



# the pioneer

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

**The Congress Government has been continuing the corrupt bureaucrats and extortionist contractors who played key roles during BRS rule. The people will teach the Congress a lesson if elections are held now. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is sabotaging Hyderabad and the real estate business using HYDRAA. The CM should reveal which place he wants to develop by sabotaging Hyderabad. What is the conspiracy behind it?**

**- Dharmapuri Arvind, BJP MP**

P4

**'Cyber crimes, climate change new threats to human rights'**

**EXPLORING WORLD OF GHAZALS**

**Pooja Hegde's next with Dulquer SALMAAN**

**DON'T MISS...**

**Woman, 2 sons die as car falls into canal**

A tragic road accident claimed the lives of a woman and her two young sons after their car plunged into an irrigation canal at Chintadripet village in P. Gannavaram mandal during the early hours of Tuesday. The victims, identified as Uma (33), her elder son Manoj (9), and younger son Rishi (7), drowned in the mishap. Uma's husband, Vijaya Kumar, managed to swim to safety. According to the police, the family of four was returning to their native village, Pothavaram, after attending a programme in Visakhapatnam...

-PAGE: 4

**'Don't react to remarks by allies'**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told party's Lok Sabha MPs Tuesday not to react to comments of "middle- and low-rung" leaders of INDIA bloc parties and asserted that the Congress as the largest party in the opposition grouping is capable of addressing issues, sources said. The advice by Gandhi comes amid various leaders of the INDIA bloc weighing in on the leadership issue and TMC leaders aggressively pitching for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to head the opposition...

-PAGE: 5

**Finmin-RBI ties the best in my stint**

Outgoing Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said he gave his best to the institution, and asserted that ties between Mint Road and the finance ministry were "the best" in his six-year stint. Speaking to reporters on the last day of his term, Das said the "perspectives" of the central bank and the finance ministry can be different on many issues and the phenomenon is seen the world over. "...in my tenure, I think we have been able to resolve all such issues through internal discussions..."

-PAGE: 8

**ICC bans Dhillon for 'attempt' to fix matches**

Sunny Dhillon, a former assistant coach of an Abu Dhabi T10 League franchise, was on Tuesday banned from all forms of cricket for six years by the sport's governing body for "attempting" to fix matches. Dhillon was charged last year. The ban has been back dated to September 13, 2023, the date Dhillon was provisionally suspended. "Sunny Dhillon has been found to have breached the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code and has been banned from all cricket for a period of ..."

-SPORTS

**Former external affairs minister S M Krishna no more**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Former External Affairs Minister and Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna died at his residence early Tuesday morning. A family source said that the 92-year-old veteran politician had been ailing for quite some time. "S M Krishna is no more. He breathed his last at 2:45 am at his residence. Mortal remains are likely to be taken to Maddur today," the source said. Somanahalli Malliah Krishna is survived by wife Prema and two daughters. The Karnataka government has announced state mourning for three days as a mark of respect to the veteran leader. His last



rites will be performed with full state honours at his native in Mandya district on Wednesday. The three-day state mourning is from December 10 to 12, official notification said. Born in

Somanahalli in Mandya district on May 1, 1932, Somanahalli Malliah Krishna began his career in electoral politics in 1962 by winning the Maddur assembly seat as an independent. He was then associated with the Praja Socialist Party before joining the Congress. Later, he joined the BJP in March 2017, ending his nearly 50-year-long association with the Congress. In January last year, Krishna announced his retirement from active politics, citing his age as the reason. He was the 16th Chief Minister of Karnataka from October 11, 1999, to May 28, 2004, (from Congress).

Continued on Page 2

**Naidu condoles death**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday condoled the passing of former Karnataka CM SM Krishna.

Recollecting the competitive spirit he shared with Krishna on attracting investments to their respective states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, Naidu noted that the latter always prioritised the welfare of people.

Continued on Page 2

**ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY**

## CM pushes for use of RTGS

### Issuance of caste, income certificates through WhatsApp

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called upon State department heads to extensively utilise technology for efficient administration and seamless integration of real-time information. He emphasised that inter-departmental coordination, facilitated by the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS), would enhance service delivery to the public.

During a review meeting with officials from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and other departments on Tuesday,

Naidu instructed the integration of data from all departments into RTGS. He suggested using WhatsApp as a platform to provide services such as caste and income certificates. He also urged officials to leverage technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and DeepTech to address public grievances promptly and monitor satisfaction levels. Highlighting the utility of drones, CCTV cameras, satellites, and IoT devices, the Chief Minister pointed out their recent use in identifying ganja plantations through Google Maps.

He suggested extending this approach to detect crop pests and analyse road accidents to prevent mishaps.

The officials informed Naidu that

**NAIDU'S DIRECTIONS TO OFFICIALS**

**RTGS integration**  
Collate real-time data from all departments for better monitoring.

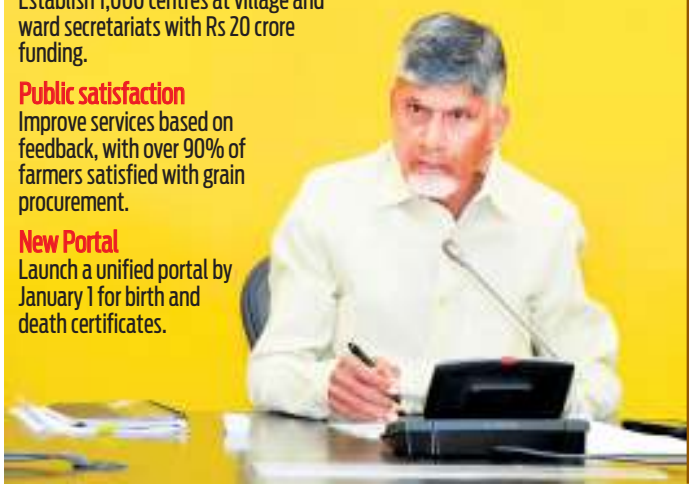
**AI and drones**  
Use AI and drones for resolving grievances, pest detection, and accident analysis.

**Aadhaar centres**  
Establish 1,000 centres at village and ward secretariats with Rs 20 crore funding.

**Public satisfaction**  
Improve services based on feedback, with over 90% of farmers satisfied with grain procurement.

**New Portal**  
Launch a unified portal by January 1 for birth and death certificates.

**The officials informed Naidu that over 90% of farmers expressed satisfaction with grain procurement, citing fair pricing, transport facilities, and timely payments. The CM stressed that understanding public satisfaction levels would help improve services further**



over 90% of farmers expressed satisfaction with grain procurement, citing fair pricing, transport facilities, and timely payments. The Chief Minister stressed that understanding public satisfaction levels would help improve services further.

He directed officials to enhance Aadhaar services by establishing 1,000 centres at village and ward secretariats, with Rs 20 crore allocated for necessary kits. Additionally, a new portal, to be operational by January 1, will address issues related to birth and death certificates, jointly managed by Panchayat Raj and Urban Development departments.

Naidu also proposed creating a single portal for monitoring various projects worth Rs 100 crore, ensuring real-time updates on initiatives undertaken by the Centre.

The Chief Minister reiterated the importance of analysing social media feedback and supervising household geo-tagging processes to ensure effective implementation.

**Expedite redevelopment of V'wada rly station, MP Chinni urges Centre**

PAGE: 2

**Kolusu: Model colonies planned in every Assembly segment**



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathy, has directed officials to establish model colonies

in each Assembly constituency across Andhra Pradesh. The announcement came during a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Tuesday.

Continued on Page 2

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders Bida Mastan Rao and Sana Satish Babu, along with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader R Krishnaiah, filed their nominations on Tuesday for the upcoming Rajya Sabha by-polls from Andhra Pradesh.

The nominations were submitted at the Assembly building in the presence of Rajya Sabha elections returning officer R Vanitha Rani. The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Andhra Pradesh, comprising the TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena Party, has fielded these candidates for the three vacant Rajya Sabha seats.

A press release stated that with only three nominations submitted for the three seats, the election is expected to be smooth. The candidates are likely to be elected unop-

**TDP, BJP nominees file papers for RS by-polls**



posed, pending scrutiny of nominations and completion of procedural formalities.

The TDP-led alliance enjoys a

dominant position in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, holding 164 out of 175 seats.

Continued on Page 2

**AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT**

## Rs 8,821.44 cr additional projects cleared by CRDA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has approved additional projects worth Rs 8,821.44 crore for the development of Amaravati, bringing the total approval for capital development projects to Rs 20,292.46 crore. The new approvals focus on the construction of trunk roads, layout

roads, and further infrastructure development to support the city's growth.

In the 42nd CRDA meeting, the Authority sanctioned Rs 3,807 crore for roads in land pooling layouts, Rs 4,521 crore for trunk roads, and Rs 492 crore for constructing bungalows for judges and ministers. This follows the Rs 11,471 crore approved in the 41st CRDA meeting.

Continued on Page 2

**Collectors' meet to review development, welfare**

CM TO CHAIR 2-DAY EVENT BEGINNING TODAY



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The second Collectors' Conference since the formation of the government will commence on Wednesday (December 11), at the Secretariat in Velagapudi. The two-day event, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, aims to review progress on development and welfare initiatives while charting strategies for the next four and a half years.

The Chief Minister will provide guidance on key programmes

implemented over the past six months, including the Swarnandhra Vision 2047 document and new government policies. Collectors from all 26 districts and heads of 40 departments will participate, offering feedback and discussing strategies.

This marks the second such meeting within six months of the coalition government assuming office, a sharp contrast to the previous government's single conference in five years.

Continued on Page 2

**WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE**

## 'AP to be dumping yard-free State by 2025'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh is set to become a dumping yard-free state by October 2, 2025, under an ambitious waste management initiative spearheaded by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, said State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana.

During his visit to the Jindal Waste-to-Energy Plant in Kondaveedu, Guntur district, the Minister announced plans to establish waste-to-energy plants in Kakinada, Nellore, Kadapa, Kurnool, and Anantapur to strengthen the State's waste management infrastructure. He highlighted efforts to clear approximately 85 lakh metric tons of accumu-



Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana pays a visit to Jindal Waste-to-Energy Plant at Kondaveedu in Guntur district on Tuesday.

lated waste and noted that existing facilities in Guntur and Visakhapatnam currently handle

31% of the State's daily waste, processing 2,160 tons. The State generates 6,890 metric



**Man found dead during 'Pushpa 2' screening in Anantapur**

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

A 35-year-old man was found dead in a local theatre in Rayadurgam in this district during a matinee show of 'Pushpa 2', said a police official on Tuesday.

Kalyandurgam Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ravi Babu stated that H Madhannappa was found dead around 6 pm on Monday by the theatre's cleaning staff.

"It is not clear when he died, but the cleaning staff found him dead at around 6 pm after the matinee show," Babu said.

According to the police, Madhannappa entered the theatre for the matinee show at around 2.30 pm on Monday in an inebriated state.

"He was a father of four children and had a history of alcohol addiction. He was already drunk and consumed more alcohol inside the theatre," said a police official.

The police have registered a case under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Act.

# Major oppn parties in TG, AP fail to hold state govt accountable

**P**laying the role of a watchdog for safeguarding the interests of people through informed discussions in the legislature is the prime responsibility of the opposition parties in a democratic set-up, be it the principal opposition parties or a combination of parties. It is a fiduciary responsibility entrusted by people to parties other than the one commanding majority in the House.

Unfortunately the main opposition parties in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are behaving in a bizarre manner. In Telangana, former chief minister, Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief and



**Leader of Opposition K Chandrasekar Rao has not been attending Assembly session for unknown reasons, though his party's legislators are taking part in the proceedings.** In Andhra Pradesh, former chief minister and YSRCP president YS Jaganmohan Reddy has chosen not to attend the Assembly session ostensibly because his party has not been designated as the principal opposition for lack of numbers. He has approached the Court. It appears that he is particular about his party getting ample time to present its case in the Assembly on various issues.

**The BRS and the YSRCP are respectively the main opposition parties in the two states. Curiously, the leaders of both the major opposition parties are reluctant to participate in legislative proceedings**

YSRCP leaders have taunted the ruling NDA combine of being 'scared' of the presence of Jagan in the House. The Congress party and the National Democratic Alliance combine comprising Telugu Desam Party, Jana Sena and BJP are respectively the ruling parties in TS and AP. The BRS and the YSRCP are respectively the main opposition parties in the two states. Curiously, the leaders of both the major opposition parties are reluctant to participate in legislative proceedings.

KCR is perhaps facing health issues, apart from the consequences of his daughter and MLC K Kavitha's alleged involvement in the 'Delhi liquor scam'. He had undergone a hip surgery following a fall in his farmhouse. The BRS



**M D RATNA KUMAR**  
Senior Journalist

cadre believes that the presence of KCR in the Assembly would yield good results and his fans are planning to meet him in

this regard. As of now KCR's son, former minister and BRS working president K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) is performing duties in place of his father. Nevertheless, the absence of KCR in the House has raised concerns. KTR had previously announced that KCR would reach out to the masses only in the New Year.

During his stint as chief minister, Jaganmohan Reddy had once warned then LoP Chandrababu Naidu of stripping him of his position as such by luring only six legislators from TDP (LoP status is granted to a party that secures 10% seats of the total strength of the House). Today Jagan's party YSRCP has only 11 seats; that is, six short of getting LoP status. The TDP had 23 seats during Jagan's regime. So, the opinion reportedly expressed by Jagan that LoP status does not need specific numbers in the House is quite surprising.

Charisma as well as thorough knowledge and understanding of issues concerning people are essential for one's commanding presence in the House. That said, even with one seat, a party can legitimately and effectively question the propriety of the ruling party's actions on the floor of the House. For example, Gummadi Narasayya of CPI(ML-ND) got elected to the Assembly for five terms. Despite being the lone mem-

ber of his party in the House, he has effectively questioned the government on various issues, highlighting lacunas in governance. The example set by Narasayya can be emulated by political figures seeking the status of 'principal opposition' for their party. Skipping Assembly sessions could tarnish the image of opposition leaders. Not availing of the opportunity to speak on the floor of the House means their views would not go into Assembly records.

Hopefully, wisdom would prevail and the leaders of both BRS and YSRCP would discharge their functions and responsibilities by attending Assembly sessions.

## Don't divert funds for welfare of Minorities: NMC Member

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

National Minority Commission (NMC) Member Syed Shahezaadi has emphasised the need to ensure that funds allocated for minority welfare are utilised exclusively for their intended purpose and not diverted to other schemes. She made these remarks during a state-level review meeting at the State Secretariat on Tuesday, which assessed the implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities.

Addressing officials, Shahezaadi called for the effective implementation of the 15-point programme, focusing on improving the socio-economic conditions of minorities. She highlighted the role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in enhancing the economic status of minority communities.

Expressing concern over



National Minority Commission (NMC) Member Syed Shahezaadi addressing a State-level review meeting at the Secretariat in Velagapudi on Tuesday.

issues such as child labour and early pregnancies among minorities, she advocated strict legal action against offenders and awareness programmes in collaboration with ASHA workers and health personnel.

Shahezaadi also urged the timely completion of schools, colleges, hospitals, and hostels under the Prime Minister's Jan Vikas Programme. She suggested modernising Madrasa education, promoting Urdu lan-

guage teaching, and offering scholarships to talented minority students to enhance educational opportunities.

She proposed strengthening ICDS services, improving educational infrastructure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, ensuring equitable participation in rural housing schemes, and improving the living conditions of minorities in slums. She also called for preventive measures and strict

action to address communal tensions and religious crimes.

State Minority Welfare Commissioner Chittoori Sridhar presented a detailed report on the progress of various welfare schemes in the state.

The meeting concluded with a call for collaborative efforts to ensure the holistic development of minorities and the successful execution of welfare initiatives.

## Expedite redevelopment of Vijayawada railway station, MP Chinni urges Centre

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) has urged Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to speed up the redevelopment proposals for Vijayawada Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The proposals, estimated to cost Rs 819.51 crore, have been submitted to NITI Aayog by the Chairman of the Railway Board (CRB).

In a meeting at Rail Bhavan on Tuesday, MP Sivanath discussed various pending development works and railway-related issues in the Vijayawada parliamentary constituency. He emphasised the importance of expediting the redevelopment of Vijayawada Railway



Station and called for swift action on the proposals awaiting approval.

The MP also raised several other issues, including the construction of a second fly-

over in the Singh Nagar area of Vijayawada Central, resolving the long-pending Gunadala Road Over Bridge (ROB), and sanctioning eight other ROB and Road Under Bridges (RUBs). He also highlighted drainage and road widening issues connected to the railway department in the Vijayawada West constituency.

Further, MP Sivanath requested the development of Jaggaiahpet railway station to accommodate passenger trains in addition to goods trains. He also proposed rerouting trains on the Kondapalli-Madhira section to pass through Sethupalli, which would benefit passengers in the Tiruvuru region.

In response, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav assured MP Kesineni Sivanath that all the issues raised would be addressed promptly and necessary actions would be taken to resolve the pending matters.

## Woman harassed at Vizag hospital; CM orders action

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

A woman was allegedly harassed by a staff member at a hospital's scanning centre in Visakhapatnam, triggering outrage across the city. The victim, who had sustained a head injury, visited the hospital on Monday night for treatment. After being referred for a scan, she was reportedly misbehaved with by Prakash, the person in charge of the scanning centre.

When the woman resisted and called for help, locals intervened, detaining the accused until the police arrived. The III Town CI arrested Prakash at the hospital in Ramnagar, and he was charged under Sections 74 and 76 of the PNC. The court later remanded him to judicial custody, and he was sent to Visakhapatnam Central Jail.

"This is a grave failure of the hospital's duty to ensure the safety and dignity of its patients," a local resident commented. The victim's family demanded strict action against both the accused and the hospital for negligence.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu condemned the incident, directing authorities to take swift action. "The safety of patients must be guaranteed," he stated. The case has sparked wider concerns about patient safety and hospital accountability, with citizens and advocacy groups calling for stronger regulations and reforms to prevent such incidents in the future.

## YSRCP releases poster over remunerative prices for paddy



**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has unveiled a poster announcing a State-wide campaign on December 13 to demand fair prices for paddy and express solidarity with farmers.

The poster, titled "YSRCP in Support of Farmers", was released on Wednesday by senior party leaders, including former Ministers Ambati Rambabu and Vellampalli Srinivas, MLCs Lella Appireddy and Ruhulla, and others. The campaign aims to urge the state government to procure paddy at remunerative prices and address the pressing issues faced by the farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambati Rambabu criticised the coalition gov-

## TDP, BJP ...

*Continued from Page 1*

The TDP has 135 seats, Jana Sena Party holds 21, and the BJP has 8 seats, ensuring the coalition's success in securing all three Rajya Sabha seats in the by-polls.

Scheduled for December 20, the by-polls will include voting and counting on the same day. The process is expected to be straightforward due to the unopposed nature of the nominations.

These by-polls hold significance for the NDA, as the alliance aims to bolster its strength in the Rajya Sabha, ensuring continued legislative influence at the national level.

## Kolusu: Model colonies ...

*Continued from Page 1*

The Minister emphasised the need to provide essential amenities such as roads, drinking water, electricity, and drainage systems in these colonies, particularly in areas where housing projects are underway. He instructed officials to prepare a detailed report on the funds required for infrastructure development, which would be submitted to the Chief Minister for approval.

As part of the initiative, Minister Parthasarathy proposed increasing the housing loan amount for beneficiaries from Rs 35,000 to Rs 1 lakh at reduced interest rates. He stressed ensuring the availability of construction materials like sand to beneficiaries without delays.

Highlighting the importance of timely project completion, the Minister urged officials to intensify efforts and educate beneficiaries about the drawbacks of delayed housing construction. He also announced the finalisation of agreements under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-2) scheme with the Central Government and called for prompt beneficiary selection to accelerate the process.

The Minister underscored the need for strict quality control, directing officials to conduct laboratory tests on materials such as sand, cement, and steel. He proposed using drones for monitoring larger colonies and stressed the importance of preventing the misuse of construction materials. Regular visits to housing sites and timely fund releases were also emphasised.

The meeting was attended by State Housing Corporation Managing Director Rajababu, Chief Engineer GV Prasad, Superintending Engineers Nagabhushan and Jay Ramachari, and other senior officials.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Ekadashi: Dec 11 03:43 AM to Dec 12 01:09 AM

Dwadashi: Dec 12 01:09 AM to Dec 12 10:26 PM

**Nakshatram:**

Revati: Dec 10 01:30 PM to Dec 11 11:47 AM

Ashwini: Dec 11 11:48 AM to Dec 12 09:52 AM

Rahukalam: 12:09 PM to 1:31 PM

Yamagandam: 8:02 AM to 9:24 AM

Variyam: 06:11 AM to 07:40 AM

Gulika: 10:47 AM to 12:09 PM

Amritakalam: 09:34 AM to 11:03 AM, 03:15 AM to 04:43 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: NIL

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

Forecast: Cloudy

Temp: 31°

Humidity: 59%

Sunrise: 6:25 AM

Sunset: 5:35 PM

Updated: December 10, 2024 5:00 PM

## Rs 8,821.44 cr additional ...

*Continued from Page 1*

Minister P Narayana highlighted that 236 kilometres of layout roads, in villages such as Nellapadu, Rayupudi, Ananthavaram, and Dondapadu, have been approved. Additionally, 97.5 kilometres of trunk roads are part of the 360-kilometre network planned for Amaravati.

During a media briefing, Minister Narayana criticised the previous YSRCP government for increasing the state's financial burden.

He stated that had Amaravati's construction continued as planned, there would have been no losses. Despite the delays caused by the previous government, he assured that Chief Minister Naidu has charted a clear path to complete

## Former external affairs...

*Continued from Page 1*

He also served as the Governor of Maharashtra and was the External Affairs Minister during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government from 2009 to 2012. A law graduate, Krishna studied in the US. He graduated from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and The George Washington University Law School in Washington DC, where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Krishna served as the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from December 1989 to January 1993. He was also a member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha several times between 1971 and 2014.

Krishna is credited by many for putting Bengaluru on the global map as a filip given to the IT sector during his tenure resulting in the city growing as India's Silicon Valley.

Prime Minister Narendra

## Prez Murmu to visit AIIMS-M'giri on Dec 17

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad has directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the visit of President of India, Draupadi Murmu, scheduled on December 17. The President will be attending the inaugural convocation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Mangalagiri on the same day.

During a Tuesday review meeting held at the Secretariat, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for

## Actor Manchu Mohan ...

*Continued from Page 1*

Manoj, accompanied by security guards and the regional media, reportedly forced open the gates after they were refused entry by the house security.

Tensions escalated as security personnel allegedly pushed media representatives and damaged their equipment. When a journalist asked Mohan Babu about the family feud, he hit the journalist.

The Rachakonda Police have reportedly asked the Manchu family to surrender their licensed firearms immediately amid concerns over the escalating situation.

Meanwhile, all journalist associations have condemned the attacks on the media and said that they will file a complaint with the police against Manchu Mohan Babu.

The attacked journalist and a cameraman were injured and are undergoing treatment.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

**TENDER NOTICE** Dt. 02.12.2024

Superintending Engineer, PR Circle, Srikakulam Online tenders are invited for 4 works with an estimated cost of Rs. 2964.62 Lakhs under PMGSY III Balch: 1 - 2023-24 & RCLPWE Grants. Prospective bidders may download the bids on e-platform after 18.12.2024. For further details: <https://pmgsytenders.gov.in/>

nicgp/app  
R.O. No: 1423/CLAW/11/2021-22, Dt. 18.12.2024

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Minister Kollu Ravindra inaugurating the Krishna University Inter-Collegiate Youth Festival at KBN College in Vijayawada on Tuesday

## Special lecture marks CR Reddy's birth anniversary event at AU

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In celebration of the birth anniversary of Sir Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy, the first Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, the Department of History and Archaeology organised a special lecture titled "Indic Iconography and Extraterrestrials - Are Gods Aliens?" The event was held on Tuesday at the Peter F. Drucker Seminar Hall in the Department of Commerce at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

The session was chaired by Prof Ch Madhusudhana Rao, Head of the Department. The keynote speaker was Praveen Mohan, an expert in iconography and a world explorer. Students from both the first and final years of the history department actively participated in the lecture.

In his thought-provoking lecture, Praveen Mohan explored the idea that Hindu Gods might have originated as extraterrestrial beings. He presented visual evidence by comparing Hindu iconography with those from other cultures, including Bali, Indonesia, Greece, and Egypt. He further discussed the scientific and artistic features found in Hindu temples, using examples from the temples of Salem in Tamil Nadu and Gudimalla in Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh, to bolster his claims. Praveen also explained why India might have been chosen as a landing site for extraterrestrials, citing its gravity-based location.

## Focus on workers' safety, welfare: Labour Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government is prioritising workers' safety, welfare, and health, said Minister for Labour and Insurance Medical Services, Vasumsetti Subhash.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday at the State Publicity Cell in the Secretariat, he announced the establishment of the Vasudha Mishra Committee to review safety measures in factories and industries.

Formed under the direction of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the committee will assess safety conditions across industries in the state and submit a comprehensive report within 10-15 days, Subhash said. He added that immediate action would be taken based on the committee's recommendations.

The Minister highlighted that the Chief Minister is conducting regular reviews of the Labour Department to address workers' issues. Andhra Pradesh currently has 96 dispensaries, four regional hospitals, and four diagnostic centres under the Employee State Insurance (ESI) scheme. Since assuming office, the coalition government has inaugurated new ESI hospitals in Yalamanchili and Gundala. Additionally, the central govern-

ment has given in-principle approval for 150- and 500-bed hospitals in Amaravati, as well as ESI hospitals in Kurnool and Nellore, with steps underway to operationalise them.

Criticising the negligence of the previous government, Subhash revealed that during its tenure, ESI hospitals were mismanaged, resulting in nearly Rs 610 crore in unused central funds being returned. Of an annual allocation of Rs 400 crore from the central government, only Rs 1.60 crore was utilised, he noted. A vigilance inquiry has been initiated to investigate corrup-

tion in the operation of ESI hospitals during the previous administration.

The Minister also pointed out that safety auditing agencies were misused as collection agencies under the previous government, with false cases filed against factories to extort money. This negligence led to accidents like the Essencia factory incident, which claimed 15 lives.

Subhash assured that the present TDP-led NDA government is taking strong measures to enforce strict safety standards in factories to prevent such accidents. Additionally, he stressed the importance of creating awareness among workers about their entitlements under the law and ensuring support for construction and industrial labourers.

The state is committed to implementing stringent safety protocols and welfare measures for the labour force, to establish a safer and more equitable working environment, the Minister added.



Minister for Labour and Insurance Medical Services, Vasumsetti Subhash, addressing a press conference at the Secretariat in Velagapudi on Tuesday.

## 'Krishna Tarang' off to a vibrant start

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, inaugurated Krishna Tarang-2024, the Krishna University Inter-Collegiate Youth Festival, at KBN College, Kothapeta, on Tuesday. The vibrant three-day festival, concluding on December 12, is a platform for youth to showcase their talent and creativity.

The festival promises to be an enriching experience, blending cultural activities, competitions, and opportunities for personal growth, fostering enthusiasm and camaraderie among participants.

In his address, Minister Ravindra lauded Krishna University officials for consistently organising this annual festival. He emphasised the importance of such events in nurturing young talent and encouraging self-expression. Ravindra urged students to seize the opportunity to exhibit their abilities and contribute to the cultural and intellectual growth of the State.

Highlighting government initiatives, Ravindra spoke about Skill Census, a programme designed to enhance employment opportunities by registering youth and offering

skill training aligned with industry needs. He also underscored the State's commitment to technological advancement, particularly in Artificial Intelligence, and its ambitious Swarnandhra@2047 vision to position Andhra Pradesh as a development leader by 2047.

The event was attended by AP Maritime Board Chairman Damacharla Satya, Krishna University In-charge Vice-Chancellor R Srinivasa Rao, Rector MV Basaveswara Rao, KBN College Secretary and Correspondent T Srinivas, Principal Dr. G Krishnaveni, and others.

## 'Govt will reinstate Christmas Kanuka'

● Dr BR Ambedkar Videsh Vidya Deevana scheme will also be resumed

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Minister for Social Welfare, Disable & Senior Citizen Welfare and Sachivalayam & Village Volunteer, Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, has announced that his government will be handing over Christmas Kanuka to all Christians in the State soon. The Christmas Kanuka was not implemented in the past five years during the YSRCP government's tenure. However, the TDP-led NDA Government will reinstate the Christmas Kanuka for the benefit of Christian people, he added.

Minister Swamy attended a programme held at Varalakshmi Nagar in the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) 4th Division on Tuesday. He, along with Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rama Mohana Rao, inaugurated a Community Hall, which was constructed at a cost of Rs.80 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Swamy said that the government will also resume the Dr BR Ambedkar



Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy inaugurating the Varalakshmi Nagar Community Hall in Vijayawada on Tuesday

Videsh Vidya Deevana scheme. He stated that the government will construct new Social Welfare Hostels by spending Rs.340 crore. Also, he assured that his government will be handing the SC Corporation loans

to the eligible beneficiaries in December and January.

He alleged that the previous YSRCP government neglected the welfare of the SCs and after the NDA government came to power,

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu decided to reinstate all welfare schemes. The previous government divided the SC Corporation and neglected the funds allocation. He also assured that his government will provide funds to Lidcap and provide loans.

The earlier TDP government allotted land for the Ambedkar statue in Amaravati, however, the YSRCP government installed the statue at Swarajya Mydanam in Vijayawada. However, many works have not been completed, he said, and added that his government will complete all those works.

Meanwhile, he announced that the Social Welfare Department will see significant reforms in the coming days. The pending dues to students will be cleared as early as possible. He added that quality food will be provided to all students and emphasised the maintenance of sanitation in all social welfare hostels.

VMC Corporators Jasti Sambasiva Rao, Devineni Aparna and others were present.

## VMC Commissioner inspects PPP roads in the city

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

During his daily visits to different areas of the city, the Commissioner of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), HM Dhyanchandra, inspected several roads being developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system on Tuesday. A total of 17 roads in the city are currently being developed through this PPP initiative.

Commissioner Dhyanchandra announced that approximately 23 kilometres of roads are being developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system. Currently, construction is underway on several key roads: in Circle 1, these include BRP Road, Nehru Road, KT Road, Kummariapalem Road, and the road from Sitara to the CVR Flyover. In Circle 2, the roads being developed are BRTS Road, Sambamurthy Road, and GS Raju Road.



## Magisterial inquiry sought into Dalit youth's death in jail

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Dr. Boosi Venkata Rao, convener of the Vidasam Aikya Veda Rashtira Samithi, has demanded a magisterial inquiry into the death of Dalit youth Uppada Gauri Shankar, who was found dead in Visakhapatnam Central Jail on July 30. While authorities initially reported that Gauri Shankar, a resident of Peketi village in Anandapuram mandal, committed suicide after hanging himself in a jail toilet, questions are being raised about the circumstances surrounding his death.

In a petition submitted to the District Collector, Dr. Venkata Rao, alongside the grieving mother Narasayamma, called for a comprehensive investigation. "The family has raised serious doubts about the cause of death. The police ignored the family's concerns during the post-mortem, and no proper investigation procedures have been followed," Dr. Venkata Rao said, speaking at the Collectorate.

He also criticised the authorities for the lack of a magisterial inquiry or internal investigation. "Despite the serious nature of this death, no process of natural justice was

observed. The jail authorities hastily labelled it a suicide, and it seems they are attempting to close the case without any real scrutiny," he added.

Dr. Venkata Rao also drew attention to the issue of illegal smuggling of ganja and other intoxicants into the jail. "There are ongoing issues with the supply of illegal substances in the jail, which may lead to conflicts and violence among inmates. This negligence and lack of supervision by jail authorities could very well be linked to the unfortunate death of Gauri Shankar," he warned.

Dr. Rao condemned the authorities for their failure to control the smuggling and ensure proper oversight. "The lack of accountability and vigilance has created an environment where such tragic incidents can occur," he said. He further emphasised that justice must be served for the deceased's family. "We are not asking for anything more than justice. The family deserves to know the truth," he said.

The deceased's mother, along with activists Soda Dasi Sudhakar, Jaji Omkar, Uppada Ramu, Ravi Santosh, and others participated in the protest.

## Cong demands BJP to end stalemate in Parl

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Congress party on Tuesday urged the BJP-led Union government to take immediate steps to end the ongoing stalemate in Parliament and ensure smooth proceedings in both Houses.

In a statement, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) vice-president Kolanukonda Sivaji expressed concern over the frequent adjournments of both Houses without addressing key issues, as the impasse continues.

"Earlier, when uproar disrupted

Parliament and proceedings were stalled, senior leaders like Sushma Swaraj, Venkaiah Naidu, Jairam Ramesh, and Manmohan Singh would intervene to pacify members and maintain order," Shivaji recalled. He lamented that there are no such leaders in the current Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Shivaji also accused BJP leaders, such as Kiren Rijiju, of inflaming the situation in Parliament with their inflammatory remarks.

"Despite three weeks passing, no meaningful debate or discussion has been held in Parliament. There is no consensus between the ruling and opposition parties on any issue," the senior Congress leader said. Shivaji called on senior BJP leaders, including Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, to step in and ensure the smooth functioning of Parliament. He also urged the BJP to engage with INDIA bloc leaders and allow them to voice their concerns. "It is inappropriate for the ruling party to stifle the opposition's voice by preventing them from raising issues in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha," Shivaji added. He criticised the Rajya Sabha Chairman for rejecting an adjournment motion, accusing him of trying to avoid a debate on the Gautam A d a n i scam.



## TRICOR chief promises enhanced welfare schemes for tribal communities

PNS ■ PADERU

Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited (TRICOR) Chairman Srinivasulu Boragam has reaffirmed the State government's dedication to empowering tribal communities and reviving TRICOR's legacy. During his visit to the agency area, Boragam convened a meeting with ITDA officials to discuss initiatives aimed at improving the lives of tribal people.

"We have submitted proposals worth Rs 7 crore to the government

to sanction 54 units for tribals through National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)," Boragam stated. "Additionally, loans for vehicles such as Bolero, Innova, and Swift will be made available to tribal youth to encourage entrepreneurship." Boragam also announced plans to implement self-employment schemes with a 60 per cent subsidy, emphasising the importance of accountability. "Beneficiaries must ensure the complete repayment of past loans. Furthermore, Online Beneficiary

Management & Monitoring System (OBMMS) loans, crucial for tribal welfare, will be restored," he added.

Former Paderu MLA Giddi Eswari drew attention to the difficulties faced by tribal farmers, who currently rely on rented agricultural machinery from the plains. "TRICOR should directly provide agricultural equipment to tribal farmers," he urged.

TRICOR Director Pangi Raja Rao highlighted the potential of pippallu (long pepper) cultivation in tribal areas.



## Steps to conduct water sports events in Vizag

● INTERNATIONAL BEACH AND OPEN SPORTS CARNIVAL OPENS AT PURI BEACH

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu has invited representatives from the International Life Saving Association to conduct water sports activities in Visakhapatnam. This initiative aligns with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's vision of transforming the State into a Water Sports Hub. Animini Ravi Naidu urged the association to take the necessary steps to organise water sports events in the Port City. As the chief guest at the International Beach and Open Sports Carnival,

Mahodadi Diwas-2024, in Odisha, the SAAP chairman inaugurated the Rescue Tube Game at Puri Beach. During the programme, he held discussions with representatives from seven countries.

Speaking with foreign delegates from the International Life Saving Association, Naidu emphasised that the Chief Minister is placing significant importance on sports and games in the State. He stated that the Chief Minister aims to develop Andhra Pradesh as a Sports Hub, with plans to conduct beach games and water sports in Visakhapatnam. Naidu also mentioned the Chief

Minister's interest in establishing a Life-Saving Guards Training Centre in Visakhapatnam. In this context, Naidu conversed with delegates from Argentina, Australia, the USA, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Mexico, inviting them to visit Andhra Pradesh. The foreign delegates expressed interest in coming to the state and holding a meeting with the Chief Minister. They assured Naidu that they would discuss water sports initiatives with the Chief Minister.

Members of the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association, including Balaram Naidu, Pradeep Naidu, and others, accompanied him.



Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu inaugurating the International Beach and Open Sports Carnival, Mahodadi Diwas-2024, at Puri Beach, Odisha, on Tuesday



## Differently-abled must avail of welfare schemes

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani urged differently-abled individuals to make full use of government welfare schemes and opportunities designed for their upliftment.

Speaking at a programme held at DNR College campus on Tuesday to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), the Collector inaugurated district-level sports competitions for differently-abled individuals.

In her address, Collector Nagarani encouraged participants

to draw inspiration from Paralympic medalists and strive for success in life. She emphasised the importance of excelling in education to achieve financial independence and called on voluntary organisations and individuals to support the education of differently-abled people.

She highlighted the role of Bhavita Centres, established in 20 mandals across the district, in providing essential services to differently-abled individuals and encouraged them to avail themselves of these resources. The Collector also stressed the need for enhanced

medical services, noting the vulnerability of differently-abled persons to health issues.

To address their concerns, the Collector announced the introduction of a special Grievance Day for differently-abled individuals, to be held every three months, and revealed plans to construct a community hall for their use.

The event was attended by Disabled Persons Welfare Department Director B. Ram Kumar, SSA Project Officer Shyam Sunday, and Vignana Vedhika Convener Cherakuvada Ranga Sai, among others

## WOMAN, TWO SONS DIE AS CAR PLUNGES INTO CANAL

PNS ■ AMALAPURAM

A tragic road accident claimed the lives of a woman and her two young sons after their car plunged into an irrigation canal at Chintadripet village in P. Gannavaram mandal during the early hours of Tuesday.

The victims, identified as Uma (33), her elder son Manoj (9), and younger son Rishi (7), drowned in the mishap. Uma's husband, Vijaya Kumar, managed to swim to safety.

According to the police, the family of four was returning to their native village, Pothavaram, after attending a programme in Visakhapatnam. The accident occurred when the car veered off the road and plunged into the canal. Vijaya Kumar informed the media that Uma, who was driving the vehicle, initially escaped the submerging car along with him. However, she re-entered the canal in an attempt to rescue Manoj. In the ensuing chaos, Uma and her two sons tragically drowned. Sub-inspector Shivakrishna and his team rushed to the spot and retrieved the bodies of Uma and Manoj. Efforts were underway to recover Rishi's body and the submerged car. The bodies were shifted to the Government General Hospital in Razole for post-mortem. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over Pothavaram village, leaving the community in mourning. The police have registered a case and are investigating further.



## Vignan University V-C awarded Honorary Colonel rank in NCC

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Professor P Nagabhushan, Vice Chancellor of Vignan's University, was awarded the honorary Colonel rank in the NCC (National Cadet Corps) by the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday.

The certificate and gazette notification pertaining to this recognition were presented to the university by Air Commodore V. Madhusudan Reddy, Deputy Director General of the AP-Telangana NCC Directorate, during his visit to Vignan's University.

During the event, Air Commodore Reddy highlighted that Professor Nagabhushan was honoured with the honorary Colonel rank in recognition of his efforts to integrate NCC into the university's academic framework, improve infrastructure, and foster discipline, camaraderie, commitment, and overall development among students. He commended the Vice Chancellor for his dedicated involvement in conducting NCC

activities at the university.

One of Professor Nagabhushan's significant achievements was the introduction of an NCC minor programme that provides 20 credits to both NCC and non-NCC cadets. He also integrated Integrated Disaster Management and SSB (Services Selection Board) training into the NCC minor course, recognising the importance of NCC training. Under his leadership, the university has created a supportive environment for cadets to develop discipline and camaraderie through rigorous training and camp management.

Air Commodore Reddy further acknowledged Professor Nagabhushan's invaluable role in organising two camps in the previous academic year and motivating students to actively participate in national-level competitions such as the Republic Day Camp, Thalsainik Camp, and Army Attachment Camp. These camps not only enhanced students' skills but also brought recognition to

Vignan's University. Additionally, Professor Nagabhushan worked towards expanding the university's NCC units, allowing more students to join the NCC. He also introduced an add-on diploma course in NCC.

In response, Professor P. Nagabhushan expressed his happiness in receiving the honorary Colonel rank in the NCC, stating that it increased his responsibility in managing NCC activities. He emphasised that he would continue to work on designing new programmes for the benefit of NCC students and improving infrastructure at the university.

Professor Nagabhushan was congratulated by Colonel Sanjay Gupta, Guntur Group Commander Colonel S.M. Chandrashekar, other group commanders, battalion commanding officers, Dr. Lavu Rathaiah, Chairman of Vignan's Educational Institutions, Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar, deans, heads of departments, and faculty members.

## CPI demands govt to settle Polavaram project evacuees' issue

PNS ■ ELURU

CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna has demanded that the government address the issues of the Polavaram project evacuees and provide them with justice.

Addressing a gathering of evacuees from the seven mandals incorporated into Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation, at the Velurupadu Siddhartha College grounds on Tuesday, Ramakrishna expressed his frustration over the Government's handling of the evacuees' plight.

The CPI leader criticised the Government for ignoring the hardships faced by the villagers in the seven mandals, which are set to be submerged due to the Polavaram backwaters. He described the situation as "miserable."

"The villagers in these seven mandals live in constant fear of Godavari floodwaters every year. These villages are vulnerable to floods from both the Godavari River and its tributary, the Shabari. How long will the evacuees continue to face this flood threat?" Ramakrishna questioned the Government. He also accused the Government of being aware of the flood threat, the potential submergence of villages, and the villagers'



problems but failing to take action to resolve them or provide justice to the thousands of Polavaram project evacuees.

"When floodwaters from the Budameru River inundated residential areas in Vijayawada, the Chief Minister personally supervised the relief efforts. Why is the same Chief Minister ignoring the flood threat faced by the villages in these seven mandals?" he asked.

Ramakrishna also criticised the previous YSRCP Government for stalling the progress of the Polavaram project, claiming that it failed to fulfil any of the promises made by Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to the evacuees.

Expressing his anger at the successive Governments' lackadaisical approach towards the evacuees' issues, he questioned, "Were the seven mandals merged into Andhra Pradesh, or the Godavari River?"

The CPI leader demanded that the Government provide compensation packages to each evacuee family and complete the rehabilitation project as soon as possible. CPI National Committee member Akkineni Vanaja, State Executive Committee member Dega Prabhakar, and CPI Velurupadu Mandal Secretary Badisa Ramu also addressed the gathering.

## Previous government disrupted all systems: Yarlagadda

● 'Mega Job Mela' at Gannavaram TDP office on December 14

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP MLA and Government Whip, Yarlagadda Venkata Rao, has criticised the previous YSRCP government for allegedly disrupting the systems in the State. He claimed that during the previous government's tenure, the Gannavaram constituency had topped the list for encroachments and illegal activities. Venkata Rao further stated that the earlier government had left the state's treasury empty and failed to prioritise welfare and development. He emphasised that Chief



Minister Chandrababu Naidu is committed to welfare and development, setting a clear target to create employment opportunities for the youth. As part of this initiative, a Mega Job Fair will be held on December 14 at the Gannavaram TDP Rural Party Office in Enikepadu, with Venkatarao unveiling the event's poster.

Addressing the governance of the previous government, Venkata Rao accused the YSRCP of mishandling the state's finances and tampering with revenue records. He alleged that the government had failed to construct or even repair a single road, resulting in the deterioration of infrastructure. He also highlighted the widespread encroachments on lakes, government land, and assigned lands, with Gannavaram being the worst-affected area.

The upcoming Mega Job Fair, aimed at providing employment opportunities to thousands of young people, is expected to be a significant event in the constituency. Venkata Rao urged the youth to seize this opportunity.



## 4 inter-district burglars held; ₹70-lakh booty recovered

PNS ■ ELURU

Police have arrested a four-member inter-district gang of burglars and recovered stolen property worth Rs 70 lakh, including gold jewellery, silver ornaments, and cash.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Pratap Shiva Kishore informed the media that the gang was involved in multiple

housebreaking and burglary cases across Ganapavaram, Bhimadole, Undi, and Akividu police station limits.

The arrested individuals have been identified as K. Manikantha Sai Srinivas, Yarlapati Mouni Sanny, Pedda Hema Kumar, and Peddiredy Ratna Sekhar. The police recovered gold jewellery weighing over 700 grams, silver orna-

ments weighing 7 kg, and Rs 63,000 in cash from the accused. SP Kishore commended the efforts of Nidamaru Inspector M. Subhash, Eluru Three Town Inspector V Koteswara Rao, and Bhimadole Sub-Inspectors Sudhakar, Manikumar, Suryabhagavan, Veera Prasad, and Rambabu for apprehending the gang and recovering the stolen property.

## 19 bottles of hash oil seized; 10 peddlers arrested

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

The police seized 19 bottles of hash oil and arrested 10 drug peddlers at Mutyalapalli temple at Mutyalapalli village in Mogaltur mandal.

DSP Srivedha told the media in Narasapuram that on a tip-off a police team conducted a raid at Mutyalapalli village and seized 19 bottles which contained 138 grams of hash oil from the drug peddlers. The police also seized 8 mobile phones from them.

The arrested drug peddlers were selling the hash oil to individuals. The DSP said that a strict vigil was laid in the Narasapuram division to eradicate the ganja menace. The police produced the 10 arrested drug peddlers before the media. She said that one drug peddler was absconding and a team was formed to arrest him.



## Sanction Gudivada-Madhira line, Eluru MP urges Rly Min

PNS ■ ELURU

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has urged Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to sanction a new railway line connecting Gudivada Junction, Nuzvid, and Madhira, passing through Nuzvid town and Vissannapeta.

The MP emphasised that the 96-km railway line would be a critical link between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, addressing traffic challenges arising from Machilipatnam Port, India Coal Fields (open cast mines in the Nuzvid Assembly constituency), and the newly proposed APSIIDC SEZ. The line would also facilitate the export of aquaculture feed, mangoes, mango products, paddy, fish, and other agricultural produce, while alleviating transportation issues. He has requested its inclusion in the upcoming Union Budget 2025.

The MP also requested halts for the East Coast Express (Train Nos. 18045/18046) at Nuzvid Railway Station to support long-distance travel to Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad.

Additionally, the MP called for approval of a broad gauge line via Sathupalli, connecting Bhadrachalam and Kovvur. This line was initially proposed in 2012-13 under a cost-sharing arrangement with undivided Andhra Pradesh. After the



state's bifurcation, the project remains essential for Andhra Pradesh's economic development. It would reduce the distance between Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad by 150 km and benefit several reserved Assembly constituencies. He stressed the need to revise the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and explore alternative methods for project implementation to

address rising construction costs due to delays.

On the issue of Pallevada Railway Station (Kaikaluru Mandal), the MP urged the restoration of halts for Trains 17269/70 and 17281/82, which had been discontinued, causing inconvenience to residents of nearby villages such as Alapadu, Bhujabalapatnam, Ramavaram, Narsapalem, and Penchikalamaruru.

The MP suggested halts at Chebrolu Railway Station for trains such as the Rayagada-Tirupati Passenger, Kakinada-Simhachalam Express, and others for the convenience of pilgrims visiting Dwaraka Tirumala. He also requested halts for the Goutami Express (12737), Godavari Express (12727), and Visakhapatnam-Mahabubnagar Superfast Express (12868) at Nuzvid Station.

For Attila Railway Station, the MP proposed halts for express trains and the resumption of old passenger trains to Rajahmundry. Similarly, he requested halts for trains like 17282 (NSP-GNT Express), 17269 (NSP-BZA), and 17270 (NSP Express) at Mokhasa Kalavapudi. He also urged the development of basic infrastructure at Chebrolu, Nuzvid, Attila, and Mokhasa Kalavapudi stations to accommodate these requests.

## CM sabotaging Hyd, real estate using HYDRAA: Arvind

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

Declaring that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is sabotaging Hyderabad and the real estate business using HYDRAA, the BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, said the Congress Government is also treading the same path as the BRS by looting the public and engaging in shocking activities. Arvind asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to reveal which place he wanted to develop by sabotaging Hyderabad. What is the conspiracy behind this, he asked. He said that the Congress government is continuing the corrupt bureaucrats

and extortionist contractors who played key roles during BRS rule and added that the people would teach a fitting lesson to the Congress if elections were held now.

Making it clear that everyone wants to clean the Musi River, Arvind said that one can believe the Congress Government if it starts cleaning the Musi River from the Old City.

He said the Revanth Government has been using HYDRAA only to threaten people and collect money from them.

Addressing the media on Tuesday at the State BJP Office, Arvind said that politicking in the name of 'Telangana Thalli' statue is unfortunate.

ACROSS THE STATES



**Abhay Kumar to be India's new envoy to Georgia**

Senior diplomat Abhay Kumar has been appointed India's new ambassador to Georgia. Kumar, a joint secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is currently serving as deputy director general of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, according to the MEA. Kumar joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 2003 after completing his postgraduate degree in geography from the Jawaharlal Nehru University. He served as India's 21st ambassador to Madagascar, concurrently accredited to Comoros, from 2019 to 2022, and as deputy chief of mission at the Indian Embassy in Brasilia from 2016 to 2019. Kumar earlier served as first secretary at the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu from 2012 to 2016 and as consul at the Consulate General of India in St Petersburg, Russia, from 2007 to 2010. He served at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Kumar speaks Russian, Portuguese, English, Nepali, Hindi, Magahi and has a working knowledge of French.



**'Move civil court to decide land ownership row'**

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday said it cannot decide the land ownership row between the Waqf Board and the residents of Munambam village in Ernakulam district and asked those facing eviction notices to move a civil court instead. A bench of Justices Amit Rawal and K V Jayakumar orally said it will protect those facing eviction notices by staying the same temporarily till the affected persons file a suit in a civil court. The High Court said that the affected persons can seek an injunction against the Waqf Board's action from the civil court. The High Court's oral remarks came during a hearing of pleas by several residents of Munambam village challenging the Waqf Board's eviction notices and various provisions of the Waqf Act.



**RS bypoll: BJP nominee set to be elected unopposed**

Former National Commission for Women chief and BJP nominee Rekha Sharma filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana here on Tuesday. Being the lone candidate in the fray, she is set to get elected unopposed. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, state BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli and Minister Krishan Lal Panwar were among those who accompanied Sharma when she submitted her nomination papers before the returning officer at the Haryana Assembly secretariat here. Speaking to reporters after filing her nomination, Sharma said, "I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, Amit Shah ji, J P Nadda ji, Manohar Lal Khattar and Nayab Singh Saini ji for giving me an opportunity once again to serve the nation." She also touched upon several initiatives and schemes brought by the Narendra Modi government for women empowerment. "Congratulations and best wishes for your victory in advance," Chief Minister Saini posted in Hindi on X after Sharma filed her nomination.

**Par panel calls for review of PM-KUSUM scheme**

A Parliamentary panel has called for review of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme as it found various gaps in it. The scheme was launched in March 2019 to provide financial support to farmers for installation of standalone solar pumps, solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy said in its report tabled in Parliament on Tuesday. The scheme also provides farmers an opportunity to become solar entrepreneurs by installing solar power plants on their barren/fallow agriculture land. The panel observed that targets under different components of the scheme could not be achieved and hence its timeline has been extended till March 2026.

**'Cyber crimes, climate change new threats to human rights'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The human rights discourse so far has been centred on the "human agency" as the violator is assumed to be a human, but with artificial intelligence entering our lives, the "culprit could be a non-human" but an intelligent agent, President Droupadi Murmu said on Tuesday.

Addressing an event hosted by the NHRC here to mark Human Rights Day, the president also underlined cyber crimes and climate change as "new threats" to human rights.

Human Rights Day is observed on December 10 every year to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India, read out the message of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the occasion.

"On Human Rights Day, we face a harsh truth. Human rights are under assault. Tens of millions of people are mired in poverty, hunger, poor health and education systems that have not yet fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic. Global inequalities are running rampant. Conflicts are intensifying. International law is wilfully ignored," Guterres said in his message, which was also displayed on a screen.

"Authoritarianism is on the march while civic space is shrinking. Hateful rhetoric is fuelling discrimination, divi-



"Authoritarianism is on the march while civic space is shrinking. Hateful rhetoric is fuelling discrimination, division, and outright violence. And women's rights continue to be rolled back in law and practice. This year's theme reminds us that human rights are about building the future right now," the message said

sion, and outright violence. And women's rights continue to be rolled back in law and practice. This year's theme reminds us that human rights are about building the future -- right now," the message said.

The UDHR serves as a global benchmark for the protection and promotion of human rights. "It is a day to remember the institutions that strive to protect and promote the rights of the most vulnerable sections of society. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the State Human Rights Commissions, various other bodies, the judiciary, and other key stakeholders have worked tirelessly to be the voice of the voiceless. I compliment them for their steadfast commitment and untiring work

towards ensuring human rights for all," Murmu said in her address. "Today, as one reflects on the ideals enshrined in the UDHR adopted on this day in 1948, we reaffirm our collective resolve to contribute to building a world where justice and human dignity are the bedrock of society," she said.

India today stands as a "shining example" where "great initiatives are being taken by the government" for poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger by providing free food to the underprivileged, and offering equal opportunities to the youth to realise their dreams, the president said.

"India, with its civilisational heritage spanning over 5,000 years, has long upheld values of empathy, compassion, and the

inter-connectedness of individuals within a harmonious community," she added. The president also said that India had an elderly population of around 150 million by 2022, and is projected to reach 350 million by 2050.

"So we must formulate policies and take measures that preserve their dignity and ensure their well-being, empowering them to live full lives as valuable members of our society," Murmu said. She also underlined that in recent years, mental health has become a critical issue, especially for children and the youth. "As we progress into the future, we are confronted with emerging challenges. Cyber crimes and climate change are new threats to human rights," she said.



**'TN will take up Mullaiperiyar dam upkeep issue with Kerala govt'**

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin will take up with his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan the problems being faced by the state Public Works Department (PWD) officials in taking up the maintenance of the Mullaiperiyar dam located in the neighbouring state, Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan said on Tuesday.

The chief minister would hold consultations with Vijayan during his visit to Kerala this week and work for an amicable solution, Duraimurugan said, responding to the 'call attention motion' moved by Leader of the Opposition AIADMK Edappadi K Palaniswami in the Assembly.

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On the second day of the two-day Assembly session. He urged the chief minister to take up the issue of frequent problems being faced by TN PWD in transporting construction material when he visits Kerala on December 12 and facilitate the smooth maintenance of the dam.

On the inauguration in many villages alluded due to the opening of the Sathanur dam in Thiruvannamalai district when Cyclone Fengal crossed the TN-Karaikal coast, the chief minister replied that water from the reservoir was released after the PWD issued five flood alerts.

**'Don't react to remarks by INDIA bloc allies'**

- Rahul Gandhi asks party MPs
- Says Cong capable of dealing with issues

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told party's Lok Sabha MPs Tuesday not to react to comments of 'middle- and low-rung' leaders of INDIA bloc parties and asserted that the Congress as the largest party in the opposition grouping is capable of addressing issues, sources said.

The advice by Gandhi comes amid various leaders of the INDIA bloc weighing in on the leadership issue and TMC leaders aggressive-

ly pitching for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to head the opposition alliance. The sources said that Gandhi, who chaired a meeting of the party's Lok Sabha MPs at Parliament Annex here this morning, also told the MPs to ensure that all of them are present for party's protest ahead of the Parliament sittings, especially when Congress president is participating.

They said Gandhi urged leaders not to react to comments of other opposition parties' "middle- and low-rung"



leaders and stressed that the Congress as the largest party in the opposition grouping is capable of addressing issues.

Gandhi said the protests by opposition on the Adani issue

was making the government jittery and they must continue to raise people's issues. The leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha stressed that he wanted the House to function

so that opposition voice is heard, party sources said.

Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is understood to have urged MPs to come up with innovative ideas of protest as had been seen in the past few days. Soon after the meeting, several opposition MPs demonstrated over the Adani issue in Parliament premises, carrying black 'jholas' (bags) with caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani printed on it and 'Modi Adani Bhai Bhai' written on the obverse side.

This is the latest in the series of unusual protests led by the Congress daily ahead of the sitting of Parliament in the morning.



**ISRO carries out 'well deck' recovery trial of Gaganyaan**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

ISRO on Tuesday said it carried out 'well deck' recovery trials of the Gaganyaan with the Indian Navy on December 6.

The trials were carried out at Eastern Naval Command using a well deck ship off the coast of Vishakhapatnam, ISRO said in a statement.

The space agency said the well deck in a ship can be flooded with water so that boats, landing crafts, recovered spacecraft can be taken inside to dock within the ship.

Once the Crew Module touches down in the sea at the end of the mission, crew have to be recovered in the minimum possible time and with the least discomfort, it said.

One of the preferred options is to tow the Crew Module along with the crew inside the well deck of the ship where the crew can come out comfortably, ISRO explained.

It said that the trials for well deck recovery were carried out using a mass and shape simulated Crew Module Mock-up.

**Delhi's air quality again turns 'poor'**

Likely to remain same for next 2 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after recording 'moderate' AQI, Delhi's air quality slipped into 'poor' category on Tuesday, with forecast suggesting it will remain the same for the next couple of days.

The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city was recorded at 234 at 4 pm on Tuesday, marking a drop from Monday's 'moderate' reading of 186. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) classifies AQI between 0 and 50 as 'good', between 51 and 100 as 'satisfactory', between 101 and 200 as 'moderate', between 201 and 300 as 'poor', between 301 and 400 as 'very poor', and above 400 as 'severe'.

Of the 38 air quality monitoring stations in the capital, two reported AQI in 'very



poor' category on Tuesday.

While 27 stations recorded 'poor' AQI, the rest were in the 'moderate' category, according to the Sameer app which provides hourly data. The primary pollutant on Tuesday was PM2.5, which was recorded at 87.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> at 3 pm. These fine particles pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream.

Meanwhile, the Decision

Support System (DSS), a tool used to assess and estimate sources of pollution in Delhi which had not been updated since November 29, was restarted on Monday.

According to the DSS, the daily mean of local and non-local fractional contributions to PM2.5 in Delhi on Tuesday was estimated at 20.2 per cent, while Wednesday's forecast predicts it to contribute 15.6 per cent to Delhi's pollution.

**No mismatch in votes polled, VVPAT count in Maha: ECI**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday said no mismatch was found between the votes polled and corresponding tally of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail slips in random counting in the last month's Maharashtra assembly elections.

The mandatory counting of VVPAT slips from five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency was completed successfully, the ECI said in a statement.

Opposition parties in the state had questioned the integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti coalition won a landslide victory in the November 20 elections.

The counting of VVPAT slips aims to verify the tally of votes recorded EVMs against



the corresponding VVPAT slips, the ECI said, adding that representatives of candidates were present throughout the process. In Maharashtra's 288 assembly constituencies, officials verified a total of 1,440 VVPAT machines. Representatives of candidates and EC observers randomly selected polling stations, the statement said.

"There was no discrepancy found between the candidate-wise vote counts recorded in EVMs and the corresponding counts from the VVPAT slips," the EC stated.

**Regions worldwide could see warming of 3 degrees Celsius**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Most of the world could experience regional warming of 3 degrees Celsius by 2060 -- sooner than previously estimated, according to a new study. The study, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, highlights the uncertainty of regional climate change.

"The challenge is that regional climate change can be more uncertain, both because the climate system is inherently more noisy at smaller spatial scales and because processes in the atmosphere, ocean and land surface create uncertainty about exactly how a given region will respond to global-scale warming," co-author



Noah Diffenbaugh, a professor at Stanford University, said. The Paris Agreement of 2015

aims to limit climate change by restricting the global temperature rise this century to well

below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, with ongoing efforts to limit the

rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The study projects that several land regions -- including South Asia, the Mediterranean, Central Europe, and parts of sub-Saharan Africa -- are on track to exceed the 3 degrees Celsius threshold by 2060.

The researchers noted that this is sooner than earlier studies had anticipated, compounding risks for vulnerable ecosystems and communities. These land regions have been defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations body that provides scientific information to help governments develop climate policies.

analysed results from the IPCC's climate models to predict temperature increases.

They found that 34 regions are likely to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2040, with 31 regions expected to see 2 degrees of warming by 2040, and 26 regions likely to surpass 3 degrees of warming by 2060.

"It is important to focus not only on global temperature increases but also on specific changes occurring in local and regional areas. By narrowing down when regional warming thresholds will be reached, we can more clearly anticipate the timing of specific impacts on society and ecosystems," Diffenbaugh said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## It is getting hot!

### Global warming is becoming reality as 2024 set to be the hottest year on record

As global temperatures soar to unprecedented levels, 2024 is shaping up to be the hottest year on record, a grim milestone that underscores the accelerating crisis of climate change. European Union scientists have confirmed that the first eleven months of 2024 have set a new high, making this year the warmest since records began. This will be the first year where the global average temperature surpasses 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a threshold that world leaders have long warned could trigger catastrophic climate impacts. With this alarming reality, the world faces a rapidly intensifying climate emergency, one that requires immediate and drastic action. The impacts of global warming are already being felt around the world. In 2024, extreme weather events have ravaged communities, causing widespread devastation. Severe droughts have gripped Italy and South America, while fatal floods in Nepal, Sudan and Europe have displaced thousands. Heatwaves in regions like Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Mali have killed thousands of people, while cyclones have torn through the United States and the Philippines. These events are not just random occurrences; scientific studies confirm that they bear the unmistakable fingerprint of human-caused climate change.

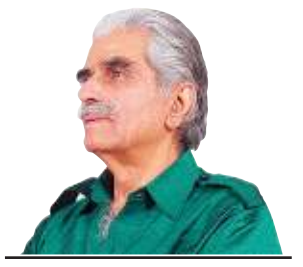


The overwhelming cause of global warming is carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. These emissions trap heat in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at an alarming rate. The most effective way to curb this warming is by reducing emissions to net-zero levels, a goal that many nations have pledged to achieve in the coming decades. However, despite these green pledges, global CO2 emissions are on track to hit record highs this year. This contradictory trend highlights the gap between political promises and the real, tangible actions needed to mitigate climate change. This year's UN climate talks produced a \$300-billion deal aimed at addressing the global climate crisis. However, poorer countries have criticised this deal, arguing that it is insufficient to cover the soaring costs of climate-related disasters. While this deal may have made some progress, it is clear that the global response is not yet enough to prevent further warming. The rise of climate change deniers, particularly within the political sphere, has made it even harder to combat this crisis. US President-elect Donald Trump, in particular, has consistently downplayed the severity of global warming and rolled back numerous environmental regulations during his previous term. Under Trump's leadership, the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement, a global pact aimed at reducing emissions and limiting global temperature rise. Such actions would undoubtedly exacerbate the climate crisis, making it even harder to reduce emissions and avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming. The time to act is now, and the window for meaningful change is rapidly closing.

Earlier that week PM Narendra Modi attended the 19th India-ASEAN meeting and made a powerful presentation of Delhi's Act East policy and criticised China for its expansionist policy in SCS. The Chinese have been testing the waters in the Philippines EEZ in SCS Filipinos call the West Philippines Sea with several forays against Filipino boats to check how far the US will go in its support. Filipino vessels in their EEZ have faced intimidation and bullying by Chinese coast guard ships over the dispute Thomas Shoal 2

# Philippines confronts Chinese assertiveness

## The South China Sea remains a flashpoint of escalating tensions as China intensifies its aggressive maritime activities, targeting nations like the Philippines



ASHOK K MEHTA

NS Admiral Dinesh Tripathi during his customary briefing of media before Navy Day last week expressed concern about Chinese maritime activities in the South China Sea, all of which China claims. Two countries it especially targets in SCS are Taiwan and the Philippines in whose waters it has indulged in offensive naval actions. It signed a defence agreement with the US in 1951; last month it signed an intelligence and technology agreement facilitating satellite intelligence and access to high-grade US weaponry following President Marcos promulgating Maritime Zone Act and Archipelago Sea Lanes Act that China denounced and summoned its envoy. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told his counterpart Gilberto Teodoro: We are more than allies; we're family.



The week-long ASEAN summit in Vientiane, Laos from 6 to 12 October witnessed stern exchanges between China, the US and the Philippines especially over the South China Sea at a time when the West is seized with Ukraine and West Asia crises, even as President-elect Trump is issuing multiple threats. While Chinese Premier Li Qiang blamed 'external forces' for interfering in regional affairs, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is concerned about increasingly dangerous and unlawful activities of China in disputed SCS. Marcos complained to ASEAN leaders that his country continues to be subjected to Chinese bullying and intimidation. Clashes have occurred between the two sides and despite talks and a hotline, no compromise was reached. On September 28 Chinese Navy missile boat fired laser beams at a Philippines Cessna Patrol aircraft while Filipino coast guard vessels continued to be chased. Chinese insisted resupply of the marooned ship would happen under their supervision and in a mid-August clash, several Chinese

ships blocked passage of Filipino supplies for the stranded ship. The Chinese have said that the Philippines ship is illegally stranded/marooned at the disputed Thomas Shoal atoll which it owns as part of its claim to SCS. China calls it Xianbin Reef which is 150 km west of the Philippines island of Palawan. As before, it had repeatedly said it would promulgate its maritime laws including the use of firearms and arrest offenders in defence of its sovereignty and national interest. Teodoro said at the end of August that Thomas Shoal is a sovereignty issue of the Philippines.

According to South China Morning Post (September 16), Admiral Samuel Paparo, US Indo-Pacific Command accompanied by Gen Romero Brawner, Chief of Philippines armed forces, said there is a range of options as countermeasures for the Chinese grey zone tactics adding the US is ready to escort Philippines ships in SCS in event of a spike in hostilities. Brawner said they would seek help if the Chinese blocked food supplies and soldiers were dying of hunger. In Manila, I was asked whether re-supply by other means like helicopters was feasible and had suggested discussing it with their US allies. Meanwhile, Paparo took a video call with Gen Wu Yanan, PLA Southern Theatre Commander responsible for



EARLIER THAT WEEK PM MODI ATTENDED THE 19TH INDIA-ASEAN MEETING AND MADE A POWERFUL PRESENTATION OF DELHI'S ACT EAST POLICY AND CRITICISED CHINA FOR ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY IN SCS

where Sierra Madera a Philippine vessel has been grounded since 1999 to assert its sovereignty. The Chinese are equally active and defiant against Japan in the East China Sea and recently crossed the First Island chain for the first time with an aircraft carrier and two warships. Taiwan continues to face periodic challenges as China relentlessly violates the 2016 UNCLOS ruling that the Philippines secured over China's illegal claim to the South China Sea under its 9-dash line. During my interaction with Philippines security experts in Manila in June, clashes over the resupply of a marooned vessel in Thomas Shoal 2 had reached the climax; and some suggested it could be a feint for Taiwan. The incident had ruffled feathers in Manila with calls for invoking the US Mutual Defence Agreement which gets triggered only during armed external attack. Clashes have occurred between the two sides and despite talks and a hotline, no compromise was reached. On September 28 Chinese Navy missile boat fired laser beams at a Philippines Cessna Patrol aircraft while Filipino coast guard vessels continued to be chased. Chinese insisted resupply of the marooned ship would happen under their supervision and in a mid-August clash, several Chinese

ships blocked passage of Filipino supplies for the stranded ship. The Chinese have said that the Philippines ship is illegally stranded/marooned at the disputed Thomas Shoal atoll which it owns as part of its claim to SCS. China calls it Xianbin Reef which is 150 km west of the Philippines island of Palawan. As before, it had repeatedly said it would promulgate its maritime laws including the use of firearms and arrest offenders in defence of its sovereignty and national interest. Teodoro said at the end of August that Thomas Shoal is a sovereignty issue of the Philippines. According to South China Morning Post (September 16), Admiral Samuel Paparo, US Indo-Pacific Command accompanied by Gen Romero Brawner, Chief of Philippines armed forces, said there is a range of options as countermeasures for the Chinese grey zone tactics adding the US is ready to escort Philippines ships in SCS in event of a spike in hostilities. Brawner said they would seek help if the Chinese blocked food supplies and soldiers were dying of hunger. In Manila, I was asked whether re-supply by other means like helicopters was feasible and had suggested discussing it with their US allies. Meanwhile, Paparo took a video call with Gen Wu Yanan, PLA Southern Theatre Commander responsible for

Wu attended an International conference at the Indo-Pacific command in Hawaii in September even as Teodoro took the contingency of escalation to the next level, of the Chinese towing away the grounded Sierra Madera which would constitute an act of war; invoking a defence pact with the US. A code of conduct for ASEAN in SCS has been in the works for two decades but is far from fruition. It is akin to India's LAC/border with China that Beijing has refused to resolve as it would put a stop to grey zone tactics and salami slicing. India has voiced clear support for the Philippines during the June 17 clash with the Chinese coast guard and Foreign Minister Jaishankar has been on a goodwill visit. Delhi has sold Brahmos anti-ship missiles to Manila, the first country to buy them. Former Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane was in Manila recently for the fifth joint defence cooperation dialogue. While Taiwan may not be on the cards, Thomas Shoal 2 could end up in Chinese possession as Mischieff Reef 24 km north of it did in 2012.

### PICTALK



Badrinath Dham receives the first snowfall of the season, in Chamoli

PTI

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONTROVERSY AT IIT KHARAGPUR

Madam — I have never heard of any controversy in the teaching campus of IIT Kharagpur. But now it is happening. For the last six months, open differences have started coming to the fore between the director and the teaching staff. The Indian Institute of Technology has issued show-cause notices to 90 faculty members in response to allegations against its director V K Tiwari of bias, "retaliation in faculty selection," and failure to set up the promised hospital on campus. In addition, three department heads have also been replaced. The controversy began in September when the IIT Teachers' Association wrote a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accusing Tiwari of arbitrary recruitment processes and other irregularities. About 100 faculty members have protested by wearing black bands and participating in silent marches on campus. The faculty is reportedly now considering legal action. On December 2, the administration replaced the heads of the departments of mathematics, artificial intelligence, and biosciences and biotechnology. I want to say that when the education minister was informed about the arbitrary behaviour of director VK Tiwari five months ago, why did he not take any action? Why was the director not removed from his post with immediate effect? This means that the environment of this great educational institution is being deliberately spoiled so that this institution can be defamed. IIT Kharagpur is the first IIT to be established by the Government of India. The institute was formally inaugurated on 18 August 1951 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. IIT was established to provide trained technical personnel for India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative to establish IIT, he believed that science and technology are important for the modernisation of India.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

### Sanjay Malhotra as new RBI Governor



The union governments have appointed Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, before the six-year term completion of Shaktikanta Das at the post of Governor of RBI. Throughout his career spanning more than 33 years, Sanjay Malhotra has served across

diverse sectors, including power, finance, taxation, information technology, and mines. Currently he has been serving as secretary (revenue) in the ministry of finance, he previously held the position of secretary in the department of financial services under the ministry of finance, Government of India.

The governor heads the RBI and plays a central role in formulating, implementing and monitoring the monetary policy and banking regulations of India. Every note ever printed carries the signature of the RBI governor. The RBI Governor also monitors and facilitates the flow of credit to rural, agricultural and various MSME sectors. As the newly appointed governor holds good ties with the finance minister, he probably works in the betterment of the country's economy, inflation rate, CRR, SLR, GDP, etc.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur Nagar

### END OF ASSAD RULE

Madam — The turn of political events in Syria raises fears of a new wave of regional instability, following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad by the militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ending his family's despotic rule for over 13 years. It marks a turning point for Syria, shattered by years of civil war that has turned cities into rubble, killed hundreds of thousands of people, and forced millions to go abroad as refugees. Western governments, which have shunned the Assad-led state for years, must decide how to deal with a new administration in Syria in which HTS looks set to have greater influence. HTS, which spearheaded the rebel advances across western Syria, was formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate. The Syrians, therefore, will obviously remain fearful as this militant group will impose draconian Islamist rule or instigate reprisals. As Syria will go to polls, it would require a smooth transition in a country with complex competing interests.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### TIKTOK'S NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Madam — Tensions have been escalating in the US over the impact of TikTok. The US Court of Appeals has also cited a notice to China-based ByteDance to sell the social media app by January 19 or face an effective ban in the US. Banning TikTok is not the ultimate solution, as it will hit hard many businessmen for whom TikTok is a source of income generation. They use social media for promotion of their products or of their business, but we cannot forget its negative impact on the minds of children. There is a need to adopt such a solution that will be beneficial for both businessmen and society. Businessmen should create accounts in the name of their business, and e-verification of those accounts should also be done to maintain their originality, and accounts registered under the age of 16 should be banned so the app will be less harmful.

Shreyanshi Jain | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Childhood Wounds: The hidden force behind life's struggles

### Whether it's self-doubt at work or struggles in relationships, the roots often trace back to unresolved childhood wounds

Have you ever wondered why life keeps pulling you back, no matter how hard you try to move forward? Maybe you find yourself repeating the same mistakes in relationships, doubting your abilities at work, or battling the constant ache of "not being enough."



It's easy to blame bad luck or personal failure. But often, these struggles run deeper—in unresolved childhood wounds. Childhood is when we learn how to love, trust and value ourselves. But not all childhoods are built on safety and support. Even seemingly small moments can leave deep scars.

A parent saying, "Stop crying, you're embarrassing me," or a teacher comparing you to someone else may seem insignificant at the time but can shape how we see ourselves for years to come. Take Radhika, for example. At 35, she thrived in her career but couldn't maintain a relationship. Every time someone got close, she would pull away, convinced they would leave her eventually. Therapy

revealed that her fear of abandonment stemmed from her father leaving when she was six. Her emotional walls weren't about keeping others out; they were about protecting herself from feeling that pain again. Then there's Arjun, 28, who struggled to hold a job. His pattern was predictable: procrastinate, miss deadlines and eventually lose the role. He believed he lacked discipline, but therapy uncovered a deeper truth. He had grown up under relentless criticism—nothing he did was ever good enough. That

internalised voice followed him into adulthood, leading him to self-sabotage before anyone else could judge him. These aren't isolated stories. Many of us carry create emotional patterns—fear of intimacy, perfectionism, or shrinking ourselves to avoid rejection. Over time, these patterns create setbacks that seem external but are deeply internal. Therapy is where this cycle ends. It's not about

blaming our parents or reliving the past. It's about understanding why we feel stuck and learning how to let go of the pain. Imagine carrying a heavy bag for years, thinking it's just part of life—then discovering you can put it down. That's what healing feels like. One client described the process beautifully: "For the first time, I understand myself. I'm not broken. I've just been carrying pain I didn't know was there." Your setbacks aren't failures; they're signals that something inside you needs attention. Healing childhood wounds allows you to stop reacting from a place of fear and start living from a place of freedom. It's not an easy journey, but it's one worth taking. The truth is, you deserved love and safety as a child, and you still do now. Healing isn't about erasing the past—it's about reclaiming your future. If this resonates, consider giving yourself the gift of therapy. You're not broken—you're healing. (The writer is a Life Coach; views are personal)

The writer is a Life Coach; views are personal



KAVITA KABIRA



## FIRST COLUMN TRANSFORMING ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOR

As technology reshapes the world at breakneck speed, organisations must evolve to stay relevant



RAVI VALLURI

It would be worthwhile to examine how organisations are structured and articulated. In the long haul organisations blessed with individuals willing to experiment, innovate and embrace technology will be the ones that survive. At the pace that technology with its variants is fashioning itself, numerous applications are unravelling virtually by the minute, and the level of obsolescence and attrition of equipment is becoming extraordinarily high. In such a scenario, humans and organisations will be subsumed by various products and their variants. The human mind can no longer remain in the typewriter mode. The garden of Organisational Theory and Behaviour is dotted with eminent scholars. Three pioneers, Adam Smith, Charles Babbage and Robert Owen provided the ballast and the basic groundwork. Adam Smith advanced the argument that countries and organisations would profit by adopting the tenets of division of labour, what is now termed as specialisation. Charles Babbage in his seminal work postulated: Through the division of labour, the time required for learning a job or skill gets drastically reduced. Right at the stage of infancy wastage of material gets minimised and diminishes. The mind is propelled to take up serious tasks upon attaining superior skills. Way back in 1789, Robert Owen at 18 went on to acquire a factory. He was a utopian, way ahead of his times. In 1825, he promulgated regulated working



hours, child labour laws, public education and business involvement in various community projects – a precursor to CSR. In today's wired world, individuals work from their dwellings. Places with the latest technology and gizmos at their disposal. Over the last decade, the entire paradigm of organisational behaviour has metamorphosed. Technology stares at organisations with peering eyes, the complexity and dynamics of structures having undergone a complete metamorphosis. Let us look at the Indian Railways. There was a time when the operating and manufacturing departments held sway in the decision-making process. Today, it is the technical departments that are the game changers. The concept of fixed work hours is history.

The workforce must be alert 24x7. Thus, employees need to brush up on their skill sets to brace for the challenges of the virtual world. Let us examine the model of direct teaching through online classes – one-on-one, between the teacher and the tutee. The very paradigm may affect teaching techniques in schools and universities. Similarly, qualified doctors instruct their colleagues through Skype or other means during complex surgeries. Be it surgical strikes or wars, instructions are being disseminated to the foot soldiers through the latest technology, like the usage of GPS coordinates and Real-Time Imagery.

In such a scenario, scores of organisational structures, government or those in the private sector must adapt radically in order to survive. The workforce must continuously upgrade their skill set or face extinction. Perhaps emotions of warmth may be lost in the maze of technological evolution. The philosophy of an organisation, its goals and objectives and the behavioural pattern between the structure and the workforce have been stranded in a traffic jam of the kind one encounters in major cities of India like Gurugram. Stephen Hawking has in a rather depressing prognosis, predicted that life would be extinct on this planet on four grounds – nukes, global warming, man-made viruses or robots. Thus, the human mind should reinvent itself and current organisational behaviour and theories or prepare a blueprint to discover a sister planet to inhabit. Aristotle wrote, "We are what we repeatedly do." This paradigm will have to change for organisations to survive.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

# A roadmap for modernising India's security framework



SUDHIR HINDWAN

A comprehensive approach to urban mobility, affordability and infrastructure is the need of the hour to reclaim Delhi's air and ensure a healthier, sustainable future



The recent 2 days 59th All India Conference of Director Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar augurs very well for drawing a future roadmap of policing in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a SMART way of policing has once again brought forward the need for modernisation of Indian Police and Security Agencies which can help India move on the path of high-powered police technology with the most efficient and latest technologies. Recent challenges to the security of India bring to light an important fact that India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces lately from digital frauds, artificial intelligence misuse and cyber crimes. Prime Minister emphasised the need to come together and closely cooperate in fighting the latest threats by developing strategies for the establishment of an extremely capable intelligence system to ensure such threats can be encountered at early stages. SMART POLICING appears to be the only solution for protection against the multiple threats from diverse and very intense new waves of terror, cyber criminals, drug traffickers, economic offenders, smugglers, criminals, naxals, arms dealers and insurgents. It would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation that would deal with various issues related to terrorism – right from the funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-gathering exercise.

Cooperation and coordination in communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives of his call. Besides, a modernisation of the Police is also imperative given the possible threats from religiously motivated bands of distraught minds. The Prime Minister has called for a smart way of policing and usage of interoperable and transferable technologies such as drones that would open a new gateway to meet complex security chal-



THE POLICE NEED TO DIVERSIFY ITS ACTIVITIES BY BRINGING TOGETHER TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE BASED ON MANY DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY. IT IS HIGH TIME WE REALISED THAT POLICE ALONE CANNOT STOP THE CRIME, THE ENTIRE SOCIETY SHOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS

lenges. Over the years a great deal of literature has appeared on India's police and the need for reforms. Policies are being made to enable the force to adapt to the challenging environment and efficiently implement recommendations suggested by the panels on reforms. As the threats today are more severe and enemies more organised than ever before, new concepts of safety and security need to be followed. Whereas globalisation has provided a concept of a global village deeply interwoven in a comprehensive view of society, market, freedom, choice, empowerment, peace, opportunities, linkages and politics, its impact has created a socio-political quagmire, particularly in developing societies. In this context, there is a growing global consensus on addressing critical issues in policing by focusing on the following key areas:

**Bridging Theory and Practice:** Linking traditional policing theories to the evolving challenges faced by law enforcement today.

**Analyzing Pressures:** Developing fresh insights into the various areas of concern and the mounting pressures on police forces.

**Role of Police in Market Dynamics:** Defining the role of police in navigating market forces while maintaining impartiality and fairness.

**Implementing Reforms:** Demonstrating how the reform models proposed by various commissions can be effectively applied in real-world scenarios, in alignment with democratic principles, environmental considerations, globalization, and governance.

**Driving Change:** Exploring innovative policing methods to foster change and build public trust and confidence.

**Global Knowledge Integration:** Leveraging the latest global research and advancements in the field of policing to modernise and upgrade

law enforcement practices. Police being a State subject under Article 246, at times the force becomes a matter of battle of wits. Apart from undertaking counter-terrorist operations, police also have to play a crucial role as protector of the day-to-day law and order.

This has increased pressure on them to get quick results. Besides, the prevailing level of dissatisfaction among the subordinate level, police officers have adversely affected the attitude of police towards problems. Police are often asked to fight a low-cost war where the enemy is their countrymen. Calling the police to put down civil disturbances is a tedious job. Many scientific methods and modern changes have been introduced in policing in India ever since the police commission report was drafted many years ago. Police are an extremely vital source of security for the community.

But this alone will not benefit unless people are sensitised about the achievements of positive policing. Some experts on policing are of the view that the values, attitudes, methods, aspirations commitment, etc. of these services need overhauling. Some are of the view that the quality and efficiency of the security forces largely depend on their service conditions, cooperation, training, practice, level of interaction with the general masses and strict methods of appointment. It is, therefore, in the interest of the Government to recruit and attract personnel of high integrity and great calibre.

For successful training of personnel of paramilitary and police forces, certain parameters of pre-recruitment education, experience, proportion of insiders and outsiders, methods of recruitment, postings, and length of service must be reviewed. There is also a need for more productive relation-

ships among paramilitary forces, Intelligence agencies, local police, the Army, and the local population. The Government has made all efforts towards sensitisation of police by inculcating a humane approach in policing and introducing the study of human rights legislation in training. Certain suggestions can go a long way in driving better results for policing: (a) There should be initiative in implementing development plans in consultation with experts from various other branches; (b) Development of capability to anticipate foreboding and security needs; (c) This is possible by conducting specialised courses for monitoring security situations. Globalisation and its negative implications are putting forward a challenging environment for policing.

Therefore, the police need to diversify its activities by bringing together technical and professional expertise based on many decades of experience in maintaining internal security. It is high time we realised that police alone cannot stop the crime, the entire society should make substantial efforts towards ensuring the safety and security of fellow citizens.

The police also need to play an important role as crime preventers and in this regard, developing qualities such as a high level of diligence, intelligence, dedication, determination and the ability to grasp complex situations is a must. It is high time we realised that the police alone cannot stop crime; the entire society should make substantial efforts towards it. The SMART Police and modernised ways of policing hold the key to the future of the security and safety of every individual.

(The writer is recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award, Professor, Head of Department and Expert on Strategic Affairs; views are personal)

# India's sovereignty in the crosshairs: Navigating global challenges

Modi's administration combines diplomacy with strength to safeguard national independence and challenge Western-centric ideologies

As India rises as a global power, it faces a barrage of challenges and accusations of foreign interference, echoing the complexities of a world where sovereignty is contested. The ruling BJP has identified actors like the "American deep state," billionaire George Soros, and organisations such as the Rockefeller Foundation as orchestrators of campaigns aimed at destabilising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.



SANTHOSH MATHEW

Modi's approach combines diplomacy with firm resolve to safeguard India's sovereignty, particularly against those attempting to influence domestic politics. The BJP asserts that international networks target India for challenging the dominance of Western-centric ideologies

through policies like Atmanirbhar Bharat and calls for a multipolar world. The "American deep state," a nexus of the Pentagon, CIA, and corporate elites, according to the BJP, exemplifies hidden forces working to maintain global hegemony. Allegations against prominent business figures and reports from groups like the OCCRP are seen as attempts to tarnish India's image and weaken Modi's leadership. Critics of these claims argue that they serve as distractions from domestic challenges, but the BJP cites historical precedents of covert interventions by such networks to justify its position. George Soros, often labelled a "dangerous" figure by Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, symbolises an ide-

ological assault on national sovereignty. His public criticism of Modi's policies and financial involvement in liberal causes worldwide add fuel to the BJP's assertion that foreign-funded campaigns aim to destabilise India's democratic fabric. Similarly, the Rockefeller Foundation is accused of furthering a neoliberal agenda at odds with India's self-reliance and policy independence. This dynamic reflects the larger struggle of emerging powers like India to navigate a world influenced by philanthropic and corporate entities wielding soft power. Modi's resistance to their influence positions his administration as a bulwark against globalist impositions, a stance that resonates with his nationalist electorate.



The return of Donald Trump to the US presidency adds another layer to India's geopolitical calculations. While Trump's "America First" policies and transactional diplomacy brought moments like "Howdy Modi" and "Namaste Trump," his administration's alignment with corporate

interests and erratic decision-making created tensions. Described by Noam Chomsky as "the most dangerous man in the world," Yet, his strategic deals, such as his outreach to India, underscored his unconventional but calculated foreign policy. Trump's presidency also invoked the Bush Doctrine's rhetoric of "You are either with us or against us," highlighting the stark divisions in global alliances. While Modi's government has maintained a deft balance, the BJP sees this dichotomy as emblematic of the pressures India faces from global powers demanding allegiance to specific blocs. India's geopolitical strategy involves rejecting the narrative of dependency that organisations like the Rockefeller

Foundation propagate. Blood may be thicker than water, but India's external relationships prioritise sovereignty over sentimentality. The BJP's framing of its sovereignty struggle as a broader battle for multipolarity reflects a vision of India not just as a rising power but as a protector of global balance. While domestic critics downplay the likelihood of coordinated foreign efforts against India, the BJP argues that history tells a different story. Examples abound of covert interventions justified under the banner of democracy or human rights. Modi's government, embodies the Rooseveltian ethos of combining tact with strength, ensuring that India's voice remains firm in the shifting

balance of global power. The allegations against figures like Soros, the American deep state, and philanthropic organisations symbolise the challenges India faces as it redefines its place on the world stage. Whether these claims represent genuine threats or political posturing, they underscore the complexities of a world where the boundaries of influence, power, and sovereignty remain contested. India's ascent highlights a fundamental truth: the struggle for sovereignty in a globalised world demands not only resilience but also an unwavering belief in one's capacity to walk softly while wielding the proverbial big stick. (The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)





# DHARMENDRA SUMMONED IN CHEATING CASE

The Patiala House Court in Delhi has recently issued summons against veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra and two others in a cheating case related to the *Garam Dharam Dhaba* franchise. The summons, issued by Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Yashdeep Chahal, is based on a complaint filed by Delhi businessman Sushil Kumar, who alleged that he was lured into investing in the franchise. "The evidence on record prima facie indicates that the accused persons induced the complainant in furtherance of their common intent and the ingredients of offence of cheating are duly disclosed," the judge said in the summoning order passed on December 5. "Accordingly, let the accused persons at serial numbers 1 (Dharam Singh Deol), 2 and 3 be summoned for the commission of offences under section 420, 120B read with section 34 IPC. Let the accused persons at serial no. 2 and 3 also be summoned for



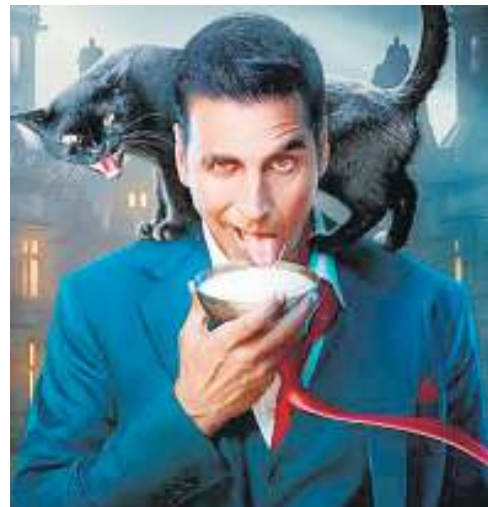
the offence of criminal intimidation under section 506 of IPC," the court ordered. The matter has been listed for further hearing on February 20, 2025. The court said that it is fairly settled that at the stage of summoning, the court is required to examine a prima facie case and meticulous examination of the merits and demerits of the case is not warranted. The documents on record pertain to *Garam Dharam Dhaba* and the letter of intent also bears the logo of the said restaurant, the court noted, adding that it was fairly apparent that the transaction between the parties pertains to *Garam Dharam Dhaba* and was being pursued by the co-accused on behalf of accused Dharam Singh Deol. On October 9, 2020, the court dismissed an application seeking a direction for registration of FIR. However, the court had taken cognisance of the complaint and directed the complainant to produce evidence.



## IDIOTS OF ISTANBUL IS COMING



Fahadh Faasil is reportedly in talks to make his Hindi film debut with acclaimed director Imtiaz Ali. The project, a romantic comedy, will be produced by Netflix and is expected to begin filming in the first quarter of 2025. According to sources, the film has been titled *Idiots of Istanbul*, a quirky name that reflects the movie's lighthearted tone. The story follows two main characters on a journey to Turkey, and the title is said to capture their adventurous spirit. Imtiaz Ali has reportedly completed his location scouting and is finalising his script. The film will be shot over a period of three months, with schedules in India and Europe. Fahadh Faasil is currently basking in the success of his recent films, including *Pushpa 2: The Rule* and *Aavesham*. He will be joined in the cast by Triptii Dimri, who recently appeared in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* and has several other projects in the works. The pairing of Fahadh and Triptii is expected to be a highlight of the film, with sources suggesting that their on-screen chemistry will be a treat for audiences.



## Sonam Bajwa joins Nadiadwala's Housefull 5 & Baaghi 4

The multi-talented Sonam Bajwa, a heartthrob of Punjab, has signed Sajid Nadiadwala's *Housefull 5*, followed by the action-packed franchise *Baaghi 4*. *Baaghi 4* will be Sonam Bajwa's second collaboration with Sajid Nadiadwala after *Housefull 5*. The buzz around *Baaghi 4* has been growing ever since a jaw-dropping poster of Tiger Shroff and Sajayn Dutt was released. Fans have been eagerly awaiting the announcement of the female lead, and now, Sonam Bajwa's pairing with Tiger Shroff is sure to set the screen on fire! Filming for *Baaghi 4* has begun and Sonam is expected to join the sets soon. A Sajid Nadiadwala franchise, produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and directed by A. Harsha, starring Tiger Shroff, is set to release on September 5, 2025.



## Bhooth Bangla to bring its horror & chills on April 2, 2026

Ever since its announcement, Priyadarshan's upcoming horror-comedy *Bhooth Bangla* has left everyone excited. With an immensely captivating poster, the makers have consistently set the tone for the arrival of this much-anticipated film. Now, taking the comedy and thrilling quotient a notch higher, the makers have unveiled another poster along with a mega announcement: the film is set to release on April 2, 2026. Adding to the excitement, the shoot of the film was officially commenced on Tuesday. The dynamic duo of the king of horror comedies, director Priyadarshan and actor Akshay Kumar are finally reuniting after 14 years for *Bhooth Bangla*. Having delivered cinematic gems in the past, the anticipation to witness the magic they are set to create on the big screen is unparalleled. *Bhooth Bangla* is produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta R Kapoor and Akshay Kumar's production house, Cape of Good Films. The film is co-produced by Faara Sheikh and Vedant Baali. The story is written by Akash A Kaushik and the screenplay by Rohan Shankar, Abilash Nair and Priyadarshan. The dialogues are by Rohan Shankar.

## Chris Evans' MCU return in cameo?

Chris Evans is speculated to be part of *Avengers: Doomsday* marking his return to the MCU! Known for playing the heroic Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Chris Evans is all set to return to the franchise, in a new role. The actor is reported to return alongside Robert Downey Jr. in *Avengers: Doomsday* in a surprise for MCU fans across the globe. Rumours are that audiences will get a glimpse of the character Evans is touted to play in the upcoming film *Captain America: Brave New World* set to release on 14th February 2025. The film stars Anthony Mackie who returns as the high-flying hero Sam Wilson, having officially taken up the mantle of Captain America. After meeting with newly elected U.S. President Thaddeus Ross, Sam finds himself in the middle of an international incident. He must discover the reason behind a nefarious global plot before the true mastermind has the entire world seeing red. The trailer of the film sent fans into a frenzy as they got to see a glimpse of the Red Hulk and now with Chris Evans speculated to return, the film could be one of Marvel's finest yet. *Captain America: Brave New World* is set to be the second last film of MCU Phase 5, we can expect a lot of surprises in store and with Chris Evans speculated to be in the film, it would be a spectacle for fans to watch! *Captain America: Brave New World* will release in India on February 14, 2025 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



This week, the seaside city of Jeddah was illuminated by the shimmering lights of the Red Sea International Film Festival, which drew industry insiders, filmmakers and celebrities from around the world.

## LOOKBOOK



## FUN

### ARCHIE

WELL, WELL, JUGHEAD'S UP ALREADY... AT THE CRACK OF DUSK!

WITH SCHOOL OUT, I BET YOU SLEEP TILL NOON EVERY DAY!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I ROLLED OUT OF BED AT 8:00 THIS MORNING!

SO THERE!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING UP AT 8:00?

GETTING AN EXTRA PILLOW!

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

OK, CALVIN, START PACKING UP. WE'RE GOING HOME.

FINALLY!

NOW, NOW, THESE LITTLE OUTINGS ARE VALUABLE EXPERIENCES.

YEAH? HOW?

THEY GIVE US A CHANCE TO BE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AND LEARN ABOUT OURSELVES.

LIKE HOW WE CAN'T STAND BEING IN SUCH CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH ONE ANOTHER THIS LONG?

EXACTLY!

### GARFIELD

DOGS ARE LIKE AN OPEN BOOK

WITH A FEW PAGES MISSING

### REALITY CHECK

WHY IS IT WHENEVER ERNIE COMES OUT OF THE WATER, HE HAS TO SHAKE?

### NANCY

I LOVE THE FEEL OF NATURE BETWEEN MY TOES

NANCY! COME IN FOR DINNER!

### SPEED BUMP

AND NOW, BY RULE, MOMMY GETS TO READ YOU A STORY WITH AN OPPOSING MORAL.

### GINGER MEGGS

RIGHTO, GINGER, YOUR SHOW'S OVER, NOW REMEMBER... TIME FOR T.T.B.

AW, POP, CAN I STAY UP FOR JUST ONE MORE EPISODE? PROMISE I WON'T TELL MUM!

MIKE EITHER!

### CROSSWORD

### SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

Rules

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

### ACROSS

- A three-sided figure
- Following
- Tiny
- Assistant
- Finest
- Moist
- A glass container
- Have a quarrel
- Living
- Cut paper with these

### DOWN

- Add up numbers to get this
- Jerusalem is in this country
- The organ of smell
- Depart
- A big important church
- Squashed right down
- A vegetable that grows underground
- A witch's power
- Small tree branches
- Tame animals

SOLUTION

E	N	O	R	M	O	U	S	E
E	E	N	T	O				
R	R	E	E	T				
C	R	A	L	L	S	T	O	N
S	I	T	A	C	H			
S	H	O	T	I	S	H	O	T
E	C	A	D	M				
S	I	G	H	E	D	T	O	G
L	E	D	D	R				
E	D	I	S	A	G	R	E	E

## Exploring world of ghazals

**ACCLAIMED GHAZAL MAESTRO SUDEEP BANERJEE REVEALS THE SOUL OF HIS MUSIC IN A HEART-TO-HEART CONVERSATION WITH THE PIONEER**

TEJAL SINHA  
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

As the silken threads of Urdu poetry weave a tapestry of emotions, the ghazal—an ancient and revered form of Indian classical music—continues to enthral audiences with its haunting beauty. In a world where musical trends ebb and flow, the ghazal remains an enduring testament to the power of art to transcend time and touch the human soul.

In this exclusive conversation, we delve into the world of ghazals with Sudeep Banerjee, a masterful exponent of this classical genre, as he shares his insights, inspirations and the timeless allure of the ghazal.

It was a privilege to have the distinguished ghazal singer onboard with *The Pioneer* as he shares his experiences and insights with us. Fresh from his latest performance, Banerjee spoke about his musical journey, inspirations and the importance of promoting good literature and poetry.

Born in Allahabad, his musical journey began in Delhi, where he received his basic music education from Shrimati Shanti Hirananda ji, a senior disciple of the legendary Begum Akhtar. Trained in Khayal and Dadra, Banerjee performed extensively in Delhi before moving to Mumbai to pursue his dreams. In Mumbai, he not only established himself as a singer but also as a music composer, working on numerous music albums, feature films and ad films.

Banerjee's journey has been marked by collaborations with legendary singers. He reflected, "I have done recordings with Jagjit Singh, Ustad Rashid Khan, Bhupinder Singh, Hariharanji, Anup Jalota, Pankaj Udhas and Shreya Ghoshal, among others." These experiences have not only honed his craft but also exposed him to different styles and approaches to music.

When it comes to ghazal singing, he draws inspiration from two legends: Begum Akhtar and Mehdi Hassan. He confessed, "Mehdi Hassan has been a huge inspiration for me. Whatever he has sung, his style of singing has inspired me a lot." He also acknowledged the influence of Jagjit Singh, with whom he worked closely for several years. "After Mehdi Hassan, Jagjit Singh has been a very important person in my life because I worked with him for 5-6 years, so I knew him. I knew how he was working. There was so much to learn from him," he added.

In a musical landscape that is increasingly dominated by commercial and popular genres, his commitment to ghazal



singing and his passion for promoting good literature and poetry are truly commendable. As he continues to enthral audiences with his soulful renditions, his contributions to the world of Indian classical music and ghazal singing remain invaluable. The singer reflected on their early life and influences, mentioning their work with various artists, including Jagadish Singh and Pankaj Udhas. "I have learned from my dear son, but I have also learned from Jagadish Singh sir and Pankaj Udhas ji. I have been personally working with Pankaj Udhas and unfortunately, we lost him this year."

When asked about the current state of the ghazal industry, the singer noted that despite the loss of legends like Pankaj Udhas and Jagadish Singh, the genre is experiencing a resurgence. "In fact, ghazal is now going back to its big form because a lot of singers are coming into ghazal singing and a lot of youngsters are coming into ghazal singing."

The singer attributed this growth to events which have been a part of for the past 12 years. "We always include new singers every year, and we do a talent hunt called *Khazana Talent Hunt* for the best ghazal singers." They noted that the event receives numerous entries, primarily from young singers, indicating a strong interest in ghazal singing.

However, the singer also highlighted the challenges faced by the new generation of ghazal singers. "Ghazal is not just music; it's poetry; it's Urdu. You have to know the language; you have to learn Urdu; you have to learn about poets." They emphasised the importance of understanding the literary context and the lives of poets like Mirza Ghalib, Jigar Moradabadi and Faiz Ahmed Faiz. The singer noted that the new generation's desire for instant

success and fame can be a hindrance to truly mastering the art of ghazal singing. "They want everything instant. They want instant success. They want to get fame very fast, but they forget that this is a long process."

The singer concluded by discussing their upcoming projects, including a concert series based on the poetry of Begum Akhtar, which they will be performing with Rekha Bhardwaj. "Rekha Bhardwaj and I are old friends from college. We did that show and we are taking that show to other cities also."

They also mentioned a new project that explores the history of Urdu poetry over the past 350 years, featuring the works of 15 prominent poets. "I've compiled around 15 of the greatest poets, and we do concerts on those 15 poets. We will also do an album and concert."

As he travels across the country, performing in various cities, he was asked which city intrigued him the most. He revealed that Delhi holds a special place in his heart. "Because Delhi has a culture of Urdu poetry, and all big poets love Delhi. So Delhi is always one of my favorite cities." However, he also shared a recent memorable experience in Kolkata, where he performed a tribute show for Pankaj. "I was surprised to see a packed audience and people were enjoying the puzzles. So every city has its own benefits and every city has its own fan following, but I still think North India, especially Delhi, Punjab and Gujarat, again has a very good audience for ghazals."

When asked about his advice to upcoming singers who want to make a career in ghazal singing, he emphasised the importance of clarity and perseverance. "It's very tough to be a singer in the first place, even if you want to be a film singer. It's very difficult. Any kind of art form is difficult, whether it's for a painter, writer, or singer." He stressed that focus, clear goals and a willingness to put in years of hard work are essential.

For those interested in pursuing ghazal singing specifically, he highlighted the importance of learning the language and understanding the poets. "They must know not just the ghazal but about the poet also. Unless they don't know about the poet, they won't be able to give that expression in their ghazals." He shared his own experience of learning Urdu literature and poetry, which took several years.

"I learned several years ago. I learned Urdu literature. I can really write Urdu poetry in the language also. When I went to my guru, Shanti ji, the first thing she told me was that I should go and learn Urdu—not just speaking, but also reading and writing. So I have read and written in Urdu. I learned it from the Urdu Academy. I took a 2-year course, and then I could read it in Urdu, and it was hard work, but that is all paying me now."

## Groundbreaking study debunks single-serum solution for hair loss

Traya announced revolutionary results from a first-of-its-kind study on the efficacy of hair loss treatment over Minoxidil in hair loss management. Conducted over six months with 135 male participants aged 18 to 45, the study revealed a landmark finding for hair density: customised hair regimen proved to be thrice as effective as the single use of the world's most efficacious molecule, Minoxidil, in reducing male pattern hair loss. This study marks an astounding revelation in the field of hair loss solutions, challenging a widely marketed belief that a single serum can successfully treat hair loss.

With a strong emphasis on research-driven, customer-centric solutions, the brand initiated the study in association with MS Clinical Research Pvt Ltd to conduct this study. They boldly challenged market myths that promise rapid hair loss reversal through the application of single products like oils, shampoos & serums. Participants were divided into three groups: Group A, which used customised hair regimen; Group B, which used a 5% minoxidil topical solution and Group C, which used a placebo (distilled water).

The research employed advanced assessment techniques such as Trichoscan imaging, comb testing, dermatological evaluations and self-assessments to ensure the highest reliability in measuring efficacy. Trichoscan Imaging, recognised as the gold standard for clinically determining results in hair loss studies, played a pivotal role in this trial. (Group A) emerged as a clear leader, reducing hair fall thrice as effectively as Minoxidil alone (Group B). While they have relied on comb tests, which often mislead consumers by measuring temporary hair breakage instead of actual follicular hair loss, this six-month clinical trial focused

on real hair fall reduction, setting a new industry standard.

The study, conducted on 135 participants in line with CTRI (Clinical Trial Registry India) and ethics committee guidelines, provided highly reliable insights. Participants were equally divided into groups based on common underlying issues like indigestion, acidity, low energy, constipation, bloating, stress and sleep deprivation, which tend to serve as key root causes of hair loss, ensuring the research addressed a wide range of concerns. The customised hair regimen combines Ayurveda with dermatology & a curated diet plan to address specific root causes that lead to hair loss. Serum and that showed exceptional results, outperforming the minoxidil serum alone in essential parameters like hair regrowth, hair density, hair fall reduction, smoothness and shine.

Saloni Anand, co-founder of Traya, shared, "I understand that hair loss is deeply personal and can significantly impact one's confidence and well-being. In fact, for years, doctor-prescribed minoxidil has been seen as the go-to solution, which provides superficial relief but falls short in fully tackling the root causes of hair loss. We aimed to challenge the belief that 5% minoxidil alone can solve the problem by offering a more result-driven approach. We invested 6 months in this research to test hair loss treatment efficacy against minoxidil alone."

The beauty of this test was that we added a consumer group with a placebo to negate any biases. The study proved that the Traya 3X approach to hair loss is effective in reversing genetic hair loss and it goes beyond surface-level remedies, addressing the root causes of hair loss through a mix of Ayurveda and modern science."



## BRUSHING NEW HORIZONS

Birla Opus Paints expands rapidly in Hyderabad with new franchise stores, aiming to revolutionise the Indian paint market through innovative customer engagement and a trusted legacy.

In the bustling and ever-evolving paint industry, Birla Opus Paints stands out with a bold expansion strategy. Part of the Aditya Birla Group's flagship firm, Grasim Industries, the rapid growth trajectory is reshaping India's decorative paints market. It's latest milestone: the inauguration of two new franchisee stores in Hyderabad, Telangana, further solidifying its footprint in one of the country's most vibrant and fast-growing markets. These stores are not merely retail points but pivotal hubs for customer engagement.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Rakshit Hargave, CEO of Birla Opus Paints, shared his vision for growth, its innovative franchisee model and why Hyderabad remains a critical market in their expansive journey across India.

"The vision for Birla Opus, as we have declared when we launched in Panipat in February this year, was that, firstly, we want to get Pan-India distribution. We put some markers for that and those markers were like we want to enter into 6,000 towns by end of this year. We want to cover nearly 50,000 outlets. We also said that we want to be having a market share, which is like high single digits by the time we exit the year in March," explain Hargave.

### Revolutionising paint industry

Birla Opus Paints' franchisee model is a strategic innovation aimed at improving the customer experience, setting it apart from traditional paint retailing. By focusing on creating an engaging, consultative environment, it aims to build lasting relationships with its customers. Hargave explains that the paint industry, until now, had seen a lack of consumer engagement and sophisticated retail experiences.

"Our franchisee stores are a breath of fresh air for the paint industry. They offer a full range of products, expert consultations and an immersive shopping experience, something that has been largely missing in the market," he states.

The franchise model has been met with considerable success. With over 200 franchise stores already in operation, the model is delivering impressive results in terms of footfall, consumer engagement and revenue generation. The stores, equipped with shade decks and texture displays, offer consumers the opportunity to explore an extensive range, ensuring they find the perfect match for their needs.

"The success of the franchise model is evident in the rising number of customers visiting these stores. They bring their families, spend time selecting products and engage in deep consultations. This allows them to develop a strong connection," he says.

Hyderabad, with its flourishing real estate market and growing construction activities, has proven to be an ideal city for the expansion. The new stores in Hyderabad—Sri

Mahalaxmi Agencies at Cross Road and Choudhary Birla Opus Paint Studio in Medchal Malkajgiri—are strategically located to cater to the diverse needs of the city's consumers. "We have divided the whole city into clusters so that each cluster can have one franchisee that is self-sufficient and that can cater to the neighboring market. So this outlet, this franchisee, obviously is a part of that plan where this will cater to its neighborhood and will be a destination for architects and designers who want to come here, see the whole range," he accentuates.

### Riding on trust factor

One of the significant differentiators is the trusted legacy of the Birla name. Consumers and dealers in the building materials sector are already familiar with Birla's long-standing reputation in cement, white cement and other building materials. This reputation has facilitated a smoother market entry, as Hargave points out. "The trust has been invaluable for us. We entered the market with an already established name in construction and building materials, which helped us gain the confidence of our dealers and contractors. Our product quality, backed by research and development in India, further reinforced this trust."

It has also set itself apart by focusing on high-quality, locally developed products. From emulsions to enamel paints, the products have garnered praise for their superior performance. The company's commitment to quality is further evident in its state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, with six plants spread across India, ensuring both efficiency and a steady supply of products.

"We have invested heavily in manufacturing infrastructure. With six factories already operational and more planned in the coming years, we are setting the stage for long-term success."

The rapid growth is particularly evident in its strong foothold in Hyderabad and Telangana, where Birla Opus Paints is now the second-largest player. But the company's ambitions extend beyond market share—they aim to be an iconic name synonymous with quality and reliability.

"Our team tells me that we're already the second-largest player in Hyderabad and that's something we're incredibly proud of," the leader notes. "But it's not just about growth—it's about becoming what's deeply desired. We're hearing that customers are coming into stores asking for products by name. That's the kind of pull we're building, and it's growing every day."

Contractors, too, are taking notice. The superior product quality has made it a favorite among professionals who are seeing increased profitability thanks to the paint's exceptional coverage and hiding capabilities. As more contractors benefit from offerings, the momentum continues to build.

"Our expectation is to keep gaining market share, month on month, quarter on quarter," the leader says confidently. "And the feedback we're getting from both contractors and customers tells us we're already on the right path."





# PEDARAYUDU'S REAL-LIFE VERDICT AWAITS!

The real life and reel life are completely different when it comes to Mohan Babu. Throughout his film career, he has played many roles and *Pedarayudu* holds a special place. In this film, he delivers just verdicts and no one dares to challenge his judgment. Now, many are eagerly waiting to see how he will judge the ongoing family dispute in real life.

**SURESH KAVIRAYANI**  
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The Manchu family has been the talk of the town lately. Mohan Babu, the versatile actor, is known for being one of the most disciplined persons not only in the Telugu film industry but also in real life. He is renowned for his roles like *Pedarayudu*, where he portrays a disciplined man who maintains order not only in his family but also in the entire village. In the film, he sits on the ancestral throne to dispense justice and his judgment is final. He metes out punishments for wrongdoings.

In real life, Mohan Babu is equally disciplined, but he is currently facing a difficult situation. He has filed a police complaint against his son, stating, "I fear for my safety, my valuables and my property." Mohan Babu's complaint is against his younger son, Manoj and daughter-in-law, Monica. Given Mohan Babu's reputation as a nice person who avoids conflict, the fact that

he has filed a complaint suggests that something serious must have transpired between him and his son.

The contrast between Mohan Babu's real life and reel life is striking and people are eagerly awaiting his next move in addressing this ongoing family problem. Will he act as *Pedarayudu* and deliver his judgment, or will he leave the decision to his sons? Everyone is watching with bated breath.

Manchu Manoj, on the other hand, claims that he is not fighting for properties or money but for self-respect. After Mohan Babu filed his complaint, Manoj also filed a counter-complaint, stating that the allegations made by his father are untrue. "The claims made against me and my wife are completely fabricated. We are self-employed, independent and have always lived with dignity," he stated in his complaint. Manoj also alleged that CCTV footage had gone missing and that the drive had been taken by Vishnu's associates, Vijay Reddy and Kiran.

Interestingly, Mohan Babu has helped others set-

tle their family disputes in the past. He has always shown utmost respect to his guru, Dasari Narayana Rao and treated him like a father. After Dasari's demise, his sons fought over properties and money and there were reports that Mohan Babu had intervened to resolve the issue. However, when it comes to his own family, he seems unable to do the same, as his two sons are openly fighting.

Meanwhile, Vishnu, Mohan Babu's elder son, has returned to Hyderabad and gone straight to his father's house. There are rumours that Mohan Babu and Vishnu have taken one side, while Manoj is on the other. Mohan Babu's daughter, Lakshmi, seems to have distanced herself from the issue, leaving Hyderabad for Mumbai. She announced her departure on her Instagram page, saying, "Bye, Hyderabad."

Even people from the film industry are hesitant to get involved in Mohan Babu's family issue. Some want to reach out to him, but they dare not, unsure of how he will react.



## Love blooms on-screen with *Pranayagodari*

The Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2* made history with its record-breaking first-day collections after its release on December 5. Now, it's time for smaller films to hit the screens, and one such film, *Pranayagodari*, is set to release on December 13. The film features Sadan and Priyanka Prasad as the lead pair, with Sai Kumar playing an important role. PL Vignesh has directed and produced the film.

The pre-release event was recently held and it was attended by prominent guests, including MLC Teenmaar Mallanna, producer Raj Kandukuri and actor Sohail. On this occasion, director and producer Vignesh revealed that

he had sold all his assets to make this film. "I worked hard to produce this film. I sold all my assets and took loans to make it. I did this film for my brother Markandeya, who composed the music for this film. Although I finished the film, I struggled to release it and took more loans for it," said Vignesh.

He added that making a film and releasing it is not an easy task, which he realised after working on this film. The film's lead actress, Priyanka Prasad, thanked the director for giving her the opportunity. "I thank the director and producer for believing in me and giving me this opportunity," she said.



## POOJA HEGDE'S NEXT WITH DULQUER SALMAAN

After a dull period in the South Indian film industry, Pooja Hegde is now securing big projects and is once again busy with a multitude of films. The actress is currently shooting a film with Suriya and has also signed another film with Vijay, which will be his last project before he ventures into full-time politics.

In addition to her South Indian projects, Pooja Hegde is also working on a Hindi film opposite Varun Dhawan, which was officially announced a few days ago. Now, according to a source, Pooja Hegde has signed another Telugu film, this time opposite Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan. In recent times, Dulquer Salmaan has been focusing more on Telugu films and has signed another project with a newcomer as director. Cherukuri Sudhakar is producing the film and Naga Shaurya is also on board as another lead. The source added that the makers have roped in Pooja Hegde to play the female lead and her role is crucial to the plot.

The film's shooting is scheduled to take place next year. With this new project, Pooja Hegde is back to her busy schedule in the South Indian film industry and also in Hindi. Interestingly, the actress didn't sign any films in the last two years as she took a break from Telugu cinema. She was initially supposed to work on *Guntur Kaaram* opposite Mahesh Babu, but she left the project due to delays. Sreeleela eventually replaced her and the film released during this year's Sankranti, receiving mixed reviews and underperforming financially.

There are also reports that Pooja Hegde may reunite with Allu Arjun in his upcoming film, directed by Trivikram Srinivas.



## Finally, Pawan Kalyan completes *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*

Pawan Kalyan, the actor-turned-politician, is juggling his busy schedule as the Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh while also completing his pending film projects. He had signed three films—*Hari Hara Veera Mallu*, *OG* and *Ustaad Bhagath Singh*—which were delayed due to his political commitments.

When Chandrababu was in jail, Pawan Kalyan supported him and at that time only he openly announced his alignment with the Telugu Desam Party. From then

on, he is busy in politics and keeps these films at bay. Now, the elections are over and Pawan Kalyan became Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh. Then he is busy with government affairs. Now, after a long time, he gave some time to complete the films he accepted and gave dates for *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*. AM Ratnam is the producer and his son, Jyothi Krishna, is the director.

The makers released a photo of Pawan Kalyan, where he is preparing for the shoot. They also said that it is the final

schedule of the film and with this Pawan Kalyan is going to complete this film. They already announced the release date of this film on March 28, 2025. Now, with Pawan completing the film, the makers are happy that they can release the film on time.

Now, the focus is on the other two films and the makers of those films are also looking for Pawan Kalyan dates. He assured them that he will complete those films too. *OG* needs only a few days for him to complete and he will focus on it, says a source.

## Siddharth sparks debate with comments on *Pushpa 2*'s promotional hype

The promotional campaign for *Pushpa 2: The Rule* was a massive success, culminating in a record-breaking opening on December 5. However, actor Siddharth has expressed skepticism about the film's reach, attributing its success to clever marketing.

In a recent podcast, Siddharth stated, "It's all about marketing. In India, it's not difficult to gather crowds. People will assemble to watch anything, even construction work." He downplayed the significance of the large turnout at the film's promotional event in Patna, Bihar, suggesting that it was merely a result of organized efforts.

Siddharth drew an analogy between the crowds at

political rallies and those at film promotional events. "Just because a political party can muster a large crowd doesn't mean they'll win the election," he said. He implied that many attendees at such events are motivated by incentives, such as food and drink. The actor's comments have sparked a heated debate on social media, with many fans of *Pushpa 2* taking exception to his views. Siddharth's remarks have been perceived as dismissive of the film's genuine popularity and the enthusiasm of its fans.



## STANDALONE

The anticipation for *Bachhala Malli* is building up! Recently, the film's team organized a thrilling bike rally from Srinivasa Theatre in Tuni, which was attended by the film's lead actor, Allari Naresh. With the film's worldwide release just around the corner on December 20, the excitement is palpable.