


sunday pioneer

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Time for change in approach of police: Shah



'When heart races & stomach FLUTTERS, you know you've found your role'



Navigating urban FORESTS and nurturing admin



QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

I also saw the film 'Pushpa-2.' I had decided to watch only historical and Telangana movies. We can do many things in our life in the 3 hours we use to watch a movie. Youths are spoiled by movies. Film heroes should follow rules. Cinema people should not come out among the public if they are not given permission by the police



- Komatireddy Venkatreddy, Minister P2

DON'T MISS...

Legal experts back HYDRAA's efforts

Legal experts have extended their support to the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA), pledging to provide necessary legal advice to aid its initiatives in preserving and rejuvenating lakes. At a workshop held at the HYDRAA office under the leadership of Commissioner AV Ranganath, experts and retired officials shared their insights and solutions to address the legal challenges in safeguarding government ...

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Students protest against principal

Students from the Social Welfare Girls Residential School at Andole in the district have accused the school principal, Sadguna Mary Grace, of forcing them to wash her clothes, clean her car, and sweep her room regularly. In protest against the harassment, the students staged a protest on the school premises on Saturday. Upon hearing of the protest, Revenue Divisional Officer Pandu and Circle Inspector Anil Kumar immediately arrived at the scene. Despite their efforts to calm the students and ...

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Gadchiroli to be the next 'steel city'

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday asserted that the state's Gadchiroli district will be Naxal-free in the next three years and Gadchiroli town will be the 'steel city' of India. Replying to the debate on the opposition-sponsored last week motion in the legislative assembly here, Fadnavis listed several infrastructure projects across the state and farmer-centric initiatives. He said the northern part of the Gadchiroli district, bordering Telangana and ...

-NATION

GST at 18% on used EV car sale by business

The goods and services tax council on Saturday decided to levy an 18 per cent GST on margin value on sale of used electric vehicles by businesses and agreed to keep jet fuel (ATF) out of the 'one-nation-one-tax' regime. The GST Council in its 55th meeting also decided to clarify on taxability of popcorn, saying caramelised popcorn will continue to attract tax at the rate of 18 per cent. However, pre-packed and spiced popcorn will attract 12 per cent, while 5 per cent will be levied on unpacked and unlabelled ones. It has been decided to regularise the issues for the past on 'as is where is' basis. "It is a clarification being recommended by the GST Council to settle the disputes arising out of interpretation," an official statement said. The panel ...

-MONEY

TG was completely destroyed under BRS's 10-year rule: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that the state was completely destroyed during the 10-year rule of the BRS, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the BRS is the main reason for the government not implementing the six guarantees fully.

The CM said the BRS Government borrowed Rs 7.22 lakh crore at Rs 11.5 per cent interest. They would have been hanged if it was done in any other country, the CM said.

Participating in a short discussion on the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme on Saturday, the CM said that BRS leaders have no right to question his commitment. KCR did not show fake transactions and even Eatala Rajender too did not show fake transactions, he said. "In 2019, I asked questions on farmers' suicides in Parliament.



The House answered about farmers' suicides in 2014, 2015, and 2016. 160 farmers committed suicide in 2014, 516 in 2015, and 239 in 2016 in AP. Maharashtra has the highest number of farmers committing suicide in the country, that is, 2568 in 2014, 3030 in 2015, and 2550 in 2016. Telangana registered the second

highest number of farmer suicides under BRS rule. In TG, 898 farmers committed suicide in 2014, 1,358 in 2015, and 632 in 2016. The states with populations bigger than Telangana did not witness such a large number of suicides by farmers. It is shameful that a huge number of farmers ended their lives in a state with a budget surplus," the CM said. He said that BRS leaders should have lowered their heads and apologised to farmers. Instead, they are boasting about themselves. Farmers taught a befitting lesson to the opposition. The opposition has been demanding that the government reveal its achievements last year. The opposition should look back at what happened during its 10-year rule. **Continued on Page 2**

Allu Arjun was warned but he didn't listen: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that some political parties displayed their devilishness after the arrest of film hero Allu Arjun, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that BRS leaders who were ministers earlier are now criticising the government for arresting people who committed 'inhuman' acts. The CM said the opposition is using offensive language and blaming the government when the person who was 'responsible' for a mother's death was summoned to the police station.

The CM said the police did not give permission to celebrities to visit Sandhya theatre due to space constraints as it had only a single entrance for the audience to enter and exit. The 'Pushpa -2' hero went to the theatre even though permission was not given, the CM said. Raising the Sandhya theatre issue on Saturday in the Assembly, AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin **Continued on Page 2**

STAMPEDE AT THEATRE

'Allegations against me are false'

Says Allu Arjun on CM's comments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Actor Allu Arjun on Saturday said the incident in which a woman died and her son was hospitalised at a theatre here where 'Pushpa-2' was screened on December 4 was purely an accident and denied the allegations made by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on the roadshow. Hours after Reddy slammed the actor for holding a roadshow and waving to the crowds at the theatre, without referring to anyone, the 'Pushpa 2' star refuted the allegations and said it was not a procession or a roadshow. "There is a lot of misinformation that I behaved in a particular way. These are wrong allegations. It's humiliating and a character assassination. There is a lot of misinformation going on, a lot of false allegations, especially character assassination," he told reporters in a hurriedly held press conference.

Describing the death of the woman as an accident, he said he was not blaming anyone as it is an unfortunate incident. A 35-year-old woman died and her eight-year-old son was hospitalised on December 4 during a stampede-like situation at the Sandhya Theatre in Hyderabad



when thousands of fans jostled to have a glimpse of the actor at the premiere of the blockbuster 'Pushpa 2'. Following the incident, the city police registered a case against Allu Arjun, his security team, and the theatre management under different sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the Chikkadpally police station based on the complaint lodged by the deceased woman's family.

Allu Arjun was arrested by the city police in connection with the death of the woman on December 13. The Telangana High Court granted him a four-week interim bail on the same day and he was released from a prison here on December 14 morning.

All BRS MLAs will quit if govt proves it is supplying continuous power: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress Government, challenging its claims of providing 24-hour power supply to farmers. He said that if the Congress could prove through logbooks that uninterrupted power is being supplied round-the-clock, all BRS MLAs would resign.

Highlighting his government's achievements, KTR said, "During our tenure, we ensured 19.5 hours of continuous power supply, a fact acknowledged in Congress's white paper."

He expressed readiness for a special discussion on Nalgonda's development, emphasising that it was under the BRS that Nalgonda became the largest producer of paddy in the state, transforming its agricultural landscape.

KTR also criticised the Centre's pressure during their rule, stating, "Despite facing pressure from the Centre, we sacrificed Rs 30,000 crore but did not install meters on agricultural pumps."

Directly challenging Congress leader Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, KTR added, "If Komatireddy has the guts, let him visit any village in Nalgonda and show who ensured water supply to the region."

During a short-duration discussion in the Assembly on the Rythu Bharosa scheme, KTR raised several questions about the

Congress Government's implementation of the scheme and its policies. He criticised the government for attempting to introduce cuts under the guise of PM Kisan norms and for excluding many farmers from the scheme.

KTR said that restricting the scheme to agricultural landowners would disenfranchise numerous farmers. "Several regions in the state cultivate three crops annually. Will the government provide Rythu Bharosa for all three crops? What about crops **Continued on Page 2**



KALESHWARAM ISSUE

Probe panel's term extended

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has extended the tenure of the Commission of Inquiry headed by former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Pinali Chandra Ghose. The commission is investigating irregularities in the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram Project. The extension allows the commission to continue from January 1, 2025, to February 28, 2025, when the final report is due.

The Commission of Inquiry, initially constituted under GO Ms. No: 6 on March 14, 2024, was tasked with completing its investigation and submitting findings by June 30, 2024. However, the term was extended many times, with the latest extension approved to ensure



a comprehensive review of the project.

According to the notification issued by the Irrigation and CAD (Projects-IV) Department on December 21, 2024, the commission will continue to hold its sittings in Hyderabad.

The government stressed its com-

mitment to addressing concerns regarding the project through a thorough investigation.

Justice Ghose is expected to delve into the key aspects of the construction and operational irregularities in the barrages, aiming to ensure accountability and transparency in the state's flagship project.

Bhu Bharathi.. a revolutionary step

Says Revenue Minister Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy passionately introduced the 'Bhoobharathi Bill' in the Legislative Council on Saturday,

describing it as a revolutionary step towards resolving land disputes and empowering rightful landowners in Telangana. He declared that the Bill would serve as a referendum for the Congress Government in the upcoming Assembly elections.

He challenged BRS leaders, stating that Bhu Bharathi would expose the lands they had usurped. "When this law is fully implemented, the truth about who looted lands will come to light," he remarked. Concluding his speech, the minister declared, "Bhu Bharathi is not just a Bill; it is our government's commitment to addressing land issues permanently. It is our 'Sri Rama Raksha' for the next elections."

Ponguleti highlighted the paramount importance of land in human life. "Land is the most valuable, essential and life-sustaining resource on earth. It feeds us, gives us life, and has been the cause

of many historical battles," he said. Drawing a parallel with the mythical tale of Savitri bringing her husband back from Yama, he stated, "Just as Savitri reclaimed her husband's life, Bhoobharathi will restore lost lands to their rightful owners."

Taking a dig at the BRS government, he criticized its handling of land reforms under the Dharani Portal, labelling it a "disaster" for Telangana farmers. "The Dharani portal was a scheme of exploitation, pushing innocent farmers to the streets. Instead of resolving land disputes, it created new problems," he said. He accused the BRS admin of crafting laws in secrecy to benefit a select few while disregarding public aspirations.

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OBTUSE ANGLE



Man-made products could be storing 8.4 bn tonnes of carbon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About 8.4 billion tonnes of carbon is estimated to have been accumulated and stored in long-lasting products from around the world made by humans, such as plastics and buildings, between 1995 and 2019, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands said this 'fossil carbon' added to the 'technosphere' -- the sum of all human-made objects, both in use and discarded -- equals around 93 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions from around the world in 2019. They added that the carbon

locked up in the 'technosphere' has a huge potential to add to greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the lifetime of products and recycling rates are two ways to reduce the amount of fossil carbon entering waste streams, the researchers suggested.

"Over these 25 years (1995-2019), 8.4 billion tons of fossil carbon have accumulated, with approximately 0.4 billion tons added each year, with a huge potential for further contribution to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Cell Reports Sustainability.

Ecological economist and senior author Klaus Hubacek, University of Groningen, said, "We have accumulated more carbon in human-made stuff on the planet than there is carbon in the natural world, but we

completely overlook it, and those things get bigger and bigger." "The message is to look at stocks rather than just flows," Hubacek said. To estimate these stocks, the researchers used publicly available

data on inputs and outputs of material from different economic sectors for 2011 -- the only year for which such data exists at the global level. The team then calculated the amount of carbon flowing in and out of the sectors by using the average carbon content of different products. For example, plastics are estimated to contain 74 per cent fossil carbon on average. The analysis considered not only final products such as durable plastics and bitumen (used in roads) but also fossil carbon-based feedstocks that are used as intermediate products in different industries, the researchers said.

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CM's Language Transformation Becomes the Talk of the Town

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent change in language has left political circles buzzing. Once known for his harsh criticism, the CM has adopted a more refined tone, even referring to his rival, ex-CM KCR as "K Chandrashekar Rao garu" with notable respect. BRS leaders are attributing this transformation to Ganta Chakrapani, suggesting his feedback played a crucial role in influencing Revanth's shift. Meanwhile, Congress circles dismissed this claim and said that Ganta Chakrapani himself was influenced by Revanth and understood the Dora mindset. Regardless of the backstory, the shift in language is being seen as a conscious decision by the CM, marking a significant change in his public discourse. While the reasons behind the transformation remain a subject of debate, the polished tone is undeniably making waves in the political sphere. He may switch to his original tone during political campaigns

CM's 'Chai Pe Charcha' Leaves Journos Tongue-Tied

After a long and intense assembly session, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy hosted a casual chit-chat with the media, but with one unmissable condition—nothing discussed could be written or reported. Over two rounds of tea, the conversation meandered through a range of issues, from politics to policies, leaving reporters engrossed yet helpless. For journalists, it was the ultimate paradox—listening to a treasure trove of information while knowing they couldn't spill a word. As one seasoned reporter quipped, "It's like being handed a scoop and then told to bury it!" The session, though informal,

were't spontaneous. BRS MLAs brainstormed every evening to decide their look for the next day, proving that their "costume politics" were as meticulously planned as their speeches.

Call for Telangana Tenants Rights and Residential Houses Act

With the Congress government restoring the Telangana Tenancy Rights and Agricultural Lands Act-1950 through its inclusion in the Bhu Bharati Act, discussions on tenant rights have gained traction. While the Act promises significant relief to tenant farmers, journalists covering the assembly debates on the legislation couldn't help but draw a parallel to their struggles. Journalists observed that just as tenant farmers are being protected, the government should consider the plight of residents, particularly those living in rented homes in Hyderabad. The suggestion of a "Telangana Tenants Rights and Residential Houses Act" emerged from these discussions, as the city's rental market continues to burden many, including journalists.

The issue became particularly pressing after the Supreme Court recently dismissed hopes of Hyderabad journalists being allotted house sites. With only a few owning homes, the majority are grappling with ever-increasing rents that far outpace stagnant salaries. The skyrocketing rental rates, coupled with no regulatory framework to control hikes, have left many tenants in a financial bind. A Telangana Tenants Rights and Residential Houses Act, modelled on the Telangana Tenancy Rights and Agricultural Lands Act-1950, could bring much-needed respite to the lakhs living in rented accommodations across Hyderabad. By addressing unchecked rent hikes and providing safeguards, such a move could alleviate the financial strain faced by countless families and professionals in the city. Whether this observation by journalists gains momentum and captures the government's attention remains to be seen, but the call for action underscores a growing concern for equitable housing policies in Hyderabad.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate and K Venkateshwarlu)

REPORTERS' DIARY

was peppered with candid remarks and behind-the-scenes anecdotes that could've made headlines. But alas, the "no-writing" embargo stood firm, turning the entire affair into a test of journalistic restraint. For those present, it was an evening of great tea, great talk, and an equally great struggle to keep it all under wraps.

BRS MLAs Turn Assembly Session Into a Thematic Spectacle

BRS MLAs turned heads throughout the Assembly session with their innovative protests, each day marked by a new theme. From wearing shirts featuring Revanth Reddy and Adani, to black shirts and hand-cuffs symbolising solidarity with Lagacherla farmers, their outfits carried messages loud and clear. Another day saw them arriving in autos and donning khaki attire, followed by green stoles to show support for farmers. While the themes brought attention to various issues, Congress wasn't impressed, deriding the displays as a "fancy dress competition." Whether it was a jest or a genuine critique, the mockery seemed to hit a chord, as the BRS MLAs abandoned themed protests on the final day of the session. Interestingly, these sartorial statements

KTR's Quash Petition Raises Questions

In a surprising move, KTR's decision to file a quash petition in the Formula E case has set tongues wagging, particularly in Congress circles. The BRS leader had earlier announced that he would not seek anticipatory bail and was ready to face arrest. However, the quash petition has raised eyebrows, leading to speculation about whether KTR is having second thoughts about the arrest he once seemed prepared for. Congress leaders are quietly questioning if fear of arrest played a role in the change of strategy. While it's natural for anyone to be apprehensive about legal consequences, KTR's choice to pursue the quash route has added an unexpected twist. According to sources, legal experts advised him to go for the petition. What has also drawn attention is the engagement of Aryama Sundaram, one of the country's most expensive lawyers, to argue the case. After the conclusion of the proceedings, BRS leaders have been lauding the legal strategy, confidently stating that Sundaram's services are worth every rupee spent. For now, KTR's legal manoeuvre has sparked curiosity, leaving his political opponents to analyze whether this is a sign of caution or simply a calculated legal move.

Rythu Bandhu funds misappropriated: CM

'Should we give Rythu Bharosa funds to rocks & hills'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the Rythu Bandhu scheme is an investment assistance scheme and that the BRS admin spent Rs 72,817 crore for Rythu Bandhu in 10 years. The CM said the scheme's benefits were given to those who had uncultivated lands, residential layouts and National Highways.

Of the Rs 72,817 crore, almost Rs 22,000 crore was given to the underserving. Shall we give Rythu Bharosa funds to rocks, mountains and roads, the CM asked.

Participating in a discussion on the Rythu Bharosa scheme in the Assembly on Saturday, the CM said that Rythu Bandhu funds were given to Rajiv Road in Gajwel. The Srisailem Road in Amangal, stone crusher units and mining lands were also considered for assistance under the Rythu

Bandhu scheme. Some camp followers of BRS rulers also got Rythu Bandhu funds through fake title deeds, he said.

The CM said that 70 to 80 per cent of lands within a 50-km radius of Hyderabad is not being farmed. Rythu Bandhu funds were also given to the owners of nearly three crore acres around Hyderabad. Thousands of crores were looted through the Rythu Bandhu scheme, he said.

Revanth said the government is expecting the leader, who read 80,000 books to give suggestions on helping farmers.

"Our admin's goal is to make available the fruits of government schemes to the poor. The opposition is demanding Rythu Bharosa funds for everyone. If we consider them as role models, we will not be here like them. Farmers are role models for us and their welfare is important to us. The opposi-

tion leader is not coming to the House as he will have to bow his head before people," the CM said.

The CM asked whether the government should give funds meant for farmers to stone crusher units, residential layouts, and National Highways. The opposition should give suggestions. If the suggestions are reasonable, the government is ready to listen, he said.

The CM said the government considers 'Rythu Bharosa' as an ambitious scheme and is seeking suggestions from the BRS to finalise modalities for the scheme. The main objective of Rythu Bharosa is to help farmers, he said.

The CM said the government is committed to implementing Rythu Bharosa and support the farming community. "Our idea is to support farmers who depend on land and consider land as their mother," the CM added.

Trade license fee collection deadline set for Dec 31

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has identified a total of 3,17,033 properties under the non-residential category as per the property tax database. However, as on December 19, only 1,09,702 property owners have obtained trade licenses and paid the associated fee. The remaining property owners with PTI numbers under the non-residential category are yet to secure trade licenses, according to GHMC Commissioner Ilambarathi.

In response, Commissioner Ilambarathi has directed Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Medical and Health Officers (AMHOs), License Officers, Assistant License Officers and Chief Veterinary Officers to visit the field and ensure all eligible non-residential property owners obtain trade licenses and pay the required fee by December 31. Reports on PTI numbers have already been circulated at the circle level to facilitate the process.

Govt tenders apologies to Sri Tej family: Venkat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that the government is also tendering apologies to the Sri Tej family, Roads and Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that the government will not allow benefits shows in Telangana. However, the Minister said that the government will consider the patriotic films and cinemas related to Telangana history and message oriented films.

Speaking to the media after visiting Sri Tej at KIMS hospital on Saturday evening, Venkat Reddy said, "I also saw Pushpa-2 film. I decided to watch only historical and

Telangana movies. We can do many things in our life in 3 hours time instead of watching a movie. The youth is spoiled by movies".

Venkat Reddy said that no benefit shows and nothing in Telangana from now onwards. The film heroes should follow rules and regulations. Cinema people should not come out if not given police permission. The heroes should not conduct rallies in open top cars if they come for shows. Not to repeat these sorts of incidents in future. However, the government will encourage the film industry. All heroes and producers should cooperate in this regard, the Minister said.

'We have no grudge against film industry, cine heroes'

Govt conducted Assembly without suspending any member: Sridhar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the cinema industry is important to the Congress Government, Legislative Affairs and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the government and the Chief Minister have no grudge against cinema people. However, they should have behaved with compassion after the incident, he said.

The industry did not behave responsibly even after knowing that a woman named Revathi

died in the incident, Sridhar said during a chit-chat with journalists on Saturday. He said that the fact is that Allu Arjun did not console the victim's family after the incident.

Later, speaking to the media after the adjournment of the Assembly sine die, he said the Congress government conducted the Assembly session without suspending a single member during the last one year. He said that the BRS spread the lie that the Congress Government will not give Rythu Bharosa funds to farmers.

TG at GST Council meet asks to set up panel for delivery services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 55th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, saw significant representations from Telangana. Several proposals from the State were approved during the discussions, addressing key issues of taxation and revenue generation.

One of the primary topics discussed was the tax rate applicable to delivery services, including restaurant deliveries made through electronic commerce operators. Telangana emphasised the complexity of this issue and proposed forming a Committee of Officers to examine the matter in detail. The council accepted the suggestion and included Telangana's officials in the committee tasked with preparing a detailed report.

On the matter of the continuation of the Group of Ministers (GoM) established in 2019 for analyzing GST revenues, Telangana advocated for its reconstitution. Highlighting the importance of state-wise and sector-wise revenue studies for informed policymaking, the Deputy Chief Minister's proposal received unanimous approval.

The council also addressed the recovery of excess ad-hoc IGTST apportionment from earlier years. Telangana pointed out discrepancies in the recovery formula, emphasizing the need to align it with the base rate of revenues for the financial year 2015-16. The state further requested that any recoveries be deferred to the next financial year to prevent fiscal strain on states. Both proposals were approved by the council.

Another significant dis-

ussion revolved around the proposal to bring Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under the GST framework. Telangana opposed this, citing the limited revenue sources available to states and emphasizing that ATF, being derived from crude oil taxed under VAT, should remain under state taxation. Several states supported this stance, and the council agreed to maintain the status quo.

Additionally, Andhra Pradesh requested permission to levy a 1% cess on business-to-business (B2B) transactions to cover expenses related to flood rehabilitation. Telangana highlighted its similar challenges due to recent calamities and requested an extension of the same arrangement to the state. The council referred this matter to a Group of Ministers (GoM), with Telangana included in the group.

Govt failed to give a clarity on Rythu Bharosa funds : Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister T Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy during the BRS Legislative Party's press meet held on Saturday. Addressing a range of issues, Harish Rao accused the Congress-led government of running an administration based on "lies and deceit."

Harish Rao criticised the Chief Minister for making false promises and failing to deliver on key initiatives. "Revanth Reddy came to power on a foundation of lies and his governance is no different," he said. Rao pointed out that, even after a year in office, the government has done little to address the state's pressing issues, including farmer welfare and loan waivers. Rao criticised the lack of clarity on the distribution of Rythu Bharosa funds and the delay in implementing loan waivers. "Neither the timelines nor the

amounts for Rythu Bharosa have been declared," he said, adding that the government has failed to clarify its stance on waiving agricultural loans.

The former minister alleged that the Congress government is misleading people with false statistics on debts and has failed to fulfill its election promises. "The Chief Minister's claims about development projects and financial transparency are baseless," he said. Harish Rao refuted allegations that the BRS allocated land in Pharma City to corporations without transparency. "Not a single acre has been handed over as alleged by the Chief Minister," he stated.

Rao accused the Congress government of mismanaging the Dharani portal and exacerbating land disputes. He highlighted the flaws in the Dharani system, which left farmers vulnerable and dependent on courts for minor issues.

Lauds Arabic translator, publisher of Ramayana, Mahabharata

PNS ■ KUWAIT CITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met two Kuwaiti nationals here and praised their efforts in translating and publishing India's iconic epics Ramayana and Mahabharata in Arabic.

The prime minister also signed copies of the Arabic versions of the two epics.

Expressing his appreciation, Modi in a post on X said, "I

compliment Abdullah Al Baroun and Abdul Lateef Al

epics. Their initiative highlights the global popularity of Indian culture."



Nesef for their efforts in translating and publishing these

He also shared some photographs of his meeting with Al Baroun and Al Neseef.

While Al Baroun translated both the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, Al Neseef managed their publication in Arabic, enabling a wider audience in the Arab world to engage with India's rich cultural heritage.

No benefit ...

Continued from page 1

Speaking on the occasion, Venkat said the government would bear the expenses of Sri Tej's treatment no matter how high it may be. He asked doctors to try their best to revive Sri Tej by bringing the latest drugs from the US if necessary. Earlier in the day, while responding to AIMIM Floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's, Venkat said that Allu Arjun did not give the Rs 25 lakh he promised to Sri Tej's family.

Allu Arjun was ...

Continued from page 1

Owaisi demanded that the government should take strong action against those responsible for the Sandhya theatre incident. He said the film hero went to watch the movie despite the death of a woman in the stampede during the release of 'Pushpa-2'. Akbaruddin said Allu Arjun had waved at fans while going to watch the movie without taking responsibility for the incident and asked the government to take steps to prevent such incidents from happening again.

Reacting to Akbaruddin's demand, the CM said that there would have been no objection if the hero had just gone to the theatre, watched the movie and left.

While going to the theatre, he opened the roof of his car on the road and conducted a roadshow. People from theatres nearby suddenly came towards Sandhya Theatre resulting in a stampede. "Revathi died in the stampede and her son went into a coma. The mother did not let go of her son's hand even during the stampede. That is the love of a mother for her child. She died holding her son's hand in an attempt to save him," the CM said.

He said there was a stampede inside the theatre also when Allu entered. "The local ACP told Allu that there was a possibility of law and order incidents. But he did not listen.

The city police commissioner said that Allu did not agree to leave the place. Then the DCP told Allu that he would be arrested if he did not leave.

Bhu Bharathi ...

Continued from page 1

the aspirations of four crore Telangana people," he added.

The minister explained that Bhoobharthi aims to address long-standing land disputes and serve as a model for other states. He emphasised the Bill's focus on transparency, justice and accessibility for farmers, eliminating the challenges posed by the Dharani system.

The minister expressed pride in the comprehensive framework of the Bhoobharthi Bill, which was shaped after studying land laws in 18 states and incorporating feedback from citizens. "This bill is a beacon of hope for landowners and a model for the nation," he said.

The Bill's pilot project in Rangareddy district's Yacharam mandal and Tirumalagiri mandal of Nagarjuna Sagar constituency received a positive feedback, and the government plans to roll it out across the state.

TG was completely ...

Continued from page 1

He said the BRS Government spent Rs 16,143 crore to waive loans of Rs one lakh in five years.

"After coming to power a second time, the BRS Government waived farm loans amounting to Rs 11,909 crore. Of this, Rs 8,515 crore was used for paying interest. The actual loan waived was only Rs 3,384 crores. The BRS government waived loans worth Rs 27,000 crore in 10 years.

The CM said the Congress Government waived farm loans amounting to Rs 20,616 crore owed by 25,35,963 farmers. "It was unprecedented. We do not consider it as our greatness, we consider it as our responsibility," he said.

He said the government considered the loans of farmers between 11.12.2018 and 09.12.2023. We did not consider the ones they had defaulted on and the ones they had paid in arrears. The BRS government said they did not even have Rs 8,000 crore to give to farmers. Now, they are talking about farmers' welfare, the CM said.

"Is it reasonable to talk like this? The Congress is the only party which never backs down and does not turn its back. Even though KCR was not in the Assembly, Sonia Gandhi granted statehood to Telangana. KCR forgot that he went to Sonia and fell at her feet. BRS leaders are ungrateful, the CM said.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Saptami: Dec 21 12:21 PM to Dec 22 02:32 PM

Ashtami: Dec 22 02:32 PM to Dec 23 05:08 PM

Nakshatram: Uttara Phalguni: Dec 22 06:14 AM to Dec 23 09:09 AM

Rahukalam: 4:21 PM to 5:43 PM

Yamagandam: 12:14 PM to 1:37 PM

Varjyam: 02:18 PM to 04:06 PM

Gulika: 2:59 PM to 4:21 PM

Amratikalam: 01:04 AM to 02:52 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:52 AM to 12:36 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 29°

Humidity: 54%

Sunrise: 6:46 AM

Sunset: 5:43 PM

Updated: December 21, 2024 5:00 PM

City Pioneer

sunday pioneer HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22, 2024 03



Anniversary celebrations of Sarangi Foundation

Venue
Ravindra Bharathi
December 22
(6 pm to 10 pm)

Workshop on personality development

Venue
Swamy Vivekananda Institute Of Human Excellence (Language Schools)
December 22 (5 pm)

Live Telugu & Hindi Musical Orchestra

By Balaji Kumar & Co
Venue
Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha (3 km)
December 22 (12 pm)

Wednesday Night

With DJ Piyush Bajaj
Venue
10 Downing Street - Begumpet
December 22 (8 pm)

All India Crafts Mela

Dhol Tasha By Sri Ambarish Lahankar & Group
Venue
Shilparamam
December 22 (5:30 pm)

Christmas Bazaar

Exhibition-cum-Sale
Venue
Lulu mall
Till December 31,
daily at 10:00 am

NYU CARNIVAL

With singer KARTHIK
Venue
Boulder Hills, Hyderabad
December 31

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends
Venue
Culinary Guru Institute, Hyderabad.
Till January 11, 2025.

Legal experts support HYDRAA's efforts in lake preservation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Legal experts have extended their support to the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA), pledging to provide necessary legal advice to aid its initiatives in preserving and rejuvenating lakes. At a workshop held at the HYDRAA office under the leadership of Commissioner AV Ranganath, experts and retired officials shared their insights and solutions to address the legal challenges in safeguarding government lands, lakes, roads, and parks.

The session highlighted the critical role of lakes in flood prevention, with experts emphasising that rejuvenating lakes and maintaining stormwater channels are essential to protect the city from flooding. They pointed out that even minor rainfall of two centimeters inundates roads and low-lying areas due to the disruption of interconnected lake systems. Experts stressed the importance of strict implementation of existing laws to protect lakes and government lands.

They urged HYDRAA to facilitate better coordination among government departments to ensure effective enforcement. It was suggested that illegal attempts to alter the status of lake buffer



G.H.M.C. and HYDRAA Standing Counsel K. Ravinder Reddy at a workshop with senior advocates and legal advisors in Hyderabad on Saturday

zones using false claims could be countered using tools like NRSA maps, Survey of India records, and rural maps. For lands classified as lake fringe areas, private landowners were advised to restrict

their activities to agriculture, with no other rights permitted. Experts proposed constructing overhead bridges for roads that cross lakes, ensuring water flow on both sides remains unobstructed. Experts

reiterated that village layouts incorporated into HMDA limits must adhere to master plans and that 30% of land in approved layouts must be allocated for public utilities. Unauthorized layouts should not be considered valid. They recommended a mechanism to prevent registrations of properties in illegal layouts or encroached areas. Any misuse of land earmarked for public utilities in master plans should be met with direct action. Experts highlighted that unauthorized structures in approved layouts could be demolished as per legal provisions.

The workshop saw participation from senior advocates and legal advisors, including Senior High Court Advocate Reesu Mahender Reddy, GHMC and HYDRAA Standing Counsel K. Ravinder Reddy, Assistant Standing Counsel C.H. Jayakrishna, retired Deputy Collector N. Srinivas Rao, and retired Special Deputy Collector B. Madhusudhan. They were joined by other experts from legal, revenue, and administrative departments who shared their valuable inputs.

The session concluded with a collective commitment to support HYDRAA's mission of creating a sustainable future by preserving lakes and government lands for future generations.

Vice President Dhankhar to visit TG for two days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary to the government Shanti Kumari on Saturday held a review meeting with high-ranking officials at the Secretariat regarding arrangements for the visit of Indian Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to the State for two days on December 25 and 26. Shanti Kumari mentioned that during the visit, the Vice President will visit the ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Tuniki, Kaudipalli mandal of Medak district on December 25, where he will interact with 500 farmers practising organic farming. She added that they will stay at Kanha Shantivanam on the night of December 25.

According to the Blue Book, officials from all departments have been instructed to make arrangements in a coordinated manner for the two-day visit. Shanti Kumari directed the Collectors of Ranga Reddy and Medak districts, along with officials from the Deputy President's office and senior officers from all departments to ensure smooth coordination. The DGP was directed to

make strong security arrangements, including traffic management and security. The health department officials were instructed to provide adequate medical facilities during the visit. The R&B department has been tasked with repairing roads along the Vice President's route, while TSS PDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Similarly, the fire department was advised to make necessary arrangements.

The CS ordered officers from concerned departments to maintain security until the Vice President's departure on the morning of December 26.

In this meeting, DGP Jitender, Special Principal Secretary Home Department Ravi Gupta, Special Principal Secretary Transport, Roads and Buildings Department Vikas Raj, GAD Secretary Raghunandan Rao, DG Fire Services Nagireddy, TSSPDCL MD Musharrif Ali, Special Commissioner Information Civil Relations Department Harish, Director Protocol Collectors of Venkat Rao, Ranga Reddy and Medak districts participated.



Cyber Crime Unit refunds Rs 5.25 L to victim of stock trading scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Cyber Crime Unit successfully refunded Rs 5,25,000 to a 37-year-old businessman who was duped by fraudsters under the pretense of stock trading with promises of substantial profits. The victim, lured by fraudulent claims linked to Goldman Sachs, transferred Rs 7,25,000 to the accounts provided by the fraudsters.

Upon receiving the complaint, the Cyber Crime Police registered the case under Cr. No. 2047/2024,

invoking relevant sections of the IT Act and other applicable laws. Inspector S Naresh, along with SI Manmohan Goud, and a dedicated team comprising HC Feroz, HC Venkatesh, PC Murali Krishna, PC Tirumalesh, and PC A Raj Kumar, launched a swift investigation.

The team promptly issued notices to the bank officials, coordinated with them to freeze the fraudulent accounts and guided the victim to file a petition in court for a refund of the frozen amount. Their efforts culminated in the recovery of Rs 5,25,000, which was credited back to the victim's

account. The commendable efforts of the Cyber Crime Unit were appreciated by the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City.

The Hyderabad Police have urged citizens to remain vigilant against fake investment groups on social media platforms like Telegram, WhatsApp, X, Instagram, and Facebook. Scammers often promise high returns with low risks, share fake profit screenshots, and even deposit small amounts into victims' accounts to gain their trust before defrauding them.

Businessman saved from cyber fraud by SR Nagar Police's quick action

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A quick response by the cyber team at Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar police station prevented a Hyderabad businessman from losing a significant amount to online fraud. On December 20, 2024, the 45-year-old businessman reported a scam involving a Facebook advertisement for solar panels. After transferring Rs 5 lakh to the fraudster, the businessman realised he had been

duped when the contact stopped responding. Acting promptly, he approached the SR Nagar Police Station for help.

Women Head Constable Dheena, known as the Cyber Warrior at the station, immediately registered the complaint on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP). She contacted the beneficiary banks, Canara Bank and SBI, along with their nodal officers and managers, to block the transaction.

Her swift actions resulted in successfully freezing Rs 4,65,858 of the transferred amount, preventing a major loss for the victim. The Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, lauded Women Head Constable Dheena's efforts in recovering the funds. The Hyderabad City Police urged citizens to exercise caution against unsolicited calls, messages, or social media advertisements, especially those offering lucrative investments.



Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, along with Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao seen at the First World Meditation Day at Gachibowli Stadium on Saturday

First World Meditation Day celebrated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The first World Meditation Day 2024 was celebrated at Gachibowli Stadium with the participation of Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, his wife Sudha Dev Varma, Minister for Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao and Sri Ramachandra Mission president Kamlesh D Patel (Daji). The event was organised by the Department of Tourism and Culture in collaboration with Sri Ramachandra Mission.

On Saturday evening, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and Kamlesh D Patel inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. Daji led a meditation session for all attendees.

Speaking at the event, Governor Varma expressed pride in hosting the first World Meditation Day in Telangana. He emphasised that meditation bridges divinity and humanity, bringing mental peace and happiness in today's challenging world. He appreciated Kanha Heartfulness Centre for spreading positivity through meditation.

Kamlesh D Patel shared his journey of learning meditation and highlighted its benefits, including inner peace and cellular-level transformations. He urged people to make meditation a daily habit without expecting immediate results.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao urged everyone to embrace meditation for a happy and peaceful life. He highlighted issues like stress, violence and deteriorating relationships, stressing that inner peace is essential for societal harmony. He spoke against the rise of drug abuse among youth and emphasised meditation as the solution, advising people to dedicate time daily for mental and physical well-being.

Government Advisor Keshava Rao, MLA Arikepudi Gandhi, Director of Tourism Gendage Hanumanthu Kondiba and Director of Language and Culture Mamidi Harikrishna participated in the programme.

Special Zonal Crime Team apprehends notorious offender

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Special Zonal Crime Team, CCS, Hyderabad, successfully apprehended a notorious offender, Mohammed Ifthekar, on December 21. The 30-year-old cab driver, a resident of Chandrayangutta, had been absconding in multiple cases spanning across the Tri-Commissionerate.

Ifthekar, who has been on the run, was involved in multiple cases under Section 305(a) BNS registered at police stations in Panjagutta, Asif Nagar, Saifabad, Gudimalkapur, Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills and SR Nagar. A case of theft under Section 380 IPC at SR Nagar has been registered. Ifthekar's criminal history includes numerous offences dating back over a decade, including attempt to murder and property damage (Section 307 IPC) in Bahadurpura, theft and robbery cases in Rajendranagar, Banjara Hills and Mailardevpally, extortion cases under Section 384 IPC in RGI Airport and Mailardevpally areas.

The accused was handed over to Panjagutta police station for further investigation and legal proceedings.

This operation was led by Inspector D Bikshapathi, with the support of the Special Crime Team staff, under the supervision of ACP G Venkateswara Reddy of the Special Zonal Crime Team, CCS, Hyderabad.

Metro users can avail discounted rates on Rapido

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro users can now avail special discounted flat rates on Rapido Bike Metro rides at all 57 Metro stations. On Saturday, Rapido has partnered with L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (L&TMRHL) to enhance first- and last-mile connectivity for Hyderabad Metro commuters. An MoU has been signed and exchanged between Hyderabad Metro Rail and Rapido.

On this occasion, the chief marketing officer of Rapido Pavandeep Singh shared that Hyderabad has become the city of choice. The company has grown from providing 45,000 rides per day to totalling 2.5 lakh rides across bikes and cabs. He announced the rebranding of bike services to Bike Metro with special flat rates for metro users: Rs 30 for 0-3 km, Rs 40 for 3-4 km, and Rs 50 for 4-5 km. Pavandeep Singh emphasised their goal of achieving one lakh rides in Hyderabad through various initiatives by partnering with Metro Rail, ring-fencing Metro stations and redefined UX/UI for better user experience. He also highlighted efforts



Chief marketing officer of Rapido Pavandeep Singh and managing director of HMRL NVS Reddy exchange an MoU at an event in Hyderabad on Saturday

to promote affordable and seamless mobility, particularly through the inclusion of 500 women riders catering to Metro services. Pavandeep Singh set targets to increase rides, aiming for 75,000 in four months and one lakh by next April.

Meanwhile, managing director of HMRL NVS Reddy discussed efforts to support women bike captains. He said that he conducted sessions with women groups to understand their requirements. Reddy highlighted that urbanisation is growing rapidly, with 90 lakh vehicles in Hyderabad, along with the rise of GCCs. He emphasised that public

transportation, including first- and last-mile connectivity, is essential for reducing congestion and improving efficiency.

Regarding zero-carbon goals, Reddy mentioned Rapido's push toward EVs and highlighted that 35% of Metro rail energy is regenerated through Metro brakes. He also announced a safety app in collaboration with BITS Pilani and IIT Bombay, set to launch in the next financial year. The app will include features to ensure safety, such as a special number for women in distress to call, triggering a police response. Reddy also called for increasing women captains to 30-40%.

Metro Rail Phase-2 land acquisition accelerated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The land acquisition process for Phase-2 of the Metro Rail project, specifically Corridor VI from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, has been expedited with notifications issued for the acquisition of 800 properties.

In a major development, an agreement has been reached with property owners regarding compensation. Each square yard will be compensated at Rs 81,000, in addition to the construction value of the property. Owners willing to

consent to this agreement can visit Metro Bhavan in Rasoolpura, Begumpet, to provide their approval.

The district administration has assured that the compensation will be disbursed via cheque within 10 days of receiving the consent from property owners, ensuring a swift and hassle-free process for all stakeholders involved.

This announcement comes as a significant step in advancing the Metro Rail Phase-2 project, which is poised to enhance connectivity across the city.



Special 100-day drive to eradicate TB in 9 districts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting that a special 100-day drive to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) will be conducted in nine districts with 26 mobile testing labs, Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha participated in a video conference held by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on the TB Mukta Bharat (TB-Free India) campaign.

During the conference on Saturday, Damodara stated that the Telangana government is committed to eliminating Tuberculosis (TB) by the end of 2025. He highlighted that the State is actively implementing all programmes suggested by the Union Health Ministry for TB elimination.

The Minister noted that on December 7, the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was launched in 9 districts of the State, including Adilabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nagar Kurnool, Peddapalli, Suryapet and Wanaparthy. The programme aims to identify people at risk of TB in these districts and conduct screening. To facilitate the process, 26 mobile TB testing vehicles



Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha participating in a video conference held by Union Health Minister, Jagat Prakash Nadda on Saturday

known as Ni-kshay Vahans have been deployed. Damodara said that the mobile units are equipped with advanced digital X-ray machines and NAAT machines for TB testing. The State government has ensured that adequate testing cartridges, chips, X-ray tools and drugs are available for the 100-day programme.

As of now, 7,219 individuals have been screened in these nine districts and 181 have tested positive for TB, as

informed by the Health Minister to the Union Minister. Minister Damodara emphasised that TB elimination can only be achieved through public awareness and early detection. In line with this, the State has significantly increased the number of presumptive TB tests. He also noted that while 5.74 lakh people were tested in 2023, the number rose to 7.82 lakh in 2024. The treatment success rate for TB is 90% in Telangana, compared to the national average of 87%.



'Cong govt will provide Indiramma houses to all eligible poor'

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Saturday made it clear that the government would provide Indiramma houses to all eligible poor families.

On Saturday, the Minister along with Khammam Lok Sabha member R Raghuram Reddy and Sathupally MLA Matta Ragamayi laid the foundation for the construction of a model Indiramma house at the Kalluru mandal MDO office complex, with an estimated cost of Rs5 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Reddy asserted that every poor person has basic needs like food, clothes, and a small house to live in. He recalled that under the YS Rajasekhara Reddy government, there were a record number of houses built for the poor, and now, under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, free houses are being constructed again for the poor. He mentioned that the government would sanction 4.5 lakh houses in the first phase of the Indiramma housing scheme

and that 3,500 houses would be sanctioned per Assembly constituency. He also added that for model houses under the scheme, a model house would be constructed in each mandal centre across the state, and approximately 600 model houses would be built in total. The foundation for the model house in the Kalluru mandal was laid on Saturday.

The Minister suggested that the poor people visit these model houses to understand how to build quality houses at lower costs, and then construct them on their own land. He emphasised that the government had introduced the Indiramma housing scheme so that the people themselves would undertake the construction of their homes. There were no specific rules regarding the construction, but the houses should have a minimum area of 400 square feet and should include one bathroom and one kitchen.

Srinivas Reddy announced that financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh would be provided in four instalments to those with their own land



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy laying the foundation of the Indiramma Model House at Kalluru in Khammam district on Saturday

under the Indiramma Housing Scheme. The first instalment of Rs 1 lakh would be given after the foundation is laid, Rs 1.25 lakh after the lintel stage, Rs 1.75 lakh once the slab is completed, and the remaining Rs 1 lakh would be released when the house is fully constructed. This financial assistance would support the poor in building their homes.

He emphasised that the government has no intention of evicting

people from their homes, citing various reasons, and reaffirmed that the Indiramma government has set a target of constructing 20 lakh houses in the next four years. He assured that houses would be allotted to the deserving, without any political, caste, or religious bias. Around 80 lakh people have applied for the Indiramma Housing Scheme across the state and the government is surveying the Indiramma Housing app to

select eligible applicants.

Despite financial challenges, the state government is ensuring the construction of Indiramma houses by facilitating funds through a green channel. The Minister also announced that the Sattupalli constituency would receive the highest number of houses. He criticised the previous government for neglecting the construction of houses for the poor and stated that the double-bed-room houses for the beneficiaries in the Sattupalli constituency, which were approved earlier, would be completed and delivered to the deserving people.

To remove the sense of insecurity among the poor and to build their trust, the Telangana Bhu Bharti Act 2024 has been introduced. The Minister also promised that the Indiramma government would resolve the pending 9 lakh Sada Bainaama applications.

Irrigation Development Corporation chairman M Vijay Babu, Kalluru Revenue Divisional Officer Rajender and others were present.



Students from the Social Welfare Girls Residential School at Andole staging a protest on school premises on Saturday

Students protest as principal forces them to wash clothes

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Students from the Social Welfare Girls Residential School at Andole in the district have accused the school principal, Sadguna Mary Grace, of forcing them to wash her clothes, clean her car, and sweep her room regularly. In protest against the harassment, the students staged a protest on the school premises on Saturday.

Upon hearing of the protest, Revenue Divisional Officer Pandu and Circle Inspector Anil Kumar immediately arrived at the scene. Despite their efforts to calm the students and assure them that the issue would be taken to the notice of higher authorities, the students did not relent. The students chanted slogans like "Principal down, down," refus-

ing to back down.

In light of the escalating situation, the RDO informed Collector Valuru Kranthi, who directed Additional Collector Chandrashekhar to visit the school. During his visit, the students narrated their woes to Chandrashekhar, saying that the principal was also allegedly harassing teachers. They specifically mentioned that the Physical Education teacher, Swathi, had gone on leave due to the harassment, while the Mathematics teacher was also reportedly facing similar treatment from the principal.

The Additional Collector assured the students that a thorough inquiry would be conducted, and appropriate action would be taken based on the findings. Later the students withdrew the protest.

New gram panchayats grapple with lack of facilities

GUDUPALLI SRINIVAS RANGAREDDY

The reorganisation of districts and mandals in Telangana in 2016 brought about the creation of new gram panchayats (GPs) across the state. However, the newly formed panchayats in the Ranga Reddy district continue to grapple with a lack of infrastructure and essential services, leaving residents struggling for basic necessities.

The formation of new gram panchayats in the mandal, in addition to the existing 20, has highlighted critical issues such as the absence of dedicated administrative buildings, a shortage of ration

shops, and inadequate facilities for governance.

The mandal currently has 29 ration shops catering to the 29 existing GPs, serving 12,000 ration cardholders, including 11,283 general ration cards and 717 Antyodaya cards. These shops collectively receive 232 quintals of rice monthly. However, the newly formed GPs, such as Dattayapalli, East Gadthanda, Godugu Thanda, and Puttuniguda, lack their own ration shops. Residents are compelled to travel to ration shops in adjoining panchayats to collect their goods, causing significant inconvenience.

"We urge the government to set up ration shops in the new

GPs so that residents can access essential supplies locally," said Ratlavat Jayaram, a resident of East Gadthanda.

Another pressing issue is the lack of proper gram panchayat buildings. Many newly formed GPs operate out of cramped rented spaces, school buildings, or temporary accommodations. Panchayat secretaries and sarpanches struggle with inadequate facilities, including a lack of meeting halls and secure storage for village records.

"Without proper infrastructure, administrative efficiency suffers, and it becomes challenging to manage governance effectively," said an official.

Sangareddy police bust inter-state drug cartel

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

Sangareddy District Superintendent of Police CH Rupesh on Saturday announced the busting of an inter-state drug cartel attempting to sell drugs in Hyderabad for New Year celebrations. The police seized 1,000 grams of MDMA, valued at Rs 1 crore.

SP Rupesh and Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau SP Sri Sai Chaitanya at a media conference revealed that on the evening of Friday, the local police and the Telangana Narcotics Bureau sleuths, acting on a tip-off, took two persons into custody near Isnapur national highway in Patancheru mandal.

During the investigation, the arrested individuals, identified as Abdul Hamid Sheikh and Mukesh



Sangareddy District Superintendent of Police CH Rupesh and TGNAB SP Sri Sai Chaitanya addressing a media conference at Patan Cheru on Saturday

Dube from Mumbai, admitted that they had brought the 1,000 grams of illegal MDMA to Hyderabad for sale to customers during New Year celebrations. The drugs were reportedly purchased from two Nigerians, Jemmy and Jinny, who are based in Delhi.

They purchased the drugs at Rs. 1,000 per gram in Delhi and intended to sell them between Rs 4,000 and Rs. 5,000 per gram in Hyderabad.

SP Rupesh also revealed that another individual, Riyaz Khan from Mumbai, was found to be involved in the sale of illicit drugs. The buyers have also been identified, and they will be interrogated soon. SP Rupesh urged the public to report any information regarding the production, transportation, or sale of drugs to the district Narcotics Bureau at the number 8712656777. The press conference was attended by Narcotics Bureau SP Chaitanya, DSPs Sridhar (TGNAB), Ravinder Reddy, Sitaram, Inspectors Vinayak Reddy, Ramesh Reddy (TGNAB), Raju, and others.

Idols desecrated at Hanuman temple

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a shocking incident, idols of Lord Hanuman, along with puja paraphernalia, were desecrated at a temple near Tolkatta Chowrasta in Moinabad mandal late Friday night. Unidentified miscreants resorted to it.

Villagers gathered at the temple on Saturday morning, expressing their outrage and demanding swift action. Former sarpanch Srinivas, along with local leaders and youth from the village, participated in the protest.

The local police arrived at the scene and assured the community that strict action would be taken against those responsible. "No matter who they are, the culprits will face severe punishment," assured the authorities, as they began their investigation.



REMARKS AGAINST AMBEDKAR Jaggareddy organises rally demanding Shah's resignation

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A massive rally was taken out in Sangareddy on Saturday under the leadership of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) T Jagga Reddy, with the participation of TGHIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy. Thousands of Congress activists and supporters took part.

Congress has shown unprecedented respect for Dr Ambedkar, recognising him as a great intellectual. However, the BJP, led by Amit Shah, insulted Ambedkar's legacy. The statement made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, claiming that chanting Ambedkar's name has become a "fashion," is highly irresponsible.

Ambedkar, a world-renowned intellectual, played



Congress party taking out a massive rally in Sangareddy on Saturday

a pivotal role in shaping India's Constitution at the time of independence. His tireless efforts for the upliftment of the oppressed classes, ensuring equal rights for all, are monumental. The power that Modi and Amit Shah held today is only due to the Constitution.

Amit Shah's remark, suggesting that people should

chant the name of God rather than Ambedkar is a reflection of the BJP's arrogance. The party's actions indicate an attempt to undermine the Constitution and impose authoritarian rule. The BJP is conspiring to rewrite history, erasing the legacies of Ambedkar, Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi, and pre-

venting future generations from learning about their sacrifices.

Rahul Gandhi is leading the charge in protecting Ambedkar's Constitution. Through initiatives like Bharat Jodo and Bharat Nyay Yatra, Rahul Gandhi walked thousands of kilometers, holding the Constitution in his hands, and advocating for its core values.

Amit Shah, who insulted Ambedkar, must resign. Rahul Gandhi's fight continues, and the shameful physical attacks on him in Parliament by BJP leaders are strongly condemned. As long as the Constitution exists, Ambedkar's legacy will live on in the hearts of the people, and the nation will support Rahul Gandhi in his ongoing struggle.

GITAM hosts dance, music fest

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts at GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted the much-awaited GITAM Festival of Dance and Music from December 18 to 20, celebrating the vibrant and festive December season.

This three-day cultural celebration brought together an array of distinguished artists, spellbinding performances, and an enthusiastic audience, making it a memorable occasion for all.

The festival kicked off on December 18 with a soulful Carnatic music concert by Sivani Ch, accompanied by Chandrakanth on the Mridangam and Vasu on the Violin. Sivani's performance, a blend of classical and popular kritis, captivated the audience with her melodic renditions, setting a

serene and uplifting tone for the evening.

The second day of the festival featured two captivating performances. Mythili Sushil Maratt presented a mesmerising Mohiniyattam performance, interpreting Yamunashtakam, Hari varasanam, and a Hindi Ghazal with exquisite fluidity and emotional depth.

The festival concluded on December 20 with a grand Sattriya performance by Anvesha Mahanta. School of Technology, who expressed how deeply moved he was by the performance's ability to transport him to another world. The GITAM Festival of Dance and Music was a true celebration of India's rich cultural heritage, leaving the audience inspired and eagerly anticipating the next edition of this spectacular event.



AMRIT BHARAT SCHEME

Kazipet railway station to get facelift

PNS ■ KAZIPET

Under the Amrit Bharat Scheme, the Central government is developing several railway stations in Telangana. The largest railway terminal in Hyderabad, the Cherlapally station, has already been developed. Similarly, Kazipet Railway Station is also being developed under this scheme, with construction work progressing rapidly. The front part of the station is being designed to resemble an airport. As part of the Amrit Bharat Scheme, Kazipet, Yadadri, and Jangaon railway stations are being modernised under the jurisdiction of the DEE (Divisional Electrical Engineer) section, with a total investment of Rs 36 crore. Of this, Rs 20 crore is allocat-

ed exclusively for Kazipet Railway Station.

Unlike the previously announced constructions, several key changes are being made in the station's elevation. Officials have set a target to complete the project by the end of March next year. As part of the development, a hotel will be constructed in the shape of a train carriage at the front of the station.

The final design for this is yet to be decided. Six green galleries will be constructed at the front of the station with vehicles passing through them. Wide spaces will be provided for auto-rickshaw stands, car and two-wheeler parking to facilitate passenger movement.

Vehicles will be allowed to drive directly up to the station entrance to



drop off passengers. In addition, waiting lounges and specially designated rooms for passengers travelling in air-conditioned coaches will be built. The construction of general wait-

ing lounges has already been completed, which will feature corporate-level toilets and restrooms. Pay-and-use toilets will also be available for both passengers and visitors.

The entire station will be covered with overhead platforms (sheds), leaving no vacant spaces. Foot-over bridges (FOBs) are being constructed to connect the two platforms, which will be a major highlight of the station.

Two lifts and escalators will be installed on both sides of the FOB. Ramp constructions of 210 feet will also be implemented on both sides.

In summary, the station is being developed to resemble an airport in every aspect, providing a modern and impressive infrastructure for travellers.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR,
LA, HAML, HYDERABAD

FORM-F
Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML
(See rule 7 (c))

No. C6/110/2024-LHS (126 to 150) Dated: 21-12-2024.
(Where a notification was issued vide No. C6/110/2024-LHS (126 to 150) dated 07-12-2024 and published in the Gazettee Hyd.-HAML No. 38 dated 07-12-2024 for acquisition of the property for the public purpose for Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Shar-E-Hyderabad Village Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District.

In response to the said notification, the following affected persons (property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiation. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows:

| Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq.Yds |
|---|------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Sri. Mirza Baqer Ali Baig S/o Mirza Ahmed Ali Baig, R/o 22-3-76, Mattha Ki Khidki, Yakutpura, Chaitanra, Hyderabad | 134 LHS | 23-1-507 & 508 | 14.96 |

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the seven days of publication of this Notification i.e., by 28-12-2024.

Sd/-
Special Deputy Collector, LA,
HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

Date: 21-12-2024

DIPR No. 493/LA-PP/Advt/Agency/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Lr.No. EEP/HD/MKMMS-DEC.24/ADVT/PR/2024-25 Dated: 23.12.2024

1) Name of the Work: 1) Shifting of Pipelines along Allapuram Road in Khammam Municipal Corporation. 2) Operation & Maintenance of ELSRs (11 Nos of 12000KL), Pumping Mains, Feeder Mains and Distribution Lines including arresting of leakages in Pipelines and Restoration of Damaged Roads in Water Supply in 1 to 20 Divisions for a period of 4 months 3) Estimate for Operation & Maintenance of ELSRs (9 Nos of 7800KL), Pumping Mains, Feeder Mains and Distribution Lines including arresting of leakages in Pipelines and Restoration of Damaged Roads in Water Supply in 21 to 40 Divisions for a period of 4 months 4) Estimate for Operation & Maintenance of ELSRs (12 Nos of 9510KL), Pumping Mains, Feeder Mains and Distribution Lines including arresting of leakages in Pipelines and Restoration of Damaged Roads in Water Supply in 41 to Divisions for a period of 4 months. 5) Estimate for Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply system including mechanical and electrical repair works at Danavaigudem and Lakaram Filter Beds for a period of 4 months in Khammam Municipal Corporation. 2) Date of Bid submission starting: Dt: 23.12.2024 from 10.30 A.M. onwards. 3) Last date /time for receipt: Dt: 28.12.2024 up to 5.00 P.M for Work SI No. 1). 4) Last Date / time for receipt: Dt: 03.01.2025 upto 5.00 P.M for other four Works. 5) Date of Opening: Dt: 04.01.2025 at 10.30 A.M. 6) Name of the Address of EE Concerned: Sri V. Ravihari Executive Engineer Public Health Division Khammam. For Further Details Can Contact/Assistant Engineer, Public Health Division Khammam.

Sd/- Commissioner,
Public Health Division Khammam.

DIPR R.O.No: 8218-PP/LA/ADVT/2024-25. Dt. 21-12-2024

ACROSS THE STATES

INSURGENCY OVER IN NE

Time for change in approach of police: Shah



Maharashtra Assembly prorogued

The Maharashtra legislative assembly was prorogued on Saturday after the end of the winter session. The budget session of the Maharashtra legislature will commence in Mumbai on March 3. The prorogation order issued by Maharashtra governor C P Radhakrishnan was read out by Speaker Rahul Narwekar. The six-day winter session witnessed uproar over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on B R Ambedkar, violence in Parbhani city in central Maharashtra over the desecration of a replica of the Constitution, and the murder of a sarpanch in Beed. The first session of the 15th assembly, held after elections, saw six sittings at an average attendance of 72.90 per cent, said Narwekar. The total duration of the assembly proceedings was 46.26 hours with a daily sitting average of 7.44 hours.



Woman, 3 children found hanging in UP village

Bodies of a woman and her three children were found hanging under suspicious circumstances at a village in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh district on Saturday, police said. The husband of the deceased woman is absconding, they added. Superintendent of Police (SP) Anil Kumar said the bodies of Komal alias Durgeshwari Devi (23) and her triplets aged one-and-a-half-year each were found hanging at Bhadohi village under the Kotwali Dehat police station limits. Police have launched a probe after sending the bodies for post-mortem, the officer said. Sandeep Kumar alias Teja, a resident of Bhadohi village, married Komal three years ago. One-and-a-half-year after their marriage, Komal gave birth to triplets -- son Raunak and daughters Lakshmi and Jwala, the SP said. On Friday night, Sandeep Kumar beat up Komal under the influence of alcohol, and when his mother came to save her, he thrashed her as well, the officer said.



UNICEF, WB join forces to combat juvenile diabetes

UNICEF is working with the West Bengal government to provide treatment to children with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as juvenile diabetes, an official said on Saturday. Juvenile diabetes, also known as Type 1 diabetes, is caused when a child's body destroys cells in the pancreas that produce insulin to keep blood sugar levels stable. As a result, the children have to inject insulin several times a day. "UNICEF is collaborating with West Bengal's health and family welfare department and IPGEMR and SSKM Hospital to develop a primary health care (PHC) oriented model for prevention and control of NCDs in children through strengthening of community and primary healthcare systems and provisions," Dr Monjur Hossain, chief of UNICEF in West Bengal, said at a programme organised by the West Bengal Academy of Paediatrics. Monjur, a former pediatric practitioner, said he held meetings with experts at IPGEMR & SSKM Hospital and visited the laboratories, clinics, and other facilities to take stock of juvenile diabetes treatment and care in the state.

PNS ■ AGARTALA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the time has come for a change in approach of the police force with the end of insurgency in the northeast, in order to ensure that people get speedy justice. Shah, addressing the 72nd plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) here, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought peace in the region by inking 20 peace accords in 10 years, leading to the surrender of 9,000 armed militants. "The police fought insurgency in the northeast for the past four decades. As insurgency has now

ended, we need to change the approach of the force to ensure people get justice within three years of lodging FIRs," he said. The home minister also said connectivity is no longer a problem in the region, as the Centre has spent Rs 81,000 crore for rail connectivity and Rs 41,000 crore for road network in the north-eastern states. Asserting that PM Modi expedited development activities in the northeast, Shah said Union ministers "spent 700 nights" in states of the region since the BJP-led NDA assumed power at the Centre. "After the exchange of enclaves (land boundary agreements)



with Bangladesh, the whole world will open for the northeast. This will change the investment ecosystem in the region," he said.

The senior BJP leader also laid emphasis on the upliftment of people in rural areas by promoting vegetable cultivation, production of milk, eggs and meat.

Asks banks to frame separate guidelines for Northeast

AGARTALA: Agartala, Dec 21 (PTI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday asked the country's banks to frame separate guidelines for the Northeast, saying the region's development is a national responsibility. Addressing a Bankers' Conclave here, he said the banks should try to devise proper policies so that the Northeast's potentials could be explored properly. "You have to

frame separate guidelines, separate parameters for the Northeast. Don't consider the Northeast as business opportunity. Development of the Northeast is a national responsibility," he said. The home minister asked Secretary Banking in the Ministry of Finance, NABARD and SBI to work on it so that a robust banking parameters are framed for the Northeast.



Gadchiroli to be the next 'steel city'

District will be Naxal-free in three years: Fadnavis

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday asserted that the state's Gadchiroli district will be Naxal-free in the next three years and Gadchiroli town will be 'steel city' of India. Replying to the debate on the opposition-sponsored last week motion in the legislative assembly here, Fadnavis listed several infrastructure projects across the state and farmer-centric initiatives.

He said the northern part of the Gadchiroli district, bordering Telangana and Chhattisgarh, has been rid of Naxals and is on the path of development. Naxals have either been killed or surrendered, he said. About 1,500 youth from the district, which is in the state's Vidarbha region, have joined the police force of which 150 are from families of Naxals, the CM said. "There has been no recruitment by Naxals from Maharashtra. In the next three years, Naxalism will be com-

pletely eradicated from Gadchiroli," he said. Fadnavis said capacity building for Gadchiroli, about 900 km from Mumbai, to make it the "steel city" of India is in full swing. He said Gondia and Gadchiroli are being linked through the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway. Since 2022, when the Maha Vikas Aghadi government collapsed and BJP-led Mahayuti took charge of the state, 47 projects and investments worth Rs 1.23 lakh crore have come to the Vidarbha region, he said. The CM called the new regime a continuation of the government of 2022 when his present deputy Eknath Shinde was the CM. "Only responsibilities have changed. The development works (in the state) are a continuation of the efforts in the last two and a half years. Collectively, we have taken all decisions," said Fadnavis, whose party BJP has Shiv Sena and NCP as partners in the government.

'Inconceivable that NEP not implemented in some states'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said it was "inconceivable" that the NEP was yet to be implemented in some states, and rued the lack of "pressure" by the academia, intelligentsia and the media on them to do so. Dhankhar said it was time that people leave behind partisan thinking and prioritise the country's interests. "Let nationalism and the principle of nation first always guide us," he said referring to opposition to the National Education Policy (NEP) by some state governments. "I am pained and disturbed on two counts -- one, some states have not adopted it. I am sure this is inconceivable on any rational ground. How can this happen? And this happens because academia, intelligentsia, those in journalism they don't generate that pressure," he said while



addressing the 5th Global Alumni Meet at the Panjab University here on the theme "Promoting Collaboration for Excellence and Sustainability". We cannot afford to engage in politics at the cost of nationalism or development, the vice president said. Stressing the crucial role alumni networks can play in strengthening the educational ecosystem, Dhankhar strongly advocated that universities nurture schools. If it becomes a national culture, it will define our education and really give a cutting edge to our National

Education Policy, he said. The vice president said countries are known by the institutions they nurture because they are crucibles of innovation and research. "They catalyse the change, they create concepts. It is innovation that is translated by industry by process of execution and therefore countries that are ahead in research and develop research are the countries that emerge as world leaders," he said. Dhankhar noted that the alumni of the Panjab University have occupied positions of the prime minister, cabinet ministers, cabinet secretaries, distinguished positions in the armed forces, in journalism, in art, in culture, in sports. "...Just imagine the power of the alumni if they act in a structured manner they can nurture the alma mater. Results will not be geometrical they will be incremental," he said.

Opposition does not have concrete issue to raise: Jitan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru was "anti-reservation", Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said on Saturday, and slammed the Opposition for claiming Home Minister Amit Shah insulted B R Ambedkar through his remarks in Parliament. The Union MSME Minister and the leader of the Hindustani Awam Morcha, a key NDA ally, made the remarks when asked about the Opposition's attack on Shah. "They (Opposition) do not have any (concrete) issue to raise that is why they are saying this. We have the agenda of taking the nation forward from a political as well as economic point of view," he said. He said that during his speech in Rajya Sabha, Shah challenged the Congress saying they take Ambedkar's name but do not follow him.

India's green cover increases by 1,445 sq km

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's total forest and tree cover has increased by 1,445 sq km since 2021, reaching 25.17 per cent of the total geographical area in 2023, according to the latest government data. The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, released on Saturday, said that the country's total forest cover increased to 7,15,343 sq km in 2023, reaching 21.76 per cent of its geographical area.

The tree cover increased by 1,289 sq km and now constitutes 3.41 per cent of the country's geographical area, it said. Together, the forest and tree cover amount to 8,27,357 sq km or 25.17 per cent of India's geographical area. This marks an overall increase of 1,445 sq km from 2021, with forest cover alone rising by 156 sq km. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), forest

cover refers to all land that has a tree canopy density of more than 10 per cent and spans over an area of one hectare or more, regardless of the type of ownership or legal status. This includes natural forests as well as man-made plantations, orchards and tree patches in urban and rural areas that meet the size and canopy density criteria. Tree cover is defined as patches of trees and isolated trees outside the Reserved

Forest Area (RFA) that are less than one hectare. Madhya Pradesh continues to lead in total forest and tree cover, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, according to the report. Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan recorded the largest gains in forest and tree cover while Mizoram, Gujarat and Odisha showed the highest increases in forest cover specifically.

Declining camel population sets alarm bells ringing



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The camel population in India faces a critical decline that requires immediate intervention, a top animal husbandry official has warned and called for enhanced support for traditional herding communities. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), highlighted the urgent need to protect camels while speaking at a national workshop on camel milk production held at Bikaner, Rajasthan on Friday. She pointed to the National Livestock Mission as a key instrument for preserving grazing lands and supporting herding communities who maintain these desert

animals, an official statement said. The warning came during a major stakeholder meeting that drew over 150 participants, including camel herders and dairy industry representatives, aimed at strengthening India's camel milk sector. The gathering coincided with the United Nations' declaration of 2024 as the International Year of Camels. "The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is committed to strengthening the non-bovine milk value chain in India," said Takayuki Hagiwara, FAO Representative in India. "We aim to unlock

new opportunities for sustainable growth, enhance livelihoods, and promote the nutritional and therapeutic benefits of non-bovine milk."

new opportunities for sustainable growth, enhance livelihoods, and promote the nutritional and therapeutic benefits of non-bovine milk."

Chautala cremated with state honours

PNS ■ SIRSA

Former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala was cremated on Saturday with full state honours in Teja Khera village in his native Sirsa district. Chautala, who was a five-time chief minister, died in Gurugram on Friday. He was 89. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal reached Teja Khera to attend the last rites of the departed leader. Many Haryana ministers, state Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, former Union minister Venod Sharma, SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, BJP's Manpreet Badal and Manjinder Singh Sirsa and several other leaders also reached Teja Khera to pay their last respects. Political leaders cutting across parties laid floral wreaths to pay their last respects to the departed leader.



Earlier, Chautala's mortal remains were Saturday kept at the family's Teja Khera farmhouse here for people to pay their last respects to the departed Indian National Lok Dal chief. His body was wrapped in the Indian Tricolour and decked with garlands. An INLD spokesperson said Chautala was rushed to a hospital after his health worsened on Friday. Om Prakash Chautala's younger son Abhay Singh Chautala, an INLD leader, elder son Ajay Singh Chautala, who heads the JJP party, and other family members, including former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, ex-CM Chautala's brother Ranjit Chautala, were present in Teja Khera. The funeral pyre was lit amid chants of Vedic hymns by priests. Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and Kumari Selja had reached the Chautala farmhouse in the morning to pay their last respects to the five-time chief minister.

REMARKS ON AMBEDKAR ISSUE

Cong to hold campaign seeking HM's resignation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress will hold protest marches against Union Home Minister Amit Shah for "insulting" B R Ambedkar and observe a weeklong campaign on the issue, party leaders said on Saturday. As part of the 'Ambedkar Samman Saptah', Congress workers and leaders will hold marches and press conferences to remember the legacy of B R Ambedkar, they said. The Congress and the BJP are at loggerheads over Shah's remarks on Ambedkar in Parliament. AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said party MPs and leaders will hold press conferences at 150 locations across the country on December 22 and 23 and workers will take out protest marches across the country on December 24. "Our agitation demanding Home



Minister Amit Shah's resignation will continue! We will fight to protect Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy against the Manusmriti worshippers," Venugopal said in a post on X. The INC will mark the upcoming week as Dr Ambedkar Samman Saptah, he said. "On 24 December, all across the country, we will hold Babasaheb Ambedkar Samman Marches and submit a memorandum to President of India through District Collectors demanding Amit Shah's resignation.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR, LA,
HYDERABAD AIRPORT METRO LIMITED,
HYDERABAD.

FORM-F
Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML
(See rule 7 (c))
(See rule 7 (c))

No. CB/103/2024-RHS (101 to 125) Dated: 21-12-2024
Where a notification was issued vide No. CB/103/2024-RHS (101 to 125) dated 07-12-2024 and published in the Gazette Hyd.-HAML No.41 dated 16-11-2024 for acquisition of the property for the public purpose for Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Shar-E-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District.

In response to the said notification, the following affected persons (property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiation. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows:

| Name and address | Sketch No. | Premises No. | Extent in Sq. yds. |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. Sri. Mir Fayyaz Ali S/o. Late Mir Shujath Ali 2. Smt. Ismath Ayesha W/o. Mir Fayyaz Ali R/018-4-792/1, Falaknuma, Hyderabad. | 123 RHS | 23-1-570 | 17.78 |

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District / Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the seven days of publication of this Notification i.e., by 28-12-2024.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector,
LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

Place: Hyderabad
Date: 21-12-2024.
DIPR No.494/LA/PA/ADVT/AGENCY/2024-25



UNWRAPPING FESTIVE FLAVOURS

This Christmas, MKT at The Chanakya invites you to savour the season with festive flavours and a cosy, cheerful atmosphere that makes you feel right at home, writes **TEAM AGENDA**

Christmas is the season of joy, warmth and indulgence and what better way to celebrate than with a feast that brings festive vibes to life? At MKT, The Chanakya, New Delhi, the magic of Christmas unfolds the moment you step inside. The space is beautifully adorned with sparkling lights, a majestic Christmas tree and a cosy ambiance that feels like stepping into a winter wonderland. Add to that their exclusive Christmas Menu for 2024, crafted with care and creativity, and you're in for a treat that truly feels like Christmas on a plate. For vegetarians, the Vegetarians Delight Shepards Pie is pure comfort. A

delightful combination of plant-based meat, a medley of seasonal vegetables, and velvety potato, it's like wrapping yourself in a warm blanket on a chilly winter day. The garden-fresh salad on the side adds a refreshing crunch, making it a well-rounded dish. Another standout is the Wild Mushroom Wellington. Encased in flaky filo pastry, the shimeji mushrooms are earthy and rich, while the mushroom jus and wilted kale bring depth and balance. It's the kind of dish that feels festive and hearty, perfect for the season. For those craving non-vegetarian options, the menu pulls out all the stops. The Ballotine de Poulet, with tender chicken and a creamy mousse,

is elevated by the sweet-tart cranberry sauce. The Confit Duck Leg with Pomegranate Jus feels indulgent and festive, while the Lamb Ossobuco and Lobster Thermidor add a luxurious touch to the Christmas spread. Each dish is presented with elegance, making every bite feel like a celebration. The dessert menu is where the magic really comes alive. The Buche de Noel, a mini yule log filled with chocolate truffle, is not just a treat for the taste buds but also a nod to the traditional Christmas spirit. As you slice into it, the rich, velvety truffle filling and the soft, chocolatey sponge make you pause and soak in the moment. Paired with

playful chocolate mushrooms and fresh berries, it feels like a whimsical Christmas story on a plate. If there's one dessert that can instantly make you feel like a kid on Christmas morning, this is it. Other desserts, like the Sticky Date Pudding with whiskey-laced brown butter toffee sauce and the Old Fashioned Apple Crumble Pie, deliver classic holiday flavours with a creative twist. The drinks menu is equally festive and brimming with seasonal charm. The Winter Wonderland, with its blend of gin, German liqueur, pineapple, oregano, and fresh strawberries, feels bright and refreshing. The Christmas Cheer, a mix of whiskey, pineapple,

cinnamon, and a touch of citrus Tabasco sauce, is warm and inviting, like sitting by a crackling fire. And then there's the Lavender Snowflake, with lavender vodka, thyme syrup, and a soft lavender foam, offering a calming and fragrant finish.

Dining at MKT feels like celebrating Christmas in every sense. From the warm lights to the cheerful music and the thoughtfully crafted menu, it's a place where the festive spirit comes alive. Whether you're sharing stories over a hearty pie or raising a toast with a lavender foam-topped cocktail, every moment feels wrapped in holiday cheer. It truly makes Christmas taste and feel magical.

FACTSHEET

Address: Lower Ground Floor, The Chanakya Mall, Chanakyaapuri, Delhi-110021
Available: Throughout December
Timings: 12:00 pm to 1:00 am
Cost for two: ₹3,000 + taxes



The menu's diverse offerings also included vegetarian favourites like Kuku Sabzi which is a medley of fresh greens and Mirza Ghasemi - a brinjal-based dish. Explaining brinjal's prominence in Iranian cuisine, Chef Wadhwa remarked, "Brinjal is a favourite ingredient. They use it as a garnish, main ingredient, and even as an accompaniment."

A highlight of the festival was the Indo-Iranian Cultural Show which featured mesmerising performances celebrating the shared cultural ties between the two nations. This event culminated in a grand gala dinner, where representatives from the Iranian Embassy and Iran Culture House felicitated participants of the Iranian Food Competition.

A food competition also brought together top chefs from both countries to showcase their culinary talents. Judged by an esteemed panel, including Mr Kazem Samandari, Chef Mostafa Taheripour Isfahani, and Chef Diwas Wadhwa, the competition crowned Chef Neda Tavakoli. Indian chefs also shone, with Hem Chandra Arya securing the first runner-up position and Chef Bharat Khemani the second runner-up. The festival's ambiance transported diners straight to Iran at the Blooms Restaurant. Chef Wadhwa added, "Despite language barriers, collaborating with Iranian chefs was seamless. Together, we breathed new life into traditional recipes, blending authenticity with a contemporary flair." He further added that saffron (kesar) played an important role in this cuisine and was not missed. Also, the Iranian rice, which you will taste in the pulao, uses pomegranate and plum paste.

The Iranian Food Festival was a celebration of cultural heritage and culinary artistry between the two nations.

Winter Wonderland



By TEAM AGENDA

Café Delhi Heights, a refuge for discriminating palates, have begun serving their winter menu that truly celebrates the season. With celebrating the warmth, comfort, and indulgence, the menu features a delectable selection of foods and beverages that will tantalise the senses and warm your soul. Café Delhi Heights is a cosy hideaway vibe from the moment you walk into the café. Apart from the offering of the menu, the winter meal at the café is a culinary wonder with dessert dishes for the winter lovers.

The Chocolate Bomb, in variants of hot chocolate and Marshmallow Chocolate Ball, with a mouth watering display of molten chocolate in that cosy environment. You have a Red Velvet Baby Croissant, with a delicate layer of pastry or Dollop of Cream Cheese or Chocolate filled looking appealing to the eyes giving a Christmas Winter feel with its red colour.

The addition to the above is the Four Cheese Fondue, a sumptuous treat served with a variety of exquisite dips. For those looking for a more savoury choice, the Bagel Sandwich, which comes with either crumbled chicken or exotic vegetables, is a soothing and fulfilling nibble to try at the Café Delhi Heights.

The Moong Daal Crumble Tart is appealing where tart meets tradition, with a beautiful combination of flavours and textures. From comforting classics to decadent desserts, every bite promises to make your chilly days cosier and more delight. The hallmark of the winter menu would have to be the Chocolate Fondue, plated aesthetically by the Café Delhi Heights. The Chocolate Fondue comes to you with a chocolate dipping sauce to be taken with strawberries, marshmallows and muffins.

FACTSHEET

Availability of Winter Menu: 1st December to 10th January
Visit your nearest Café Delhi Heights outlet

In collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iran Culture House, and the CD Foundation, Eros Hotel New Delhi played host to the Iranian Food Festival. This week-long culinary celebration brought the flavours and traditions of Iranian cuisine to the heart of the capital, creating a unique experience that highlighted the exchange of culture between India and Iran.

The festival showcased an authentic menu crafted by master Iranian chefs, presenting a journey of Iran's rich culinary heritage. Signature dishes such as Ash Reshteh which is a hearty noodle soup with chickpeas and beans, Gheimeh - a lamb stew infused with split chickpeas and cinnamon, and Berry Pulao - saffron rice with tart berries graced the menu. Chef Diwas Wadhwa, Executive Chef of Eros Hotel, described Iranian cuisine as "young, subtle, and simple compared to Indian cuisine, which is often complex and rich with multiple spices."

PLATES THAT TELEPORT TO IRAN

The Iranian Food Festival at the Eros Hotel New Delhi had authentic flavours of Iran with celebrating the culture of the two countries, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



completely. **Prepare filling:** Whip cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until stiff. Unroll the cake, spread filling evenly, and re-roll. **Make ganache:** Heat cream until steaming; pour over chocolate. Stir until smooth and let cool slightly before spreading over the cake. **Decorate** with powdered sugar, berries, and meringue mushrooms for a festive finish. Refrigerate before serving

Ingredients: 1 whole turkey (about 6-7 kg); 100g unsalted butter, softened; 2 oranges, 2 lemons, zested and juiced; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tsp fresh rosemary, 2 tsp fresh thyme, 2 tsp fresh sage, chopped; Salt and pepper to taste **Stuffing:** 1 large onion, 2 celery stalks, chopped; 2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped; 200g breadcrumbs; 100g dried cranberries; 100g chopped walnuts; 1 egg, beaten; 100ml chicken stock; 1 tsp dried sage; 1 tsp dried thyme; Salt and pepper to taste **Gravy:** Pan drippings from the turkey; 2 tsp plain flour, 500ml chicken stock; Salt and pepper to taste **Method:** Prepare the Turkey: Preheat oven to 180°C (356°F) In a bowl, mix the softened butter with the orange and lemon zest, minced garlic, and chopped herbs. Season with salt and pepper. Carefully loosen the skin of the

turkey breast and rub the citrus-herb butter mixture under the skin and all over the turkey. **Make the Stuffing:** Combine onion, celery, apples, breadcrumbs, cranberries, and walnuts. Mix in egg, stock, sage, thyme, salt, and pepper. Stuff turkey cavity. **Roast the Turkey:** Place turkey on a rack in a pan. Pour citrus juice over. Roast it in the preheated oven for 3.5-4 hours or until the internal temperature reaches 75°C (165°F) and baste occasionally with the pan juices. Rest 20 minutes after cooking. **Make the Gravy:** Pour the pan drippings into a saucepan, skim off excess fat, and whisk in the flour. Cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes, then add the chicken stock, whisking continuously. Season with salt and pepper. **Serve:** Carve the turkey and serve with the stuffing and gravy.

GINGERBREAD COOKIE SANDWICH

Ingredients for cookies: Flour - 250gms, Brown Sugar - 180gms, Salted Butter - 150gms (soft), Honey - 20gms, Clove powder - 3gms, Cinnamon powder - 10gms, Nutmeg powder - 5gms, Ginger powder - 12gms, Baking soda - 5gms, Egg - 1 (whole), Vanilla Essence - 8ml **Ingredients for fillings:** Whipping cream - 100gms, Powdered sugar - 50gms, Orange zest - 10gms, Clove powder - 2gms, Cinnamon powder - 5gms, Salt - 3gms, Ginger powder - 5gms **Instructions:** Preheat oven: 160°C. Cream butter and sugar until smooth, then whisk in honey, egg, and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients (flour, spices, baking soda) and fold into the mixture. Chill dough for 15 minutes. Portion dough onto a baking tray (yields ~16-17 cookies). Bake for 11-12 minutes until tops crack and lightly brown. Cool completely. Whip cream with sugar to stiff peaks. Fold in spices and zest. Sandwich two cookies with cream, dust with icing sugar, and serve.

Savour the Spirit of Christmas!

EXPLORE FLAVORS AND DISHES WITH DIVYA BHATIA THAT PROMISE TO MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS AN UNFORGETTABLE CELEBRATION

YULE LOG

CHEF ASHISH SINGH, COO & Culinary Director at Café Delhi Heights

Ingredients Sponge Cake: 4 large eggs (separated); 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar; 1/3 cup (40g) flour; 1/4 cup (30g) cocoa; 1/4 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp vanilla extract **Filling:** 1 cup (240ml) heavy whipping cream; 2 tsp powdered sugar; 1 tsp vanilla extract **Chocolate Ganache:** 1 cup (170g) dark chocolate; 1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream **Instructions:** Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C); line a 10x15-inch pan with parchment. Beat yolks with sugar until pale; add vanilla. Sift and fold in flour, cocoa, and salt.



Whisk egg whites to stiff peaks; fold into batter. Spread batter evenly in pan; bake 10-12 mins. Cool on a sugar-dusted towel, peeling parchment. Roll cake with towel; cool

FESTIVE CIRCUS & HERB ROASTED TURKEY

CHEF ADITI DIXIT, CYK Hospitalityes



Ingredients: 1 whole turkey (about 6-7 kg); 100g unsalted butter, softened; 2 oranges, 2 lemons, zested and juiced; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tsp fresh rosemary, 2 tsp fresh thyme, 2 tsp fresh sage, chopped; Salt and pepper to taste **Stuffing:** 1 large onion, 2 celery stalks, chopped; 2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped; 200g breadcrumbs; 100g dried cranberries; 100g chopped walnuts; 1 egg, beaten; 100ml chicken stock; 1 tsp dried sage; 1 tsp dried thyme; Salt and pepper to taste **Gravy:** Pan drippings from the turkey; 2 tsp plain flour, 500ml chicken stock; Salt and pepper to taste **Method:** Prepare the Turkey: Preheat oven to 180°C (356°F) In a bowl, mix the softened butter with the orange and lemon zest, minced garlic, and chopped herbs. Season with salt and pepper. Carefully loosen the skin of the

turkey breast and rub the citrus-herb butter mixture under the skin and all over the turkey. **Make the Stuffing:** Combine onion, celery, apples, breadcrumbs, cranberries, and walnuts. Mix in egg, stock, sage, thyme, salt, and pepper. Stuff turkey cavity. **Roast the Turkey:** Place turkey on a rack in a pan. Pour citrus juice over. Roast it in the preheated oven for 3.5-4 hours or until the internal temperature reaches 75°C (165°F) and baste occasionally with the pan juices. Rest 20 minutes after cooking. **Make the Gravy:** Pour the pan drippings into a saucepan, skim off excess fat, and whisk in the flour. Cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes, then add the chicken stock, whisking continuously. Season with salt and pepper. **Serve:** Carve the turkey and serve with the stuffing and gravy.





A Paw-some Celebration of Pet Love

Pet Fed 2024 celebrated the unconditional love between pets and their owners, creating unforgettable memories and promoting adoption, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.” *Anatole France’s* profound words perfectly capture the essence of *Pet Fed 2024*, India’s largest pet festival. The event celebrated the special bond between pets and their owners, a connection built on trust, affection and unconditional love. Held at the NSIC Grounds in Okhla, New Delhi, the festival offered a spectacular experience for animal lovers, filling the air with joy and excitement. It wasn’t just a gathering; it was a celebration of pets, especially dogs, who truly shone as the stars of the show.

Pet Fed 2024, an annual highlight for pet lovers, buzzed with energy from start to finish. The venue was transformed into a world of fun, excitement and admiration for animals. Pets strutted around in custom outfits, many of them dressed as if for a Christmas getaway, complete with Santa hats and reindeer antlers. It was a sight to behold as dogs like *Bella*, *Leo*, *Goofy*, *Sheeru* and *Noddy* pranced by, each one adding its own personality to the event. The joy and love shared between the pets and their owners was evident, making it impossible not to smile.

Inside the venue, the atmosphere was lively, filled with laughter as people chatted, took photos and enjoyed the moment with their pets. The hall was a runway of fashionable dogs, each outfit designed to showcase the personalities of the pets and their owners. It felt like a holiday celebration where pets were treated with the love and attention they deserve.

However, *Pet Fed 2024* was about celebrating the deep bond between pets and their families. The festival featured masterclasses on pet health, nutrition and grooming, offering valuable advice for pet parents. These sessions helped owners ensure the best care for their furry companions. The event also included dedicated play areas and agility rings for dogs and cats to exercise and show off their skills. The agility ring, in particular, was a hit, with pets darting through obstacles and jumping with excitement, providing a thrilling

experience for both pets and their parents. One of the standout segments of the festival was *Catapalooza*, an event organised in association with the Cat Club of India, designed specifically for cats. This segment celebrated all cat breeds and included fun activities and competitions. Cats and their owners participated in games, with participants vying for trophies and certificates. It was a joyous experience for everyone involved, showcasing the fun side of feline companionship.

The festival also placed a strong emphasis on pet adoption. Adoption camps were set up to encourage families to adopt rather than shop, in line with the *#AdoptDontShop*

mantra. The festival partnered with NGOs to find loving homes for animals in need and it was heartwarming to see so many pets finding their forever homes. Several adoption stories unfolded during the event, highlighting the festival’s commitment to making a difference in the lives of animals.

For those seeking some friendly competition, *Pet Fed* offered engaging contests and activities. The Official *Pet Fed Premier League Award Ceremony* was a crowd favourite, while other events like *Temptation Alley* and *Bug Buster* had everyone cheering for their furry friends. Day 2 of the festival included even more thrilling events, such as *Trick Roulette*, *Kibble Craze* and the *Security Dog Show*. But

the true highlight of the day was India’s Biggest Pet Fashion Show, where pets and their owners walked the ramp in coordinated outfits, creating a spectacle that was unforgettable.

As I walked through the venue, I was captivated by the wide range of activities designed to keep pets entertained. The retail area, featuring over 100 stalls, offered pet parents the chance to shop for the latest products, accessories and food. From high-end pet clothing to innovative toys, there was something for every pet and every budget. The food and beverage stalls ensured that pet parents could relax and enjoy the event while their furry companions stayed by their side.

One of the most touching elements of *Pet Fed 2024* was its inclusivity. Indie pets, often overlooked, were given special attention with free entry for their parents. This gesture was a beautiful reminder of how important it is to support the adoption of all pets, regardless of breed. It was a sentiment that resonated deeply with attendees, showing that the festival wasn’t just about fun, but also about creating a compassionate world for animals.

Akshay Gupta, the Founder of *Pet Fed*, shared his excitement about the event, saying, “Wrapping up the 10th edition in Delhi has been an incredible experience. The love and support from Delhiites, along with the growing awareness about pet adoption, have been truly heartwarming. This event has shown us the deep bond that exists between pets and their parents, and it’s a privilege to create a platform that celebrates this connection.”

Pet Fed 2024 was a heartwarming celebration of the unconditional love our pets give us every day. It reminded us that animals, like art, have the power to inspire, bring joy and change our lives in ways we never imagined. The event created beautiful memories, showcasing the enduring bond between pets and their families. Most importantly, it carried a meaningful message, *#AdoptDontShop*, encouraging everyone to give a second chance to animals in need, reminding us that love is the best gift we can offer.



IN BRIEF



Ola founder Aggarwal inducted as INAE fellow

The Indian National Academy of Engineering on Saturday said it has inducted Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal as its fellow. Aggarwal was inducted as fellow at the annual convention of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) held at IIT-Delhi on Friday, it said in a statement. "The INAE Council elected Aggarwal in recognition of his engineering contributions and leadership in the domain," it said. INAE brings together specialists from relevant interdisciplinary engineering fields to promote the advancement of engineering and technology and their applications to solve problems of national importance. INAE also represents India as one of the 33 Member-Academies from across the world in the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS).



IndiGo launches direct flights between Chennai and Penang

IndiGo has launched daily direct flights between Chennai and Penang in Malaysia on Saturday, becoming the 37th international destination for the private airline. The new route caters to the growing demand for travel between the two cities, offering both business and leisure travellers a convenient and affordable option, IndiGo said in a statement on Saturday. "We are extremely pleased to further expand our network into Malaysia with the launch of direct flights from Chennai to Penang, our third destination in Malaysia, alongside Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi. With the inclusion of these flights to Penang, IndiGo will now operate 28 weekly flights to Malaysia from 2 cities in India." IndiGo Head of Global Sales Vinay Malhotra said in a statement. At the inaugural ceremony, Chennai Airport director C V Deepak handed over the boarding pass to the first passenger on Saturday.



'GST hike for Kashmiri shawl will finish craft'

Supreme Court Justice Mehboba Mufti on Saturday said the proposed increase in GST for Kashmiri shawl would finish the craft and appealed to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the issue. She also alleged that the Centre was trying to make the people of Jammu and Kashmir dependent solely on tourism. "The Kashmiri shawl is not just a means of livelihood for us but an identity of Jammu and Kashmir. It is famous all over the world. The (previous) National Conference government banned the Shahtoosh, which was our heritage. That also caused economic losses," Mehboba told reporters. "Today, when you increase GST on Kashmiri shawl to 28 per cent, our art will automatically die," the People's Democratic Party (PDP) president added. The former chief minister of the erstwhile state alleged efforts were being made to destroy Jammu and Kashmir by undertaking development work on horticulture land and imposing GST on the handicraft sector.

GST at 18 pc on used EV car sale by business

ATF STAYS OUT OF ITS AMBIT

PNS ■ JAISALMER

The goods and services tax council on Saturday decided to levy an 18 per cent GST on margin value on sale of used electric vehicles by businesses and agreed to keep jet fuel (ATF) out of the 'one-nation-one-tax' regime.

The GST Council in its 55th meeting also decided to clarify on taxability of popcorn, saying caramelised popcorn will continue to attract tax at the rate of 18 per cent. However, pre-packed and spiced popcorn will attract 12 per cent, while 5 per cent will be levied on unpacked and unlabelled ones.

It has been decided to regularise the issues for the past on "as is where is" basis. "It is a clarification being recommended by the GST Council to settle the disputes arising out of interpretation," an official statement said.

The panel, headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising



representatives of all states and UTs, deferred decisions on reducing tax rate on insurance products as also on levy of the tax on food delivery by app-based platforms.

The panel cut the tax rate on fortified rice kernels used for public distribution to 5 per cent from 18 per cent, Sitharaman told reporters after the meeting of the Council here.

The Council also decided that no GST will be payable on penal charges levied and collected by banks and NBFCs from borrowers for non-compliance with loan terms.

The panel deferred a decision on reducing the rate of tax on insurance premium, pending comments of the sector regulator, she said.

A group of ministers examining the issue had recommended exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies from GST and premium paid by senior citizens for health insurance cover. It had also suggested GST exemption on premium paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh.

Decision to cut tax on insurance postponed

GST Council meeting on Saturday postponed a decision on reducing taxes on health and life insurance, while the much talked-about GoM recommendation of rate rejig in 148 items was not tabled before the Council. Some members of the Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, felt that more deliberations were required before a final decision could be arrived at with regard to insurance taxation. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who heads the panel on GoM on insurance, said one more meeting is required to take a call on taxation of group, individual, senior citizen's policies.

GST Council clarifies on popcorn taxation

PNS ■ JAISALMER

GST Council on Saturday agreed to issue a clarification on taxation of popcorn, saying that pre-packed and labelled ready-to-eat snacks will attract a 12 per cent tax while an 18 per cent GST will be levied if it is caramelised. There is no change in the tax rate of popcorn and the GST Council has only agreed that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will issue a circular clarifying the current taxation regime of popcorn. "Ready-to-eat popcorn", which is mixed with salt and spices, and has the essential character of namkeen currently attracts a 5 per cent GST if it is not pre-packaged and labelled. If it is supplied as pre-packaged and labelled, a 12 per cent GST is levied.

However, when popcorn is mixed with sugar (caramel popcorn), its essential character changes to that of a sugar confectionary, and would therefore be classifiable under HS 1704 90 90 and attract an 18 per cent GST, as per the clarification.



Housing sales to fall 21 pc in top 9 cities: PropEquity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales are estimated to fall 21 per cent annually across nine major cities during October-December period to 1.08 lakh units on high base effect, according to PropEquity.

Real estate data analytics firm PropEquity on Saturday released the sale numbers for India's top nine housing markets - Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Thane. It has estimated sales to rise only in Delhi-NCR.

As per the data, the total sales of residential properties across the nine cities are likely to decline to 1,08,261 units in the current quarter as against 1,37,225 units in the same period last year. However, sales are likely to

rise 5 per cent from 1,03,213 units in the preceding September quarter.

Samir Jasuja, CEO & Founder of PropEquity, said the sales have declined on annual basis because of high base effect.

He said the sales are likely to rise quarter-on-quarter on the back of festive demand.

"A closer look at the numbers reveals that despite the drop, the supply to absorption ratio in 2024 remains the same as in 2023 which indicates that the fundamentals of the real estate sector are strong and healthy," Jasuja said.

Housing sales are estimated to fall in Hyderabad by 47 per cent to 12,682 units during October-December 2024 from 24,044 units in the year-ago period.



Vedanta revises demerger plan; to retain base metal biz

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai-listed mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd on Friday said it has revised its demerger proposal and decided to retain the base metals undertaking within the parent firm.

In a regulatory filing, Vedanta said that the decision was taken following the deliberations with stakeholders, including lenders with respect to the scheme and approval by the board of directors in a meeting held on Friday.

The company had earlier said that existing businesses will be structured in the six independent companies after the demerger: Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Steel and Ferrous Materials, Vedanta Base Metals and Vedanta Ltd.

"Lenders believe the Scheme would be more favourable for unlocking value and overall optimal balancing of debt allocation across residual Vedanta and resulting companies if the Vedanta Base Metals undertaking is retained in residual Vedanta itself," the company said in the latest filing.



Vedanta also stressed the ongoing search for alternative avenues for restarting the copper business in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, which is an integral part of the Base Metals undertaking, to be the reason behind the development.

The non-implementation of demerger of the Base Metals undertaking and retaining the same in Vedanta will not impact the overall value creation for shareholders.

"A demerger of the Vedanta Base Metals undertaking may be considered at

a stage when the Base Metals business evolves and matures to realise the full value potential of such demerger for shareholders," the filing said.

The shareholders will continue to benefit from value unlocking in the Base Metals business as part of residual Vedanta, while also receiving equivalent shares in the resulting companies.

The shareholders' beneficial interests in the overall value of Vedanta and resulting companies will remain unaffected, it said.

The revision will not impact the parts of the demerger scheme. All terms which also includes the share entitlement ratio, remain unchanged.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal had earlier said the proposed demerger of the company's diverse verticals that represent more than 15 commodities will see it progress from being asset managers to asset owners.

As the company passes through the transition phase, Vedanta is focusing on consolidating and strengthening its asset base to emerge as a world leader in each of its verticals, the chairman had said.

Number of domestic migrants lowered by 12 pc: EAC-PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of domestic migrants is estimated to have lowered by around 12 per cent to 40.20 crore between 2011 and 2023, indicating increased economic opportunities across the country, said a report by prime minister's economic advisory panel EAC-PM.

According to a working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), the number of domestic migrants stood at 40,20,90,396 in 2023, which was 11.78 per cent lower compared to the figure registered as per Census 2011.

The paper titled '400 Million Dreams! Examining volume and directions of domestic migration in India using novel high frequency data', said as per Census 2011, the total number of migrants



stood at 45,57,87,621.

"Overall domestic migration in India is slowing. We estimate the overall number of migrants in the country, as of 2023, to be 40,20,90,396. This is about 11.78 per cent lower as compared to the number of migrants enumerated as per Census 2011 (45,57,87,621)," it said.

Consequently, the paper said, the migration rate which stood at 37.64 per cent of total population as per Census 2011, is estimated to have reduced to 28.88 per cent.

"We hypothesize that this is on account of availability of improved services such as education, health, infrastructure and connectivity as well as improved economic

opportunities in or near in major sources of migration and is an indicator of overall economic growth," noted the paper authored by former EAC-PM chairman Bibek Debroy.

The paper used three high-frequency and granular data sets -- Indian Railway Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) data on passenger volumes; mobile telephone subscribers roaming data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and district level banking data to understand the likely impact of migration at the places of origin.

Looking at the spatial dimensions of travel, the paper said, the top origin districts are coalesced around major urban agglomerations viz.

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata etc.

Sri Lanka claims it has officially ended debt default

PNS ■ COLOMBO

With the decision by the Hong Kong based Fitch Ratings to upgrade Sri Lanka's credit rating, the island nation has officially ended its debt default, the Finance Ministry said here on Saturday.

Fitch upgraded Sri Lanka's long term credit default rating to CCC+ from CCC- on Friday as it said that "the risk of another default on local currency debt has been reduced by the completion of the international sovereign bond restructuring and an improved outlook for macro-economic indicators."

Mahinda Siriwardana, a top bureaucrat in the Finance

Ministry, said in a statement: "December 20 marked a major milestone in our economic recovery process as Sri Lanka officially exited sovereign default."

Sri Lanka had plunged into an economic crisis when the island nation declared sovereign default in mid-April of 2022, its first since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. Almost civil-war-like conditions and months of public protests led to the fleeing of the then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Ranil Wickremesinghe, who then took over as the president, began the negotiations with the International Monetary



Fund (IMF) soon after. His government then clinched the bailout a year later in March 2023.

Siriwardana said the crisis was man made and could have been averted if the early warnings had been heeded with an early engagement with the IMF.

"While macroeconomic outcomes have indeed been satisfactory and the debt restructuring process is completed culminating in this rating upgrade, people still feel the pain from the crisis and the difficult remedial measures." He was perhaps referring to the time of unprecedented forex crisis that had triggered shortages of essentials and long queues were witnessed

for fuel and cooking gas while the island faced power cuts for over 10 hours in 2022.

Siriwardana stresses that no room exists for a repeat of policy errors, the collapse happens rapidly but the recovery is painful. "This is indeed a historic moment and a time to celebrate but it is a moment that should never be repeated."

Siriwardana was one of the two top officials besides the Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe, who saw through the recovery process from its start in 2022.

There have been three presidents and three finance ministers since the country was plunged into crisis.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR, LA, HAML, HYDERABAD
FORM-F
Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML (See rule 7 (c))
No. CB/68/2024-LHS(78 to 100) Dated: 21-12-2024
Where a notification was issued vide No. CB/65/2024-LHS (78 to 100) dated 16-11-2024 and published in the Gazette Hyd.-HAML No. 24 dated 16-11-2024 for acquisition of the property for the public purpose for Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Shan-E- Hyderabad Village Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District.

In response to the said notification, the following affected persons (property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiation. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows.

| Name and address | Sl. No. | Plot No. | Extent in Sq.yds |
|---|---------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Sri. Sultan Bin Ali S/o Ali Bin Sultan | 1 | 22-3-3771/1 | 69.61 |
| 2. Smt. Ayesha Siddiqia W/o Sultan Bin Ali, R/o 22-7-5571A, Mir Alam Mandi, Charminar, Hyderabad. | 2 | 22-3-3772 | |

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/ Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the seven days of publication of this Notification i.e., by 28-12-2024.

Signature of:
Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.
Date: 21-12-2024
DPR No. 489/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2024-25

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE
Sl. No. GSAT/GHMC/2024-25, 1st Recall Date: 19.12.2024
Name of Work: Supply of Cartridges to Printers, Multi-Functional Color Printers & Copier Machines to various section of Head Office, GHMC for a period of (1) Year Rate Contract. Start date: 23.12.2024 @ 11:00 AM. End date: 30.12.2024 @ 05:00 PM. Name & Address Officer Call No.: O/o Additional Commissioner (IT), 3rd floor, CC Complex Building, GHMC, Liberty Circle, Hyderabad -500063. Ph: 630999458/ 9963551523
deci-ghmc@gov.in Sd/- Additional Commissioner (Information Technology), GHMC.
DPR No. No: 815-PP/LA/DT/IT/2024-25. Dt: 21-12-2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Sl. No. D3/Tenders/65/2024-25/DPRE/NG Dt: 19.12.2024
The undersigned has invited the Tender for (14) No. of works in Marketpally & Nakrekal, Mandal of PIU Nalgonda Division of Nalgonda District with total estimate cost of Rs. 134.70 Lakhs. Application last date: 27.12.2024. Tender Schedules will be issued on Date: 28.12.2024. Receipt & Opening of Tender Date: 30.12.2024. For Further details contact O/o the DPPE PIU Nalgonda, (ZPP Complex, 2nd Floor), Opposite Municipal Office, Nalgonda town. Sd/- Dist. P.R. Engineer, P.U., Nalgonda.
DPR No. No: 8170-PP/LA/DT/IT/2024-25. Dt: 21-12-2024

the pioneer agenda

"Have yourself a merry little Christmas. Let your heart be light"
— Judy Garland



LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



AT BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN



BeeYoung Brewgarden ushered in the festive season with its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which drew an enthusiastic crowd who gathered to celebrate the magic of Christmas in the brewpub's signature European-style ambiance. The evening's highlight was the countdown to the illumination of a stunning Christmas tree adorned with twinkling lights and elegant decorations, marking the official start of the holiday season at BeeYoung Brewgarden. There was a selection of bite-sized festive treats, signature holiday cocktails, and BeeYoung's renowned craft brews delighted the attendees, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. The evening concluded with a heartfelt toast to the spirit of togetherness.

From timeless carols to dazzling tree lighting ceremonies, the Christmas magic unfolds, writes ABHI SINGHAL

When a cold breeze begins to blow, the lights around you feel like home and the wind feels cosy, the spirit of Christmas starts to weave its magic. It's a time when families gather around crackling fires, the scent of freshly baked cookies fills the air and the sound of carollers stirs nostalgia. Though rooted as a Christian festival, Christmas is celebrated with immense joy by people of all faiths. This occasion, observed annually on December 25, marks the birth of Jesus Christ, but it transcends religious boundaries, becoming a cultural celebration of devotion and joy. Christmas is not merely a day, but a season of reflection, hope and togetherness. Through the years, Christmas has been known by various names in English. The Anglo-Saxons referred to it as "midwinter". Preparation for this grand occasion begins with Advent, the First Sunday of which marks the start of spiritual anticipation and reflection. For Christians, Advent is a time of introspection, leading to Christ's birth, which symbolises divine love and redemption. This culminates in the twelve days of Christmastide, a period rich with historical customs that concludes on Twelfth Night, adding layers of ritualistic meaning to the holiday. At the heart of Christmas are the carols of melodic songs that embody joy,



nostalgia, and spiritual reflection. These timeless tunes, sung in homes, churches and streets, unite communities in celebration. Over time, these melodies became synonymous with Christmas, expressing devotion and cheer. From sacred hymns like "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night" to lively tunes such as "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells," carols range from reverent celebrations of Christ's birth to jubilant expressions of festive cheer. Christmas is also about the excitement of children, their eager anticipation and the magic of Santa Claus. Every Christmas Eve, children hang their stockings with wishes, hoping that Santa will fulfil them. Santa Claus, with his jolly face, white beard, and red suit, stands as a global symbol of Christmas

magic. This beloved figure, transcending cultures, embodies joy and the spirit of giving. His story traces back to Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his acts of kindness and secret gift-giving. Over time, his legend evolved into the modern image of a merry, bearded man delivering gifts on Christmas Eve, riding a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Santa's presence in Christmas celebrations is symbolic of the spirit of giving, teaching children the joy of kindness and the magic of believing in something greater than themselves. Christmas decorations are more than just festive embellishments; they are heartfelt expressions of love and joy. From the glimmer of tinsel to the soft glow of fairy lights, these adornments transform homes and public spaces into magical places. The traditional colours of Christmas: pine green, snow white, and vibrant red symbolise life, purity and warmth. When it comes to the Christmas table, one can't forget the classic Christmas cake. Rich with dried fruits, nuts, and spices, it represents the flavours of the season, often soaked in brandy or rum and matured for weeks before being served. Alongside this, candies which are especially the iconic candy canes add sweetness to the season. Many homes also offer platters of colourful, homemade candies, each bringing its festive joy to the celebrations. *Wishing you all merrier than before, A Merry Christmas!*



AT CROWNE PLAZA MAYUR VIHAR

Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar showcased *Charkha: The Loom Tree*, a breathtaking 10-foot Christmas installation made entirely of Khadi, crafted in partnership with Vikara, a Khadi India initiative. This innovative display celebrated the essence of sustainability, self-reliance, and empowerment. It was created by women artisans trained in traditional weaving, the tree featured natural dyes and zero-waste decorations made from upcycled fabrics and pearls. The installation paid homage to Gandhian principles and the Swadeshi Movement, blending artistry with ecological responsibility. Through its vibrant colours and handcrafted ornaments, *Charkha: The Loom Tree* served as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of conscious actions and a greener future.



AT SHANGRI-LA EROS NEW DELHI

Shangri-la Eros New Delhi recently unveiled its *Enchanted Wonders* celebration, marked by the lighting of a beautiful and breathtaking 10-foot-tall Christmas tree. The Christmas tree symbolises the spirit of the season taking the centre stage at the entrance of the hotel. With a sophisticated green and gold palette, the tree exudes elegance, serving as the centrepiece of the festivities. Guests were invited to revel in its artistic charm and experience the magic of the holidays in a truly luxurious setting. The tree lighting ceremony at *Shangri-la Eros New Delhi* was kick started with a series of festive experiences, promising a memorable holiday season for all with Christmas carols, chocolates and Santa Claus making it a complete vibe.



COCONUT TRUFFLES

RECIPE:

- Coconut milk powder 3 tbsp
- Sumeru Grated Coconut 5 tbsp
- White chocolate 200g
- Whipping cream 1/4 cup
- Butter 1 tbs
- Vanilla extract 1/2ts

PREPARATION METHOD:

- Step 1.** Defrost the required quantity of Sumeru Grated Coconut as per the cooking instruction mentioned on the pouch
- Step 2.** Roughly chop the white chocolate and add it to a bowl along with whipping cream and melt it in a bowl by keeping it in boiling water
- Step 3.** Now add butter to the bowl and give a mix and let it melt
- Step 4.** Then add coconut milk powder, Sumeru Grated Coconut (1 Tbsp) to the melted chocolate along with vanilla extract. Use a spoon to mix and make a thick mixture.
- Step 5.** Cover it with a lid and cool it in freezer for 2-3 hours to hold shape.
- Step 6.** Scoop out small portions from the mixture using a spoon and roll between your hands to make balls. Roll these balls in coconut flakes to coat them from all sides.
- Step 7.** Your Coconut Truffles are now ready to be served. Enjoy!



LOADED FRIES WITH SAUSAGE

RECIPE:

- Sumeru Piri Piri French Fries 1cup(200g)
- Sumeru Garlic Chicken Sausage ¼ cup
- Cheddar Cheese (Diced) 1/3 cup
- Thousand Island Sauce (Veeba) 1/4 cup
- Salted Butter 1 tbsps



PREPARATION METHOD:

French Fries preparation:

Step 1. Deep-fry Sumeru Piri Piri French Fries as per the cooking instruction mentioned in the pouch. Set aside on a plate.

Chicken Sausage cooking:

Step 1. Heat a pan on medium heat and add butter.

Step 2. Sauté the sliced Sumeru Garlic Chicken Sausage for 3-4 minutes or until fully cooked.

For Loaded Fries:

Step 1. Arrange the fried Sumeru Piri Piri French Fries on a microwaveable plate or tray.

Step 2. Top with the sautéed Sumeru Garlic Chicken Sausage and sprinkle the diced cheddar cheese evenly

Step 3. Drizzle Thousand Island Sauce or any sauce of your choice on top.

Step 4. Now keep it in a microwave oven or pan for 1-2 minutes until the cheese melts slightly.

Step 5. Enjoy the Loaded Fries with Sausage immediately while hot and gooey!

SWEET & SPICY PRAWNS

RECIPE:

- Sumeru Medium Prawns 1cup
- Capsicum (2 cm cubes) ½ cup
- Onion (2 cm cubes) ½ cup
- Green Chilli (Jullienne cut) 1tbsp
- Salt 1 tsp
- Garlic Paste 1 tbsp
- Ginger Paste 3tsp
- Sunflower Oil 2 tbsp
- Tomato Sauce 6 tbsps
- Red Chilli Sauce 1tbsp
- Soya Sauce 1½tsp
- Vinegar ½ tsp
- Water 1 cup
- Green Chilli Sauce 1 tbsps
- Chicken Aromat powder ¼ tsp
- Corn Flour 2 tsp
- Water for Corn Flour 4 tsp
- Spring Onion (Chopped) 1 tsp
- Black Pepper crushed ¼ tsp

- Step 2.** Add chopped onion and capsicum, stir-fry for 1 minute.
- Step 3.** Add green chilli, tomato sauce, red chilli sauce, green chilli sauce and soya sauce.
- Step 4.** Add salt and chicken aromatic powder, mix well.
- Step 5.** Add a cup water and bring the mixture to a simmer.
- Step 6.** Mix corn flour in water, add this mix to the pan while stirring continuously.
- Step 7.** Cook for 1-2 minutes, until the gravy thickens.
- Step 8.** Add the coated prawns and add vinegar, black pepper, mix well.
- Step 9.** Cook for another minute, and then turn off the flame.
- Step 10.** Garnish with spring onion.
- Step 11.** Your Sweet & Spicy Prawns are now ready! Serve hot with steamed rice or noodles.



PREPARATION METHOD:

Prawns coating:

- Step 1.** Thaw the Sumeru Medium Prawns as per the cooking instruction mentioned on pouch
- Step 2.** In a bowl, mix maida, corn flour, salt and black pepper crushed and add water to form a batter
- Step 3.** Dip the Sumeru Medium Prawns into the batter, coating them evenly.
- Step 4.** Heat oil in a pan and deep-fry the coated Sumeru Medium Prawns at medium flame for 2 minutes until crispy.

Gravy preparation:

Step 1. Heat sunflower oil in a pan and add garlic paste, ginger paste, saute

SHADES OF RED:

Christmas and New Year party looks to steal the show



As the festive season approaches, it's time to dazzle in style and turn heads at every gathering. Whether it's a cozy Christmas dinner, a glamorous soirée, or a sparkling New Year's Eve bash, the colour red has long been synonymous with celebration, passion and elegance. We bring you five stunning red dresses blending bold design with timeless charm. Perfect for women looking to make a bold statement, these outfits fuse the festive spirit with a touch of Russian artistry.

If you're aiming for elegance and grace, Oksana Kosareva's one-shoulder red dress is the perfect pick. With delicate tulle details and a flowing silhouette, this dreamy ensemble exudes an ethereal charm that's ideal for an intimate Christmas dinner or a formal gala. The design draws inspiration from Russia's rich textile heritage, blending tradition with modern elegance. Add sparkling silver accessories to elevate the look further and prepare to leave everyone mesmerised.

For those who prefer bold, contemporary styles, Alena Nega's structured red creation is a head-turner. Featuring a corset-style top paired with dramatic flowing layers, this outfit redefines festive glamour. The dress radiates modern couture while celebrating love for architectural silhouettes. It's an excellent choice for Christmas or New Year parties where you want to make a style statement like no other. Pair it with sleek stilettos and minimalist jewelry to keep the focus on the striking design.

Luba Gonchar's floor-length gown is all about timeless elegance with a bold twist. The gown's thigh-high slit and sculpted bodice make it a showstopper, exuding allure and sophistication. Perfect for upscale parties, this dress beautifully cele-

brates femininity and confidence. Its soft drapery and bold design ensure you'll be the center of attention. Finish the look with a bold red lip and statement earrings for a touch of drama.

If you're looking for a unique outfit that blends cultural heritage with festive flair, Atelier Irina Vorobyeva's red maxi dress is the answer. Featuring intricate cuffs inspired by traditional Slavic rushniki towels, this design beautifully marries tradition with contemporary style. Ideal for Christmas gatherings or family events, this textured creation radiates understated sophistication. Pair it with delicate gold jewelry to add a hint of festive sparkle.

Velvet never goes out of style and Paseshnic's pressed velvet red dress is the ultimate in festive glamour. With a doll-like silhouette and vintage charm, this dress channels an almost theatrical appeal. Perfect for those who love making bold style statements, it's an excellent choice for both Christmas and New Year parties.

Complete the look with embellished heels and a classic clutch to exude elegance with a touch of whimsy.

Conclusion

This festive season, embrace the power of red and let your outfit do the talking. Whether you're attending a Christmas gala or ringing in the New Year, these designs ensure you'll shine like the star of the evening. Take inspiration from these global creations and craft a look that's as vibrant and unforgettable as the season itself.

HOROSCOPE



ARIES

Harmony defines your week. Balance work, relationships and ethics while overcoming setbacks. Stay focused and embrace change. Navigate situations with confidence and adaptability.



TAURUS

This week favours a job change and new projects. Balance emotions and career dilemmas. Meet inspiring people and nurture creativity and romance through social interactions.



GEMINI

Patience with siblings is key. Family brings joy, but challenges arise as a father. Socialise, embrace romance and seek guidance. A new contract ensures career stability and growth.



CANCER

Handle relationships gently amidst pressure. Balance loyalty and emotional needs. Avoid false pride. Fulfill family demands, seek guidance for commitments, and trust time for recognition.



LEO

Embrace change. Balance relationships and emotions. Manage financial stress calmly, focus on goals, and innovate. Relief from ailments brings relaxation. Trust in professional guidance.



VRIGO

Recheck ideas before presenting. Balance relationships and work calmly. Embrace wit, generosity and love. Face delays in projects with patience. Strengthen your bonds with children.



LIBRA

Stay calm amid challenges and focus on family harmony. Avoid overindulgence, do meditation and seek stable relationships. Prioritise responsibility for success in projects and life growth.



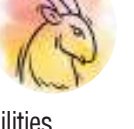
SCORPIO

Balance work and relationships calmly. Embrace unexpected connections and self-reflection. Shed pride, seek support and express love to avoid regrets. A short vacation will be good.



SAGITTARIUS

Consider a job change or solo project. Balance emotions and relationships calmly. Embrace family, talents and social connections. Socialise and let your charm uplift your life.



CAPRICORN

Success takes time; stay optimistic. Balance family, emotions, and responsibilities. Overcome insecurity with guidance. Avoid negativity and focus on thoughtful decisions for positive results.



AQUARIUS

Stay calm under pressure, communicate openly and avoid emotional blowups. Seek advice before innovating. Carefully consider changes to prevent losses and ensure success.



PISCES

Stay calm and rely on trusted support. Focus on patience and self-improvement. Boost your confidence and avoid impulsive decisions. Analyse health for more energy and stay hopeful.

'When heart races & stomach flutters, you know you've found your role'

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Divya Dutta is a name synonymous with brilliance, versatility and an unmatched ability to breathe life into any character she portrays. With a career spanning over two decades, she has carved a niche for herself in Indian cinema, seamlessly transitioning between impactful roles in mainstream blockbusters and nuanced performances in independent films. Whether as a protagonist, a complex antagonist, or a supporting character who leaves an indelible mark, her dedication to her craft shines through in every frame. Her journey, defined by bold choices and an instinctive connection to her roles, continues to inspire audiences and peers alike, solidifying her as one of the most compelling performers of her generation.

"It's something I always wanted to do, even as a child — to be in the movies," she begins, her voice tinged with nostalgia and pride. "It's been 20 years now and as I look back, I feel it's been totally worth it. The road I took for myself has not only shaped me but has also become a path many others are following now. That's a very gratifying feeling." The *Ishq Mein Jeena Ishq Mein Marna* actress reflects on the earlier days of her career, highlighting the rigid molds that heroines were often confined to. "Back then, there were certain images or perceptions of what a heroine could do. You were expected to fit into a specific box. But I always believed that if you're an actor, you should be able to do everything. So, I started breaking those stereotypes."

She recalls one pivotal moment that tested her resolve — her first negative role. "I remember when it was being contemplated, people said I had a very sweet face and questioned if I could pull it off. That was a challenge for me, to prove that I could transcend those preconceived notions. And I did." Over the years, the industry has transformed significantly, something Dutta is proud to have contributed to. Her own career is a testament to this change. "Right now, I'm working on six or seven projects and none of them are remotely similar. That speaks volumes about the kind of content being created today. Of course, it also means you have to learn to say no to some things to make space for the yes(es) that truly matter."

What sets the *Veer-Zara* fame apart is the impact her performances leave on the audience. Whether it's a lead role, a supporting part, or a title character, her work resonates deeply. She attributes this to her intuitive approach to choosing roles. "For me, it's always been about taking on roles that stay with people long after they leave the theater. If a script touches my heart, I know it will touch the audience too." Her cinematic journey has always been marked by her fearless choices, her ability to take risks and her unyielding desire to follow her heart. Reflecting on her earlier years, she recalls moments that shaped her career. "There were many times, about ten years ago, when I was offered roles where there were two female leads in the project. Often, I was given the larger part opposite the hero. But I would look at the other role and say, 'That one is more interesting. Can I do that instead?'" she shares.

This instinctive gravitation toward challenging roles often left people surprised. "They would ask, 'Arey, isko kya hua hai?' But for me, it was about pushing my comfort zone rather than playing it safe with the popular role. I wanted to create something lasting, something that would make its place in people's hearts," she says with a smile. "Popularity follows when you follow your heart, even if the path is difficult. Eventually, things fall into place."

Recently, the *Welcome to Sajjanpur* actress garnered immense love and appreciation for her performance in *Bandish Bandits Season 2*. Speaking about her entry into the much-loved series, she says, "It was a surreal experience. My association with this show started with a casual conversation with the director. I told him how much I loved the first season and wished I could have done something like that. To my surprise, he said, 'Really? You mean it? Give me 24 hours.' I didn't know why he needed that time, but when he came back, he brought me a role (Nandini) that was stunningly beautiful." Originally envisioned as a male character, the role underwent a

transformation to better suit the story's narrative. "They were already contemplating making the mentor a female character, to bring a feminine energy that could mirror Tamanna's journey. The timing was divine, and it all just fell into place. Anant (the director) asked me to read the male version of the script and assured me, 'We'll shape this entirely in your way.'"

Taking on the role of Nandini required significant unlearning and preparation. "I had to immerse myself in a world I was unfamiliar with—classical music and operatic singing. It wasn't easy. I remember thinking, 'How am I going to do this?' But Anant had faith, and I had an amazing mentor, Vasundhara, a beautiful singer who took my training personally. She helped me understand everything—from the technicalities of singing to the body language and nuances of Nandini. I practiced relentlessly, even rehearsing in the garden, oblivious to people staring at me shouting at the top of my voice!" she laughs.

Despite the challenges, Dutta poured herself into the character, earning widespread praise. Critics described Nandini as a standout addition to the show, and audiences were captivated by her unique teaching methods. "What I loved most about Nandini was her way of teaching. She was assertive yet nurturing, always finding creative ways to bring out the best in her students. Whether it was blindfolding them, encouraging group activities, or teaching Tamanna notations without her realizing it, Nandini's philosophy was so innovative. I often thought,

'I wish we had a teacher like her!'"

Dutta continues, "The beauty of Nandini lies in her belief that success comes from helping her students shine. She had this incredible way of making learning fun, impactful, and meaningful. It's something I found deeply inspiring, and it's been heartwarming to hear audiences connect with her on that level."

The *Stanley Ka Dabba* fame's instinctive choices have often led to memorable performances. "I've always relied on my gut," she shares. "And thank God for that because the best compliment I've ever received is when people say, 'Whenever you're in a character, we know it's worth watching.' For me, that's the biggest validation. I truly believe your heart guides you in the right direction. I approach work for the sheer joy of it—if I'm enjoying myself, my audience will enjoy watching it too." But joy doesn't mean it's always easy. Dutta explains that every character comes with its unique set of demands. "It's not about being skeptical; it's about feeling the challenge. If a character doesn't demand something extraordinary, then what's the point of doing it? Someone else could do it. For me, there has to be that thrill, that nervousness, that excitement—your stomach should flutter, your heartbeat should race, your hands and feet should turn cold. That's when you know you've found something special."

She elaborates on her process of finding the character's essence. "It's a tradition in my house. On the first day of any shoot, my brother always asks me, 'Surr mil gaya kya?' And I truly believe in that. You have to find the 'surr'—the rhythm, the tone, the soul of the character. That's what defines you for the days you inhabit that role."

Over her illustrious career, Dutta has played a myriad of diverse and unforgettable characters. While she resonates with every role in some way, a few stand out more personally.

"There's a piece of you in every character you play," she reflects. "For example, in *Sharmaji Ki Beti*, I deeply connected with the character. She's someone who comes from a small town, feels a bit lost, but keeps trying to find her place. That was very me in many ways. And then there's the child-woman element in her—I see that in myself too. Even after all these years, I've managed to preserve that innocence. I've nurtured it, pampered it, and kept it close, and I'm proud of that." She continues, "In *Bandish Bandits*, I saw a little of myself in Nandini as well. Her vulnerability, her strength—it all felt familiar. But there are roles that are completely unlike me, and those are equally thrilling. For instance, in *Dhakkad*, I played Rohini, a character so different from who I am. But I had an absolute blast. It was almost like unlocking a quirky, chaotic box in my mind every time I stepped into her shoes. The thoughts, the emotions, the unpredictability—it was exhilarating."

Looking ahead, the *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*'s slate is brimming with exciting projects that showcase her versatility and passion for storytelling. She shares her enthusiasm for *Chhava*, a project she's deeply invested in, and a film based on a book where she takes on an antagonist's role opposite Manoj Bajpayee. There's also a beautiful show where she plays a titular role, adding yet another layer to her repertoire. Among her upcoming ventures is *Ek Ruka Hua Faisla* and a poignant biopic of an Army wife—a graceful woman from Kolkata whose life story she has embraced wholeheartedly. Working alongside Neeraj Kabi in this touching narrative has been a unique experience for Dutta. With two films ready for release soon, she continues to push creative boundaries, leaving audiences eagerly anticipating what she'll bring to the screen next.

Divya Dutta takes *The Pioneer* into her world, discussing the evolving nature of her career, her approach to challenging roles and the drive that continues to inspire her as she takes on one unforgettable performance after another



TRENDING

USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN

PERSON



The Indian Music Legend, Ustad Zakir Hussain's news of him passing away came out as a shock for not just the music fraternity, but also the entire world. He was in the US during his last days.

DRUNK LAW STUDENTS THREAT TO TRAFFIC POLICE

VIDEO



In a viral video, a young law student, who was high on alcohol was seen threatening the traffic police, after being stopped by the officials.

MOVIE

MISMATCHED SEASON 3



The much-awaited season of *Mismatched*'s return has generated quite an immense buzz giving fans a glimpse of what's in store for the characters.

ARDHAM CHESKOVU ENDUKU

SONG



The fourth single *Ardham Cheskovu Enduku* from *Drinker Sai* expressed the pain of love, portraying the emotional turmoil of love and longing.

GANGES RIVER DOLPHINS

PICTURE



A team of wildlife conservationists tagged the almost-blind Ganges river dolphin for the first time.

PCOS, INSULIN RESISTANCE AND VULNERABILITY TO RECURRENT INFECTIONS

Beyond hormones and weight gain, a silent metabolic storm heightens the risk of UTIs for millions of women with PCOS. For millions of women globally, Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is often reduced to its visible symptoms: irregular periods, weight struggles, acne, and excessive hair growth. Yet beneath this surface, a deeper, often overlooked pathology quietly unfolds—one that not only disrupts the endocrine system but also impacts immunity, paving the way for recurrent infections like urinary tract infections (UTIs).

The bridge between PCOS and frequent UTIs is a metabolic minefield: insulin resistance. "Polycystic ovarian disease has a fundamental pathology that is closely tied to metabolic processes, with insulin resistance being the most crucial factor," explains Dr. Arati Adhe Rojekar, consultant gynecologist at P.D. Hinduja Hospital.

Cascade of consequences

At the heart of the problem lies insulin resistance, where the body's cells fail to respond adequately to insulin, forcing the pancreas to produce more of the hormone. While the link between insulin resistance and weight gain is well known, the trickle-down effects are far more insidious. Elevated insulin levels don't just promote weight gain—they disrupt glucose metabolism, weaken the immune system and create an environment ripe for infections.

The urinary system, already vulnerable in women due to anatomy, becomes particularly susceptible. The explanation is twofold: high glucose levels in urine (glucosuria) foster bacterial growth, while impaired nerve function in advanced insulin resistance (diabetic neuropathy) leads to incomplete bladder emptying. "When severe insulin resistance is left untreated for extended periods and affects the nervous system, it leads to incomplete bladder emptying and impaired urinary voiding. These conditions ultimately contribute to the development of recurring urinary tract infections," Dr. Rojekar adds.

Spectrum of severity

The severity of insulin resistance varies from patient to patient, amplifying based on weight, comorbidities like diabetes and genetic predispositions. For women with PCOS who are overweight, the risk of developing type 2 diabetes—and, subsequently, diabetic nephropathy—rises dramatically. Diabetic nephropathy, which signals kidney damage caused by high blood sugar, further complicates the immune system's ability to fend off infections.

The numbers tell a grim story. Studies have shown that women with PCOS are up to four

times more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes in their lifetime compared to the general female population. The accompanying risk of UTIs is an unspoken part of that statistic, often brushed aside as an unrelated issue.

But for women experiencing persistent or recurrent UTIs, the ripple effects are far-reaching: chronic discomfort, reliance on antibiotics and in severe cases, kidney infections or sepsis.

Gendered burden

It is no secret that UTIs disproportionately affect women. Anatomically, the urethra in women is shorter, giving bacteria easier access to the bladder. The addition of insulin resistance into this equation intensifies the vulnerability. "There is an intricate interplay between metabolism, immunity and infections in women with PCOS. It's not just about hormones—it's about the way the body handles insulin and glucose at every level," says Dr. Vasundara Cheepurupalli.

Senior Consultant Gynaecologist, Robotic and Laparoscopic Surgeon, Cosmetic Gynaecologist and Obstetrician at KIMS Cuddles.

For many women, this connection is revelatory. PCOS is often treated as a "reproductive issue" and the focus remains on restoring menstrual cycles and managing symptoms like infertility. The metabolic consequences—particularly insulin resistance—are sidelined, with infections like UTIs being treated as isolated incidents.

"The real problem is the fragmented approach to care," says Dr. Rojekar. "We manage infections as they come, but fail to connect them back to the root cause, which is insulin resistance."

Breaking cycle

For women with PCOS who battle recurrent UTIs, a multifaceted approach to treatment is crucial. Managing insulin resistance becomes the linchpin—not just to improve metabolic health but also to reduce susceptibility to infections. Dr. Cheepurupalli lists out the possible interventions:

Lifestyle Changes: A low-glycemic, anti-inflammatory diet and regular physical activity can improve insulin sensitivity.

Medications: Metformin, a drug commonly prescribed to treat insulin resistance, can help regulate blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of glucosuria.

Bladder Health: For women with impaired bladder function due to diabetic neuropathy, pelvic floor therapy or urogynecological interventions may be necessary.

"We need a paradigm shift in how we view PCOS. It's not merely a gynecological disorder; it's a metabolic syndrome with far-reaching implications," says Dr. Cheepurupalli.

Road forward

Despite being one of the most common endocrine disorders among women of reproductive age, PCOS remains underdiagnosed and misunderstood. As awareness grows, so does hope. Addressing insulin resistance not only alleviates the visible burdens of PCOS but also fortifies the body against silent threats. For women navigating the complexities of this condition, it's a step toward reclaiming their health—one infection-free day at a time.



NAVIGATING URBAN FORESTS AND NURTURING ADMIN

EDUCATION

did Bachelor of Science (Forestry) from Osmania University (1982-85) and Master of Science (Life Sciences) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (1986-1988). I also did Postgraduate Diploma in Environment Management from the University of Hyderabad, Post Graduate Program in Public Policy and Management at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), and Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from Kakatiya University.

STANDOUT ACHIEVEMENTS

nurtured the growth of Hyderabad's Botanical Garden into 'Vruksha Parichaya Kshetram'. This innovative initiative connects people with nature through thematic planting and cultural integration. With over 2,000 plant species grouped into 75 themes, such as the Sports Tree Garden, the project has become an interactive learning hub for children and visitors.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

My efforts have brought me accolades and awards, including the very prestigious Golden Peacock Award and the Indra Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award. I have poured out my sweat and blood at each step of the growth of the Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI) as its founding dean. I know in our field applauds are claimed by someone later, but I had executed the best building for the institute in Telangana and was there until the first batch celebrated convocation. My sweat is there in every brick and blood in each step. This institution has since become a beacon for professional forestry education in Telangana. As the Managing Director of the Forest Corporation, I demonstrated leadership by achieving sustainable management certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Bonn, and replacing exotic plantations with native species along the Regional Ring Road.

ENHANCING CITY'S CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Enriching urban reserve forest blocks through protection from weeds, human activities, and cattle, coupled with soil and moisture conservation, water harvesting efforts, and the planting of native species, enhances the city's climate resilience. These initiatives contribute to creating carbon sinks, mitigating floods, and reducing urban heat, thereby improving the environment. Additionally, they provide fresh air for morning walkers and recreational spaces for city dwellers, making urban forestry a vital component of sustainable urban living.

PUSHPA SANDALWOOD CASE

It has been an unforgettable mark for 10 years. In the initial stage of my career, during my interactions with red sanders handlers, we were supposed to monitor licenced stock in private custody. In 1996, as the then District Forest Officer in Chittoor, I inspected a godown and issued a memo for not maintaining records. He had claimed red sanders material worth rupees thirty crore and the next day what happens is he burnt the material. Higher officials were worried about the burnt material. However, I verified and found out that the burnt material was of substandard quality and that the material in my district was not more than 600 tons. I had to chargesheet a team. I had worked with the team for four years. I did face real *Pushpa* threats during that time and was attending enquires for 10 years.

RAPID FIRE

- FAVOURITE COLOUR:** BROWNISH
- FAVOURITE DESTINATION:** LANDSCAPE PLACES NOT CROWDED
- FAVOURITE BOOKS:** PERSONALITY BASED BOOKS
- FAVOURITE HERO:** PRABHAS



DR CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER, IS SO TO SPEAK A REAL-LIFE HERO. MANY FEATHERS ADORN HIS CAP, FROM CONFRONTING A 'PUSHPA' ON THE GROUND TO HANDLING MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS IN THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE NOW. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE PIONEER'S DEEPIKA PASHAM, DR CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY, SHARES CERTAIN SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HIS STINT AS A DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER AND THE ONE FICTIONALISED IN PUSHPA MOVIE CONCERNING RED SANDALWOOD SMUGGLERS AND HOW HE ROSE TO EMINENCE IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER IN TELANGANA STATE



DR CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

ROOTS IN FORESTRY

I started off as a Sub-Divisional Forest Officer in the erstwhile Nizamabad District. That stint laid the foundation for my lifelong commitment to sustainable development and ecological restoration. Over the years, I have played multiple roles, ranging from leading participatory irrigation and watershed management projects to pioneering urban forestry models.

IN STEP WITH LONG-TERM VISION

The environmental demands of cities are expected to increase significantly as urban populations grow, with 50 per cent of the population projected to reside in cities. Urban forest ecosystems must be preserved permanently to ensure climate resilience in cities. Additionally, protecting rural lands from encroachment poses a significant challenge, as forests have a natural ability to regenerate. Agroforestry and horticulture will play pivotal roles when it comes to adopting a landscape approach for environmental restoration and sustainability.

NO FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

In my growing years as a student, I could meet the growing financial needs by doing very well in all my examinations and receiving a scholarship to sustain my education.

A MOTHER'S CHILD

I am very close to my mother as she has been managing the house and taking care of the whole family. My father, a people's man, has been active in society. We were somewhat afraid of him. She is happy that I have made it to the Chief Minister's Office from a remote village in Adilabad.

EXTENDED FAMILY

I hail from Boregaon village in the Ichoda mandal, Adilabad. My elder brother has done M Sc Agriculture. He was with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). He resigned and has since been the Managing Director of Sreenidhi Bank, Self Help Micro Finance Bank of Telangana for the past 15 years. Another brother of mine is Chief Engineer in the Panchayati Raj Department. I have a sister. I am married to a doctor. I have two sons, one is married and the other one will get married this year. All of us live in Hyderabad and we are a happy extended family.



HAPPIEST MOMENT

My happiest moment was seeing my name in the UPSC results list. It was the fruition of a seven-year dream and a struggle. In all, 35 years have elapsed since then.

NOT JUST AN EMPLOYEE

My motto has been to always make a difference. I create my own work. I don't like someone telling me about work, even if it is my boss. I create the work; make a vision, strategise and decide who all should be enrolled. Team work has been my strength and commitment to work is fundamental to my cadre.

DISTRACTIONS FROM OFFICERS

There are a lot of distractions these days. Officers do have knowledge but lack in building a commitment. However, a few are doing a great job.

TRAINING 600 CIVIL SERVANTS

Similar to the one in the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie there is a training course in Hyderabad and my participation was three times as its Course Coordinator. It is an achievement for me, because while leaving MCRHRD officers have written "It was worth training UPSC to get trained in MCRHRD" I saw the change in their minds. I changed the version of training. Introduced innovative things in learning: for example, Heritage Walks, Public Policies debates etc, and asked groups to make presentations.

MARRIAGE

I am a family man and I interact with my family members in my free time. I attend workshops. My marriage was an arranged one; my wife has an MA Political Science and is a homemaker.

I NORMALLY DON'T MISS MOVIES

I watch movies quite often and will search and watch them again after a year or so. In Tollywood, it has been Prabhas,

Allu Arjun and Nani for natural acting. In Bollywood, it is hit movies that I watch. I take time at night.

I WORKED IN SIX DEPARTMENTS

I have worked in Forest, Rural, Irrigation, Energy, HRD and Urban Development departments. Now I am handling 11 departments from the Chief Minister's Office.

EXPERIENCE WITH FORMER CM KCR

After (then TRS chief) K Chandrasekhar Rao became Chief Minister, when we all, as first IFS batch, met him; our most memorable interactions were in the initial days when he had his first file ready for Haritha Haram. No politician dares to plant so many saplings in the first year. In the administrative process, I was made to wait six months for a posting in my own Telangana. It was always a one-day posting. In 2015, I was appointed as a member of the environment of HMDA. Then CM K Chandrasekhar Rao instructed officers on deputation to go back. It was my paid holiday.

REVANTH RECOGNIZED SINCERE WORK

Current Chief Minister Revanth Reddy chose us for the sincere work we have been doing. He is a neutral man who has the capability and capacity to make a difference.

EXPOSURE TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES

We studied a lot as part of IIM Public Policy. I have visited the World Bank. I have been to Europe and during my paid holidays I travelled to China. Recently, I had been to Argentina, Brazil. I have travelled throughout Australia. From a work point of view, it was over 10 countries and I covered almost all the continents.

ECOTOURISM POLICY

I have many plans for Adilabad district. Once the Ecotourism Policy is established, I will have three to four ecotourism projects to work and implement in Adilabad.



AN INSPIRATION

My inspiration was SP Tucker, retired IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh. It was he who encouraged us to explore, innovate, and work as a team. We were trained not to show off as government officers but to remain public servants. We never show off.

CHERISHES CLASSICAL DANCE AND ART

I have fond memories of watching accomplished artistes perform, from Sumathi Kaushal to Jamuna Krishnan. I do keep my schedule and attend events featuring traditional dance and music. It fills my eyes with happiness while watching them perform.

