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The Centre will allocate land for the memorial of Dr Manmohan Singh as per the rules and regulations applicable to all former PMs. But the Congress is continuing its political game. History is witness to the fact that the Congress

> had deceived and insulted former Prime Ministers Dr Manmohan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and former President Pranab Mukherjee as they did not belong to the Congress party's dynasty

- G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister

#### **'HYDRAA reclaims** 200 acres of land'

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) announced its achievements for 2024. It addressed 5,800 public complaints and planned significant initiatives for the coming year. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, while releasing a report on its annual achievements, said that demarcation of full tank level (FTI) of various lakes would be completed within four to five months under its its jurisdiction and their goals..

#### Tiger sighting thrills tourists

In the Amrabad Nallamala Wildlife Sanctuary (Amrabad Tiger Reserve Zone) in Nagarkurnool District, tourists on a safari ride spotted a big tiger. Suddenly, a large tiger emerged from the bushes beside them and walked towards the safari vehicles. The tourists, seeing the tiger up close, were filled with excitement, as the safari ride became a success. However. there was also fear and anxiety wondering if the tiger might approach them. The tiger, after observing the tourists, calmly walked ahead of the safari



#### **Snowfall disrupts** life in Kashmir

The Kashmir Valley received the season's heaviest snowfall on Saturday which threw normal life out of gear, affecting air, rail and road traffic as well as disrupting power and water minister Omar Abdullah reviewed the snow clearance operations in a video conference meeting with all deputy commissioners. Moderate to heavy snowfall was recorded across Kashmir from Friday, including the season's first snowfall in Srinagar city ..

#### Mangaluru Airport sees robust growth

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has reported a year of significant growth, infrastructure advancements, and achievements in sustainability and safety, capping off an eventful 2024. officials said on Saturday. According to a statement from the airport spokesperson, the airport recorded its highest-ever passenger traffic for a single month in October, handling 202,892 passengers, including 138.902 domestic and 63.990 international travellers. This milestone highlights the growing importance of MIA as a regional aviation hub, connecting Mangaluru to key destinations. Infrastructure upgrades at the airport received recognition with the Build India Infra Award 2024 in the innovation.

# Nation bids teary adieu to Manmohan





Before Singh's mortal remains were consigned to flames, the security forces gave a salute of three volleys of small arms and the buglers sounded the "Last Post" as a mark of honour for the former prime minister

#### Last rites held with full state honours

PNS NEW DELHI

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who led India to the path of economic liberalisation in the 1990s, was cremated with full state honours here on Saturday in the presence of top dignitaries from the country and abroad.

Singh's funeral pyre was lit by his eldest daughter, Upinder Singh, at the Nigambodh Ghat as family members, friends and dignitaries bid farewell to the reformist former prime minister.

President Droupadi Murmu, the supreme commander of the armed forces, led the nation in paying last respects to the departed leader.

Priests and family members recited religious hymns from the holy Gurbani, while chants of "Satnam Waheguru" filled the air, as Singh was cremated according to Sikh rituals.

Before Singh's mortal remains were consigned to flames, the security forces gave a salute of three volleys of small arms and the buglers sounded the "Last Post" as a mark of honour for the former prime minister.

At the Nigambodh Ghat, a sense of deep grief united the assembly featuring Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, Union ministers and senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the foreign minister of Mauritius, Dhananjay Ramful, were among the foreign dignitaries who paid tributes to Singh, who served as the prime minister from 2004 to 2014.

Singh (92) died on the night of December 26. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home

Minister Amit Shah and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla aÎso paid their last tributes to the former prime minister and laid wreaths on his mortal remains.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and the chiefs of the tri-services also laid wreaths on the former prime minister's mortal

Former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel were also present, apart from All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretaries K C Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Surjewala and several former

**Continued on Page 2** 

Govt insulted Singh by holding last rites at Nigambodh Ghat: Cong 😉

Special Assembly

tomorrow to honour

Manmohan Singh

#### **FORMULA E CASE**

## KTR passes the blame on officials

PNS HYDERABAD

executed his orders Formula Agreement, passed the blame to officials and department in the latest counter filed in In his reply affi-

davit filed in the Telangana High Court, KTR has distanced himself from

the allegations of procedural lapses and financial irregularities in the Formula E payments case. KTR asserted that the responsibility for procedural compliance rested solewith the concerned officials in the department and that he had no role

in such matters.

he asserted.

"The Petitioner is not expected to In a change in strategy, BRS deal with the procedural require-Working President and MLA ments; the same is the lookout of the Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao persons concerned in the depart-(KTR), who said Arvind Kumar ment," KTR stated in his affidavit.

> He further emphafor the concerned department to obtain approvals, if any, and the petitioner is no way concerned with the same being a Minister MA&UD."

KTR stressed that with the Model Code of Conduct coming into force on October 9, 2023, he became functus officio and was no longer involved in departmental decisions. "The petitioner is no way concerned with the alleged irregularities, if any,"

**Continued on Page 2** 

#### Govt issues tenders • A golden day for TG, says Minister PNS HYDERABAD

In a major milestone for Telangana, tenders have been for the construction of the Hyderabad Northern Regional Ring Road (RRR),

marking a historic day in the

state's development. Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy described the occasion as a "golden day" in Telangana's history, crediting Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his persistent efforts alongside his own to make this long-pend-

ing dream a reality. The RRR project, divided into five packages, aims to construct a fourlane greenfield road across 162

## PACKAGES AND COSTS

Big push to RRR

♦ Girmapur to Reddipally (34.518 km)

◆ Cost: Rs 1,529.19 crore ◆ Reddipally to Islampur (26 km)

◆ Cost: RO. 1,114.80 crore

◆ Islampur to Pragnapur (23 km) ◆ Cost: Rs. 1,184.81 crore

◆ Pragnapur to Rayagiri (43 km) ◆ Cost: Rs. 1,728.22 crore

◆ Rayagiri to Tangadpally (35 km) ◆ Cost: Rs. 1,547.04 crore

kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs 7,104.06 crore. The project is expected to transform Telangana's infrastructure, providing a massive boost

#### to connectivity and economic growth.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) floated the tenders or December 27, 2024. The last date for tender submission is February 14, 2025, at 11:30 am.

with the tenders set to be

opened on the same day. The project involves a construction timeline of two years and a maintenance period of five years for all five packages. Minister Venkat Reddy said that while the RRR was pro-

Continued on Page 2

posed in 2017, the negligence of the BRS government delayed the project. "After assuming office in December 2023, I have tirelessly worked for the RRR project," he stat-

#### The Telangana Assembly will hold

PNS HYDERABAD

a special one-day session on Monday, that is, on December 30, to pay tributes to former Prime Dr Manmohan who died on December 26. The Assembly will be convened at 10 am as part of the week-long mourning for Dr Manmohan Singh.

On Saturday, the Assembly Secretary released a letter regarding this stating that the Speaker had convened the second meeting of the fourth session of the third Telangana Legislative Assembly at 10 am on Monday at the Assembly Hall, exercising powers vested in him under the second proviso of Rule 16 which rules over the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly. The Speaker also requested members to attend the Assembly without fail.

# 'Rythu Bharosa' is only for cultivable lands, asserts Tummala

#### Govt to use remote sensing data to estimate cultivated lands

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

The government intends to provide investment assistance only to cultivated lands as per the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, the Minister for Agriculture, Tummala Nageswara Rao, said.

He said that he had held talks on Saturday with representatives of



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao with Agriculture Department Secretary Raghunandan Rao at Secretariat on Saturday

vated areas using remote sensing companies who can estimate cultidata to launch the 'Rythu Bharosa'

scheme from Sankranthi. He said the registration of cultivated lands by farmers is done from time to time by agricultural officers. In addition to this, for accuracy in implementing the scheme, satellite data giving the area of land under cultivation village-wise with survey numbers, the area under cultivation, the area in which a crop is currently being cultivated, the sta-Continued on Page 2

#### Harish asks CM to set up toor dal procurement centres toor dal on over six lakh acres, are

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS's Siddipet MLA, Harish Rao, addressed an open letter to

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging the government to immediately set up purchase centres for toor dal (split pigeon peas) across Telangana and to fulfil the election promise to provide Rs 400 bonus over the

Minimum Support Price (MSP). In his letter, Harish emphasized

projected to produce 2.5 lakh tonnes of the crop this season. The Congress manifesto, including the Warangal Rythu Declaration, promised an addition-

al bonus of Rs 400 per quintal apart from MSP, he said. He expressed disappointment at the government not providing

procurement centres,

leaving farmers vulnerable to exploitation in open markets. While the MSP for toor dal is Rs that Telangana farmers, cultivating 7,550 per quintal, **Continued on Page 2** 

### 33% growth in FDI, ranks sixth

Telangana records

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana witnessed a significant surge in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows during the first half of fiscal 2024-25, with investments totalling Rs 12,864 crore between April and September 2024. This is a 33% increase compared to the Rs 9,679 crore recorded in the same period last year, an increment of Rs 3,185 crore.

The data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry says that Telangana stands



# Vizag goes gaga over Nitish Kumar's debut Test ton

In a historic moment for Indian cricket, Nitish Kumar Reddy, a young cricketer hailing from Tungalam near Gajuwaka in Visakhapatnam, scored a magnificent century against Australia in his debut match during the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Melbourne. The iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), with a crowd nearing 80,000, rose to its feet in admiration as Nitish, after reaching his century, removed his helmet, knelt, and saluted the heavens in a moment of pure emotion and gratitude.

The news has sent waves of jubilation across the Telugu community, with his hometown celebrating this remarkable achievement. Nitish's century, scored under immense pres-



Young cricketer from Tungalam, Visakhapatnam, shines on debut in Border-Gavaskar Trophy; a proud moment for his family and the Telugu community

sure, has captivated cricket fans worldwide and is being hailed as a defining moment in the match.

During a brief interruption in play due to fading light, former Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist seized the opportunity to interview Nitish's proud father, Mutyala Reddy. Recognizing the gravity his emotions. "Today is incredibly special for us," said an emotional Mutyala Reddy. "I was tense when Nitish reached 99 runs, but I'm overjoyed to see him complete his century. This is a moment I will cherish forever." He went on to express his pride and gratitude: "I am proud of my son Nitish for making us all proud. The sacrifices of our family are now reflected in the love and admiration he has received."

of the moment, Gilchrist asked Mutyala about

Visakhapatnam's 69th Ward Corporator, Kaki Govind Reddy, also praised Nitish's courage and skill, particularly under pressure. To see our Telugu player score a century in Melbourne against Australia in his debut match is truly remarkable," he said, calling it a proud moment for the entire Telugu community.



# Will Revanth deliver on his promise or walk political tightrope?

delangana Pradesh Congress Committee stormy petrel Revanth Reddy stormed to power mainly on the strength of his fiery speeches about taking on the Kalvakuntla family that had everyone buzzing through the poll campaign and continued with hardly any let-up thereafter. Probing corruption, 'constructing 2BHKs in Cherlapally Jail and sending the family there' sounded like a concrete item on his agenda. Fast forward a year and whispers are growing louder: Where's the action? Political circles are of the considered view that not arresting any members of the family in question could hand the Bharatiya Janata Party a golden opportunity to target him and fuel public disenchantment. But here's the catch: arresting the family patriarch K Chandrasekhar Rao might trigger a sympathy wave similar to the one riding which Chandrababu Naidu returned to power in the neighbouring state. "KTR, though, is a different story" murmur a section of political strategists. With a section of the public having no love lost for KTR; any backlash might be less damaging and Formula E is a surefire weapon. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has not spoken his mind on Formula E case in public. If and when he does, it will be as convincing as his Assembly speech on Pushpa-2 stampede and Allu Arjun's arrest. For newbies, after his Assembly speech on Allu Arjun, Revanth got an upper hand in the entire scene. On Formula E case too, he does have solid points. For

now, the Congress seems to be walking a tightrope, trying to balance promises with political optics. Those close to Revanth

say that keeping his word-strategically, of course - is not less important. The larger question is: Either way, will the public buy into it?

#### Lights, camera, action! The **Cabinet Sub-Committee script**

Although Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy strategically turned the spot-light on himself before and during his meeting with movie moguls; post that closely watched meeting, the corridors of power have been abuzz with whispers about the fade-out of Komatireddy Venkatreddy, the Cinematography Minister, who appears better aligned with the public than with the film industry over which he presides. For, post the high-profile meeting involving the CM, Dy CM, and TFI bigwigs, all eyes were on the composition of the promised Cabinet Sub-Committee to address issues concerning the film industry. But guess what? The plot thickened. Revanth reportedly wants Bhatti to head the committee, much to the chagrin of Komatireddy. Why? Because Komatireddy believes, as the Minister concerned, it is within his right to head Why? Because the panel. But insiders hint that Revanth isn't keen on having an "aggressive" minster like Komatireddy steering the ship. "Having Bhatti at the helm would strike a balance with the industry", is said to be Revanth's reasoning (or modifications in the script). Komatireddy, meanwhile, is holding his ground, as he is confident of the ultimate outcome of the show. He about looks-it's about strategy, determiargues that sidelining him would set a

tight-lipped, sources say the film industry is watching the drama scripted by AI (Ánumula Intelligence) unfold like a nailbiting thriller. Circles within the industry and outside can't wait for the final credits to roll!

#### Revanth's take on divine dispensation and mundane ratings

Humankind believes in a multiplicity of Gods, Goddesses, the Almighty or whatever be the name(s) attributed to the divine dispensation under which people play their assigned parts and exit the stage, so to speak. TG Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy highlighted the lack of a universal figure even in the divine realm when asked about a section of people expressing their disenchantment with his leadership. In mundane terms, Revanth Reddy responded: "When even Gods don't have 100% approval, how can I, a mere human, have it?" For once, he left everyone reflecting on his ponderous proposition that drew a parallel between divine dispensation and expectations from political leadership. Lending a philosophical touch, Revanth reportedy elaborated: "People pray to different Gods; in the same way, people have their preferences in leadership. But no God enjoys universal approval." No wonder, the Chief Minister's refrain has been: "I

RTERS' DIA

only need 51% approval to be in power". A pragmatic politician, he seems least

bothered by dissenting voices and has

instead brought laser-like focus on retain-

ing the critical mass of support he needs

(and believes he has) to steer the state.

Kavitha's makeover: a new

chapter unfolds

or some, a jail term can be a transfor-

mative experience. Books written in

ieces. Persons jailed for political reasons

have gone on to become great leaders

after clearing the air upon their release.

Whispers in political circles suggest

that MLC K Kavitha has turned over a

new leaf post her Tihar jail stint. Gone

are the days of her stately public appear-

ances in vibrant pattu, Narayanpet, and

ikat sarees. She is now willingly embrac-

ing non-elitist cotton and aesthetically

appealing fibers, signaling a sartorial shift in her public image. On the whole, it is

clear that Kavitha has opened a new play-

book. For, apart from her metamorpho-

sis into a minimalist, she has been keen

on grabbing media space like never

before. Be it a political issue or further-

ing the cause of a community, her voice

seems to stand out everywhere, appar-

Party insiders hint that the challenges she

faced during her time in jail have steeled

her to take on whatever comes her way.

"She's not the same Kavitha anymore,

says a close aide. "The makeover isn't just

nation, and reclaiming her narrative.'

Whether this transformation will silence

ently with no day off in her cal

jail have proved to be enduring master-

one's guess. But one thing is for sure: Kavitha 2.0 is here to stay (and grab eyeballs of those who would be ready to also lend their ears as well).

#### **Question mark over KTR's** studied silence amid Formula

ed as a bid to avoid a 'media trial', perhaps a more transparent approach would

put amorphous matters in perspective in the public domain. Informed

Maybe, it is time for KTR's team to rethink their strategy.

#### 'Pushpa' catalyses change among Communists!

Films can be catalysts for change when it comes to social templates. enhance the ticket prices. Opening a new chapter on 'zulm on police', former navalite and

(With inputs from Naveena

# E case twists and turns

If there is one thing that KTR's spin doctors could profitably take a page from, it is Kavitha's PR playbook. Even when Kavitha was in the glare of media scrutiny in the liquor scam case, her team came up with meticulous updates. From ED summons to the exact date of her appearance, every detail was promptly and clearly communicated to the media, leaving no room for speculation or confusion. In sharp contrast, KTR's PR machinery seems to be playing a different ball game altogether. Despite the 'arresting' details tumbling out of ongoing probes around the Formula E case, not a single piece of communication has come from his team so far to put the record straight. Let alone media circles, ever others watching the progress of the case are wondering why the entire approach needs to be so secretive. If indeed there is nothing to hide, what keeps KTR from addressing the matter head-on? Instead of a pushback project-

public will never fall prey to ill-founded rumours.

At least the film 'Pushpa' has done it for sure in the case of Communists. Although 'Police zulm nashinchali' (End police brutality) has been their time-tested rallying cry, of late the Communists seem to have changed their template, perhaps as a cameo. The Communists have extended their support to the Telangana Police's action in the recent Sandhya Theatre stampede case, giving a clean chit to the uniformed force. Communist leaders, noticeably Congress-friendly ones like MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao and Dr K Narayana, verbalized their support, saying: 'Police are not at fault in the Sandhya Theatre incident'. Spotting thorns in Pushpa-2 film, they opined that it has 'nothing', considering it portrays a red sanders smuggler as the hero. The Communists found fault also with the government for giving permission to benefit shows and scope to Minister Seethakka, endorsing the view of the TG Police, found fault with the Centre for giving 'Best Actor' award to the hero of Pushpa-1 film Allu

Ghanate, Kolishetty Venkateshwarlu)

#### PJR was champion of the poor, says Revanth addressing people's problems

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid glowing tributes to Congress leader P. Janardhan Reddy (PJR), a former minister, on the occasion of his

death anniversary.

Remembering PJR as a champion of the underprivileged, the CM stressed his unwavering dedication to

and his role as a strong advocate of the Telangana cause.

Revanth garlanded PJR's portrait and reflected on his service as the Congress Legislature Party (ČLP) leader from 1994 to 1999 in the United Andhra Pradesh. "PJR was a voice of the downtrodden and always prioritized the needs of the poorer



sections," said the Chief

The CM emphasized PJR's contributions to Congress and his pivotal role in shaping the party's stance on public welfare and Telangana's aspirations. He concluded by reaffirming the party's commitment to carrying forward PJR's legacy of service and justice for all.

## **Govt insulted Singh by holding last** rites at Nigambodh Ghat: Cong

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the Centre of insulting Manmohan Singh, the country's first Sikh prime minister, by carrying out his last rites at the Nigambodh Ghat instead of a designated spot that could later become his memorial.

The opposition party had written to the Centre for identifying a designated place for Singh's last rites, where a memorial could be set up for

As politics over the matter erupted, the Centre said a decision to set up a memorial has already been taken and a trust would be formed to identify the place soon.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the great son of Mother India ment should have shown

and the first prime minister from the Sikh community has been "totally insulted" by the BJP-led Centre by performing his last rites at the Nigambodh Ghat on Saturday.

He said Singh was the prime minister for 10 years, the country became an economic superpower during his tenure and his policies are still the support system for the poor and backward classes.

"Till date, respecting the dignity of all former prime ministers, their last rites were performed at authorised burial sites so that every person could have a last darshan and pay homage without any

'Dr Manmohan Singh deserves our highest respect and a memorial. The govern-

inconvenience.

respect to this great son of the country and his proud community," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said by not providing an appropriate place for the former prime minister's cremation, the Centre has not done justice to the dignity of the post, his personality, legacy and the self-respecting Sikh community.

She said earlier, all former rime ministers were given the ighest honour and respect.

Dr Manmohan Singhji deserves this honour and a Samadhi Sthal. Today, the whole world is remembering his contributions. The government should have thought beyond politics and narrowmindedness in this matter," she said in a post in Hindi on X.

#### 'Honour Manmohan with Bharat Ratna

Demanding that the BJP-led Central Government should give Bharat Ratna to former Prime Minister, the late Dr Manmohan Singh, Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy said that it was Dr Manmohan Singh who had waived the loans of farmers across the nation in one go.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Jeevan Reddy said that it was Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who set right the nation's economy and provided livelihoods to the poor. The credit for introducing the Right to Information (RTI) Act and Metro Rail goes to Manmohan Singh, he said.

He said that Manmohan Singh had a special regard for Telangana and had also played an important part in enhancing the image of Hyderabad's IT industry.

## BCs don't want Kavitha's leadership: Adi Srinivas

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that BRS MLC Kavitha has been enacting dramas in the name of 'BCs' to divert public attention from her Delhi liquor case, Government Whip Adi Srinivas said that Kavitha has been showering fake love on BCs to confuse people.

He made it clear that BCs

are not so helpless to join movements headed by upper castes. Criticising Kavitha for planning a public meeting on January 3 in the name of BCs, Srinivas asked BCs that they should not attend the meeting being organised under Kavitha's leadership. "Who asked Kavitha to

organise a meeting of BCs? BCs don't need Kavitha, who was in jail for months in connection with the Delhi liquor mas in the name of BC reservations. What connection does she have with BCs? Kavitha is shedding crocodile tears for BCs. What is the need for Kavitha to fight for BCs?" he

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is doing justice to BCs in all aspects. The Chief Minister is going to increase reservations for BCs, he said, making it clear that BCs have

Harish asks...

Continued from page 1

quintal.

market prices range between Rs 6,500 and Rs 6,800, causing

farmers a loss of Rs 800 per

"Farmers are in distress as they fail to receive even basic

MSP in open markets due to

the government's negligence.

Many are suffering greater

He called for immediate

action by the government to

help toor dal farmers by estab-

lishing procurement centres

adequate strength to get their problems solved.

"BCs will solve their problems under the leadership of BCs. There is no need for Kavitha to fight for BCs. Did Kavitha speak about BCs when the BRS was in power for 10 years?" Srinivas said.

#### BC leaders condemn Adi's remarks against Kavitha

BC leaders strongly condemned the remarks of the Congress Government's whip, Adi Srinivas, against BRS MLC Kavitha at a press conference organised by the United Phule Front (UPF) at the Somajiguda Press Club here on

The event, attended by leaders from various BC associations, saw sharp criticism of how the Congress ignored BC issues over the

Addressing the gathering, UPF leader Dugutla Naresh Kumar questioned Congress's contributions to BCs' welfare in the last 75

state-wide so that farmers get

MSP and by delivering the

promised Rs 400 bonus as per

the Warangal Declaration to

act promptly to uphold its promises. This is not just a

matter of policy but a commit-

ment made to our farmers,"

He concluded by reaffirm-

ing the BRS's solidarity with

farmers and demanded swift

government intervention to

protect their interests.

protect farmers.

Harish said.

### Congress politicising Manmohan Singh's death, says Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress tasted disappointment trying to politicise former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's death, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said. He criticised the Congress allegation that the BJP-led Centre had insulted Manmohan while conducting his final rites at the Nigambodh Ghat instead of conducting it on official burial grounds.

Kishan said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge and Manmohan Singh's family that the Centre will allocate land for the memorial of Manmohan Singh as per rules

and regulations applicable to all former Prime Ministers. However, the Congress is continuing its political game, he

Kishan said that history is telling that the Congress had deceived and insulted former Prime Ministers Dr Manmohan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and former President Pranabh Mukherjee who did not belong to the Congress dynasty.

Kishan said the Congress should not forget when it expresses its condolences to Manmohan about its insults towards Manmohan. Kishan said that Manmohan Singh's heirs deserve more condolences than what the Congress expressed now.

## Finalise R&R package for Narasimha Sagar evacuees: Gudur

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader Gudur Narayana Reddy requested Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to help the evacuees of the Narasimha Sagar Reservoir Project in Bhuvanagiri district as they were grossly neglected by the BRS Government.

In a statement released to the media on Saturday, he said that the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Package for those who lost their land for the reservoir has been pending for around five years. "Even though the court directed officials to finalise the R&R package for the oustees in May 2023

with Rs 600 crore the BRS government did not obey the order. The oustees are now in extreme distress," he said.

He reminded that the BRS Government decided to construct the Narasimha Sagar Reservoir at Baswapur in Bhuvanagiri district to fill the tanks of the erstwhile Nalgonda district with a capacity of around 11 TMCs of water.

The government began land acquisition for the project in 2019 and acquired thousands of acres for constructing the reservoir. Although the reservoir has been built so far the R&R package has not been

#### "The government must abandon its indifferent approach towards farmers and

Continued from page 1

Nation bids ...

Among the first ones to place a wreath on the mortal remains of the late prime minister was his political mentor, Sonia Gandhi, to whom he deferred his entire life even at the cost of criticism by political rivals. It was Sonia Gandhi who, after powering the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) to victory in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, stepped back from the prime minister's chair, nominating Singh to lead the coalition.

The quintessential economist went on to steer the nation for the next 10 years, a period that saw him end India's nuclear apartheid by pressing ahead with the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, despite resistance from the Left Front that was giving support to the UPA from outside. In a show of uncharacteris-

tic firmness in 2008, Singh risked his government over the deal after the Left with-

drew support. He faced and won a no-confidence vote in the Lok Sabha.

Entering the Rajya Sabha in 1991 as a member from Assam, Singh remained in the House of Elders till April 2024. His last innings in the Upper House was from Rajasthan, the only other state he ever represented besides Assam.

Singh died of age-related complications at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, the ace tertiary-care public establishment where the former prime minister always got admitted whenever he faced medical complications.

Sources close to the family said "Akhand path" would be held at Singh's residence on January 1 and its "bhog" would be held on January 3. They said the Antim Ardas and kirtan for Singh would be conducted at the Gurdwara Rakab Ganj in the evening of January 3.

## 'Rythu Bharosa' ...

Continued from page 1

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

Chaturdash

Amavasya:

Nakshatram

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Forecast: Sunny

Sunrise: 6:45 AM

Sunset: 5:51 PM

**Temp:** 30°°

Jyeshta:

Moola:

Month & Paksham:

and implementation of crop insurance schemes are being collected for implementing the Rythu Bharosa scheme. Early detection of pest infection

precedent no Minister would tolerate.

is useful in predicting crop damage caused by floods and storms, he said and added that the government is ready to provide the technology.

The representatives of companies who attended the meeting pre-

Krishna Paksha

Dec 29 03:32 AM to Dec 30 04:01 AM

Dec 30 04:01 AM

Dec 28 10:13 PM

to Dec 29 11:22 PM Dec 29 11:22 PM

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3:02 PM to 4:25 PM

02:09 PM to 03:49 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:40 PM

**Updated:** December 28, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

to Dec 31 03:56 AM

sented details of the projects they had undertaken earlier, the details of the two mandals surveyed by them, and details crop-wise and village-wise were presented to the Minister through PowerPoint. Similarly, the areas suitable for cultivation were shown through digital maps. The models created by the companies using AI were explained to identify pests destroying crops at

the beginning stage itself.

Later, the Agriculture Minister asked the companies to get ready

#### Telangana ...

Continued from page 1 country in FDI inflows during this period. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi and Tamil Nadu secured the top five positions.

Hyderabad accounted for a substantial 93% of the FDI inflows into the state, that is, Rs 11,970 crore. Other key FDI destina-

tions were Rangareddy district with Rs 680.5 crore, Mahbubnagar with Rs 116.7 crore and Medak with Rs 96.99 crore. The data highlights the state's growing appeal as a destination for foreign investors driven by its robust infrastructure and businessfriendly policies. With sustained growth in FDI, Telangana continues to strengthen its position as a key business hub of India.

## KTR passes ...

Continued from page 1

Addressing allegations regarding procedural compliance in agreements, KTR noted, "At any rate, the procedural aspects required to be looked after by the concerned officers, and the petitioner has no role in that regard. The allegation regarding the preparation of agreement not being in conformity with Article 299 is concerned, it is for the parties to the agreement while executing the agreement to take steps for compliance of procedural require-

KTR also denied allegations under Section 409 of the IPC, stating, "The allegation that public servants, including the petitioner, seem to have dishonestly and fraudulently misappropriated the property of the Government entrusted to them, which constitutes an offence under Section 409 of IPC, is not correct. The allegation is baseless and invented only to defame the petitioner." He claimed that payments to the Formula E organizers were made pursuant to an agreement, and the second respondent, being a responsible officer, was aware of this.

"The 2nd respondent made a false and baseless allegation that the petitioner and other public servants misappropriated money A," KTR stated.

KTR reiterated that after approving the file as a minister, it was the responsibility of the concerned department to take the necessary steps to implement the decision, including procedural compliance.

'The compliance of secretariat business rules is the concern and responsibility of the concerned department officials, including procedural compliance, if any. The petitioner, being a Minister, cannot be fastened with any liability for procedural violations," he emphasized.

He concluded that "the alleged procedural irregularities will not lead to an inference of misappropriation of amounts and commission of the offences alleged."

The affidavit clearly places the burden of procedural compliance on departmental officials, with KTR denying any involvement in the alleged irregularities. The matter remains under judicial scrutiny as the Telangana High Court continues its hear-

#### Big push ...

losses," Harish said.

Continued from page 1 Venkat Reddy mentioned

holding several meetings with district collectors to resolve land acquisition issues and collaborating with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to expedite the process.

The Minister acknowledged the proactive role of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, who, understanding the state's financial constraints, assured that utility charges would be borne by the central government.

Venkat expressed gratitude for this support, adding, "If the previous government had issued the required utility charge letters earlier, the RRR

would have been completed by

Calling the RRR a "super game-changer," Venkat Reddy said the project would play a critical role in Telangana's development, ensuring a bright future for the state's children. "While the ORR changed Hyderabad's connectivity, the RRR will redefine Telangana's growth story," he

remarked.

The Minister concluded by emphasizing that the Congress government achieved this milestone within one year of coming to power, demonstrating its commitment to the state's progress.

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#### **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

Culinary Guru Institute, Hyderabad. Till January 11, 2025.

# City Pioneer

Sunday pioneer Hyderabad | Sunday | DECEMBER 29, 2024

#### **DRUG-FREE WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

#### **TGANB** to cooperate with **Edistys**, Kriyate Edutech

The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) has entered into a agreement with Edistys Foundation and Kriyate Edutech for the Drug-Free Wellness ini-

It is an online programme designed to empower teen-aged students and other relevant target audience across Telangana to make informed and healthy choices regarding drugs and substance abuse.

It will Educate students on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse, Empower them to make responsible life choices and Engage stakeholders like Parents and Educational institutions to

collectively combat the drug menace and create a positive impact on students' lives.

Students who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate issued jointly by TGANB and other Partners reflecting the collaborative effort and commitment of the partners.
Sandeep Shandilya, Director

Telangana State Anti-Narcotics Bureau, emphasided the critical need to address substance abuse through proactive education and awareness.

Samskriti Konduru and Sriharshitha Chada, representatives from Kriyate Edutech and Edistys Foundation respectively reiterated their dedication to

# **HYDRAA** reclaims 200 acres of land, says Commissioner

**DEEPIKA PASHAM** deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) announced its achievements for 2024. It addressed 5,800 public complaints and planned significant initiatives for the coming year. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, while releasing a report on its annual achievements, said that demarcation of full tank level (FTL) of various lakes would be completed within four to five months under its its jurisdiction and their goals include creating a technical wing for weather monitoring, launching an FM channel for public alerts about lake buffer zones and encroachments. HYDRAA Police Station, to be ready in a month or two, will investigate the encroachment cases and work like a regular police station in filing FIRs, make arrests. Speaking to the media, Ranganath said, "We are making sure that we respond to all the complaints but priority is being given to the public such as the community, welfare organisations who are coming with evidence of encroachments. There are many pending complaints and we are going one by one because every complaint is taking us some time to investigate, then give notices and demolish.



These thousands of complaints were concerning lake encroachments, illegal structures, and shrinking water bodies by analyzing cadastral maps, satellite images, and aerial surveys. The authority also reclaimed over 200 acres of land from encroachments, focusing on eight parks, 12 lakes, and four government plots. Proposals for rejuvenating 12 lakes, including

CheruvuSunnam (Guttalabegumpet) and Errakunta (Tarnaka), have been submitted for government approval. HYDRAA plans to use advanced surveys, such as digital elevation models and drone imaging for demarcation of full tank level. HYDRAA's Disaster Response Force (DRF) responded to 4,684 incidents this year, includ-

ing tree falls (3,428), water stagnation (912), rescue calls (199), and fire accidents (133). The force will expand from 30 to 72 teams in January 2025 to cover the Outer Ring Road region, said Ranganath. The authority plans to employ geofencing, satellite monitoring, and CCTV surveillance to detect illegal dumping and encroachments. Proposals to establish additional weather radars and automatic weather stations aim to improve disaster readiness and weather forecasting.

Residents are encouraged to perform due diligence when purchasing properties and report unauthorized constructions to HYDRAA for swift action said AV Ranganath while closing the press meet.

#### TG revenue crosses Rs 1 lakh crore mark, but falls short of targets

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana's revenue in the current financial year has surpassed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark

According to reports submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the total revenue, including tax, non-tax income, and grants, stood at Rs 1.03 lakh crore. However, this falls significantly short of the projected revenue for the financial year, with only 57 per cent of the budgeted revenue realized in the first eight months.

The government had estimated a revenue of Rs 1.64 lakh crore for the year. By Novemberend, tax revenue amounted to Rs 93,553 crore, non-tax revenue stood at Rs 5,217 crore, and grants totalled Rs 4,529 crore. Non-tax revenue reached only 15 per cent of the budgeted estimates, while grants achieved

just 21 per cent of the target. The tax revenue breakdown shows GST contributing Rs 33,766 crore, stamps and registration Rs 9,524 crore, sales tax Rs 21,081 crore, excise taxes Rs 12,364 crore, and other taxes Rs 5,343 crore. In October, the state recorded revenue of Rs 13,229 crore, but this declined to Rs 11,416 crore in November. The government's expenditure by the end of November stood at Rs 1.38 lakh crore, compared to a total income of Rs 1.41 lakh crore, including Rs 37,850 crore raised through debt. The current financial situation reflects a widening revenue deficit as expenditure outpaces income. Despite crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore revenue

### 104,730 liters of illicit liquor seized in 2024

milestone, the shortfall in meeting budget

estimates reveals the challenges ahead for the

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Excise Department seized 104,730 liters of illicit liquor in 2024 as part of its crackdown on illegal activities, reflecting a proactive approach toward combating illicit distillation and trade. The seizures, though 19.87% lower than in 2023, were accompanied by a significant rise in enforcement actions, with 21,234 cases registered and 12,727 individuals arrested—an 8.66% increase from the previous year. The department reported a notable decline in cases of non-duty-paid liquor (NDPL), with only 800 cases recorded in 2024 compared to 1,808 in 2023.

## Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan reflects on Asaf Jahi Dynasty's legacy

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The 9th Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty, Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, attended an international seminar titled The Nizam Era (1724-2024): A 300-Year Journey of Legacy & Inspiration.

The event took place at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) on Saturday. It was inaugurated by Mohd Ali Shabbir, Advisor to the Telangana Government, with a keynote address by Maulana Khaled Saifullah Rehmani, president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Former Special Chief Secretary Ajay Mishra also

On this occasion, Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan reflected on the dynasty's legacy, emphasiDing its relevance in modern India.

He stated that understanding the contributions of all 10 Nizams creates unity in diversity and enriches democratic values.

Key discussions included the financial state of the royal family, secularism, and education. Scholars presented

PNS HYDERABAD

The Kulsumpura Police, under

the guidance of DCP South-

West Zone, Hyderabad, appre-

hended three notorious habit-

ual offenders involved in mul-

tiple robbery and snatching

cases in Hyderabad and

Cyberabad police limits. The

arrests led to the detection of

six property offences and the

recovery of stolen items worth

Hassan (32), an auto driver

from Qayyum Nagar, Rajendra

Nagar, RR district, Syed Taleb

Ali alias Sameer (23), a signage

board worker from Yakutpura,

Hyderabad and Saif Ali Mirza

(19), an electric board worker

from Qayyum Nagar, Rajendra

Nagar, RR district.

The arrested are Syed Abul



9th Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty, Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan speaking at an international seminar 'The Nizam Era (1724–2024)' in Hyderabad on Saturday

research approved by Munsif's committee, exploring lesser-known aspects of the Asaf Jahi legacy.

The seminar also saw historians and scholars worldwide, highlighting the dynasty's journey from its founder, Qamaruddin, in 1724, to Hyderabad's annexation in 1948.

Discussions examined the dynasty's integration into democratic India and its alignment with Islamic principles like consensus (Ijma).

Three habitual offenders

arrested for robbery, snatching

Two motorcycles, a country-

made pistol with two live

rounds, two knives and one

knuckle puncher and eleven

mobile phones were seized

Syed Abul Hassan is

Involved in 17 prior cases,

including vehicle thefts, house

trespass, and violations under

the NDPS Act across multiple

police stations, such as

Charminar, Bahadurpura,

Syed Taleb Ali alias Sameer

is Previously involved in seven

cases, including theft, house-

breaking, and arson, regis-

tered at police stations like Mirchowk, Malkajgiri, and

have committed in six more

The accused confessed to

Rajendra

Gachibowli.

Nallakunta.

Nagar, and

A notable focus was the historical recognition of the 10 Nizams, questioning why only seven are widely recog-

The goal was to honour all ten rulers, ensuring their contributions are celebrated as part of Hyderabad Deccan's history. This seminar was both an academic platform and a space to inspire dialogue about the dynasty's role in shaping India's past, present, and

crimes, including attempt to

murder and extortion under

Attapur and Langer House

police stations limits and rob-

bery and snatching offences

Gachibowli, and Narsingi

Based on credible informa-

tion, the Kulsumpura Police

team apprehended the accused

on December 28, 2024. The

arrests and recoveries were

made under the supervision of

DCP G Chandra Mohan, ACP

Mohd. Munnawar, and the

Kulsumpura Police Station

The police assured the pub-

lic of their commitment to

cracking down on habitual

offenders and ensuring the

safety and security of citizens.

police stations limits.

Kulsumpura,

## Woman PhD student dies by suicide, 3 held

PNS HYDERABAD

A 28-year-old PhD student, working as a project assistant at a central research institute here, allegedly died by sui-cide after being "harassed" by a family for repayment of money taken by her father by promising to get a job, police said on Friday.

Two members of the family, which allegedly "humiliated" her were arrested house on December 25. long with the woman's father, they added. case under the provisions of

Nacharam Police Station on December 26, the victim's mother stated that her husband (the student's father) had taken Rs lakh, promising to provide a job to a woman

member of the family at the city-based research institute. The accused family members claimed that the transaction had taken place in the presence of the deceased

student. However, in the complaint, her mother said that she was unaware of it.

failed to arrange the promised job, four members of the family put pressure on him and the deceased. They humiliated her and filed a cheating case against her and her father, the complainant said.

The four accused demanded Rs 35 lakh from the victim's family for withdrawing the case and threatened to ruin their lives, the mother added.

Feeling humiliated and depressed by the actions of the four accused, the student took her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her



SC/ST Act was registered, and three persons were arrested, police said. In a purported selfie video, which was aired by

some TV channels, the deceased stated that it was true her father had taken the money, but she was unaware When the victim's father of it.

"I was asked to pay the amount, but I don't agree with it. They are responsible for my death and should be punished. A 'fake FIR' was filed against me," she said.

## Ramky Infra secures Rs. 215 crore contract for 20 STPs

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Infrastructure Ramky Limited, a leading sustainable infrastructure development company in India, has secured a contract worth Rs 215 crore from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage Board (HMWSSB).

The contract involves the

operation, maintenance, and management of 20 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a combined capacity of 714.3 MLD for five years. These STPs are located in areas like Amberpet, Nallacheruvu, and Pedda Cheruvu, under HMWSSB's jurisdiction. Additionally, the project includes managing associated Intercept and Diversion (I&D)

Meanwhile, The Managing

Director of Infrastructure, , Yancharla Rathnakara Nagaraja expressed gratitude for the trust placed in the company. He stated the the project aligns with our vision of creating sustainable urban infrastructure to meet the growing demands of Indian cities.

## Case against individuals behind social media posts defaming police, inciting hatred

PNS HYDERABAD

The Panjagutta Police have registered a case against individuals accused of making inflammatory remarks against the Christian community and defaming the police through social media platforms. The action was initiated based on a complaint filed on October 3 by Raghumudri Peter, who alleged that Karunakar Sugguna of the Shiva Shakti YouTube channel and Praveen Kumar of the Telugu former Christian YouTube channel made derogatory statements against the Christian commu-

As part of the investigation, the police visited the Shiva Shakti YouTube channel's office in Ameerpet on December 20. However, the office was closed. CCTV footage revealed that Karunakar Sugguna had uploaded another video inciting public unrest and disturb-

Additionally, Lalith Kumar, associated with the Hindu Jana Shakti YouTube channel, was found supporting Karunakar by urging Hindus to gather in large numbers at the Panjagutta Police Station to protest against the police.

An anonymous user with the handle "Who Am I" (@525Varma38556) on "X" (formerly Twitter) also posted derogatory tweets targeting the police. The tweets accused the

police of corruption and incompetence, further eroding public trust. The tweets included

remarks such as offering to collect money from Hindus to "donate" to the police, accusing the police of taking bribes and mishandling cases.

The tweets were found to undermine the dignity of the police, obstruct their lawful duties, and incite mistrust among the public.

While investigating the initial complaint, the police received another complaint from the affected community, alleging that the accused had uploaded videos defaming their sentiments. A separate case was registered, and investigations into both matters are

ongoing.
The Assistant Commi ssioner of Police, Panjagutta Division, emphasised that strict legal action will be taken against individuals posting defamatory or inflammatory content on social media plat-

"Such actions that hurt community sentiments or damage the reputation of the police will not be tolerated," he stated.

The police urged the public to use social media responsibly and avoid sharing content that could incite unrest or harm societal harmony.

# Juvenile arrested; stolen property recovered

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The South Zone Task Force, in coordination with Hussaini Alam Police, apprehended a 17-year-old juvenile accused of stealing gold and silver ornaments along with other valuables. The accused, who allegedly broke into a house in Hussaini Alam Police Station limits, was arrested after receiving credible information on his movements.

Gold and silver ornaments weighing 85 grams, cash amounting to Rs 6,200, two cell phones and other valuables, all estimated to be worth Rs 3 lakh were seized from him.

The accused, a resident of



1st Lancer, Hyderabad, dropped out of school after completing the 3rd standard and reportedly became involved in illegal activities. He had previously committed thefts, including stealing two two-wheelers and a cell phone, within the city.

Driven by a desire to lead a lavish lifestyle, the accused planned and executed proper-

ty offences to fund his needs. He targeted a locked house in Hussaini Alam area, stealing gold, silver, cash, and other items during the absence of the residents.

Acting on reliable inputs, the South Zone Task Force, led by Inspector S Raghavendra, along with Hussaini Alam Police, apprehended the juve-

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Inspector S Raghavendra and included sub-inspectors K Narsimulu, M Mahesh, G Anjaneyulu, N Naveen, and other personnel from the Task Force and Hussaini Alam

#### **BRUSH STROKES WITH A HUMANE TOUCH**

artoons can be powerful tools for social change, laced as they are with humour, satire and exaggerations to expose social issues, spark debate, and drive change.

With purity in heart and clarity in thought, artist Tadi Mohan strode like a colossus the world of Telugu journalism with his bold strokes for over four decades. His scathing cartoons took aim at the powerful and

#### the mighty. He proved that cartoons Mohan, steeped in leftist thought can be a powerful force for social and political change, as a corrective force to reckon with in democracy.

Such was the impact of Mohan on people as well as cartoonists of his time that over 50 cartoonists gathered together to bring about an exhibition of his portraits at JNTU auditorium in Masab Tank last Sunday to commem-

tender age of 12. With bold strokes, at times tender feather-like ones, sharp wit and satire, Mohan grew up to be a journalist and a renowned cartoonist of a high order. His cartoons used to resonate like a revolutionary song. He was a compendium of an artist, Communist, cartoonist, writer, critic orate his birth anniversary. A highlight and a friend wrapped up always with of the exhibition was a true-to-life a smiling face. He was the first car-

Culture & Heritage

He contributed a lot to Telugu jourand ideology, took to the brush at the nalism and was an inspiration to many. He had a unique style and brought humane elements in his illustrations. Writers, artists and scholars always used to seek solace in his company. Whether it be a woman, a Banjara, a Dalit, a Minority or a Madiga, all used to find expression in his illustrations with his brush strokes. Asked once if he was running a marriage bureau or

an artist's den, he retorted saying 'nobody can change the world!' He was greatly influenced by renowned journalists like Etukuri Balarama Raghavachari, Murty, Khambampati, Rambhatla Krishna Murty and poet Malla Reddy.

Simple living and great experiences was the way of life for artist Mohan.

**VENKOB R BALANTRAPU** 

Senior Journalist (The writer can be reached at venkobbr@gmail.com and 9297204401)





tail-piece to a jam-packed audience. Born to Communist leader Tadi Appalaswamy in 1950 in Eluru,

movements like the Dalit and Feminist movements had his mark of illustra-Mohan was more than a cartoonist.

# lelangana "





#### **POST-MORTEM REPORT**

# Cops, computer operator died due to drowning

The police are piecing together the WhatsApp messages of trio, sub-inspector, constable and computer operators to determine the cause that led to them taking the extreme step

PNS KAMAREDDY

The preliminary post-mortem report revealed that Bhiknoor sub-inspector Sai Kumar, Bibipet constable Shruti and computer operator Nikhil died due to drowning in the Adloor Yellareddy tank. The forensic experts who conducted post-mortem attributed the deaths of the trio to

According to the police, Shruti jumped into the tank first. The sub-inspector Saikumar and computer operator Nikhil

Two others, attempting to save her, also jumped into the water. Nikhil jumped into the tank after Shruti, but could not swim and went missing. Sai Kumar jumped into the water at Shruti's request, but due to the size of the tank, he too drowned.

The revelation shook the police department as it came close on the heels of a young sub-inspector R Harish committing suicide by shooting himself dead in Mulugu district.

The suicide by trio is a case involving the mysterious deaths of three individuals where the roles of the suspects and victims have become intertwined, creating a challenge for the police. Typically, in any case, there are clear distinctions between suspects and victims, but in this case, it is unclear who is who. The incident revolves around constable Shruti, whose connections to the other deceased persons remain ambiguous, complicating the investigation.

Family members of the deceased are expressing conflicting views. Shruti's family insists that their daughter did not commit suicide,





Shruti and Saikumar

arguing that the claim is false. Meanwhile, the relatives of subinspector Sai Kumar are questioning why an officer with a promis-ing future like him would take his

Sai Kumar's death left his wife and child devastated, and Nikhil's family was also grief-stricken.

With no clear connection between the three, the case has become a mystery for the police to unravel. Investigators are currently looking into the case with growing interest, and senior officials have instructed the Kamareddy SP, Sindhu Sharma, to give special attention to the investigation.

The sub-inspector used two phones with three SIM cards, Nikhil used two phones, and Shruti used one. It has been revealed during the investigation that they had been talking on the phone multiple times in the week phone multiple times in the week before their deaths. By December 25, it was discovered that they were all communicating via phone calls until they reached a specific loca-

The three of them then travelled via the bypass road and reached the Adloor Yellareddy reservoir, where they spent some time talking. Police found through WhatsApp messages that there was a love affair between Nikhil and Shruti. However, due to disagreements and the postponement of their marriage, tensions had risen. Police are investigating the case from all angles.



## Tiger sighting at Amrabad Tiger Reserve Zone thrills tourists

PNS NAGARKURNOOL

In the Amrabad Nallamala Wildlife Sanctuary (Amrabad Tiger Reserve Zone) in Nagarkurnool District, tourists on a safari ride spotted a big tiger. Suddenly, a large tiger emerged from the bushes beside them and walked towards the safari vehicles. The tourists, seeing the tiger up close, were filled with excitement, as the safari ride became a success. However, there was also fear and anxiety wondering if the tiger might approach them.

The tiger, after observing the tourists, calmly walked ahead of the safari vehicles and went back into the

The Amrabad Tiger Reserve, part of the Nallamala Forest, is a scenic and ideal spot for wildlife viewing. Currently, safari rides, forest trekking, and staying in cottages surrounded by lush green landscapes are available at the Farahabad area. 155 km from Hyderabad, and a day trip is sufficient for a visit.

Various accommodations like the Chenchu Mud House, Tree House, and Air-conditioned Houses are available. This tiger reserve is the largest in India.

Spanning across 5,937 square kilometers, the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Wildlife Sanctuary covers parts of Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts, attracting tourists to the Nallamala forests. Tigers, along with some migratory birds and the Krishna River flowing through the forest, are the major attractions of the

Currently, there are 42 tigers and 187 leopards in Telangana, with 34 tigers residing in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve Zone. Among them, there are 15 female tigers, 11 male tigers, and 8 tiger cubs. Eight tigers roam within the jurisdiction of the former Adilabad district. The Amrabad Tiger Reserve Zone is located about 155 km from Hyderabad, and a two-

# 'Crime rate down due to effective policing in Warangal'



Warangal Police Commissioner Ambar Kishor Jha and personnel at a media conference in Warangal on Saturday

PNS WARANGAL

fully reduced and managed crimes this year through preemptive measures, said Warangal Police Commissioner Ambar Kishor Jha during a media briefing. During the meeting, the Police Commissioner highlighted that the police had effectively controlled crimes and apprehended criminals using advanced planning and intelligence. He emphasised that technology played a crucial role in both controlling crimes and catching offenders.

In comparison to the previous year, the Commissioner shared statistics on the crimes reported this year. The current year saw 14,406 cases regis-

cent from the previous year. As part of controlling crimes, Additionally, homicides and property fell by 2.23 per cent. Police also recovered stolen goods worth Rs 11.81 crore.

Furthermore, Warangal Commissionerate police arrested 18 interstate criminals. Cases involving crimes against women decreased by 11 per cent, fraud cases by 16 per cent, and abductions by 7.45 per cent, all lower than the previ-

Due to special measures taken by the police, road accidents came down significantly. Last year, there were 1,558 road accidents, whereas this year a total of 1,434 cases were reported. The number of deaths in these accidents also decreased, from 499 last year

tered, a decrease of 3.21 per cent from the previous year. to 417 this year, showing a reduction of 12.30 per cent.

Regarding cybercrimes, 772 Warangal Police decreased by 16.67 per cent, cases were registered, and the approximately Rs 1.30 crore from cybercriminals. As part of the efforts to control drugrelated crimes, the police seized ganja worth Rs 2.63 crores in 147 cases and arrested 321 offenders.

The police also conducted investigations and presented strong evidence to courts, resulting in 2,462 criminals being convicted, which is a 42 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

The meeting was attended by East Zone DCP Ravinder, ASP Manan Bhatt, Additional DCP Ravi, and Inspectors Jitender Reddy, David Raju, Srinivas, and Karunakar.

#### **Banks urged to lend to tribal** farmers in agency areas

PNS NAGARKURNOOL

In the Achampet constituency of Nagar Kurnool district, the Telangana state govern-ment has issued land rights documents to tribal farmers cultivating podu (forest) lands. However, tribal farmers are facing difficulties in obtaining bank loans despite having these land rights documents. Telangana Tribal Association State President M Dharma Nayak stated that banks have been providing loans to farmers in districts like Khammam, Adilabad, and Warangal who

have received land rights.

He demanded that banks should also provide loans to the tribal farmers in the district as well.

Speaking to the media at the CITU office, Dharma Nayak questioned why banks are giving loans to tribals who have received land rights in other districts of Telangana, while they are not providing loans in District Collector to take action and ensure that every farmer who has received land rights for podu lands should be given loans through banks.

He also mentioned that around 12,000 acres of land are being cultivated by tribals in the district, but the previous government only issued land rights to 2,000 people according to the 2006 Act and did not follow through. He emphasised that after the Congress government came into power in Telangana, it has been one year of governance, but the tribals, particularly those cultivating podu lands, are still not being fully recog-

He urged the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to issue land rights documents to all tribal farmers.

He also criticised the government for pushing tribals out of their lands in agency areas to make way for mining operations, making them help-

The meeting was attended Telangana Tribal Shankar Naik, leaders Valya Naik, and Vyakasa Naik, and Naga Raju.



speaking to the media in Nagarkurnool on Saturday

# Parents decry absence of teachers at govt schools

PNS RANGAREDDY

Parents of students in Nandya Tribal Tanda Government Primary School under Chaudhariguda mandal in Rangareddy District have voiced serious concerns over the lack of commitment from teachers and the deteriorating quality of education. The school, which caters to students from class 1 to 5, has reportedly become a symbol of neglect, with students and their parents suffering the consequences.

Parents allege that the school's only teacher frequently arrives late, leaves within three hours, or sometimes does not show up at all. They further claimed that when the teacher is absent, two local women, have been entrusted with teaching the children, receiving Rs 5,000 each as compensation from the teacher.
A recent visit by local journalists revealed

a disturbing scenario: only 10 students were present, and the appointed teacher was absent. The teacher, when contacted, cited health issues as the reason for her absence. However, locals argue that no alternative during her leaving students without proper guidance

and supervision. The situation in Nandya Tribal Tanda is not an isolated incident. Similar reports have emerged from other parts of Rangareddy district, including Shankarpalli, Shamshabad, Chevella, Kondurg, and surrounding areas. Parents in these regions are facing the same challenges, with teachers failing to adhere to proper schedules and officials neglecting their supervisory responsibilities.

The Telangana government has been investing crores of rupees to improve education in rural areas, yet the lack of accountability on the part of teachers and officials undermines these efforts. Parents and locals have criticised the Mandal Education Officer (MEO) and complex principals for failing to address the issue. Despite knowing the ground realities, they have allegedly turned a blind eye to the negligence, allowing teachers to flout the Right to Education Act and other regulations.

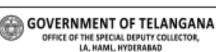
The parents also raised concerns about the mid-day meal program, questioning its management and the lack of supervision. In the absence of teachers, they worry about the safety and nutrition of their children. especially in light of recent incidents of food poisoning reported in schools and hostels across the state.

The situation in Nandya Tribal Tanda and other villages in Rangareddy district highlights a broader issue plaguing rural schools. While many dedicated teachers fulfill their responsibilities with diligence, the negligence of a few teachers tarnishes the reputation of the education system. Parents demand immediate intervention from the



overnment to ensure regular teacher attendance, proper monitoring by officials, and effective use of allocated funds.

Without accountability, the future of children in remote villages remains uncertain, and the government's efforts to provide quality education risk becoming futile.



FORM-F Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML

(See rule 7 (c)) No. C6/109/2024-LHS (101 to 125) Dated: 28 -12-2024

Where a notification was issued vide No. C6/109/2024 LHS (101 to 125) dated 07-12-2024 and published in the Gazette Hyd.-HAML No. 37 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

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. Khaled			
Mohammed	103 LHS	22-3-227	91.67
Bajaber S/o late			
Mohameed Omer			
Bajaber			
R/o 22-4-546,			
Etebar Chowk,			
Yakutpura,			
Hyderabad			

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, Raspolpura, Hyderabad within the seven days of publication of this Notification i.e., by 04-01-2025.

Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rascolpura, Hyderabas

NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

CIN No.U40109TG2000SGC034119.

#### Nirmal district Superintendent of Police Janaki Sharmila inspecting the scene of crime in Nirmal on Saturday

## Married woman gang-raped in Nirmal

A married woman was allegedly gang-raped by unidentified individuals while she was waiting to hire an auto-rickshaw at the TGSRTC bus stand late Friday night.

Authorities believe that the woman, who hails from a village, was assaulted by three men at midnight.

It is alleged that she was compelled to consume alcohol before being attacked in a secluded area near the bus

A case has been registered, and investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police Janaki Sharmila visited the victim, who is receiving treatment at the government general hospital, to offer her sup-

She assured her that the offenders would apprehended and mentioned that the footage from CCTV cameras at the bus stand and nearby locations is being reviewed to identify the suspects.

### MP hands over Rs 95 lakh insurance cheque to a family

PNS KHAMMAM

A private employee from Vaira, Cherukupalli Sitaiah, tragically passed away due to an accidental electric shock at his residence in October. His family received an insurance cheque worth Rs 95 lakh through Tata AIU Life Insurance. Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy visited the Tata AIU office at the ZP Center in



Khammam on Saturday and handed over the cheque to the deceased's wife, Cherukupalli Shailaja, in the presence of company employees and Congress district leader Koppula Chandrashekhar.

During the event, MP Raghuram Reddy expressed his appreciation for Tata Company's support, high-lighting that such a large insurance payout for the affected family is commend-

On the occasion of prominent business magnate Ratan Tata's birthday, MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy paid floral tributes to

## **Collector inspects govt hospital, procurement centre**

PNS WANAPARTHY

District Collector Adarsh Surabhi visited the Veepanagandla mandal in the district on Saturday. He inspected the government hospital and directed the medical staff to always be available for the patients and provide better services. He checked the outpatient, delivery, and medication registers.

The Collector emphasised that medical staff should always be available to serve the public and ensure quality care. He also stated that doctors must adhere to punctuality, and actions would be taken if they failed to do so.

He stressed the need to increase in the number of deliveries at the hospital. The Collector recommended that the Health



Wanaparthy Collector Adarsh Surabhi interacting with farmers at a paddy procurement centre at Kalwaral in Wanaparthy district on Saturday

Department officials focus on the attendance of doctors. He assured medical staff that necessary facilities would be provided to the hospital.

Later, the Collector also inspected the IKP paddy procurement centre set up in Kalwaral village, Veepanagandla mandal. He advised the officials not to make farmers wait for extended periods. He directed the officials to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to avoid any inconvenience or difficulties for farmers at the procurement centres. He directed the in-charge officals to record details in the register, including the number of farmers and the quantity of

paddy they are bringing.

The Collector instructed the officials that once the paddy is loaded and sent to the mill, the truck sheet should be shared via WhatsApp, and cash should be promptly deposited in farmers'

#### TENDER NOTICE NO. 20/2024-25 equition of substation works in TBMPOCL vide Bid.No.I-148 & I-149/2024-25 and II-116, 117, 118 for further details visit: https://tender.telangana.gov.in (or) www.tgnpdcl.com Sd/-Chief Engineer (Projects) TGMPDCL, Warrangel. SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO- 11/2024-25 OF DE/OP/BHADRACHALAM WITH SPECIFICATION NOs.01./2024-25 ealed tenders are invited from TGMPDCL registered contractors for fixing of agency estimate fo secution of works in Burgampahad Section of Operation Division Bhadrachalam. The Details o orks and other information can be obtained from our viobsite www.tgnpdeLeam DINISIONAL ENGINEER, OPERATION TEMPOCL, BHADRACHALAN Short Tender Natice No.10/2024-25 of SE/DP/Peddapally Specification No. 62/24-25 to Specification 70/24-25 of SE/OP/Poddapally Sealed Tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors for "Renovation & Modernalization (R&M) of existing 33/11KV Sub Stations under the jurisdiction in Manthani Division in Peddapath incle of TENPOCL\*. The details of works can be obtained from our website www.tgnpdcl.com

IPR R.O. No.: 830-PP/OL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Date: 28-12-2024.

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29, 2024

#### ACROSS THE STATES



#### **Three women Maoists** nabbed in Odisha

he Odisha Police on Saturday arrested three women Maoists, carrying a total bounty of Rs 8 lakh on their heads, in Malkangiri district, officials said. The women Maoists, identified as Swapna alias Chandrama Khilo, Babita alias Kamala Khilo and Sunita Khilo, were arrested in Gumma area under the jurisdiction of Chitrakonda police station. The three Maoists, all hailing from Dhakadapadar village in Jodambo police station area in the district, were part of the Andhra Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit. Addressing a joint press conference DIG, South Western Range, Niti Sekhar and Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Bibekananda Sharma said that the trio were involved in multiple cases of exchange of fire with security forces.



#### **Army unveils statue of** Shivaji at eastern Ladakh

he Indian Army has installed a statue of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji on the bank of Pangong lake at an altitude of 14,300 feet, a region that is close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the eastern Ladakh sector. The Army's Leh-based 14 Corps said the inauguration of the statue celebrated the "unwavering spirit" of the Indian ruler as his legacy remains a source of inspiration. The statue was unveiled on Thursday by Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, the General Officer Commanding of the 14 Corps, widely known as Fire and Fury Corps. The towering symbol of valour, vision and unwavering justice was inaugurated by Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, the 14 Corps said on X. "The event celebrates the unwavering spirit of the Indian ruler, whose legacy remains a source of inspiration for generations," it said



#### Man sets ablaze wife for giving birth to 3 daughters

man allegedly poured petrol and set his wife ablaze in Maharashtra's Parbhani district after she gave birth to Athe couple's third daughter, a police official said on Saturday. Kundlik Uttam Kale (32) killed his wife Maina in Gangakhed Naka, some 520 kilometres from here, on Thursday night, the official said. As per the complaint submitted by Maina's sister, the accused used to taunt his wife over giving birth to three daughters and would frequently pick up fights with her on this issue, the official said. "On Thursday night, after one such argument, he poured petrol on her and set her ablaze. She ran out of the house screaming where people tried to douse the fire. However, by then she was severely burnt and died while being rushed to a hospital," the official said.

# **EAM meets Trump's NSA**; holds talks on bilateral ties

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Congressman Michael Waltz, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for National Security Advisor, during which they had a wide-ranging conversation on the bilateral partnership between India and the US as well as current global issues.

Jaishankar is currently on an official visit to the US from Dec 24-29. This was the first highest-level in-person meeting between the Indian government and the incoming

Trump administration.
"Delighted to meet" Waltz "this evening", Jaishankar posted on X on Friday.

"Enjoyed a wide-ranging conversation on our bilateral partnership as well as current global issues. Look forward to working with him," he said.

Waltz, 50, would replace Jake Sullivan as the National Security Advisor on January 20, when Trump would be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.

Waltz is no stranger to India-US relationship. A three-term Congressman from the sixth Congressional District of Florida, Waltz is Republican Co-Chair of Congressional India Caucus, which is the



"Delighted to meet" Waltz "this evening", Jaishankar posted on X on Friday. "Enjoyed a wide-ranging conversation on our bilateral partnership as well as current global issues. Look forward to working with him," he said

largest country-specific Caucus in the US House of Representatives.

Waltz also co-led a Congressional delegation to India in August last year and attended the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort. He has been the sponsor of several India-friendly legislations in the House of

November 12, Trump announced that Waltz would be his National Security Advisor.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar said he "concluded a very useful two-day conference of team @IndianEmbassyUS and our Consuls General Washington DC"



## NMHC crucial to make India leading maritime nation: Sonowal

Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said 4,300-crore the Rs National Maritime Complex Heritage (NMHC) being developed at Lothal in Ğujarat is a project of national importance and will be a crucial step towards making India a leading maritime nation.

Sonowal, who is Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister, reviewed the progress of the NMHC project along with Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Secretary of the Ministry of orts, Shipping and

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Saturday met newly-

crowned chess world champion D Gukesh and described

him as a confident young play-

er who was an embodiment of

Gukesh, 18, displayed

remarkable poise and nerves of

calmness and humility.

Waterways, T K Ramachandran, said, "The phase 1-A of the project, com-

Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, T K Ramachandran, said, "The phase 1-A of the project, coming up with an estimated cost of Rs 1,200 crore, is expected to get over by August, 2025, with 65 per cent of its

ing up with an estimated cost of Rs 1,200 crore, is expected to get over by August, 2025,

construction completed"

K with 65 per cent of its con-he struction completed."

The entire project, being executed in two phases, is expected to be completed

by 2028, he said. Work on phase 1-A of the project, comprising six galleries, jetty walkway, Lothal town, etc, started in March 2022, before the Union Cabinet approved

it in October 2024. Apart from 14 galleries in phase 1 (six in phase 1-A and eight in phase 1-B), phase 2 will have conceptualisation of Lothal city as it existed in ancient times, surrounded by the

pavilions showcasing the maritime heritage of coastal states in their individual pavillions, he said.

## Heavy snowfall disrupts life in Kashmir Flights, rail services suspended

PNS SRINAGAR

The Kashmir Valley received the season's heaviest snowfall on Saturday which threw normal life out of gear, affecting air, rail and road traffic as well as disrupting power and water supply, officials said. Chief minister Omar

Abdullah reviewed the snow clearance operations in a video conference meeting with all deputy commissioners. Moderate to heavy snowfall

was recorded across Kashmir from Friday, including the season's first snowfall in Srinagar city and other plain areas.

In South Kashmir, heavy to very heavy snowfall was recorded in the plains, while central Kashmir's plains

PNS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Mourning the passing of for-

mer Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, US President Joe Biden has called

him "a true statesman" and

credited his strategic vision and

political courage for the unprecedented level of bilater-

Singh, who was India's

prime minister for 10 years

from 2004 to 2014 died in New

Delhi on Thursday night. He

of cooperation between the

United States and India today

would not have been possible

without the Prime Minister's

strategic vision and political

"The unprecedented level

al cooperation.



received moderate snowfall. The plains of North Kashmir received light to moderate snowfall, officials said. The upper areas of the South

Kashmir district received over two feet of snow, they added. Though the snowfall was welcomed by locals and tourists,

Manmohan played pivotal role in

courage," Biden said in a

statement as he and the First

Lady, Jill Biden, joined the people of India in grieving the loss of the former prime

"From forging the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement to helping launch the first Quad

"A large number of devotees

visit religious sites and offer

prayers on January 1, seeking the blessings of Ram Lalla at

the start of the year," Ramakant

management and security,

To ensure smooth crowd

Tiwari, a local priest, said.

minister.

it threw daily life out of gear. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) was closed for traffic due to snow, according to Traffic Department officials. They added that clearance work was hampered due to heavy snow-fall at the Navyug Tunnel.

between Indo-Pacific partners,

he charted path-breaking

progress that will continue to

strengthen our nations-and

the world—for generations to

come. He was a true statesman.

A dedicated public servant. And

above all, he was a kind and humble person," Biden said.

#### steel to defeat China's Ding won the crown in 1985 at 22. Liren in Singapore to become the youngest chess world "Had an excellent interaction champion, surpassing Russian with chess champion and great Garry Kasparov, who India's pride, DGukesh!" the

PM Modi calls Gukesh an embodiment of calmness and humility PM posted on 'X' after meeting Gukesh and his parents here.

"I have been closely interacting with him for a few years now, and what strikes me most about him is his determination and dedication. His confidence is truly inspiring.

"In fact, I recall seeing a video of his few years ago where he had said he would become the youngest world champion - a prediction that has now clearly come true thanks to his own efforts, Modi wrote.

Kejriwal rubbishes

LG inquiry, says

BJP afraid of defeat



#### Security strengthened in Kolkata strengthening US-India ties: Biden after arrests of Bangla infiltrators

PNS KOLKATA

Security was strengthened in Kolkata ahead of New Year's Day following the arrest of two Bangladeshi infiltrators from the heart of the city, Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma said. Addressing a press conference, Verma said the police were surveilling the hotels and guest houses and had also asked their management to verify the backgrounds of their employees.

"Because of the timely intervention of Kolkata Police, the recent arrests (of two Bangladeshi infiltrators) have been made possible. Our men are on the prowl," he said,

replying to a question.

To prevent any untoward incident on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, 4,500 police personnel would be deployed in Kolkata, he added. Verma said that watch tow-

ers have been set up to monitor crowds, and traffic police would be vigilant to stop drunken driving and rash driving.
On concerns that illegal

Bangladeshi immigrants managing to secure Indian passports with fake documents, he said, "We are abiding by guidelines of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and detailed discussions have been held with officers of different police stations.

#### PNS NEW DELHI The BIP is panicked that the AAP government would give Rs 2.100 to women under thus trying to stop the scheme fearing defeat in the upcoming polls, AAP supre-



mo Arvind Kejriwal said on

Speaking at a press conference, Kejriwal also rubbished an order by LG for enquiry into the collection of details of women through registration under the scheme as "fake," saying the monetary promise was a poll announce-

# Ayodhya gearing up for influx of devotees, tourists

Ram Temple trust extends 'darshan' timings

#### PNS ■ AYODHYA (UP)

The temple town of Ayodhya is gearing up for a massive influx of devotees and tourists as the new year approaches, marking the end of the first English calendar year since the grand consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple was held on January 22.

With nearly all accommodations in Ayodhya and neighbouring Faizabad fully booked, the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has extended 'darshan' timings for the devotees and made extensive arrangements to manage the anticipated crowd.

"We are ready to welcome the devotees this new year. All our rooms have been booked in advance till January 15," Ankit Mishra, owner of a local hotel in

Ayodhya, said. When last checked on Saturday morning, online booking platforms showed rooms still available at some hotels and lodges, even though a few establishments are charging upwards of Rs 10,000 per night due to the

surge in demand. Ayodhya has witnessed a

spike in religious tourism since the consecration ceremony earlier this year, and while the Hindu new year in 'Chaitra' (March-April) holds traditionsignificance, the English new year is also seeing a rise in devotional fervour.

welcome the devotees this new year. All our rooms have been booked in advance till January 15," Ankit Mishra, owner of a local hotel in Ayodhya, said.

"We are ready to

Ayodhya Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajkaran Nayyar said, "There will be robust security arrangements at the Ram Temple, Hanumangarhi, Lata Chowk, Guptar Ghat, Surajkund, and other popular sites.'

The temple trust has also made comprehensive preparations to handle the swelling crowd, particularly between December 30 and the first two weeks of January.

#### BJP accuses Cong of 'indulging in politics' over funeral

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Saturday accused the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi of "indulging in politics" over the funeral of former prime minister Manmohan Singh and alleged that the party has "insulted" its own leaders, including ex-PM PV Narasimha Rao, in the past.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra also attacked the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha for stating that the Narendra Modi government disrespected Singh by conducting his funeral at the Nigam Bodh Ghat, whereas for other former prime ministers the last rites were performed at sites where memorials could be built later.

Patra also alleged that the grand old party had "insulted" its leaders -- Rao, ex-president Pranab Mukherjee, first president Rajendra Prasad and former deputy PM Vallabhbhai Patel -- in the past.

"Since Manmohan Singh's death, the

Centre has been preparing to construct a memorial for him. A cabinet meeting was called and a condolence message was issued. It was also decided to pay proper respects to the former PM befitting his stature.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA					
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY					
COLLECTOR, LA, HAML, HYDERABAD					
FORM-F					
Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML					
(See rule 7 (cl)					

No. C6/66/2024 - LHS (76 to 100) Where a notification was issued vide No. C2/66/2024 (76 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 Shar-E- Hyderabad Village,

Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District. In response to the said notification, the following affected irsons (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. Shaik Raheem S/o Shaik Jimed, 2. Sri. Shaik Mohd. Jahman S/o Shaik Raheem, R/o. 2-3-381/E, Mir Alam Mandi, Jiaminar, Hyderabad.		22-3- 380/1	73.62
iri, MD Riyaz S/o, Late fohammed Yousuf, R/o, 22-3- 95/7, Mir Alam Mandi, harminar, Hyderabad.		22-3- 496/7	69.45

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, Rascolpura, Hyderabad within the seven days of publication of this Notification i.e. by

Special Deputy Collector, LA,

Hyderabad, December 29, 2024



**VIRAL CELEBRITY RECIPES** 

this year a feast for both our plates and our hearts.

Jackie Shroff's Anda Curry Patta and Baingan Bharta

Jackie Shroff's Anda Curry Patta became a go-to comfort dish for many, while his smoky *Baingan Bharta* gave eggplant a superstar moment. Everyone seemed to try their hand at his recipes, inspired by the way he explained each step in his cooking videos, peppered with his trademark "bhidu" charm. Fans couldn't get enough, rating his dishes a solid 10 out of 10 for their earthy, soulful, and undeniably delicious flavours. Jackie truly became the culinary hero of 2024!

Aditi Rao Hydari's Khagina

Aditi Rao Hydari's Khagina became a sensation as everyone tried recreating her rich, buttery take on the classic egg dish. Her charming explanation, "cut the onions into moon-shaped slices, cook until pinkish, crack the eggs and top with masala", made it a viral hit. Fans across the internet hailed it as the perfect brunch staple, calling it a true "taste of warmth"

Farah Khan's Yakhni Pulao

Farah Khan's Yakhni Pulao was the culinary sensation of the year. A soulful mix of tender meat and fragrant rice, the dish captivated fans who couldn't stop praising its showed every step, making it easy to recreate. Viewers loved her detailed tips and rated it a perfect 10, proudly sharing their own versions online and creating videos titled "Trying Farah Khan's Favourite Yakhni Pulao".



into a frenzy! Foodies queued up for hours to get a taste of this Mumbai classic, proving that Delhi

**Popcorn Momos in GK:** Momo mania reached new heights with this crunchy, buttery twist. Found at

food bloggers and crowds alike.

a GK corner, this snack became the ultimate winter indulgence, drawing

Viral Cucumber Jar Salad: Healthy

with this layered cucumber salad in a jar. With its vibrant colours and

zesty dressing, it became a favourite

for fitness enthusiasts and food

eating met Instagram aesthetics

truly embraces all flavours.



#### **FLAVOURS THAT TRAVELLED**

As we say goodbye to 2024, we revisted the places that captured our hearts and taste buds (Travel page III), where every bite told a story. Here's to the flavours that made this year's travels truly special.

Banaras #malaiyo #tamarchaat Banaras delivered on all fronts this year, especially with its food. The winter-special Malaiyo, a frothy dessert that melts in your mouth, became a seasonal must-try. Meanwhile, the tangy and spicy Tamatar Chaat delighted foodies with its zesty flavours, making it the city's street-food

superstar.

Kashmir #kahwa #roganjosh The "Paradise on Farth" showcased its culinary treasures alongside its natural beauty in 2024. Kahwa, the traditional spiced tea and the aromatic Rogan Josh were must-haves for travellers seeking warmth and flavour amidst

the snow-draped landscapes

Lakshadweep #muskaavab The smoky and succulent *Mus* Kaavab paired perfectly with the aromatic, coconut-infused Tuna Curry, making every bite a celebration of coastal flavours. Each meal offered a taste of island life, blending the sea's bounty with vibtant flavours.

Ladakh #thukpa #buttertea Ladakh's dishes weren't just delicious,

they were soul-soothing. The hearty Thukpa, a noodle soup packed with vegetables and meat, became a favourite, while the creamy, salty Butter Tea was a comforting companion in the chilly weather.

Goa #porkvindaloo #crabxecxec Goa's cuisine stole the spotlight in 2024 with its bold and flavourful offerings. The spicy and tangy *Pork* Vindaloo, Crab Xec Xec and fiery Prawns Balchao cemented their place as iconic dishes, bringing joy to every



Deepika Padukone's Ema Datshi Deepika's love for the Bhutanese cheesy chilli dish Ema Datshi had people flocking to Tibetan restaurants to experience its fiery, creamy magic.

Shraddha Kapoor's Varan Bhaat This Maharashtrian classic became a viral sensation as Shraddha shared her family recipe. Fans across India tried recreating this simple yet

comforting

dish



Janhvi Kapoor's Idli and **Chicken Curry** This unlikely combo

went viral after Janhvi shared her love for it Foodies everywhere couldn't resist trying it, and it quickly became a trending dish, with fans recreating it at home and experimenting with the combo in their own

#### **ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FOOD STREETS OF DELHI**

bhature and Sharma Ji's kachoris.

Let's remember Delhi's iconic street food, a delight for food lovers. Delhi's street food scene never fails to impress. **Chowk:** This winter, Chandni Chowk dazzled with iconic dahi bhallas, daulat ki chaat and hot jalebis paired with creamy rabri.

**Lodhi Colony:** Anna Durga South Indian offered perfect dosas and idlis, earning its spot as a social media favourite. Connaught Place & Janpath: From Jain Chawal Wale's iconic rajma rice to mini samosas and Wenger's timeless **Kamla Nagar:** A shopper's paradise, the area also shone for its unbeatable *chole* baked treats, CP and Janpath were







### WANDERLUST OF INDIAN DESTINATIONS

# KASHMIR #gangaaarti #kashivishwanath Banaras or Varanasi or Kashi, a sacred city in Uttar

**BANARAS** 

Pradesh and it holds immense significance in Hinduism. It is a renowned pilgrimage site, deeply intertwined with traditions of death and mourning.

The city was known for the most visited and

trending places in India in 2024.

#winterwonderland #switzerlandofindia
Kashmir, often called "Paradise on Earth," boasts
breathtaking natural beauty with vibrant autumn
foliage, crystal-clear lakes reflecting the snowcapped peaks, and verdant valleys nestled amidst
majestic mountains. This pretty landscape, with its
serene charm, makes Kashmir a truly unforgettable
travel destination.

2024 has been all about travel, realising the importance of travel, be it solo or in groups. Travel in every way is a gateway to self-discovery and deeper connections with the world around us, writes **ABHI SINGHAL** 

#### **LAKSHADWEEP**



#tropicalparadise #islandescape

Lakshadweep, a pure archipelago in the Arabian Sea,
is a true beauty on Earth. Pristine white sand
beaches lapped by clear turquoise waters, coral reefs
teaming with marine life, and lush coconut palms
swaying gently in the breeze. Lakshadweep offers a
unique blend of natural beauty, and cultural
richness.

# LADAKH

#pangonglake #kargil

Ladakh also known as Little Tibet, is a breathtaking region in India soared with snow-capped mountains, frozen lakes, ancient Buddhist monasteries perched on dramatic cliffs, and vibrant festivals filled with music and dance. Ladakh is one of the most loved places in 2024.

# GOA

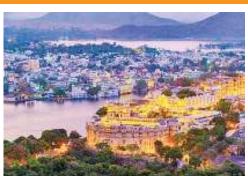
#goadiaries #beachlover
Goa, a coastal paradise in India, is a vibrant blend
of Portuguese heritage and Indian culture. There are
pristine beaches lined with swaying palm trees,
azure waters perfect for swimming and watersports,
delicious seafood, and a lively nightlife scene.

# THE YEAR THAT WAS: TRAVEL Travel isn't just a physical journey, it's a soulful expedition, and some people

ravel isn't just a physical journey, it's a soulful expedition, and some people always loved it while others have started loving it through social media. It opens doors to diverse cultures, helping us understand people and their unique stories. Exploring new destinations promotes a sense of spirituality, connecting us with something bigger than ourselves. Whether it's the tranquillity of a mountain sunrise or the vastness of an ocean, nature teaches us to embrace its beauty and simplicity.

Whether it's the tranquillity of a mountain sunrise or the vastness of an ocean, nature teaches us to embrace its beauty and simplicity. Meeting new people on these adventures broadens perspectives, bridging gaps and giving a sense of empathy. Travel is a reminder of how small yet interconnected the world and fills your heart with gratitude for the experiences that shape your journey through life.

#### UDAIPUR



Udaipur, the "City of Lakes," is a perfect for celebrating new year amidst stunning palaces, serene lakes, and breathtaking views with Rajasthani cuisine.

#### #NEWYEARGETAWAYS



#### FOR TROPICAL CLIMATE LOVERS

# KERALA

Kerala, "God's Own Country," can work as a perfect New Year's getaway helping in rejuvenating yourself amidst serene backwater cruises, and lush greenery.

#### MANALI

LAKSHADWEEP



Manali has started receiving the snowfall and has become a white paradise. It is the perfect getaway, offering snow-covered peaks and cosy cafes.

#### AULI

From *Guwahati* you can expect a cool and pleasant weather in the north east on the New Year and can

plan a getaway around visiting Kamakhya Temple.



*Auli* as a destination is beautiful and scenic and has snowfall predictions on 27th December and after, making it a perfect destination for your new year.

#### MUKTESHWAR



Mukteshwar is an untouched beauty to help you find yourself and peace this new year. The charming trails and dense forests make it ideallic.

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29, 2024

## IN BRIEF



#### **Reliance acquires Karkinos** Healthcare for Rs 375 cr

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has acquired technology-driven and oncology-focused healthcare platform Karkinos for Rs 375 crore, the firm said on Saturday. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures (RSBVL), a whollyowned subsidiary of Mumbai-listed India's most valuable company, completed the acquisition of Karkinos Healthcare Pvt Ltd with allotment of requisite shares, the firm said in a stock exchange filing. Karkinos was incorporated in India on July 24, 2020, and is in the business of providing technologydriven innovative solutions for the early detection, diagnosis, and management of cancer. It had a turnover of about Rs 22 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal. "Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd has on December 27, 2024, subscribed to and has been allotted 1 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each, for cash, aggregating Rs 10 crore and 36.5 crore optionally fully convertible debentures of Rs 10 each, for cash, aggregating Rs 365 crore of Karkinos," according to the filing.



#### **Edu Ioan provider Credila** files IPO papers

ducation loans-focused lender Credila Financial Services Ltd, formerly known as HDFC Credila Financial Services Ltd, has filed papers with markets regulator Sebi for an initial public offering (IPO) through a confidential pre-filing route. The confidential pre-filing route allows the company to withhold public disclosure of details under the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). In a public announcement on Friday, Credila said it has "filed pre-draft red herring prospectus with the Sebi and stock exchanges ... in relation to the proposed initial public offering of its equity shares on the main board". This development follows a significant change in the company's ownership during the financial year ended March 31, 2024. A private equity consortium of EQT and ChrysCapital acquired a 90.01 per cent stake in Credila for Rs 9.060 crore. including a fresh equity infusion of Rs 2,003.61 crore.



#### **Tax officials initiate** inspection of M&M records

ahindra & Mahindra Ltd on Saturday said state tax authorities in Tamil Nadu initiated an inspection of records at one of the places of its business operations in Chennai. Authorisation for inspection/search proceedings under CGST Act 2017 was issued by Additional Commissioner (ST), Intelligence-I (FAC), Chennai-6 on the company, M&M said in a regulatory filing. Subsequently, the State Tax officer, Gr-I, Intelligence - I, Chennai - 6, initiated an inspection of the records at one of the places of business operations of the company in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, it added The authorisation for inspection/search proceedings dated December 26, 2024, was shown to the company's officials on December 27, 2024, at around 12.15 pm, it added. "The GST officials have inspected the records and given some observations on certain GST compliance issues and have advised the company's officials to submit the necessary documents for reconciliation," it said.

# Scindia aims to make postal dept profitable, seeks funds from FM

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has sought funds from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the Department of Posts to make it profitable by 2029,

according to official sources.

The Department of Posts
(DoP) is working on plans to

leap as a logistics company.

"Minister (Jyotiraditya Scindia) met with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharam in New Delhi to discuss India Post's path to profitability. He and his team at the Department of Posts presented their capital expenditure demands to the FM on Friday to make the Department a profit centre by 2029," an official source said.

The source did not share the capex sought by the postal department to chalk out its path to profitability.

Another official said the

postal department officers presented their capital expenditure demands to make India Post a profit-making logistics company with Scindia emphasising that the department aims to achieve higher customer acquisition, customer retention and



shared that the capital expenditure will focus on infrastructure development and renovation of Post Offices as well as staff hous ing quarters across the nation. The minister said that the postal department will work towards automation of processes to make them efficient and

operational efficiency. "He also talked about the ongoing Business Process Reengineering (BPR) exercise which will benefit a lot from the fund infusion from the Finance Ministry. He shared that the BPR exercise will also focus on launching more attractive B2B and B2C ser-

vices," the source said. In the meeting, Scindia shared that the capital expenditure will focus on infrastructure development and renovation of Post Offices as well as staff housing quarters across

The minister said that the postal department will work towards automation of processes to make them efficient and

This is the second stint of Communications Ministry.

He was a Minister of State under the UPA government in 2007 when he steered Project Arrow for modernization of the postal department and helped Dak Sewaks get office equipment. Scindia in six months of taking charge of the department in 2024, asked the India Post team to get exposure

to international best practices and come up with innovative strategies for the department. Scindia during the meeting

with Sitharaman assured that

the postal department will be globally competitive by 2028-Scindia said that he believes

in India Post's potential to increase market share for most of its products, increase revenue and compete in the industry in the next 5-7 years. He shared that the focus will

be on expanding the market share in mail and parcel verti-

## Coal exchange on anvil, work underway to raise output

PNS NEW DELHI

The coal sector is likely to witness a spate of activities in the upcoming year from launching maiden coal exchange to facilitating trading and rate determination of dry-fuel to meet the booming demand of the economy.

The government also intends to work more closely in the area of coal gasification as it is on a high priority list for energy transition. Coal gasifica-

tion is a cleaner option compared to burning of coal as it facilitates utilisation of the chemical properties of

Talking to PTI, Coal Additional Secretary Rupinder Brar said that "the demand (for coal) is extremely important. And we do see demand growing in India considering the growing size of the economy...

Therefore, coal will also defi-

nitely be required and we are

conscious of that and are work-

The efforts will be to continuously augment coal output and align it with the demand, she said.

Brar said the pre-2014 policy on mine allocation has been disbanded and now the government gives blocks to allottees only

when it is sure that it is going to be mined.

"If you do an early production, operationalisation of the mine, you get incentives,

rebates. If you

don't then there are penalties attached to it," the official said. Elaborating on the priority

areas of her ministry in the new year, Brar said the government is committed to a sustainable coal sector, balancing environmental sustainability with the wellbeing of coal-dependent communities.

She said the government is optimistic about coal exchange in 2025 and the details are being worked out.

## Vodafone Group clears Rs 11,650 cr dues to lenders

PNS NEW DELHI

UK-based Vodafone Group has cleared dues of around Rs 11,650 crore or about 109 million pound that it raised against shares of Vodafone Idea, according to a regulato-

Group pledged almost the entire stake in VIL to raise the debt. The pledge was

created in favour of HSBC Corporate Trustee Company (UK) for the debt raised

Mauritius and India-based entities of Vodafone Group.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"On 27 December 2024, HSBC Corporate Trustee Company (UK) Limited acting as the security trustee for the lenders has released the pledges pursuant to repaye outstanding due

The country's private telecom

operators face twin challenges on

investment recovery in the New

Year - customers leaving their net-

work after tariff hikes and satellite

players mainly Elon Musk's

Starlink eyeing a chunk of their

around Rs 70,000 crore in telecom

infrastructure and radiowave

assets this year to expand the cov-

erage of next-generation 5G ser-

vices which is one of the main

highlights of 2024 for the sector.

protect margins, private telcos resorted to tariff hikes in mid-year

but that move backfired.

cent price hike.

To recover investments and

Around 2 crore subscribers

dropped their connections.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and

Vodafone Idea jointly lost 2.6

crore customers due to a 10-26 per

to state-run player BSNL which

refrained from price hike. The

loss-making PSU still offers gen-

Around 68 customers switched

bread and butter data business. Private operators have invested

owed to the lenders by the Vodafone Shareholders

"Consequently, the indirect encumbrance on 15,720,826,860 equity shares of the target company held by the Promoter

Shareholders representing 22.56 per cent of the equity share capital of the target company on a fully diluted basis been released," the filing said. Consequently,

the indirect encumbrance on 15,720,826,860 equity shares of the target company held by the Promoter Vodafone Shareholders representing 22.56 per cent of the equity share capital of the target company on a fully diluted basis has been released," the

## Mangaluru Airport sees robust growth PNS MANGALURU

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has reported a year of significant growth, infrastructure advancements, and achievements in sustainability and safety, capping off an eventful 2024, officials said on

According to a statement from the airport spokesperson, the airport recorded its highest-ever passenger traffic for a single month in October, handling 202,892 passengers, including 138,902 domestic and 63,990 international travellers. This milestone highlights the growing importance of MIA as a regional aviation hub, connecting Mangaluru to key destinations.

received recognition with the Build India Infra Award 2024 in the innovation cat-The accolade was awarded for the

Infrastructure upgrades at the airport

rapid completion of a 2,450-meter runway recarpeting project, which featured a flexible asphalt overlay on a rigid concrete The project was completed in just 75

working days, enhancing safety and operational efficiency.

Telcos investment recovery in limbo as tariff hike backfires

Price war with satcom services likely

In sustainability

Association (DIPA) Director

General Manoj Kumar Singh says

the telecom infrastructure sector

looks at a cumulative investment

of Rs 92,100 crore to Rs 1.41 lakh

crore in 2022-2027 to support the

Scindia also backed telecom oper-

ators on the tariff hike issue cit-

ing investments made by compa-

2024 has paved the way for the

adoption of emerging technolo-

The rollout of 5G services in

Union Minister Jyotiraditya

5G ecosystem.

nies in the network.



implemented energy-efficient lighting and waste management systems, reinforcing its commitment to greener operations.

Expanded connectivity was another highlight for MIA this year. Air India Express introduced a Boeing 737-8 service connecting Chennai and Mangaluru via Bengaluru, while IndiGo increased direct flights to Chennai. These additions have improved travel options for

passengers.

MIA's performance earned it several prestigious awards. At

gies like artificial intelligence

which offers huge growth poten-

game-changer. We've witnessed a

significant surge in 5G base trans-

ceiver stations, rising from 412,214 in December 2023 to

462,854 by November 2024," says

DIPA, whose members include

Indus Towers and American

5G and maintaining healthy mar-

gins in the face of subscriber loss

are not the only challenges for pri-

broadband service providers is

staring at private telcos in the New

has seen intense lobbying on the

spectrum allocation issue in 2024.

Private telecom operators led by

Mukesh Ambani-promoted Jio

have been for strongly protesting

against the administrative alloca-

tion of spectrum to satellite

broadband service providers like

Elon Musk's Starlink

The satellite broadband sector

A new threat from satellite

Impending huge investments in

Tower Corporation.

vate telecom players.

"5G deployment has been a

sented the award, which recognised MIA's growth of 1,927,466 passengers in 2023 a 14.17 per cent increase from the previ-

passengers" category.

civil aviation exhibition, the airport was

named the best in the "under 5 million

Former Union Minister for Civil

Aviation and Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia pre-

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

FORM-F

Notification by the Collector (L.A), HAML

(See rule 7 (c))

No. C5/112/2024-LHS (176 to 200)

Where a notification was issued O6/112/2024-LHS (178 to 200) dated 07-12-2024 and published in the Gazette Hyd.-HAML No. 40 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.	in Sq. yds.			
1	2	3	4			
Sri. Ismail Bin Salah     Sto Late Salah Bin Salah     Sri. Ibrahim Bin Salah     Sto Late Salah Bin Salah     Rto 17-2-1020,     Rain Bazar, Yakuthpura,     Hyderabad.		18-7-205/B	77.24			
It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if						

arry, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District / Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rascolpura, Hyderabad within the seven days of publication of this Notification i.e., by 04-01-2025.

Sdi- Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rascolpura, Hyderabad.

## DGCA order suspension of 2 directors of Akasa Air for training lapses Air director of operations and

PNS MUMBAI

Aviation safety regulator DGCA on Friday ordered the suspension of director of operations and director of training at Akasa Air for six months for alleged lapses in pilots' training. The two senior executives of the airline, in which the Rakesh Jhunjhunwala family holds stakes, have "failed" to ensure "compliances" with the civil aviation requirements, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in its two sepa-

rate orders of December 27. The suspension of the Akasa

director of training came after the DGCA found the replies to the show-cause notices issued to them on October 15 and October 30, respectively, as "unsatisfactory"

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation, in its orders, also advised the airline to nominate "suitable" candidates for the two positions.

Akasa Air in a statement said, "Akasa Air is in receipt of an order from the DGCA dated

27th December 2024. We will continue to work with the DGCA and comply accordingly. "Safety is of utmost importance, and we continuously trive to pursue the highest standards of safety."

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) while issuing suspension orders, said: "It has been found in regulatory audit conducted by DGCA on Oct 7, 2024, at M/s SNV Aviation Private Limited (Akasa Air), Mumbai, that RNP training (Approaches) is being conducted on simulators which have not been qualified for the same... which is in vio-

lation of Para 7 of CAR Section

7, Series D, Part VI.

Stating that the director of operations and the director of training at Akasa Air "failed to ensure the compliances of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR)," the DGCA said that the two officials "failed to train personnel adequately ... also repeated lapses/violation has been found pertaining to training".

eration-old 3G service and is on

the path of rolling out 4G network

Despite subscriber loss, pri-

vate players need to recover invest-

ment and invest more in 5G to

offer new-age services to drive

and Telecom leader Prashant

Singhal, the cumulative invest-

ment of Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel

and Vodafone Idea was around Rs

Digital Infrastructure Providers

70,200 crore in 2024.

According to EY India Markets

across the country.

future growth.

The DGCA in its order also said that the two senior executives have " failed to discharge duties to meet applicable legal requirements and to maintain safe operations" as per certain provisions of a partic-

### **Zydus Wellness arm gets** Rs 56.33 cr GST demand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zydus Wellness Ltd on Saturday said its whollyowned arm has received a GST demand of Rs 56.33 crore, along with applicable interest and penalty from the tax authority.

Zydus Wellness Products Ltd (ZWPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary company, has received an intimation from the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence, Surat Zonal Unit, alleging GST demand of Rs 56.33 crore, along with applicable interest and penalty, Zydus Wellness Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The intimation alleges that the GST was payable in relation to the acquisition of intellectual property rights from Heinz Italia S.P.A. by Heinz India Pvt Ltd, now merged with ZWPL, it added. "ZWPL believes that there is a strong merit in the case, and ZWPL is evaluating the next steps based on a detailed review of the intimation," the filing said.

The period covered by the order relates to the pre-acquisition period prior to January 30, 2019, the filing said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PANCHYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT,
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.73/12/DPREPDPL/23/2-23
No of Works 453, Table Ent. Co. 25.

No of Works (58), Total Estt. Cost Rs. 414.10 Lakhs. Name of the works: 1) Building

Lakhs and other repair works (53) works Estt Cost Rs. 376.60 lakhs of Peddapally Distric vorks orwards last date of application for issue of tender schedules 03.01.2025. Tende scheduled issued on 06.01.2025. Last date Receipt of tenders on 07.01.2025 up to 3.00 P.N Opening of landers on 07.01.2025 at 3.30 P.M. Sdi- District Panchayath Raj Engine DIPR R.O.No: 8381-PPICL/ADVT/1/2014-25, Date: 28-13-2934

works (DilNos), Estt Cost Rs. 31.50 lakhs. 2) CC Drain (D1) Work Est. Cost is Rs. 6.00

🚳 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🐗 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
No. 10EE-2H)GHMC/2024-25/
Date: 28-12-2024

Name of the Work: Engaging various categories of outsourcing personnel (25 Nos. through Out sourcing agency to the O/o Executive Engineer, Housing Division-2, GHMC for a period of (03) months from January 2025 to March 2025. Estimated amount: Rs 17.43 Lakhs, Start date: 30-12-2024 @ 03:00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids 07-01-2025 @ 03.30 PM. Name & Address Officer Cell No.: O/o Executive Engineer-Housing), GHMC, 1st Floor, Municipal Building, Harl Hara Kale Bhavan, Secunderabad 500003. For any queries, contact, Y.Shankara Ganesh Dy.EE (H), GHMC, Cell No. 9701362882, e-mail id: eehr2Jnnurm@gmail.com. Further details can be seen a e-procurement@www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-2 (Housing R.O.No: 8413-PP/CL/ADVTH/2024-25, Dt. 28-12-2824



Do Patti: Do Patti is a story of twin sisters, whose troubled relationship is tested by love, betrayal, and redemption. The film explores the themes of domestic violence with standout performances by

L<mark>aapataa Ladies</mark>: Laapataa

identity, empowerment, and

covery, marking

heartwarming tale of

Kiran Rao's triumphant return to direction.

Sector 36: Sector 36 is a

chilling crime thriller showcasing Vikrant Massey

**RATING: 4.5/5** 

Maharaja: After his home is broken into, a barber seeks revenge by cryptically telling police that his "lakshmi" has been abducted. The story of his journey to retrieve "lakshmi" begins. RATING: 4/5

Bhaiyya Ji: A retired crime boss is pulled back into a world of bloodshed and violence as he seeks vengeance against those who killed his younger brother, featuring Manoj Bajpayee as Bhaiyya

RATING: 4/5

Lucky Bhaskar: Lucky Bhaskar a Telugu-language period crime drama about a lower-middle-class man who turns to financial scams to overcome debt and humiliation, featuring Dulquer Salmaan in a compelling titular role. RATING: 4/5

**CTRL:** CTRL is a thriller directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, plotting the dark side of the digital age and the dangers of oversharing online. **RATING: 3.5/5** 

Article 370: The story follows Yami Gautam as a special agent, assigned a high-stakes mission to quell violence in Kashmir and render Article 370 ineffective. **RATING: 3.5/5** 

The 124-minute drama is a must-watch for crime delivering an unsettling **RATING: 3.5/5** 

performances to thrilling narratives and unexpected misses, writes ABHI SINGHAL

inema has long been a reflection of society, a medium of mass communication, and an instrument for change. From its inception, films have served as more than just a source of entertainment. They have been a mirror to society, amplifying voices, shedding light on pressing issues, and sparking conversations that transcend borders. Over the decades, the cinematic landscape has evolved, offering a fascinating mix of artistry, storytelling, and technical brilliance. This year was no

Looking back at the journey of Indian cinema, it is astonishing to witness its evolution—from the poignant realism of Satvaiit Ray's "Pather Panchali" and the thought-provoking narratives of Shyam Benegal to the visual spectacles crafted by modern filmmakers like S.S. Rajamouli and Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Over 69 years, the industry has grown into a cultural phenomenon, shaping not just entertainment but also the values and ideals of its audience.

The early years of Indian cinema were driven by socially conscious storytelling, as seen in classics like Shatranj Ke Khilari, Sadgati, and Aparajito. These films addressed societal issues with sensitivity and depth, using the medium to educate and inspire change. Directors like Ray and Benegal paved the way for a golden era where art met purpose, creating a legacy of films that resonated deeply with audiences. In recent years, however, talking

about films like Pushpa 2, Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, Kalki 2898 AD, Kill, and more there has been a discernible shift in the motives behind filmmaking. While the essence of cinema as an art form endures, the industry has leaned heavily towards commercialisation. With a focus on box office numbers and global appeal, the cinematic

experience has transformed into a spectacle, often prioritising grandeur and entertainment over substance. Yet, amidst the crowd of mass-market releases, there remain exceptions about the films that challenge norms, provoke thought, and carry forward the tradition of meaningful storytelling.

it becomes evident that cinema continues to straddle the line between its artistic roots and

its commercial aspirations. The past year has been a testament to the diversity of the medium, offering a mix of groundbreaking narratives, record-breaking successes, and a glimpse into the future of filmmaking wills also some flops which didn't do well. This retrospective explores how the industry has evolved over time and examines the key highlights of the cinematic journey this year, from the unforgettable performances to the innovative storytelling that defined 2024.

vengeful scientist's plan to attack India.

Sarfira: Sarfira is a Hindi drama directed by Sudha Kongara, starring Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, and Radhika Madan. A remake of Soorarai Pottru, it follows a man's fight to create affordable airlines for low-income people, battling numerous obstacles along the way.

Maidaan: Maidaan is a biographical sports drama directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma, starring Ajay Devgn as Syed Abdul Rahim, a pioneering football coach in India.

**The Buckingham Murders:** The Buckingham Murders is an Indian crime thriller directed by Hansal Mehta, starring Kareena Kapoor Khan as a grieving British-Indian detective investigating a child's murder in



Aaj Ki Raat: Madhubanti Bagchi, Divya Kumar, Sachin -Jigar Sahiba: Jasleen Royal

Suniyan Suniyan: Juss and

Yodha: Yodha an action

thriller following Arun Katyal (Sidharth Malhotra)

a former soldier suspende after a failed mission, who

plane years later. Blamed

seeks revenge against the

is found on a hijacked

for the hijacking, Arun

MixSingh

Ve Haaniyaan: Danny Ft Avvy Sra Kaavaalaa: by Shilpa Rao, Anirudh Ravichander



Actor of the year

Kriti Sanon stole 2024 in

her name by her stellar, glamorous performances

and delivering back to

back hit films even with

female protagonists loved

: Jamnapaar is a series on Amazon Mini TV about Shanky Bansal, a young man from East Delhi grappling with identity and aspirations. Struggling with feelings of inferiority, Shanky disowns his roots but eventually learns to embrace and take pride in them.

**Gyaarah Gyaarah:** Gyaarah Gyaarah, streaming on Zee5, is an Indian adaptation of the South Korean series Signal. It blends time travel, suspense, and crime drama across three timelines

Heeramandi: Airing on Netflix, Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar is a 2024 Hindi period drama by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, exploring the lives of tawaifs in Lahore's Heera Mandi during India's independence struggle. The star-studded cast includes Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, and Aditi Rao Hydari.

Mirzapur Season 3: The third season of Mirzapur gets into an intense power struggle between Guddu, Sharad Shukla, and Kaleen Bhaiya, as alliances shift and rivalries deepen in the lawless city.

i: The web series Ranneeti: Balakot and Beyond is a 2024 action series streaming on Zee5, following an R&AW agent and his team as they combat hybrid warfare post-Pulwama attacks. They race to rescue a captured pilot, expose Pakistan's propaganda.

# sunday pioneer

#### **INGREDIENTS**

Preparation Time: 20 mins | Cooking Time: 15 mins | Serves: 3-4

- Baguette Bread : 1 loaf
   Butter : to spread on the bread
- Potato : 1 White channa : 1/4 cup Chaat masala : 2 pinches
- Tomato: 1 small
   Red chilli powder as needed
   Salt: a pinch • Sweet chutney: 1 tsp • Coriander leaves: few
  - Sev : as needed(to garnish)



#### **METHOD**

Step 1: Soak the channa over night. Pressure cook the potato and the soaked channa. Cut the potatoes into cubes after it is cooked. take out the seeds of the tomato and chop them into small pieces.

Step 2: Cut the baguette loaf and spread butter on the

Step 3: Bake the bread for 7 to 10 minutes at 150 degrees till it becomes crisp.

Step 4: Mix the cubed aloo, tomato, cooked channa. chaat masala, red chilli powder, sweet chutney and chopped coriander leaves. Aloo channa chaat is ready.

Step 5: Now it is the time to assemble the aloo channa chaat on the bread. Always do this just before serving.

Step 6: Place the baked baugette on a plate. Step 7: Spoon in the aloo channa chaat on the bread.

Step 9: Serve immediately. If you want you can add little red chutney or green chutney on the top while serving.

Step 1: You can add green chutney to the aloo channa

Step 2: You can add grated carrots, capsicum if you want

**AS THE CLOCK** THE NEW YEAR **GATHER YOUR LOVED ONES AROUND THE** TABLE TO INDULGE IN A FEAST OF **DELICIOUS AND SYMBOLIC** 

DISHES.

**RECIPE** 



#### **INGREDIENTS**

Preparation Time: 10 mins | Cooking Time: 15 Mins | Serves: 2

- Doritos or corn chips 10-12 Rajma I Red kidney beans 1/4 cup Sweet corn kernels 3 tbsp Capsicum (red and green) 1 tbsp each
   Potato 1/4 portion
   Olives 4
   Onion 1
  - Tomato 1/2
     Sweet chutney 2 tsp
     Green chutney 2 tsp
     Chaat masala 1/4 tsp
    - Roasted cumin powder 1/4 tsp
       Sev for garnishing

#### **METHOD:**

Step 1: Cook the over night soaked rajma, potato and sweet corn in a pressure cooker. Step 2: Drain the water and keep it aside. Step 3: Chop the onion, capsicum and tomato finely. Step 4: Cut the olives into circles. Cut the potato into small cubes.

**Step 5:** In a wide bowl add the red kidney beans, potato, sweet corn, olives, capsicum, onion and tomato into it. Step 6: Add the green chutney, sweet chutney, chaat masala and roasted cumin powder. Step 7: Mix well evenly. Step 8: Slightly crush the Doritos and add it to the bowl.

Step 9: Gently mix it. Step 10: Add it to the serving plate and garnish with sev. Step 11: Serve immediately.

## **PANEER MILLET CUTLET**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

Preparation Time: 15 mins | Cooking Time: 25 Mins | Makes: 14

- Paneer crumbled 3/4 cup
   Cooked millet 1 cup • Onion 1 • Capsicum 1/4 cup
- Besan I kadalai maavul gram flour 3 tblsp • Garam masala 1 tsp • Red chili powder 1 tsp
  - Coriander leaves and mint 2 tblsp Oil for deep frying
     Salt as needed

#### **METHOD**

**Step 1:** If you have paneer cubes crumble the paneer by putting them in hot water for 10 minutes. Ensure it has not

Sten 2: You can use samai millet or barnyard millet and cook 1/4 cup of millet in 1/4 cup of water in pressure cooker for 3 whistles. Step 3: Let this cool completely.

Step 4: Chop the onions, capsicum, coriander and mint leaves very finely.

Step 5: In a wide bowl, add the crumbled paneer, cooked millet, besan, capsicum, onion, red chili powder, garam masala, salt, coriander leaves and mint leaves. Step 6: Mix this well. Ensure the mixture is dry and tight. If you feel it is loose add 1-2 tblsp extra gram flourl kadalai maavu. Step 7: If you are planning to tawa fry this cutlets, dry roast the besan flour and add.

Step 8: Take a lemon sized portion of the dough. Step 9: Flatten it as we do for cutlets. Else you can make it as an oblong shape.

Step 10: Once you are done with shaping, if you have time, keep it inside the refrigerator.

**Step 11:** Else you can start frying the cutlets. **Step 12:** You can keep it for a day and fry later too.

Step 13: Heat oil for deep frying. Keep the flame in medium. Step 14: Fry the cutlets in batches.

Step 15: Fry till it turns golden brown colour. Do not keep the flame too high, else the inside will not get cooked.

**Step 16:** Drain in kitchen towel. **Step 17:** Serve hot with ketchup or green chutney.

**MESSIKA SET (EARRING+PENDANT)** 

14k gold set beautifully crafted

vith a timeless design that

sophistication. This motif is

dotted with sparkling diamonds,

featuring a solitaire emerald and

a solitaire pear-shaped diamond

adorned with a delicate round

exudes elegance and

diamond border.

Price: Rs 204,569



**COURTESY:** Jeyashri Suresh, Jeyashri's

Kitchen

## **MUNDIRI PAKODA**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

 ¾ cup Cashew nuts
 ½ cup Besan I kadalai maavu
 ½ cup Rice flour
 1 cup Mint leaves loosely packed ● 2 cloves Garlic optional ● Ginger a small piece ● 1 tsp Fennel seeds I sombu ● Curry leaves few ● Salt as needed ● 1 tsp Red chili powder ● 2 tsp hot oil ● Oil for deep frying

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Step 1: In a grinder coarsely pulse the ginger, garlic(if adding), fennel seeds, and curry leaves. Step 2: Chop the mint leaves. Step 3: In a wide bowl add the besan, rice flour, chopped mint leaves, pulsed ginger mixture, red chili powder, salt and cashew nuts. Step 4: Do not roast the cashew nuts. Add raw (whole) cashew nuts **Step 5:** Heat the 2 tsp of oil and add it to the flour

mixture. Step 6: Mix everything and sprinkle a little water. Step 7: Make a stiff dough. Step 8: Heat oil for deep frying. Step 9: When it becomes hot, bring the flame to medium. Step 10: Take the cashew pakoda dough in small portions and carefully put them into oil.

Step 11: Deep fry in oil till it becomes crispy golden brown. Step 12: Fry on both sides. Step 13: Take it out once the oil sound subsides. Step 14: Drain in a kitchen towel. Step 15: Repeat this for the rest of the cashew mixture. Step 16: This pakoda can be stored in an airtight container for 2 days. Step 17: Allow this to cool completely and then store it in a box.

**HOROSCOPE** 

#### WHAT'S NEW

# Ultimate New Year's gift guide for every budget

Christmas is around the corner and finding the perfect gift can be a huge challenge! That's why we've created a Christmas gift guide for every budget - the one-stop solution for thoughtful gifts, no matter your budget. Whether you're shopping for beauty lovers. decor connoisseurs, or adventurers, this list covers every gifting need.

#### **NOURISH GLOW KIT**

This gift set contains: luxury ocean breeze whipped soap - moussetextured, innovative soap to gently cleanse, loaded with shea butter and cold-pressed coconut oil for soft, smooth skin; luxury coffee sugar scrub - gentle, foaming scrub to polish and reveal glowing skin loaded with raw sugar and coffee; luxury whipped body butter - extra nourishing, non-sticky moisturizer loaded with the power of 3 natural plant butter: shea butter, cocoa butter, kokum.

**Price: Rs** 1,600.00/-

#### **JAMIE DUFFLE BAG**

Get ready for your next adventure with the Jamie Travel Duffle! (Grey) This practical and stylish bag is made from the best quality eco-friendly vegan leather and tough cotton canvas. MonaB Jamie Duffle (Grey) Bag is perfectly designed to make your travel easier and more organized. It has smart features like a front pocket with a magnetic closure, comfy handles and an adjustable shoulder strap. Price: 2,699/-



#### **STARTER SET**

The Starter set features our gentle yet effective face wash (150 ml), hydrating face moisturiser with SPF 30 (50 ml), nourishing body wash (300 ml) and luxurious body lotion (300 ml)

Price: Rs 4,636.00/-

#### **OATS BEIGE AND IVORY ADORE COTTON** REVERSIBLE BEDSPREAD

The Oats Beige and Ivory Adore Cotton Reversible Bedspread brings a touch of elegance and comfort to your bedroom. Crafted from soft. breathable cotton, this versatile bedspread features a chic beige and ivory color combination, perfect for



creating a serene, cozy atmosphere. Its reversible design offers two stylish looks in one, making it easy to refresh your bedding whenever you like. Price: Rs 12,999

#### **EMBRACE HOLIDAY** SEASON WITH YSL LIBRE **FLOWERS & FLAMES!**

& Flames – a sultry floral burst that embodies bold



#### Celebrate this holiday season with YSL Libre Flowers femininity and radiant allure. Price: Rs 7,600/-

ideas, face challenges

#### **VIRGO**



**Embrace** stimulating partnerships and successful projects. Family challenges arise, but your guidance and adaptability will bring resolution and energy.



relationships under pressure. Embrace family time, stay humble for prosperity and rely on loyalty for support.

#### **TAURUS**



Stay calm under pressure, embrace unexpected love and focus on

studies. Avoid undue worry and trust your reasoning power.

Clear up misunderstandings with siblings. Stay

**GEMINI** 

determined in projects, embrace creativity and trust your instincts for successful outcomes.

#### **CANCER** Overcome

setbacks with willpower. Success awaits in career and relationships. Spend quality time with loved ones for support and growth.

#### **LEO**



confidently and rise above stress. Show care and wisdom, earning respect and recognition this week.



#### **LIBRA**

Overcome frustrations, define goals and embrace new opportunities. Meditation boosts energy. Stay communicative and career stability shines through

thoughtful decisions this week.

financial growth bring fulfillment

#### **SCORPIO**

Embrace career changes and family bonding. Meditate to release old illusions. Loyal relationships and

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

this week.

Your humour charms others, but avoid ego clashes. Embrace change, focus on goals and trust love for lasting stability.

#### **CAPRICORN**

Pursue bold ideas with caution. **Emotional support** boosts confidence. Avoid laziness, focus on teamwork and embrace guidance for future success.

#### **AQUARIUS**

Reconnect with siblings, stay calm under pressure and embrace unexpected love. Focus on goals, avoid distractions and stay motivated.

#### **PISCES**

Stay calm amidst workplace or relationship challenges. Avoid impulsive changes, focus on self-control and embrace new support for harmony.

#### seasons—Summer, monsoon, autumn, winter and spring. **PHILIPS HAIR DRYER BHD356/10** The perfect hair dryer to enjoy glossy, frizz-free hair with powerful ionic system, generates up to 20 million ions per drying session.

TNW (THE NATURAL WASH) FIVE

**SCENTS, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES** 

Discover the alluring world of TNW perfumes, where each

emotions and create lasting memories. A unique combo

blend with enchanting ingredients, perfectly covering all

fragrance is a carefully curated scent designed to enhance the

collection features five signature scents, each is a successful

Powerful 2100W dryer with 6 different settings ensure precise control for professional tailored styling. With the ThermoProtect Airflower that covers a wider drying area, you can dry your hair without fear of heat damage. Compact design with foldable handle makes it easy to pack and travel friendly.



# **OF SHILPI**

Make your holiday season stylish in Banarasi silk tissue zari pleated top with slip that is crafted from exquisite Banarasi fabric. Dazzling like a dream, this top can be paired with a skirt or trousers for a voguish and elegant look. The delicate silk tissue interwoven with golden zari threads gleams with a subtle and enchanting luster.

HOUSE

Price: On request





# 'WE'LL KEEP EVOLVING, BUT NEVER STOP CREATING'

**SEEDHE MAUT'S JOURNEY** FROM THE STREETS OF **DELHI TO BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCES IN INDIAN HIP-**HOP IS **NOTHING SHORT OF** REMARKABLE. **KNOWN FOR THEIR GRITTY** LYRICS, **INNOVATIVE SOUND AND UNAPOLOGETIC AUTHENTICITY, ENCORE AND CALM HAVE BUILT** A UNIQUE SPACE **FOR THEMSELVES** IN THE MUSIC **INDUSTRY. FROM** THE EARLY DAYS **OF GRINDING AND PERFECTING** THEIR CRAFT TO THEIR LATEST HIT KSHAMA, THE **DUO HAS CONSISTENTLY PUSHED THE** 



PNS| HYDERABAD

eedhe Maut, one of the most dynamic and influential duos in the Indian hiphop scene, continues to redefine the genre with every track they release. Known for their raw, unapologetic lyrics and a unique blend of storytelling and energy, Encore and Calm have captured the hearts of millions. From their early days in Delhi to becoming an iconic voice for Gen Z, Seedhe Maut's journey has been one of relentless growth, experimentation and staying true to their roots. Their recently released track *Kshama* is a testament to their evolving sound and deeper introspection, offering listeners a glimpse into their personal experiences and thoughts. With each new release, Seedhe Maut continues to push the boundaries of hip-hop, making music that resonates on a profound level with their ever-growing fanbase.

In an exclusive interview,

In an exclusive interview, Seedhe Maut, one of the most celebrated acts in India's hiphop scene, reflects on their journey, music and the evolution of their sound. The duo, composed of Encore and Calm, is known for pushing boundaries in the genre and their music has become a voice for a generation, particularly among Gen Z. With several years of hard work behind them, Seedhe Maut continues to innovate, explore new sounds, and stay true to their roots. As they reflect on their path, the duo shares insights into their creative process and the unwavering drive that has helped them rise to the top.

Seedhe Maut's journey, which began in the streets of Delhi, is a tes-

Seedhe Maut's journey, which began in the streets of Delhi, is a testament to their resilience and dedication. When asked about the emotion that best captures their journey, Calm expresses deep gratitude for their listeners and the growing Seedhe Maut Nation. "We feel grateful, firstly, for everything we have—our listeners, the fans who show up for every tour, and the entire desi hip-hop community that has supported us from the beginning. It's been a long road, but it's just the beginning." he says.

it's just the beginning," he says.
As the duo looks forward, they're focused on continuing to evolve their sound. "Our music and what we say have evolved with our own experiences. As we grew up, what we wrote and how we approached music changed. We're not going to hold back from experimenting with fresh sounds and we'll explore themes that are relevant to us," Encore

shares. "What we create will always remain true to who we are. That's something that will never change."

Seedhe Maut's success has come from a mix of online recognition and live performances that have allowed them to connect with fans in a more tangible way. Reflecting on the love and recognition that they have received over the years, the duo

recalls, "The passion our fans have for us and our music is beyond anything we've ever experienced. It feels amazing to perform in front of such dedicated people. Seedhe Maut is more than just a group; it's a lifestyle." The duo is known for writing and producing their music inhouse and this gives them greater control over their sound. "When you create music yourself, the amount of self-scrutiny increases," says Encore. "We try to push ourselves to explore new sounds and challenge what we know. But we do it because we want to continue sharpening our biggest weapon: our pens."

Despite the pressures of pushing creative boundaries, Calm emphasises that Seedhe Maut's primary goal is to make music that resonates with them personally. "We make music that we like. We make music for ourselves first. That's why we've never confined ourselves to any specific genre or sound," he explains. "Our music evolves with us and that's the key to staying true to who we are."

The duo also discusses how some of their tracks have been in the works for a long time, while others came together quickly. Calm shares that the beat for *Swah* is one of the oldest he's ever produced, while Peace of Mind was one of the first beats he created on his laptop. Encore, on the other hand, reveals that *Champion* was written at YouTube Fanfest and tracks like Fanne Khan, Lunch Break and Kya Challa were recorded on the spot in places like Delhi and Goa. Seedhe Maut's Lunch Break carries a nostalgic undertone, reflecting their childhood experiences and the universal feelings of rebellion and freedom that accompany youth. Calm elaborates on the theme, saying, "We'll always miss the carefree nature of childhood, but those years shape us in ways both good and bad. The theme of school and childhood is something we can all relate to, especially in a country like India, where children are often expected to conform to the system."

Despite the nostalgic tone, the duo insists they're not slowing down anytime soon. Encore, speaking on their relentless work ethic, says, "We make music like our lives depend on it—because, to be honest, it does. Music is our outlet, our way of processing things and it's our favorite thing to do. We'll keep evolving, but we'll never stop creating."

we'll never stop creating."

Calm reinforces this sentiment, stating, "Seedhe Maut isn't stopping. Rap is the instrument through which we speak about what matters to us and we'll continue to do that with every new album."

As Seedhe Maut continues to grow and break new ground in the Indian music scene, their passion for their craft remains unshaken. The duo's dedication to evolving their sound while staying true to themselves promises an exciting future ahead. For Seedhe Maut, the grind never stops and their music will always remain a reflection of their journey and their unwavering commitment to their art.

#### TRENDING

#### PERSON

#### MANMOHAN SINGH

Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, took his last breath on December 26. He was one of India's longestserving prime



#### VIDEO

#### RAHA'S 'HI' TO THE PAPS



Raha Kapoor in holiday mood as she says 'hi' to paparazzi, blows flying kisses as Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Rhatt smile

#### MOVIE

#### **BABY JOHN**



The Varun Dhawan, Keerthy Suresh and Wamiqa Gabbistarrer, which hit the cinemas on December 25, turned out to be Dhawan's biggest opener in the past 5 years. The film has opened to mixed responses and is however creating quite a buzz.

#### DAMMUNTE PATTUKORA

Controversy surrounding around Pushpa 2 sees no end and Dammunte Pattukora adds a pinch of salt to it. The song was released on the promotional part of the film, but shortly after they uploaded the song, they got trolled, resulting to the song being pulled down.



#### PICTURE

#### SANTA KEJRIWAL



The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a festive Santa Claus avatar of its national convenor Arvind Kejriwal for Christmas greetings.

#### THE BLEEDING EYE VIRUS

# A call to action for awareness and prevention

**TEJAL SINHA** tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

**BOUNDARIES OF** 

HIP-HOP,

**EARNING A** 

**FOLLOWING** 

he Bleeding Eye Virus, medically referred to as viral hemorrhagic conjunctivitis, is a rare but alarming condition that poses significant health challenges, particularly in crowded or unsanitary environments. Characterised by dramatic symptoms such as blood-red streaks in the eyes due to ruptured capillaries, this condition is not only visually distressing but also indicative of deeper health risks. Experts stress the importance of early diag-

### its impact on individuals and communities. What is the bleeding eye virus?

nosis, prevention and treatment to mitigate

Dr. M.L. Sujatha, Consultant Cataract and Cornea Refractive Surgeon at SS SPARSH Hospital, explains, "The Bleeding Eye Virus is an alarming condition that affects the delicate blood vessels in the eyes, causing them to rupture and produce blood-red streaks. While its appearance is dramatic, the condition is more than an aesthetic concern—it represents a significant health risk."

The virus primarily spreads through contact with infected bodily fluids, contaminated surfaces, or respiratory droplets, making it highly contagious in densely populated areas or where hygiene practices are poor. "This disease is commonly linked with outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic fevers or poor sanitation practices, which highlights the need for improved hygiene and healthcare infrastructure in affected areas," Dr. Sujatha emphasises.

#### Symptoms and complications

The Bleeding Eye Virus manifests through a range of striking and often

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, experts discuss the rising threat of the Bleeding Eye Virus, its alarming symptoms, and the urgent need for prevention through hygiene, awareness and timely medical care





painful symptoms that demand immediate attention. "The most distinctive symptom is the appearance of blood-streaked eyes, caused by ruptured capillaries in the conjunctiva," notes Dr. Sujatha.

#### This is often accompanied by:

- Intense redness and swelling
- Burning sensationsSensitivity to light
- Excessive tearing
  Crusting discharge, particularly after

Systemic symptoms such as fever, fatigue and body aches are also common, indicating the virus's broader impact on the body. "If left untreated, the virus can lead to complications such as corneal ulcers, scarring, secondary infections, and even blindness in extreme cases," warns Dr. Sujatha.

The onset of symptoms usually occurs within 2–7 days of exposure, with children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems being particularly vulnerable.

#### Prevention: A proactive approach

Preventing the virus requires a comprehensive approach that emphasises hygiene, education, and access to healthcare resources. Dr. Col. Aditi Dusaj, Senior Consultant in Ophthalmology at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, stresses the importance of simple preventive measures. "Frequent handwashing, avoiding touch-

ing or rubbing the eyes and refraining from sharing personal items like towels, cosmetics, or eye drops can significantly reduce the risk of infection," she advises.

She also highlights the importance of protective gear: "Wearing masks and gloves in high-risk environments and maintaining a clean living space are equally critical."

Certain groups, such as healthcare workers, individuals in crowded conditions, and children, are at greater risk. "Children are particularly susceptible because of their tendency to touch their faces and eyes frequently, often without proper hygiene. Raising awareness about eye and hand hygiene in these groups is crucial," Dr. Dusaj adds.

Access to clean water, improved sanitation, and healthcare resources in outbreakprone areas is essential. These measures not only prevent the spread of the virus but also address the underlying conditions that facilitate its transmission.

#### Treatment: Early intervention

For individuals exposed to the virus or experiencing symptoms, seeking medical attention promptly is crucial. Dr. Dusaj explains, "Early treatment with antiviral medications, supportive care like lubricating eye drops and symptomatic relief through cold compresses can effectively manage the infection and prevent complications."

Diagnostic tools such as viral cultures, blood tests and slit-lamp examinations are used to confirm the condition and develop a tailored treatment plan. "Recognising symptoms early and intervening promptly not only alleviates discomfort but also reduces the risk of long-term complications such as corneal scarring and vision loss," Dr. Sujatha emphasises.

#### Raising awareness and building resilience

Public awareness is a critical component in combating the virus. "People must understand how the virus spreads and what steps they can take to prevent exposure," says Dr. Sujatha. Educational campaigns, particularly in vulnerable communities, can empower individuals to adopt hygienic practices and seek care at the earliest signs of illness.

Both experts agree that improved healthcare infrastructure and hygiene practices are vital in managing and preventing outbreaks. "A proactive approach—combining education, hygiene, and prompt medical care—is the most effective way to combat this virus and protect public health," Dr. Dusaj concludes.

#### Final thoughts

The bleeding eye virus serves as a reminder of the importance of hygiene, public awareness and robust healthcare systems. While its symptoms are dramatic, they underscore the need for vigilance and prompt action to prevent complications and curb its spread. Through collaborative efforts involving individuals, healthcare providers and public health authorities, the challenges posed by this condition can be effectively addressed.



# 'ROWDY' SPIRIT REDEFINED

Makkan Singh Raj Thakur, Congress MLA from Ramagundam, in this engaging interview with Naveena Ghanate of **The Pioneer**, opens up to share vignettes from his early days filled with challenges that helped build resilience in him to face fierce political battles that followed. Apart from a love story that defied odds, Thakur weaves a tale of passion, grit and unwavering dedication. Dive into his world as he shares the highs and lows of his YSR'S Timeless advice journey, his unshakable loyalty to his roots, and his vision for the future.



#### **DISCOVERING POLITICS WITH ABVP**

Although my entire family was inclined to the Congress and left ideologies. I was drawn to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) -- the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). I used to go to shakas and did everything. In fact, I had become the target of Naxalites because of this. At that time, Revanth Reddy, Kishan Reddy we all were together. For a while, I found myself aligned with their ideology, but over time, I realised my true calling lay elsewhere. In my teenage, once when I was going on a bike, Naxals who had been looking for someone stopped me to know what I was doing there. They shot me as they had missed their target. I did fight with them. They thought I was dead and left. Later, someone gave me first aid and I was under the care of Dr Sarangi in NTPC. For 9 days, I was in coma. I had seven bullets, one is lodged somewhere close to my heart. Everyone was surprised why I became their target.

#### A HUMBLE BEGINNING

I was born into a large family. We were nine siblings, but one passed away early, so we eight members grew up. Being the fourth child, I was very naughty. My forefathers were landlords and they had migrated here many generations ago. My father was a government employee in GENCO. My mother is a homemaker. I had a somewhat nomadic schooling experience. It started in a private school but soon I was moved to Kotthapalli Ramakrishna Mission School, then ZPHS, then in Karimnagar. I had to switch many schools partly because I was pampered. Our house was always open to people from surrounding villages. Farmers who came to sell their produce, traders passing through, or anyone needing a meal-my parents ensured no one left our home hungry. This upbringing instilled in me a deep respect for social service. I came to Hyderabad and discontinued degree as I was a full-timer in politics. I entered real estate; so, never continued education.

The region I grew up in was deeply influenced by the Naxalite movement. The presence of Naxalites cast a shadow on everyone. I still remember one fateful incident from my youth when I was mistakenly targeted by a group of Naxalites. They thought I was someone else, and I was beaten up and left to die near a river. I survived miraculously. I was in coma for several days and had to undergo treatment for severe injuries. That incident changed me forever. I realized how fragile life is and how important it is to stand up for what you believe in, no matter the risks.

#### **MY CALLING**

My entry into the Congress party was a turning point. I started with the Youth Congress and worked my way up through sheer hard work. Leaders like Y S Rajashekar Reddy and Sudhir Kumar inspired me with their vision and commitment. I joined NSUI, became City Congress president and served in various capacities in Youth Congress. In 1998, YSR gave me a chance to become municipal chairman. But due to internal politics in party local leaders proposed someone else. I did not even know where to take B-Form, so my name was announced but local leaders gave it to someone else. I was active in the Youth Congress. I have always had a deep connection with my native place Ramagundam. Despite having opportunities to contest from Hyderabad, I was resolute in my desire to fight for the people of Ramagundam. In 2004, I sought the Peddapalli ticket, but due to political alliances, it was allocated elsewhere. Understanding my passion and determination, Rajashekar Reddy promised me an opportunity and entrusted me with the chairmanship of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SATS).

#### **TURNING DOWN PRP** OFFER

Around the same time, megastar Chiranjeevi was setting up his Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) and approached me with an offer to contest on their ticket. Chiranieevi, in his earnest manner, told me that he would ensure my candidacy unless I chose not to run. If I refused, the ticket would be given to Mana Telangana Party, led by Devender Goud. While the offer was tempting, I chose lovalty over ambition and consulted YSR. His response was firm: "When I say no, it means no, because your candidacy will be seen as something orchestrated. Looking back, I believe I could have become an MLA at that time. However, my unwavering loyalty to YSR and my inexperience in navigating the complexities of political dynamics held me back. I was always aligned to one leader, one ideology, and I had not yet grasped the art of balancing ambition with political pragmatism. While it was a missed opportunity, it was also a learning moment that shaped my approach to politics in the years that





I was present during critical moments, like the Mahabubabad incident and the meeting in Kadapa

was significant, what hurt me the most was seeing those who had once vehemently opposed and

where Jagan openly stated that he had no issues with the formation of Telangana. While the statement

insulted Jagan later becoming his close allies once he became Chief Minister. These were individuals

who had no role in the party's foundational struggles but reaped the rewards when power was within

Telangana stance. I reminded him that just because Chandrababu Naidu had taken a controversial two

eyes policy, he didn't need to take a U-turn. I urged him to stand firm, but by then, I had started to lose

faith. Jagan hugged me, held my hand, and asked me not to leave, assuring me that he would take care

of my future. But the damage was done-I had sacrificed everything, only to see the leader I believed in

had stayed true to his principles, we

could have won 26 seats

change his stance for political convenience. After leaving YSRCP, I witnessed other Telangana leaders like

reach. I visited Jagan in jail during this turbulent time and pleaded with him not to adopt an anti-

Konda Surekha, Bajireddy Govardhan, KK Mahender Reddy, and Jitta

Balakrishna Reddy leave the party. I couldn't help but think that if Jagan

#### A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

In 2009, my dream of representing Ramagundam as an MLA seemed within reach when the ticket was declared in my favour. The decision had the support of many key leaders, and I was confident of a victory. However, political lobbies began working against me, creating hurdles that suddenly turned the tide. Despite my initial optimism, the resistance was overwhelming, and it became clear that my candidacy was in jeopardy. Frustrated but determined, I decided to contest as an independent candidate. YS Rajashekar Reddy, my mentor and guiding force, did not initially stop me and Srisailam Goud from filing independent nominations. However, he eventually called me, personally asking me to withdraw my candidacy. For me, YSR was more than a leader-he was my boss and a figure I regarded as godlike in politics. He assured me that my time would come, promising me elevation in the future

# ELEVATING

Raiashekar Reddy was the

single greatest disaster of

my life, both emotionally

and politically. I was deeply

attached to him and his

family, and his death left me directionless. My loyalty to the YS family led me to support YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wholeheartedly as he built the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). I was one of the core members of the team-just 15 of us-who worked tirelessly to establish the party. Every day in Hyderabad, we mobilized movements that laid the foundation for YSRCP's growth. It's a fact often overlooked today, but Telangana played a pivotal role in the initial boost of YSRCP. The party's karyakarthas in the region worked relentlessly to garner support, creating a strong base that became instrumental in Jagan's rise. When YS Jagan went to jail, it was YS Sharmila who took the reins, continuing the struggle through her padyatra. I joined her efforts, even when personal tragedy struck-my father passed away, but just two or three days later, I returned to the field and continued with the padyatra. I vividly remember being with Sharmila and Vijayamma in Sircilla, where we were attacked by KTR and his people. Such incidents were a harsh reminder of the intensity of our fight.

**HOPE AND HEARTBREAK** 

followed.

By 2018, I was confident that the Congress ticket for Ramagundam was coming my way. I had worked tirelessly to rebuild my political base, and the support from party leaders was strong. However, fate had other plans. The BRS candidate, Korukanti Chander, suffered a personal tragedy when his wife passed away just before the elections. Her posters, featuring emotional messages, were displayed across the constituency, invoking a wave of sympathy. The impact was so powerful that even I found myself thinking, Should I vote for him? Despite the setback. I look back at my journey-from 1998 to 2023-with pride. Where I wanted to win, I fought with unwavering determination. Yes, I lost much along the way-my age, family time, assets, and even my peace of mind. I faced betraval and backstabbing, which I often describe as being socially raped. But through it all. I never backed down. My resilience is my strength, and my loyalty to my people and principles remains unshaken. Winning isn't just about votes-it's about staying true to your cause, no matter the cost.

## PUPPY LOVE THAT ENDURED in Telangana.

I married at a very young age, and it was a love marriage with Manali-one that came with its own twists and turns. Initially, I was interested in another girl, but fate had different plans. minany, r was interested in another yin, but rate had different plans. My wife fell in love with me, and when I realized her feelings, I made a ny while leir in love whili me, and whilen't realized her reelings, i made promise: I will marry you and take care of you. Her father, a close contact of Chandrabab. Naidward of the chandrabab. profitise: 1 will mainy you allocate of you. Her lattier, a close associate of Chandrababu Naidu and a staunch supporter of the TDP, was addressed to the control of the TDP, and Control of the TDP, was addressed to the control of the TDP, was addressed to the TDP, which is a control of the TDP, was addressed to the TDP, which is a control of the TDP, was addressed to the TDP, which is a control of the TDP, was addressed to the TDP. associate of Chandrababu Natou and a staunch supporter of the TDP, was understandably apprehensive, as I was firmly aligned with YSR and Congress.

Despite these differences, our families came together, and the wedding was held with their consent. Today, we have four wonderful children-two boys and held with their consent. Today, we have four wonderful children husbace. two girls. My eldest son, Prateek, is married and running a business. My eldest son, Prateek, is married and running a business. My eldest son, Prateek, is married and running a business. two girls, my eluest sun, Prateek, is married and running a dusiness, my eldest daughter, Manasa, is also married, while Reva, my second daughter, eldest daughter, Manasa, is also married, while Reva, my second daughter, eldest dagged. is pursuing her undergraduate degree. My youngest, Nidhish, is in is pursuing her undergraduate degree. My youngest, Nidnish, is in seventh grade. All my children are pampered and share my passion for sports, carrying forward the athletic spirit that has been a significant part of my life.W henever I travel, I take the

close-knit despite my political

# OPPORTUNITIES AND LOYALTY

AND LOYALTY

After my departure from YSRCP, I found myself at a political crossroads. The TRS leadership reached out to me, inviting me to join their ranks. I was offered a chance to contest from Mancherial or Musheerabad, but not from Ramagundam, my home and the constituency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride held me constituency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride held me constituency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride held me constituency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride held me was take. I couldn't see myself aligning with a party that I hadn't been a part to from the start. Those who were pragmatic and joined TRS, like Putta back-I couldn't see myself aligning with a party that, I hadn't been a part to from the start. Those who were pragmatic and joined TRS, like Putta back-I couldn't see myself aligning with a party that, I hadn't been a part to from the start. Those who were pragmatic and joined TRS, like Putta back-I couldn't see myself aligning with n my stance. My reluctance to Madhu, went on to become MLAs. In hindsight, I acknowledge their of from the start. Those who were pragmatic and joined TRS, like Putta back-I couldn't seen apart that it is a start of the start. The start of the start

#### FROM LONDON TO LEADERSHIP

In 2018, I was in London visiting my daughter when I received calls from Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy. They asked me to return to the Congress, but I insisted that any decision should have the approval of Sridhar Babu, the local leader with whom I had differences in the past. TPCC assured me that the message had already been passed to Rahul Gandhi, and they were ready to welcome me back. Coincidentally, it was Rahul Gandhi's birthday when I arrived. At a meeting attended by leaders like Koppula Raju, Kuntia, Madhu Yashki, and Uttam Kumar Reddy-then the PCC Chief-Koppula Raju placed a shawl around my shoulders, symbolizing my official return to Congress. From there, I travelled to Manthani to meet Sridhar Babu. Together, we organized a massive meeting from Manthani to Ramagundam, rallying our supporters and building momentum for the 2018 elections.

#### RESILIENCE

Over the years, I have faced countless allegations-not just against me but also targeting my family, my son-in-law, and even my youngest child. These attacks were deeply personal and often baseless, but I refused to let them deter me. From 2018 onward, my focus was entirely on Ramagundam. I hardly left the constituency, spending my days on the roads, meeting people, and addressing their concerns. I wanted to be among the people ensuring that their voices were heard and their needs were met. The 2023 elections were intense as TRS employed a new strategy: they distributed money and persuaded certain groups, to stay away from voting. Despite these tactics, around 1.5 lakh votes were eventually polled. I secured 92,000 votes-a testament to the trust and support of the people of Ramagundam. My focus now is on leaving a legacy of service and ensuring the well-being of my constituency through other means. As an MLA, my primary goal is to restore Ramagundam's lost glory. This region has immense potential, from power plants to industrial hubs. I am working tirelessly to bring in new projects, create jobs, and ensure the welfare of my constituents. Ramagundam is not just my constituency; it is my identity, and its development is my life's mission.



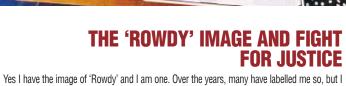
#### **QUICK BYTES**

Favorite Food: Pure non-vegetarian Fitness routine: I am passionate about fitness and plan to restart my regime soon **Favorite actor:** Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna. Favorite actress: Aishwarya Rai Favorite colours: Black and Red Favorite holiday destination: Zurich **Happiest moment:** Spending time with my family and becoming MLA

**Sad moments:** When my mother and father passed away Movies: I watch a lot of movies,

especially action Bad habit: Getting angry

Weakness: I trust people **Strength:** Family



wear that tag with pride. To me, it is not about unruly behavior; it is about standing up for the people who cannot fight for themselves. I did beat up people who did wrong. I have a lot of cases for fighting people. Whether it's battling bureaucratic injustice, ensuring fair treatment for workers, or challenging corrupt practices, I have never shied away from a confrontation when it was necessary. My so-called 'rowdy' reputation comes from these fights-for refusing to back down when someone's rights were at stake. If standing firm for the people and speaking loudly for justice makes me a rowdy, then so be it. I believe in being fearless, and I don't mind shaking the system if it means getting things done for the greater good. Even YSR, Sudhir Kumar, PJR were called rowdy. If they are Rowdy, even I am one.

#### **CONTESTING** INDEPENDENTLY

In 2014. I contested independently in Ramagundam, refusing to abandon my constituency. Despite limited resources, I garnered 11,000 votes. I realized that political labels might come and go, but the work you do for the people leaves a lasting impact. Slowly, I rebuilt my presence, laying the groundwork for a return to active politics. My loyalty to Congress never wavered, but I knew that any re-entry into the party would require careful navigation of past conflicts and a commitment to unity.