HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Public outrage marks beginning of terrorism's end in J-K: CM

5



INDIA WILL BE FIERCELY COMPETITIVE ON MANY PRODUCTS: SCINDIA

8



Srinidhi Shetty Clarifies on Sita Role Rejection RUMOURS

P11

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The Pioneer

Some officers are being retained due to the lack of alternatives. Coordination is necessary among all officers. Some officers are focusing on making money. Such people are not being prioritised. Officers who have subject expertise are being given importance. On land issues like Bhu Bharati and Dharani, Naveen Mittal has a complete understanding. There is a need to speed things up. We have streamlined the administrative machinery



- A Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

DON'T MISS...

Women seek justice at NCW's Jan Sunwai

Several women in distress turned up at the Jan Sunwai public hearing organised under the Rashtriya Mahila Aayog Aapke Dwaar initiative by the National Commission for Women (NCW) at Tourism Plaza, Begumpet, Hyderabad. Though scheduled for 10:30 am, proceedings began around 11 am, with women being directed to various departments for grievance redressal. Later, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar personally heard several cases. Departments were instructed to respond within a week and complaints were ...

-PAGE: 3

At 84, scientist earns MBA degree from IIM

For Dr Girish Mohan Gupta, age is not a limitation; it is merely a statistic. At the age of 84, when most people prefer to slow down, looking forward to their retirement, the veteran scientist and entrepreneur has added another feather to his cap — an MBA degree from IIM-Sambalpur — and is already preparing for his next academic journey, a PhD in management. "There is no age limit for learning," said Gupta after receiving his degree from the prestigious institute last week. "As long as you are...

-PAGE: 5

Govt to check indirect exports to Pakistan

The government is collating data to figure out the quantum of indirect exports of Indian goods to Pakistan from third countries in a bid to check such rerouting of shipments to the neighbouring country, sources said. The government is working with the industry to look into alternate routes for shipments of goods through air route in the backdrop of Pakistan closing its air space for Indian carriers, they said. Goods like flowers, fruits and vegetables are exported through air routes to regions like...

-PAGE: 8

DC eye comeback against KKR

Delhi Capitals (DC) would aim for an improved batting effort in the middle overs when they face a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday. DC have suffered two defeats in their last four matches, including a loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday, and will look to avoid any hiccups at the business end of the tournament. Abhishek Porel has batted with plenty of aggressive intent at the top of the order but veteran Faf fu Plessis will quickly ...

-SPORTS

People cannot believe KCR anymore: Revanth

Says India needs an Indira Gandhi-type PM

Asserts there are no differences with Rahul

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU
venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that people are not in a position to believe former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Responding to the BRS's silver jubilee celebrations public meeting held at Warangal, the CM said that there is no 'substance' in KCR's speech.

"KCR is blaming us after emptying the treasury. KCR spoke at the Warangal public meeting due to his insecurity. There was no clarity in KCR's speech," the CM said.

Criticising KCR for stating that the government is not even answering 'Harish and KTR' (kids) in the Assembly about what is needed of him to attend the Assembly, Revanth asked KCR to explain why he is sending 'children' to the Assembly.

> "KCR is blaming us after emptying the treasury. KCR spoke at the Warangal public meeting due to his insecurity. There was no clarity in KCR's speech"

The CM said that no state is implementing the schemes implemented in Telangana by the Congress government and that a discussion about his rule will be held among the people six months before the next Assembly elections.

Revanth said that his government introduced many schemes during the last one-and-a-half years and is streamlining them now, and added that the government had streamlined the administrative machinery.

"Some officers are being continued due to the lack of alternatives. Coordination is necessary among officers. Some officers are focusing more on making money. Officers who have domain expertise are given importance. Naveen Mittal knows land issues like Bhu Bharati and Dharani," the CM said.

Reacting to Prime Minister Modi, the CM said the nation needs an 'Indira Gandhi-type' Prime Minister.

Responding to another question, Revanth reiterated that he and Rahul Gandhi have a good relationship. There is no need to tell the world about the equation I have with Rahul Gandhi, the CM said.

Continued on Page 2



CM Revanth having discussions with Jana Reddy and Keshava Rao on Monday

Govt policy will be announced after party discussions: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that there should be a national-level debate on the Kagar issue. After our party finalises a decision on Kagar, the government's policy will be announced, CM said.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy went to BJP senior leader K. Jana Reddy, where the CM discussed the Peace Talks Committee's request on the Maoists' issue, along with another senior BRS leader K. Keshava Rao and advisor Vem Narender Reddy.

Speaking to media personnel after the meeting with Jana Reddy and Keshava Rao, the CM said that the Congress government will appoint a Peace Committee for deliberations with Maoists.

He said that Jana Reddy and Keshava Rao would discuss within the party about the Maoists issue and later they will announce the government policy.



India, France sign Rs 64,000 cr deal for 26 Rafale jets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and France on Monday inked an intergovernmental agreement to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 64,000 crore for the Indian Navy.

The pact provides for setting up of a production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities for aircraft engines, sensors and weapons in India, according to the defence ministry.

The agreement will also facilitate the transfer of technology for the integration of indigenous weapons in India, it said without elaborating.

The ministry said the delivery of the aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India.

Continued on Page 2

BRS will return to power in TG, declares KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao asserted that the BRS would return to power in Telangana, buoyed by the massive public response to the party's silver jubilee meeting in Warangal.

Addressing BRS activists and leaders on Monday, KT Rama Rao expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the lakhs who attended the meeting, reaffirming their unwavering faith in K. Chandrasekhar Rao's leadership.

He described the silver jubilee public meeting as one of the largest political gatherings in Indian history and a clear testament to BRS's enduring public support.



Despite traffic mismanagement by the TG police, KT Rama Rao said that lakhs still reached the venue, showcasing the determination of Telangana's people. He emphasised that the event's success, despite logistical hurdles, is a matter of great joy for the party.

KTR made it clear that the Warangal meeting is just the beginning. With K. Chandrasekhar Rao vowing to personally lead future movements, KTR called upon BRS cadres to prepare for intensified struggles against the Congress Government's 'failures, injustices and corruption.'

He urged BRS workers and media teams to actively expose the government's inefficiencies and counter the opposition's propaganda by bringing clarity to the people.

Later, addressing a teleconference with BRS leaders across the state, KTR thanked everyone who contributed to

Continued on Page 2

ACB seeks custody of Kaleshwaram Project ENC Hariram

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has filed a petition before the ACB court seeking the custody of former Kaleshwaram Corporation Managing Director and Engineer-in-Chief Hariram for a week.

Hariram, who is currently lodged in the Chanchalguda Jail under judicial custody for 14 days, is facing serious allegations of amassing huge assets illegally. The ACB had earlier searched his residence and

Continued on Page 2



Get Pak under FATF grey list, launch cyber attacks, says Owaisi

PNS ■ CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday raised the aspect of storage after the Indus Waters Treaty was kept in abeyance by the Union government following the April 22 Pahalgam attack in a bid to punish Pakistan for backing terrorism.

The All India Majlis e Ittehadul Muslimeen chief also said Pakistan must be brought under the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an international watchdog on terror financing and money laundering. Presence in the grey list results in a country facing severe financial constraints.

Speaking to reporters here, Owaisi also

Continued on Page 2

Uttam dismisses KCR's criticism of Congress Govt

PNS ■ NALGONDA



The Congress Government is working sincerely to serve the people of Telangana, while former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is trying to mislead people after ruining the state during his 10 years in power, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Speaking along with Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and other leaders at the foundation-laying ceremony for the additional block at the Nalgonda Collectorate on Monday, Uttam said that KCR, who 'pushed' Telangana into a financial crisis, is now shamelessly attacking a Congress Government which is trying hard to 'repair' the damage.

"KCR 'destroyed' Telangana in 10 years. Now he is targeting those who are trying to rebuild the state," he said.

Uttam said the Congress Government lost nearly five to six months because of elections after coming to power,

Continued on Page 2

Justice A Rajasheker Reddy Sworn in as Lokayukta

3

Minor fire at Yadadri power plant in Telangana, no injuries

4



Actor Balakrishna, AIG chief Nageshwar receive Padma Award from Prez

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nandamuri Balakrishna and AIG Hospitals chairman D Nageshwar Reddy received Padma Award from the President. President of India Droupadi Murmu presented four Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 57 Padma Shri awards for the year 2025 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I held in Ganatantra Mandap of the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Monday.

Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, many Ministers of the Union and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Padma Awardees will pay homage at the National War Memorial on Tuesday morning, April 29. They will also visit Rashtrapati Bhawan and Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya.

ED raids create stir again in Hyd over bhoodan land scam



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out fresh raids in Hyderabad on Monday, creating a buzz across the city. The raids, linked to the controversial Bhoodan land scam, focused on properties connected to the Maheshwaram land as well.

ED officials searched the residences of Munawar Khan, Khadeer Unnisa, Sarfan, and Sukur in the Old City, suspecting illegal sale and layout of Bhoodan lands. It may be recalled that IAS officer Amoy Kumar was earlier questioned by the ED in connection with the same case.

The case centres around 103 acres of Bhoodan land located in Survey Nos. 181 and 182 in Nagaram village, Maheshwaram mandal, Ranga Reddy district.

Of this, around 50 acres were allegedly encroached upon and sold to private individuals, who divided the land into

Continued on Page 2

NAGARAM BHOODAN LAND PURCHASE

ED keen on probing IAS, IPS officers' families

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is preparing to probe the Nagaram Bhoodan land scandal in Telangana, focusing on senior IAS and IPS officers and their families.

Sources indicate that ED is planning to call in May, the families of top officials who allegedly purchased the disputed lands.

Despite the gravity of the situation, the TG Government is showing little enthusiasm to intervene. However, the ED is keen on pursuing the case and wants to question the kin of bureaucrats on whose names the land has been purchased.

Due to bulk purchases by officers, the entire modus operandi has come under serious scrutiny. Sources hint

Continued on Page 2



Vaibhav Suryavanshi
35 balls 100 Runs

14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi becomes youngest ever in history of IPL to score century

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals' newest batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi created history on Monday when became the youngest batter ever to score an IPL century at the age of 14 years and 32 days here.

Suryavanshi brought up his whirlwind ton off only 35 balls with a whopping 11 sixes and seven fours, recording the second fastest century in the history of IPL. He was finally out for 101 off 37 balls.

His stunning knock came against IPL 2022 winners Gujarat Titans, who had set a target of 210 for Rajasthan Royals to win.

The record of fastest century in IPL belongs to former West Indies batter Chris Gayle, who had brought up his triple figure mark in 30 balls for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Pune Warriors in April 2013.

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | APRIL 29, 2025

Bhatti highlights Congress commitment to farmers, workers

PNS ■ KOZHIKODE



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu asserted that farmers are the protectors of India's food security and cultural heritage, and that the Congress has always stood afloat by farmers and workers.

Addressing the 'Farmers and Workers Maha Sabha' organised by the District Congress Committee at Kozhikode, Kerala, on Monday, Bhatti Vikramarka delivered a stirring speech on the historic and ongoing role of Congress in championing agricultural and labour rights.

Speaking about the challenges faced by farmers, he said agriculture was no longer just an occupation but a way of life. Erratic monsoons, rising input costs, market volatility, and climate change were pushing farmers into greater distress.

He pointed out that while agriculture's share in India's GDP had dropped from 17.5% in 2016 to around 14% today, half the country's population remained dependent on agriculture.

Highlighting the Congress's historic role, Bhatti recalled how post-independence leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi spearheaded the Green Revolution, introducing high-yield seeds, better irrigation, and fertilisers.

As a result, India's foodgrain production rose from 55 million tonnes to 131 million tonnes by 1978-79, strengthening rural livelihoods.

Bhatti stressed the importance of fair pricing, noting that Congress governments established the Agricultural Price Commission in 1965, laying the foundation for minimum support prices (MSP) and protecting farmers from market fluctuations.

He also underlined the significance of loan waivers, recalling that the UPA government waived loans amounting to Rs 71,000 crore in 2008, benefiting 3.68 crore farmers.

Recognising the emergence of gig workers in the modern economy, Bhatti said that Telangana is working on policies to extend health insurance and social security to workers in the gig economy as well.



Special Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao pays a courtesy call on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the occasion of his appointment as the new Chief Secretary to the Telangana Government

KTR suffers slipped disc, advised bed rest

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) suffered a slipped disc during a gym workout, and has been advised a few days of bed rest by doctors.

Informing through social media, KTR said, "Suffered a slipped disc during a gym workout. Advised a few days of bed rest by doctors. Hope to be back on my feet soon."

The MoS for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said on X, "Wishing BRS Working President Sircilla MLA KT Rama Rao Garu a speedy recovery from his slipped disc injury. Praying to Ammavaru for a swift return to health and strength."

Many other political leaders also wished KTR a speedy recovery. Jana Sena chief Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan conveyed his concern, stating, "Brother KTR should recover soon. I learnt that my brother, former Telangana Minister and BRS Working President KTR, was injured during a gym workout. He should take appropriate rest as per the doctor's advice. I sincerely wish for his quick recovery."

TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh also expressed his concern, tweeting, "I am saddened to learn that my dear friend and BRS Working President KTR Garu was injured while exercising in the gym. Wishing him a speedy recovery and hoping he regains strength soon."

Supporters and well-wishers across political lines poured in messages hoping for his quick return to action.

Kavitha asks Centre to halt 'Operation Kagar'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC K. Kavitha demanded an immediate halt to 'Operation Kagar' being carried out against Naxalites in Chhattisgarh, stressing that the ideology of Naxalism must be addressed through 'dialogue' and not 'destruction.'

Speaking on Tuesday, BRS MLC Kavitha said, "Operation Kagar is being carried out in Chhattisgarh. Our party firmly believes that the ideology of Naxalism can be eradicated only through dialogue and not by the use of force. India must find a political solution to Naxalism. I believe the Centre should immediately call a ceasefire, invite the Naxalites for talks, and I am confident that all parties in this country will support this."

Backing the reported Maoist proposal for peace talks, BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao had earlier asserted that eliminating youth and tribals in the name of anti-Maoist operations is 'against' the spirit of democracy.

Kavitha urged the Centre to immediately halt Operation Kagar and seek a political resolution instead of armed confrontation. She said the BRS firmly believes that lasting peace can only be achieved through negotiation, not force.

KCR spent Rs 500 crore on Warangal meeting: Venkat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that BRS chief and former CM, KCR, spent Rs 500 crore for the Warangal public meeting. Moreover, KCR was speaking about corruption in the same public meeting.

Addressing the media at Nalgonda on Monday, Minister Venkat Reddy said that KCR has been daydreaming that he will come to power again. Why did KCR not get an idea of giving fine rice to the poor during his 10-year rule?

Venkat said the KCR family looted thousands of crores through the Dharani Portal during the last 10 years of BRS rule. KCR had misused the power and indulged in phone tapping. BRS did nothing for Telangana, however, they enjoyed the power.

He said that students and leaders from the erstwhile Nalgonda last-phase Telangana movement. Srikantha Chary sacrificed his life, and the then MP Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, waged a fight in Parliament.

Uttam and Jana Reddy fought against their own leaders in the party for the sake of Telangana, Venkat recalled, making it clear that Telangana was formed due to the efforts of all.

Manchukonda Lift Irrigation Project trial run successful

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The trial run of the Manchukonda Lift Irrigation Project has been completed successfully, bringing new hope to the farmers of Raghunathapalem mandal as their lands turned lush green with the arrival of irrigation water.

The Manchukonda Lift Irrigation Project was conceptualised and designed by Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who had promised its construction during the Assembly poll campaign. By successfully delivering on his promise, Tummala earned widespread appreciation from the farming community.

Tummala congratulated the engineering officials for the successful execution of the lift irrigation works and praised their dedication in completing the project efficiently.

Farmers expressed immense happiness over the fulfilment of their decades-old dream of getting irrigation water and credited Minister Tummala for making it a reality.

Elkathurthy meeting was referendum against Revanth's rule: Sravan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The massive public meeting held at Elkathurthy is a referendum against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's rule, BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan said.

Speaking at the Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Sravan described the gathering as a 'Baahubali-like meeting' and thanked BRS activists for making it a grand success.

He said the unwavering faith people have in K. Chandrasekhar Rao was evident as they turned up in huge numbers.

Sravan added that the Elkathurthy meeting surpassed all previous meetings held by the party, showcasing KCR's unmatched charisma in Telangana politics.

Accusing the police of deliberately creating traffic disruptions by placing tippers and trucks on routes leading to the meeting venue, Sravan said that despite these hurdles, people came.

He also alleged that the police lathi-charged near the meeting venue, calling it an example of Revanth's "oppressive governance."

Taking a swipe at the Congress, he said that Revanth was upset that KCR did not even mention his name in the meeting, claiming that the Chief Minister was so offended that he "skipped his dinner in anger."

Nagaram Bhoodan ...

Continued from page 1

that the son of a former DGP played a key role in many transactions.

It may be mentioned here that the Telangana High Court had voiced serious concern over the acquisition of restricted Nagaram Bhoodan lands by senior officials.

Justice CV Bhaskar Reddy issued summons to IAS and IPS officers and their family members, questioning why an inquiry by the CBI or the ED was not ordered earlier. Government sources said the matter is sub-judice and that the law will take its course.

The prominent officials who received notices are Navin Mittal, IAS; D. Amoy Kumar, IAS; S. Harish, IAS; Ravi Gupta, IPS; Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, IPS; T. Srinivas Rao, IPS; Sowmya Mishra, IPS; Swati Lakra, IPS; and Tarun Joshi, IPS, and many others.

The ED is reportedly keen on calling the kin instead of the officials directly, sources indicated

The individuals and families who received the notices are Battula Hemalatha (wife of Battula Shivadhar Reddy, IPS), Priyanka Ratan (daughter of Late Rajiv Ratan, IPS), Ravi Gupta (self), Mudireddy Nitesh Reddy (son of Mahender Reddy, IPS), Thatiparthi Pavani Rao (wife of T. Prabhakar Rao, IPS), Rekha Sharraf (wife of Umesh Sharraf, IPS), Rajarshi Shah (self, IAS), Swati Lakra (self, IPS), Mitte Sahithi Suhana (daughter of Mitte Srinibasu), Nandini Mann (wife of Vikram Singh Mann, IPS), Dr. Gyan Mudra (wife of Somesh Kumar, IAS), B.K. Rahul Hegde (self), Savyasachi Pratap Singh (son of Govind Singh), G. Om Anirudh (son of G. Sudheer Babu, IPS), Indu Rao Kaveti (wife of Laxminarayan Rao Kaveti), Nyalakonda Sindhu Reddy (wife of Nyalakonda Prakash Reddy), Aishwarya Raj (wife of Vikas Raj, IAS), Vennavelli Radhika (wife of V.B. Kamalasan Reddy, IPS), Vasundhara Sinha (wife of Anjani Kumar, IPS), Reeta Sultania (wife of Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS), Muthyala Vineela (wife of Stephen Raveendra, IPS), Ajit Kumar Mohanty (self, son of Khestrabasi Mohanty), Rahul Busi Reddy (son of B. Janardhan Reddy, IAS), Perla Varun (son of Perla Vishwa Prasad), Tarun Joshi (self, IPS), Soumya Mishra (self, IPS), Thota Srinivasa Rao (son of Thota Sai Babu, IPS), Konduru Sreenath Raju (son of Konduru Satyanarayana), Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat (self, IPS), Renu Goyal (wife of Jitender Kumar Goyal), Ajay Jain (self), and Amita Kumar (wife of Anil Kumar).

The HC issued notices to the CBI, the ED, the Union Home Ministry, and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to respond.

The High Court directed the Ranga Reddy Collector and District Registrar to list Survey Numbers 181, 182, 194, and 195 of Nagaram village in Maheshwaram mandal as prohibited properties, given the serious allegations of misuse of power. The court ordered that no alterations, changes, or transactions should be allowed on these lands until further instructions.

The petitioner, Birla Mahesh, alleged large-scale fraud involving the manipulation of revenue records, fabrication of inheritance claims, and unlawful land transfers facilitated by bureaucrats in collaboration with revenue and registration officials.

Despite numerous complaints to the Chief Minister's Office and the Central Vigilance Commission, no corrective action was taken.

Uttam dismisses ...

Continued from page 1

but had not wasted a single day after that.

"After taking oath as a Minister on December 7, 2023, I have not taken even a single day's leave. We are working round the clock to serve the people," he said. He pointed out that the BRS government spent Rs 1.81 lakh crore on irrigation projects but failed to bring about any significant increase in the irrigated area.

"They spent Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru–Rangareddy Project and Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, but not a single extra acre got water," he said.

He said the Kaleshwaram Project, for which nearly Rs 1 lakh crore was spent, turned out to be a disaster.

"The Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages collapsed during BRS rule due to poor design, poor construction, and poor operation and maintenance. The BRS leaders were more interested in kickbacks than in serving farmers," he said.

In contrast, Uttam said, the Congress Government is committed to completing all irrigation projects in a transparent manner.

"We are determined to complete the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project, which was neglected by KCR and BRS for 10 years. SLBC will become a reality under the Congress Government," he assured. He also accused KCR of betraying Telangana's farmers by agreeing to an unfair formula for allocating Krishna waters.

"KCR agreed to just 299 TMCs of Krishna waters during bifurcation, inflicting huge injustice on Telangana. Today, the Congress Government is trying to secure Telangana's rightful share of Krishna waters," he said.

Taking a swipe at KCR, Uttam said, "After losing power, KCR has not attended even a single session of the Telangana Assembly. He is afraid to face elected representatives. But he appears at public meetings like the one in Warangal to speak lies and cover up his failures."

2010 CWG SCAM

Delhi court accepts ED closure report in case against Kalmadi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bringing down curtains on a 13-year-old case, a Delhi court on Monday accepted the Enforcement Directorate's closure report in a money laundering case against Suresh Kalmadi, the former head of the organising committee of 2010 Commonwealth Games and then secretary general Lalit Bhanot and others.

The acceptance of the closure report brings to end the money laundering angle in the alleged scam, which took place 15 years ago.

The allegations of corruption in conducting the 2010-Commonwealth Games (CWG) triggered a huge political uproar in the country, leading to filing of several criminal and money laundering cases, including the present one.

Kalmadi and others were accused of misconduct in award and execution of two important contracts for the games.

Special judge Sanjeev Aggarwal noted the CBI had already closed the corruption case, based on which the ED started its money laundering probe and accepted the report, which also named CWG OC's then COO, Vijay Kumar Gautam, its then treasurer, A K Matto, Event Knowledge Service (EKS), Switzerland, and CEO, Craig Gordon MeLatchey.

The judge noted ED's submission that the offence of money laundering was not found during its investigation.

ACB seeks ...

Continued from page 1

unearthed substantial properties.

During the raids, the ACB seized several crucial documents pertaining to disproportionate assets. Based on these findings, the ACB has now sought permission from the court to take Hariram into custody for interrogation.

Hariram, who served in a key post during the execution of the Kaleshwaram Project, is believed to have accumulated vast amounts of wealth beyond his known sources of income.

BRS will return ...

Continued from page 1

the success of the meeting, especially BRS leaders, public representatives, senior BRS leaders and workers from Warangal district and Husnabad. He also appreciated the efforts of local coordinators who ensured participants travelled safely despite logistical challenges.

KTR offered special thanks to the social media teams and the media fraternity for their extensive coverage, which he said played a critical role in reporting the event's success.

"The Warangal silver jubilee meeting has become a historic milestone that will be remembered for years to come," KT Rama Rao said.

ED raids create ...

Continued from page 1

plots for sale. Although the matter is in court now, the ED found that substantial sums of money changed hands during illegal transactions.

After a Vigilance report highlighting irregularities, the ED resumed investigation, which had been dormant for some time. Notices were earlier issued to Amoy Kumar, former Ranga Reddy Collector, and to some former MLAs as well.

The fresh round of raids in Yakutpura, Santosh Nagar and other areas primarily targeted individuals involved in either buying or selling plots carved out of the Bhoodan land. The ED is reportedly focusing on identifying all real estate companies and individuals who purchased or sold such lands.

Khadeer Unnisa has emerged as a key figure in the scam. Her father had donated the 50-acre land parcel to the Bhoodan Board decades ago. In 2021, she claimed succession rights and promptly obtained land registration in her name, allegedly with the help of revenue officials and without proper inquiry. At that time, Amay Kumar was the district Collector.

Subsequently, Khadeer Unnisa and others divided the land into plots and sold them to multiple buyers. Public representatives, IAS and IPS officers are also suspected to have bought portions of this land, especially in Nagaram and Maheshwaram areas, where land prices have sharply risen.

Given that Bhoodan lands are legally protected and not meant for sale, the rapid registration process raised serious concerns. The ED recorded statements from Amoy Kumar and other officials involved during that period.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi:	
Dwitiya:	Apr 28 09:11 PM to Apr 29 05:31 PM
Tritiya:	Apr 29 05:31 PM to Apr 30 02:12 PM
Nakshatram:	
Krithika:	Apr 28 09:37 PM to Apr 29 06:47 PM
Rohini:	Apr 29 06:47 PM to Apr 30 04:18 PM
Rahukalam:	3:22 PM to 4:57 PM
Yamagandam:	9:04 AM to 10:38 AM
Varjyam:	09:07 AM to 10:33 AM
Gulika:	12:13 PM to 1:48 PM
Amritakalam:	04:40 PM to 06:04 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:48 AM to 12:38 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 36°c
Humidity: 49%
Sunrise: 5:51 AM
Sunset: 6:36 PM

Updated: April 28, 2025 5:00 PM

Get Pak under ...

Continued from page 1

said cyber attacks must be launched against Pakistan.

"Where will the water go after the Indus Waters Treaty was kept in abeyance? It has to be stored somewhere," Owaisi asked, though he added that since the decision has been taken by the Centre, his party would fully stand by it.

Under the World Bank-brokered treaty, India was granted exclusive rights to the water of the eastern rivers -- the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi -- amounting to an average annual flow of about 33 million acre-feet (MAF). The water of the western rivers -- the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab -- with an average annual flow of around 135 MAF, were largely allocated to Pakistan.

With the treaty now put in abeyance, the government is looking at ways to utilise the water of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

Asked about Pakistan leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's statement against India following its withdrawal from the Indus Waters Treaty, Owaisi said he should ask who killed his mother (Benazir Bhutto). She was killed by such home-grown terrorists, Owaisi added.

"Pakistan should be brought under the grey list of FATF to show they are financing terrorism through illegal money. We will also demand from the government that cyber attacks should be undertaken against Pakistan as Article 51 of the UN law gives us the right to act in self defence," Owaisi asserted.

Owaisi also said the Narendra Modi government must have a relook of its deterrent policy since incidents like the Pahalgam attack were taking place even after airstrikes.

However, Owaisi reiterated that he would support whatever decision the Centre takes.

"Pakistan should understand that India's defence budget is bigger than their entire budget. They are 20 years behind India. The politicians there just keep blabbering. That country is facing internal issues. They can't manufacture medicines for malaria but keep talking about fighting India," the AIMIM chief said.

When asked about a statement of former Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi on the Pahalgam attack, Owaisi reacted with disdain saying "he is a joker".

Speaking on the Waqf Amendment Act, Owaisi opposed its provisions and said it violated the Constitution.

People cannot ...

Continued from page 1

When asked why his government is not arresting opposition leaders facing corruption charges, the CM said that he will be in politics for 20 more years.

"I will not enter into vengeful acts. I will follow the law. I will not arrest anyone giving in to the demand to arrest someone, even if it is the case against KTR or the phone tapping case or anything that should be done as per the law. I will not order the police to arrest anyone misusing the law like KCR," the CM said.

He said he will fulfil his promise if he makes a commitment to anyone. "I gave a commitment to Addanki Dayakar and gave him an MLC ticket. Posts would come to those who are patient. Congress leaders would lose if they spoke as they liked. I will not forget anyone who places their trust in me," he said.

The CM said the government provided all the TGSRTC buses KCR had requested for the Warangal meeting. The TGSRTC also earned revenue through it. However, the BRS Government did not give buses when the Congress asked for them for Rahul Gandhi's meeting.

He said Congress MLAs would have to go to the people, and then only schemes would reach the people. The government lagged behind in publicising things done by it, the CM said.

India, France sign ...

Continued from page 1

India is procuring the jets for deployment on board aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

Manufactured by French defence major Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in the maritime environment.

The sealing of the mega deal came three weeks after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement.

Under the terms of reference, the delivery of the jets will have to start around five years after the signing of the contract.

In July 2023, the defence ministry accorded the initial approval for the mega acquisition following a series of deliberations and evaluation tests of the platform.

Under the deal, the Indian Navy will also get associated ancillary equipment including weapon systems and spares from Dassault Aviation.

The defence ministry said that the Rafale-Marine has commonality with the Rafale being operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

"Its procurement will substantially enhance joint operational capability, besides optimising training and logistics for the aircraft for both Indian Navy and IAF," it said in a statement.

"The induction would lead to the addition of a potent force multiplier to the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers, substantially boosting the nation's air power at sea," it said

The intergovernmental pact has been signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and France's Minister of Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu.

The signed copies of the agreement, aircraft package supply protocol and weapons package supply protocol were exchanged by Indian and French officials, the defence ministry said.

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City Pioneer

The Pioneer

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | APRIL 29, 2025

03



CITY EVENTS

Cultural Programmes
By TMBM Welfare Association
Venue
Ravindra Bharathi
April 29, 9 am.

Telugu Drama
By Rasaranjani Group
Venue
Ravindra Bharathi
April 29, 6 pm.

ICON Awards
By Bangaru Telangana Folk Arts Academya
Venue
Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha
April 29, 4 pm.

Live Stand Up Comedy Show
By Anu Menon
Venue
The Comedy Theatre, Hyderabad
April 29, 7:30 pm.

Tuesday Open Mic Comedy
Venue
railing Ivy Cafe
April 29, 8 pm.

Stri Shakti Awards for women entrepreneurs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI) hosted the prestigious Stri Shakti Awards 2025 at HICC, Madhapur, celebrating the achievements of 50 women changemakers who have made significant contributions in the fields of events, culture, creative industries, hospitality and social development.

In its seventh edition, the Stri Shakti Awards have evolved into a premier platform recognising women leaders who are driving transformative change. Chief Guest, Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, and Women and Child Welfare, Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, led the award ceremony, honouring women achievers and underlining the Telangana government's commitment to women empowerment. She highlighted initiatives such as the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme, aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and self-reliance among women.

Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, emphasised the growing importance of the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) and their role as platforms for entrepreneurship and innovation, where women are emerging as leaders and changemakers. He noted that platforms like Stri Shakti Awards inspire more women to take leadership roles in dynamic sectors.

Divya Devarajan, CEO of SERP, announced that SERP has partnered with TCEI to train grassroots women entrepreneurs as event managers, helping them acquire crucial industry skills.

She expressed pride in recognising and empowering rural women through such collaborations.

TCEI President Balaram Babu and Stri Shakti Awards Convenor Vishala Reddy shared their excitement about the growing reach of the platform and announced future plans to launch an exclusive conference dedicated to the Creative Economy to further amplify women's leadership in the sector. Out of over 250 applicants from across India, 50 exceptional women were honoured across four categories - Stri Ratna, Stri Murti, Stri Shakti, and a special SHG Women segment.

The prestigious Stri Ratna Award was presented to notable leaders Rajani Nair Deb, Malini Divakala, Pushpa Bhaskar, Vani Thammayagari and Malini L. Narasimhan, each of whom has over 15 years of experience in their respective fields.

The TCEI Executive Committee, including General Secretary Ravi Bura, Joint Secretary Ram Muppana, Treasurer Toufiq Mohemmed, and vertical association presidents, along with Stri Shakti Co-Convenors Prabha Chowdary, Vandana Raja and Deepthi Jai, and working committee members Jigna Shah, Sanju and Preeti were also present to celebrate the occasion.

NRI MARRIAGES TURN NIGHTMARE

Women seek justice at NCW's Jan Sunwai

DEEPIKA PASHAM
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD



Women submitting the grievances at Jan Sunwai in Hyderabad

Several women in distress turned up at the Jan Sunwai public hearing organised under the Rashtriya Mahila Aayog Aapke Dwaar initiative by the National Commission for Women (NCW) at Tourism Plaza, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

Though scheduled for 10:30 am, proceedings began around 11 am, with women being directed to various departments for grievance redressal. Later, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar personally heard several cases. Departments were instructed to respond within a week and complaints were immediately documented via email, according to officials from the Women Development and Child Welfare Department.

Most of the women were from surroundings of Hyderabad and the National Commission for Women has guaranteed that the programme will be conducted in districts as well.

Educated women - graduates and postgraduates - narrated struggles involving domestic violence, dowry harassment, sexual harassment and NRI marital disputes. Several NRI women, particularly those married to men in Dubai and Oman, recounted prolonged battles for child custody and safety.

One postgraduate woman shared how her Dubai-based husband turned abusive after marriage, leaving her stranded with a child in Hyderabad. Another woman, a postgraduate in Anesthesia, described how she was locked up by her husband after a marriage arranged via social media.

Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar clarified that cases under judicial review would not be intervened, but others would be pursued. The NCW plans a return visit in six months while coordinating with Telangana departments.

During the session, police apathy was highlighted, with nearly 30 previously registered complaints from 2022 to 2024 and 50-60 fresh walk-in cases taken up for action.

Some women in live-in relationships were also cheated after being promised marriage; they became pregnant but were later abandoned, with the men forcing termination of the pregnancies. The NCW has advised such women to stay alert, know their legal rights, and file cases against the perpetrators.



Individuals submitting grievances at Prajavani programme

67 grievances filed at GHMC Prajavani programme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Additional Commissioner Shiva Kumar Naidu directed officials to promptly address public grievances received during the Prajavani programme.

He said that complaints must be reviewed immediately and resolved without delay.

The Prajavani session, held on Monday at the GHMC headquarters, saw citizens from various parts of Hyderabad submit a total of 67 petitions. Shiva Kumar Naidu personally received the grievances and forwarded them to the departments concerned for quick action.

Out of the 67 complaints 33 were related to the Town Planning Department,

9 to the Tax Section, three each to the Engineering and Electrical Departments, two each to the Administration, Sanitation and Finance Departments, one each to the Health, Vigilance, Elections, UBD (Urban Biodiversity), Lakes, and Veterinary Departments and additionally, seven complaints were received via phone calls.

Across GHMC's six zones, a total of 113 petitions were filed during the programme - Kukatpally Zone: 42, Secunderabad Zone: 40, Serilingampally Zone: 12, LB Nagar Zone: 11, Charminar Zone: 5 and Khairatabad Zone: 3.

Tourist guides' false claims on Ramappa temple refuted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

During Miss India 2022 Nandini Gupta's visit to the UNESCO-recognised Ramappa Temple in Venkatapuram mandal, Mulugu district, local tourist guides wrongly claimed that the temple's sculptures were created by melting and casting stones.

The New Telangana History Team, led by Convener Sriramoju Haragopal, along with BV Bhadragirish, Katta Srinivas, and other members, strongly refuted these statements.

They clarified that the intricate sculptures were carved meticulously using chisels, not through any melting or casting process.

Historians warned that such misinformation damages the legacy of Telangana's master sculptors and urged guides to present only factual narratives about the temple's artistry.

Experts Dr Emani Shivanagireddy and architect DNV Prasad backed the historians' stand.

Renowned geologist and advisor Chakilam Venugopal Rao emphasised that melting stone to craft sculptures is scientifically impossible, both in ancient times and today. Stone formation is a natural geological process and heating stone would only cause it to shatter, he explained.

Meanwhile, Vijay, one of the Ramappa guides, later clarified in a call with the New Telangana History Group that he had not make such claims.

Justice A Rajasheker Reddy sworn in as Lokayukta of TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma administered the oath of office to Justice A Rajasheker Reddy, former Judge of the High Court, as Lokayukta of Telangana at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad, on April 28.

At the same ceremony, BS Jag Jeevan Kumar, former District and Sessions Judge, was sworn in as Upa-Lokayukta of Telangana.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad and senior officials attended the event.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials and dignitaries at Raj Bhavan.



SI caught red-handed by ACB for accepting bribe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Monday caught M Parashuram, Sub-Inspector of Police, Shamirpet police station under Cyberabad Commissionerate, while accepting a bribe of Rs 22,000 from a complainant. According to officials, the SI demanded the bribe to extend undue favour by excluding the complainant and his worker from a cheating case registered at the station and for returning the complainant's cell phone.



Investigations revealed that Parashuram had already accepted an earlier bribe of Rs 2 lakh from the same complainant for similar favours. ACB officials recovered the entire bribe amount during the operation.

Following his arrest, Parashuram was produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at Nampally Court. The case is currently under investigation.

INITIATIVE TO BUILD LIBRARIES

TGSWREIS launches 'Shout Out for Children's Books'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant move to promote reading among young learners, the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS) has announced the launch of the 'Shout Out for Children's Books' initiative.

The programme invites book lovers, philanthropists and education enthusiasts to contribute new or gently used children's books to build vibrant libraries for deserving students across TGSWREIS institutions. Contributions of both old and new books are welcome, with the belief that every book has the potential to ignite imagination, broaden horizons and inspire greatness.

With a strong commitment to holistic education, Secretary Dr VS Alagu Varsini envisages this initiative as a transformative step to cultivate a robust reading culture, empowering students with knowledge, creativity and confidence for the future.

In the first phase, the collection drive will be organised at three key locations: TGSWREIS Head Office, TGSWREIS Saroor Nagar School and Centre of Excellence (COE), Gowlidoddi.

To coordinate the efforts, the following officials have been designated:

K Venugopal, Superintendent (8919493096) and R Sreepriya, Superintendent (7702228608) at TGSWREIS Head Office; Swarnalatha, Librarian (9866230362) and M Rajeshwari, Junior Assistant (9676449662) at TGSWRS/JC Saroor Nagar;

Kalpana, Principal (9704550228) at COE Gowlidoddi. TGSWREIS has extended a heartfelt appeal to the broader community to support this noble cause.

Conductor honoured for returning bag with Rs 13 lakh to Passenger

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Displaying exemplary honesty and humanity, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) conductor Venkateshwarlu returned a lost bag containing gold and silver jewellery and cash worth Rs 13 lakh to its rightful owner.

In recognition of his integrity, the TGSRTC management honoured him at a special event in Hyderabad's Bus Bhavan on Monday.



Venkateshwarlu, attached to the Achampet depot, was performing his duty on the Achampet-Hyderabad route on April 26 when he noticed a bag left behind by a passenger upon reaching Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS). Upon inspection, the bag was found to contain 14 tolas of gold ornaments, 10 tolas of silver jewellery, Rs 14,800 in cash, and important documents including a child's birth certificate and educational certificates.

Without delay, Venkateshwarlu informed Achampet DM Murali Durga Prasad, who instructed him to hand over the bag to the Station Manager's office at MGBS.

Meanwhile, a passenger named Anil Kumar contacted the depot manager reporting the loss of his bag, stating that he had boarded the bus at Kandukur and alighted at CBS before heading to Kachiguda.

After verifying the details, TGSRTC officials safely returned the bag to Anil Kumar.

TGSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar, along with senior officials including Executive Director Muni Shekhar, Finance Advisor Vijaya Pushpa and Achampet DM Murali Durga Prasad, felicitated Venkateshwarlu and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajjanar praised the conductor's honesty and said, "By going the extra mile in his duty, Venkateshwarlu has brought pride to the TGSRTC family and set an inspiring example for society."

Two-day activism training session for teachers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State United Teachers Federation (TSUTF) Hyderabad district committee launched a two-day activism training programme on Monday at the federation's State office, Chennupati Bhavan. TSUTF State President Chava Ravi inaugurated the sessions as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Chava Ravi said that TSUTF members must thoroughly understand the organisation's rules and regulations. He stressed that a strong organisational structure empowers members to fight for their rights with commitment whenever issues arise. He also urged activists to be well-versed with service regulations to effectively address teachers' queries.

On the first day of the training, TSUTF District President Rajarao presided over the morning session, while State Secretary Simhachalam conducted a class on organisational structure and working methods. In the afternoon session, District Vice-President Nagaraju acted as the principal and State Secretary Venkatappa taught about leave regulations.

Sports Authority of Telangana launches summer coaching camps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) has announced the launch of Summer Coaching Camps - Shaping Young India Champions - 2025 across the State from May 1 to June 6, 2025.

Advisor to Sports AP Jithendar Reddy, SATG Chairman K Shiva Sena Reddy and VC&MD A Sonibala Devi released the poster and distributed sports materials at an event held at Lal Bahadur Stadium on April 28. The Summer coaching camps will be held at all stadia across Hyderabad, Secunderabad and the districts, offering morning and evening sessions. Interested participants can register online through the SATG website or via QR codes available at all stadia.



In an encouraging move, parents and guardians accompanying children can avail free Yoga and Zumba classes. Additionally, free coaching for Para Games is being provided, marking a first for SATG. The Sports Authority is also supplying sports materials to all district headquarters for the first time. Honorarium for Assistant Coaches has been enhanced this year, with rural coaches receiving Rs 5,000, district headquarters coaches Rs 7,500 and coaches in urban areas including twin cities receiving up to Rs15,000.

With an emphasis on shaping future champions and identifying hidden talent, SATG has made online registration mandatory State-wide to ensure seamless participation.

The camps will cover a wide range of sports across key venues like LB Stadium, Indoor Stadium Saroornagar, Cycling Velodrome at OU Campus, Sports Complex Gachibowli, Gymkhana Grounds Secunderabad, Water Sports at Hussain Sagar, KVBR Indoor Stadium Yousufguda and the Shooting Range at University of Hyderabad.

Students can enroll in disciplines including Cricket, Football, Badminton, Swimming, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Athletics, Basketball, Skating, Boxing, Table Tennis, Lawn Tennis, Hockey, Chess, Carrom, Yoga, Powerlifting, Weightlifting, and Water Sports like Canoeing, Kayaking, and Rowing.

TJAC Chairman Raghu appointed member of TGERC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has appointed new members to the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC), according to a notification issued by the Energy Department on Monday.

In the order released through GO Ms No.14, the government named Raghu Kancharla as Member (Technical) and Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao as Member (Finance) of TGERC. The appointments are for a term of five years from the date they assume office or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Raghu Kancharla is Chief Engineer Transco from 2017-2022. He succeeded Professor Kodandaram as TJAC Chairman.

Bhu Bharati a boon for farmers: Ponguleti



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy speaking at the Bhu Bharati awareness seminar in Aswaraopeta on Monday

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy asserted that the Bhu Bharati Act would offer permanent solutions to all land issues.

He emphasised that, unlike the selfishly designed Dharani system, the new Record of Revenue Act is a boon to farmers.

The Minister was the chief guest at an awareness seminar on the Bhu Bharati—2025 Act, held on Monday at Aswaraopeta in Bhadradri Kothagudem district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stated that before drafting this Act, they considered the hardships faced by farmers and formed a special committee. The Act was framed based on the recommendations of that committee to protect farmers.

He criticised the previous Dharani Act, which he said was prepared selfishly within four walls, noting that even after three years, proper regulations were not framed for it.

He added that as part of this initiative, pilot project implementation is being carried out in four mandals across the State, with all data and applications being collected. By June 2, it was aimed to resolve as many issues as possible and distribute available government land as pattas (title deeds) to eligible beneficiaries.

In this process, Nelakondapalli mandal in Khammam district was chosen as a pilot project.

To ensure justice for landowners, a five-tier system would be introduced, starting from the Tahsildar level up to the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA).

If justice is not obtained even at the CCLA level, people can approach a tribunal, he added.

He assured that tribunals would be set up across the state as required.

He said steps are being taken to ensure that revenue and village administration officers are fully accessible to people by May 10.

He warned that strict action would be taken against any officials found guilty of wrongdoing.

He criticised past practices under the Rythu Bandhu scheme, stating that pink party workers were issued pattadar passbooks even if they did not own land, and warned that such irregularities would not be tolerated.

He assured that the revenue system would serve farmers more effectively and without political bias.

In the spirit of Indiramma Rajyam, the law would serve as a protective support for the poor, regardless of political affiliations.



BHU BHARATI ACT IS HISTORIC: NAVIN MITTAL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Navin Mittal, the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) and Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department, stated that the newly formulated Bhu Bharati Act – 2025 by the Telangana government is historic.

In his role as CCLA Commissioner and Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department, Navin Mittal played a key role in the design of the Actas and also in strengthening Revenue services.

During his first visit to CCLA officials on Monday after the launch of the Bhu Bharati Act, he was congratulated by the employees under the leadership of V Lachireddy, Chairman of the Telangana Employees JAC and president of the Deputy Collectors Association.

On the occasion, a cake was cut, and Navin Mittal extended his greetings and congratulations to farmers and Revenue employees.

Later, he participated in an awareness seminar organised for the CCLA office staff on the Act, where he guided employees on the importance of the Act, each clause within it, and the associated rules.

The event was attended by Telangana Employees JAC Chairman and Deputy Collectors Association President V Lachireddy, TGRSA State Treasurer Mallesh, TGRSA CCLA Division president and secretary Krishna Chaitanya, Rambabu, Srikant Reddy, Suresh, and a large number of CCLA division employees.



Fire mishap at YTPS Unit one in Nalgonda district

Minor fire at Yadadri power plant in Telangana, no injuries

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANGIRI

A minor fire broke out in Unit-1 of Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) in Nalgonda district of Telangana on Monday, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident, which occurred around midnight, officials said, adding only some cables and valves were burnt.

"It was a minor fire where some cables were burnt. The fire was brought under control immediately," a senior police official said.

Leakage of fuel oil has been found to be the cause of fire, an official release said.

The unit, where operational trials are going on, is under the control of BHEL (involved in plant works) and construction works have not been completed, it said.

The minor damage does not hamper routine works, it said, quoting BHEL officials.

YTPS has five units of 800 MW each. The Unit-2 was completed last year, and it was earlier announced that the ongoing work at the plant will be completed by mid 2025.

It may be recalled that a similar incident had occurred earlier on February 14 of this year. At that time, ash fell near the ESP (Electrostatic Precipitator) of the ash plant, severely injuring six workers.

Family protests as baby dies in hospital

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

A tragic incident occurred at a private hospital in Siddipet town, where an 8-month-old baby died allegedly due to the negligence of doctors. The baby, who was from Dubbaka town, was admitted to hospital in Siddipet for treatment as he was unwell, according to family members.

The relatives alleged that the baby died because of improper treatment and the doctors' negligence. Grieving family members staged a protest in front of the hospital demanding justice.

The baby's parents stated that the child began bleeding from the nose immediately after being given an injection by the doctors, and he died shortly thereafter.

The relatives of the deceased are demanding strict action against the doctors responsible and are seeking justice. The family members protested in front of the hospital.



Family members protesting after a baby died in a private hospital in Siddipet on Monday

BRS silver jubilee meet a 'gathering of slaves'

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA and Chairman of State Government Sector Enterprises, Veerlapalli Shankar, launched a scathing attack on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), describing the party's 25th Silver Jubilee meeting held in Warangal as a complete failure. Addressing a media conference at the MLA camp office on Monday, Shankar alleged that KCR stepped out of his farmhouse after 14 months only to hold a grand public meeting aimed solely at boosting his family's political prospects. But, it backfired on him.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar

Shankar accused KCR of organising the massive event merely to regain political relevance and not for addressing public issues.

He criticised the former Chief Minister as a "hermit who destroyed Telangana," stating that KCR had turned a surplus state into a debt-ridden one by prioritising his family's financial interests.

Highlighting broken promises, Shankar reminded that during his decade-long rule, KCR failed to fulfill commitments such as appointing a Dalit Chief Minister, providing unemployment allowances, and distributing three acres of land to SCs and STs.

He ridiculed the release of a fresh list of 100 promises, pointing out that the previous assurances remained unfulfilled.

Couple dies in suicide pact over dowry

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Tragedy struck Tekulapalli in Kothagudem district. A young couple, who had a love marriage six months ago, committed suicide in a suicide pact unable to bear the harassment of family members.

Islav Deepika (19) from Regula Thanda village under Tekulapalli mandal and Boda Srinu (23) from Venkatya Thanda were in love. As their elders did not agree to their marriage, they defied their families and got married six months ago. The young couple, who stayed away from their families for a few days, later came to Srinu's residence in Venkatya Thanda.



For the past two months, family members had been pressuring Deepika for dowry. This led to frequent quarrels between them. Deepika was three months pregnant.

Frustrated by the family disputes, Srinu consumed a soft drink laced a pesticide and rat poison on April 24. He later informed his wife about it. Following this, she also drank the same soft drink.

Upon learning about this, family members initially shifted the couple to Kothagudem Government Hospital.

Later, they were moved to a Khammam district hospital for better treatment.

Deepika died, while undergoing treatment in hospital on April 25. Srinu also passed away in the early hours of Monday.

The village is shrouded in grief as the couple, who had a love marriage against the wishes of their elders with so much hope, died by suicide due to family disputes even before six months had passed.



Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar speaking at a meeting at Gattla Narsingapur in Hanamkonda district on Monday

'Govt committed to providing quality power to farmers'

PNS ■ HANMKONDA

Minister for Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the government is providing better and quality power supply to farmers and the people in the state.

On Monday, the Minister performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of a new 33/11 kV power substation in Gattla Narsingapur under Bhimadevarapalli mandal in Hanamkonda district. District Collector P Pravinya and TG NPDCL CMD Varun Reddy were present.

During the meeting held on the occasion, Minister Prabhakar mentioned that the power substation is being constructed for the benefit of people. He announced that the work has commenced with an investment of Rs 2.14 crores for the construction of the power substation. He also stated that continuous reviews with officials are being conducted to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the State. He mentioned that there are no issues with the power supply for residences and agriculture.

KARREGATTU COMBING OPERATIONS

Villages echo with gunfire

PNS ■ MULUGU

The Karregutta region, situated in the Vajedu and Venkatapuram mandals of Mulugu district—bordering Telangana and Chhattisgarh—has been resonating with heavy gunfire for the past week. This area has been the site of ongoing clashes between Central security forces and Maoists.



Security personnel are actively conducting combing operations, meticulously searching the thick forests to counter Maoist activities. Reports indicate that nearly 5,000 personnel have entered the forests for combing operations. As a result, high tension prevails in the border areas of Venkatapuram.

Telangana–Chhattisgarh border villages like Wazeedu and Venkatapuram mandals are like a smouldering fire. To understand the ground reality, a journey was undertaken through the forest routes known to be Maoist strongholds—through Charla and Bijapur.

The path passed from Telangana's last village, Kotha Gumpu, over Tadapaalaguttas, entering Chhattisgarh via villages like Utlapalli, Chole, Doli, Pamuluru, Pesaragonda, and Gadhloki. From there, it continued through Rampuram, Beemaram, Chinna Ootla, Pedda Ootla, Kasturipadu, Pujarikanker, Gunjaparthi, Nambi, Gal Gav, Nadunpalli, Usooru, and Avupalli before heading toward Bijapur. This entire route lies along the edge of the Karreguttas. Here's the ground report from the area:

While taking photos near Chinna Ootlapalli at the edge of the village, two locals were seen. When asked if they were facing difficulties due to the security forces' operations, they replied, "Two or three people from each village are currently missing. "Every time we hear gunshots, explosions, or helicopters overhead, we worry about their safety."

About five days ago, soldiers from a nearby camp warned villagers not to enter the forest or even step out of their homes. On Monday evening, troops passed through their village heading toward the Karregutta, and since then, combing parties have been active in the surrounding forests. When the journalists tried to proceed past Pujari Kanker, checkpoint security personnel stopped them despite showing the journalists identity cards. They were turned back, citing dangerous conditions. Every forest base camp has three-tiered security and helipads. Camps are being rapidly constructed.

Man murdered in broad daylight in Peddapalli

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

A 40-year-old man, identified as Polam Kumar, was murdered in broad daylight at the agricultural market in Peddapalli town on Monday.

Kumar, who belonged to Appannapet village under Peddapalli mandal, was brutally murdered allegedly by Velpula Santosh, who hailed from Dongathurthi village in Dharmaram mandal, police said. Santosh stabbed Kumar in the neck with a knife.

Upon receiving the information, the police reached the scene and are gathering details. The police took the suspect, along with a woman, into custody and shifted them to the police station for questioning.

The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained.

It is suspected that an extramarital affair may have been the motive behind the murder.

Officials told to complete drainage work before monsoon

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

As part of the underground drainage works being undertaken in Khammam city, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to ensure that the sewage pipeline works are completed before the monsoon season.

On Monday, the Minister, along with Khammam Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abhishek Augustya, visited the local Bypass Road and supervised the ongoing underground drainage construction works there.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao inspecting the underground drainage works, along with Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Augustya in Khammam on Monday

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nageswara Rao said that under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, underground sewage drainage works worth approximately Rs 189.50 crore are under construction. As part of this scheme, a 9.6 km sewage pipeline is being laid from Khanapuram Lake to Thamsalapuram Lake. Internal pipelines will be connected to transfer the sewage to a treatment plant.

He stated that a sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 44 million liters is being built at Thamsalapuram, and another with a capacity of 9.5 million liters at Puttakota. He instructed officials to complete stormwater drainage works before the rainy season begins.

He enquired about the progress of the UGD (underground drainage) works and suggested using additional manpower and JCB vehicles to speed up the work.

He asked the officials how many meters of pipeline are being laid daily and emphasised that the work should be completed as quickly as possible within the next two months.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor Swarnajayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad

PUBLIC NOTICE PLANNING DEPARTMENT
File No. 012720/FLT/HMDA/3423/SKP/2024

M/s. Rainbow Vision Developers LLP rep by N. Venkata Narasimha & Others previously applied for approval of Draft Layout with Open plots in **Sy.Nos. 201, 202, 205, 206/A, 206/AA, 208/A/1, 208/AA, 209/A, 209/AA, 209/AA/1, 209/AA/2, 210/2, 210/AA, 213, 214/A, 214/AA, 215/A, 215/AA, 216/A/2, 216/AA/2, 216/E, 216/EE, 216/U, 217/A1, 217/A2, 217/UU, 217/U2, 217/E, 217/U1, 218/E5, 218/U1, 218/U2, 218/U3, 218/U4, 218/RU2, 218/A, 218/E, 218/Y, 218/RUU, 218/YY, 218/EE, 218/U5, 219, 228/A, 228/AA/2, 228/E/1, 228E/2, 229/E, 229/U, 229/UU, 240/A/1, 240/A/2, 240A/3, 240/AA/1, 240AA/2, 241/A/2, 241/AA, 242/A, 242/AA2, 242/E, 243/A, 243/AA, 244/A, 244/AA, 244/E, 244/EE, 244/U, 245/AA/1/1, 245/AA/1/2, 246/A, 246/E, 246/EE, 247, 248/AA, 248/1/1, 248/1/2, 248/3, 249/AA, 249/E, 250/A, 250/AA, 257/A/AA, 258/A & 258/AA** situated at Rameshwaram Banda Village, Patancheruvu Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, to an extent of 69058.49 Sq.Mtrs and the same is approved vide File No. **061377/SKP/LT/U6/HMDA/26062023, dt. 07.06.2024.**

Vide Application dt. 11.11.2024 M/s. Rainbow Vision Developers LLP rep by N. Venkata Narasimha & Others applied for Approval of Revised cum Final Layout with open Plots **Sy.Nos. 201, 202, 205, 206/A, 206/AA, 208/A/1, 208/AA, 209/A, 209/AA, 209/AA/1, 209/AA/2, 210/2, 210/AA, 213, 214/A, 214/AA, 215/A, 215/AA, 216/A/2, 216/AA/2, 216/E, 216/EE, 216/U, 217/A1, 217/A2, 217/UU, 217/U2, 217/E, 217/U1, 218/E5, 218/U1, 218/U2, 218/U3, 218/U4, 218/RU2, 218/A, 218/E, 218/Y, 218/RUU, 218/YY, 218/EE, 218/U5, 219, 228/A, 228/AA/2, 228/E/1, 228E/2, 229/E, 229/U, 229/UU, 240/A/1, 240/A/2, 240A/3, 240/AA/1, 240AA/2, 241/A/2, 241/AA, 242/A, 242/AA2, 242/E, 243/A, 243/AA, 244/A, 244/AA, 244/E, 244/EE, 244/U, 245/AA/1/1, 245/AA/1/2, 246/A, 246/E, 246/EE, 247, 248/AA, 248/1/1, 248/1/2, 248/3, 249/AA, 249/E, 250/A, 250/AA, 257/A/AA, 258/A & 258/AA** situated at Rameshwaram Banda Village, Patancheruvu Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, to an extent of 69058.49. Sq.Mtrs.

Therefore, the plot owners / Purchasers / Agreement Holders of said Layout in **Sy.Nos. 201, 202, 205, 206/A, 206/AA, 208/A/1, 208/AA, 209/A, 209/AA, 209/AA/1, 209/AA/2, 210/2, 210/AA, 213, 214/A, 214/AA, 215/A, 215/AA, 216/A/2, 216/AA/2, 216/E, 216/EE, 216/U, 217/A1, 217/A2, 217/UU, 217/U2, 217/E, 217/U1, 218/E5, 218/U1, 218/U2, 218/U3, 218/U4, 218/RU2, 218/A, 218/E, 218/Y, 218/RUU, 218/YY, 218/EE, 218/U5, 219, 228/A, 228/AA/2, 228/E/1, 228E/2, 229/E, 229/U, 229/UU, 240/A/1, 240/A/2, 240A/3, 240/AA/1, 240AA/2, 241/A/2, 241/AA, 242/A, 242/AA2, 242/E, 243/A, 243/AA, 244/A, 244/AA, 244/E, 244/EE, 244/U, 245/AA/1/1, 245/AA/1/2, 246/A, 246/E, 246/EE, 247, 248/AA, 248/1/1, 248/1/2, 248/3, 249/AA 249/E, 250/A, 250/AA, 257/A/AA, 258/A & 258/AA** Situated at Rameshwaram Banda Village, Patancheruvu Mandal may file their objections / suggestions in writing if any within (15) days to this office from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections / suggestions are received within the above period the request of the application for approval of revised cum Final Layout with open plots in the said survey numbers of Rameshwaram Banda Village, Patancheruvu Mandal to an extent of 69058.49 Sq.Mtrs will be considered basing on the material papers available with this office.

Sd/- For Metropolitan Commissioner
Director, Planning - II, HMDA

DIPR R.O.70-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 28.04.2025

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | APRIL 29, 2025

ACROSS THE STATES



Kerala Health dept urges caution against cholera

The Kerala Health Department on Monday issued a warning regarding cholera cases in the district following the death of a man due to the waterborne disease. Health Minister Veena George urged caution against the disease and advised avoiding the intake of contaminated food or water. "Cholera can be transmitted through contaminated water and food. Special vigilance should be exercised as it is summer season," she said in a statement. The health minister came up with the warning after the recent death of a 63-year-old man at a hospital in the capital district. George said the department has taken stringent measures after the death was confirmed due to the disease. Neither his relatives nor any of the staff of the hospital where the patient was treated had any symptoms of cholera so far, the minister said, adding that they have all been given preventive medicines. Diarrhoea, vomiting, muscle pain, and dehydration are the main symptoms of the disease, and people should seek immediate treatment if anyone experiences the



Himachal launches portal to facilitate pensioners

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday launched a portal to facilitate beneficiaries of the state's eight pension schemes. The 'e-Kalyan' portal has been developed by the Department for Empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, and Specially Abled (ESOMSA) of the state government. "All eligible applicants seeking benefits under various pension schemes being run by the Directorate of ESOMSA can apply online through the portal," a statement issued here said. According to Sukhu, "providing social security pensions to the needy was one of top priorities of the state government" and he reiterated the government's commitment to functioning in line with the principles of a welfare state. Sukhu said eight pension schemes were currently operational in the state for the welfare of the vulnerable sections of society. He said that Rs 1,410 crore have been spent on these schemes during last financial year, benefitting 8,24,928 individuals.



450 illegal Bangla immigrants identified in Gujarat

Around 450 Bangladeshi nationals have been found to be residing illegally in Gujarat so far after police launched a crackdown and detained nearly 6,500 undocumented people who are suspected to be citizens of the neighbouring country, DGP Vikas Sahay said on Monday. Director General of Police (DGP) Sahay said following mega search operations in Ahmedabad and Surat, similar exercises were undertaken across the state, with a total around 6,500 suspected illegal Bangladeshi immigrants detained and their identities being verified. "After mega search operations were carried out in Ahmedabad and Surat, all districts and police commissionerates of Gujarat were asked to undertake the task (of identifying Bangladeshi nationals). As per information available with me, we have detained around 6,500 suspected Bangladeshi citizens and questioned them," he informed. "So far, around 450 Bangladeshi citizens have been established to be living illegally here (in Gujarat) on the basis of documentary proof. Interrogation of the rest of the detainees is going on. We feel we will be able to establish the identity of a large number of illegal Bangladeshis," the IPS officer maintained.



India's military expenditure was nearly 9 times that of Pakistan: SIPRI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's military spending in 2024 was nearly nine times that of Pakistan's expenditure, according to a study released on Monday by a leading Swedish think-tank that comes amid growing tensions between the two countries over the Pahalgam attack.

India's military expenditure, the fifth largest globally, grew by 1.6 per cent to USD 86.1 billion while Pakistan's spent USD 10.2 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The top five military spenders -- the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India -- accounted for 60 per cent of the global total, with combined spending of USD 1635 billion, it said.

China's military expenditure increased by 7.0 per cent to an estimated USD 314 billion, marking three decades of consecutive growth, the study noted.

The communist nation accounted for 50 per cent of all military spending in Asia and Oceania, investing in the continued modernisation of its military and expansion of its cyberwarfare capabilities and nuclear arsenal, it said in the report titled "Trends in World Military Expenditure 2024".

The SIPRI said military spending in Europe (including Russia) rose by 17 per cent to USD 693 billion and was the main contributor to the global increase in 2024.

With the war in Ukraine in its third year, military expenditure kept rising across the continent, pushing European military spending beyond the level recorded at the end of the Cold War, it noted.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Oppn MPs demand special session of Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More opposition MPs on Monday joined the call for convening a special session of Parliament in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while Communist Party of India (CPI) MP P Sandosh Kumar sent a letter to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, urging them to convene a special session of Parliament to express the will of the nation and send a message of unity.

Independent Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal had on Sunday requested political parties to urge the government to convene a special session of Parliament as early as possible in May. The former Union minister has called for passing a resolution condemning the Pahalgam terror attack to convey the message to the world that the country is united.

Jha, in his letter addressed to the prime minister, said the Parliament of India stands as the cornerstone of the republic and the highest forum for democratic expression.



"At this time of grief and testing, the Parliament must come together to pay heartfelt homage to the victims of the Pahalgam attack, honour their memory, and reaffirm our shared commitment to the ideals of unity, justice and peace.

"At this time of grief and testing, the Parliament must come together to pay heartfelt homage to the victims of the Pahalgam attack, honour their memory, and reaffirm our shared commitment to the ideals of unity, justice and peace," Jha said.

He said it is essential that the government takes the nation and its elected representatives into full confidence, adding that a shared national response, built through consultation and consensus, is the surest path to preserving unity and safeguarding our nation.

"It is in this spirit that I respectfully urge you to convene a Special Session of Parliament, dedicated exclusively to an open and principled discussion on the Pahalgam attack and its broader implications for the security, well-being and aspirations of the people of India," Jha said.

Kumar, a CPI MP from Rajya Sabha, in his letter addressed to Rijiju, said the special session would allow members across party lines to come together to mourn the loss and express the will of the nation. He said the attack did not only cause immense sorrow to the victims' kin but also shook the "collective conscience of our nation."

Age no bar: At 84, scientist earns MBA degree from IIM; next step PhD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For Dr Girish Mohan Gupta, age is not a limitation; it is merely a statistic. At the age of 84, when most people prefer to slow down, looking forward to their retirement, the veteran scientist and entrepreneur has added another feather to his cap — an MBA degree from IIM-Sambalpur — and is already preparing for his next academic journey, a PhD in management.

"There is no age limit for learning," said Gupta after receiving his degree from the prestigious institute last week.

"As long as you are curious and willing, every day becomes a new opportunity," he said. With an impressive CGPA of 7.4, Gupta emerged as one of the most consistent performers in his batch under the MBA for Working Professionals programme. Balancing rigorous weekend classes with corporate responsibilities was no easy feat, but discipline and passion kept him going.

"I never let age come between me and my curiosity.



I love sports, I swim regularly, and I play badminton. Fitness and learning are constants in my life," he said, adding that he was often among the first to arrive on campus for classes. Born in pre-Independence India in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district, Gupta's remarkable journey from a small town to India's premier atomic energy institutions is a story of determination and lifelong learning.

After graduating in mechanical engineering from Aligarh Muslim University, he rose through the ranks at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), where he contributed to critical projects involving fast breeder reactors -- a highly sensitive area of nuclear research.

"During one of my earliest assignments at BARC, I was tasked with designing sodium-based equipment for breeder reactors. We had to innovate with limited resources, and the spirit of 'Make in India' was very much alive even then," Gupta recalled.

Following a successful career in nuclear research, Gupta diversified into industrial innovation, founding ventures that developed safety and automation products for Indian Railways, defence establishments, and private-sector companies.

As Delhi sizzles, rising heat takes a toll on animals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With temperatures soaring, veterinarians across Delhi highlighted a rise in cases of dehydration, heatstroke and respiratory distress among animals.

They advised that pets be kept in cool rooms so that they can be comfortable as temperatures hit new highs.

The city's weather has remained dry and hot throughout April, with very little rainfall.

Heatstroke can cause symptoms like excessive panting, drooling, weakness, vomiting and diarrhoea, veterinarians explained. Pet cats and dogs, stray animals, and even birds are struggling to cope with the extreme heat.

Dr Anuradha Sharma, veterinarian at city-based clinic, said, "Just like humans, animals are extremely vulnerable to heat stress. Dogs, cats, cows and even birds like pigeons and crows are coming in with symptoms of severe dehydration and heat exhaustion."

Explaining the impact of extreme temperatures, Sharma said, "Animals, especially dogs and cats, regulate their body temperature differently from humans. They do not sweat like we do."

Public outrage marks beginning of terrorism's end in J-K: CM

PNS ■ JAMMU

The unprecedented and spontaneous public outrage in Jammu and Kashmir over the Pahalgam terror attack has offered a glimmer of hope that terrorism may see its end soon with people's help, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday.

While assuring that his government would work to strengthen people's crusade against the menace of terrorism, Abdullah also appealed to the Centre to avoid steps that will alienate the public in the aftermath of the April 22 attack in Baisaran meadow that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

Terming the massacre as the most unfortunate during the special one-day session of the J&K



Assembly to pay homage to the victims, Abdullah said the spontaneous pouring of people on roads against the incident offers a glimmer of hope that terrorism may see its end soon with their help.

"Militancy, terror or terrorism will finish when people are with us. Given people's outrage against the terror attack, this is the beginning of its finishing if we take proper steps," an emotional chief minister said, winding up a discussion on a resolution in the House to condemn the Pahalgam terror attack.

"We should not take any step or action that will alienate people. We cannot control a terrorist with a gun but we can end terrorism if people are with us. I think that time has come when people are heading towards that stage," he said.

Referring to the unprecedented and spontaneous protests across Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said Srinagar's Jamia Masjid and other mosques for the first time observed a two-minute silence before Friday prayers.

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

SC orders expeditious trial of 11 cases in Kanpur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Monday directed the expeditious trial of 11 cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in which chargesheets were filed post a reinvestigation.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh asked the special public prosecutors appointed in the case to enter appearance before the courts aside from measures for the cases' early disposal.

The bench underlined an "inordinate delay" in the matter and ordered the expeditious trial of the cases.

Advocate Ruchira Goel, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said a 40-year-old illegible FIR in a Kanpur anti-Sikh riots case was forwarded to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) to re-trace its contents but the laboratory was yet to give a report.

Communalism will not set foot in TN: CM Stalin

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday categorically stated that communalism or Pahalgam-like attack would not be allowed in the state and added that his government would be supportive of the Centre's action following the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

Denying a charge by the BJP lawmaker Vanathi Srinivasan in the Assembly on an apprehension of communal threat in the state, the Chief Minister said the law and order in Tamil Nadu was being maintained effectively.

"So, let me make it clear that communalism cannot, I repeat, cannot enter Tamil Nadu under any circumstances. Even incidents like the terrorist attack (on tourists) in Jammu and Kashmir will not happen in the state," Stalin said.

Following the incident in Pahalgam, he had conveyed his government's intention to be supportive of the Centre's action on the terrorists, he said



and added "we did not utter anything about security lapse but backed the Centre on its action against the terrorists in national interest."

Later, responding to Leader of the Opposition AIADMK Edappadi K Palaniswami's allegation on deteriorating law and order in the state, Stalin said Tamil Nadu not only witnessed a decline in crime rate but also saw the government cracking the whip on criminals and anti-social elements during the four-year rule of the DMK.

"The detentions under Goondas Act increased while the number of custodial deaths declined to three and absolutely none during 2024 in the present DMK regime.



Yamuna water failed quality test at 22 of 33 locations

Union ministry tells Par panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Monday said 22 of the 33 locations at Yamuna River being monitored did not meet the compliance standards of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2024.

A PowerPoint presentation by the ministry to a parliamentary standing committee said all seven and 12 locations in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, failed the "primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing", while all four locations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh each passed it, sources said.

In Haryana, three of the six locations at Yamuna met the required conditions, while as many failed, it added.

The CPCB's National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP) evaluates water under the metrics of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), pH and Faecal Coliform. Lack of adequate sewage treatment, besides untapped drains in the national capital, a major source of pollution in the river, which is the biggest tributary of the Ganga, are important causes for contamination in the Yamuna, the sources said.

The ministry, in its presentation to the committee, said 791 MLD (megalitres per day) of sewage out of the total 3,600 MLD generated in Delhi remains untreated, according to the figures of February 2025. The ministry officials said out of 22 drains in the city, only nine are tapped, and two are partially tapped, according to the sources. However, there are nine untapped drains in Tughlakabad, Abul Fazal, ISBT, Sonia Vihar, Kailash Nagar, Shastri Park, Barapulla, Maharani Bagh and Jaitpur, while two large drains -- Najafgarh and Shahdara -- are not technically feasible for tapping.

SC to examine NALSA plea for release of old, terminally ill convicts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a plea of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to release elderly and terminally ill prisoners on bail in the country.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar told lawyer Rashmi Nandakumar, appearing for NALSA, to move to respective high courts for the relief.

Nandakumar referred to the data and said many terminally ill persons, whose convictions were upheld by various high courts, were unable to move the top court to challenge their convictions and seek bail or the suspension of sentence and the matter needed an intervention.

The CJI considered the submissions and said the plea of the NALSA will be taken up by a bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath.

"Petitioner urges this court to issue necessary directions so that prisoners of advanced age and prisoners who are terminally ill are released on bail to ensure that they can be taken care of by members of their families and can be reintegrated into society in their final days," NALSA's petition said.

The plea said terminally ill prisoners and those of advanced age required specialised care and individual attention and it may not be possible for prison authorities to provide considering the extent of overcrowding in prisons. The plea, therefore, urged the top court to issue directions to facilitate the release of prisoners aged above 70 years and



those suffering from terminal illnesses. Such prisoners, it said, required specialised medical care and personal attention that overcrowded prisons are often ill-equipped to provide.

NALSA said as of December 31, 2022, India's prison occupancy rate stood at 131 per cent, severely straining infrastructure and impacting the quality of medical care and dignified living conditions within jails.

The petition highlighted some recent cases, including that of a 93-year-old woman incarcerated in Karnataka, whose plight prompted intervention from the District Legal Services Authority.

Similarly, bail was secured for a terminally ill undertrial by the High Court Legal Services Committee before the Calcutta High Court. The plea said the NALSA launched a "Special Campaign for Old and Terminally Ill Prisoners" running from December 10, 2024, to March 10, 2025.

As part of the campaign, dedicated national, state, and district units were constituted to visit prisons, identify eligible inmates, and coordinate efforts for their potential release. Data showed 456 prisoners — including both convicts and undertrials — were identified to be within the targeted categories.

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | APRIL 29, 2025

Editor's TAKE

Sweltering heat grips northern India

IMD issues advisories as vast swathes of the country brace for even hotter days ahead

As April nears its end, large parts of northern and central India are already in the grip of a blistering heatwave, with temperatures soaring well beyond seasonal norms. Delhi, the national capital, has touched 42°C — an ominous marker considering that the hottest months of May and June still lie ahead.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has sounded a yellow alert for the city, warning that maximum temperatures could touch 43°C in the coming days, a full 3–4 degrees above the usual average for this time of year. This unrelenting heat has not spared other parts of the country either. States across north, central, and eastern India — including Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal — are witnessing an early and intense summer. In parts of Jharkhand, temperatures have already breached the 43°C mark, prompting fresh warnings and health advisories from the IMD. The early arrival of such extreme heat is no longer an anomaly, but rather an indication of broader climatic shift.

Meteorologists have attributed this current spell to a combination of local and global factors. Dry and hot westerly winds continue to sweep across the northern plains, preventing any cloud development and keeping the heat trapped at the surface. A Western Disturbance — an upper air system that usually brings brief relief in the form of rain and cooler winds — is active, but its influence has largely remained confined to the Himalayan region, failing to bring much respite to the plains.

Additionally, global climate patterns such as the El Niño phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean are likely playing a role in distorting India's seasonal cycles. These disruptions are contributing to the growing unpredictability of weather, often resulting in prolonged dry spells, delayed monsoons, or early heatwaves. While temperatures have been climbing steadily, the IMD has made it clear that the coming days will be particularly challenging. The capital region is under a yellow alert, with authorities advising people to avoid stepping out during peak afternoon hours between 11 AM and 3 PM. Precautions such as staying hydrated, using umbrellas or hats, and wearing light, breathable clothing have been strongly recommended. The consequences of such extreme weather go far beyond mere discomfort. Public health experts warn of increased risks of heatstroke, dehydration, and respiratory illnesses.

For vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, outdoor laborers, and those with pre-existing conditions, the risk is especially high. There are also growing concerns about the strain on infrastructure, particularly in terms of water and electricity. With power demand peaking due to widespread use of fans and air conditioning, there is a very real danger of grid overloads and outages.

Water reservoirs, already under stress in several regions, are likely to see further depletion as evaporation rates surge. Simultaneously, the contrast in regional weather patterns continues to widen. While the north and central parts of the country reel under extreme heat, the northeastern states are bracing for heavy rainfall. The IMD has forecast widespread showers accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds — particularly over Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Tripura.

This rainfall, expected between April 25 and 29, offers a stark reminder of India's increasingly uneven climate patterns — with floods and droughts occurring side by side in different corners of the nation. Further south, states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and coastal Andhra Pradesh are dealing with a different but equally taxing weather pattern — hot and humid conditions that pose their own set of challenges, particularly for urban populations. This spell of early heat serves as yet another warning about the growing impact of climate change.

Once considered rare, heatwaves are now more frequent, more intense, and longer-lasting. Their consequences — on health, livelihoods, agriculture, and infrastructure — are already being felt and will likely worsen in the absence of strong mitigation and adaptation measures.

As India heads into what could be one of its hottest summers on record, it is clear that the time for reactive measures is over. Urban planning must prioritise heat-resilient infrastructure, public awareness campaigns must be ramped up, and long-term policies addressing climate adaptation need urgent attention.

The sweltering temperatures of April may just be the beginning. What lies ahead could be far more testing.

UCC on the horizon

As the BJP frames the Uniform Civil Code as a step toward national integration and gender justice, critics warn of growing unrest and constitutional challenges ahead



After the controversial passage of the Waqf Bill, the Modi Government plans to implement the equally or even more contentious Uniform Civil Code (UCC) passed last year.

This raises the question of whether it is the right time to push for the UCC amid ongoing protests against the Waqf Bill, which began after the UCC was approved in Parliament last year.

The BJP has released a video recently on the achievements of Modi's first year in his third term and is preparing for the UCC implementation. The video, titled 'Big Moves Under Modi 3.0 — The Journey Has Just Begun...', suggests prioritising the UCC. The video presents it as an important step towards national integration and gender equality.

Despite being proposed and withdrawn twice in 2019 and 2020, the UCC bill was eventually approved by Parliament last year. For the BJP, the UCC is a crucial part of its political agenda, alongside the completion of the Ayodhya temple and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The UCC is a complex issue.

It has several angles, such as political, legal, legislative, religious, gender, and Constitutional perspectives. The country witnessed angry agitations even during the passage of the law. Just as the Waqf Act creates unrest, the UCC is bound to trigger nationwide agitations.

It is worth noting that while many countries like France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia have a UCC, others like Kenya, Pakistan, Italy, South Africa, Nigeria, and Greece do not.

Prime Minister Modi defended the implementation of the UCC in Lok Sabha in December last year, stating that the Constituent Assembly, which drafted the Indian Constitution, wanted the Uniform Civil Code to be enacted by an elected Government.

He also highlighted that BR Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, strongly advocated for a uniform civil code preventing one-sided claims.

The Apex Court also emphasised the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in 1985 to maintain national unity and recommended a single law for all citizens in 1995. In 2019, the Modi Government reaffirmed its commitment to the UCC.

The Court had also declared Triple Talaq unconstitutional, promoting gender justice. Minority groups feel that personal laws are vital to cultural and religious identities, and implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) could infringe on religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution. India currently has separate personal laws for various religious communities, including Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Parsis, which govern issues like marriage, divorce, and inheritance. The UCC supporters argue for one law for all citizens.



KALYANI SHANKAR

Moreover, experts warn that the UCC could overstep state legislative authority, challenging the principles of cooperative federalism. The Portuguese Civil Code, introduced in the 19th century, is still in effect in Goa and has not been replaced since the state's liberation.

Early this year, Uttarakhand implemented the UCC for the state. Other BJP-ruled states like Assam and Maharashtra want to push it through.

The BJP may want to replicate this in different states.The challenges of implementing the UCC are many.

While supporters argue for a UCC implementation, others caution against it, citing the need to respect religious and cultural diversity. The lack of consensus among political parties presents a formidable challenge. Many opposition parties and even some NDA allies, and some communities like the Muslims, have strongly opposed it. Ensuring effective implementation across the vast and diverse India is formidable, as it requires preparations for administration, infrastructure, resources, and significant public awareness and education about the UCC.Implementing the UCC brings up concerns about religious freedom and cultural identity.

While the Supreme Court upholds the constitutional validity of the Uniform Civil Code, implementing it remains a contentious issue in Indian society and politics. It is a highly sensitive issue in India, with diverse cultures.

Many minority communities are concerned about the potential risks to their religious liberties, highlighting the complexity of the issue.

The Modi Government claims that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will secure equal property rights for women, ensuring fair distribution of a deceased person's assets among the spouse, children, and parents. Previously, only mothers inherited the property.

Both parties need to give grounds for divorce. Some communities, like Muslims, are apprehensive that a UCC could undermine this and the protections that the Constitution has provided. Implementing a UCC due to concerns about losing their cultural identity or traditional practices is a key fear. It will be prudent to address the complexities of the implementation before pushing it through, mainly to avoid law and order agitations at the ground level.

There are already demonstrations against the Waqf Bill, and the intention to implement the UCC will only add to the unrest. Therefore, a balanced approach, ensuring the rights of all communities, is the only way forward apart from mobilising a political consensus.

(The writer is a popular columnist. Views are personal)

Leaderspeak



In this war against terrorism, the unity of the country, the solidarity of 140 crore Indians is our biggest strength. We have to strengthen our resolve to face this challenge that has appeared before the country. We have to demonstrate strong willpower as a nation. Today, the world is watching, after this terrorist attack, the whole country is speaking in one voice.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Reki- dli- g spirituality i- public service

SECOND Opinion

BY KANISHK

Spirituality in public service is a quiet force — a subtle, transformative presence that elevates action beyond duty and policy. It is not dramatic or ceremonial; rather, it is the silent essence that gives meaning to governance. Without it, public service risks becoming mechanical, devoid of soul. With it, even routine work becomes an act of purpose, a service imbued with deeper intent.

At its heart, public service is a commitment to something larger than the self. It seeks to uplift the vulnerable, amplify the voices of the unheard, and bring dignity to the weary. This service calls for more than expertise or efficiency — it requires a vision born from character, moral clarity, and spiritual depth. True public service is not confined to a role or title.

It manifests in the policymaker, the volunteer, the social worker, the diplomat — all united by a common purpose: the greater good. Leadership, in this realm, cannot rely on knowledge alone. Knowledge is inert until shaped by reflection, compassion, and inner values. Spiritual wisdom breathes life into decisions, offering clarity and courage when doubt or fatigue sets in. Without this grounding, even the most brilliant minds may falter — confusion creeps in, cynicism sets root, and leadership loses its compass. Leadership today is often misunderstood as a position of authority, but real leadership stems from authenticity. It is not found in designations but discovered in one's depth of conviction and steadiness of spirit. Authority may be granted by position, but legitimacy is earned through inner alignment. Spiritually grounded leaders do not chase applause — they pursue truth and inspire through vision and integrity. They don't act from ambition, but from an attunement to the pulse of humanity. Such leadership stirs hope, cuts through cynicism, and dissolves indifference.

These leaders don't rebel against tradition for the sake of it; instead, they bring discernment and evolution. Their compass is conscience, not ideology. In moments of crisis, they offer stability. Their ethics are not performance, but an extension of their being. They see not division, but interconnectedness — as if all lives are branches of a single sacred tree. This worldview fosters institutions where dignity becomes a right, not a privilege.

Compassion becomes inclusive, not selective. Governance finds rhythm not in control, but in care. Here, spirituality is not religious dogma but a deep connection to something timeless and meaningful. Today, the world seeks not just knowledge or efficiency, but meaning.

A quiet spiritual awakening is unfolding. This awakening isn't about IQ or even EQ, but a higher dimension — Spiritual Quotient (SQ): the ability to see beyond the immediate, to act with purpose and compassion. Without SQ, institutions crumble under their own weight; fatigue replaces idealism, and burnout overtakes brilliance. When a leader is spiritually aligned, their institutions reflect that purpose. This generates "spiritual capital" — the shared conscience of a community that guides its ethos. When such spiritual clarity guides governance, it becomes more than administration — it becomes dharma in action. The ancient Indian ideal of Ram Rajya embodied this: a just society led by humility, where governance was sacred, and transformation flowed from values, not mandates. Great nations and institutions outlive their founders when their leaders' spiritual fire seeps into collective consciousness.

It becomes legacy, not just memory. This is no idealistic dream — it is rooted in India's own civilisational wisdom. Indian governance was never purely utilitarian. It emerged from Vedantic insight, where action and spirit were inseparable. Chanakya's Yogakshema envisioned a state that nourished holistic well-being, and his Rajrishi — the philosopher-king — was a leader who blended contemplation with action. Colonial rule, however, severed governance from spirituality. Administration became technical, education lost its soul, and systems bred compliance over conscience.

That legacy still lingers in our institutions today. But the spiritual embers remain — and they hold the promise of renewal. From the mystical Nasadiya Sukta to the Bhagavad Gita's call to duty, India's heritage calls us to see leadership as sacred service. Let service be a quiet prayer. Let leadership be a steady flame. Let us rekindle, through stillness, a public life that is once again filled with soul.

(The writer is a Central Government Officer, presently serving in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Indo-Pak staff is ominous

Madam — While the United Nations and world leaders, including the United States, have condemned the Pahalgam massacre, no nation has actively engaged in mediation talks, treating the matter as a bilateral affair. Meanwhile, in response to India's diplomatic measures and warnings to Pakistan over its alleged role in the incident, Pakistan is scrambling to bolster its operational readiness.

It has launched a three-day air warfare exercise, Zarb-e-Haideri, along its borders, deploying PL-15 Chinese missiles with a range of 200 km for the first time in its southern sector.

Additionally, Pakistan has positioned fifth-generation fighter aircraft such as the J-10, JF-17, and F-15C, capable of striking targets up to 290 km away, along with long-range anti — ship precision missiles to protect the Karachi harbour area.

The situation risks escalating into a standoff reminiscent of 'Operation Parakram' more than two decades ago. Pakistan should know that India is fully prepared to respond firmly to any Pakistani misadventure with anger held in abeyance as added strength hence should resort to diplomatic talks showing evidence of its non involvement in the massacre and help India in destroying terrorism jointly to diffuse the situation.

RS NARULA| PATIALA

International Dance Day

Madam — April 29 is the "International Dance Day" celebrated annually all over the world. The International Theatre Institute, ITI has established the day in 1982 and recognised by UNESCO to highlight the amazing diversity and talent of dancers all over the globe. April 29 marks the birth anniversary of renowned dancer Jean Georges Noverre.

Evidence of dance has been found dating back 9000 years and it has been growing fast into a worldwide phenomenon. This day provides an annual opportunity to unite dancers and enthusiasts in the joy of movement. Dance transcends cultural boundaries and connects people across the globe. It's a day to honour the beauty, passion, and expression that dance brings to our lives. Dance is healthy for the body, mind, heart, and soul and has been established as a form of happiness in many people's lives. Dance is an outlet of expression and communication of emotion, it helps in releasing powerful feelings into the environment to feel less overwhelmed.

One of the key aims of this day is to persuade governments and political bodies to recognise the importance of dance and remove obstacles to participation. Let's organise a professional dance performance, recognise the popular dancers, promote dance form in educational institutions, seek government support, financial help to dancers and dance trainers, erase the stigma about any form of dance, and exhibit the cultural importance of dance.

DR B MADHUSUDHAN REDDY | KARIMNAGAR

Houses of alleged terrorists demolished

Madam — Authorities here have demolished the houses of three alleged active terrorists in Bandipora, Pulwama and Shopian districts of Jammu and Kashmir as security forces continued their crackdown on the terror ecosystem following the Pahalgam terror attack.With this, nine houses of suspected terrorists and overground workers of terror outfits have been razed so far since the April 22 attack in the lush meadows of Baisaran that killed 26 people and left the nation grief-stricken and fuming.

As part of the anti-terror crackdown, that picked up more steam after the Pahalgam tragedy, security forces have raided more than 500 locations in the Valley in just five days and grilled hundreds of suspects. Political parties have urged the Centre to ensure that innocent people are not targeted while it goes after terrorists. Following the Pahalgam terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to hunt down the killers "to the ends of the earth" as his government linked the dastardly attack to Pakistan. Since then New Delhi has announced a raft of retaliatory steps, including the cancellation of visas and suspension of the 1960s Indus Water Treaty, and Islamabad hitting back with a string of tit-for-tat measures, that included putting the 1972 Shimla Agreement in abeyance.Pakistan has warned that if India actually goes through with diverting or blocking the Indus water flow, Islamabad would see it as an "act of war".

BHAGWAN THADANI I MUMBAI

TEACH PAKISTAN A LESSON BUT WITH CAUTION

The content of the article, ' No Indus water to Pak..' (284-25), though carries some emotional touch, will be endorsed by many. It is true, Pandit Nehru was gentle enough and stood firm on international norms, a humane approach and tried to live up to the theory of Love thy Neighbour. The recipient not reciprocating the best of sentiments and gestures demonstrated by the Indus Water Treaty is a fallout of the misplaced priority of focusing more on communal agenda than on developing the country. India has waited enough and suspension of the treaty should sensitise the ruling dispensation to shun its communal agenda and focus on peoples' welfare besides establishing peace with all. Pakistan is falling in debt trap besides living with the menace of terrorism. All these make clear that the leadership in Pakistan is not prepared to change its course. India's decision to deprive Indus water, which is a lifeline for Pakistan, suits the situation of this day. However, it is to be kept in mind that there is possibility of our action becoming a precedent that turns against as we have China on the other side with a major river flowing through its soil into India. Basic fact Pakistan needs to understand is that it has wasted decades in pursuing communal agenda in the process of which it has lagged far behind India in every aspect, besides living with the pains inflicted by terrorism.

In spite of attacks and constant irritants from Pakistan India is growing in many spheres whereas Pakistan is sinking under debt and lack of development, which should open its eyes. Using hate towards India to make its failures and misdeeds may work for sometime but not for all the time. It should remember the poetic justice which says 'those who take sword will perish by sword'. It is also time for the Union government to spare some time and energy to settle all the disputes over sharing of water among the States, keeping all political considerations aside.

AG RAJMOHAN I ANANTPUR

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | APRIL 29, 2025

India's grand rewrite of communication order

The WAVES summit will drive the country's creative economy through intellectual property creation and develop its M&E infrastructure. It will also help build the industry's capacity to create a skilled workforce for global needs

FIRST Column

As the final countdown to the WAVES Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit draws near, the moot question remains: how will the global communication ecosystem respond to the vision, challenges, and opportunities unleashed by the four-day summit in Mumbai from 1 May?

More than just another gathering, WAVES is a seismic shift. It promises to reorient the way we understand, design, and deliver the future of media and entertainment (M&E). With an architecture built around inclusivity, imagination, and integrated diplomacy, the summit is poised to be a landmark "Communication Moment" for the world.

Through its immersive curation of threads, themes, ideas, and tools, WAVES will redraw the boundaries of what M&E can mean in an era marked by disruption and reinvention.

At the heart of this transformation lies a compelling proposition: that the summit is not merely about showcasing creativity — it is about systematising it. The real takeaway from WAVES 2025 is not just the exchange of ideas, but the articulation of a futuristic communication order — one that interweaves Commerce, Creativity, Content, and Culture into a coherent, collaborative, and globally relevant vision.

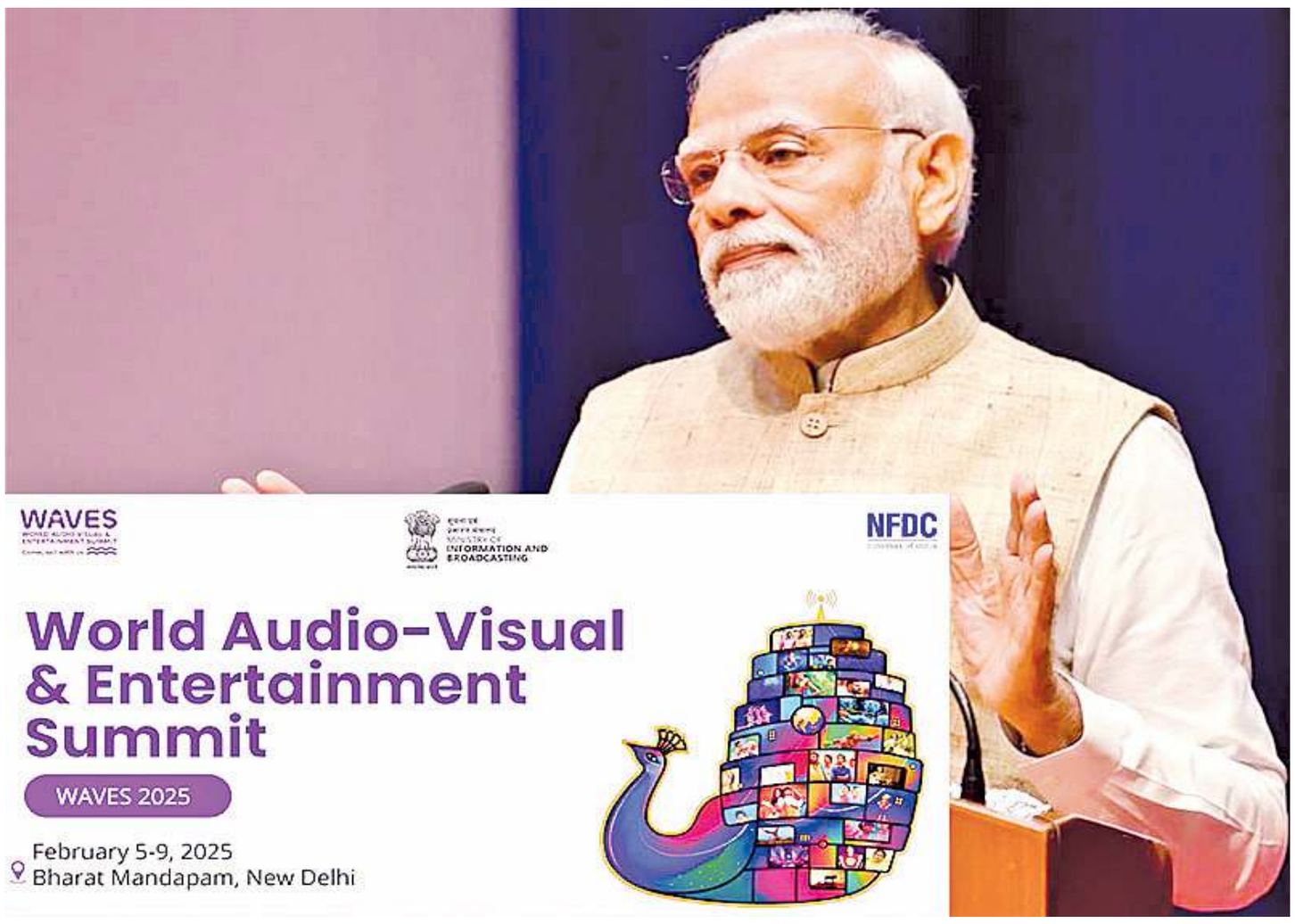
From the outset, WAVES has been propelled by an unflinching commitment to innovation and ideation. As the inaugural edition, it places "Communication First" not just as a slogan but as an organising principle. For perhaps the first time, a summit in the M&E space has been imagined as a "Communication Mahakumbh", where continuity meets disruption, and heritage is re-engineered through innovation.

The four identified pillars of WAVES — Broadcast & Infotainment, AVGC-XR, Digital Media, and Films — each distinct in their scope, nevertheless converge powerfully in intent and deliverables. Together, they represent a conscious synthesis of old and new, traditional mediums and emerging technologies, global ambitions and local identities.

What sets WAVES apart is its ability to harmonise these forces into a dynamic, composite framework. In doing so, it sketches the contours of a new communication order — one led by India, but built for the world. The catalytic force behind this vision has been the launch of Create in India: Season I, an initiative that has electrified the industry with its participatory energy and collaborative ethos.

It has thrown open the doors to storytellers, technologists, investors, and policymakers, crafting a rich ecosystem of engagement that mirrors the complexity of the M&E sector itself.

The themes and templates curated under this banner are refreshingly forward — looking. They tackle not just today's industry pain points but anticipate tomorrow's cultural, economic, and technological shifts. From decentralisation of narratives and platform-neutral storytelling to immersive formats and multilingual access, WAVES has laid down a clear thesis: the future belongs to those who dare to reimagine.





CHAITANYA K PRASAD

In doing so, it positions India as the Content Hub of the World, a nation not just exporting stories, but shaping the very grammar of global storytelling. The commercial vision that undergirds this ambition is bold and aspirational, showcasing India's intent to lead not only through scale, but through thought leadership.

> THE FOUR IDENTIFIED PILLARS OF WAVES — BROADCAST & INFOTAINMENT, AVGC-XR, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILMS EACH DISTINCT IN THEIR SCOPE, NEVERTHELESS CONVERGE POWERFULLY IN INTENT AND DELIVERABLES.

WAVES 2025 emerges at a moment when the "Creator Economy" is reshaping global production — consumption cycles. Here, India is not a passive participant but a proactive architect; fusing its demographic dividend, cultural wealth, and technological prowess into an unbeatable formula for soft power.

WAVES is the conduit through which this soft power is being systematised, internationalised, and strategically leveraged.

It is not just a summit. It is a signal — a signal that India is ready to anchor the future of M&E diplomacy through stories, ideas, and innovations that resonate across borders.

The kinetic current of visibility, opportunity, collaboration, and growth generated by WAVES is designed to have a lasting ripple effect, influencing how future summits around the world are conceived, especially in terms of fostering international tie — ups, cinematic synergies, and media-tech alliances.

At its core, WAVES is a think tank in motion — where storytelling meets strategy, policy meets participation, and art meets action. By blurring the lines between entertainment and engagement, it reminds the world that M&E is no longer a sideshow to diplomacy. It is diplomacy. In an increasingly multipolar world, cultural influence is power. And the medium through which that power is asserted is communication — fluid, visual, participatory.

Through M&E, nations now shape perceptions, steer conversations, and signal intent. WAVES situates India's M&E industry squarely within this strategic frame, projecting it as a potent tool of statecraft and global engagement. The brilliance of WAVES lies in its refusal to chase uniformity. It understands that the future of M&E is not about amplifying one dominant voice but about curating a chorus of perspectives.

As the world negotiates climate shifts, social transformations, digital disruptions, and identity politics, storytelling must evolve — from monologue to mosaic.

India, with its plurality of languages, genres, and formats, offers a compelling framework for this evolution. WAVES is a celebration of that plurality. It is a staging ground for narratives that are rooted in tradition but responsive to the future – narratives that can travel far, yet stay authentic. In a time where content is everywhere, WAVES is a reminder that context is king.

And in this context, India leads not just as a creator, but as a curator of meaning in a fragmented world. To conclude, one of the key objectives of the summit is to have global M&E leaders invest in India.

A lot of hard work and thought has gone into WAVES and officials are upbeat about its success. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, I&B Ministry, said WAVES would be the first-ever global summit covering the entire gamut of the M&E industry.

The most promising aspect of WAVES is the interest it has generated across the globe. The international outreach of the summit is evident by a line-up that boasts Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, YouTube CEO Neal Mohan, Instagram Head Adam Mosseri, Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos, marketing agency WPP's CEO Mark Read, Spotify's Chief Public Affairs Officer Dustee Jenkins, and NVIDIA's Vice President Richard Kerris — all of them will be part of the programming roster.

The Ministry hopes that the summit will promote India as a "one-stop destination" for content creation, drive the country's creative economy through intellectual property creation and develop its M&E infrastructure, as also build the industry's capacity to create a skilled workforce for global needs.

(The writer is a former civil servant and writes on cinema and strategic communication. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan. Views are personal)

Why a - ew li- guistic survey is crucial for cooperative I- dia

A comprehensive linguistic survey is not just about collecting data; it is a transformative step toward building inclusive cooperative frameworks that truly reflect the voices of every Indian

In the land where the echoes of countless languages have woven a timeless cultural tapestry, India stands as a testament to resilience and diversity. Our linguistic heritage has not only shaped our folklore and traditions but also nurtured the roots of cooperative living.

From the ancient guilds of traders and craftsmen to the community — driven farming practices of our villages, collaboration has always been the essence of our economic framework. However, as we move towards the ambitious goal of Viksit Bharat @2047, it is alarming that we are yet to fully understand the linguistic landscape that underpins the cooperative spirit of this nation.

A comprehensive linguistic survey is not a luxury — it is a necessity. It is the compass that will guide policymakers to ensure that cooperative reforms are inclusive and effective.

Without accurate data on the languages spoken across regions, our policy interventions remain shallow, and our efforts to strengthen the cooperative economic framework risk becoming fragmented.

The Government's vision of the PACS-to-APEX approach — empowering primary agricultural credit societies to function cohesively with apex institutions — cannot materialise without understanding the linguistic and cultural nuances of local communities. Physiological density data and linguistic insights will ensure that financial services, credit schemes, and agricultural innovations reach the last mile.

Ironically, the most extensive linguistic survey of India was conducted not for the welfare of its people but for colonial administrative control.

The Linguistic Survey of India, initiated by Sir George Grierson during the British era between 1898 and 1928, documented Indian languages primarily to serve the colonial interest of consolidating power. The British viewed linguistic diversity as a tool to deepen divisions and enforce policies of divide and rule.

This colonial baggage still weighs heavily on our administrative systems. Despite over seven decades of independence, we have done little to refine or update this foundational linguistic knowledge.

Adding to this disparity is the fact that, while the private sector has astutely recognised the importance of linguistic insights, development practitioners and policymakers often lag. Rural marketing practitioners in corporate houses possess extensive data on regional languages, dialects, and consumer behaviour.

Using this intelligence, they successfully penetrate rural markets, build brand loyalty, and tailor communication strategies that resonate with local communities.





BINOD ANAND

In stark contrast, Government initiatives aimed at development and economic upliftment continue to operate with outdated linguistic data or delegate language considerations entirely to state Governments.

The result is a fragmented approach that fails to execute cooperative economic frameworks effectively. Consider this: a rural marketing executive knows precisely how to communicate with farmers in their dialect to sell fertilisers or machinery, but a Government financial literacy campaign in the same village may miss its mark simply because it is not available in the local language. This gap in understanding not only undermines the potential of Government schemes like PM-KISAN and FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) but also impedes the inclusive growth of cooperatives.

> GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH OUTDATED LINGUISTIC DATA OR DELEGATE LANGUAGE CONSIDERATIONS ENTIRELY TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

By conducting a fresh linguistic survey, policymakers can bridge this knowledge gap, making public-sector interventions as impactful and relatable as their private-sector counterparts.

A renewed linguistic survey will empower cooperatives to function as truly participatory institutions. It will facilitate the creation of multilingual financial literacy programmes, region — specific agricultural advisories, and cooperative training modules.

Further, the promotion of Indigenous languages will encourage knowledge sharing of traditional farming techniques, watershed management practices, and sustainable agriculture. With more accurate linguistic and physiological density data, policymakers can design hyper-localised interventions that cater to each region's unique challenges.

Moreover, respecting linguistic diversity fosters social cohesion and national unity.

By acknowledging and celebrating our people's rich linguistic heritage, we send a powerful message that every voice matters. The cooperative economic framework, founded on the principles of collective growth and mutual benefit, can only thrive when communication barriers are dismantled.

To achieve Viksit Bharat @2047, we must acknowledge that economic empowerment is incomplete without linguistic inclusion. Every cooperative, from the grassroots PACS to the apex-level institutions, must reflect the diverse voices of its members.

It is time for policymakers to embrace the richness of India's linguistic heritage and weave it into the fabric of cooperative governance. Only then can we build an equitable economic framework that uplifts every community, leaving no one behind. The call for a linguistic survey is not just a call for data — it is a call to honour the soul of our nation.

To realise the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, India must prioritise linguistic inclusion as a cornerstone of cooperative growth. Our diverse languages are more than cultural artefacts — they are vital tools for empowerment, communication, and social cohesion.

Without updated and comprehensive linguistic data, policy interventions risk alienating the very communities they aim to support.

A new linguistic survey will bridge the gap between Government initiatives and grassroots realities, enabling cooperatives to function with greater participation, relevance, and impact.

It will foster multilingual literacy programmes, amplify Indigenous knowledge systems, and ensure that no voice is left unheard. As private enterprises leverage language to drive market success, so too must policymakers harness it for national development.

Recognising the role of language is not merely about effective governance — it is about honouring India's pluralism and building an inclusive, equitable economy. The time to act is now; the call for a linguistic survey is a call to unify and uplift.

(The writer is member of the PM MSP Committee and Agricultural Reforms. Views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Bandhan Bank opens 16 new branches in 5 states

Bandhan Bank on Monday announced that it has opened 16 new branches across five states in India. The lender has opened seven new branches in Odisha, three each in Bihar and Jharkhand, two in Andhra Pradesh and one in Chhattisgarh. These branches were inaugurated by Bandhan Bank MD & CEO Partha Pratim Sengupta. Commenting on the occasion, Sengupta said, "We will continue to seek strategic opportunities to broaden our reach nationwide, while maintaining a strong focus on sustainable growth. Our aim is to provide innovative, adaptable solutions that align with the changing expectations of those we serve." All the new branches will serve the semi-urban and rural areas of the states, the Kolkata-headquartered private lender said in a release. The expansion of the branch network is in line with the bank's strategic commitment to diversification and establishing a stronger presence nationwide, it said. By broadening the footprint, the lender is enhancing accessibility to innovative banking solutions for customers.



Dr Reddy's to introduce Sanofi's novel drug

Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday said it has expanded its partnership with Sanofi Healthcare to introduce a novel drug for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease in newborns. The company plans to introduce Beyfortus, which contains the monoclonal antibody, nirsevimab, in a prefilled injection used for the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) in newborns and infants. The medication is also administered in children up to 24 months of age, who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season. RSV is a highly contagious virus that can lead to serious respiratory illness in infants. Under the arrangement, Dr Reddy's will have exclusive rights from Sanofi to promote and distribute Beyfortus in India, the Hyderabad-based drugmaker said in a statement.



Gold declines Rs 1,000 to Rs 98,400/10 gm

Gold prices declined Rs 1,000 to Rs 98,400 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 99,400 per 10 grams on Thursday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated Rs 1,000 to Rs 97,900 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 98,900 per 10 grams. "Gold prices continued to decline as easing US-China trade tensions boosted investors' risk appetite, reducing demand for safe-haven assets like bullion while a stronger dollar added downward pressure on gold," Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said. On Friday, China announced it would exempt some US imports from its steep 125 per cent tariffs, though it denied that any formal trade talks were underway. Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve officials signalled that they see no immediate need to adjust monetary policy, choosing instead to monitor the economic impact of the Trump administration's tariffs.

India will be fiercely competitive on many products: Scindia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The lucrative domestic market has drawn global multinational companies to set up a significant presence here, he said and cited the strong pace of India's economic growth and New Delhi's policy push on manufacturing and innovation. "So I do believe that irrespective of the prevailing environment of tariffs, India will continue to be competitive because she has economies of scale behind her because innovation comes along with that economies of scale to be able to cater to such a large market. And therefore, even in comparison with other nations, India will remain to be competitive," the minister said

The current global tariff environment notwithstanding, India is expected to stay competitive due to its vast domestic market, scale advantages, and focus on innovation, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said, asserting that seen even from the lens of a comparative matrix of tariffs vis-a-vis other nations, India holds a more favourable position.

In a recent interview, Scindia - who is the Minister for Communications as well as Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) - noted that given that other nations too face varying levels of tariffs, India will likely emerge "fiercely and much more competitive" across numerous products than before.

The lucrative domestic market has drawn global multinational companies to set up a significant presence here, he said and cited the strong pace of India's economic growth and New Delhi's policy push on manufacturing and innovation.

"So I do believe that irrespective of the prevailing environment of tariffs, India will continue to be competitive because she has economies of scale behind her because innovation comes along with that economies of scale to be able to cater to such a large market. And therefore, even in comparison with other nations, India will remain to be competitive," the minister said.

To a question on how he sees the US tariff situation playing out, the Minister said that the whole question of tariffs has to be seen from a comparative matrix point of view.

"So if you're a country that I used to compete with and the tariffs that have been put on you are possibly today double of what mine are. Where I used to be uncompetitive vis-a-vis you, I now become competitive. So, I think it is important to look at it not only from purely India-centric point of view but from a comparative matrix point of view," Scindia said.

The Minister expressed confidence that for many products in many areas, India will emerge fiercely and much more competitive than prior to the tariffs being in place.

India has transformed itself from an infrastructure standpoint, and from an exporting nation standpoint as well, he said terming it "a monumental change".

"...you have to understand where we stand as an economy....Today, India stands very tall...We're today going to become the third-largest economy by 2028. We're today at almost a USD 4 trillion economy, USD 5 trillion by 2028, close to USD 6 trillion by 2030," the minister said.

From a country that used to import an overwhelming majority of its mobile phone requirement and produced merely 5 crore units, India is producing over 35 to 40 crore mobile phones, today.

"Our exports are over Rs 1,75,000 crore purely on mobiles," he said.

Govt to check indirect exports of Indian goods to Pak: Sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is collating data to figure out the quantum of indirect exports of Indian goods to Pakistan from third countries in a bid to check such rerouting of shipments to the neighbouring country, sources said.

The government is working with the industry to look into alternate routes for shipments of goods through air route in the backdrop of Pakistan closing its air space for Indian carriers, they said.



Goods like flowers, fruits and vegetables are exported through air routes to regions like Middle Eastern countries.

These restrictions have been imposed following the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam last week. 26 people were killed in the horrific incident, evoking a sharp response from the government.

The export data is being collected from sources like customs, export promotion councils and other departments, the sources added.

According to the economic think tank GTRI, Indian goods worth over USD 10 billion are reaching Pakistan every year indirectly through ports, such as Dubai, Singapore, and Colombo, bypassing trade restrictions.

Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has stated that Indian firms send goods to these ports, where an independent company offloads the consignment and keeps the products in bonded warehouses, where goods can be stored without paying duties while in transit.

"In the bonded warehouse, the labels and documents are modified to show a different country of origin. For example, Indian-made goods may be relabelled as 'Made in UAE'. After this change, they are shipped to countries like Pakistan, where direct trade with India is not allowed," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava has said.

This method, he said, helps firms to bypass India-Pakistan trade restrictions, sell goods at higher prices, using the third country route and avoid scrutiny since the trade appears to come from other countries.

Rupee rises 38 paise to close at 85.03 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 38 paise to close at 85.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, supported by sustained foreign fund inflows, easing crude oil prices and a bullish trend in domestic equities.



Forex traders said strong domestic fundamentals, such as rising forex reserves also boosted investor sentiments.

At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.29 and moved between the intra-day high of 84.96 and the low of 85.42 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 85.03 (provisional), registering a gain of 38 paise over its previous closing level.

On Friday, the rupee settled lower by 8 paise at 85.41 against the US dollar.

Forex traders said a steady rise in reserves enhances India's import cover, providing a crucial buffer against external shocks and lending stability to the rupee.

However, the rupee could face pressure amid any escalation in tensions between India and Pakistan as geopolitical uncertainties like these tend to drive investors toward safer assets, causing outflows from emerging markets and weakening local currencies like the rupee.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.13 per cent at 99.60.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.46 per cent to USD 66.56 per barrel in futures trade.

Wipro bags deal from Germany's Vorwerk for IT transformation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT major Wipro has bagged an IT transformation deal from Germany-headquartered firm Vorwerk.

As part of the five-year partnership, Wipro will modernise Vorwerk's IT infrastructure using its AI-powered infrastructure operations solution, according to a company statement.

The company did not divulge the value of the deal.

This involves integrating all business applications, IT infrastructure, and cybersecurity systems into a single monitoring platform, enhancing visibility across Vorwerk's technology landscape. It aims to substantially improve operational efficiency and strengthen cyber-risk management.

Additionally, Wipro will work with Vorwerk's technology partners to improve their customer engagement strategy, standardise their product

Sensex jumps 1,006 pts on buying in Reliance, foreign fund inflows

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Benchmark BSE Sensex soared by 1,006 points to close above 80,000 level on Monday as a sharp rally in Reliance Industries and private banks, and foreign fund inflows helped stock markets cut short two days of fall amid India-Pakistan border tensions.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,005.84 points or 1.27 per cent to settle at 80,218.37 with 23 of its constituents ending with gains and seven in the red. During the day, it surged 1,109.35 points or 1.40 per cent to 80,321.88.

The NSE Nifty rallied 289.15 points or 1.20 per cent to close at 24,328.50.

All key sectors, barring IT, participated in the rally, with pharma, energy, and auto emerging as the top gainers.

Reliance Industries surged by 5.27 per cent to emerge as the biggest gainer among Sensex stocks. The oil-to-retail behemoth reported a 2.4 per cent rise in March quarter net profit beating street estimates.

Mahindra & Mahindra spurted 2.29 per cent after the auto major announced a Rs 555-crore acquisition of SML Isuzu and said that the buyout was a strong strategic fit for the company that would put it in a strong position. SML Isuzu Ltd shares, on the other hand, tanked 10 per cent.

Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and ICICI Bank were also among the Sensex gainers.

HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Nestle and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,952.33 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Foreign investors have infused Rs 17,425 crore in the country's equity markets last week, supported by a combination of favourable global cues and strong domestic macroeconomic fundamentals.

This came following a net investment of Rs 8,500 crore in the preceding holiday-truncated week ended April 18.

"The domestic market recouped from the losses incurred during the last two days of the previous week, which stemmed from the border tensions.

Govt starts 5th marine fisheries census process

Launches mobile app for data collection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday kick-started the 5th Marine Census operations and launched a mobile application for data collection of 1.2 million fisher households nationwide.

CMFRI, the nodal agency for implementing the marine fisheries census, will capture data from nine coastal states, and the entire census operation will be completed by December 2025.

"Today marks the beginning of the 5th Marine Census operations...," an official statement said.

The mobile app VyAS-NAV



-- launched by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh at the coastal states fisheries meet in Mumbai -- has been developed by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to boost transparency and efficiency.

The village enumeration will be finalised by May-June, while family-level data and other facilities will be covered during November-December. The entire operation will span from April to December.

According to the statement, the VyAS-NAV app will be used by supervisors (staff of CMFRI, Fishery Survey of India and the Fisheries Departments across the coastal states) for field verification of fishing villages, fish landing centres and fishing harbours.

Unlike in the past, customised mobile and tablet-based applications created by CMFRI will be used for data collection to reduce manual errors and accelerate data compilation for policy-level use.

At the coastal states meet, the minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for key projects for seven coastal states and UTs with a total outlay of Rs 255 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

He also awarded the first-ever aqua insurance (One Time Incentive Sanction-cum-Release Order) to beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY).

Bullet train to be operational by 2028: Fadnavis

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The USD 15 billion Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project being built in collaboration with Japan will be operational by 2028, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Monday. Fadnavis also said the state is looking to raise USD 50 billion from international financiers for infrastructure development in the state, and announcements for the same will be done in four months. Without naming Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray, Fadnavis said the bullet train project suffered during a two-year rule until 2022, but now the work is on in full swing.

"By 2028, we will be able to travel in the bullet train," Fadnavis said, conceding that neighbouring state Gujarat is ahead of Maharashtra on the project development.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTICE INVITING SEALED QUOTATIONS

Quotation Notice No 01/ EE-II/ SNDP/GHMC/2025-2026 Date: 25-04-2025

Scope of Work: Road crossing by adopting trenchless technology Tunneling work through Specialized pipe jacking method by erecting the equipment to true to the alignment and gradient, by hydraulic pipe jacking technique complete including tunneling, excavation in all types of soils excluding hard rock and construction of RCC chambers suitable to casing pipe pits, and conveyance charges of machinery and other required materials but excluding cost of encasing pipe, in co-ordination with the concerned authorities as per approved drawings and directed by the Engineer-in-Charge for an dia of 1800 mm. **Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Quotations:** Release of Notification: **28/04/2025 @ 10.30 AM.**, Last date for Submission of Quotations: **05/05/2025 @ 3.00 PM.**, Opening of sealed cover Quotations: **05/05/2025 @ 3.30 PM.**, **Name & Address Office Ph No.:** Further details can be had from Smt. B. Madhavilatha, Executive Engineer-II (SNDP), GHMC, 9154172342, O/o Executive Engineer-II (SNDP), GHMC, 1st Floor, Budha Bhavan, Secunderabad-500003. e-mail id: **eesndp.khbsec@gmail.com.** Further details can be seen at @ **http://www.ghmc.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer-II
SNDP, GHMC.

DIPR R.O. No: 997-PP/CLIADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 28-04-2025

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
Open Tender Paper Notification No: 02/2025-26

E-procurement Open tender is invited from the experienced and GST Registered Vendors for" **T.Sp.No:02/25-26** Shifting of lines & DTR structures which are obstructing for Widening/ Strengthening of road from Priyadharshini Vegetarian Hotel to Sri Balaji Motors of GHMC Work in Jeedimetla Division of Medchal Circle, **T.sp.No's: 03/25-26 and 04/25-26** (33KV Bay extension works in Sangareddy Circle)". Bid down load starts date & time: **29.04.2025** from 14:00 Hrs, Bid Submission closing date & time: **15.05.2025**, till 14:00 Hrs, Technical bid opening date & time: **16.05.2025**, at 14:30 Hrs & Price bid opening date & time: **17.05.2025**, at 15:00 Hrs. For further details please visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in/www.tgsouthernpower.org.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Operation/
Medchal Zone, TGSPDCL, Mint compound.

DIPR R.O. No.: 937-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 25-04-2025

Women, freshers driving employment boom in India: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Professional networking platform Apna on Monday said it has recorded a sharp uptick in job applications in the first quarter of this year with a rise in women's workforce participation driven by flexible work, inclusive hiring, and rising opportunities in Tier II and III cities.

According to Apna's latest 'India at Work – Q1 2025' report, the platform witnessed a record-breaking 1.81 crore job applications, a 30 per cent increase from the previous year, reflecting India's growing economic optimism and digital hiring boom across sectors.

Women's participation in the workforce soared, with over 62 lakh applications -- a 23 per cent year-on-year jump.

This growth was most pronounced in Tier II and III cities such as Chandigarh, Indore, and Jamshedpur, driven by flexible work options, gender-inclusive hiring, and expanded opportunities in sectors like BPO, finance, and HR, the report said.

Freshers contributed over 66 lakh applications -- a 46 per cent year-on-year increase.

Meanwhile, Apna saw 3.1 lakh job postings, up 26 per



cent from Q1 2024, largely driven by Small and Medium-sized Business (SMBs) leading the charge, posting over 2.1 lakh jobs, including 28,547 roles exclusively for women.

Enterprise hiring rose sharply with companies like LIC, Paytm, Delhivery, and Flipkart creating over 1 lakh openings, expanding recruitment beyond metros and tapping into the national talent pool, the report said.

"From Delhi to Dehradun, Surat to Samastipur, we saw hiring become truly decentralised. Tier II and Tier III cities contributed over 40 per cent of new users, with many of them showing double-digit growth in job applications. Applications from women for enterprise roles didn't just rise, they saw a 92 per cent leap. Fresher applications crossed 66 lakh," Nirmit Parikh, Founder & CEO of Apna said.

In Q1 2025, Apna recorded 65.4 per cent increase in job postings for Software/Web Developer roles, alongside a 42.2 per cent rise in fresher applications for these positions compared to the previous year.

This surge highlights the growing need for specialised professionals in fields such as AI/ML, cybersecurity, business intelligence, and data-driven operations, as enterprises in these regions expand their digital capabilities. While traditional tech hubs like Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai maintain their dominance, cities such as Indore, Jaipur, Lucknow, Rajkot, and Warangal are rapidly emerging as key players in the tech hiring landscape.

The Pioneer
Hyderabad

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TUESDAY APRIL 29, 2025

‘Taking up dance as career was initially not a choice born out of passion but necessity’

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, dancer-actor Shantanu Maheshwari opens up about his inspiring journey from discovering his passion for dance at a young age to building a successful career on the global stage. Reflecting on his beginnings, challenges and the discipline dance instilled in him, Shantanu shares heartfelt insights about staying true to the art form, evolving as an artist and the life-changing impact dance has had on him





TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

As the world gears up to celebrate International Dance Day on April 29, it’s only fitting to spotlight artists whose journeys have been deeply defined by dance. One such name is Shantanu Maheshwari—an actor, dancer, choreographer and anchor who has made an indelible mark both nationally and internationally. From founding the dance crew Desi Hoppers to winning accolades on global platforms, Shantanu’s journey is a testament to passion, discipline and resilience. In a conversation reflecting on his journey, the *Dil Dosti Dance* fame opens up about how dance found him, shaped him and continues to drive him forward.

To begin this exclusive chat with ***The Pioneer***, he recalls that it was his teacher, Anurag Mohta, who first inspired him to dance. “I always wanted to dance like him,” he shares. However, taking up dance as a career was initially not a choice born out of passion but necessity. “Our monetary conditions back then were not very good. So I had to start taking dance classes, as dance was something I was well-versed with. I never initially enjoyed it, but I made sure that I never taught anyone in a disinterested manner so that his or her aspiration for dance does not die,” Shantanu reveals.

Aware of the responsibility that came with teaching, he ensured that his students’ dreams were always nurtured with sincerity.

Over time, however, dance grew from a means of livelihood into a passion. “Though with time, I understood that dance was my passion and there is nothing else that I feel so strongly about, so why not take this up as a career,” says Shantanu. His love affair with dance began early—at the age of seven—through active participation in numerous competitions. “From there, I just took things forward and became clear about wanting to make dance a career option for myself,” he adds.

When it comes to his favourite dance style, the *Campus Beat* star expresses his fondness for Bollywood dance. “This style is a mix of everything. For me, this style of dance has more of the South flavour of dance,” he explains. Shantanu highlights how Bollywood dancing incorporates elements like popping, breaking, locking and even traditional folk styles. “Bollywood dancing is actually more of freestyle dancing and it has no boundaries. There is a lot of freedom to explore with this style of dancing,” he enthuses.

On how he prepares for performances, he goes on to elaborate, “I just start with understanding what is required for the particular performance. Then rehearse for it as much as I can, till the time I feel confident about what I am rehearsing—be it memorising the steps or performing them the way I want to.” He stresses the importance of mental and physical preparedness: “Mentally, once I am very sure of the choreography, then I know I am there and the mental confidence to be able to pull off that entire act is set within me. On the physical front, besides keeping my body fit, practicing things under the right guidance and understanding the technicalities of that act are what I ensure for myself.”

Reflecting on advice for aspiring dancers, Shantanu shares, “I always maintain that be true to the art and art will give you back a lot. So firstly entering the industry for the right reasons is important. Things like money and fame will definitely be found, but sustaining is the key here and that is only going to happen with hard work and being true to your passion for dance.” He underlines the importance of humility and openness to criticism: “Being open to healthy criticism is definitely important. You might think you are the best with what you are doing, but there will always be someone a notch higher than you. So it’s best to be humble, keep learning, be true to the art, and keep growing as an artist.”

Dance, for Shantanu, has been transformative beyond the stage. “Dance has given me a lot! It has introduced me to acting, it has introduced me to a lot of people, taken me to so many different places I would have never even imagined getting to,” he shares. It opened countless avenues for exploration and personal growth. “Dance helped me gain confidence within myself. Dance has been my core strength,” he says proudly.

Shantanu also acknowledges the influence of international dance competitions on his discipline and lifestyle. “Whenever I have participated in international dance competitions, the discipline they have is something I have always looked up to. Not only has that inspired me but I have also tried to incorporate it into my lifestyle,” he explains. For him, dancers are nothing short of athletes. “You have to train and maintain your body like an athlete. You have to keep working hard towards that discipline,” he states, adding that this mindset has helped him understand food intake, body anatomy, and even boosted his self-confidence.

Being the co-founder of Desi Hoppers, Shantanu also took on logistical responsibilities. “Dance also helped me learn international travel requirements for competitions better, as being a co-founder of our crew Desi Hoppers, all of that was my responsibility. All these things put together helped me explore so many avenues and helped me extensively grow as a human being and an artist,” he concludes.



Bollywood dancing is actually more of freestyle dancing, and it has no boundaries. There is a lot of freedom to explore with this style of dancing

EMRAAN HASHMI ON *AWARAPAN 2*

It’s not a reunion, it’s the right time for the story



Actor Emraan Hashmi is gearing up to revisit one of his most beloved films with *Awarapan 2*, but he doesn’t view his collaboration with the Bhatt camp as a reunion. Earlier this month, on his 46th birthday, Hashmi announced the sequel to the 2007 cult hit *Awarapan*, which will once again be produced under Mukesh Bhatt’s Vishesh Films banner.

Speaking about the project in an exclusive chat with PTI, Hashmi emphasised that while their professional paths diversified in recent years, there was never a formal parting with the Bhatt production house.

“I don’t see this as reuniting at all. It’s not like we parted ways. We had a phenomenal run with a nearly 90-95% success rate over 14 years, starting from 2003’s Footpath to 2016’s *Raaz: Reboot*. When you have that kind of success together, it naturally becomes tricky to keep finding the right stories,” the actor said.

Hashmi, who made his acting debut with *Footpath*, went on to headline several successful Vishesh Films projects such as *Gangster, Murder 2* and *Raaz: The Mystery Continues*. Over time, he branched out, working with a range of filmmakers in projects like *The Dirty Picture, Shanghai, Ghanchakkar and Tiger 3*. Reflecting on the decision to greenlight *Awarapan 2*, Hashmi said the project was a long time coming but needed a story that could match the original’s cult legacy.

“It’s been under discussion for some time. We didn’t want to make a sequel just for the sake of it. *Awarapan* has a massive cult following—sometimes more goodwill than my bigger box office hits, through satellite TV, Torrentz back in the day, and now YouTube. We waited for the right story and now feels like the right time,” he explained.

The original Awarapan, directed by Mohit Suri and written by Mahesh Bhatt, centered on Shivam (played by Hashmi), a tormented hitman grappling with guilt and redemption when he discovers his boss’ mistress desires freedom and love. Shriya Saran, Ashutosh Rana and Mrinalini Sharma also starred in the film. Acknowledging the challenges of living up to the expectations set by the first film, Hashmi shared that they were cautious about ensuring freshness in the sequel.

“How do you keep it new? Because you’ve been there, you’ve done pretty much everything. There’s no point in bringing out films that audiences feel they’ve already seen. We took time, and then COVID-19 slowed everything further. A lot of recalibration happened during those years,” he noted.

AWARAPAN HAS A MASSIVE CULT FOLLOWING—SOMETIMES MORE GOODWILL THAN MY BIGGER BOX OFFICE HITS, THROUGH SATELLITE TV, TORRENTZ BACK IN THE DAY AND NOW YOUTUBE. WE WAITED FOR THE RIGHT STORY AND NOW FEELS LIKE THE RIGHT TIME

TRANSFORMING ENGINEERING EDUCATION

From theory to practice



Let’s talk about a system built for the 20th century that still governs the future of millions in the 21st. India produces over a million engineering graduates every year. But here’s the uncomfortable truth—a majority of them are not job-ready. Why? Because we’re still preparing them for a world that no longer exists. Static textbooks, outdated syllabi and a heavy focus on theory still dominate classrooms. Meanwhile, the industry has moved on fast.

We need to stop teaching from the rearview mirror

Take software development. Once a domain of massive teams and multi-year timelines, it has been revolutionised by Generative AI. Today, tools can write code, debug and even design interfaces. What once took years, now takes weeks. Companies no longer want just coders—they want creators. Professionals who can build software that builds software.

How do you prepare students for that kind of future? Not with theory-heavy lectures. Not with memory-based exams. You do it with a live, evolving curriculum—one that updates every semester, just like the technologies students are expected to master.

Skills over scores

It’s high time we stopped measuring how much a student can remember. Let’s start measuring what they can do. Replace exam scores with skill profiles. Ask: Can this student solve a real-world problem? Can they build a product? Collaborate in a team? These are the metrics that matter. Employers don’t hire marksheets—they hire ability. And why wait until the end of a semester to measure progress? In a world that thrives on rapid iteration, feedback must be frequent. Shorter assessment cycles, quicker feedback loops and continuous improvement—that’s how workplaces operate. Our classrooms must reflect that.

Theory is not the destination

Learning should be active. If a concept is taught in the morning, students should apply it by the afternoon. This is how true learning happens—not in silence, not in isolation, but through action. By building. By experimenting. By failing and trying again.

And let’s acknowledge something else. No curriculum can fully capture the pace at which industries evolve. That’s why regular interaction with industry experts is not a luxury—it’s a necessity. Students must hear from the people who are building the future, not just those teaching the past.

Real-world projects, not just assignments

Ask any successful founder where they got their start—it often began with a side project. An idea in college. A problem they tried to solve. Imagine if our engineering colleges encouraged this spirit. Imagine if final-year projects weren’t just evaluation tools but launchpads for real-world products and startups. Imagine the innovation we’d unlock.

Bring the industry to the campus

We often speak of preparing students for the industry. But what if we brought the industry to them? Created environments where students work in teams, solve real-world challenges and operate in settings that mimic tech companies and design studios. That’s how you make transitions seamless. That’s how you build professionals, not just graduates.

Think global, learn local

Indian students today are more connected than ever. Remote internships with global startups, online hackathons, and international speaker sessions—these are not futuristic ideas. They are happening now, and they must become mainstream. Global exposure prepares students to compete with the best and learn from the best.

Technology can teach technology

AI-powered platforms and adaptive feedback tools can create personalised, immersive learning environments at scale. The same tech that’s disrupting jobs can help prepare students for new ones.

If India is serious about becoming a global tech powerhouse, we must stop settling for average. Our students deserve an education that is alive, responsive, and rooted in reality. An education that empowers them not just to get jobs, but to create them.

(The author, Rahul Attuluri, is the co-founder and CEO of NxtWave and NIAT.)

PARTY


Rina Indocha


Srinivas


Vibhuti jain


Mitalee Agarwal

KalaRaj Media and Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. successfully hosted the curtain raiser event for the 7th Edition of The Social Media & Film Awards (TSFA) 2025 at T-Hub, Hyderabad. The event drew top influencers, digital creators, and industry leaders, officially launching India's biggest influencer summit and awards platform. Notable attendees included Mamidi Harikrishna, Director of the Department of Language and Culture, Govt. of Telangana; Ajay Reddy Konda, CEO of Big TV; Srinivas Taluka, VP of Facilities at T-Hub; and Muttineni Veeraiah, Chairman of TGVCC, Govt. of Telangana.





Birla Opus Paints has launched a first-of-its-kind Paint Studio in Hyderabad, a destination catering to all painting needs. Designed with a customer-centric approach, the studio embodies the brand's commitment to delivering immersive and personalized painting experiences.. This expansion follows successful studio openings in Gurugram, Lucknow, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Bengaluru, reinforcing Birla Opus Paints' dedication to transforming the paint and decor industry through innovation and premium offerings.

Bridgestone India has expanded its Flagship Select Store network by launching additional four new Select outlets in Hyderabad. With 46 stores now in Hyderabad, these stores are designed to transform the tyre buying and servicing experience by addressing the evolving needs of Indian consumers.



Ice cream lovers gathered in large numbers for an event that was as exciting as it was delicious. Participants blindfolded themselves, tasted various ice creams, and competed to guess the flavors, turning the Next Premia Mall at Irrumanzil into a hub of excitement. The event was organized by Hybiz TV in collaboration with Iceberg Organic Ice Creams.



Photos by- SV Chary



Sphoorthy Engineering College successfully hosted Lingua Fiesta, drawing students from 12 colleges across Hyderabad. The event was attended by esteemed guests, including Secretary Jagan Mohan Reddy, Dr. T.V. Rajaiah and Dr. Gayathri, Head of the Freshman Department. Students showcased their talents in various literary activities, making the event a grand success.



Dr. Ramakrishna, Chairman and Managing Director of Smiline Dental Hospitals, along with specialists and paramedics, announced the launch of the hospital's third branch in Financial District, Nanakramguda.



The 1st Telangana Pickleball State Ranking Tournament was successfully held at Indira Park Tennis Court in Hyderabad. Organized by the Amateur Telangana Pickleball Association under the guidance of the All India Pickleball Association, the tournament saw enthusiastic participation from players across the state, showcasing remarkable skill and sportsmanship. The event marked a significant step in promoting pickleball in Telangana, reflecting the sport's growing popularity in India. Winners were awarded medals and certificates, celebrating their outstanding performances over the three-day competition.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) successfully concluded its flagship social innovation accelerator, ISHOW India 2025 at T-Hub, Hyderabad. The two-day event brought together some of the most promising hardware-led social entrepreneurs from across India, all working on scalable solutions to address critical challenges in agriculture, energy, healthcare and transportation.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



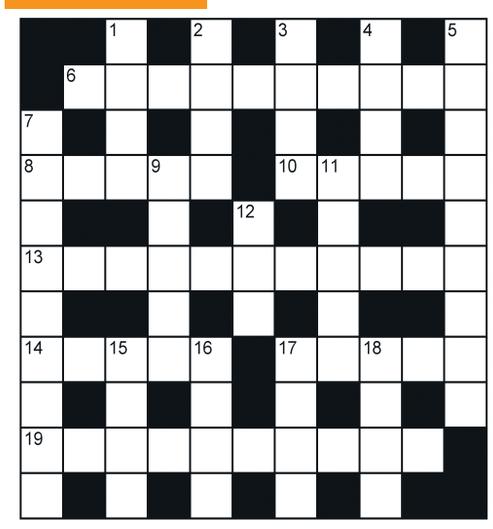
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



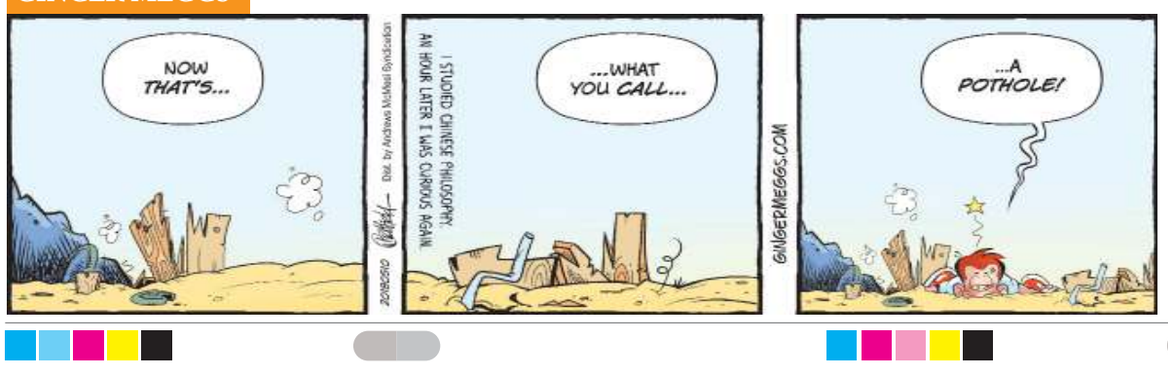
CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

6 Broken down; not working properly (3,2,5)
8 A word for a taxi driver
10 A sung musical drama
13 Saying you are sorry
14 Light soft modelling wood
17 Part of a poem or song
19 Follows seventeenth
9 These ring at churches
11 Stick wallpaper on with this
12 The number of years someone has lived
15 Use these when running
16 Small busy insects
17 An opinion
18 Animals like large mice

DOWN

1 A round underground part of some plants
2 A small type of horse
3 A toy that spins around a held string (2-2)
4 The part along the side or end
5 Three-sided figures
7 A way of cooking eggs

SOLUTION

S	T	A	R	T	S	■	I	D	O	L
I	■	U	■	■	S	■	R	■	I	■
C	A	G	E	■	S	H	O	U	T	S
K	■	U	■	N	■	A	■	M	■	T
■	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	■	■	E
O	■	T	■	U	■	L	■	D	■	N
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The Pioneer
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | APRIL 29, 2025

Dimple Hayathi makes a comeback with Sharwanand's period drama



Dimple Hayathi has signed a new film. After a two-year gap, the actress will be seen in a project starring Sharwanand, directed by Sampath Nandi. Anupama Parameshwaran had already been signed as the female lead and now Dimple Hayathi is also part of the cast. The film is a period drama, and shooting is set to begin soon. Sampath Nandi, returning to direction after a gap, has based the film on real incidents while taking cinematic liberties to add fictional elements.

Dimple Hayathi, a Telugu girl, has previously worked in films like *Khiladi* and *Ramabanam*, but had not signed any project in the last two years. She was in the news a couple of years ago for damaging a police car, resulting in a police case. Dimple made her debut with *Gulf* at a young age and later appeared in the Tamil film *Devi*, which was released in Telugu as Abhinetri.

She also featured in a special song in *Gaddalakonda Ganesh* opposite Varun Tej, which became popular and earned her wider recognition. Interestingly, she was initially supposed to play the female lead in that film but had to opt out due to other commitments. The project she signed was shelved after completing 80% of the shoot. Director Harish Shankar, upon learning this, offered her a special appearance in the song.

SRINIDHI SHETTY CLARIFIES ON SITA ROLE REJECTION RUMOURS

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Kannada actress Srinidhi Shetty of *KGF* fame is all set to make her Telugu debut with the film *Hit 3*. Nani is the lead actor, and the film is hitting the screens on May 1. The actress clarified that she didn't reject the role of Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's film *Ramayan*, where Ranbir Kapoor is playing Lord Ram.

"I auditioned for the role of Sita and after that, I didn't get any call from them. I wasn't a big actress who could reject a role in such a big film. Some miscommunication happened in the media," clarified Srinidhi Shetty. She added that Sai Pallavi has not grabbed her Sita role. "I am very happy that Sai Pallavi is playing Sita," said Srinidhi.

According to a source, Srinidhi Shetty and Yash played the lead pair in the film *KGF* and its second part. Now, Yash is playing Ravan and the makers felt that if Srinidhi Shetty played Sita, it wouldn't look nice, so they approached Sai Pallavi.

The actress says that she got an important role in *Hit 3*. "Generally, in investigation thrillers, the female lead doesn't get much scope, but if you look at the earlier two franchises, the female lead's impact is there. Now, director Sailesh has further bettered the female lead's portion in *Hit 3*," said Srinidhi.

The actress lends her own voice for her role. "Initially, someone dubbed for my role, but I requested the director to allow me to lend my own voice for my debut film. He agreed, and actually, he liked my voice and continued with it," she said. She added that lending her own voice for her debut film gives something special.

The actress is also doing another Telugu film *Telusu Kada* opposite Siddu Jonnalagadda. It is directed by debutant Neeraja Kona.



Vijay Deverakonda voices strong support: "Kashmir is ours"

A few days ago, the entire nation was shocked when Pakistani terrorists attacked tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killing innocent civilians. The incident was widely condemned and many celebrities voiced their support for the victims and the Indian government. Actor Vijay Deverakonda, attending a film event, expressed solidarity with the victims' families. "I just want to tell the families who lost their loved ones in the terrorist attack that we are all thinking about you and we are standing in support of you," he said.

Vijay further asserted that Kashmir is an integral part of India. "Kashmir is ours, and the people of Kashmir are our people. I shot for *Khushi* in Kashmir and have many beautiful memories there. The people are very kind," he said, recalling his shooting experience. He added, "The citizens of Pakistan themselves will teach a lesson to their government, which is fueling terrorism in Kashmir. My deepest condolences to all the victims." Vijay also emphasized the importance of education, stating that with proper education, people might refrain from such ghastly acts. His remarks about Kashmir have gone viral on social media.





Priyadarshi struggles again as lead actor

Actor Priyadarshi made a few successful films like *Balagam* and the latest *Court: State vs A Nobody*. Those films were successful because of their story and script, and more than that, Priyadarshi played a character within those strong scripts. Even the latest *Court* film was a super success, where Priyadarshi played an important role. However, when he played as the lead, the actor couldn't take on the full responsibility and he is not considered a crowd-puller, say some people in the industry. Priyadarshi played the lead role in *Darling*, which turned out to be a huge disaster and the film was removed from theaters on the second day itself. Now, Priyadarshi again played the lead in the film *Sarangapani Jathakam*, which was released on Friday. However, the film opened with poor box office collections and even the second day's performance was not encouraging. Indraganti Mohanakrishna is the director, while Sivalenka Krishna Prasad is the producer. *Court* became a super success partly because of Nani, who produced and aggressively promoted it. Nani even made a bold statement that people who didn't like Court need not come to watch his *Hit 3*. Apart from all this, the script of *Court* was strong, which led to its success. Now, Priyadarshi needs scripts like that; he needs to think carefully when choosing films like *Sarangapani Jathakam*. Though Indraganti is a sensible director and many actors want to work with him, the story needs to be strong. However, when it comes to this film, the story is weak and only in the second half did the film manage to get a few laughs.

Daksha Nagarkar to groove with Varun Tej in *Korean Kanakaraju*

After a series of flops, actor Varun Tej is currently shooting for his upcoming film *Korean Kanakaraju*. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film stars Ritika Nayak as the female lead. It is an Indo-Korean horror comedy and the shoot started some time ago. Now, the makers have roped in Daksha Nagarkar for a special song in the film. Shooting is underway at a private studio in Hyderabad, with a special set erected for the song.

Daksha Nagarkar, who has done a few Telugu films, was last seen in Swag opposite Sree Vishnu. The special song with Varun Tej is described as a "complete mass number," according to sources.

Music for the film is composed by S. Thaman. Varun Tej is hoping for a much-needed break with this project, as his recent films *Matka, Operation Valentine* and *Gandeevadhari Arjuna* underperformed at the box office.

Director Merlapaka Gandhi is known for delivering sensible hits and expectations are high for *Korean Kanakaraju*.



AFTER *KOBALI*, T SRINIVASA RAO BRINGS A TOUCHING FAMILY DRAMA

Producer T. Srinivasa Rao, who earlier made *Tikamaka Thanda* and *Kobali*, is now coming up with another film. This time, he has chosen a story that revolves around family bonds and relationships, with the backdrop of a love story. Shooting for the film has begun and it is directed by Adinarayana Pinisetti.

Harikrishna and Bhavya Sri are playing the lead pair. Their natural chemistry is expected to add emotional depth to the narrative, according to the producer. He mentioned that the film is not just a love story but also explores family relationships, their challenges, and triumphs.

"We are bringing a unique love story, and the shooting has started. We plan to continue it for the next few days," said director Adinarayana.

The producer added that *Kobali* had trended on Disney+ Hotstar for several weeks, and he is confident that this film will also succeed. "We are shooting in diverse and unique locations to provide the audience with a fresh and memorable experience," he said.



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IPL: Delhi Capitals eye comeback against KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Delhi Capitals (DC) would aim for an improved batting effort in the middle overs when they face a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their Indian Premier League match here on Tuesday.

DC have suffered two defeats in their last four matches, including a loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday, and will look to avoid any hiccups at the business end of the tournament.

Abhishek Porel has batted with plenty of aggressive intent at the top of the order but veteran Faf fu Plessis will quickly need to get used to the slow nature of surface at Kotla after struggling in his comeback game. KL Rahul has been DC's leading run-getter this season but could not accelerate against the spinners on Sunday night. He would back himself to take on the likes of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarthy. .

With quality spinners in their ranks, KKR could pose a stiff challenge for the home. The Ajinkya Rahane led-side is slightly low on confidence after a tough outing against Punjab Kings in a rain-hit match.

A solid innings is expected from Karun Nair to ensure Rahul isn't left to shoulder the burden alone in the middle-order.

In the bowling department, DC skipper Axar Patel led from the front with two wickets but found little support from others. Star pacer Mitchell Starc, who went wicketless against RCB, will look to exploit the weaknesses in his former team, while Kuldeep Yadav, with his deceptive googlies, remains a threat in the middle overs.

DC's fielding has also left much to be desired against RCB, with Porel dropping a crucial catch of Krunal Pandya on Sunday night.

KKR, meanwhile, have managed just seven points so far and are placed seventh in the standings, having failed to collect any



points from their last three matches, including two losses and a no-result.

Rahane will be desperate to arrest the slide and keep their playoff hopes alive, with another defeat making the task tougher. Issues have cropped up across departments for KKR.

Their batting lacks a settled look, with Quinton de Kock and Rahmanullah Gurbaz being rotated in the opening slot alongside Narine, while the side has relied heavily on Rahane and youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi to score runs. The middle-order trio of Venkatesh Iyer, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh and Ramandeep Singh has struggled to make a significant impact.

Bowling has been another area of concern, with KKR failing to break opening stands, allowing teams to post big totals — as seen in the last game where PBKS added 120 for the opening wicket. While KKR managed to pull things back at the death, it will require a collective effort from Chakaravarthy, Vaibhav Arora, and Harshit Rana to stem the flow of runs against DC.

Teams

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (c), Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abishek Porel, Karun Nair, KL Rahul (wk), Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Sameer Rizvi, Darshan Nalkande, Donovan Ferreira, Tripurana Vijay, Dushmantha Chameera, Faf du Plessis, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Manvanth Kumar L, Madhav Tiwari.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Rinku Singh, Quinton de Kock (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rovman Powell, Manish Pandey, Luvnith Sisodia, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Moeen Ali, Ramandeep Singh, Andre Russell, Anrich Nortje, Vaibhav Arora, Mayank Markande, Spencer Johnson, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakaravarthy, Chetan Sakariya.

People are forgetting importance of partnerships: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Indian superstar Virat Kohli has underlined the importance of stitching partnerships in T20 cricket, especially on wickets where heaving the willow from the word go is not possible.

The pitches in the IPL thus far have been on the slower side, not allowing the batters to go hammer and tongs from ball one. However, the likes of Kohli and K L Rahul have flourished in challenging batting conditions.

Kohli collected his sixth half-century in 10 IPL innings against Delhi Capitals on Sunday, helping RCB maintain their unbeaten run away from home.

"It was a top win, especially looking at the surface. We saw a few games here and this wicket played out differently compared to those. Whenever there's a chase on, I keep checking with the dugout, whether we're on course," Kohli, who played a second-fiddle to Krunal Pandya, said after the win.

Kohli elaborated on his batting methodology, saying he analyses the conditions and changes his style of play accordingly. "(What) the total (is) on the board. What the conditions are like. Who are the bowlers that are due to bowl. Who are the bowlers that are going to be hard to get away," Kohli explained when asked how he plans the chase.

"I try and make sure my singles and doubles don't stop so that the game doesn't get stagnant. People are forgetting the importance of partnerships and that's



coming to the fore in this tournament to try and dominate the bowlers through partnerships and professionalism."

Krunal, who struggled initially to get going, eventually hit his first fifty in IPL in nine years.

"Krunal was outstanding, he can make an impact and it was just about time. We've communicated beautifully, Krunal kept telling me to stay while he took his chances," said Kohli.

After Kohli's dismissal, Tim David smashed 19 runs off just five balls to knock off the winning runs.

Talking about the finishers, Kohli said: "We have the extra power in Tim David, there's Jitesh as well. That firepower at the back end of the innings definitely helps you. And now Romario as well."

He also praised the low-profile spin duo of Krunal and Suyash Sharma. "Hazlewood and Bhuvi are world-class bowlers, there's a reason why Josh has the Purple Cap.

"Krunal was outstanding the way he varied his pace. Suyash has been the dark horse for us, even if he doesn't have the wickets. Our spinners keep attacking in the middle overs."

We were 10-15 runs short: Axar

Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel said his team was 10-15 runs short of a competitive total and rued the missed chances on the field after the six-wicket loss to RCB. "I thought in the first innings, the wicket was a bit tough but due to dew, it eased out in the second innings. We don't think anything we could have done different. If a batter could have accelerated, we could have got 10-15 runs extra.

"KL was batting well so I wanted him at number four. One side of the ground was shorter as well so we sent him at number four."

Adjudged the Player of the Match for his all-round show, Krunal, who took one wicket along with his unbeaten 73, said he was happy to perform for his new team.

"It is always good to see the results. Sometimes when you have put the hard work behind the scenes and feels good when it comes off. It is quite satisfying," he said. "My role was clear. If we lose three early wickets, I can go and make sure we stitch a partnership. We have such great power hitters — David, Jitesh and Shepherd. We can take down the bowling. Glad that I fulfilled my role."

"When Virat is at the other end, it is quite easy. First 20 balls, It was scratchy for me. But he kept backing me. Then I got his mojo. So, a lot of credit to Virat."

On his bowling, Krunal said: " I have always been an economical bowler. As a bowler, I have always wanted to be one step ahead. I have worked on my bowling. So, if you see the variations in speed.

"Knowing the batsmen's strength, I am trying to use it to my advantage. Glad it is using my favour."

Wome- 's tri-series: I- dia to face South Africa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Colombo

Their campaign off to a dominant start, a confident India will look to maintain momentum when they face South Africa in their second match of the women's tri-series here on Tuesday.

The Indian team extended its winning streak in ODIs to seven matches with a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over hosts Sri Lanka in the tournament opener on Sunday.

The 'Women in Blue' excelled across all three departments. The bowlers, led by the spinners Sneh Rana, Deepti Sharma and Shree Charani, restricted Sri Lanka to a sub-par total, while the top three — Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, and Harleen Deol — played fluent innings with the bat.

Their fielding was razor-sharp as well, and they will be confident of producing a similar performance against a South African side they haven't lost to in this format since March 2022.

India had beaten South Africa 3-0 the last time the two teams met in a 50-over series. The Indian players have also enjoyed recent game time in the Women's Premier League, adding to the squad's match readiness.

Spinners are once again expected to play a crucial role. However, the Indian team will continue to closely monitor the performance of its pacers in the absence of key players as it looks to identify a core group ahead of the 50-over World Cup, to be held at home later this year.

Meanwhile, South Africa, who open their campaign on Tuesday, are trying to find their rhythm under new coach Mandla Mashimbyi, who was appointed last year.

The 44-year-old, however, has no prior coaching experience in women's cricket.

South Africa will be without senior all-rounder Marizanne Kapp, who has been rested for the series, but they will lean on the in-form Sune Luus, Laura Wolvaardt, Nadine de Klerk, and Chloe Tryon. Masabata Klaas, along with allrounders Annerie Dercksen and de Klerk, will shoulder the pace duties.

Teams

India: Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh(w), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Arundhati Reddy, Sneh Rana, Nallapureddy Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Amanjot Kaur, Tejal Hasabnis, Shuchi Upadhyay.

South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt(c), Tazmin Brits, Sune Luus, Annerie Dercksen, Lara Goodall, Nadine de Klerk, Chloe Tryon, Sinalo Jafta(w), Nonkululeko Mlaba, Masabata Klaas, Ayabonga Khaka, Karabo Meso, Miane Smit, Nondumiso Shangase, Seshnie Naidu.

Sunil Joshi biggest name in contention for spin coach's role at BCCI's COE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Former India left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi has thrown his hat in the ring for the post of spin bowling coach at BCCI's Centre of Excellence (COE) that was vacated by Sairaj Bahutule earlier this year. The COE was earlier known as the National Cricket Academy when it was based out of the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. It remains in the city but is now operational from a new location after BCCI purchased land to build a more expansive facility.

Bahutule resigned to become an assistant coach in IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals. The 54-year-old Joshi, who played 15 Tests and 69 ODIs for India between 1996 and 2002, is currently working with Ricky Ponting in the Punjab Kings IPL team and has also coached Uttar Pradesh during the domestic season.

He has also worked with Bangladesh's national men's team as its spin bowling consultant.

According to sources in the BCCI, Joshi appeared for his interview online in front of a three-member panel comprising COE's Head of Cricket VVS Laxman, chairman of men's selection committee Ajit Agarkar and General Manager (Cricket Operations) Abbey Kuruvilla.

There were four others, who appeared for the interview in person, including India U-19 women's team coach Nooshin Al Khadeer, who was an off-spinner during her playing days.

She represented the country in five Tests and 78 WODIs and has been working in the erstwhile NCA setup for some years now. Another strong candidate is believed to be Rakesh Dhruv, a former Gujarat and Saurashtra left-arm spinner. Veteran off-spinner Pritam Gandhe, a domestic doyen from Vidarbha, has also been interviewed for the post.

When a senior BCCI official was asked about the interviews for the position, he said: "Obviously, Sunil Joshi has the best CV out of all the other candidates. In case of Nooshin, the BCCI is also going to have an elaborate women's wing with dedicated staff for international, national and domestic age-group women's cricketers."

"While playing elite level does embellish the CV and Sunil is the only (men's) Test cricketer among those who appeared for interview, his biggest plus is considerable experience in elite level coaching.

"He has coached multiple first-class teams, has been a part of IPL coaching set-up and also coached senior men's international team. And do not forget, he is from Bengaluru, which makes a lot of sense logistically," he said.

But even Dhruv cannot be ruled out as he has played a lot of cricket for Saurashtra and Gujarat. Most of the candidates were asked about their vision for the role.

The chosen candidate will be expected to not just provide technical insight to international stars like Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar but also work with a host of India A, India U-19 and top domestic performers.

Twelve teams to compete i- Arja- Si- gh Memorial hockey tour- ame- t

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chandigarh

Twelve teams will compete in the sixth edition of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial hockey tournament to be held here from April 29 to May 6. Air Force Hockey team from Bangladesh will be one of the 12 sides taking part in the tournament, Air Marshal S Sivakumar said on Monday.

The other participating teams include Indian Air Force, Chandigarh XI, Punjab & Sind Bank, Central Industrial Security Force, Army XI, Indian Navy, Indian Railways and Rail Coach Factory.

The tournament winning team will get a prize money of ₹three lakh while the runners-up side will pocket ₹two lakh. Man of the match for each match will get Rs 10,000 while the player of the tournament will pocket ₹25,000.

The matches will be played at Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Ground, 3 Base Repair Depot, Air Force Station here on league-cum-knockout basis.

Air Force Sports Control Board has been organising the prestigious hockey tournament in the memory of legendary late Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh at 3 BRD, Air Force Station, Chandigarh since 2018.

> To promote hockey, the game in which our country has excelled for so many years in the international arena and to bring back its glory
>
> — YS PANGHAL, ORGANISING SECRETARY

"Considering the eminence of the tournament in the Indian hockey scenario and the initiatives being taken by the Air Force Sports Control Board to encourage hockey at all levels, an all out effort is being made to promote the event," Sivakumar said.

Sivakumar said the organisers are hoping participation of more overseas teams, including from the UK, in next year's edition.

The organisers also plan to hold the event alternately in Chandigarh and Bengaluru beginning next year, he said.

Group Captain Y S Panghal, Organising Secretary of the event, briefed about the tournament.

"Our air warriors have toiled hard and proved their mettle at all competitive levels and have brought laurels to the country as well as the Indian Air Force," Panghal said. "To promote hockey, the game in which our country has excelled for so many years in the international arena and to bring back its glory, it is strongly felt that there should be quality tournaments in the country where emerging talent competes and gets exposure to the fast pace game.

"This has resulted in the evolution of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey tournament since 2018," Panghal said.

KL Rahul should bat at four for India in next year's T20 World Cup: Kevin Pietersen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

KL Rahul is best placed to bat at number four and keep wickets for India in next year's T20 World Cup, believes Delhi Capitals (DC) mentor Kevin Pietersen.

With his intent in the shortest format being questioned in the past, Rahul has tweaked his approach to be the leading run-getter for Delhi Capitals this season.

The competition for the wicket-keeper-batter's slot in the national team is stiff with Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Dhruv Jurel and Ishan Kishan being the other options for the selectors.

Rahul has not been a part of India's T20 setup since the 2022 World Cup but Pietersen reckons not only has he done enough to warrant a comeback, he is best suited for the wicket-keeper-batter's role.

"I'd bat KL at four for India in T20 cricket. I think you guys have got plenty of opening batters.

"But the way KL Rahul is playing cricket now, he would be my first choice to bat at four, and keep wickets for India," said Pietersen in response to a query after DC's loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday night.

At the start of the season, Rahul himself had talked about his renewed approach towards the T20 format.

Besides the stellar show in IPL, it was Rahul's recent performances for India in ODI cricket that left a huge impression on Pietersen, one of the best batters to have played for England.

"KL has been playing in a very positive manner since. Mid to late last year. We saw how he finished off a couple of the games for India and almost sealed the deal in the Champions Trophy in Dubai.

"I've had a lot of incredibly brilliant conversations with him about batting, a lot of deep and meaningful conversations because when you grow up as a youngster like he did, you get taught defence, elbow up, play in the V," he explained.

The big-hitter said it is not easy to change that approach after hitting the thirties. "You've got to change it and you've got to become a different kind of player for a different format which is evolving all the time. "It's very, very difficult. So the way that he has accepted that he's needed to change, the way that he has changed is of great, great credit to the person that he is," said Pietersen.

The next T20 World Cup will be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Fine with tough batting surfaces in T20s

Scores in the range of 250 were a common occurrence last IPL but the slower nature of pitches has made batting tougher this season. Pietersen has no issues with



that. "On wickets like these (the one at Feroz Shah Kotla), you've got to be methodical, you've got to find rhythm. Virat (Kohli) found rhythm this evening. KL got rhythm," he said.

"And I think that's where you see the true batter. The real batter that can come out there, and sort of monitor the situation, and it looks effortless... Is it good for T20 cricket to have the occasional wicket like this? I do not think it's a bad thing," he added.

Pietersen was not in favour of bowlers "just being served up into the stands every single ball". "...I don't think every night people want to see that. I don't really want to see it every night," Pietersen said.

Foundations can be laid in IPL

He has played in the IPL and more recently been a part of the commentary panel. This season, he is back in the dugout as a member of DC support staff. The 44-year-old spoke about his role in the team.

"I always knew that when I was playing franchise cricket, that no particular coach could change you over that four to six week period, or eight week period," he conceded.

However, he cited his interactions with Abhishek Porel to stress that changes introduced during the tournament can become permanent if persisted with over a period of time.

"Last night I was working on something. We are five weeks into the tournament, we have only got three or four weeks left of the tournament. And I said to him, I said, 'Abhi, this is not going to work for you tomorrow.'

"It might not work for you the next week. But if you keep working on it, in the next month, two months, three months, four months, I promise you this is going to help your game. And it's going to take you to a level where you're going to become a more destructive batter."