practitioners can replicate what they learn in their own communities."

Dr. Sudhakar Kantipudi, Cluster Director at Manipal Hospitals, emphasised the event's significance, stating, "Hernia repair is a common surgical procedure, but its management continues to evolve with new technologies and techniques. This workshop offers a unique opportunity for participants to witness the latest innovations in hernia surgery and interact with industry leaders."

Man carrying Rs 2,30,000 held by RPF

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of general elections, Secunderabad railway staff, along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) were conducting checks on Tuesday. During the checking, at 5:30 am, the officials apprehended accused Seetharama Rao for carrying net cash of Rs 2,30,000 at platform No. 2.

Accused Seetharama Rao (60) S/o Hanmanth Rao, R/o Plot no.13, RK Nagar, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, N/o Mangalagiri, Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, along with a bag was apprehended on platform no. 2.



Disciplined approach balances Suhas' busy schedule

Ahead of the film's release, *Prasanna Vadanam*, actor Suhas, speaks to the Hyderabadi media, offering some exciting glimpses about the film.

PNS | HYDERABAD

As the much-anticipated release of *Prasanna Vadanam* finally happenned on Thursday, lead actor Suhas took the stage with the Hyderabadi media to offer a glimpse into the unique suspense thriller helmed by director Arjun YK. Produced by JS Manikantha and TR Prasad Reddy, this riveting tale stars Suhas alongside talented actresses Payal Radhakrishna and Rashi Singh, promising audiences an immersive cinematic experience like never before.

"I loved the concept of face blindness as told by the director," Suhas enthused, highlighting the innovative narrative approach that sets *Prasanna Vadanam* apart. He added, "The screenplay, survival drama, and climax that he had thought of were overpowering. As soon as I heard the story, I was determined to do it."

Delving into his preparation for the role, Suhas revealed, "We did a workshop for ten days for this role. Sit with the director and see how the character should look and behave? What are the boundaries of that role? After preparing all this in the workshop, we went to the shoot."

With *Prasanna Vadanam* featuring action sequences and Suhas portraying a character with face blindness, the actor acknowledged the challenges inherent in his performance. "It seemed like a challenge to give it any expressions. But I think I have achieved them," he remarked.

Reflecting on his collaboration with director Arjun YK, Suhas expressed admiration for the filmmaker's expertise despite it being his directorial debut. "It was a pleasure to work with Arjun. This is his first film as a director but he has worked with Sukumar in big films. He has a lot of experience," Suhas noted. Further, discussing his eclectic choice of projects, Suhas emphasised his instinct-driven approach to selecting scripts. "I listen to the story with a blank mind like a normal audience. If I feel excited and clapping when I hear it, I immediately say OK," he explained.

In response to queries about managing multiple film commitments, Suhas revealed his disciplined approach to balancing his busy schedule. "Eight films are really difficult to balance. But our managers, and I discuss and coordinate very much," he revealed.

As Suhas gears up for the release of *Prasanna Vadanam* and juggles a slew of upcoming projects, including collaborations with industry heavyweights like Dil Raju and Karthik Subbaraj, audiences can expect nothing short of brilliance from this dynamic actor who continues to captivate hearts with his diverse roles and unwavering dedication to his craft.



Director Sundar's epic period drama *Sangamithra* to take off soon

In a recent interview while promoting his latest venture, *Aranmai 4*, director Sundar C unveiled his unwavering determination to bring his long-awaited project, *Sangamithra*, to life on the silver screen. With plans to commence production later this year, the announcement has sparked anticipation within the Tamil film industry and among cinephiles worldwide.

Set to feature an ensemble cast including Jayam Ravi, Arya, Shruti Haasan, and Disha Patani in pivotal roles, *Sangamithra* stands as Sundar's most ambitious undertaking to date as director. Inspired by the monumental success of SS Rajamouli's *Baahubali: The Beginning*, Sundar embarked on a journey to create a period drama of epic proportions, aiming to captivate audiences with its grandeur and scale.

The project first garnered attention when Sundar, alongside his cast and crew, unveiled the initial glimpses of the film at the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival in 2017. The unveiling of first-look posters generated immense excitement and speculation, with many anticipating *Sangamithra* to emerge as Tamil cinema's magnum opus, echoing the monumental success of *Baahubali*.

Now, with Sundar's renewed commitment to bring *Sangamithra* to fruition, the Tamil film industry eagerly awaits the commencement of production. The director's vision, coupled with the stellar cast and crew assembled for the project, promises a cinematic experience of unparalleled grandeur and spectacle. As Sundar C prepares to embark on this ambitious journey, fans and industry insiders alike are poised to witness the unfolding of a cinematic spectacle that will leave an indelible mark on the annals of Tamil cinema. With *Sangamithra*, Sundar C is set to redefine the boundaries of storytelling, transporting audiences to a bygone era of valor, romance, and intrigue.

Prasanth Varma extends open invitation to join his PVCU

Following the resounding success of his mesmerising directorial venture *HanuMan*, acclaimed creative mind Prasanth Varma has set his sights on delivering a truly global cinematic experience with the much-anticipated sequel, *Jai Hanuman*. As anticipation mounts among eager fans, Varma has unveiled his ambitious plans for the future, signaling a paradigm shift in the landscape of Telugu cinema.With the release of the poster for *Jai Hanuman* on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, excitement has reached high, fueled by the memories of the sensational success of its predecessor. In light of the massive anticipation surrounding his upcoming projects, Prasanth Varma has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative that is set to revolutionise the industry. In a bold move unprecedented in Telugu cinema, Prasanth Varma has extended an open invitation to all talented individuals to join his PVCU (Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe). This initiative serves as a golden opportunity for aspiring technicians and creatives to showcase their prowess and collaborate on groundbreaking projects with one of the industry's most visionary directors.Varma stated, "Calling all artists, let's talk superpowers! What's your special skill that makes you stand out? Whether it's spinning tales, seamless editing, skillful graphics that enchant, or perhaps you're the marketing maven, breathing life into worlds with your savvy skills? Share your artistic superpower and let's whip up some enchantment together." Prospective talents are encouraged to submit their portfolios to "talent@thepvcu.com" for consideration, offering a rare opportunity to become part of a dynamic and innovative filmmaking ecosystem.



Baahubali - Crown of Blood set to premiere on Disney+ Hotstar

Fans of the epic saga *Baahubali* have reason to rejoice as a new animated series, titled *Baahubali - Crown of Blood,* is set to premiere on Disney+ Hotstar from May 17. The announcement was made by none other than visionary director SS Rajamouli, who helmed the original blockbuster hit series.

Starring Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Ramyakrishna, *Baahubali* captivated audiences with its gripping storyline, stunning visuals, and stellar performances. Regarded as one of the biggest hits in Indian cinema, the franchise has garnered a massive fan following both domestically and internationally.



Now, with the launch of *Baahubali - Crown of Blood*, fans can immerse themselves once again in the rich and enchanting world of Mahishmati. The animated series promises to delve deeper into the lore and mythology of the *Baahubali* universe, offering viewers a fresh perspective on their beloved characters and storylines.

As anticipation mounts for the premiere, fans eagerly await the opportunity to embark on a new adventure filled with intrigue, drama, and epic battles. With SS Rajamouli at the helm, *Baahubali - Crown of Blood* is poised to captivate audiences and reignite the magic of the beloved franchise.

Mark your calendars and get ready to witness the epic tale unfold on Disney+ Hotstar this Friday. *Baahubali - Crown of Blood* is sure to be a thrilling addition to the legendary saga that has captured the hearts of millions.

Kamakshi Bhaskarla wins best actress jury award

The success of *Maa Oori Polimera*, which premiered directly on Disney Plus Hotstar OTT during the lockdown, surprised everyone and led the creators to develop its sequel, *Maa Oori Polimera 2*, also known as *Polimera 2*. This sequel has become one of the most highly acclaimed horror thrillers in the Tollywood industry. Directed by Anil Vishwanath, *Polimera 2* received a warm reception at the box office and garnered positive reviews. The film was released grandly in theaters on November 3rd by the passionate filmmaker and successful distributor, Vamsi Nandipati. *Polimera 2* achieved remarkable success at the box office, with sensational collections. The franchise has amassed a massive fan base, including audiences, cinephiles, and thriller lovers.

This film has now received another rare honour. The film was screened at the prestigious 'Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival.' The film's actress, Dr. Kamakshi Bhaskarla, won the Best Actress Jury Award at the 14th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival held in New Delhi on Tuesday. Director Dr. Anil Vishwanath received the award on behalf of Dr. Kamakshi Bhaskarla, in the presence of filmmaker Vamsi Nandipati and producer Gowr Krishna. Along with this prestigious award, both the film's director and producer also received the Certificate of Excellence. Dr. Anil Vishwanath expressed his happiness at receiving such recognition on a prestigious stage and lauded Dr. Kamakshi Bhaskarla for her phenomenal performance in *Polimera 2*.

OMG will also have good dose of comedy

Oo Manchi Ghost (OMG) is an upcoming hilarious comedy horror that is coming under the banner of Markset Networks. Directed by Shankar Marthand with comedian Vennela Kishore, Nandita Swetha, Shakalaka Shankar, Navami Gayak, Naveen Neni, Rajath Raghav, and comedian Raghu Babu playing key roles, the film is produced by Dr. Abinika Inabathuni. Anup Rubens has scored the music and the previously released lyrical video of the first song was well-received.

Meanwhile, the makers unveiled a concept poster and a glimpse of the movie. The poster shows the lead actors with fear on their faces, as they see a ghost. We can see a shadow of a ghost in the background, that also has a haunted house. Shakalaka Shankar appeared as an exorciser. The glimpse shows all the main characters, apart from introducing the premise of the movie. It is evident from the glimpse that the movie, besides horror and thriller elements, will have a good dose of comedy. Anup Rubens' background score amplifies the impact.The makers are confident that the film will entertain the audience throughout the runtime. Andrew is taking care of the cinematography, while Supriya is the art director. The editing is by M.R. Varma.



King Nagarjuna Akkineni unleashes intriguing first look from *Kubera*

The highly anticipated social drama, *Kubera* by the acclaimed national award-winning filmmaker Sekhar Kammula, is being touted as one of the most awaited upcoming mythological pan-Indian films. Taking global television screens by storm on Thursday, King Nagarjuna Akkineni's official first look from the film was unveiled exclusively on Star Sports, heightening anticipation for the magnum opus.

Premiered during the Sunrisers Hyderabad vs. Rajasthan Royals IPL game, King Nagarjuna Akkineni's first look showcases him in a powerful stance with an air of mystery. He is seen walking under an umbrella in heavy pouring rain, surrounded by trucks of liquid cash, symbolising the film's title *Kubera*, which is known to be the god of wealth. Dressed sharply in a shirt, trousers and sporting glasses, the actor has immensely elevated expectations from the social drama.

Meanwhile, earlier, the first look of actor Dhanush from Sekhar Kammula's *Kubera* was unveiled, earning a thrilling response from audiences nationwide.

Sekhar Kammula's *Kubera* boasts an ensemble cast including Dhanush, King Nagarjuna Akkineni, Rashmika Mandanna, and Jim Sarbh. The film is jointly produced by Suniel Narang and Puskur Ram Mohan Rao under the Sri Venkateswara Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations Pvt Ltd banner. Sekhar Kammula's *Kubera* is a pan-India multilingual film, being shot simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

Pawan Kalyan's *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* teaser gives glimpse into epic action saga

In a much-awaited revelation, the teaser for Pawan Kalyan's monumental project *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* has been unleashed, sending ripples of excitement throughout the Indian cinema landscape. Produced under the esteemed banner of Mega Surya Productions by AM Rathnam and directed by Krish Jagarlamudi, this period action-adventure marks a significant milestone in Kalyan's illustrious career as he ventures into uncharted territory with a tale of heroic valour set in the 17th century.

Being an adventure actioner about a legendary heroic outlaw during 17th century, Producers have specially built gigantic sets like Charminar, Red Fort and Machilipatnam port with uncompromising grandeur on a lavish budget with International standard production values. Fans and movie lovers have been eagerly waiting for the film to celebrate their favourite star's new action avatar on big screens in its full glory. Answering their gigantic anticipation, the makers have released a teaser from the film, announcing that it has been divided into two parts.

The first part has been titled *Hari Hara Veera Mallu Part-1: Sword vs Spirit* with the caption, *Dharmam Kosam Yuddham* which loosely translates to "War for Justice". In the teaser, the makers have described Pawan Kalyan aka *Hari Hara Veera Mallu's* character, as "A Lone Warrior" who "wages a war for justice" in the land "where the poor are exploited and the rich thrive." And the character appears exactly like the visual representation of those words. The grandeur of sets, visual quality and pulsating background score of Oscar award-winning composer, MM Keeravaani; all promise a spell-binding experience in theatres.

Adding to these elements, Bobby Deol as a mughal emperor and Pawan Kalyan as a hero of the poor, oppressed and needy look apt for their roles. The body language of both the actors, and fierce looks designed for them promise an epic showdown between two acting powerhouses. Teaser induces goosebumps and inspire us to be on the side of legendary outlaw in his battle for Justice.

On this occasion of the teaser release, makers have made an announcement that writer-director Jyothi Krisna, who earlier directed films like *Enakku 20 Unakku 18*, *Nee Manasu Naaku Telusu*, *Oxygen* and worked as writer for cult blockbusters like *Natpukkaga* and *Padayappa* is going to finish the remaining shooting and post production work of the film under the supervision of Krish Jagarlamudi. Due to prior commitments and unforseen delay in the completion of the film's shoot. Along with Pawan Kalyan, Nidhhi Agerwal, Bobby Deol, Sunil, Nora Fatehi and several others are cast in the film in key roles. Oscar winning composer MM Keeravaani is composing music and background score for the film. Ace cinematographers Gnanasekhar VS and Manoj Paramahamsa are handling cinematography.

Makers have announced that the movie will release towards the end of the year, 2024.

