

**Modi, Bhutan King resolve to expand ties further**

**MALVIKA'S 'SHOPPING, SPA AND SELF-CARE' SEOULFUL GETAWAY**

**Allu Arjun saves the day in Pushpa 2: The Rule, despite lengthy NARRATIVE**

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
**The pioneer**  
 What kind of democracy is this? The arrests of opposition leaders and the misuse of police power show this is not Indiramma rajyam but an oppressive police raj. Kaushik Reddy visited the Banjara Hills Police Station to lodge a complaint, but not only was his complaint ignored, he was falsely accused and arrested. This government lacks the courage to even accept complaints from public representatives  
 - Kavitha, BRS MLC

**DON'T MISS...**  
**Funding raised by T-Hub startups is \$291 million**  
 Highlighting that the total funding raised by T-Hub ecosystem startups is \$291 million, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu announced Telangana government's achievements upon completing one year. The Minister announced the achievements at the Secretariat on Thursday. Sridhar Babu said that T-Hub successfully launched MATH CoE on March 7, 2024, driving innovation in AI & ML sector. It Hosted GCC Conclave (Oct 2024) with 200+ Global Capability Centre and also organised MATHACK 2.0 on Gen AI with ...

**ISRO successfully launches PROBA-3 mission**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**  
 The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Proba-3 mission for the European Space Agency (ESA) on Thursday. The four-stage PSLV-XL rocket took off at 4:04 pm IST from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, achieving perfect stage separations on its way to orbit. The first stage of the PSLV rocket separated about two minutes after liftoff, followed by the second stage separation at 4:08 pm. At this point, the spacecraft was exposed to space. At 4:23 pm, ISRO announced that the Proba-3 spacecraft had been deployed in the desired orbit, marking the launch as a success. ESA's team confirmed the deployment shortly after, with telemetry received at the mission control centre in Belgium. The mission was contracted by New Space India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm. The Proba-3 mission is a twin-spacecraft mission consisting of two satellites—Occulter (200 kg) and Coronagraph (340 kg). It is designed to create artificial solar eclipses to study the Sun's corona, the outermost layer of its atmosphere. Funded under ESA's General Support Technology Programme, Proba-3 serves as a technology demonstration mission showcasing precise formation flying. The mission was facilitated by NSIL, ISRO's commercial arm. ESA highlighted the significance of the mission in advancing solar research, describing Proba-3 as one of the most sophisticated solar observation projects to date. For ISRO, this mission builds on the success of the Aditya-L1 solar mission launched in September 2023. The collaboration with ESA underscores ISRO's growing prominence in global solar research and its capability to execute complex satellite launches. With Proba-3 now in orbit, scientists anticipate groundbreaking insights into the Sun's behaviour and the dynamics of space weather, paving the way for a better understanding of solar phenomena that impact life on Earth.



**Padi Kaushik arrested; Harish held and let off**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Former Minister Harish Rao has sharply criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's autocratic rule, accusing him of failing to bring about any real change in the state. Speaking to media persons present at the Gachibowli Police Station, where he had been brought on Thursday, Rao said: "CM Revanth Reddy talks about change, but all we see are arrests and illegal detentions." He went on to allege that under the current regime, the police had been misused to target political opponents, particularly those in the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS). Harish Rao was arrested by the police at the residence of BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy in Kondapur on Thursday morning, moved to the Gachibowli Police Station, and let off by evening. Harish Rao had visited Kaushik Reddy, a day after a case was filed against him by the police at the Banjara Hills Police Station for allegedly obstructing their duties. However, the large posse of police personnel deployed to arrest Kaushik Reddy prevented Harish Rao from meeting him. Earlier during the day, BRS MLA P Kaushik Reddy was arrested in connection with the case registered against him for "threatening, abusing and obstructing a police official". Harish recounted the ill-treatment of unemployed youth in Ashok Nagar recently, accusing the government of causing physical harm to people. He stated that the CM's actions were nothing short of an 'emergency rule', with police powers being abused to silence the Opposition.

**'PM running away from discussion'**

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Thursday said the country's people want the 'Adani mega scam' to be discussed in Parliament and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government were "running away" from it. In an unusual protest, leaders of several INDIA bloc parties wore black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai" on them and raised slogans on the Parliament premises demanding a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue...

**TG pushes for early resolution of water disputes**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 The on-going Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) proceedings took a significant turn as Telangana urged the tribunal to expedite its deliberations and conclude the adjudication process without further delays. The tribunal, chaired by Justice Brijesh Kumar, with members Justice Ram Mohan Reddy and Justice S Talapatra, held its hearing in New Delhi on December 5, 2024. Telangana succeeded in securing favorable admissions on multiple key questions during the cross-examination of Andhra Pradesh's expert witness, AK Goyal. Senior Advocate CS Vaidyanathan, representing Telangana, effectively highlighted gaps in Andhra Pradesh's affidavit regarding operation protocols. During the session, Telangana submitted an interlocutory application (IA) requesting the tribunal to consider all pleadings, evidence, and documents from both states as a unified record for adjudication. Telangana also called for the simultaneous consideration of references under Section 89 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, and Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. Andhra Pradesh, however, opposed the second request, seeking time to file a counter. The tribunal permitted Andhra Pradesh to proceed with its filing but refrained from making an immediate decision.

**CM LAUNCHES INDIRAMMA HOUSES APP**

**CM: Congress brought self-respect to the poor**

**● 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses in one year ● KTR, Harish must stop 'behaving like kids'**  
**● KCR should maintain his seniority and give advice as the Leader of the Opposition.**

3,500 houses for each Assembly constituency...
Special quota for tribals under ITDAs...
Previous Indiramma house loans waived off.



**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced the construction of 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses across the state in one year. In all, 3,500 houses are being constructed in each Assembly constituency. The Chief Minister stated that the government will provide Rs 5 lakh towards each house. Earlier, the Chief Minister launched the Indiramma Houses mobile app at the state Secretariat on Thursday. Speaking on this occasion, CM Revanth Reddy praised former PM Indira Gandhi for bringing self-respect to the poor by building houses in the country. The CM said that the poor would show self respect when they owned a house

and hence former PM Indira Gandhi built houses for the needy. "We can find villages without temples but there is no habitation without Indiramma Colony in this country. Indira Gandhi gave the slogan of 'food, shelter and clothes'. Surplus land had been distributed to tribals and dalits through the Land Ceiling Act and construction of houses had been undertaken. Continued on Page 2

**FM to start Budget consultation today**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will start pre-Budget consultations with various stakeholders beginning Friday as part of Budget making exercise. The first meeting as part of this series will be held with eminent economists on December 6. Sitharaman, who will chair these meetings, will seek their inputs regarding upcoming Budget amid seven-quarter low GDP print of 5.4 per cent in second quarter of the current financial year. It will be followed by a meeting with farmer associations and...

**Rahul will open innings, I will bat in middle: Rohit**

KL Rahul's composure and brilliant technique while opening the innings in Perth convinced skipper Rohit Sharma to move himself down the order and "bat somewhere in the middle" in the day/night Test against Australia starting here on Friday. The Indian captain said on Thursday he didn't wish to tinker with a combination that brought the team success in the series opener of the five-match rubber which the visitors lead 1-0 following their 295-run win at Optus Oval. Rahul looked solid with scores of 26...

**TG plans to irrigate 42 lakh acres in Rabi**

**Steps to resolve inter-state water disputes**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 With plans to irrigate over 42 lakh acres in the upcoming Rabi season and resolve inter-state water disputes, the Congress government in the state is on course to establish Telangana as a leader in sustainable irrigation development, as per government sources. Officials said that despite challenges like the flaws in the Kaleshwaram project, the state achieved record-breaking agricultural growth and addressed long-



standing irrigation issues with its focus on efficiency and farmer welfare. The Congress government prioritized low-cost, high-benefit irrigation projects, including Neelam

Vagu, Pimpiri, Palem Vagu, and Mathadi Vagu. With an investment of Rs. 241 crore, these projects are designed to irrigate 48,000 acres by March 2025. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been steadfast in ensuring that Telangana receives its rightful share of Krishna and Godavari waters. From initiating legal battles to securing central assistance, the state government has taken bold steps to correct the neglect of the previous dispensations. Continued on Page 2

**Ready to apologise if headcount of 55,143 jobs missed: CM**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy marked the first anniversary of his government by addressing a gathering organized by the Transport Department to celebrate its achievements. Highlighting job creation, the Chief Minister pointed to the recruitment of 55,143 individuals in the first year alone, claiming it was a feat unparalleled in the country. He stressed the state government's dedication to fulfilling the aspirations of martyrs of



**'No proposal to increase retirement age of SC, HC judges'**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 There is no proposal to increase the retirement age of Supreme Court and high court judges, the government told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. It also underlined that there is no mention of any "cooling off" period in the Constitution for post-retirement assignments for judges. SC judges retire at the age of 65, while HC judges demit office at 62. District judges retire at the age of 60. "There is no such proposal for increasing the retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court and high courts," Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said. The UPA 2 government had brought a constitutional amendment bill in the Lok Sabha to bring the retirement age of HC judges on par with that of SC judges. But the bill lapsed as it was not taken up for consideration in the House. Continued on Page 2

**State govt approved 769 km of new roads**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
 The state government approved Rs. 3,725.22-crore outlay for constructing 769.35 km of new roads and nine bridges. Notably, the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department received an allocation of Rs. 7,490 crore in the 2024-25 budget -- a substantial increase of Rs. 4,990 crore from the previous year. This included Rs. 5,790 crore for R&B works, Rs. 200 crore for the Outer Ring Road (ORR), and Rs. 1,500 crore for the Regional Ring Road (RRR). Immediate repairs to roads damaged during heavy rains were undertaken, highlighting the government's proactive approach to ensuring road safety. Continued on Page 2

**UG, PG aspirants can seek admission in any discipline**

**UGC proposes sweeping changes**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 UG and PG aspirants will now be able to seek admission in any discipline irrespective of the one studied by him or her in Class 12 or at the undergraduate programme, after qualifying in a national or university-level entrance exam, according to new norms of the University of Grants Commission (UGC). The UGC on Thursday announced the draft regulations that are being set as the minimum standards of instruction for the grant of undergraduate and post-graduate degrees. According to UGC Chairman Jagadeesh Kumar, the new regulations will introduce greater flexibility, remove disciplinary rigidity, bring in inclusivity and multidisciplinary learning opportunities for



students. "Irrespective of the disciplines taken by a student in level 4 or Class-12 schooling, a student is

eligible for admission in any discipline of UG programme if the student qualifies the national-level or university-level entrance examination," the draft norms said

from the rigid discipline-specific requirements of school education. Under these regulations, students can choose to study in any programme irrespective of their past disciplinary qualification if they demonstrate their competency by clearing the relevant entrance examination," UGC chief said. "Additionally, students will now have the option to earn 50 per cent of their credits in their major discipline, while the remaining credits can be allocated to skill development, apprenticeships or multidisciplinary subjects, fostering holistic development. With these reforms, we ensure that Indian higher education evolves to meet global standards while staying rooted in inclusivity and adaptability to diverse learner needs," he added.

# Remarkable progress in one year

1,901 units with Rs12,626 cr investment got approvals under TG-iPASS

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Telangana Industries and Commerce department stated that it achieved remarkable progress over the past year, driving growth across various sectors through innovative policies and strategic investments.

The Telangana Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System (TG-iPASS) continues to streamline industrial clearances with an end-to-end online system. Over the past year, 1,901 units with a proposed investment of Rs 12,626 crore and employment potential of 49,384 received approvals. Additionally, 882 units worth Rs 9,646 crore are under process, reflecting the State's investor-friendly approach.

Since December 2023, 16 mega projects worth Rs 14,433 crore, creating 8,894 jobs, were approved. Customized incentives were offered to projects like Kaynes Semicon Private Limited and Bactolac Nutraceuticals. A total of Rs 796.74 crore was disbursed in incentives across general, SC/ST, and PHC entrepreneurs.

Telangana's new MSME Policy, 2024, addresses challenges in land, credit, technology and market access. Initiatives include 10 new industrial parks, dedicated facilities for women entrepreneurs and a Rs 100-crore Yantram Fund for technology adoption. The government also incentivised private flatted factory complexes and worker hostels to support small enterprises.

The aerospace sector saw Hyderabad hosting Airbus' C295 assembly plant and partnerships with GE Vernova and Tata. The State received the "Best State Award for Aerospace" for the fourth consecutive year. Notable projects include a Rs 300-crore manufacturing facility by Raghuvamsi Aerospace and collaborations with international delegations.

The life sciences sector welcomed Rs 36,000 crore in investments, generating 51,000 direct jobs and 1.5 lakh indirect jobs. Significant developments include Takeda's dengue vaccine manufacturing with Biological E and Rx Propellant's Rs 2,000-crore lab space project in Genome Valley.

## TGSRTC added 1,389 new buses over the past year

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

To meet the growing demand, TGSRTC added 1,389 new buses over the past year, including deluxe and eco-friendly electric buses. Hyderabad alone saw the introduction of 125 Metro Deluxe buses, and electric buses have been deployed in Hyderabad, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad.

By March 2025, 446 more electric buses will be operational across Telangana, taking the total to 2,400 in phases, as part of a comprehensive plan to reduce pollution and promote green travel.

Officials said that The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has achieved milestones under the leadership of the State government, particularly through the implementa-

tion of the Mahalakshmi Scheme for free bus travel for women. Within 48 hours of assuming office, the Telangana government launched this initiative, which has been a resounding success.

Since its launch on December 9 last year, over 116 crore women have availed themselves of free bus travel, saving a collective Rs 3,913.81 crore. This scheme has significantly increased daily passenger count in RTC buses, with average ridership jumping from 45 lakh to 58 lakh per day—a 27% rise. The percentage of women passengers has grown from 40% to 65%, ensuring both economic savings and empowerment.

The welfare of RTC employees has also been prioritised, with the implementation of the 2017 PRC, benefiting over

42,000 employees with a 21% pay hike. Accident insurance of Rs 1 crore has been introduced for employees' families, and super-specialty upgrades at Tarnaka RTC Hospital have ensured better health facilities.

Infrastructure improvements include the addition of 1,075 seats, 552 fans and 25 water coolers at bus stations, along with the beautification of the Husnabad bus station and expansion of Jangaon bus station.

In addition, RTC's Bus-On-Contract services for weddings and other events saw 15,171 bookings this year. Cargo services expanded with home delivery options in Hyderabad, and 9,320 buses are now equipped with GPS tracking integrated with the 'Gamyam' app for real-time monitoring.

DEET emerged as a transformative platform connecting job seekers and employers through AI-driven job matching and skill development pro-

grams. The platform is set to reshape Telangana's job market with real-time updates and tailored career counseling.

With its robust policies,

strategic investments, and focus on innovation, Telangana has positioned itself as a national leader in industrial and economic growth.

## PHONE TAPPING CASE HC bars police from arresting Harish

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

In a relief to senior Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader and former minister T Harish Rao, the Telangana High Court on Thursday barred the police from arresting him in the phone tapping case till further orders.

The High Court passed interim orders on a petition filed by the BRS leader, seeking orders to quash the case booked against him.

The Court made it clear that the police may continue its investigation and asked Harish Rao to cooperate in the probe.

The High Court issued a notice to Chakradhar Goud, on whose complaint the police had registered the case, and adjourned the hearing.

## 'States must learn from one another'

KTR at TiECon Kerala Awards ceremony

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Telangana's former minister KT Rama Rao attended the TiECon Kerala Awards ceremony in Kochi on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, KTR emphasised the importance of recognising the unique strengths of each State rather than comparing their progress. He noted that states must move forward based on their priorities and learn from each other's experiences to achieve collective development.

Highlighting Kerala's advancements in social and economic sectors, KTR stated that other states could

take inspiration from Kerala's achievements. He also pledged his personal support to promote entrepreneurship development in Kerala and expressed willingness to participate in future events of this nature. KTR assured that he would facilitate partnerships between industrial giants and universities in Hyderabad and Kerala if required, leveraging his personal network. Praising the hardworking nature of Malayalis, KTR remarked, "The entrepreneurial spirit of Malayalis is evident across the globe, especially in regions like the United States. This same dedication can drive investment growth within Kerala."

## Delhi breathes easy: AQI improves to moderate

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Delhites breathed cleaner air for the second consecutive day on Thursday as the AQI was recorded in the "moderate" category with a reading of 165. Restrictions under Stage 4 of the GRAP were lifted and replaced with the Stage-2 measures.

The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city was recorded at 165 at 4 pm, registering a slight improvement from 178 on Wednesday.

It marks a significant improvement as on Tuesday, the AQI was recorded in the "poor" category with a reading of 268, compared to 280 on Monday and 285 on Sunday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) data.

For the month of December, the city has not seen such clean air since December 14, 2022, when the AQI was 163.

In comparison, the lowest AQI recorded in December 2023 was 286, according to the CPCB.

The Supreme Court allowed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to shift to the Stage-2 restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on Thursday.

As a result, several restrictions imposed under Stage 4, including a ban on the entry of diesel-run medium and heavy vehicles (BS-IV or below) registered in Delhi -- except those carrying essential goods -- have been lifted.

## State govt approved 769 km...

*Continued from page 1*

As per government data, efforts to secure central funds have borne fruit, with Telangana successfully obtaining Rs. 422.12 crore for repairs on NH-65 and Rs. 662.67 crore for Sironcha-Atmakur on NH-353C. Additionally, the state secured Rs. 516.17 crore for a 14-km bypass on NH-565 near Nalgonda. These funds are the result of consistent advocacy by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.

The RRR project, a cornerstone of Telangana's infrastructure plans, has seen significant progress. Utility charges were cleared, forest clearances secured, and 95% of land acquisition completed for the northern stretch. Planning and consultancy for the southern segment are underway, ensuring the project's steady

advancement. Under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), Telangana achieved an unprecedented allocation of Rs. 800 crore for 31 works spanning 435.29 km, showcasing the government's commitment to leveraging national resources.

Heritage restoration projects, such as the Rs. 49-crore renovation of the Mahbubia Hall in the Assembly precincts and the Rs. 7.62-crore restoration of Shamanzil in Raj Bhavan, underscore the focus on preserving Telangana's cultural identity.

In addition to infrastructure, the government has prioritized capacity building. Recruitment exams for 156 AEE posts were conducted, marking a historic move in a department long plagued by retirements exceeding new hires.

## 'No proposal to increase ...'

*Continued from page 1*

Asking a supplementary during Question Hour, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chaddha said judges have been given executive and political roles post-retirement. While some come to Rajya Sabha as members, others become governors after retirement.

He claimed that this raises several questions in the minds of people. "It raises the question of conflict of interest. It raises questions about executive interference in the judicial process. Independence of the judiciary is questioned," Chaddha said.

The AAP MP said many committees have suggested and he also wants to know the government's view that there should be a cooling-off period. He said no judge should be given any political or executive role for at least two years after retirement. They should also not be given any chairmanship of any committee, he added.

Chaddha also suggested that their pension should be enhanced to the extent that they should not be financially dependent on any post-retirement job. He also said there should be a process of merit-based appointment under which judges should be appointed not on the basis of whims and fancies of the government. In his response, Law Minister Meghwal said the AAP MP has tried to give a political angle to the issue.

"The appointment of Supreme Court and high court judges is done on the basis of a memorandum of procedure made in accordance with Article 124, Article 217, Article 224, and (series of) Supreme Court judgments," he pointed out.

## BRS slams Cong govt over arrest of its leaders

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

MLC Kavitha criticised the Congress-led government for the alleged misuse of police power and targeted arrests of BRS leaders, including MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy. Speaking at Gachibowli police station, Kavitha expressed outrage over what she described as the government's attempt to stifle opposition voices.

She detailed the sequence of events, stating that Kaushik Reddy had contacted an ACP to file a complaint about threats to his life and allegations of phone tapping but was instead arrested. "Kaushik Reddy visited the Banjara Hills police station to lodge a complaint, but not only

was his complaint ignored, he was falsely accused and arrested. This government lacks the courage to even accept complaints from public representatives," Kavitha said.

She accused the government of using the police to silence BRS leaders Harish Rao, Jagadish Reddy and others. "What kind of democracy is this? The arrests of opposition leaders and the misuse of police power show this is not Indiramma Rajyam but an oppressive police raj," she remarked, drawing comparisons to an emergency-like situation.

Kavitha demanded the immediate withdrawal of all false cases and the release of arrested BRS leaders.

## TG plans to irrigate 42 lakh ...

*Continued from page 1*

A White Paper presented in the Assembly by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy detailed the mismanagement under the Bharat Rashtira Samithi regime, highlighting defects in Kaleshwaram's Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages. A judicial commission has been established to probe irregularities in the project.

The state government made significant progress also on major projects like Devadula, Seetharama, and SLBC, completing delayed works and ensuring new command areas are irrigated.

In a landmark achievement, Telangana cultivated 67 lakh acres of paddy this monsoon, producing 153

lakh tonnes of grain—a record in the state's history. This feat was accomplished without utilizing water from Kaleshwaram, proving the efficacy of improved irrigation planning and execution.

The Congress government is also focused on ensuring justice in water distribution. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to present strong arguments before the Krishna Tribunal to buttress Telangana's claim over 70% of the river's waters as its rightful share. Additionally, the state has secured Rs. 422 crore for NH-65 repairs and initiated strategic discussions with neighboring states and the Center to expedite permissions for critical projects like Palamuru-Rangareddy and Sammakka-Sarakka.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Panchami: Dec 05 12:49 PM to Dec 06 12:08 PM  
Shashthi: Dec 06 12:08 PM to Dec 07 11:06 AM  
Nakshatram: Shravana: Dec 05 05:26 PM to Dec 06 05:18 PM  
Dhanishta: Dec 06 05:18 PM to Dec 07 04:50 PM  
Rahukalam: 10:44 AM to 12:07 PM  
Yamagandam: 2:52 PM to 4:14 PM  
Varjyam: 09:13 PM to 10:47 PM  
Gulika: 7:59 AM to 9:22 AM  
Amritakalam: 06:58 AM to 08:33 AM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 AM to 12:29 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Partly Cloudy  
Temp: 29°  
Humidity: 72%  
Sunrise: 6:33 AM  
Sunset: 5:41 PM  
Updated: December 5, 2024 5:00 PM

## TG pushes for ...

*Continued from page 1*

Telangana representatives accused Andhra Pradesh of deliberately delaying proceedings to extend its use of water allocations from the erstwhile State, allowing unauthorised constructions to continue. Telangana urged the tribunal to advance to final arguments without further delays to ensure a timely resolution.

Representing Telangana were Senior Advocate CS Vaidyanathan, Advisor to the Government Adityanath Das, Senior Advocate V Ravinder Rao, Advocate Kushvinder Vohra, and hydrology expert Chetan Pandit. Andhra Pradesh's delegation included Senior Advocates Jayadev Gupta and Umopathy, alongside engineers and consultants from its ISWR unit. The tribunal reserved its decision on the matter and is expected to provide directions in the coming days. Telangana continues to press for justice in what it sees as a pivotal moment for equitable water-sharing agreements.

## Padi Kaushik arrested; Harish held ...

*Continued from page 1*

Rao also pointed out that despite the claims of development, the government had failed to deliver on its promises. He noted that projects like flyovers, STPs, and Kalaji Kalakshetram were initiated during the tenure of KCR, not Revanth Reddy. He questioned, "In the one year of Revanth's government, has a single building been constructed? Has any project been completed?"

The BRS leader criticized the lack of execution of the government's promised schemes, particularly for women and farmers. "You promised Rs. 1 lakh crore in loans for women, but it's all fake.

The Mahalakshmi Pension Scheme is just an illusion," he added. Rao continued: "In your government, there are no guarantees. There have been only illegal arrests."

He pointed to aberrations in the CM's governance. "While Congress president Rahul Gandhi questions why he is being arrested in Delhi, Revanth is doing the same here (warranting a similar question) in Telangana," Rao said. He urged Rahul Gandhi to first address the situation with CM Revanth before making public comments.

Rao criticized the CM's approach to dealing with BRS leaders, pointing out that they had been targeted for arrest. He then expressed his concern over the broader implications of such actions for the state's democracy.

Harish demanded the immediate release of all those arrested, particularly BRS leaders like MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, and called on the police to act within the confines of the law, upholding constitutional rights. "This is not a people's government, but a government of terror and oppression," he stated.

Rao also raised the issue of the CM's close ties with the police, questioning why the government was unwilling to allow fair investigation and due process in the arrests.

## CM: Congress brought ...

*Continued from page 1*

The Chief Minister said that Rs.10,000 was allocated for the construction of a house during Indiramma rule and it had been increased to Rs 1.25 lakh during the YS Rajasekhara Reddy regime. Now, the government was giving Rs.5 lakhs per house.

The CM assured that Rs. 5 lakhs would be given to the beneficiaries through green channel without any shortcomings. The houses would be granted to those who owned land in the first year, and priority would be given to the physically disabled, agricultural labourers, sanitation workers, Dalits, tribals, widows and transgenders. Houses were allotted to tribals during Indira Gandhi and CM NT Rama Rao's governments.

Subsequently, the houses were not allotted to them; the CM said and added that his government would provide a special quota for tribals in the allotment of Indiramma houses in the constituencies which come under ITDAs. Houses would be allotted to the Chenchus of

Nallamala, Gonds of Adilabad and the Koyas in Bhadrachalam in the special quota. Revanth Reddy recalled that he himself visited Indravelli and handed over the title deeds of Indiramma houses to the beneficiaries. The Chief Minister suggested that the government was not recommending to follow a particular pattern to construct Indiramma houses. However, model houses should be built in every mandal head quarters by using every inch of land. The beneficiaries should also visit the model houses. The beneficiaries were being given freedom to construct additional rooms as per their affordability.

Revanth Reddy said that the Congress government, which was in power in the state for ten years from 2004 to 2014, had built 25.04 lakh Indiramma houses. The CM criticized former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for comparing Indiramma houses to bird nests and constructing only 65,000 houses during his 10-year regime. The Congress government also allocated Rs.195

crore for the completion of 35,000 houses, which had been left incomplete by the KCR government. KCR did not complete the construction of double bedroom houses in 10 years. The BRS leader built Pragati Bhavan like a mansion, Secretariat for Vastu reasons and the farmhouses in Gajwel and Janwada in just six months. The CM lambasted KCR for not completing the construction of double bedroom houses during his tenure and instead opened belt shops in every colony.

Artificial Intelligence was also being used to examine the applications for Indiramma houses, the CM said, while assuring people that the government will use technical expertise at every stage from the foundation level to the slab level to ensure that only the deserving people got Indiramma houses.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy revealed that apart from restoring the housing department, which had been wound up by the KCR regime, the government would provide adequate staff to the department.

## 'Police plant poisoned Mulugu encounter victims'

**PNS ■ WARANGAL**

Jagan, the spokesperson for the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) Telangana State Committee, has accused the Greyhounds police of poisoning and killing seven Maoist cadres with the help of a traitor.

In a statement released to the media on Thursday, he

claimed that on November 30, a Maoist team visited an Adivasi village in Chelpaka gram panchayat and requested a trusted local man to arrange food. This man, who was a police informer, poisoned the food, causing the Maoists to lose consciousness. The police then apprehended the seven Maoists in the Polkamavagu forests near Chelpaka and shot them

dead at close range during the early hours of December 1, Jagan alleged.

In response to this alleged killing, the Maoist Telangana State Committee has called for a statewide shutdown on December 9 to protest the deaths. Jagan further stated that the Congress government and its leaders should take full responsibility for the encounter.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is based on the information given in this publication and is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

# City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | DECEMBER 6, 2024

03



## CITY EVENTS

### Classical Bharatanatyam

Dance By Radha Nrithya Nilayam  
Venue  
Ravindra Bharathi, Lakdikapul  
December 6, 1:30pm

### Live Stand-Up Comedy Show

By Ashish Vidyarthi  
Venue  
Bhaskara Auditorium, Khairatabad  
December 6, at 7:00pm

### Sufism: Past And Present

Lecture By Suleman Siddiqi  
Venue  
Lamakaan  
December 6 at 7:00pm

### Workshop

On Overcome Anxiety & Tension  
Venue  
Swamy Vivekananda Institute Of Human Excellence (Language Schools)  
December 2 to 6 (6 pm)

### Geetha Madhuri Live

Venue  
Akan,  
December 6, 9 pm onwards

### Arijit Singh Live in concert

Venue  
Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

### Texture art workshop

This workshop is suitable for artists of all levels, from beginners looking to explore new artistic horizons to seasoned artists seeking to enhance their skills and repertoire.

Venue  
Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

## ICAR approves two AICRP centres for cotton

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, has approved the establishment of two All India Coordinated Research Project Centres for cotton (AICRP) in Telangana. This decision was communicated to PJTSAU Vice-Chancellor Prof Aldas Janaiah through an official letter.

After the bifurcation of the State, Telangana lost its representation in the national-level cotton research coordination centres. As a result, PJTSAU was unable to participate in the national cotton research system for the past decade.

Recently, Vice-Chancellor Prof Aldas Janaiah has met with ICAR Director General Dr Himanshu Pathak and Deputy Director General Dr TP Sharma in New Delhi and emphasised the importance of cotton research in Telangana. ICAR has agreed to establish the two centres and provide staff and funding to support cotton research at PJTSAU.

The centres will begin full-fledged research activities from the next financial year, according to Vice-Chancellor Prof Aldas Janaiah.

## WE-HUB EMPOWERED 5,000 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

### Funding raised by T-Hub startups is \$291 million

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting that the total funding raised by T-Hub ecosystem startups is \$ 291 million, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu announced Telangana government's achievements upon completing one year. The Minister announced the achievements at the Secretariat on Thursday.

Sridhar Babu said that T-Hub successfully launched MATH CoE on March 7, 2024, driving innovation in AI & ML sector. It Hosted GCC Conclave (Oct 2024) with 200+ Global Capability Centre and also organised MATHACK 2.0 on Gen AI with 10,000+ students and 2,700+ teams.

The Minister noted key innovation programmes with CARE (Social Impact), Hero MotoCorp (Mobility), and Mercedes-Benz (Climate Tech). A fund of Rs15 crore supporting startups and IDEX-certified ventures was

raised. In all, 441 startups supported, 983 market connects with 1,488 mentor hours.

Sridhar Babu mentioned new GCCs as FedEx invested \$100M in Hyderabad, hiring 1,000 people in the first year. ZF Lifetec, German automotive safety leader, launched its global R&D centre in Hyderabad, with 450 engineers in one year. Marriott opened its first-ever GCC in Hyderabad, starting with 300 employees.

He noted major expansions as London Stock Exchange Group, which opened a Tech CoE, growing from 300 to 1,000 employees. While Cognizant added 15,000 jobs and opened its new office, Arcesium hired 500 for its AI and data team. Uber expanded by 1,000 in AI/ML.

Micron Hyderabad team exceeded 4,500 engineers, 12% of its global workforce.

Coming to the electronics sector, it attracted Rs 6,000 crore

investments, creating 5,200 jobs with major projects, Amara Raja Giga Factory, Foxconn and Zaheerabad Industrial City.

Sridhar Babu highlighted Global AI Summit 2024 with 10,000+ attendees and 20+ MoUs with NVIDIA, Microsoft and others. He also noted Telangana AI City launched with 200-acre AI ecosystem.

The Minister also noted AI tools like MITRA for student safety and ADeX for smart agriculture.

The IT Minister also revealed other achievements of MEEsava with Rs 2.27 crore transactions of Rs 729 crore. T-Wallet with 87 lakh transactions of Rs 7,048 crore and T-Works set up 33 prototyping centres State-wide, where WE-Hub empowered 5,000 women entrepreneurs.

He concluded that Telangana's initiatives continue driving innovation, investments and inclusivity across sectors.



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu announcing the government's achievements at the Secretariat on Thursday



## Guv opens Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar, lauds efforts for women's uplift

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma, alongside Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, inaugurated the Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar at Shilparamam, Madhapur on Thursday, by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Governor Varma expressed his support for the government's initiatives to empower women, particularly noting their involvement in self-help groups (SHGs) across various sectors. He praised Telangana's efforts to provide financial independence and empowerment to women, stating that the state's self-help groups are leading the way in women's progress across the country.

Governor Varma highlighted that over 65 lakh women in Telangana have received loans through self-help groups, improving the economic conditions of their families. He commended the State government's policies to further uplift women, encouraging their involvement in all areas of society, from business ventures to technology and infrastructure.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy assured that the Indira Shakti Bazaar would become a model for the rest of the country, attracting visitors from other states to witness the vibrant, diverse products created by Telangana's women. He emphasised that the government would continue to provide all necessary support, including planning financial strategies with SHGs in every district.

Additionally, the government is launching the Amma Canteens in every district and offering financial assistance and subsidies to women excelling in various fields. CM Revanth Reddy reiterated that women would be prioritised for economic support and that the government would assist them in every way possible to ensure their success.

Governor's wife Deepa Dev Varma, Minister for BC Welfare, Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar, Minister for Rural Development Anasuya Seethakka, MLAs Mall Reddy, Rangareddy, Veeralapalli Shankar, Arikepudi Gandhi, GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, SERP CEO D Divya, Rangareddy District Collector C Narayana Reddy, Additional Collector Pratima Singh and other officials were present at the event.

## Probe ordered into prisoner's death

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Collector and District Magistrate orders an inquiry regarding the death of a remand prisoner in Cheralpally jail.

Bolla Srinivas, aged 54 years, died at Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad, on November 5, 2024, due to cardiogenic shock. The deceased prisoner was serving a 6-year sentence in Cheralpally Central Prison for charges under various IPC Sections and was admitted to the hospital after complaints of chest pain and shortness of breath.

The prisoner received treatment at the prison hospital before being referred to Gandhi Hospital, where he passed away the same day.

SHO of Cheralpally was asked to register a case and conduct a magisterial inquiry into the death, as required under government guidelines for custodial deaths. The inquiry includes conducting an inquest and postmortem, with arrangements to video record the postmortem examination.

The Special Executive Magistrate of Hyderabad has been appointed to conduct the magisterial inquiry and submit a report.

## Minister Jupally's session: 103 applications received

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, along with TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, participated in a face-to-face interaction programme with the public held at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad. The event witnessed a large turnout of citizens and Congress workers who submitted various grievances and applications to the Minister.

The issues raised ranged from Indiramma houses, ration cards, pensions and revenue matters, among others. Minister Jupally actively engaged with the applicants, inquiring about their concerns and issuing immediate instructions to officials, including Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durishetty, to resolve the issues. A total of 103 applications were received during the programme.

Speaking to the media, Minister Jupally criticised the previous BRS government, alleging that it operated undemocratically and indulged in corruption and family-centric politics. "The BRS regime silenced opposition voices and even suppressed its own allies," he remarked. He contrasted this with the Congress-led



government under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, which he described as a government of the people, working inclusively and democratically.

Jupally highlighted initiatives like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Bhavan and Praja Vani, which address public grievances and ensure their resolution. He credited TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud for introducing innovative practices, such as weekly ministerial interactions with the public at Gandhi Bhavan, to bridge the gap between the government and citizens.

Commenting on the recent arrests of BRS leaders, the

Minister asserted that no one is above the law in a democracy. He criticised KCR for isolating himself at his farmhouse while failing to hold his son and nephew accountable. "Unlike the BRS regime, we are not authoritarian. We allow freedom of expression but will not tolerate its misuse," he stated firmly.

Jupally reiterated the Congress government's commitment to fulfilling its promises and dismissed BRS leaders' criticism, stating, "They have no moral right to question us. Their time is over, and the people are no longer paying attention to them."

## Pushpa 2 premiere: Allu Arjun, Sandhya Theatre booked for woman's death

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chikkadpally Police booked actor Allu Arjun, Sandhya Theatre management, and Allu Arjun's security team for a stampede-like situation on Wednesday night leading to death of a woman.

Central Zone DCP Akash Yadav, speaking to the media, explained that the case was filed at Chikkadpally police station under Sections 105, 118(1) read with 3(5) of the BNS Act. The tickets were being sold on various platforms and the Sandhya Theatre and thousands of people gathered outside the theatre.

There was an anticipation that lead actors would be coming to the theatre to enjoy the movie with the public, said DCP Akash.

"Firstly I would like to draw the guidelines that if film actors are visiting a programme and there will be a huge gathering, the security team or organisers must coordinate with the police for arrangements.

At around 9:30 pm, actors came and the show was at 9:45 pm, but gates were opened and people pushed each other," added DCP.

The case has been registered by Bhaskar, husband of Revathi who has died due to suffocation and stampede-like situation.

## Burra Venkatesham takes charge as TGPSC chief

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Burra Venkatesham, the newly appointed Chairman of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC), expressed his commitment to rebuilding candidates' trust in the recruitment process.

He took charge of his duties at the Commission's office in Nampally on Thursday.

In his address, Venkatesham shared his personal journey, revealing that he had always aspired to join the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

He noted that, after working hard and becoming a public servant, he decided to take on the responsibility of TGPSC, relinquishing a three-and-a-half-year tenure in public service for the benefit of unemployed candidates.

He assured that job notifications would be issued promptly and recruitment processes would be conducted swiftly and transparently.

He also encouraged candidates to attend exams with trust in the Commission.

## Stone laid for TG Police's Learning-cum-Experience Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The foundation stone for a state-of-the-art Learning-cum-Experience Centre under the Women Safety Wing of the Telangana State Police was laid today near the Police Headquarters in Hyderabad. The ceremony, marking a milestone in women and child safety initiatives, was attended by senior police officials, stakeholders and representatives

from Mylan Laboratories Ltd, the CSR arm of VIATRIS, which has funded the project with Rs 2.5 crore.

The event was attended by Rema Rajeshwari, DIG, Women Safety Wing; and other senior officers. Speaking at the event, Shikha Goel emphasised the centre's role in enhancing the capabilities and outreach of the Bharosa Society and other Women Safety Wing initiatives.

## TG govt sanctions Rs 5,942 cr for road expansion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government has allocated Rs 5,942 crore for road expansion works under the H-CITI (Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure) project, a key initiative of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Municipal Administration and Urban Development Principal Secretary Dana Kishore has issued administrative approvals for the funds, directing immediate tender

invitations to kickstart the projects.

Three days ago, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inaugurated several developmental projects under H-CITI during the Praja Palana Vijayotsavams. In a follow-up, the government sanctioned funds for works to be undertaken in six zones of GHMC, divided into five packages.

Secunderabad Zone: Rs 940 crore for constructing alternative roads around AOC Centre. Serilingampally Zone: Rs

837 crore for developing key junctions at Khajaguda, IIIT Junction, and Wipro Junction. Additionally, Rs 530 crore has been allocated for a six-lane flyover from Miyapur X Roads to Alwyn X Roads and a three-lane underpass from Lingampally to Gachibowli.

LB Nagar Zone: Rs 416 crore for a six-lane flyover from TKR College Junction to Mandamallamma crossroads. Khairatabad Zone: Rs 398 crore for a multi-level flyover from Rethibowli to Nanalnagar Junction.

## TG aims for 20,000 mw renewable energy by 2030

SAMUEL JOSHUA samueljoshuamjmc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting that the Telangana government aims for 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy by 2030, Principal Secretary of the Energy department Sandeep Kumar Sultania participated in The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Telangana State Council's one-day conference on 'Sustainable Future: The Net Zero Dialogue' at Hotel Avasa on Thursday.

Addressing the conference, Sandeep Kumar emphasised

'sustainability' as the key to ensuring future generations do not blame the environmental issues caused by us. He explained that sustainable development involves actions that secure a better tomorrow.

He announced the rollout of a 'Renewable Energy Policy' focused on green energy and reducing the carbon footprint, positioning it as the future course of action.

Sandeep mentioned that Telangana has already been a solar energy leader for the past 10 years and noted that the State is advancing in technologies like wind, solar and Pumped Storage Hydropower



Principal Secretary of the Energy department Sandeep Kumar Sultania seen along with the other panelists at the FICCI's Sustainable Future: The Net Zero Dialogue' in Hyderabad on Thursday

(PSH) in Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar dam. He revealed plans for innovative Pumped Storage Projects (PSP) in areas without reservoirs or

river streams and noted that initiatives like geothermal energy experiments are done in Singareni Collieries along with floating solar exper-

iments at NTPC's Ramagundam plant.

The Principal Secretary shared that green hydrogen is part of the upcoming policy, emphasising cost-effectiveness and affordability. He announced that stakeholder consultation will be conducted before the launch for the policy's feasibility. He also noted progress in electric vehicles (EVs), with tax exemptions boosting adoption and stressed the need to expand EV charging infrastructure.

He concluded by emphasising the government's promise to focus on sustainable and green energy solutions.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION				
NOTIFICATION Dt. 05.12.2024				
Hiring & Installation of superio star deluxe Portable mobile toilets, VVP mobile toilets and hiring of luxury caravan in RP Nilayam of Bollaram.				
S.No	Model	Description	Unit	Qty
1	Hiring & Installation	Hiring & Installation of superio star deluxe Portable mobile toilets including transportation charges etc complete for finished item of work.	1day	256
2	Hiring & Installation	Hiring & Installation of superio star deluxe VVP mobile toilets including transportation charges etc complete for finished item of work.	1day	32
3	Hiring & Installation	Hiring of Luxury caravan including service charges, transportation charges and maintenance charges etc complete for finished item of work.	1day	08

Note: (i) Sealed Quotations should be submitted on or before 07/12/2024 to the Office of Executive Engineer, Alwal Circle-27, GHMC on the letter head of firm/agency (ii) GST No. should be mentioned on the letter pad.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Alwal Circle, GHMC

R.O. No: 7564/PPCLAD/VI/110824-25 Dt: 05-12-2024

FOCUS ON MAKING TRI-CITY STATE'S SECOND CAPITAL

## Govt speeds up development of Warangal

PNS ■ WARANGAL

It is well known that the Revanth Reddy government has taken a key decision to develop Warangal as the second capital of Telangana. The focus is on the development of the Warangal, Hanamkonda, and Kazipet tri-city region.

Proposals have been made for the Warangal Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Inner Ring Road (IRR). Recently, the Revanth government allocated Rs 107 crore for the first phase of land acquisition for the Inner Ring Road. Additionally, Rs. 30 crore has been approved for the construction of extra roads in the city. In the next week or ten days, the funds will be deposited into the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA) PD (Project Director) account.

Just 10 days ago, the government released orders related to the fund disbursement. The funds need to be transferred from the State's finance department. Recently,

KUDA special officers traveled to Hyderabad to meet the Principal Secretary of the Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department.

In the first phase of the Inner Ring Road, 8 kilometers have been proposed. So far, KUDA has acquired land for 50 to 55 acres at a cost of Rs. 120 crore. The State government has recently allocated Rs 107 crore for the acquisition of the remaining 40 acres. Earlier, the BRS government had allocated Rs. 50 crore for the construction of 8 kilometers of the first phase of the inner ring road.

With these funds, work has already begun for the 5-kilometer stretch from Rangashayipet, Dupakunta, and East Fort outskirts. The remaining 3 kilometers of the road still need to be constructed. Recently, the Telangana government has allocated Rs. 30 crore for additional road construction. With the newly released funds, officials will complete the remaining 3 kilometers of work.



## Sridhar Babu assures steps for industrial development of Buggapadu

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said that food parks would help farmers increase their income

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Minister for Information Technology and Industries D Sridhar Babu has announced that special measures will be taken for the industrial development of Buggapadu in the district.

On Thursday, at the inauguration of the Mega Food Park in Buggapadu village under Sattupalli mandal, the Minister made the announcement.

Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao, District Collector Muzammil Khan, Sattupalli MLA Matta Ragamayi Dayanand, TGIIC Chairman T Nirmala Jagga Reddy, Handicrafts Development Corporation Chairman Naidu Satyanarayana, and Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao.

Ministers and the MLA also inspected agricultural stalls set up by the Telangana Oilseed Producers' Cooperative Federation, Telangana Agros Farmers' Service Centre, and the Coconut Development Board at the venue. The event began with the lighting of a



Minister for Information Technology and Industries D Sridhar Babu inaugurating a food park at Buggapadu in Khammam district on Thursday

lamp by the dignitaries.

During the event, Sridhar Babu remarked that Khammam is a vibrant district, excelling politically and educationally. He mentioned that former Chief Minister Jalagam Vengal Rao represented Sattupalli and that significant infrastructure works such as roads and canals were undertaken during the tenure of Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

He further stated that land for the Mega Food Park was allocated during the tenure of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. He pointed out that while previous governments had neglected the food park, the people's government had expedited infrastruc-

tural works, and the park was being inaugurated today. After the formation of the people's government, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao took the initiative to promote industries in the park.

Sridhar Babu emphasised that the government is working to provide employment opportunities, particularly for local youth, and ensure a brighter future for them.

He also highlighted the success of programmes like the Indira Mahila Shakti initiative, which is empowering women to become wealthy, and announced that they would provide necessary training for women wishing to establish small and medium industries.

He also mentioned that under the new MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) policy, a special industrial park for women would be established in every Assembly constituency, and efforts were underway to identify land for the park in Sattupalli. The minister revealed that over 2300 industries, including granite, rice mills, and ginning mills, are already operational in Khammam, with plans to establish 10,000 MSME industries in the future.

Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handicrafts, and Sericulture Tummala Nageswara Rao stressed the need to bring more industries, ensuring fair prices for guava, coconut, and oil palm being produced in the areas.

Nageswara Rao emphasised that food processing industries would help increase farmers' incomes.

He also mentioned that, during the tenure of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, the foundation for the food park had been laid and with the help of NABARD funds, essential infrastructure had been developed.

## Tiger movement: People urged not believe rumours

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

In light of the movement of tigers in the district, District Forest Officer Neeraj Kumar Tibreval, in a statement here on Thursday, emphasised the need to provide only clear and accurate information to the people. He noted that there have been instances of rumors and false news spreading, causing unnecessary panic among the people. He stated that creating fear and anxiety is not acceptable.

He urged the public to verify information with Forest Department officials before publishing news shared via social media. He warned that spreading false news or circulating such information on social media would lead to departmental action against those responsible.

Meanwhile, wild animals attacked a herd of sheep in Kurtha village under Koutala mandal, resulting in the death of 23 sheep in the early hours of Thursday.

Forest officials indicated that the wild or stray dog could have attacked the herds of sheep. They ruled out the possibility of a tiger attacking the sheep.



Neeraj Tibreval

Sunday to have a discussion with the woman. During their conversation, an argument broke out. Sources indicated that when Harish attempted to settle the matter, the woman refused and threatened to report the issue to higher authorities. It reportedly led to the Sub-Inspecting ending his life.

The police launched an investigation based on the complaint filed by the Sub-Inspector's parents.

## SI suicide

### Woman taken into custody for questioning

PNS ■ MULUGU

In connection with the suicide of Wazedu Sub-Inspector Rudrarapu Harish, police have reportedly detained a woman. Harish's parents filed a complaint, alleging that a woman was responsible for their son's death. In response to the complaint, the police took her into custody for questioning.

The Sub-Inspector committed suicide by shooting himself with his service revolver.

It is reported that a few months ago, a woman living in Hyderabad for her studies came into contact with Harish through social media, and they began chatting regularly. Over time, their relationship grew more intimate, and they decided to get married. However, when Harish asked about her past, he discovered that the woman, originally from Chilukur in Suryapet

district, had befriended three young men while she was in Chilkur. When one of them refused to marry her, she filed a complaint with the Chilukur police, leading to a case being registered, according to sources.

After learning about this, Harish reportedly decided against marrying her. To resolve the issue, he visited a private resort near Mullakatta on



## AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

### Kamareddy rly station poised for a transformation

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Indian Railways is undergoing a significant transformation with the redevelopment of railway stations across the country, aiming to provide world-class facilities to passengers. As part of this initiative, 40 railway stations in Telangana are being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) with an estimated investment of Rs. 2,737 crores.

Kamareddy Railway Station is one of the 40 stations being redeveloped under the ABSS. Kamareddy, a key town in the region, is situated on the important Hyderabad-Manmad Junction railway line, which has been operational since 1896. This line serves as a major transport corridor for agricultural products and passenger traffic between Telangana and Maharashtra.

The redevelopment of Kamareddy Railway Station is

being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs. 39.84 crores. As part of this redevelopment, the station will see several improvements to enhance facilities for passengers. The station falls under the Hyderabad Division and is categorized as a Non-Suburban Grade-4 (NSG-4) station on the Kacheguda-Mudkhed route. It is a key stop for several important superfast trains travelling to Secunderabad, Nagarjuna, Mumbai, Nanded, Tirupati, and Bengaluru.

The goal is to modernise the railways stations, enhance passenger amenities, and convert them into growth hubs for regional development. This project received a major boost when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for station redevelopment in Telangana in August 2023, with further works planned through February 2024. Key stations such as



Secunderabad Railway Station are undergoing large-scale upgrades to meet international standards.

Additionally, to alleviate congestion at other rail terminals in the Hyderabad region, Charlapalli Station is being developed as an alternate terminal with full facilities for public convenience. The ABSS policy, formulated by the Ministry of Railways, focuses on

the modernisation of stations with a long-term vision. It is driven by the need to cater to the growing demand and enhance the overall experience for passengers.

Key redevelopment works proposed included upgrading the station building to enhance its functionality and appearance and expansion and improvement of the station's circulating area to ensure smoother passenger

movement.

Apart from it, the provision of a second entry and conversion of the existing shed into a new booking office would be taken up. Relocation of the Government Railway Police (GRP) office, with the dismantling of the existing GRP office and ongoing conversion of the Track Machine Rest Room into a new GRP office will be undertaken.

Upgrades to platform surfaces to improve passenger safety and comfort will be carried out. More facilities would be provided.

All these redevelopment works are currently progressing at a fast pace, with an expected completion date within this financial year.

The efforts aim to provide a more comfortable and convenient experience for passengers, contributing to the overall modernization of the railway station under the ABSS.



## Bhadrachalam Panchayat to produce bricks from wet garbage

PNS ■ BHADRACHALAM

The Bhadrachalam Panchayat is set to become the second in Telangana, after Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation in Hyderabad, to produce bricks using wet garbage. This initiative aims to tackle the waste disposal issue while generating significant revenue for the local Panchayat.

The bricks made from wet garbage will be used in hotels to replace paddy husk for lighting stoves. Bhadrachalam will soon gain recognition as the only Panchayat in Telangana with such a facility.

A 1.5-acre dump yard is being developed in the Manubothula Tank area of the temple town, with plans for a seven-acre garden nearby. The development of the garbage yard is being carried out at a cost of Rs 80 lakh.

The ITC Paper Board company is funding the acquisition of machinery to manufacture bricks using wet garbage as raw material, while the Bhadrachalam Panchayat is contributing Rs 50 lakh for its share. Additionally, Rs 18 lakh has been spent on setting up a 11 KV electric line and power transformers.

Currently, Bhadrachalam generates about 15 tonnes of garbage daily. Machinery is being installed at the yard to separate wet and dry garbage. In preparation, the Panchayat officials visited Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation to study its brick-making process and examine the machinery imported from Coimbatore. The Bhadrachalam Panchayat has invested in more advanced machinery, costing Rs 60 lakh, consisting of four units to convert wet garbage into bricks. The machinery will process 10 tonnes of wet garbage daily and produce bricks within 24 hours.

The nearby villages of Sarapaka, Burgampahad, Morampalli, and Banjara Panchayats will also contribute their waste to the Bhadrachalam dumping yard. According to Srinivasa Rao, the Executive Officer of Bhadrachalam Panchayat, the construction of the yard is progressing smoothly, and plans are underway to make it fully operational.

Once completed, wet and dry garbage will be transported to the dumping yard near Manubothula Tank. The brick-making project will not only help manage waste but also generate revenue for the Panchayat.



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Thursday

## Over one lakh people expected for Cong meeting in Nalgonda

PNS ■ NALGONDA

On the occasion of the Congress government completing one year in office, a public meeting will be held at Rajiv Prangan, near Nalgonda, on December 7, said Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkata Reddy. He said that over one lakh people will attend the public meeting to be addressed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

On December 7, the Chief Minister will be visiting Nalgonda district to inaugurate developmental works and unveil welfare programmes, besides laying foundation stones for developmental works. In this regard, on Thursday, the Minister inspected the arrangements for the Chief Minister's visit.

Later, speaking to the media at the new Medical College, the Minister stated that as part of the Chief Minister's visit, the Brahman Velimala project distributary channels, which are being undertaken with approximately Rs 1,000 crore would be inaugurated. The Brahman Velimala reservoir was sanctioned in 2008 under the Udaya Samudram project during the tenure of the late Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, and 80% of the work was completed. However, the previous government failed to complete the work, but after the current government came into power, 100% of the work has been

completed. The Brahman Velimala project will provide irrigation to approximately one lakh acres, increase groundwater levels, and benefit fluoride-prone areas like Narketpally.

Regarding the pending SLBC project, the state government, under the leadership of the Chief Minister, has sanctioned an additional Rs 4,540 crore for the project. Moreover, approval has been given for tunnel excavation machinery from the USA. The SLBC will provide irrigation to approximately 4 lakh acres with a water capacity of 4,000 to 6,000 cusecs. This will provide a permanent solution for Nalgonda district, with irrigation water being sourced from the Srisailem dead storage.

Following this, after the energisation of Unit-2 at Yadadri Thermal Power Station, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the Government Medical College constructed at a cost of Rs 275 crore at Gandham Vari Gudem near Nalgonda district center. He will also lay the foundation stone for a Nursing College to be built at a cost of Rs 40 crore. Additionally, the Chief Minister will inaugurate a skill development centre for women and other developmental works. The district collector, Ila Tripathi, Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresh, Miryalaguda MLA Bathula Lakshmareddy and other accompanied the Minister.

## MP seeks Rs 100 cr from Centre to develop Nagarjunasagar tourist centre

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Nalgonda MP Raghuvver Reddy Kunduru met Union Minister of Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Thursday at the Minister's official residence in New Delhi. During the meeting, MP Raghuvver Reddy personally submitted a representation requesting an allocation of Rs 100 crore under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0 for the comprehensive development of Nagarjuna Sagar and Buddhavanam in Telangana.

Speaking after the meeting, he stated, "The Minister showed great interest in the proposal and assured to examine the proposal. Nagarjuna Sagar and Buddhavanam hold immense potential to



Nalgonda MP Raghuvver Reddy Kunduru submitting a representation to Union Minister of Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi on Thursday

become world-class tourist destinations. They will help showcase Telangana's rich cultural and historical heritage on a global platform," he said.

Highlighting the immense tourism potential of these locations, the MP explained that Nagarjuna Sagar, with its scenic beauty, historic sites, and cultural signifi-

cance, has become a focal point for tourists.

Buddhavanam, a thematic park dedicated to Buddhist heritage, was also emphasised as a significant project that could attract global tourists, especially from countries like Japan, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia, further boosting cultural exchange and pilgrimage tourism.

ACROSS THE STATES



2 houses in J-K attached in terror case

Authorities here on Thursday attached two houses in Shopian district in a terror case connection under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, police said. "In a significant move to counter terrorism, Police in Shopian has taken strict action by attaching two double-storied residential properties under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)," a police spokesperson said. He said the attached houses are registered in the names of Mohd Shafi Dar, father of terrorist Adnan Shafi Dar, and Abdul Majeed Koka, father-in-law of terrorist associate Sajad Ahmad Khah. According to the spokesperson, the possession was taken in relation to a case registered at Zainapora Police Station. "(It) was executed in the presence of a duly constituted Police team and the Executive Magistrate, ensuring full compliance with legal protocols," he said.



Badal attacker sent to 3-day police remand

A court in Amritsar on Thursday sent former Khalistani terrorist Narain Singh Chaura, who opened fire at Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple on Wednesday, to three-day police remand, officials said. Chaura (68), whose bid on the Akali leader's life was foiled by alert Punjab Police personnel present on the spot in plainclothes, was produced in the court amid tight security on Thursday. Punjab Police demanded seven-day remand for Chaura, but the court granted three days, a defence counsel told reporters in Amritsar. Chaura will be produced before the court again on December 8. The counsel said Chaura has been booked under Section 109 (attempt to murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the Arms Act. While seeking remand, police said it wanted to find out from where Chaura procured the weapon used in the crime.



'Don't indulge in politics of hate'

Launching a scathing attack on JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda in his native, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday accused the former PM of not allowing others to grow politically, including those from his own Vokkaliga community. Gowda's time in politics is over, the CM said here and urged the 92-year-old leader not to indulge in "politics of hate and malice" if he wanted to continue. "Your time is over (in politics) Deve Gowda... He has said that he will do politics till his last breath. Let him do it, I don't have any objections. May god give him good health. But, don't do politics of hate and malice. Don't speak about finishing someone politically," Siddaramaiah said. Addressing the 'Jana Kalyana Samavesha', a convention jointly organised by the state Congress and Swabhimani Gata Okkuta (federation organisations of oppressed communities) here, he said, "I want to tell Deve Gowda, by joining hands with the communal forces, you don't have any right to keep your party's name as Janata Dal (Secular)."

'Nurse booked for infant deaths'

The admission was allegedly on the advice of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker Meena Devi, who misled the family into seeking treatment at the centre in Pindhara, a police officer said. "Sudha was admitted to the private maternity centre operated by staff nurse Manju Singh. During the delivery on Wednesday night, a still-born child was delivered," Station House Officer Sanjay Singh said. "Shortly after, Sudha's condition deteriorated, and she too passed away," Singh said. Upon receiving information, the police arrived at the scene and sent the bodies for postmortem, he said. A staff nurse, her husband, an ASHA worker, and three others have been booked on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder following the death of a woman and her newborn during delivery in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district, officials said on Thursday. The staff nurse has been taken into police custody, they said. According to the police, the incident occurred in the Bansdih Kotwali area when Sudha (34), wife of Lal Sahab Sahani, a resident of Rukunpura village, was admitted to a private maternity centre on Wednesday.

Modi, Bhutan King resolve to expand ties further

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bhutan vowed on Thursday to further bolster the "exemplary" India-Bhutan partnership across all sectors with Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying to Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck New Delhi's strong commitment to economic development of the Himalayan nation.

Shortly after Wangchuck arrived here on a two-day trip, he and Modi held talks focusing on bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including clean energy partnership, trade and investment, space and technology. The two leaders exchanged ideas on the 'Gelephu Mindfulness City' initiative, a visionary project spearheaded by Wangchuck to catalyse Bhutan's development and strengthen linkages with adjoining border areas in India. The Bhutanese King was received at the airport by



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in reflection of the importance India has attached to the Bhutanese leader's visit. The King is accompanied by Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck and senior officials of the Bhutanese government.

Following the talks, Prime Minister Modi hosted a lunch in honour of the King and the Queen. "The meeting under-

scored the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Bhutan, reflecting the spirit of mutual trust, cooperation and profound understanding that underpins the bilateral relations between the two countries," an Indian read-out said. The prime minister and the King expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations, encompass-

ing development cooperation, clean energy partnership, trade and investment, space and technology cooperation, and people-to-people ties, it said. "They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening this exemplary partnership across all sectors," it said. "The prime minister reiterated India's strong commitment to the economic development in Bhutan, highlighting the doubling of India's development support to Bhutan for its 13th five-year plan period," the readout noted.

The King expressed gratitude to PM Modi and the people of India for the steadfast support of Bhutan's aspirations for happiness, progress and prosperity, it added. In the talks, Modi fondly recalled the "exceptionally warm hospitality" accorded by the Bhutanese government and the people of Bhutan during his state visit to the country in March.



Parliament passes Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday passed a bill to replace the 90-year-old Aircraft Act and further improve the ease of doing business in the aviation space.

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024 was passed in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote. It was earlier approved by the Lok Sabha on August 9. The bill seeks to remove redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times.

Replying to the debate on the bill in the Upper House, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu said the

change in title of the bill from English to Hindi, to which many members raised objections, was done to "showcase the India's heritage and culture", and "there was no violation of Constitutional rule".

It will be difficult to pronounce the name of the bill in Hindi initially but one will get used to it, he added.

Responding to concerns of some MPs over skyrocketing airfare, the minister said the government has worked on improving accessibility to a certain extent through Udaan scheme and is committed to making it affordable for passengers.

India better placed to engage with Trump 2.0: EAM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US President-elect Donald Trump has had a positive political view of India and it is in a much more advantageous position than many other countries to build "deeper" relations with his administration and take forward the bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.

In an interactive session at industry chamber ASSOCHAM, Jaishankar at the same time noted that like many other countries, India may also have some issues and it will deal with them. The external affairs minister said there are countries which are looking at Trump 2.0 as a political challenge but for India, it is not the case. "We'll have to work out a political equation with America and that is one area where we score because we've always had a positive political relationship with Trump. I would say Trump has always had a positive political view of India," he said. "Like everybody else, we may also have some issues. We



will deal with those issues, but I would say when I look around the world today, you know there are countries who (are) looking at Trump 2.0 as a political challenge. We are not," he said. "And I think that separates us from a very large number of countries. We are in a much more advantageous position to translate 2.0 into a deeper relationship," he added. Jaishankar said the US would need India in many areas where they would like to take technology leads. The two countries would have to build an understand-

ing of mutual benefits and relationships in several areas like emerging and critical technologies as trusted partners.

There have been concerns in many countries over the Trump administration's policy over a range of sensitive issues including tariff, climate change and overall foreign policy priorities against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

On India's proposed free trade agreements with the European Union and the UK, Jaishankar said there are certain non-trade complex issues.

'PM running away from discussion on Adani issue'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Thursday said the country's people want the "Adani mega scam" to be discussed in Parliament and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government were "running away" from it.

In an unusual protest, leaders of several INDIA bloc parties wore black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai" on them and raised slogans on the Parliament premises demanding a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue. Posting a video from the protest, Priyanka Gandhi said on X, "The people of the country want that the Adani mega scam should be discussed in Parliament. All the parties of the INDIA bloc are demanding a discussion in Parliament but Narendra Modi and the government are constantly running away from the discussion."

"The way the prime minister is defending Adani's corruption by breaking all decorum is extremely shocking. Today, along with fellow MPs, I demonstrated on this issue in



Parliament premises," she said in her post in Hindi. Participating in the protest in the morning, Priyanka Gandhi also wore a similar black jacket with stickers targeting the Modi government over the Adani issue. The opposition MPs also held a protest march inside Parliament premises.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who put the sticker on his trademark white T-shirt, claimed that Prime Minister Modi cannot get an investigation conducted against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani as "it would amount to getting a probe done against himself".

Amit Shah to interact with surrendered Naxals

To visit Chhattisgarh on Dec 14-16

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Chhattisgarh for three days beginning December 14 during which he will review the law and order situation in the state and interact with surrendered Naxals and locals, sources said on Thursday.

On Wednesday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai met Shah here and conveyed that the state's Bastar and Kondagaon districts, once infested by the Naxals, were completely free from the extremists and operations were on to wipe them

out from other areas. The Union home minister will be on a visit to Chhattisgarh from December 14-16 during which he will chair a security review meeting in Raipur, the sources said.

Shah will also present President's Colour award to the Chhattisgarh Police at Raipur. He will also travel to Jagdalpur, where he will hold interaction with surrendered Naxals, locals and intellectuals, they said.

He will also attend the closing ceremony of the Bastar olympics and pay tributes to martyrs in Jagdalpur besides meeting the families of the vic-



tims of the Left-Wing Extremism. Shah will visit security camps and oversee developmental works besides having lunch with jawans of security forces there.

During Wednesday's meet-

ing, the Chhattisgarh chief minister briefed the Union home minister on the state's recent achievements in anti-Naxal operations and ongoing development initiatives in the Bastar region. According to an

official release, the chief minister has conveyed that joint efforts by the state government and security forces have led to the elimination of Maoist networks and their various wings in these districts. No Naxal-related incidents have been reported in the Naxal-free areas for a long time, Sai said.

He further said the success is not only due to the sustained operations of the security forces but also due to the developmental projects such as roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and employment initiatives that have gained the trust of locals.

He said operations in other Naxal-affected districts are on, with a goal to make them Naxal-free soon.

Sleep helps with learning new language: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Getting those eight hours of sleep can have linguistic benefits, according to a study that found it helped adults speak a new language.

While one sleeps, the brain is known to integrate or 'consolidate' information learnt during the day with previous knowledge to file it for long-term storage.

Researchers, led by those at the University of South Australia, tracked brain activity in 35 native English-speaking adults as they were learning a miniature language called 'Mini Pinyin', which is based on Mandarin but has grammatical rules similar to English.

A miniature language is used in scientific experiments for studying aspects related to learning languages.

Mini Pinyin "mimics natural language as it is based on an



RESEARCHERS, LED BY THOSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TRACKED BRAIN ACTIVITY IN 35 NATIVE ENGLISH-SPEAKING ADULTS AS THEY WERE LEARNING A MINIATURE LANGUAGE CALLED 'MINI PINYIN', WHICH IS BASED ON MANDARIN BUT HAS GRAMMATICAL RULES SIMILAR TO ENGLISH.

existing language (Mandarin Chinese) and includes both structure and meaning", according to a 2020 study published in the journal Behavior Research Methods and written

by researchers at the University of South Australia. In this study published in the Journal of Neuroscience, half the participants learnt Mini Pinyin in the morning and

returned in the evening to have their memory tested, the researchers said.

The other half learnt Mini Pinyin in the evening and then slept in the laboratory

overnight, while having their brain activity recorded. The team tested the participants' progress in the morning.

Those who slept were found to perform significantly better, compared to those who remained awake before having their memory tested.

"We found that sleep relative to wake was associated with superior performance for rules that followed a sequence-based word order," the authors wrote.

Improvements in memory because of sleep were related to the linking of slow oscillations and sleep spindles, which are brainwave patterns that synchronise during the non-REM phase of sleep, according to lead researcher Zachariah Cross, who did his PhD from the University of South Australia.

Non-rapid eye movement (REM) sleep is the restful phase of sleep when eyes stop mov-

ing and during which muscles relax, and brain activity, breathing and heart rate slow down.

"This coupling (linking) likely reflects the transfer of learned information from the hippocampus to the cortex, enhancing long-term memory storage," Cross said.

"Post-sleep neural activity showed unique patterns of theta oscillations associated with cognitive control and memory consolidation, suggesting a strong link between sleep-induced brainwave coordination and learning outcomes," the lead researcher said.

The researchers also said the findings could potentially inform treatments for individuals with language-related impairments, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and aphasia, who experience greater sleep disturbances than other adults.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Korean crisis

President Yoon Suk Yeol briefly declared martial law, a move that ignited domestic outrage and international condemnation

A brief martial law was imposed in South Korea, a country known to have a stable democracy and prosperity to vie for. The South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol took this extreme step to preserve his position amid falling popularity. He faces the toughest challenge of his presidency after a controversial decision to impose martial law backfired spectacularly, plunging the nation into a deep political crisis. The fallout has sparked widespread protests, calls for his resignation, and even moves toward impeachment. Yoon declared martial law, citing national security concerns and the need to eliminate "anti-state elements." However, many viewed the measure as a desperate attempt to consolidate power amid mounting political and personal scandals. The backlash was immediate and severe, with lawmakers rushing to overturn the decree and protesters gathering en masse in the streets of Seoul. Within hours, Yoon revoked the order, but the reversal failed to quell public anger. The damage was done.



Yoon's presidency, which began with a narrow 2022 election victory, has been riddled with controversy. His platform, focused on gender neutrality and hawkish stances on North Korea, initially appealed to younger male voters. However, a series of missteps and scandals—ranging from allegations of corruption involving First Lady Kim Keon Hee to tensions with the opposition-controlled National Assembly—have steadily eroded his approval ratings. The Democratic Party's landslide win in April's parliamentary elections further isolated Yoon politically. With an emboldened opposition, efforts to impeach

key government officials linked to Yoon's administration gained momentum, leaving the president with limited room to maneuver. The martial law declaration was a last-ditch effort by a president grappling with dwindling support and mounting resistance within his own party. Indeed the move was a miscalculation, a desperate attempt which backfired miserably with significant political fallout. The incident has intensified efforts by the opposition to impeach Yoon, with some members of his party now openly calling for his resignation. Protesters have taken to the streets in unprecedented numbers, with labour unions threatening nationwide strikes unless Yoon steps down. The crisis has raised alarm among South Korea's allies, including the United States and Japan have expressed serious concerns. Their worst fear of course is that North Korea may exploit the internal chaos to escalate tensions with the South, further destabilising the region. For South Korea, this moment represents a critical test of its democratic resilience. The swift revocation of martial law suggests that institutional checks and balances remain robust. However, the path forward will require careful navigation to prevent further polarisation and ensure stability in one of Asia's most vibrant democracies.

### PICTALK

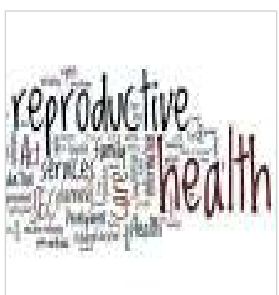


Flamingos at the Pulicat Lake with backwaters brimming to the full, near Sriharikota

## Sexual and reproductive health can drive economic growth

By prioritising sexual and reproductive health in workplace policies, the private sector can be a powerful catalyst for change and lead the way

India stands poised on the brink of a transformative era, with unprecedented opportunities for economic and social progress. Yet, one critical area remains starkly underdeveloped: women's participation in the workforce. Despite notable strides in various sectors, women's workforce participation in India stagnates at a concerning 20 per cent.



Action and Accountability in the Workplace, businesses must take comprehensive actions to ensure women's well-being in professional environments.

**SRH as a Catalyst for Women's Empowerment** Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) plays a vital role in empowering women to reach their full economic potential. In India, limited access to essential services like reproductive healthcare, family planning, and childcare continues to hinder women's workforce participation.

**Women and Workforce-Bridging the Gap** Women constitute nearly half the global population, yet workplaces often fail to accommodate their needs adequately. According to the UNFPA report Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Private Sector - The Case for

The care economy, encompassing both paid and unpaid caregiving roles, is a cornerstone of workforce participation, particularly for women. Many women are compelled to leave the workforce or transition to part-time roles due to caregiving responsibilities. Affordable childcare, eldercare, and flexible work arrangements provided by businesses can significantly alleviate these challenges.

Investing in the care economy is more than corporate social responsibility; it is a sound economic strategy. When women are supported in managing their dual roles, they are more likely to remain in the workforce, contributing to economic growth and workplace inclusivity.

**Strengthening Social Protections** Robust social protections are fundamental to ensuring women's economic security. Enhancing maternity benefits, broadening health insurance coverage, and providing mental health support can create a workplace culture where women feel valued and supported. Such measures are crucial to fostering gender equality and inclusivity.

**Fostering Inclusivity** An inclusive workplace requires more than offering flexible hours or equal pay-it demands a cultural shift. Companies must actively combat discrimination and harassment, creating environments where women feel safe and supported. Initiatives like vocational training and entrepreneurship programmes can also help close the gender gap.

**Creating a Supportive Ecosystem for SRH** Effective SRH initiatives require a supportive ecosystem that promotes awareness and access to resources. This includes regular training, accessible services, open dialogue, and confidential counselling for employees.

**Ensuring Accountability** To maximise the impact of SRH policies, businesses must establish clear metrics for monitoring and evaluation. Regular progress reports promote transparency and accountability, building trust among employees and stakeholders. (The writer is CEO, UpFront, member of UNFPA's Coalition for Reproductive Justice in Business; views are personal)



SHAONLI CHAKRABORTY

By prioritising sexual and reproductive health in workplace policies, the private sector can be a powerful catalyst for change and lead the way

India stands poised on the brink of a transformative era, with unprecedented opportunities for economic and social progress. Yet, one critical area remains starkly underdeveloped: women's participation in the workforce. Despite notable strides in various sectors, women's workforce participation in India stagnates at a concerning 20 per cent. This is not just a social inequity but a pressing economic challenge. The private sector, which is experiencing rapid growth and evolution, holds immense potential to address this imbalance. Investing in the care economy is more than corporate social responsibility; it is a sound economic strategy. When women are supported in managing their dual roles, they are more likely to remain in the workforce, contributing to economic growth and workplace inclusivity. Robust social protections are fundamental to ensuring women's economic security. Enhancing maternity benefits, broadening health insurance coverage, and providing mental health support can create a workplace culture where women feel valued and supported. Such measures are crucial to fostering gender equality and inclusivity. An inclusive workplace requires more than offering flexible hours or equal pay-it demands a cultural shift. Companies must actively combat discrimination and harassment, creating environments where women feel safe and supported. Initiatives like vocational training and entrepreneurship programmes can also help close the gender gap. Effective SRH initiatives require a supportive ecosystem that promotes awareness and access to resources. This includes regular training, accessible services, open dialogue, and confidential counselling for employees. To maximise the impact of SRH policies, businesses must establish clear metrics for monitoring and evaluation. Regular progress reports promote transparency and accountability, building trust among employees and stakeholders. (The writer is CEO, UpFront, member of UNFPA's Coalition for Reproductive Justice in Business; views are personal)

## G20 Rio summit: A new voice for the Global South

The summit addressed pressing global challenges such as economic disparities, environmental degradation, food security and poverty alleviation



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The nineteenth Summit of the G 20 held recently in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil holds a lot of significance in raising the voice of the Global South. In addition to the 19 member states, this summit also had two more members which included the African and the European Unions. Amid uncertainty on account of West Asian crises and the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict the summit focused on two pertinent issues: the increasing economic disparities and the degradation of the environment besides, the question of food security and poverty alleviation have also become paramount topics of the agenda for a stable and peaceful world order.

In the wake of the economic crisis of 1997, the G-20 Group was formed in 1999 with the basic purpose of uplifting the economies from economic doom and since then economic aggrandizement has been the central point of discussions in all the G-20 summits. The Group of 20 includes an amalgamation of the most powerful as well as the developing countries of the global order like: the United States, France, China, India, Japan, Germany, Russia, the UK, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, Argentina, Australia. Adding Spain as a permanent guest of the G20 and the recent inclusion of the African Union and the European Union has extended its scope and area of influence.

The latest meeting of G 20 is important from the point of view that now countries of the south started giving a major push to their innate aims and the latest in the series is the idea of green industrial planning and strategies. The increasing demand for bringing about a few reforms in the major international monetary and governing institutions such as the World Bank, IMF the WTO and the Security Council of the UNO indicates the changing dimensions of the Group as now there seems to be a shift towards a more transparent and inclusive world system beside the Cultural Contiguity and exchanges about



energy resources are some new take away of the G 20 meetings. On the other hand, the member countries have increasingly realised the need for sustainable development along with increasing concern for deadly spikes of increasing temperature across the globe. The fullest utilisation of modern technology in the economy such as the digital economy remains another important topic that can play a magnificent role in upgrading the old pattern to save valuable time. The rich experience of India in promoting brotherhood and uplifting standards particularly from developing countries to undoubtedly a developed nation is a lot to learn from. India's remarkable progress in the IT industry has opened new doors for Indian companies, which are now aggressively expanding into overseas markets.

The country's compliance and regulatory authorities have ensured that foreign investments are secure and economic transactions are monitored thoroughly. Despite the challenges posed by a tough global economic climate, India's G20 Presidency during 2023 had already provided it with an opportunity to position itself as a key player in global manufacturing and a reliable partner in various sectors. The cooperation among G20

DESPIRE THE CHALLENGES POSED BY A TOUGH GLOBAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE, INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY DURING 2023 HAD ALREADY PROVIDED IT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO POSITION ITSELF AS A KEY PLAYER IN GLOBAL MANUFACTURING AND A RELIABLE PARTNER IN VARIOUS SECTORS

nations has also fostered the development of new strategies to meet the needs of vulnerable countries, fostering a more inclusive global society. This cooperation could promote a positive shift in international relations, promoting greater harmony and collaboration. India's impressive progress is largely attributed to its incredibly foresighted leadership, immense talent and superb foresight. The setting up of the International Solar Alliance, the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre, One Sun One World One Grid, and the Global Biofuel Alliance along with the waste-to-energy efforts of India speaks volumes of its being the front leader among G 20 Countries. Prime Minister Modi has very well highlighted the remarkable efforts and achievements of India in his speech. He is undoubtedly the most respected and popular leader of World Politics who has made India the leading voice of the Global South. Gradually the scope of G 20 partnership has expanded to include critical areas such as disaster management, digital infrastructure, and climate change, making it a multifaceted initiative with both security and development dimensions as these are also some issues that are raising concerns about the international community.

However, the G-20 countries are also navigating through social and political pressures and their success will depend on how these countries maintain growth momentum amid numerous challenges. By addressing these challenges on account of socio, cultural economic and political pangs, the G 20 can further solidify its position as a global economic powerhouse, capable of driving growth not only among member countries but also able to create an inclusive world order. By fostering diplomatic engagement and conflict resolution mechanisms, the G20 group members may also promote stability while ensuring economic prosperity for all member nations. The group's shared strategic vision is vital in shaping a multi-layered, multilateral strategy for dealing with not only economic but also security challenges in an increasingly interconnected world. The G 20 can also become a platform for fostering development in fields such as education, science, biotechnology, and strategic planning, further strengthening the bonds between its members and slowing the entire world community and India is playing front runner's role with the ablest leadership at the helm. (The writer is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### INDIA MUST ACT NOW

Madam — Apropos of the editorial 'No love lost' and the headlines 'Bangladesh challenges India,' the trajectory of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh is steeply going down from unfriendliness to the bottom of hostility in the long-term perspective. Bangladesh is moving menacingly fast to Pakistan's fate with a point of no return. Atrocities on Hindu minorities have been echoed across continents and the phenomenon is similar to Pakistan and Afghanistan. Hindus in India are in deep anguish and seek diplomatic and trade and commerce cessation with Bangladesh. The extremist political and religious culture of Bangladesh will not allow cordiality of diplomatic relations with India even at the cost of their own peril as Pakistan did. Afghanistan has already done it. Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, and now Bangladesh, all neighbours of our country, are in long-lasting turmoil on religious militancy, extremism, and atrocities on minorities, as well as economic bankruptcy. These countries are killing their own minorities of Hindus and other religions and even their own minorities within the Islamic fold. Bangladesh is now a liability for India, and we can't risk our 4156 km border with Bangladesh with insecurity, violence, and infiltration. We can't afford to allow five states-Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura to be inflamed in communal violence and anarchy. Bangladesh is devastated by its extremists and their supporters and sponsors in the government. Truly, the mayhem on Hindus can't be perpetrated without government support. It is the most opportune time to stop and cease all civil & food supplies, electricity, tourism, and rail-air-road links with Bangladesh. Even Bangladesh-bound air traffic on our skies should be banned. As Pakistan is fighting for its existential survival, so will Bangladesh, sooner than later. The Modi government must contemplate tough action against Bangladesh, as it will send a strong message to countries like Pakistan

#### Assassination bid on Badal



The attack on SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal at the Golden Temple complex is the surprising incident. Sukhbir Singh, who is fulfilling his religious punishment given by Akal Takt, has been targeted by the lone wolf attacker, Narain Singh Chaura. The open fire

incident within the Harmandir Sahib Golden Temple Complex is a sheer breach of security and raised concerns over the safety of the Gurudwar complex.

Although Sukhbir Singh is safe now, thanks to the Z-plus protection, the police in plain clothes rescued him from the intended act of the assassination. Amidst the bullet-firing attack, it is regrettable that security failure happened, although the alertness of the police personnel halted any misdeed, and every worshipper is safe, including Sukhbir Singh. But somewhere the security breach at the golden temple complex yet remains a question. Meanwhile the investigation is initiated, and police are probing for the real guilty for this whole act; the government must step in to enhance the security of the golden temple complex so that future such incidences can be avoided.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

and China. There is no point in soliciting the UN Peacekeeping force in Bangladesh, as the UN failed to stop even the bloodiest wars in West Asia and Ukraine.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

#### WATER AS 'HIGH-RISK FOOD'

Madam — The food regulatory body of India, FSSAI, has categorised packaged drinking water and mineral water as "high-risk food." According to FSSAI, high-risk foods are those that pose a higher risk of food poisoning due to contamination, poor storage, or poor handling. These require closer and regular inspections to safeguard consumers from food poisoning and other health issues. Consumption of drinking water that is not fully purified can lead to cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid, amebiasis, hepatitis, gastroenteritis, and various other health issues.

Also, if the containers used to store water are unsafe, it can lead to chronic health issues. According to the FSSAI, manufacturers of packaged drinking water will have to pass mandatory inspections before getting a license, and packaged drinking water

products will now undergo more stringent safety checks through regular inspections and audits.

M Pradyu | Kanpur

#### FRAUDSTERS TARGET SENIOR CITIZENS

Madam — Increasing cybercrime frauds are a nightmare for senior citizens. The senior citizens are not tech-savvy enough to operate a smartphone, which they prefer to use mostly for communicating with their near and dear ones. The fraudsters target the senior citizens who are lonely and carry on their vices, resulting in losing their hard-earned savings. Banks may exercise adequate caution in honouring the transfer requests by delaying a day or two by instituting sufficient checks on the destination account before carrying on the instructions. The telecom authorities also may advise the service providers to institute sufficient firewalls on the spam callers.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### US-CHINA TRADE WAR HEATS UP

Trump set to amplify Biden's tough stance with tariffs and export controls



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

The loaded guns are out for the two largest economies of the world, the US and China, even before the original hard hitter Donald Trump takes charge as the new President in January next year. In one of his last "Containing China" measures outgoing President Joe Biden has imposed additional export controls on high-end chips, chip-making equipment to China, which can be used as components or in the manufacturing of weapons as well. The new restrictions also directly target some of the largest chipmakers in China, thus throwing in as many road blocks as possible in the dragon's aggressive weaponisation programme. Not to be covered China imposed retaliatory controls on the export of critical minerals such as Gallium, Antimony etc, which are essential components of the chips.

Even as these measures were being announced, President-elect Donald Trump has been threatening the 9 member BRICS nations with severe 100 per cent tariffs, in case, they choose to create an alternate global currency to the dollar. Mr Trump has already threatened Canada, Mexico and the EU with the tariffs scalpel unless they come back to him with offers that are hard to ignore. Trump's third favourite word is tariffs, which he uses as leverage to negotiate trade deals with allies and enemies.

The nations that have faced the latest threat of high tariffs from Donald Trump have already taken a cautious approach to negotiating with the tough business person. Canada and Mexico have sounded out that would be more interested in sweetening the deal with the US under Trump, than confronting him on the tariff issues. China knows that Trump would be higher on optics, than his predecessor Joe Biden, on issues where the



US considers them as a direct threat. In one of the recently published editorials in the Chinese government mouthpiece Global Times, the Internet Society of China, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, the China Semiconductor Industry Association, and the China Association of Communications Enterprises are quoted to have issued statements terming US chips as unsafe and unreliable.

It further states "The US has used this measure to greatly expand its power, affecting many countries and regions, including Japan, the Netherlands, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and China's Taiwan region. This will severely disrupt the stability of the global industrial and supply chains and undermine the international economic and trade order." Incoming President Trump is likely to have a harder stance on export controls and, high tariffs for China imports. The incoming administration is likely to focus on high decibels, high optics, and control China measures than what the Joe Biden administration has achieved. It would be worthwhile to note, that some of the restrictive measures against China introduced, during Trump's first presidency, have only been upgraded and made tougher under President Joe Biden.

Therefore at some level, there is bipartisan support for containing China in the US government. India has been watching this space carefully and knows well that it cannot escape the US tariff cannon for too long. It is also well aware that, there is a trade surplus with the US, which means it exports more than imports. Incoming President Trump even though has good relations with Indian PM Modi, is hardly going to miss this infraction. Obviously, the only safe prediction is a degree of unpredictability. Different countries have had their own experiences from the first Administration and would presumably draw from that to approach the second. Naturally, between two major economies, there will always be some give and take. When we look at economic or technology domains, the case for trusted and reliable partnerships have actually increased in recent years. A lot of what lies ahead would be in fashioning terms of engagement that are perceived as mutually beneficial. "A careful recalibration of India's trade relations is on the anvil, not just with the US, but also with its other allies.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

# Charting Bharat's role in a multipolar world



BHABANI SONOWAL

Renowned Russian philosopher Aleksandr Gelyevich Dugin advocates for civilisational revival and the decolonisation of the mind



Aleksandr Gelyevich Dugin, the Russian philosopher, presents a compelling vision of a multipolar world that seeks to restore balance and harmony to international relations. His recent visit to India, during which he delivered an insightful speech at the Russian Centre in New Delhi on November 19, highlighted his ideas on the importance of civilisational revival. Listening to Dugin was a profound experience, as he articulated the need for great civilisations such as Bharat (India), Russia, and China to assume their rightful roles in shaping a new global order. Dugin's philosophy is deeply intertwined with the concept of State-Civilisation, which transcends the boundaries of the Nation-State model imposed by the Westphalian system. In this framework, civilisations are not merely political entities but repositories of spiritual, cultural, and historical identity.

For Dugin, Bharat exemplifies this notion as it represents a civilisation rooted in ancient wisdom, from the teachings of the Vedas and Upanishads to its rich traditions of Dharmic philosophy. He argues that this heritage uniquely positions Bharat to lead a process of decolonisation—not just politically, but mentally and spiritually. Decolonisation of the mind, Dugin asserts, is essential for nations seeking to reclaim their civilisational sovereignty. Bharat's re-engagement with its Vedic and Upanishadic traditions is not merely an academic exercise but a means of reconnecting with eternal principles that transcend the temporal constructs of modernity. In his view, traditional spiritual processes should be revived as living, evolving frameworks that can guide contemporary governance and social organisation. He draws a parallel with Russia's return to Orthodox Christianity, which he sees as a similar act of reclaiming spiritual identity in defiance of Western liberalism. The philosopher emphasises that the post-Cold War unipolar world order, dominated by Western hegemony, has exhausted itself. Dugin critiques the universalisation of liberal values, arguing that they are inherently tied to the Atlanticist worldview and therefore unfit to govern the plurality of human cultures. Liberalism, he contends, prioritises individualism and market ideology at the expense of collective, spiritual, and civilisational values.

As he wrote in The Fourth Political Theory,



BHARAT'S RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS VEDIC AND UPANISHADIC TRADITIONS IS NOT MERELY AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE BUT A MEANS OF RECONNECTING WITH ETERNAL PRINCIPLES THAT TRANSCEND THE TEMPORAL CONSTRUCTS OF MODERNITY

"Modernity is a project that has exhausted itself. The future lies in the revival of traditional societies, metaphysical truths, and spiritual values." For Dugin, multipolarity represents an alternative to this unipolar dominance, offering a framework for civilisations to engage with one another as equals.

This vision is rooted in dialogue rather than conflict, with each civilisation contributing its unique insights and values. Bharat, China, and Russia, he argues, form a natural triad that can anchor this new world order. He views these three civilisations as distinct yet complementary, with Bharat's Vedic traditions, China's Confucianism and Taoism, and Russia's Orthodoxy providing diverse philosophical and spiritual foundations for a balanced global system. Dugin's ideas resonate with contemporary geopolitical realities, as platforms like BRICS demonstrate the potential for collaboration among major civilisational powers.

He sees BRICS not merely as an economic bloc but as a symbolic embodiment of multipolarity—a round table where civilisations can cooperate without succumbing to Western hegemony. Drawing on the Arthurian legend, Dugin suggests that the multipolar world should function as a round table, where all participants, including the West, have an equal seat, provided they relinquish hegemonic ambitions. Bharat's renaming from India, in Dugin's view, exemplifies the philosophical and cultural depth of this multipolar project.

He perceives this act as a profound rejection of the colonial narrative imposed by Western powers. For Dugin, names carry immense metaphysical significance, and "Bharat" embodies a self-affirmed identity that reclaims the spiritual and cultural essence of the civilisation. This aligns with his broader advocacy for civilisations to transcend the artificial constructs of modernity and rediscover their historical and spiritual cores. The philosopher

also stresses the strategic importance of Eurasia in achieving this vision. He argues that the geographic, cultural, and economic ties between Bharat, China, and Russia make their natural allies in reshaping global power structures. By aligning their civilisational and strategic interests, these three powers can mediate international conflicts and create a more equitable world order. As Dugin writes in Foundations of Geopolitics, "Russia's mission is to unite the peoples and nations of Eurasia into a single geopolitical space that rejects Western domination and promotes a multipolar world." Central to Dugin's vision is the rejection of Western universalism.

He critiques the West's attempt to impose its values globally, arguing that this approach erases the distinctiveness of other cultures and leads to alienation. In contrast, the multipolar world Dugin envisions celebrates diversity, recognising the plurality of human experience and thought. Civilisations, he asserts, should engage in dialogue while preserving their unique identities. As he states in "The Great War of Continents," "The salvation of humanity lies in preserving the plurality of cultures and civilisations."

This rejection of universalism extends to Dugin's critique of modernity, which he sees as a destructive force that undermines traditional values. He identifies a global trend toward the revival of traditionalism, noting that civilisations are increasingly turning to their spiritual roots in response to the moral and cultural relativism of liberalism. From Bharat's Vedic revival to Russia's Orthodox resurgence and China's embrace of Confucianism, Dugin sees a worldwide movement toward reclaiming heritage. "The return to tradition," he writes, "is not an act of nostalgia but a necessity for survival in the face of cultural erosion."

Dugin views Bharat as a cornerstone of this traditionalist resurgence. Its

ability to mediate tensions, whether between China and the Islamic world or within the broader multipolar framework, highlights its potential as a stabilising force. Bharat's emphasis on spiritual heritage and cultural unity, he argues, sets an example for other civilisations seeking to harmonise their internal diversity with their external roles. The path to a multipolar world is not without challenges. Dugin acknowledges that the West's resistance to relinquishing its dominance could lead to conflicts, even escalating to dangerous levels. However, he remains optimistic about the long-term prospects of multipolarity, which he sees as a natural evolution of global history. This optimism is grounded in his belief that civilizational revival offers a more stable and equitable alternative to the power struggles of unipolarity.

In Dugin's analysis, the future lies in the hands of civilisations willing to reclaim their spiritual and cultural identities. Bharat's role is pivotal in this transformation. By embracing its Vedic heritage and fostering partnerships with other great civilisations, Bharat can help shape a world that values harmony over domination. As Dugin wrote in The Fourth Political Theory, "The multipolar world is not a competition of powers but a symphony of civilisations, each contributing its melody to the greater harmony."

Dugin's vision challenges conventional paradigms of International Relations, offering a deeply philosophical and civilisational approach to global politics. By placing spirituality and tradition at the core of his analysis, he provides a framework for a world that celebrates diversity while striving for collective progress. Bharat's role in this vision is both profound and indispensable, symbolising the potential for civilisations to lead humanity toward a more balanced and equitable future.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Bennett University; views expressed are personal)

# Financial literacy: The key to unlocking India's economic power

By teaching money management skills early, India can cultivate a generation of financially savvy individuals capable of driving economic growth

As we are about to wrap up 2024, it cannot be underestimated how important financial literacy is with changing trends of the economy, where education is pivotal in determining India's arrival as an economic superpower. Even now, with the growing financial awareness, only 27 per cent of Indian adults are financially literate; that number drops to a mere 16.7 per cent for students. Recognising the urgency for the skills of financial management, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 revolves around putting in place financial literacy from the early days of schooling in the country's educational system. Teaching children money management skills early in life helps develop financially responsible



AJAY LAKHOTIA

adults who can make sound decisions benefiting both themselves and the economy. In earlier times, financial education was largely informal. The previous generation was focused on accumulating tangible assets like gold and property. However, India's banking and financial system has undergone a vast transformation since the 1990s. With SEBI paving the way for new regulated asset classes for the

common public - mutual funds, stocks, bonds, REITs and multiple other financial products are available for the common public to invest and grow their capital. The establishment of the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has instilled confidence in financial markets and led to greater participation in investments. As India progresses towards a digital financial ecosystem, the demand for financial literacy has never been so crucial in navigating opportunities.

**Why Financial Literacy Needs to Start Early:** Financial literacy goes beyond just education; it is a life skill and mindset that needs to be cultivated from an early age. All the education policies stress encourage students to be mindful and well-

read towards financial issues so that they can cope with anything ranging from budgeting to retirement savings. Students with such financial sensibilities provided that they have been exposed practically to these concepts, would be able to cope with investment volatility, financial contingencies and planning for a strong future. Building such a ground is vital for citizens to contribute towards building a balanced economy.

**Taking Inspiration across the globe:** Switzerland, Japan, and South Korea have leveraged their core strengths—banking, technology, and manufacturing, respectively—to drive economic growth and establish distinct global identities. These unique specialisations have not only accelerated their eco-



nommic development but also secured their positions as global leaders in their respective domains. Following their example, India could prioritise financial literacy as a national initiative to enhance its citizens' saving and investing behaviours while increasing economic participation. This focus could yield significant social benefits: reducing poverty, narrowing income

inequality, and improving the quality of life for millions. India's abundant advantages—from its tech-savvy youth to its robust educational infrastructure—position it favourably for global leadership in financial prosperity. However, these strengths alone are insufficient. Without proper financial knowledge, even the most talented individuals may struggle to maximise their potential, ultimately hindering economic growth. By combining financial education with India's technological expertise and expanding educational framework, the nation can nurture future entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals who will not only excel in their careers but also effectively manage and grow their wealth. A multi-pronged approach can

help to establish a financially literate India. The key steps to follow:

**Integrating Personal Finance into Curricula:** Personal finance should be included as part of the school and college syllabus so that a strong foundation towards money management & finance for a lifetime. **Nationwide Awareness Programs:** Public campaigns on financial literacy will reach areas lacking financially literate communities, effectively democratizing access to that knowledge as well as encouraging wider economic participation. **Leveraging Technology and Partnerships:** Public-private partnerships can make financial education accessible and attractive. By using technolo-

gy, it is possible to cast interactive sessions and impart practical, real-life skills to a broader audience, regardless of their location.

**A Call to Action for all of us:** It is now time to recognise financial literacy as an indispensable part of our journey towards education and the economic boom of India. Financial literacy, more than a skill, should be regarded as a strategic enabler to achieve personal growth. Through the infusion of financial education across all levels, which range from classrooms to boardrooms, we can unleash a superpower that will help our population bloom and lead us into the 21st century.

(The writer is founder and CEO of StockGro; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



CCPA seeks more info from Ola Electric on complaints

The Central Consumer Protection Authority has sought additional documents and information from Ola Electric with regards to the show cause notice issued in October related to 10,644 complaints, according to a regulatory filing by the company on Thursday. The company has received further communication from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) by email on December 4, 2024, seeking additional documents and information in relation to the previous response submitted by the company. Ola Electric Mobility Ltd said in a regulatory filing. The matter is with reference to the show cause notice received by the company in October, it added. On October 22, the company stated that out of 10,644 complaints received from CCPA, it has resolved 99.1 per cent of the complaints. Earlier on October 7, the CCPA has issued a notice to the company for "alleged violation of consumer rights, misleading advertisement and unfair trade practices". "The CCPA has provided a timeline of 15 days from the date of email communication for the company to submit the response in respect of seeking additional documents and information," the company said, adding that it would ensure a timely response within the specified timeframe.

'Investments in India profitable; ready to set up mnfg operations'

PNS ■ MOSCOW/NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed 'Make in India' initiative and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's policies, saying companies are eager to set up manufacturing facilities in India as investments are profitable.

Speaking at the 15th VTB Investment Forum in Moscow on Wednesday, Putin said that the initiative, which is aimed at boosting manufacturing and attracting foreign investment, has played a key role in strengthening India's position in the global economy.

The 'Make in India' initiative was launched on September 25, 2014, to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build world-class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation.

Putin said that India has created stable conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises while expressing Russia's willingness to establish manufacturing operations in India as investments in India are profitable.



"The Prime Minister of India and the Government of India have been creating stable conditions and this is because the Indian leadership has been pursuing India comes first policy and we believe that investments in India are profitable," the Russian President said.

"And we would be ready to place our manufacturing site in India. Also, the biggest investment in India in the economy to the tune of USD 20 billion by Rosneft happened not long ago," he added.

Rosneft is the biggest oil producer company in the Russian Federation.

He mentioned that Russia's import substitution programme is similar to India's 'Make in India' initiative and noted that India's leadership focused on a policy of prioritising its interests.

The president also urged for greater cooperation among BRICS nations to support the growth of SMEs and encouraged member countries to identify key areas for collaboration at the upcoming summit in Brazil next year.

The nine-member BRICS bloc includes India, China, Russia, and Brazil.

Further, he noted the rise of new Russian brands replacing Western brands that have

exited the market, noting the success of local Russian manufacturers in sectors such as consumer goods, IT, high-tech, and agriculture.

"For us, it has special relevance as part of the import substitution programme, we see the advent of many new Russian brands substituting the brand by Western partners who have voluntarily left our market. And our local manufacturers have been quite successful not only in consumer goods but also in IT, high tech and agriculture," he said.

He also offered to place Russian manufacturing sites in India.

India and Russia in July this year agreed to boost bilateral trade to over USD 100 billion by 2030 by reinvigorating investments, using national currencies for trade and increasing cooperation in sectors ranging from energy to agriculture and infrastructure. The bilateral trade has increased to USD 65.42 billion in 2023-24 as against USD 49.4 billion in 2022-23. Trade gap is highly in the favour of Russia due to jump in crude oil imports.

FM to kick off pre-Budget consultation from today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will start pre-Budget consultations with various stakeholders beginning Friday as part of Budget making exercise.

The first meeting as part of this series will be held with eminent economists on December 6. Sitharaman, who will chair these meetings, will seek their inputs regarding upcoming Budget amid seven-quarter low GDP print of 5.4 per cent in second quarter of the current financial year.

It will be followed by a meeting with farmer associations and agriculture economists and stakeholders in MSME sector on December 7, sources said.

Union Budget 2025-26 is likely to be tabled in Parliament on February 1.

This would be the eighth straight Budget of Sitharaman and second full budget of the Modi 3.0 government, which will give policy direction for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat (developed India) by 2047.

The pre-Budget consulta-

tions will end on December 30 with consultations with captains of Indian industry and players in the social sector, especially education and health.

Besides the finance minister, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary; Finance Secretary and DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey; Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth; Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra; and Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju are expected to be present.

The Budget for the current fiscal had projected a nominal GDP growth of 10.5 per cent, while fiscal deficit was pegged at 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in 2017 scrapped a colonial-era tradition of presenting the Budget at the end of February. Erstwhile finance minister Arun Jaitley had for the first time presented the annual accounts on February 1, 2017.

With the rescheduled Budget date, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning April.



Gold climbs Rs 300 to reclaim Rs 79k-mark

Gold price surged to reclaim the Rs 79,000-level in the national capital on Thursday due to fresh buying by jewellers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Snapping its three-day losing run, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity rose Rs 300 to Rs 79,150 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 78,850 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Traders said gold climbed due to fresh demand by jewellers and retailers in the local markets. Silver continued to shine for the third straight day by jumping Rs 1,300 to Rs 93,800 per kg on Thursday. It ended at Rs 92,500 per kg on Wednesday. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity advanced Rs 300 to Rs 78,750 per 10 grams. It settled at Rs 78,450 per 10 grams in the previous trading session. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for February delivery dipped Rs 160 or 0.21 per cent to trade at Rs 76,932 per 10 grams.

'Beware of unregistered platforms offering unlisted debt securities'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday cautioned investors against using unregistered online platforms offering unlisted debt securities.

These platforms operate without regulatory oversight, lack investor protection mechanisms, and do not provide grievance redress systems, Sebi said in a statement.

The regulator said that offering unlisted securities to more than 200 investors violates the Companies Act, 2013, and Sebi regulations, making it a "deemed public issue".

The regulator recently issued an interim order against some such entities, highlighting the risks involved.

Cautioning investors, Sebi asked them to use only registered online bond platforms

operated by stockbrokers authorised by BSE and NSE to invest in listed debt securities. "Sebi is, issuing this caution, advising investors to not engage with or undertake investment or trading activities through un-registered intermediaries/ web applications/ platforms / apps," the statement noted.

The list of authorised online bond platform providers (OBPPs) is available on Sebi's website.

Also, the regulator warned that disputes arising from transactions on unregistered platforms will not be covered under Sebi or exchange grievance mechanisms, including SCORES and smartord.in.

The public is encouraged to report unregistered platforms via Sebi's Market Intelligence portal.

Food processing sector attracts USD 368.37 mn FDI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The food processing sector received foreign direct investment (FDI) of USD 368.37 million till September of the current fiscal year, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Ravneet Singh Bittu in a written reply to the Lok Sabha said, Ireland invested USD 83.84 million, Singapore USD 48.45 million, Mauritius USD 41.65 million, the United States USD 38.60 million, Australia USD 20.18 million, and Mexico USD 9.59 million in April-September FY25. In FY24, FDI in food processing was USD 608.31 million. The sector is being promoted through Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry, and Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme

RBI adds 27 tn gold to country's reserve: WGC

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Gold buying by central banks surged to 60 tonnes in October, mainly led by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which added 27 tonnes of the precious metal to its reserves, the World Gold Council (WGC) said on Thursday.

India added 27 tonnes of gold in October, bringing its total gold purchases to 77 tonnes from January to October, according WGC data based on reported monthly data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This buying by RBI represents a five-fold increase as compared to the same period of 2023, said WGC.

According to the data, with this purchase the total gold reserve of India is now at 882 tonnes, of which 510 tonnes are held in India. WGC further stated that



emerging market central banks continued to dominate the market with Turkey and Poland adding 72 tonnes and 69 tonnes from January-October 2024, to their gold reserves, respectively.

These three central banks alone accounted for 60 per cent of total global net purchases reported this year, it added.

Meanwhile, the data further revealed that the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey added

17 tonnes, making October the 17th consecutive month of net purchases and the highest reported monthly figure on record since December 2023.

October's figures have surpassed the quarterly total of April-June and July-September quarters, it said.

Further, it revealed that the National Bank of Poland recorded net buying of 8 tonnes during October, its seventh consecutive month of net buying.



NHAI to raise Rs 1,000 crore via green bond

NHAI on Thursday said its special purpose vehicle DME Development Ltd (DMDL) will raise Rs 1,000 crore through green bonds to implement climate-friendly measures on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway project. The aggregate size of the issue will be up to Rs 1,000 crore, with a base issue size of Rs 500 crore. Also, there will be a green-shoe option to retain oversubscription up to Rs 500 crore, NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) said in a statement. The issue is expected to be launched in the second week of December 2024, it said, adding, the proceeds will be used for avenue plantation, median plantation, construction of animal underpasses, natural stormwater drainage, streetlight on renewable energy (solar), waste recycling and reuse, and rainwater harvesting.

OnePlus to invest Rs 6,000 crore in next three years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Smartphone maker OnePlus on Thursday said it plans to invest up to Rs 6,000 crore in its India business over the next three years, one of the largest investments by a Chinese mobile phone company in the country in recent years.

Before this, OnePlus' sister concern Vivo had announced an investment of Rs 7,500 crore in 2019, but the company has invested only Rs 3,500 crore till date as per publicly available data.

According to IDC, Chinese smartphone brands clocked around 72 per cent market share in the September 2024 quarter with BBK Electronics Group companies - Vivo, Oppo, Realme, OnePlus etc. garnering over 40 per cent of the total pie during the reported quarter in India.

IFFCO seeks govt nod to launch new nano NPK fertiliser

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fertiliser major IFFCO, which has introduced nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP, has now developed nano NPK nutrient and sought the government's approval to launch it in the market.

IFFCO's MD U S Awasthi said the cooperative will launch nano NPK product, which is in granule form, after the necessary approval from the government.

He said the company will produce this product at its Kandla unit. IFFCO will sell this product at Rs 950 per bag of 5 kg, Awasthi said, adding that this will significantly reduce the consumption of urea and DAP (di-ammonium phosphate).

In September, he said that the cooperative has invested around Rs 2,000 crore since 2017 on its two new innova-



tive products nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP.

He is hopeful that farmers will adopt these key nutrients in a big way over the next 2-3 years.

IFFCO launched the world's first 'Nano Liquid Urea' fertiliser in June 2021.

Thereafter, it came up with Nano-DAP fertiliser in April 2023. Nano urea is available at around Rs 240 per bottle of

500 ml while nano liquid DAP at Rs 600 per bottle.

The investments have been made in research and development and setting up manufacturing plants along with branding and marketing activities.

Awasthi had said the cooperative is also investing Rs 200 crore annually in the promotion of nano-urea and nano-DAP and increasing awareness among farmers about how to use these products along with conventional urea and DAP.

One bottle (500 ml) of nano liquid DAP is equivalent to one bag (50kg) of conventional granular DAP. Similarly, one bottle of nano urea is equal to one bag (45kg) of conventional granular urea.

IFFCO currently has a total annual manufacturing capacity of 16 crore bottles of nano liquid urea and 7 crore bottles of nano liquid DAP

Equity investors become richer by Rs 15.18 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth surged Rs 15.18 lakh crore in five days of a market rally that took the BSE benchmark Sensex up over 3 per cent.

In the past five trading days, the BSE barometer has jumped 2,722.12 points or 3.44 per cent.

Rallying for the fifth day running on Thursday, the 30-share benchmark Sensex jumped 809.53 points or 1 per cent to settle at 81,765.86. During the day, it soared 1,361.41 points or 1.68 per cent to 82,317.74.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged Rs 15,18,926.69 crore to Rs 4,58,17,010.11 crore (USD 5.41

trillion) in the last five sessions. The NSE Nifty surged 240.95 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 24,708.40 on Thursday.

"Nifty surged for the 5th straight day, closing 0.98 per cent higher at 24,708, despite intraday volatility.

It joined global markets in optimism, following new highs on the Dow, S&P 500, and Nasdaq. Bank Nifty also gained 0.63 per cent, while IT stocks rallied 1.95 per cent," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the 30-share pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Titan, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra and HCL Technologies were the biggest gainers.

SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM

India for fast-tracking talks in WTO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has pitched for fast-tracking negotiations in the WTO on special safeguard mechanism (SSM), which would allow developing countries to temporarily raise tariffs on agricultural imports in response to import surges or price drops, an official said. The country flagged the issues during a meeting of a committee on agriculture issues in Geneva on December 4.

In the meeting, India emphasized on the need to prioritize unresolved mandated issues such as a permanent solution to public stockholding, SSM, and cotton, treating them as standalone issues.

"India highlighted the Nairobi Ministerial Decision's mandate to prioritize and fast-track SSM negotiations, calling for modalities that are simple, operational, and equitable," the Geneva-based official said.



Regarding Guyana's proposal, India reiterated that any facilitator-led processes should be consensus-based and respect WTO's (World Trade Organization) multilateral principles, rejecting the non-traditional approach based on convergence.

Guyana has presented a new proposal to advance agricultural negotiations ahead of MC14 (ministerial conference). The 14th conference is tentatively scheduled to take place in Cameroon (Africa) in

2026.

Further India has urged members to conduct text-based negotiations on finding permanent solution to public food stockholding.

Under text-based negotiations in WTO, an agreement is finalised around draft texts floated by the chair of a particular committee dealing with the subject. The draft is based on discussions amongst the member countries and is finalised till all the nations are in agreement with it.

**NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
CIN No. U40109TG2000SGC034119  
TENDER NOTICE No. 04/2024-25 OF SEIOP/MAHABUBABAD, WITH SPECIFICATION No. 44 to 47 of 24-25  
The sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned from the registered and valid contractors of TGNPDCL for Proposal for Erection of 4 Nos of 33KV interlinking lines for providing alternate supply to various substations (Gangaram SS, Dammanwanche SS, Kambalapally SS, Manegudem SS) in operation Division Mahabubabad of Mahabubabad Circle as per terms and conditions prescribed in detailed tender schedule. The details such as cost of tender schedule, date of sale of tender schedule, eligibility criteria etc. can be had from TGNPDCL website www.tgnpdcl.in. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Mahabubabad.  
Tender Notice No. 17/24-25 of SEIOP/MOTHAJURIDEM, With Specification No. 01/2024-25  
Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered Contractors of Bhadrachal Kotthagudem circle for fixing of agency for various works in Sujathanagar Section of Kotthagudem Division. The details of the tender can be obtained from our website: www.tgnpdcl.in Sd/- Divisional Engineer, Operation: Kotthagudem  
R.O. No: 7549-PR/CLADVT/12024-25, Dt: 05-12-2024

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
TENDER NOTICE  
No. 02/SE-II (SNDP)/GHMC/2024-25 Dt: 05.12.2024  
Name of Works: Item No. 1: Construction of Box Drain From EC Nagar Kamman to Ratanpally Lake Via Charappally Village in Ward No.03 Charappally of Kapra Code-01, GHMC. Estimate amount: Rs. 37.07 crores. Item No. 2: Remodelling of Existing Drain in Reddy colony from D-mart to J.S. Reddy Swimming pool. Estimate amount: Rs. 9.66 crores.  
Events - Date & Timeings: Start Date: 06.12.2024 from 11.00 AM; Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid: 27.12.2024 upto 11.15 AM. Technical Bid Opening: 27.12.2024 after 11.30 AM; Price Bid Opening: 28.12.2024 after 11.00 AM. Address of the officer concerned: Superintending Engineer-II (SNDP), GHMC, 3rd floor, C.C. Complex, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e Procurement' @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. In case of any queries, the bidders can email to seandsp2@gmail.com Sd/- Superintending Engineer -II (SNDP), GHMC.  
R.O.No: 7549-PR/CLADVT/12024-25, Dt: 05-12-2024



## MALVIKA'S 'SHOPPING, SPA AND SELF-CARE' SEOULFUL GETAWAY

With a travel diary filled with vibrant tales of adventure, cultural immersion and personal growth, Malvika shares her wanderlust journey with *The Pioneer* in an exclusive chat

TEJAL SINHA  
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

With a heart that beats for adventure and a soul that craves cultural immersion, Malvika Sitlani's travels are a testament to her insatiable wanderlust. From the bustling streets of Seoul to the sun-kissed beaches of Thailand, her journeys are a vibrant tapestry of unforgettable experiences, warm encounters and personal growth. Sitlani has been fortunate enough to explore some of the world's most incredible destinations. "Travelling is an essential part of who I am," begins Malvika with great zest in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. Travelling is something that she's always looked forward to because, in many ways, it represents her ideal life. "I love being on the go, exploring new places and experiencing the joy of nature. Whether it's a simple walk in the park or something more adventurous, travel gives me the chance to make core memories—especially now, seeing Abby (my daughter) discover the world with fresh eyes."

Her most recent trip was to Seoul, South Korea, a destination that left her with unforgettable memories and oh, a special one of course. "I went with my best friend Veronica, who's also my manager. Even though it was a quick five-day trip, we packed so much into it! We explored everything from fashion and beauty to work commitments and of course, indulged in the fun side of Korea—spas, shopping and crazy amazing food!"

One of the highlights in this trip—an eight-hour shopping and massage marathon. Hahaha! She says with a laugh, "We explored some of Korea's best shopping districts, like Insa-dong and Myeong-dong, and treated ourselves to a massage halfway through because, honestly, shopping that long can be exhausting! The day was wrapped up perfectly with a cozy dinner at a great restaurant, making it my idea of the perfect travel experience—good food, shopping and a little self-care in between."

Travelling for her, is not just about exploring new destinations – it's about weaving together life's most meaningful moments. "Travel is my way of weaving together life's most meaningful moments and some of my happiest, most treasured days have been spent on these adventures. It's a big part of what inspires me and keeps me grounded."

This trip to Korea was a treasure trove of cultural experiences that left her with lasting impressions. From the moment she arrived, she was struck by the country's unique culture, which values silence and discipline.

"One thing that immediately stood out to me in Korea is how much the culture values silence and discipline. It's fascinating because, coming from a city like Bombay, where everything is bustling and noisy, this was such a stark contrast. Even in the busiest places, you barely hear a sound."

Well, she was also impressed by the safety and security she



TRAVELOGUE

felt while travelling in Korea. "Another thing that struck me was how safe Korea feels, especially as a woman traveling. Whether it's taking a cab at 2 a.m. or navigating the city solo in the middle of the day, there's an innate sense of security that you don't even question."

In addition to the cultural nuances and safety aspects, Malvika was touched by the warmth and hospitality of the Korean people. "What I also loved is how warm and welcoming people are," she remarks. "There are parts of Korea where knowing the language might be appreciated, but overall, they're incredibly kind and accommodating to tourists."

Her interactions with the locals were particularly memorable, especially during a snack taste test. "One of my favorite moments was when we did a snack taste test. We asked locals to recommend their favorite snacks and they were so sweet and enthusiastic about helping us. It's such a core memory from the trip—just chatting with them and trying out their suggestions." When reflecting on Indian destinations that stand out from the rest of the world, Malvika's thoughts turned to Rajasthan. "Indian destinations, especially places in Rajasthan, are truly one of a kind," she says. "The state is home to breathtaking palaces and rich traditions that you don't often find elsewhere in the world."

She is particularly fond of the hospitality in Rajasthan, which she believes is unmatched. "One of the standout aspects for me is the hospitality," she notes. "Rajasthan offers some of the best hospitality services in the world, almost leaving you feeling like royalty! There's a warmth and care in the way guests are treated that is very unique." Her trip to Korea was a memorable experience, thanks in part to her exceptional stay at The Shilla Seoul. "For this trip to Korea, we didn't personally choose the hotel—the brand we were working with selected it for us, and they picked The Shilla Seoul," she explains. "Let me just say, it was an absolutely incredible experience! The hotel truly felt like a vacation in itself."

Malvika was particularly impressed by the hotel's hospitality, panoramic views of the city, and exceptional room service. "For Indian travellers especially, it offers exceptional value because you get seven-star service at prices that feel very reasonable," she notes. "From the moment we arrived, the hospitality was unmatched. The breakfast spread was one of the best I've experienced in all my travels, and trust me, that's saying a lot given how much I travel!"

When it comes to rejuvenation, Malvika prefers escaping to a beach destination. "For me, it's always somewhere near a beach that's just a quick flight away," she says. "Thailand is usually the first place that comes to mind, but really, any island destination works. When I think of a vacation, I imagine myself lying on the sand, with the ocean right in front of me."

Malvika's idea of a perfect getaway is all about relaxation and freedom. "I love the simplicity of spending the entire day by the water—relaxing, soaking up the sun and letting the sound of the waves clear my mind," she remarks. "I'm not someone who likes planning a packed itinerary. For me, the perfect getaway is all about being mindless and letting go of all the structure and stress."

As for her future travel plans, Malvika has her sights set on Japan. "Japan is definitely at the top of my list!" she exclaims. "I've always wanted to experience the culture, the food and the beauty of the country together."

Malvika prefers travelling with a group, particularly with her best friend Veronica, who handles the planning details. "I'm definitely a group traveller through and through!" she says. "I love having someone else take the lead when it comes to planning the trip. My ideal travel experience is also with a local guide as it adds a special layer to the journey and helps me connect with the place in a deeper way."

As Malvika Sitlani's travel stories come to a close, one thing is clear – her journeys are a reflection of her boundless curiosity, her love for cultural immersion, and her passion for living life to the fullest. With a heart full of wonder and a soul that is forever wanderlust, Malvika's adventures are a reminder that travel has the power to transform, to inspire, and to connect us with the world around us. As we bid adieu to Malvika's travel tales, we can't help but feel inspired to embark on our own journeys of discovery, to explore the unknown and to create memories that will last a lifetime.



## Tanaav season 2, Volume 2: The valley bleeds again!

### Plot:

**T**anaav Season 2, Volume 2 picks up with an unrelenting intensity, continuing the narrative with Farid's journey as he grapples with the aftermath of personal loss. His choices lead him into a dangerous spiral, in contrast to his brother's efforts to escape the violence and turmoil. As the season progresses, shocking events and action sequences propel the story forward, delving deep into the raw violence that underscores the turmoil in Kashmir. The show excels in depicting the region's unrest, highlighting the struggles faced by its villagers with remarkable authenticity. Amidst this pursuit, the Indian agents are tirelessly working to track him down, facing not only the physical dangers but also the moral dilemmas that come with dealing with someone they once knew. The series is filled with shocking and tragic character deaths, as the toll of the ongoing conflict becomes more apparent. Some of these deaths are of key characters, adding weight to the plot and highlighting the harsh realities of a world torn apart by violence. The narrative does a brilliant job of capturing the emotional weight of living through conflict, providing viewers with a deeply immersive experience.

### Highlights:

The show excels in its ability to bring the Kashmiri conflict to life, not just through its characters but also through its atmospheric setting. The portrayal of villagers, their fears and the atrocities they face is so authentic that it blurs the line between fiction and reality. The bomb disposal sequences are

especially noteworthy, showcasing technical precision and nerve-racking tension. The use of army-based color psychology, with earthy greens and greys, adds a layer of visual storytelling that complements the narrative's tone. These details immerse viewers into the volatile environment of military operations and the psychological impact of war.

The background music deserves special mention for its subtle yet evocative composition, heightening the tension and emotional depth without overshadowing the story. Action sequences are choreographed to perfection, blending realism with cinematic flair.

### Drawbacks:

While *Tanaav Season 2, Volume 2* delivers an edge-of-the-seat experience, the relentless pacing may feel overwhelming for some viewers. The intensity leaves little room for quieter moments, which could have added emotional balance. Additionally, the show occasionally leans on tropes that may feel predictable in the espionage-thriller genre.

### Performance:

*Tanaav Season 2, Volume 2* continues its gripping narrative with intense performances from the entire cast. Manav Vij delivers a standout portrayal of Kabir, skillfully capturing the moral conflicts and emotional depth of his character. Gaurav Arora adds complexity to his role, while Kabir Bedi's commanding presence and Rajat Kapoor's restrained yet authoritative performance elevate the stakes of the story. Ekta Kaul impresses with her raw portrayal of Farah, embodying the emotional turmoil and resilience of her character. Danish Hussain rounds out the ensemble with a performance that adds both intensity and vulnerability, making the show a powerful, emotionally resonant continuation of the series.

### Technical Aspects:

The technical brilliance of the show is evident in its cinematography and production design. Vivek Shah captures the breathtaking yet volatile beauty of Kashmir, juxtaposing its serene landscapes with scenes of devastation. Lighting and shadows are used masterfully to reflect the characters' moral dilemmas and the constant threat of danger. The action sequences are elevated by meticulous editing, creating a seamless flow that keeps viewers engaged. Symbolic imagery, such as shattered windows and flickering lights, reinforces themes of destruction and hope. The use of sound design further enhances the immersive experience, with subtle audio cues building tension in critical moments.

### Verdict:

*Tanaav Season 2, Volume 2* is an intense, fast-paced thriller that masterfully captures the complexities of the Kashmir conflict. With its riveting performances, stunning visuals and nuanced storytelling, the show is a must-watch for fans of gritty, action-packed dramas. It truly is for people who love fast paced action sequence series.

Directed by: Sudhir Mishra, E Niwas

Produced by: Applause Entertainment

Cast: Manav Vij, Gaurav Arora, Kabir Bedi, Rajat Kapoor, Ekta Kaul, Danish Husain, Satyadeep Misra, Shashank Arora, Sahiba Bali, Soni Razdan, Sukhmani Sadana

Cinematography: Malay Prakash

Streaming on: Sony LIV

Rating: 3/5

REVIEW

## SAY GOODBYE TO DRIED LIPS



### Natural alternatives for lip care

For those preferring natural ingredients, cocoa butter is an excellent option. It nourishes, moisturises and protects lips, leaving them feeling pampered. Avocado oil, too, nourishes and protects, providing a healthy and radiant glow. Green tea extract, an antioxidant, hydrates and soothes lips.

### Emollient essentials

The primary ingredients in the creation of lipstick are wax, oil, alcohol and pigments (colouring). Some other secondary ingredients are "glycerine, glyceryl stearate, caprylic/ capric triglyceride, isopropyl myristate, octyldodecyl myristate and cetyl alcohol" all of which are derivatives of palm oil.

These ingredients are emollients that amplify the retention and enrichment of pigmentation.

Emollients fill gaps between skin cells, providing a smooth texture. Petrolatum moisturises, protects and conditions lips, while dimethicone hydrates, smooths and protects. Cyclomethicone hydrates, conditions and protects, providing a lightweight and non-greasy texture.

Another reason for the widespread use in lipsticks, is that palm oil is odourless owing its natural smell, and the melting points increases when palm oil is added to the production.

### Check for sustainably sourced ingredients

Making responsible choices can also act as a balm for your conscience. Choosing products that have used certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) ensures that the products you buy use responsibly sourced ingredients.

### Choosing the right lipstick

When shopping for lipsticks, look for labels that indicate moisturizing, hydrating, nourishing and soothing properties. Opt for long-lasting lipsticks that won't dry out your lips. By selecting lipsticks with these ingredients, you'll enjoy soft, supple lips, long-lasting hydration and protection from environmental stressors.

By prioritising lip care, you'll experience a healthy, radiant glow. Your lips will thank you for the extra attention. Don't settle for lipsticks that dry out your lips; instead, choose products that provide moisture, nourishment and protection.

(The author, Dr Geetika Mittal Gupta, is a Medical Director & Founder, of Isaac Luxe.)

# what's brewing?



● Madhavi



The "Save the Weave" six-day handloom exhibition was inaugurated by Rekha Rani, Andhra Pradesh Textiles and Handloom Commissioner, at the Room9 Pop-Up Store in Jubilee Hills. Organised by the Department of Handloom and Textile, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, the event also marked the presence of notable guests including, actress and Shree Aadya Animal Shelter founder, Benu Desai, among the rest.



● Padmaja Reddy



● Rekha Rani



● Renu Desai



● Veena



● Bala Latha Mallavarapu



● Hasini



● Velakha

PARTY

Photos by- SV Charly



Governor Jishnu Dev Varma visited Mahila Dakshata Samithi Educational Institutions on Thursday and honoured five outstanding students for their academic and sports achievements. The event celebrated the institution's legacy of empowering women through education for over four decades.



The 2024 Convocation of Villa Marie Degree College for Women will be held on Saturday. Jishnu Dev Varma, Governor of Telangana, is expected to attend the event, along with Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Vice Chancellor of Osmania University.



Gold Drop gets honoured with the prestigious CITD Award for its dedication to quality, hygiene and nutrition in edible oil production on Thursday. The award was presented by Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma.



Following his electrifying performance in Mumbai earlier this year, where he promised fans he would be back, global superstar Ed Sheeran, has kept his promise, officially announcing his return to India in 2025 with the record-breaking + = x Tour. After a massive, beloved and unforgettable sold-out show, his highly anticipated 2025 tour will cover six Indian cities, making it his most extensive tour in the region to date including Hyderabad.

Suntek Energy Systems introduced its new brand, Truzon Solar on Thursday, aiming to lead India's solar energy revolution. The brand also signed Mahesh Babu as its ambassador and launched a TVC to raise awareness about solar energy's benefits for a sustainable future.



## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



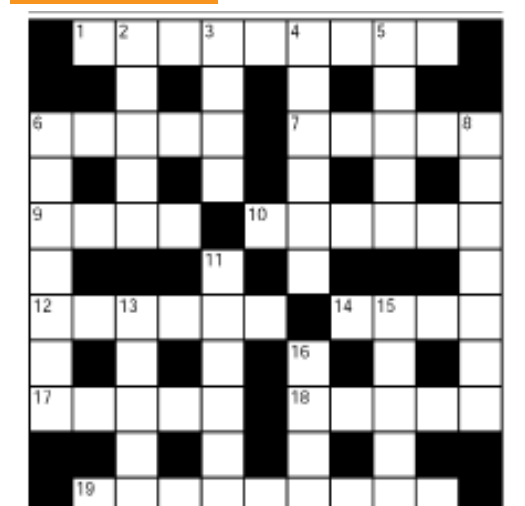
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

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

#### Yesterday's solution

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

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

- 1 Not sure
- 6 Numbers
- 7 Meadow
- 8 Decaying
- 9 The colour made by mixing black and white
- 11 A short type of coat
- 12 Say again
- 13 A keyboard instrument
- 14 A hired car
- 15 Similar
- 16 A drawing of a building showing all the rooms

#### DOWN

- 2 A female relation
- 3 Comes to a finish
- 4 An animal with a shell
- 5 A house made of snow



### GINGER MEGGS



# Allu Arjun saves the day in *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, despite lengthy narrative

SURESH KAVIRAYANI  
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Allu Arjun and director Sukumar's combination, *Pushpa: The Rise*, created a sensation when released three years ago. Allu Arjun won a National Award for his performance in the first part and there has been much curiosity about this second installment. Now, the sequel to this film, *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, has hit the screens. Beyond this, Allu Arjun extensively promoted the film in many parts of the country, including Patna. Expectations for this film are immense, as it is the only one to release without any competition. Trade analysts are predicting huge box-office collections for this film. But will it live up to expectations? Here is our review.

**Story:**

Pushpa Raj (Allu Arjun) is enjoying his married life and preparing to meet the chief minister. Before that, his wife Srivalli requests a photo of him with the chief minister, which she wants to see. However, the chief minister, while accepting funds from Pushpa, refuses to take a photograph with him because he is a smuggler. Hurt by this, Pushpa announces that he will make his friend Siddhappa (Rao Ramesh) the next chief minister. To achieve this, he needs to arrange Rs 500 crores through smuggling red sanders. Meanwhile, police officer Shekhawat (Fahadh Faasil), who was humiliated by Pushpa earlier, seeks revenge and tries to stop the smuggling. Simultaneously, Pushpa faces a family crisis that he must address. How Pushpa smuggles the red sanders, saves his family and handles the challenges forms the crux of the story.

**Analysis:**

The second part picks up where the first part ends. However, Sukumar begins this installment with a grand action sequence set in Japan, which, by the end of the film, feels unnecessary and forced. The focus then shifts to Pushpa, his wife Srivalli, and their married life. After the chief minister refuses to take a photograph with Pushpa, he decides to make his friend the chief minister.

In this second part, Sukumar intertwines Pushpa's story as a ruthless smuggler with his emotional side as a family man. Once he resolves to make his friend the CM, Pushpa begins smuggling vast quantities of red sanders. Shekhawat, determined to thwart him, engages in a cat-and-mouse game with Pushpa throughout the first half. While Sukumar makes these scenes engaging, they come across as overly cinematic with heavy use of graphics.

The first half of the film could have been trimmed as the director stretches many scenes unnecessarily. The lorry episode, where Pushpa smuggles the red sanders while Shekhawat tries to stop him, is a lengthy and drawn-out sequence. However, there are standout moments, such as Pushpa apologising to Shekhawat and the chief minister episode.

The second half focuses more on Pushpa's family affairs, particularly involving his cousin's daughter. The *Gangamma Jatha* episode is a definite highlight of the film, lasting nearly half an hour and showcasing Sukumar's finest craftsmanship.

A significant drawback is the forced extension of the story. The kidnap drama and subsequent action scenes feel lagging and unnecessary. While Pushpa achieves his goal of making his friend the CM, the storyline around Siddhappa meeting a central minister in Delhi is left unresolved until much later in the film. This lack of continuity, coupled with numerous overly cinematic scenes, makes the film feel unnecessarily long.

**Performances:**

Allu Arjun delivers a stellar performance, carrying forward his excellence from the first part. He particularly shines in the *Jathara* episode, with his dance and emotional range standing out. His portrayal of Pushpa is undoubtedly a memorable one. Rashmika Mandanna also performs well, excelling in two specific scenes—one after the *Jathara* episode and another at her house. She looks glamorous in a song sequence.

Fahadh Faasil, a proven actor, once again show-



is good, though not as impactful as the first part. The background score is effective, but the special song fails to match the energy of its predecessor. The dialogues are impressive, with every character speaking in the Chittoor accent. While the producers have spared no expense, some of Allu Arjun's dialogues suffer from dubbing issues.

**Verdict:**

*Pushpa 2: The Rule* relies heavily on Allu Arjun's outstanding performance, particularly in the second half. However, the film is weighed down by dragged-out scenes in both halves and an overly graphic, illogical climax. The film's fate will depend on how audiences respond to its three-hour and twenty-minute runtime.

**Actors:** Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Rao Ramesh, Jagapathi Babu, Anasuya, Sunil, Jagadeesh Pratap, Brahmaji, Sreeleela, Pavana Karanam and others

**Cinematography:** Miroslaw Kuba Brozek

**Music:** Devi Sri Prasad

**Producers:** Naveen Yermeni, Yelamanchili Ravi Shankar

**Story, Screenplay, Director:** Sukumar

**Rating:** 2.5/5

## PUSHPA 2 MAKERS 'HEARTBROKEN'

The much-anticipated release of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* took a tragic turn in Hyderabad as frenzied celebrations at the Sandhya 70mm Theatre led to a deadly stampede. Superstar Allu Arjun's surprise visit to the venue brought thousands of fans to RTC Cross Roads, causing chaos that claimed the life of a 35-year-old woman, Revathi and left her nine-year-old son critically injured. Revathi, a resident of Dilukhnagar, had come to the screening with her husband Bhaskar and two children, Tej and Sanvi. Amid the surging crowd, the family was pushed near the theatre's entrance. While Bhaskar and Sanvi escaped with minor injuries, Revathi and Tej were trampled in the chaos. Revathi was rushed to a nearby hospital but succumbed to her injuries, while her son remains under medical observation. Police resorted to lathi-charge to control the unruly crowd, but the damage had been done. Mythri Movie Makers, the producers of *Pushpa 2*, expressed deep sorrow over the incident, pledging their support to the grieving family and the injured child. The statement by the makers read, "We are extremely heartbroken by the tragic incident during last night's screening. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and the young child undergoing medical treatment. We are committed to standing by them and extending all possible support during this difficult time. With deep sorrow, Mythri Movie Makers." Despite the tragedy, *Pushpa 2: The Rule* continues to shatter box-office records, marking an explosive start for 2024. Directed by Sukumar and starring Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil, the film has already cemented its place as a blockbuster hit.



## SONU SOOD'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT *FATEH* HACKS INTO HEARTS

The much-anticipated teaser for Zee Studios and Shakti Sagar Productions' *Fateh* has made its electrifying debut alongside *Pushpa 2: The Rule* in theatres. The dark alleys of the digital world are about to meet their match in this gripping action saga inspired by true incidents in cyberspace. Marking the real-life hero Sonu Sood's directorial debut, the film stars him alongside Jacqueline Fernandez, Vijay Raaz and Naseeruddin Shah. While moviegoers are treated to a sneak peek of this outing on the big screen, the digital unveiling of the teaser is set for December 9.

Sonu Sood shared, "Stepping into the director's chair for the first time with *Fateh* has been a journey of passion and purpose. This action saga calls to attention the unseen battles fought in the shadows of the digital world. I'm thrilled that the teaser of *Fateh* is out for the audiences who are watching *Pushpa 2: The Rule* in theatres. It's a glimpse into a world we've poured our hearts into creating and I can't wait for viewers to experience the adrenaline, the emotions, and the sheer power of *Fateh*. This film is my ode to every hero who dares to fight back against impossible odds, and I hope it leaves viewers inspired and electrified."

Produced by Sonali Sood for Shakti Sagar Productions' and Umesh KR Bansal for Zee Studios, *Fateh* a gripping tale of courage, resilience, and the fight against cybercrime is slated to release on January 10, 2025.

## Mokshagnya's debut film launch cancelled

Nandamuri Balakrishna's son Mokshagnya's debut film launch was cancelled on Thursday. The film, directed by Prashanth Varma and produced by Cherukuri Sudhakar, had been in pre-production for several months. The makers had planned to launch the film officially on Thursday, but the cancellation has sparked widespread discussion. Some reports suggest that differences between Prashanth Varma and Mokshagnya led to the cancellation. Others claim that the launch was temporarily postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date. Regardless of the reason, the cancellation has generated significant buzz. Director Prashanth

Varma gained recognition with the film *Hanuman*, which achieved huge success not only in Telugu but also in other languages.

He was subsequently set to direct Hindi actor Ranveer Singh, but the project was cancelled due to a misunderstanding between the director and the actor. Varma was then given the opportunity to introduce Mokshagnya, a significant project, but it appears that the launch has been cancelled. There has been no official statement from the director or producer regarding the cancellation of the launch. If the entire project has been cancelled or temporarily put on hold, the producer should provide clarification.



## DEEPAK SAROJ TEAMS UP WITH HARISH GADAGANI FOR HIS NEXT

Deepak Saroj, known for his work as a child actor, made his debut as a lead actor with the film *Siddharth Roy*. His second film was launched on Thursday at a function in Hyderabad.

Harish Gadagani is making his directorial debut with this film, while Thanniru Haribabu is producing it. Deekshika and Anaira play the female leads, alongside actors Raghu Babu, Hyper Aadi and Satya in key roles. Director Harish

Gadagani said, "Once I narrated the story to the producer, he asked me to start filming immediately." He described the film as a romantic love story. "We plan to start shooting in January and wrap up in April," he added. Lead actor Deepak Saroj said that when he was looking for a good story, this one came to him, and he immediately agreed to do it. "I'm thrilled that Anoop Rubens is composing music for my film," said Deepak.

"We all know how Anoop has delivered excellent music albums in the past, and I feel lucky to have him on board for my film." Producer Haribabu, who has been in the real estate industry for 20 years, has entered the film industry driven by his passion for cinema. "I'm making my debut as a producer with this film. I liked the story and immediately agreed to collaborate with Harish," said the producer.

## Trisha commences shooting for *Suriya 45*

Acclaimed actress Trisha has officially begun shooting for her upcoming film, *Suriya 45*, alongside the talented Suriya. The movie, directed by Vetrimaaran, has been generating significant buzz in the Tamil film industry.

As Trisha started filming her portions, sources close to the project revealed an exciting secret. It appears that Trisha's character in the movie will have a distinct dual role, adding a layer of complexity to the storyline.

The film, produced by Studio Green, is expected to be an action-packed entertainer with a strong social message. With Vetrimaaran at the helm, audi-

ences can anticipate a gripping narrative and outstanding performances from the cast.

*Suriya 45* marks a significant collaboration between Trisha and Suriya, who have previously worked together in films like *Ghilli* and *Aadhavan*. Their on-screen chemistry has always been well-received by audiences, and fans are eagerly anticipating their reunion in this upcoming project.

As the shooting progresses, more updates and revelations about the film are expected to emerge. With its talented cast, acclaimed director, and intriguing storyline, *Suriya 45* is undoubtedly one of the most anticipated Tamil films of the year.



# KL Rahul will open innings, I will bat in middle: Rohit

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

KL Rahul's composure and brilliant technique while opening the innings in Perth convinced skipper Rohit Sharma to move himself down the order and "bat somewhere in the middle" in the day/night Test against Australia starting here on Friday.

The Indian captain said on Thursday he didn't wish to tinker with a combination that brought the team success in the series opener of the five-match rubber which the visitors lead 1-0 following their 295-run win at Optus Oval.

Rahul looked solid with scores of 26 and 77 and added 201 runs with fellow opener and centurion Yashasvi Jaiswal in the second innings of the first Test.

"He (Rahul) will open the innings. I will play

somewhere in the middle," Rohit told reporters on the eve of the second Test.

The Indian skipper was both categorical and objective in his reply when asked about his hotly-debated batting slot after returning from a brief paternity break.

A team man to the core, the 37-year-old Rohit explained part by part the need for continuity.

"How I came to that decision of, you know, batting down the order is clearly, you know, we want results. We want success," Rohit was categorical about his decision to take a step back after opening the innings for five years.

He was also objective about the rationale.

"Those two guys (Jaiswal and Rahul) at the top, just looking at this one Test match, they batted brilliantly. I was at home with my newborn (son



Ahaan) in my arms and I was watching how KL batted." Rohit didn't want to disturb Rahul but also said that the decision is based on current situation.

"It was brilliant to watch, to be honest. And I felt that there is no need to change that now. I don't know, may be in the future, things will be different."

Rahul has so far scored eight Test hundreds, and five of those tons have come in Australia, South Africa and England, and the skipper feels the Karnataka player is the most deserving to face the new ball.

"Based on what has happened and what KL has shown outside of India, you know, he probably deserves that place at this point in time. And, you know, it is something that has given us success in the first Test, to have that big partnership with Jaiswal on the other side."

With the team getting 500-odd runs in the second innings besides a double-century opening stand, Rohit doesn't want unnecessary tweaks which can become counter-productive.

"You know, when you come here in a place like Perth and you get 500 runs, it's a massive tick to the box. So, I don't see we need to change that."

"But what I saw from the outside looked brilliant. So, and there was no need to change anything. So, it was actually pretty simple for me."

While Rohit waxed eloquence on the 32-year-old Rahul, he didn't want to divulge the details of the conversation he had with the player.

"This is between me and him. It's a personal matter. I can't share it," he said.



## Indian women's team loses to Australia by five wickets in first ODI

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India put up a dismal show with the bat as Australia stamped their superiority over the visitors with a five-wicket win in the first Women's ODI here on Thursday.

Opting to bat, India collapsed to 100 all out in 34.2 overs with Australia pacer Megan Schutt returning an impressive five-wicket haul.

Australia did experience a minor stutter in the run chase, when Renuka Thakur struck twice in the same over, before coasting to victory in 16.2 overs.

Debutant opener Georgia Vull (46 not out off 42 balls) produced a measured knock to ensure a comfortable win.

Her effort included a six off Renuka in the cow corner region.

Her opening partner Phoebe Litchfield (35 off 29 balls) was the aggressor in their 48-run stand, smashing six fours in a row, four of those coming off Renuka and two off debutant pacer Titas Sadhu.

The second ODI will be played at the Allan Border Field here on December 8.

Jemimah Rodrigues, who batted at number five, top-scored for India with a 23 off 42 balls.

Opting to bat, India failed to get off the blocks, losing the openers in the first seven overs. Priya Punia (3 off 17), playing in place of the dropped Shafali Verma, looked totally out of sorts in her comeback game.

Smriti Mandha (8 off 9) was caught behind, chasing a wide outswinger from Schutt.

Punia, in her attempt to break the shackles, was caught at backward point off Schutt.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (23 off 42) was trapped in front by pacer Annabel Lutherland.

Rodrigues looked comfortable in the middle until she was bowled by Kim Grath as she tried to run a delivery down to the third man.

From 62 for three, India were all out for 100 in 34.2 overs. Their last three batters got out with the score reading 100 on the board.

Schutt completed her maiden five-wicket haul by casting Priya Mishra.

It was a batting performance to forget for India.

**Brief Scores:** India Women: 100 all out in 34.2 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 23; Megan Schutt 5/19). Australia 102/5 in 16.2 overs (Georgia Vull 46 not out; Renuka Thakur 3/45).

## Mbappé misses another penalty kick and Real Madrid loses to Athletic Bilbao 2-1

AP ■ MADRID

Kylian Mbappé missed a penalty kick again and Federico Valverde gifted a late goal as Real Madrid lost ground to Barcelona in the Spanish league after a 2-1 loss at Athletic Bilbao.

Mbappé had his penalty saved by Athletic goalkeeper Julien Agirrezabala in the 68th minute, and Valverde lost possession on defense to allow an easy winner by Gorka Guruzeta in the 80th.

"We knew that he is a good penalty taker," Agirrezabala said of Mbappé. "He missed the last one and I believed that he was going to choose the same side and luckily that's what happened."

Valverde had control of the ball but gave it away while trying to get past a few Athletic players instead of passing it to a teammate, leaving Guruzeta with an easy run into the area for his goal.



Alex Berenguer had put the hosts ahead in the 53rd and Jude Bellingham equalized for Madrid in the 78th.

Mbappé had also missed a penalty in Madrid's 2-0 loss at Liverpool in the Champions League last week. He didn't take the one for the club in a Spanish league match on Sunday, but he scored in the 2-0 win over Getafe to ease some of the pressure on him and the club.

But it was another lackluster outing for Mbappé, who continues to struggle in his first season since finally joining the Spanish powerhouse.

"I won't evaluate the performance of a player because of a missed penalty. Obviously he is sad and disappointed, but you have to move on," Madrid coach

Carlo Ancelotti said about Mbappé. "He is not at his best level, but you have to give him time to adapt. You have to give him time to be able to do better."

The defeat left Madrid four points behind Barcelona, which on Tuesday ended a three-match winless streak in the league with a 5-1 rout at Mallorca. Madrid, which has a game in hand, had won three consecutive league games since a 4-0 loss at home in the "clasico" against Barcelona.

Madrid has lost five of its last 11 matches in all competitions.

Athletic moved to fourth place with the victory, its fourth consecutive across all competitions.

Both matches on Tuesday and Wednesday were moved forward in the schedule because the clubs will be playing in the Spanish Super Cup in January.



## ICC Chairman Jay Shah vows to take cricket to 'unprecedented heights'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Newly-appointed ICC chairman Jay Shah on Thursday vowed to take cricket to "unprecedented heights" following his first visit to the headquarters of the game's global governing body as its head.

Elected unopposed in August, the 36-year-old Shah became the youngest and fifth Indian to take over as the ICC chair.

His term began on December 1.

Shah visited the ICC Headquarters in Dubai for the first time in his role as chairman as he described it as "productive and inspiring."

"While I am encouraged by what I have seen, I recognise that this is just the beginning," Shah stated in an ICC release.

"The hard work to elevate cricket to unprecedented heights starts now, and I am confident that together, we will deliver on this vision."

Speaking after meeting with ICC Board Directors and staff, Shah emphasised the importance of collaboration in shaping the future of

cricket.

"This visit provided an invaluable opportunity to connect with my colleagues on the ICC Board where we discussed the initial roadmap and strategies to shape the future of this incredible sport."

"I was equally delighted to meet with the dedicated ICC team working tirelessly behind the scenes to propel cricket forward."

ICC deputy chairman Imran Khwaja commended Shah for his ambitious vision for the sport.

"On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome Jay Shah to the role and share our enthusiasm for his tenure," Khwaja said.

"Shah's ambition and experience will be instrumental in guiding the ICC and the sport into the future. It has been a very productive visit for everyone, and we look forward to working alongside him, the Members and ICC team in achieving success."

Shah succeeded Greg Barclay, who had held the post of ICC chairman since 2020.

## Don't think Adelaide debacle of 2020 will haunt India in upcoming pink-ball Test: Shastri

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

The Adelaide debacle of 2020 is history now but it should be at the back of players' minds when they take field in the day/night Test against Australia, reckons Ravi Shastri, who was India's coach in that series.

India, under Virat Kohli, were shot out for their lowest-ever Test total of 36 in the second innings of the Adelaide Test that Australia won by eight wickets.

Bruised and battered, and with hardly anyone giving them a revival chance, India staged a remarkable comeback to win the four-Test series 2-1 to clinch the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"I don't think it (Adelaide drubbing) will play any role but it should be at the back of their mind because you know things happen very quickly with a pink ball," Shastri, who was the coach of the India team during the series, told The ICC Review.

A 1-0 lead in pocket, India will clash with the hosts in the second Test, starting Friday.



"You realise that in a session of play if things don't go your way and the bowling is good, things can happen rapidly."

Shastri added that India's defeat in the match was a freak thing and that he had not seen so many nicks flying to the fielders in his four decades of cricket.

"What we did after that 36 was - like I said at that time - that I'd never seen, and I said it in the dressing room, I'd never seen so much of playing and nicking as opposed to playing and missing."

"And I'd watched cricket for about 40 years. And to be honest, that was a session

where hardly any player played and missed. If he did anything, he got a nick. So it was not beating the bat. You know, the bowlers (being) unlucky... It was just the batsmen being unlucky on that day."

The legendary all-rounder added that the 1-0 lead in the ongoing series should act as a catalyst for India to further tighten their grip on the hosts, who he felt were under pressure.

"Now the fact that they are one-up, should put them in a really great frame of mind going ahead in this Test match because I think it's a massive opportunity for India to tighten the screws further. The pressure will be on Australia."

"In my mind, it was very clear you can't do worse than that (Adelaide). You'll have a day when the luck is in your favour and you can bounce back. And that's exactly what happened."

"Sometimes you don't over-think when something as drastic as that happens. You don't want a knee-jerk reaction taking place where you just lose the plot. Sometimes calmness in situations like that produce the best results."

## Border-Gavaskar Trophy victory is one last thing to tick off for lot of us, says Cummins

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

He has won the ODI World Cup, the Ashes and also the Test Championship mace but the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India remains the "one last" unchecked item in the bucket list of Australia skipper Pat Cummins, who is confident of pulling it off this time despite the opening Test debacle.

Cummins, who made his Test debut in 2011, played a Test against India for the first time in 2017. Since 2014-15, Australia have not won an India series either at home or away. The pacer is determined to change this stat despite the 295-run drubbing in the Perth game last month.

"For half of the (Australian) change room, we haven't won the Border Gavaskar Trophy. It is one last thing to tick off for a lot of us. Almost every challenge that we faced in last few years, we have stepped up and done well," Cummins spoke with a lot of determination on the eve of the second Test against India in Adelaide.

"I think we need to do that for

another home summer and series. From two-three season thing, it has suddenly been a half a generation thing," he added.

Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood (not playing this Test), Mitchell Marsh, and Nathan Lyon are some of the players, who were part of the 2-0 win back in 2014-15.

From that point onwards, India have won all four series - two at home (2017 and 2023) and two overseas (2018-19, 2020-21).

So, is there pressure on him to win it back this time?

"I don't think it's pressure. You are playing at home and you want to do well. We know they (India) are a really strong side and lot of us were part of those recent three series (defeats)."

"Yeah, it's a big series and kind of not looking too far in the past. And every summer, when we play against them we want to do well," Cummins said.

The 31-year-old, who has 272 wickets from 63 Tests, didn't want to compare the Ashes with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) but termed the battle with Indian teams as the most



contested over the years.

"I think it has been the most closely fought. I think the Ashes has got a rich history and (it is) watched as well but I think

Border-Gavaskar Trophy has been a very tight series that I have kind of seen in recent times.

"Both teams play quite similar at times. For the first time (since

1991-92), it is a five-Test series and that adds a bit extra. It really gets attritional with its history as well so it is a big one," the skipper said.

All praise for Nitish Reddy With Rishabh Pant coming in at number five and one among Shubman Gill or Rohit Sharma at number six followed by Washington Sundar and Nitish Reddy, India's top-order does have a scary look. But Cummins backed his bowlers.

"Pretty scary five, six and seven I think. If they come in and bowlers have already had plenty of overs into them, then they are a scary proposition."

"Just like we have seen, when we have been two, three or four down, then (Mitchell) Marshy or (Travis) Head have put out a 100. That changes dynamics pretty quickly," Cummins said.

Having captained Reddy in the IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad, Cummins is pretty impressed with the Andhra all-rounder's seam-up bowling.

"He didn't bowl as much as he potentially could have but really impressed with what we saw and looks like he can swing the ball a little bit. Great young kid."

Boland only change and Marsh fit to play

Cummins confirmed that pacer

Scott Boland will replace the injured Josh Hazlewood in the playing eleven for the Adelaide game. Also, Mitchell Marsh has been declared fit to bowl.

"As a captain, it's pretty awesome for someone like Scotty to come in. You know he can bowl a huge amount of overs if you need. He's super consistent, he's performed at this level, so he's ready to go."

Cummins said that Marsh will bowl as he has been in good shape.

"Mitchell Marsh will definitely bowl in this Test. I would imagine a few spells but he is ready to go. He (Marsh) is bowling well this week. His body is great and this has been for a while. So, he is ready to go out there and happy to bowl," he added.

Cummins agreed that play on the opening day could be a start-stop affair with potential rain threat.

"The pitch looks good with even coverage of grass and so not sure what to make of it. It is going to be a bit more rain than what they had perhaps thought and there will be covers on and off but right now the sun is baking it," he added.