

WORLD: 6 Blinken says US arms will make a difference in Ukraine; Xi's visit to Hungary and Serbia brings new Chinese investment; NATION: 8 Fight for 6th Schedule key poll plank for Cong's Ladakh candidate Namgyal; Govt extends ban imposed on LTTE for 5 years

Modi files nomination from Varanasi Union ministers, CMs accompany PM in a show of strength

VARANASI (UP), May 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi filed his nomination here on Tuesday, an event attended by several NDA leaders, including Union ministers and chief ministers, in a show of strength as he seeks a third term from the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency.



After filing his nomination, Modi posted on 'X', 'Filed my nomination papers as a candidate for the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. It is an honour to serve the people of this historic seat. With the blessings of the people, there have been remarkable achievements over the last decade. This pace of work will get even faster in the times to come.'

fare of the people in my third term as well. 'Jai Baba Vishwanath!' BJP president J P Nadda and Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, Anupriya Patel and Ramdas Athawale were among the leaders who flanked Modi as he emerged from the collectorate after filing his papers.

Data collection by police rattles Diphu churches

DIPHU, May 14: The United Christian Forum (UCF) has raised concerns over what they describe as the "unprecedented random collection of data" by police personnel regarding Churches and their adherents in the districts of Diphu and Dokmoka in Karbi Anglong.

Moody's pegs India's FY25 GDP growth at 6.6 pc

NEW DELHI, May 14: Moody's Ratings on Tuesday said the Indian economy is projected to expand 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal year and said strong credit demand fuelled by robust economic growth will support the NBFC sector's profitability.



'Also, robust economic conditions will help them preserve their asset quality even as rises in interest rates increase the debt burdens of their customers,' Moody's said. Aggregate year-on-year loan growth at NBFCs accelerated to 20.8 per cent in September 2023 from 10.8 per cent a year earlier, driven by demand for retail loans, including financing for housing and automobiles.

HT BRIEFS Protest held

JORHAT: Employees of 23 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) operating under Assam Agricultural University (AAU) across the state on Tuesday staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the vice-chancellor's office complex at AAU campus at Rowrah here in support of their demands.

BJP losing ground everywhere: Kejriwal

CHANDIGARH, May 14: BJP is losing ground across the country and will not win more than 230 seats all told, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Tuesday, as he called on the people of Haryana to start the "revolution" to unseat the saffron party-led alliance from the Centre.



Kejriwal made the remarks in a roadshow for party candidate Sushil Gupta in Kurukshetra's Pehowa, where he attacked the BJP-led Centre for his jailing, claiming it is scared of him.

according to him, were declining. "In the entire country, the situation is turning against them. BJP is losing badly... In Haryana, Rajasthan they are losing; in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Bihar, UP, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, their seats are coming down. No where there is an increase in their seats."

NGT seeks response from authorities on 'substantial loss' of forest cover in Manipur

NEW DELHI, May 14: The National Green Tribunal has sought a response from the regional office of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding the "substantial decrease" in forest cover in Manipur.

cause of deforestation and opium poppy cultivation. "The news item raises a substantial issue relating to compliance with environmental norms," the bench said.

Cattle-head seized

GOSSAIGAON: Acting on a tip-off Grahampur police led by Reshmita Saikia, office-in-charge Grahampur Police out-post raided 127 (B) under-construction National Highway and successfully seized 18 cattle-head from a truck bearing registration no. AS28-AC-0523 and apprehended the driver and his co-pilot on the spot.

AASU protest

DIBRUGARH: The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) on Tuesday protested against shifting of Oil offices to other state. After written assurance from OIL, AASU lifted the blockade programme.

Why has Ganga river gotten dirtier despite spending ₹ 20,000 cr: Cong asks PM

NEW DELHI, May 14: The Congress on Tuesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why he has abandoned the Varanasi villages adopted by him and why the Ganga has gotten dirtier despite spending ₹ 20,000 crore. On a day PM Modi filed his nomination from Varanasi, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the outgoing PM must answer for his "failures" in Varanasi.

Ganga as Namami Gange. "Ten years later, the 'Namami Gange' project has cost the exchequer more than ₹ 20,000 crore. Here are the results: the number of Polluted River Stretches has increased from 51 to 66, 71% of monitoring stations have reported dangerous bacteria at up to 40 times more than safe levels, and antibiotic resistant bacteria have now been found in the waters."



He also said outside the city of Varanasi lie eight villages that the PM had "adopted", but a March 2024 ground report found that despite big promises of "smart schools", health facilities and housing, the villages have seen absolutely no (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

REFRESHING SIP



Two girls quenching their thirst with coconut water to beat the scorching heat in Guwahati on Tuesday. HT Photo

'Disasters triggered 26.4 million displacements in 2023' Disasters triggered over half million internal displacements in India in 2023: Report

NEW DELHI, May 14: India experienced over half a million internal displacements due to floods, storms, earthquakes, and other disasters in 2023, a sharp dip from around 2.5 million displacements in 2022, according to a global report released on Tuesday.

The report by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) said around 27,000 displacements in the national capital. On July 9, Delhi recorded 153 mm of rainfall in just 24 hours, the highest single-day rainfall since July 25, 1982.



At 3,52,000, India's flood displacement figure was the lowest since 2008, with the largest event triggering about 91,000 displacements in Assam in June, affecting 20 districts.

105,000 displacements as it moved inland. Cyclone Mocha, the largest disaster displacement event of 2023 in South Asia, triggered 1.3 million displacements in Bangladesh, mainly in Cox's Bazar district.

'India's development journey to continue uninterrupted under Modi'

NEW DELHI, May 14: Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said India's journey of development and glory will continue uninterrupted under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and people of Varanasi will bless him with a record margin of victory again.

'Yashasvi' Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi on filing his nomination for the third consecutive time from Kashi, the city of Baba Vishwanath, the centre of Indian culture," Shah wrote on 'X' in Hindi. The senior BJP leader said in the 10 years, Modi has not only brought world-class development to Kashi (Varanasi) but also to the entire country.



praying to Baba Vishwanath and Ganga 'Maiya' that India's journey of development and glory continues uninterrupted under Modi's leadership. I am confident that this time again the people of Kashi will bless Modi ji with a record margin of victory," Shah said. (PTI)



















# Went to support my friend: Allu Arjun after being booked for alleged election code violation

**HYDERABAD, May 14:** Days after he was booked for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct in the run-up to Lok Sabha polls, popular Telugu actor Allu Arjun on Tuesday said he went to the Nandyal district to support his friend and YSRCP constituency candidate S Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy but isn't affiliated to any political party.

On Saturday, the "Pushpa" star waved to a large crowd from a balcony with the YSRCP candidate and also posted a message on X in his favour.

The Andhra Pradesh Police booked a case against the "Pushpa: The Rise" star on Saturday under IPC Section 188 the same day.

Arjun said he remains neutral and supports "my people" including Janasena Party founder and actor-uncle Pawan Kalyan, regardless of their political affiliations. "Firstly, I want to clarify that I'm not affiliated with any political party. I remain neutral and support my people, regardless of their political affiliations. This includes my uncle Pawan Kalyan, whom

I'll always stand by, along with my friend Ravi and my father-in-law, Mr. Reddy," the actor said in a statement.

The National Award winner, who cast his vote in Hyderabad on Monday, said he went to Nandyal district to support his friend Ravi.

"I made a promise to my friend, Mr. Ravi, to support him, but I couldn't fulfill it last time. To keep my word, this time I went to Nandyal to support him," he further said.

In a post on X on Saturday, Arjun thanked the people of Nandyal for a "warm reception".

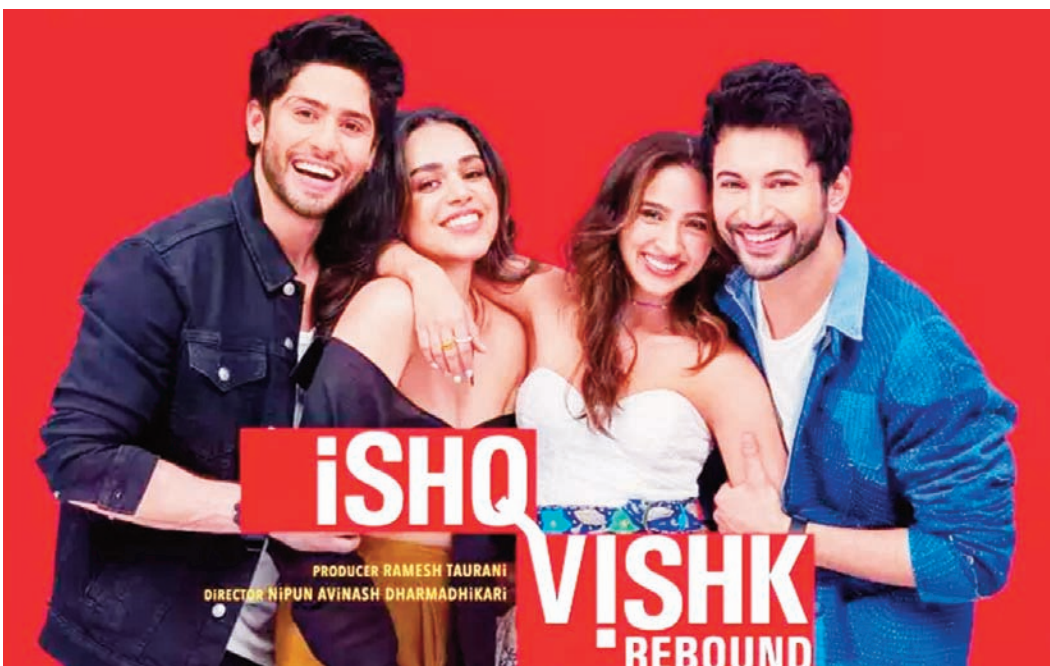
"Thank you, Silpa Ravi Reddy (YSRCP candidate) garu, for the hospitality. Wishing you the very best in the elections and beyond. You have my unwavering love and support," he had posted.

Janasena, TDP and BJP are NDA alliance partners, who are taking on Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP in the elections.

Andhra Pradesh went to the polls on Monday. (PTI)



## 'ISHQ VISHK REBOUND' TO NOW RELEASE IN CINEMAS ON JUNE 21



**MUMBAI, May 14:** "Ishq Vishk Rebound", starring Pashmina Roshan, Jibraan Khan, Rohit Suresh Saraf and Naila Grewal, will now release in theatres on June 21.

The film, which was earlier slated for release on June 28, is a sequel to the 2003 Shahid Kapoor-starrer romantic comedy "Ishq Vishk". Saraf, 27, shared a new poster of the film on his Instagram handle on Tuesday. The poster mentioned the film's release date as June 21, 2024.

"Re-directing you to the official season of #PyaarKaSecondRound #IshqVishkRebound," the "Vikram Vedha" actor wrote in the caption. Directed by Nipun Avinash Dharmadhikari, "Ishq Vishk Rebound" went on floors earlier this year.

The film is produced by Ramesh Taurani and co-produced by Jaya Taurani under the banner Tips Films Limited. (PTI)

## Chris Hemsworth on Scorsese & Coppola's criticism of superhero films: It felt harsh

**LONDON, May 14:** Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth says the criticism of Marvel superhero movies by cinema giants like Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola came across as "harsh" and an "eye-roll" to him.

Scorsese had made headlines in 2019 when he had branded the superhero films as "theme park experience" and "not cinema". Coppola later went a step further and called superhero movies "despicable".

Hemsworth, known for playing the fan-favourite superhero Thor in multiple Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), said he has been a fan of the two filmmakers due to the extensive nature of their filmography.

"It felt harsh, and it bothers me, especially for heroes. It was an eye-roll for me, people bashing the superhero space. Those guys had films that didn't work too we all have. When they talked about what was wrong with superheroes, I thought, cool, tell that to the billions who watch them. Were they all wrong?" the Australian actor told UK news outlet The Times of London.

On Scorsese's contention that superhero movies had an adverse impact on mid-budget and indie cinema,

Hemsworth offered a counter point.

"Cinema-going did not change because of superheroes, but because of smartphones and social media. Superhero films actually kept people in the cinemas during that transition and now people are coming back. So they deserve a little more appreciation," he said.

Hemsworth also addressed the criticism of superhero movies by actors who appeared in the MCU.

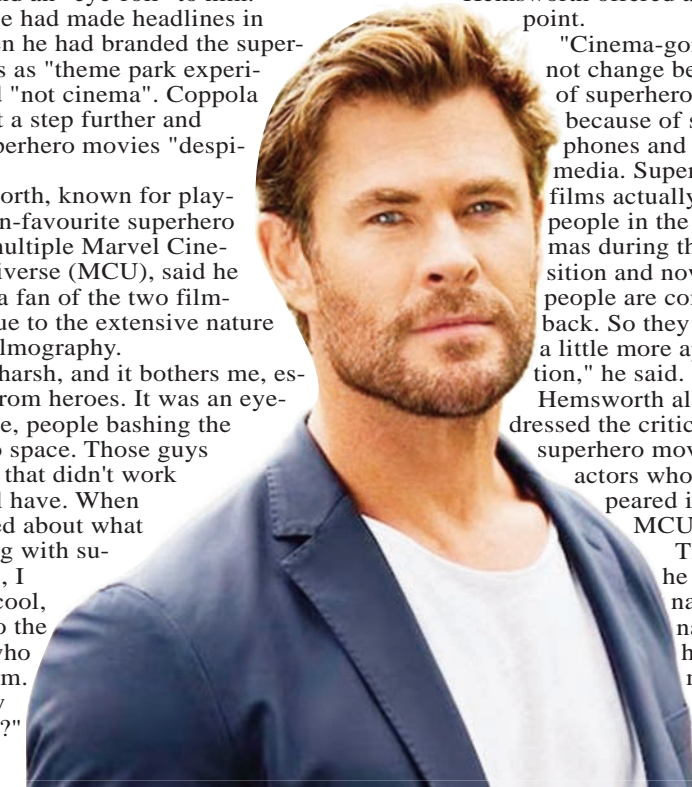
Though he did not name any names, his comments were seemingly aimed at his Thor: Love and Thunder co-star Christian Bale, who had once complained that acting in front of a green screen was a monotony. Another co-star of Hemsworth, Idris Elba, had said it was torture filming a Marvel film.

"It's, like, They're films that are successful, put me in one. Oh, mine didn't work? I'll bash them.' Look, I grew up on a soap opera. And it used to bother me when actors would later talk about the show with guilt or shame. Humility goes a long way. One of the older actors on Home and Away' said, We don't get paid to make the good lines sound good, but to make the bad ones work.' That stuck with me," he said.

Hemsworth, who has appeared as Thor in eight MCU movies, said if he ever played the superhero on the screen again, he would try to do something different.

"If I ever went back to (Thor) I'd wonder how we could change it again. But there is a superhero curse in the sense you get pigeonholed, and I've felt a little hamstrung with what I could do, so (I) desperately wanted something to scare the shit out of me. And Furiosa' did," he said, referring to his upcoming movie Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga.

The film, directed by George Miller, will be released in theatres worldwide in July. (PTI)



## Action thriller Assamese film 'Rudra' to have emotional quotient: Director Roopak Gogoi

**GUWAHATI, May 14:** Acclaimed Assamese film director Roopak Gogoi said his multi-crore action thriller 'Rudra', which is set for pan-India release by the end of this year, will also have emotional quotient.

In an interaction with PTI, the award-winning filmmaker said Assamese superstar Ravi Sarma will play the lead role in the movie, which will have around 60 senior and junior actors from film and theatre backgrounds.

"The movie will be an action thriller but it will also have some emotional quotient, depicting certain situations in the rural society," Gogoi, known for his critically acclaimed children's film 'Tumi Malala' (You are my Malala), said.

Gogoi, who has also written the script of 'Rudra', said that shooting, which will take place in Assam, Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh, is set to commence next week and is expected to be completed by July.

He said the production unit is presently working with a specialised team to ensure high-quality action in the film.

"We have brought experts from outside the state and they are training around 30 local youths, which will be useful for As-

samese cinema in the future. Usually stuntmen are brought from Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai for action in Assamese films, because of which production becomes very expensive," he said.

The filmmaker said he is aiming for release of the film by November end.

Asked about the budget, Gogoi said, "Initially we had decided on a budget, but later realised that if we stick to that figure, probably we would not be able to provide the entertainment we have planned for the audience. Hence, we have kept the budget open and will invest as per requirement."

"Rudra" is produced by Rajesh Kumar More, O P Garodia, Arvind Garodia, Gautam Beria, Anup Beria and Manoj Kumar Kedia.

More said that 'Rudra' will be a big-budget film.

When asked how he would deal if he faced a situation similar to that of an Assamese superstar, whose big-budget film recently bombed in the box office following his change in stance on CAA, Gogoi said, "A film has to be worth watching... only then it will be successful despite attempts by some sections to sabotage it."

Gogoi also disapproved of the diktat of a militant organisation to

hall owners to run a particular Assamese film for three weeks, failing which no Hindi movie would be allowed to screen.

"This should not happen... If there is no audience for that particular Assamese film, what will the hall owner do for three weeks? If in this case, the producer requested the extremist group to issue such a diktat, such things should not be done at all," he asserted.

On 'Tumi Malala', Gogoi said the story revolved around the friendship between the daughter of a maid and that of her employer in the backdrop of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"We had to face some difficulties in a few Indian festivals as the topic was slightly controversial due to the political scenario of the country. However, we faced no such issue in international events. We believe our effort was recognised by cine lovers," Gogoi said.

"Tumi Malala" was the only film from India to be screened at the Beijing International Children's Film Festival 2022 as an 'official selection' among the 10 foreign entrants and it received the Golden Flowers Award in the event, he added. (PTI)





