

DON'T MISS...

AP recorded dip in crime: DGP

State DGP Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao revealed that Andhra Pradesh witnessed a 5.7% drop in overall crime rates in 2024, reflecting improved law enforcement. However, he expressed concern over the steep rise in cybercrime cases during the Annual Crime Briefing held in Vijayawada. The DGP stated that overall crimes reduced from 97,760 in 2023 to 92,094 in 2024. Crimes against women and children fell by 9.5%, while crimes against Scheduled Castes and Tribes..

-PAGE: 3

367 missing kids traced in Prakasam

The Prakasam district police have successfully traced 367 missing children, reuniting 42 of them with their parents.Superintendent of Police (SP) AR Damodhar informed the media on Saturday that the police had efficiently investigated cases of children who went missing or were kidnapped in the district. During a special programme held at the SP office, 42 of the traced children, including both boys and girls, were safely reunited with their parents. Acting on the directions of the Director General of Police (DGP), the district police. -PAGE: 4



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

Nation bids teary adieu to Manmohan





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

rites held with full state honours

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

At the Nigambodh Ghat, a sense of deep grief united the assembly featuring Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers and senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the foreign minister of Mauritius, Dhananjay Ramful, were among the foreign dignitaries who paid tributes to Singh, who served as the prime minister from 2004 to 2014.

Singh (92) died on the night of December 26. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also paid their last tributes to the former prime minister and laid wreaths on his mortal remains. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and the

chiefs of the tri-services also laid wreaths on the former prime minister's mortal remains.

Former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel were also present, apart from All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretaries K Venugopal,

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Surjewala and several former Union ministers.

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

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approved several significant proposals aimed at addressing long-standing issues in the medical sector during a review meeting at his residence in Undavalli on Saturday.

The meeting focused on reforms to

ic health and health

Suicide pact by family of four

Approved 58 new vehicles for Mahaprasthanam at Rs 9.45 cr Nod for a pilot programme for blood tests and health screenings via '104' annual cost. services. Plans to consolidate '108' and '104' services under one operator and

replace outdated ambulances at a cost of Rs 60 cr.

 NTR Vaidya Seva scheme to be transitioned from trust to insurance model to improve services. Plan to set up Jan Aushadhi stores in every mandal for affordable medicines.

CM nod for key healthcare reforms 'Culprits in MPDO attack case won't be spared'

PNS KADAPA

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Saturday warned that any political leader who 'attacks' or





Mangaluru Airport sees robust growth

Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has reported a year of significant growth, infrastructure advancements, and achievements in sustainability and safety, capping off an eventful 2024 officials said on Saturday According to a statement from the airport spokesperson, the airport recorded its highest-ever passenger traffic for a single month in October, handling 202,892 passengers, including 138.902 domestic and 63.990 international travellers. This milestone highlights the growing importance of MIA as a regional aviation hub, connecting Mangaluru to key destinations. Infrastructure upgrades at the airport received recognition with the Build India Infra Award 2024 in the innovation. -PAGE: 8 calendar

Naidu unveils

2025

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the 2025 calendar at his residence in Undavalli on Saturday, commemorating 75 years since the implementation of the Indian Constitution. The calendar honours prominent Telugu leaders who played pivotal roles in drafting the Constitution.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister highlighted the remarkable contributions of Telugu stalwarts. He noted Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu's fearless leadership during the "Simon Go Back" protests and his role in shaping provisions on local governance and gubernatorial discretionary powers. Similarly, Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya's work in the Constituent Assembly's Committees on governance and legislative systems in union territories was lauded. Naidu acknowledged Durga

Bai Deshmukh's recommendations on national language, judiciary independence, and human trafficking. He also praised Moturi

Satyanarayana for his insights on the national language and Acharya NG Ranga's advocacy for decentralisation of powers, bicameral legislatures, and the formation of Andhra Pradesh. **Continued on Page 2**

care services in the state. The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of preventive health-

improve ni

care and proposed a pilot program to conduct blood tests and medical screenings through the 104 services. This initiative will aim to assess public health and create health reports for citizens through government-sponsored tests. The CM also suggested issuing health cards and using technology to provide medical assistance remotely, without patients



needing to visit hospitals. He ance-based NTR Vaidya Seva model emphasized the potential of artifi- to ensure quality medical care. The cial intelligence in improving healthcare delivery.

In the meeting, the CM discussed strengthening government hospitals, 108 and 104 emergency services, and introducing an insur-

deceased, Nagendra (41), a farmer,

had taken 15 acres of land on lease

to cultivate crops. He borrowed

over Rs 20 lakh from private mon-

eylenders to fund the farming.

However, after suffering heavy

losses due to crop failure, Nagendra

faced relentless pressure from

previous administration had divided the 108 and 104 services among separate operators, but the government plans to consolidate them under one operator.

Continued on Page 2



Jagan regime ruined power sector: Kolusu

PNS GUNTUR

Minister for Housing and I&PR K. Parthasarathi accused the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government of ruining the power sector and blameð the tariff hike on the flawed policies of the YSRCP

duty will face stern action.

He issued this warning after visiting a Dalit government official who was allegedly attacked by a local YSRCP leader C Sudarshan Reddy.

"If you (political leaders) attack officials with arrogance, we will ensure you receive fitting punishment," Pawan Kalyan told reporters outside Kadapa RIMS Hospital.

According to Pawan Kalyan, Sudarshan Reddy, along with several others, allegedly attacked and abused Gaaliveedu Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) Jawahar Babu in Annamayya district, for refusing to hand over the keys to an official room. Besides locking Babu in a room and thrashing him, casteist slurs were hurled at him, along with 'death threats', Pawan Kalyan said. He claimed that Sudharshan

Reddy has a history of attacking officials, mentioning that he had target-ed officials like Sekhar Naik, Pratap, and Srinivas Reddy, in the past. Castigating the YSRCP, Kalyan said the party leaders' arrogance had not diminished even after being reduced to 11 seats and urged YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to rein them in.

The Deputy Chief Minister further warned YSRCP leaders and other political figures that attacks on government officials would not be tolerated. Kalyan instructed senior district officials to ensure that such incidents do not recur.



PNS 📕 KADAPA

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj, K. Pawan Kalyan, refused to comment on the recent issue involving film actor Allu Arjun. Pawan Kalyan visited MPDO Jawahar Babu, who was injured in an attack by a YSRCP leader and is undergoing treatment at the RIMS hospital in Kadapa, on Saturday. After the visit, he spoke to the media. When asked about the Allu Arjun

episode, Pawan Kalyan responded, ⁶Cinema is a small issue. There are more pressing matters here. I have come to visit the MPDO in the hospital. It is not appropriate to discuss the Allu Arjun issue here."

Regarding the breach of security during his Parvathipuram visit, Pawan Kalyan said the police should investigate how an individual, pos-ing as an IPS officer, managed to intrude into the security zone.

'The Intelligence, DGP, and the Home Minister should look into this matter. I focus only on my work, and the police should ensure my security." Pawan Kalyan said.

PNS KADAPA

In a tragic incident, four members of a family died by suicide at Diddekunta village in Simhadripuram mandal of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. The family was found hanging from a tree in their agricultural field.

According to the police, the

lenders to repay the amount. Unable to bear the harassment, Nagendra, along with his wife Vani (38), daughter Gayatri (12), and son Bhargav (11), took the extreme step. Nagendra's mother and relatives discovered the family when they failed to return home. Police suspect that after killing their children, the couple



OBTUSE ANGL

GOOD BYE. E'LL BE REMEMBERED OR WHAT HE DID, NOT 'OR WHAT HE DIDN'T I REFORM 4 BRAMYE

Vizag goes gaga over Nitish Kumar's debut Test ton

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

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



The news has sent waves of able achievement. Nitish's cenjubilation across the Telugu tury, scored under immense community, with his homepressure, has captivated cricket town celebrating this remark- fans worldwide and is being

hailed as a defining moment in the match.

During a brief interruption in play due to fading light, former Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist seized the opportunity to interview Nitish's proud father, Mutyala Reddy. Recognizing the gravity of the moment, Gilchrist asked Mutvala about his emotions. "Today is incredibly special for us," said an emotional Mutyala Reddy. "I was tense when Nitish reached 99 runs, but I'm overjoyed to see him complete his century. This is a moment I will cherish forever.

NAIDU'S PAT FOR ANDHRA BATTER

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday congratulated K Nitish Kumar Reddy, an Indian cricket team member from Visakhapatnam, for scoring an unbeaten century against Australia in Melbourne. Reddy scored his maiden century, 105 runs, on the third day of the fourth Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as part of the Border-Gavaskar series.

"I congratulate Visakhapatnam youngster K Nitish Kumar Reddy for hitting a century in the fourth Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Test Trophy 2024 at Melbourne in Australia." Naidu said in a post on X.

The Chief Minister praised Reddy for his successes in the Ranji Trophy and the Under-16 category for Andhra Pradesh. Naidu further wished Reddy continued success with the Indian team.

Continued on Page 2

vijayawada 02



Will Revanth deliver on his promise or walk political tightrope?

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

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

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

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

Although Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy strategically turned the spot-light on himself before and during his meeting with movie moguls; post that closely watched meeting, the corridors of power have been abuzz with whispers about the fade-out of Komatireddy Venkatreddy, the Cinematography Minister, who appears better aligned with the public than with the film industry over which he presides. For, post the high-profile meeting involving the CM, Dy CM, and TFI bigwigs, all eyes were on the composition of the promised Cabinet Sub-Committee to address issues concerning the film industry. But guess what? The plot thickened. Revanth reportedly wants Bhatti to head the committee, much to the chagrin of Komatireddy. Why? Because Komatireddy believes, as the Minister concerned, it is within his right to head Why? Because the panel. But insiders hint that Revanth ing the cause of a community, her voice isn't keen on having an "aggressive" minster like Komatireddy steering the ship. "Having Bhatti at the helm would strike a balance with the industry", is said to be Revanth's reasoning (or modifications in the script). Komatireddy, meanwhile, is holding his ground, as he is confident of the ultimate outcome of the show. He about looks-it's about strategy, determiargues that sidelining him would set a precedent no Minister would tolerate.

delangana Pradesh Congress While the Chief Minister has remained tight-lipped, sources say the film industry is watching the drama scripted by AI Anumula Intelligence) unfold like a nailbiting thriller. Circles within the industry and outside can't wait for the final credits to roll!

Revanth's take on divine dispensation and mundane ratings

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

ERS' D

only need 51% approval to be in power".

A pragmatic politician, he seems least

bothered by dissenting voices and has instead brought laser-like focus on retain-

ing the critical mass of support he needs

(and believes he has) to steer the state.

Kavitha's makeover: a new

chapter unfolds

or some, a jail term can be a transfor-

T mative experience. Books written in

ieces. Persons jailed for political reasons

have gone on to become great leaders

after clearing the air upon their release.

Whispers in political circles suggest

that MLC K Kavitha has turned over a

new leaf post her Tihar jail stint. Gone

are the days of her stately public appear-

ances in vibrant pattu, Narayanpet, and

ikat sarees. She is now willingly embrac-

ing non-elitist cotton and aesthetically

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

clear that Kavitha has opened a new play-

book. For, apart from her metamorpho-

sis into a minimalist, she has been keen

on grabbing media space like never

before. Be it a political issue or further-

seems to stand out everywhere, appar-

jail have proved to be enduring master-

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

Question mark over KTR's studied silence amid Formula E case twists and turns

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

lic domain. Informed public will never fall prey to ill-founded rumours. Maybe, it is time for

KTR's team to rethink their strategy.

'Pushpa' catalyses change among Communists!

Films can be catalysts for change when it comes to social templates. At least the film 'Pushpa' has done it for sure in the case of Communists. Although 'Police zulm nashinchali' (End police brutality) has been their time-tested rallying cry, of late the Communists seem to have changed their template, perhaps as a cameo. The Communists have extended their support to the Telangana Police's action in the recent Sandhya Theatre stampede case, giving a clean chit to the uniformed force. Communist leaders, noticeably Congress-friendly ones like MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao and Dr K Narayana, verbalized their support, saying: 'Police are not at fault in he Sandhya Theatre incident'. Spotting thorns in Pushpa-2 film, they opined that it has 'nothing', considering it portrays a red sanders smuggler as the hero. The Communists found fault also with the government for giving permission to benefit shows and scope to enhance the ticket prices. Opening a new chapter on 'zulm on police', for-

6th World Telugu writers' meet off to a grand start

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The 6th World Telugu Writers' Mahasabha commenced with grandeur on Saturday in Vijayawada, with former Chief Justice of India, Justice NV Ramana, inaugurating the two-day event. In his keynote address, Justice Ramana highlighted the importance of pre-serving the Telugu language, calling it a treasure of culture and identity.

Justice Ramana described Telugu as a "rich and melodious language spoken by over 100 million people," emphasising its poetic beauty and cultural significance. "Our culture and language are our trea-

Without a language, people are orphans without history and identity. Telugu is not just a medium of communication; it is the soul of our heritage," he remarked.

He urged society to resist the commercialisation and political exploitation of the lan-



Former Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, MLAs Mandali Budha Prasad, Sujana Chowdary and others participated in the 6th World Telugu Writers meeting in Photo by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar Vijavawada on Saturdav

President, MLA Mandali guage, stressing that protecting Telugu is crucial for preserving Buddha Prasad, praised the late its greatness. Justice Ramana Ramoji Rao for his contribualso paid homage to luminartions to Telugu literature and ies like NTR, Viswanatha journalism, describing him as Satyanarayana, Ghantasala, the backbone of the World Mangalampalli Telugu Writers' Conferences. and Balamuralikrishna, while He urged writers to counter the growing influence of English encouraging parents to pass on the legacy to future generaon Telugu education. tions

The Mahasabha includes The event's Honorary over 25 conferences, poetry

readings, and literary sessions, attracting writers, poets, and language enthusiasts from around the world. Dignitaries in attendance included MLA Chowdhury, Sujana Margadarsi MD Shailaja Kiran, scholar Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, and noted lyricists Gorati Venkanna, Bhuvana Chandra, Jonnavittula Rama Lingeswara Rao, and Suddhala Ashok Teja.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu extended his congratulations via social media, stating, "It is a matter of pride for all Telugu to organise the World Telugu Writers' Conference in Vijayawada. Naming the premises after Potti Sriramulu and the main stage after Ramoji Rao reflects their invaluable contributions to the Telugu nation."

Day one concluded with cultural performances, reaffirming a collective commitment to promoting and preserving the Telugu language for future generations.

BJP for probe into irregularities in TTD Nation bids... **Continued from Page 1**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A BJP delegation, including TTD Board Member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, BJP State Media Paturi In-charge Nagabhushanam, State Spokesperson Jayaprakash, and Minority Morcha State President Sheikh Baji, met state DGP Ch. Dwaraka Tirumala Rao to express concern over alleged irregularities in the Tirumala

Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). Speaking to the media after the meeting, Nagabhushanam alleged that irregularities with-in the TTD over the past five years were suppressed by the previous administration. "The earlier government, along with the TTD Chairman and officials like Dharma Reddy, buried these issues," he claimed. He stated that with Bhanu Prakash Reddy now on the TTD Board, details of mismanagement and questionable decisions have surfaced. "We urged the DGP to take action to safeguard the temple's



assets," Nagabhushanam said. judicial inquiry into alleged Bhanu Prakash Reddy alleged misappropriations exceeding Rs misappropriation of funds in the 100 crore. "We submitted a TTD, one of the world's largest representation to the DGP, urg-Hindu religious institutions. ing the formation of an inquiry "Devotees contribute crores of commission. A TTD Vigilance rupees to the TTD, but funds Officer's report revealed that a were diverted by the previous police officer exerted pressure to government. For example, dursettle the matter in the Lok ing the counting of the Hundi Adalat. We want the truth about (offering box), an individual this officer to be uncovered," named Ravi Kumar was caught Reddy said. stealing money. Though vigi-The BJP leaders emphasised

lance officials apprehended him, the need for transparency and higher officials diverted the case accountability in managing the instead of recovering the stolen temple's assets, calling for swift action to ensure the sanctity of The delegation demanded a the institution.

for the next 10 years, a period that saw him end India's nuclear apartheid by pressing ahead with the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, despite resistance from the Left Front that was giving support to the UPA from outside. In a show of uncharacteristic firmness in 2008, Singh risked his government over the deal after the Left withdrew support. He faced and won a no-confidence vote in the Lok Sabha. Entering the Rajya Sabha in 1991 as a member from Assam, Singh remained in the House of

The quintessential econo-

mist went on to steer the nation

Elders till April 2024. His last innings in the Upper House was from Rajasthan, the only other state he ever represented besides Assam. Singh died of age-related complications at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, the ace tertiarycare public establishment where the former prime minister always got admitted whenever he faced medical complications.

'Diversionary politics hurting public interests'

ently with no day off in her ca mer navalite and Party insiders hint that the challenges she faced during her time in jail have steeled her to take on whatever comes her way. "She's not the same Kavitha anymore, says a close aide. "The makeover isn't just nation, and reclaiming her narrative.' Whether this transformation will silence

Minister Seethakka, endorsing the view of the TG Police, found fault with the Centre for giving 'Best Actor' award to the hero of Pushpa-1 film Allu Arjun.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, Kolishetty Venkateshwarlu)

Pan

Continued from Page 1

He went on to express his pride and gratitude: "I am proud of my son Nitish for making us all proud. The sacrifices of our family are now reflected in the love and admiration he has received."

Visakhapatnam's 69th Ward Corporator, Kaki Govind Reddy, also praised Nitish's courage and skill, particularly under pressure. "To see our Telugu player sation, with fans and critics alike score a century in Melbourne praising his exceptional talent.

Vizag goes gaga over Nitish Kumar's...

against Australia in his debut Nitish's century holds a special match is truly remarkable," he place in Indian cricketing histosaid, calling it a proud moment ry, making him the third for the entire Telugu communiyoungest Indian batsman to ty. Nitish's achievement has also achieve this feat on Australian made him the third youngest soil. His performance has not Indian to score a century on only catapulted him to overnight Australian soil. His composure stardom but has also garnered and brilliance under pressure widespread acclaim from fans have made him an overnight senand cricketing pundits alike. As the nation revels in the glory of Nitish's historic achievement,

both Govind Reddy and Mutyala Reddy expressed their fervent hopes that Nitish will continue to represent India with distinction and further enhance the team's reputation on the global stage. Nitish Kumar Reddy's century serves as a shining example of dedication, perseverance, and the unwavering support of family. As Nitish continues to rise, he exemplifies the age-old adage that a father's true devotion is not just in raising a child but in witnessing their success.

Accuses Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan of ignoring key issues

The bodies have

Government General

A case has been reg-

The incident has cast

istered, and an investi-

gation is underway.

a pall of gloom over

Agriculture Minister K

Atchannaidu expressed

shock and grief over

the tragedy and direct-

ed officials to inquire

into the circumstances

leading to the incident.

Kadapa District In-

charge Minister S

Savitha spoke to the

assured all possible

assistance to the

bers.

District Collector and

bereaved family mem-

Diddekunta village.

Hospital (GGH) for

postmortem.

been shifted to the

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former MLA Gadikota Srikanth Reddy has lambasted Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan, accusing him of indulging in diversionary politics that fail to address the pressing concerns of marginalised communities. Speaking about Pawan

Kalyan's recent visit to Kadapa, Srikanth Reddy criticised the leader's selective outrage, highlighting his focus on the MPDO injured in the Galiveedu incident while ignoring the tragic suicide of a farmer's family in the same district. "Pawan Kalyan has trivialised the farmer family's death, showing insensitivity towards their struggles," he alleged.



amount," he alleged.

Srikanth Reddy further accused Pawan Kalyan of remaining silent on critical issues such as the murder of a young YSRCP supporter in Vinukonda, the rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Pithapuram, and atrocities against marginalised communities by his own party's MLA in

Kakinada. He questioned of aligning with the TDP's Kalyan's reluctance to hold the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) accountable for its failures, raising doubts about his commitment to justice and democratic values. Commenting on the Galiveedu

incident, Srikanth Reddy alleged that it was a premeditated attack by TDP supporters targeting YSRCP leaders, including former MPP Sudharshan Reddy. Despite evidence on social media showing unprovoked aggression, Pawan Kalyan politicised the incident without verifying the

facts, he claimed. YSR District YSRCP President P. Ravindranath Reddy also criticised Pawan Kalyan's actions, accusing him

diversionary tactics. Ravindranath Reddy claimed that such tactics aim to distract from critical public issues, including rising electricity charges, the Visakha Steel Plant crisis, and unemployment. He further questioned Pawan Kalyan's failure to address the farmer family's suicide in Duddekunta, which he attributed to crop losses and insufficient support prices.

The YSRCP leaders called on Pawan Kalyan to abandon selective politics and focus on real issues affecting farmers, youth, and marginalised communities. They urged him to prioritise public welfare over political gains.

IODAY **ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Chaturdashi:	Dec 29 03:32 AM
Gilatul uasiii.	to Dec 30 04:01 AM
Amavasya:	Dec 30 04:01 AM
	to Dec 31 03:56 AM
Nakshatram:	
Jyeshta:	Dec 28 10:13 PM
	to Dec 29 11:22 PM
Moola:	Dec 29 11:22 PM
	to Dec 30 11:57 PM
Rahukalam:	4:25 PM to 5:47 PM
Yamagandam:	12:18 PM to 1:40 PM
Varjyam:	10:19 PM to 11:57 PM
Gulika:	3:02 PM to 4:25 PM
Amritakalam:	02:09 PM to 03:49 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	: 11:56 AM to 12:40 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny **Temp:** 32° Humidity: 64% Sunrise: 6:35 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM

Updated: December 28, 2024 5:00 PM

CM nod for key...

Continued from Page 1

This is part of an ongoing effort to streamline services, with new tenders being floated for the same.

The CM approved the replacement of outdated ambulances in the 108 fleet. Out of the 190 ambulances, many are not in good condition, with some having covered over 5,00,000 km. The government plans to replace these vehicles with new ones at a cost of Rs 60 crore. Additionally, the CM has proposed strengthening the 104 services by reintroducing lab technicians, rapid diagnostic kits, and

screening facilities that were previously discontinued. In another important decision, the CM reinstated the Rs 4,000 additional payment for 108 staff and drivers, which was reduced to Rs 2,000 by the previous government. The new decision aims to ensure better compensation for emergency service workers.

The government also approved the procurement of 58 new vehicles for Mahaprasthanam, which transports deceased individuals from hospitals. This decision will increase the fleet at an annual cost of Rs 9.45 crore. The CM warned that strict action would be taken against those exploiting

grieving families for profit. Under the NTR Vaidya Seva scheme, free medical care is provided to 1.43 crore families, covering 4.30 crore people. The scheme currently

offers treatment for 3,257 medical conditions with an annual coverage of Rs 25 lakh per family. The government plans to transition the program from a trust model to an insurance model to improve service quality. The CM also directed officials to set up Jan Aushadhi stores in every mandal to

make medicines more affordable. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav and senior officials from the medical and health departments.

Jagan regime ruined power sector...

Continued from Page 1

massive borrowings.

Agreements (PPAs) led to a loss of 7,000 MW of power. "Had the PPAs been honoured, the state would have had an additional 10,000 MW of power now," he added.

1,400 crore contract to the Hinduja company, violating all rules. He Jagan Mohan Reddy's decisions claimed that under Jagan Mohan had eroded investor confidence in Andhra Pradesh, resulting in a Reddy's leadership, the power sector became debt-ridden due to lack of major industries during the YSRCP's five years in power.

The Minister recalled that during the TDP regime from 2014 to cial institutions were hesitant to 2019, Andhra Pradesh generated offer loans to AP due to the surplus electricity. "However, in the five years of flawed administration of the YSRCP. But now, with Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule, the Chandrababu Naidu back in power sector was destroyed due to power, financial institutions are the government's corrupt and showing interest in investing in the defective policies. The power tarstate's industries and power sector," iff was hiked nine times, imposing he noted. Parthasarathi also an additional burden of Rs 32,000 accused Jagan Mohan Reddy of crore on the people," Parthasarathi launching a "new drama" in the form of dharnas against the power stated. He also pointed out that tariff hike. the YSRCP administration's illegal

Naidu unveils... Suicide pact... **Continued from Page 1**

Continued from Page 1

Contributions by VC Keshava Rao on land acquisition and anti-discrimination rules were also noted. The Chief Minister highlighted Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer's involvement in nine committees, including the Drafting and Advisory Committees, and his role in shaping citizenship, fundamental rights, and emergency provisions. Mosalikanti Tirumala Rao's efforts to integrate Gandhian ideals into the Constitution and Kala Venkata Rao's interventions on property rights and zamindari abolition were also acknowledged.

Chandrababu Naidu remembered leaders like Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Kalluri Subbarao, and Raja Swetha Chalapathi Ramakrishna Rangarao, whose contributions are showcased in the calendar alongside their portraits and excerpts from their Assembly speeches. During the event, the Chief Minister also launched official social media accounts for the Andhra Pradesh Legislature, including @LegisAndhra on X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. These platforms aim to provide realtime updates on legislative proceedings and fos-ter public engagement. Naidu appreciated

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

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, D.No. New 3-88, Old 3-22, Chandra Theatre, Gosala, Penamaluru Mandal, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 521 151, Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

Addressing a press conference at the TDP State office in Mangalagiri on Saturday, Parthasarathi criticised the YSRCP government for awarding a Rs

The Minister further stated that

"International banks and finan-

revocation of Power Purchase



vijayawada 03

Good response to 'Mega Job Mela'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Mega Job Mela, organised by the NTR District Administration under the banner of Vikasith Bharath, was held at VP Siddhartha Public School in Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, on Saturday. The event received an overwhelming response from unem-ployed youths, with over 5,000 candidates registering for the mela. A total of 60 companies participated, offering job opportunities to the attendees. As many as 1,200 candidates received offer letters from various companies. The Mega Job Mela was

inaugurated by Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha, MLAs Gadde Rama Mohana Rao and Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao. During the closing ceremony, the digni-taries presented offer letters to



opportunities to every unem-

ployed youth in the district. He

emphasised that under the

leadership of Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu, the state

government recently launched

the 'Swarna Andhra@2047'

Venkateswara Rao (alias Chanti), also met with Rao and

urged him to reconsider his decision. He even requested Rao to withdraw his resigna-

tion letter from the Mayor. Sources suggest that Rama

Mohana Rao has been unhap-

py with the party leadership in Vijayawada for the past few months, especially regarding

issues within the Vijayawada

Central Assembly Constituency. The 32nd Division, which includes well-

developed areas such as

Ayodhya Nagar, Lotus

Landmark,

Ummadi

and

Corporator,

the candidates who performed outstandingly during the selection process.

Addressing the gathering, MP Chinni stated that the Vikasith Bharat Mega Job Mela was conducted to provide job

vision document. He claimed that the previous YSRCP government had failed to provide adequate employment opportunities, resulting in hard-ships for the youth.

Chinni highlighted the steps taken by CM Naidu to attract investments from major cominvestments from major com-panies like TCS, Reliance, Google, and Zindal, which are expected to create lakhs of jobs for the youth. He also mentioned that Amaravati would soon be developed as a Service Sector bub He assured Service Sector hub. He assured the youth that the state government was working towards overall development and providing employment opportunities to every young person. Chinni added that Mega Job Melas would be organised in every assembly constituency in

the district, and an awareness rogramme on MSME would be held on January 5. NTR District Collector Dr G

Lakshmisha encouraged the

AROUND 5,000 EDUCATED CANDIDATES ATTEND; 1,200 RECEIVE OFFER LETTERS FROM VARIOUS **COMPANIES**

youth to seek employment opportunities globally and prove their talents. He remarked that while many youths may prefer jobs close to home, this thinking might limit their opportunities. He advised them to make use of the Job Melas to secure a bright future. The mela saw participation from renowned companies such as Wipro, Tata, Panasonic, Tech Mahindra, First Source, Smart Trains, Varun Motors, Axis Bank, and others, who were looking for suitable candidates.

The event was also attended by Vijayawada RDO K. Chaitanya, DRDA PD K. Srinivasa Rao, Corporators Chennupati Usha Rani, Potluri Sai Baba, Mummaneni Prasad Jasti Sambasiva Rao, Devineni Aparna, and others.

Elaborate arrangements made for 'Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam'

PNS TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is making extensive arrangements for the upcoming ten-day Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam', scheduled from January 10 to 19. TTD Executive Officer J. Syamala Rao shared the key plans dur-ing the monthly "Dial Your EO" session.

To manage the expected crowds and minimise waiting times, TTD will issue time-slot tokens to devotees. A total of 1.40 lakh Rs 300 special entry darshan tickets were released online on December 24, along with Srivani Darshan tickets. Donors who have booked online will be allotted a dedicated queue for the special entry darshan.

For the first three days, January 10-12, 1.20 lakh tokens will be distributed starting on January 9, with additional tokens issued daily for the remaining days. Tokens will be available at 91 counters, including locations in Tirupati and Tirumala.



During this period, there will be no room allotments for donors, and only devotees holding darshan tokens will be allowed entry. Special darshans for parents with infants, the elderly, disabled individuals, NRIs, and Defence personnel have been suspended. VIP

break darshan will be restricted to those holding constitutional posts. Accommodation Tirumala will be limited, with devotees advised to book rooms through the CRO or consider staying in Tirupati.

Major temple events include Koil Álwar Thirumanjanam on January 7, the Vaikuntha Ekadasi procession on January 10, and Chakrasnanam on Vaikuntha Dwadasi, January

TTD also announced the availability of 2025 diaries and calendars. Additionally, a replica Srivari temple will be set up at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) from January 13 to February 26, 2025, allowing devotees to experience the rituals of the Tirumala temple.

TDP's 32nd Division Corporator in VMC Channagiri quits

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a significant development, Channagiri Rama Mohana Rao, the Corporator of the 32nd Division of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), tendered bic regignation from his posi his resignation from his position on Saturday. He submitted his resignation letter to Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi, marking a crucial turn in the political scenario within the VMC. The reasons behind his resignation have not been fully disclosed yet, but it has raised questions about the future dynamics of the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Vijayawada.

Rama Mohana Rao, who represents the 32nd Division falling under the Vijayawada Central Assembly Constituency, has expressed his disappointment with the



party leadership in the city. His resignation comes at a time when several YSRCP corporators are reportedly showing interest in joining the TDP, which has created a stir in political circles across the city. ignation, several TDP corpo-

Ramalingeswara Pet, has reportedly not faced significant Upon hearing about his resinfrastructural challenges. However, sources state that rators and party leaders visit-Rao has faced difficulties with party leadership in the city, ed Rama Mohana Rao's resiwhich may have contributed to dence to hold discussions with him. TDP's 52nd Division his decision.

Govt foisting cases on my family: Perni Nani

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and YSRCP Krishna district president Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) has alleged that the government is fabricating cases against him and his family as part of a political vendetta.

Addressing a press confer-ence at the YSRCP Central Office, he dismissed as baseless the allegations of rice shortages at a warehouse owned by his wife, Jaya Sudha. He claimed the accusations were an attempt to justify actions against him, his wife, and his son.

Nani stated that his wife promptly informed Civil Supplies Department officials about the shortage and offered to either replenish the missing stock or pay its value. Despite their cooperation and an immediate payment of Rs 1.70 crore, an FIR was registered against his wife and the warehouse manager. He alleged that a senior minister was behind these actions, targeting

his family unfairly. 'The minister even called



it," Nani challenged, high-lighting that similar cases in the past were resolved by recovering dues without filing criminal charges. He questioned why his family was being treated differently.

Nani demanded transparency from Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, urging the release of records on previous rice shortages and actions taken against other offenders. He also criticised delays in his wife's bail proceedings and a smear cam-paign labelling him as

"absconding." Concluding on an emo-tional note, Nani asserted, "I have done nothing wrong. This is a political conspiracy me I will fight f

rollback of power tariff hike PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

YSRCP demands immediate

Former minister Botsa Satyanarayana has criticised the hike in power charges, stating that it has burdened the people with Rs 15,000 crore. He demanded that the coalition government immediately roll back the increased tar-

Speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, he announced that the proposed protest over fee reimbursement, scheduled for January 3, has been postponed to January 29 due to the ongoing exams. He also urged the government to release the pending amounts as students are facing difficulties. He pointed out that educational institutions are withholding certificates due to unpaid dues, adding that during the tenure of Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, schemes like Vidya Deevena and Vasathi Deevena were

paid without delay. Satyanarayana also criticised the coalition government's financial management, saying there has been false anda about financia



He questioned the transparency of the coalition government, stating that in just seven months, they have taken a loan of Rs 1 lakh crore, including a loan from the World Bank, with no clear explanation of where the money has gone.

He compared this to the previous government under Y 5 Jagan Mohan Reddy, which showed transparency and spent Rs 2.75 lakh crore on welfare through Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). He said such accountability is missing in the current government.

He also pointed out that the coalition government has failed to fulfil its election promises, while the loan burden continues to increase, reflecting poorly Chandrababu Naidu's fi on nan-

while narcotics-related offences

rose by 3%. However, the num-

ber of women killed increased

by 22.5%, with 49 cases in 2024

Looking ahead, the DGP announced plans to integrate one lakh

CCTV cameras with the Police

Command and Control Center in

Vijayawada by March 2025. The exist-

ing network of 25,000 cameras will be

expanded with public cooperation.

Other initiatives include setting up ded-

icated cyber police stations, deploying

AI-based tools like "VijayASTraM" for

predictive policing, increasing the vehi-

cle fleet for enhanced mobility, and

establishing a Police Martyrs Memorial

compared to 40 in 2023.

Minister Lokesh recalls Manmohan Singh's kindness towards his family

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education, Electronics, IT and RTGS Nara Lokesh, while condoling the death of former Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, fondly recalled his kindness and generosity towards his family. Taking to the social media platform 'X' on Saturday, Lokesh said, "As India mourns the passing of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, I am reminded of his large-heartedness and graciousness

towards our family." Lokesh wrote, "The year 2004 was particularly difficult for us. Our leader, Chandrababu Naidu, had just recovered from an attempt on his life after a dangerous bomb blast by Naxals near Tirupati, and Telugu Desam had recently lost the 2004 elections. At this crucial time, the new state government had decided to reduce Chandrabah which would have hindered his ability to be with the people and represent their concerns?

Donations made easy with kiosks

AND A REAL PROPERTY AND A

PNS 📕 TIRIIMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has received a donation of Rs 55 lakh in just 50 days through Kiosk machines, informed EO J Syamala Rao. Speaking to the media after the "Dial Your EO" session at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday, he said that the Kiosk (Self-Operated Online Payment) machines have been set up at the Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Anna Prasadam Complex in Tirumala, allowing devotees to donate between Re 1 and Rs 1 lakh to the SV Anna Prasada Trust of TTD.

Through these machines, the Anna Prasadam Trust received Rs 55 lakh in 50 days. Similar machines have also been installed at the Tiruchanoor Sri Padmavati



Ammavari Temple, Vontimitta Kodanda Rama Temple, and Srivari Temple in Bangalore. At these three locations, donations of Rs 5 lakh were

collected in just 15 days through the Kiosks. The Kiosk initiative was

also launched at the Sri Vakulamatha Temple near Peruru on Saturday. The kiosks

will be made available to devotees at Srivari temples in Vijayawada, Chennai, and Hyderabad next week. Currently, the kiosks only accept donations for the Anna

Prasadam Trust. However, TTD plans to soon enable cashless payments for all services across TTD temples through these machines.

overall public safety.

he has proof, let him present justice and expose the truth." | discipline during their term. cial management.

CITY POL

VISAKHAPAT

Minister Lokesh further recalled, "At that time, Naidu met the then-Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and personally requested him to restore his security cover, citing the recent attacks on his life and the heightened threat perception as confirmed by security agencies. Despite us being from an opposition party, Dr. Manmohan Singh immediately assured that Chandrababu was important to the nation. Against the wishes of the state government, he directed that full security (led by NSG commandos) be restored to Naidu.'

AP recorded dip in crime, rise in cybercrime: DGP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State DGP Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao revealed that Andhra Pradesh witnessed a 5.7% drop in overall crime rates due to cyber fraud escalated in 2024, reflecting improved sharply from Rs 173 crore in law enforcement. However, he 2023 to Rs 1,229 crore in 2024, expressed concern over the steep rise in cybercrime cases during the Annual Crime

Briefing held in Vijayawada. The DGP stated that overall crimes reduced from 97,760 in 2023 to 92,094 in 2024. Crimes against women and children fell by 9.5%, while crimes against Scheduled Castes and Tribes dropped by 5%. Road accidents erty crimes and 22 bodily cases saw an 18% decline, at the CRDA premises.

also reduced by 5%. Despite these positive trends, cybercrime cases surged by 34% increasing from 682 in 2023 to 916 in 2024. Financial losses sharply from Rs 173 crore in with Rs 225 crore of stolen funds successfully frozen. DGP Tirumala Rao high-

lighted that drone usage for crowd control and law enforcement doubled in 2024, with 1,376 deployments compared to 713 in 2023. The Automated Fingerprint Identification System helped resolve 453 prop-

offences, recovering property worth Rs 7.25 crore. Welfare initiatives for police personnel included Rs 20 crore for schemes

and promotions for 189 officers. The police evacuated 14,188 people and rescued 260 during the Vijavawada floods, recovering eight bodies. Cheating

Stranded Kuwait woman from Tirupati rescued

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, has been proactively assisting individuals stranded in Gulf countries due to adverse circumstances. To date, he has successfully facilitated the rescue and return of nearly 25 individuals to their hometowns.

In a recent case, Yellampalli Lakshmi, a resident of Rajiv Nagar in Srikalahasti, Tirupati district, was safely brought back after enduring severe hardships in Kuwait. Lakshmi had gone to Kuwait in search of better livelihood opportunities but fell victim to fraudulent agents. She faced harassment and abuse from her employer, who not only subjected her to constant mistreatment but also confined her to a room, causing both mental and physical suffering.



In her desperate plea for help, Lakshmi reached out to Minister Nara Lokesh through the social media platform X. Responding swiftly to her call, Lokesh and his team took immediate action, ensuring her rescue and safe return to Andhra Pradesh, where she was reunited with her family. Lakshmi and her family

expressed their deep grati-tude to Minister Lokesh for his prompt response and unwavering support during their time of need

Port City to deploy AI-powered CCTV cams for smarter traffic management

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM common traffic violations such

as Two-wheeler riders not The city police department is wearing helmets, Zigzag driving, Signal jumping, Illegal set to revolutionize traffic management with the deployment parking, Riding on pavements of AI-powered cameras at and Triple riding. The AI sysmajor intersections. This move tem will automatically impose aims to address the growing fines for these infractions, aimtraffic congestion and the ing to improve enforcement shortage of traffic personnel. efficiency and reduce human "Managing traffic efficiently error. with the current shortage of

"The AI system will help us personnel is becoming a major address long-standing issues challenge," stated a senior police official. "By integrating such as helmetless riding and traffic signal violations," said a AI into our traffic management representative from the traffic police department. "This will system, we aim to reduce not only reduce traffic accihuman errors, enforce rules dents but also promote better more effectively, and enhance discipline on the roads."

he city police Commissio ner-ate currently manages 88 inter-The initiative will see the installation of the new system at 50 key intersections across sections equipped with traffic signals. Efforts are underway to the city. These AI cameras will primarily focus on identifying evaluate and select the most suit-



able equipment for accurate violation detection. The existing cameras at 388 intersections will also be replaced with advanced AI-enabled models.

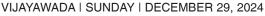
cameras at two-way intersections. Specialized studies are being conducted to determine the most suitable camera types

enhanced surveillance in areas with higher accident potential. Long-range cameras mounted on tall poles and discreet hidden cameras will be placed at each intersection to capture clear footage even during nighttime, operating 24/7. These cameras will also be equipped with advanced number plate recognition technology.

Beyond traffic management, artificial intelligence will play a crucial role in enhancing public safety. The AI system will be used to identify criminals by analyzing data and images of suspects from across the state. The police department is working towards the swift implementation of this new AI-based policy, aiming to improve overall law and order enforcement and create a safer environment for residents.

The AI cameras will be strategically installed in two configurations: 360-degree CCTV cameras at four-way intersections and 180-degree for high-risk roads, ensuring









367 missing kids traced in Prakasam district

Acting on the directions of the Director General of Police (DGP), the district police prioritised missing children cases and formed special teams for this purpose. The SP said, "Out of the 367 traced children, 42 were handed over to their parents during the programme. Parents were counselled on how to ensure their children's safety and well-being."

PNS ONGOLE

The Prakasam district police have successfully traced 367 missing children, reuniting 42 of them with their parents.

Superintendent of Police (SP) AR Damodhar informed the media on Saturday that the police had efficiently investigated cases of children who went missing or were kid-napped in the district. During a special programme held at the SP office, 42 of the traced children, including both boys

and girls, were safely reunited with their parents. Acting on the directions of

the Director General of Police (DGP), the district police pri-oritised missing children cases and formed special teams for this purpose. The SP said, "Out of the 367 traced children, 42 were handed over to their parents during the programme. Parents were counselled on how to ensure their children's safety and well-being." Regular meetings are held

by the SP with station officers

to provide guidelines for resolving missing cases efficiently. The efforts of the special teams were lauded for their role in tracing the missing children.

Grateful parents expressed their thanks to the SP and the police team for reuniting them with their children. Additional SP (Administration) K. Nageswara Rao, AR Additional SP Ashok Babu, and DSPs R. Srinivasa Rao, Lakshminarayana, Nagaraju, and Maheswara Rao were present at the event.

85 modified silencers of bikes crushed with bulldozer

PNS TIRUPATI

The police have taken stringent action against the bike riders, who were creating a whirring noise using special silencers. The police caught such motor-cycles, removed the silencers and crushed them with a bulldozer here on Saturday. SP L Subba Rayudu told the

media here on Saturday that some motorcyclists were creating unbearable noise with their motorcycles by using special silencers. The police conducted a special drive to identify such motorcycles with silencers. The motorcyclists were cre-

ating too much noise at hospi-

tals, schools, temples and other sensitive areas by running the bikes with special cylinders. The police received complaints from various walks of people urging them to curb such motorcycles.During the special drive, the police identified 385 such silencers, removed them from the bikes and crushed them with a bulldozer. Later the SP flagged off an awareness rally at Sri Padmavati Mahila University and he participated in the bike rally. Additional SP Venkateswara

Rao (Admin) Ravi Manoharcharu (L&O) and DSP Ramakrishnachari were among those who took part in the programme.



City to host U-19 Girls' School Games volleyball nationals

Sports University, to nurture talent-

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada will host the 68th School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Under-19 Volleyball Nationals for Girls from January 6 to 10. More than 1,000 players from 40 teams are expected to participate in the prestigious tournament. The event will be organised by the School Games Federation of Krishna District Unit, in collaboration with the SGFI Andhra Pradesh Unit. The matches will take place at PB

Siddhartha Arts and Science College, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada. To mark the occasion,

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath

ed sportspersons. He also noted that (Chinni), Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rama Mohana Rao, and other dignitaries released the official tournament poster at a ceremony held at the PB Siddhartha already underway. College Conference Hall on Saturday. This mega sports event

the state government is preparing to host the National Games in 2027, with renovation work on stadiums

The event was attended by various dignitaries, including DIEO is expected to attract talented CSSN Reddy, PB Siddhartha College young volleyball players from Principal Dr M. Ramesh, Junior across the country and highlight College Principal Venkaeswarlu, AP Vijayawada's emerging role as a hub for sports and youth activities. Building and Other Construction Workers Advisory Committee Addressing the media, MP Chairman Gottimukkala Raghu Kesineni Chinni stated that sports Raju, Corporator Chennupati Usha have a promising future in the state, Rani, former SAAP Chairman Dr P. alongside education. He mentioned Ankamma Chowdary, School that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Games Federation of AP Assistant Naidu has plans to develop a Sports Secretary KV Radhakrishna, Krishna City in Amaravati, along with a

disappointment trying to politicise former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's death, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said. He criticised the Congress allegation that the BJP-led Centre

District (under-19) Secretary Ravikantha, and others

Son and daughter-in-law held for woman's murder

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a shocking development, the Gunadala police have arrested a son and his wife for the murder of a 62-year-old woman, Mudu Lakshmi, on The accused Lakehmi identified as Mudu Sambasiva Rao (43) and his wife Vani (35), allegedly suffocated Lakshmi with a pillow while she was asleep and stole 49 grams of gold ornaments valued at Rs 4 lakh. The case was solved within two days under the supervision of Central Zone ACP Damodar. Addressing the media at the Gunadala Police Station, ACP Damodar stated that Sambasiva Rao, Lakshmi's elder son and a resident of Atmakuru in Mangalagiri, had demanded gold ornaments or a share of the family assets to clear debts incurred due to a

severe illness. Lakshmi's refusal led to an argument,

which escalated into the premeditated murder. On the night of the crime, Sambasiva Rao and Vani carried out their plan while

SC SUB-CLASSIFICATION Rajiv Ranjan Mishra panel receives petitions in Machilipatnam



PNS VIJAYAWADA

The One-Man Commission, headed by retired IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, conducted a session at the Krishna Zilla Parishad Convention Machilipatnam Saturday to hear representations and objections regarding the sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SC). The session saw active participation from various SC organizations, employee associations, and individuals, who submitted over 337 memorandums and representations to the panel. The initiative aims to gather a wide range of perspectives and address concerns related to the sub-classification of SC communities, with the goal of ensuring a more inclusive approach to their welfare and

rights. Further deliberations are anticipated as the panel evaluates the submissions. To facilitate the process, the Krishna district administration set up special counters to register the representations. During th session Raiiv Ranjan Mishra assured that he would submit a detailed report to the government to aid in making an informed decision on the sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes. As many as 3,000 people from the erstwhile Krishna district thronged to Machilipatnam to submit their representations. Krishna district Collector DK Balaji, SP R Gangadhara Rao, DRO K Chandrasekhar Rao, Social Welfare Depart ment Deputy Director Shahid Babu, RDO K Swathi, DSP MD Abdul Subhani, and others were also present at the event.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge Manmohan and Singh's family that the Centre will allocate land for the memorial of Manmohan Singh as per rules and regulations applicable to all Prime former Ministers. However,

the Congress is contin-

insulted

Congress politicising

Manmohan Singh's

death, says Kishan

The Congress tasted

Manmohan while con-

ducting his final rites at

the Nigambodh Ghat instead of conducting it on official burial

Kishan said that

PNS HYDERABAD

had

grounds.

uing its political game, he said. Kishan said that history is telling that the Congress had deceived and insulted former Prime Ministers Dr anm Narasimha Rao and former President Pranabh Mukherjee who did not belong to the Congress dynasty. Kishan said the Congress should not forget when it expresses its condolences to Manmohan about its insults towards Manmohan. Kishan said that Manmohan Singh's heirs deserve more condolences than what the Congress expressed now.

confirming her death, they fled to Atmakuru and later rushed to Madhuranagar upon learning new information from their family. The incident came to light when Lakshmi's younger son complained, raising suspicions about her death.

was

Gunadala Inspector Vasireddy Srinivas and Sub-Inspector Rakhibh, who led the investigation, detained Sambasiva Rao and Vani for questioning. During interrogation, the duo confessed to the crime. ACP Damodar commended Inspector Srinivas and SI Rakhibh for their swift and effective investigation in solving the case.





The One-Man Commission, led by Rajiv Ranjan Mishra received petitions from the public at the Krishna ZP Convention Hall in Machilipatnam on Saturday.



450 stolen/lost mobile phones recovered in Chittoor district

PNS CHITTOOR

The police have recovered 450 lost or stolen mobile phones and returned some of them to their rightful owners here on Saturday. SP VN Manikantha Chandolu informed the media that the recovered phones, worth Rs 90 lakh, were among 3,085 mobile phones, valued at Rs 6.51 crore, that had been reclaimed by the district police so far. Some of the phones have already been returned to their owners

The SP explained that complaints regarding lost or stolen phones are handled through the CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register).

He outlined the recovery phases, stating that 500 phones were recovered in the first phase, 200 in the second, 200 in the third, 300 in the fifth, 200 in the sixth, 330 in the seventh, 305 in the eighth, 300 in

the ninth, and 450 phones in the tenth phase. The recovered mobile phones were found in several states, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil

Kerala, Nadu, and Maharashtra. To ensure convenience for the owners, the police are arranging to send the recovered phones to their homes via courier service.

The SP commended the police team for their diligent efforts in recovering such a large number of stolen or lost mobile phones. Many phone owners expressed their gratitude to the SP and the police for returning

their mobile devices.

ACA announces Rs 25 lakh cash reward for Test cricketer Nitish

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Cricket The Association (ACA) has announced a cash reward of Rs. 25 lakh for Indian Test cricketer Nitish Kumar Reddy in recognition of his remarkable performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Melbourne, where he scored an unbeaten century in the fourth Test match on Saturday. Visakhapatnam's Nitish Kumar Reddy, representing the Indian cricket team in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, has made a significant impact with his outstanding batting.

The announcement was made by ACA President and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, who praised Nitish Kumar Reddy for his consistent excellence and invaluable contribution to the team. Addressing the media at his office at NTR Bhavan in Gurunanak Colony, Vijayawada, on Saturday, Sivanath stated that the cash reward would be presented to Nitish Kumar Reddy by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu



Vijayawada MP and ACA president Kesineni Chinni addressing the media at his office at NTR Bhavan in Gurunanak Colony, Vijayawada, on Saturday

Naidu, highlighting the state's pride in his achievements.

Sivanath further noted that Nitish Kumar Reddy serves as an inspiration to the youth of the country. "No Australian bowler could stop Nitish Kumar's batting in the fourth Test," he said. "While the Indian team was under pressure, Nitish Kumar Reddy

raised the scoreboard with the support of Washington Sundar, who also deserves praise." He added that the partnership between Reddy and Sundar for the 8th wicket was crucial, and it was a proud moment for the Andhra Cricket Association. Meanwhile, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman Animuni Ravi

Naidu also commended Nitish Kumar Reddy for his unbeaten debut century in the Boxing Day Test against Australia, describing it as a moment of pride for Andhra Pradesh. ACA TO OPEN TWO CRICKET ACADEMIES IN JANUARY

In other news, ACA President and MP Kesineni Sivanath announced that two

New developments in Andhra cricket infrastructure

In line with the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the ACA is set to construct an international cricket stadium in Amaravati with stateof-the-art facilities. Additionally, the ACA is renovating the V i s a k h a p a t n a m International Stadium with an investment of Rs. 45 crore. These efforts are aimed at preparing the infrastructure to support an IPL team from Andhra Pradesh.

Sivanath also disclosed that the state government is considering the renovation of all outdoor and indoor stadiums in Vijayawada in preparation for the National

new cricket academies would be opened in Anantapur and Vizianagaram in January next vear. The ACA aims to train more cricketers like Nitish Kumar Reddy and encouraged budding players to draw inspiration from his journey. "Every cricketer in the state should aim to represent the Indian cricket team," Sivanath said. Additionally, Sivanath

Games in 2027. The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) will jointly renovate several stadiums, including IGMC, Dandamudi Rajagopala Rao Indoor Stadium, and Makineni Basavapunnaiah Stadium in Ajith Singh Nagar. The renovation works are scheduled to begin in March.

Prakasam District Cricket Association Secretary K. Nageswara Rao, Member K. Balaram, and Ravinuthala Sports and Cultural Association Secretary Moparthi Sesha Rao also participated in the event.

shared that the third cricket academy in Vijayawada would be ready by April or May, with plans to inaugurate it in the summer. The Anantapur, Vizianagaram, and Vijayawada cricket academies are expected to produce top-tier cricketers from Andhra Pradesh, and they will provide essential facilities such as free coaching and diet.



Nation 05

ACROSS THE STATES



Three women Maoists nabbed in Odisha

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



Army unveils statue of Shivaji at eastern Ladakh

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

VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29, 2024

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

PNS SAN FRANCISCO

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

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

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

"Enjoyed a wide-ranging conversation on our bilateral partnership as well as current global issues. Look forward to working with him," he said. Waltz, 50, would replace

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



NMHC crucial to make India leading maritime nation: Sonowal

Ports, Shipping and

coming up with an

65 per cent of its

Ramachandran, said, "The

estimated cost of Rs 1,200

over by August, 2025, with

ing up with an estimated cost

crore, is expected to get

construction completed"

phase 1-A of the project,

Waterwavs, T K

PNS LOTHAL (GUJ)

Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said

4,300-crore the Rs National Maritime Complex Heritage (NMHC) being developed at Lothal in Gujarat is a project of national importance and will be a crucial step towards making India a leading maritime nation. Sonowal, who is Ports,

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

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Secretary of the Ministry of orts, Shipping and of Rs 1,200 crore, is expected to get over by August, 2025, Ports,

K with 65 per cent of its con-he struction completed." Waterways, T K Ramachandran, said, "The phase 1-A of the project, com-

The entire project, being executed in two phases, is Secretary of the Ministry of expected to be completed

by 2028, he said. Work on phase 1-A of the project, comprising six galleries, jetty walkway, Lothal town, etc, started in March 2022, before the Union Cabinet approved it in October 2024.

Apart from 14 galleries in phase 1 (six in phase 1-A and eight in phase 1-B), phase 2 will have conceptualisation of Lothal city as it existed in ancient times, surrounded by the pavilions showcasing the maritime heritage of coastal states in their individual pavillions, he said.

Heavy snowfall disrupts life in Kashmir Flights, rail services suspended

PNS SRINAGAR

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

Chief minister Omar Abdullah reviewed the snow clearance operations in a video conference meeting with all deputy commissioners.

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

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

The plains of North Kashmir received light to moderate snowfall, officials said.

The upper areas of the South Kashmir district received over two feet of snow, they added. Though the snowfall was wel-comed by locals and tourists,

The National Highway (NH-44) was closed for traffic due to snow, according to Traffic Department officials. They added that clearance work was hampered due to heavy snow-fall at the Navyug Tunnel.

PM Modi calls Gukesh an embodiment of calmness and humility PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met newlycrowned chess world champion D Gukesh and described him as a confident young player who was an embodiment of calmness and humility.

Gukesh, 18, displayed remarkable poise and nerves of steel to defeat China's Ding Liren in Singapore to become the youngest chess world champion, surpassing Russian great Garry Kasparov, who



won the crown in 1985 at 22. "Had an excellent interaction with chess champion and India's pride, DGukesh!" the

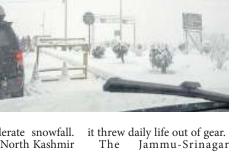


PM posted on 'X' after meeting Gukesh and his parents here. "I have been closely interacting with him for a few years now, and what strikes me most about him is his determination and dedication. His confidence is truly inspiring.

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

Kejriwal rubbishes LG inquiry, says BJP afraid of defeat PNS NEW DELHI

The BIP is panicked that the AAP government would give Rs 2.100 to women under hila Samman Voian thus trying to stop the scheme fearing defeat in the upcoming polls, AAP supre-





Man sets ablaze wife for giving birth to 3 daughters

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

Manmohan played pivotal role in strengthening US-India ties: Biden

PNS SAN FRANCISCO

Mourning the passing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, US President Joe Biden has called him "a true statesman" and credited his strategic vision and political courage for the unprecedented level of bilateral cooperation.

Singh, who was India's prime minister for 10 years from 2004 to 2014 died in New Delhi on Thursday night. He was 92.

"The unprecedented level of cooperation between the United States and India today would not have been possible without the Prime Minister's strategic vision and political



courage," Biden said in a between Indo-Pacific partners, statement as he and the First he charted path-breaking progress that will continue to Lady, Jill Biden, joined the people of India in grieving the loss of the former prime strengthen our nations-and the world-for generations to minister. come. He was a true statesman.

"From forging the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement to helping launch the first Quad A dedicated public servant. And above all, he was a kind and humble person," Biden said.

Security strengthened in Kolkata after arrests of Bangla infiltrators

PNS KOLKATA

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

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

replying to a question. To prevent any untoward incident on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, 4,500 police personnel would be deployed in Kolkata, he added. Verma said that watch towers have been set up to monitor crowds, and traffic police would be vigilant to stop drunken driving and rash driving. On concerns that illegal

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



mo Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday.

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

Ayodhya gearing up for influx of devotees, tourists

PNS AYODHYA (UP)

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

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

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

When last checked on



Saturday morning, online book-ing platforms showed rooms spike in religious tourism since the consecration ceremony still available at some hotels and earlier this year, and while the Hindu new year in 'Chaitra' lodges, even though a few establishments are charging upwards (March-April) holds traditionof Rs 10,000 per night due to the al significance, the English surge in demand. new year is also seeing a rise in Ayodhya has witnessed a devotional fervour.

"A large number of devotees visit religious sites and offer prayers on January 1, seeking the blessings of Ram Lalla at the start of the year," Ramakant Tiwari, a local priest, said.

To ensure smooth crowd management and security,

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

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

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

BJP accuses Cong of 'indulging in politics' over funeral

PNS BHUBANESWAR

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

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

grand old party had "insulted" its leaders -- Rao, ex-president



Pranab Mukherjee, first president Rajendra Prasad and former deputy PM Vallabhbhai Patel -- in the past.

"Since Manmohan Singh's death, the Centre has been preparing to construct a memorial for him. A cabinet meeting was called and a condolence message was issued. It was also decided to pay prop-er respects to the former PM

befitting his stature.

"The cabinet has informed Dr Singh's family and the Congress that a memorial will be built so that everyone can remember his positive contribution. However, time is needed for land acquisition, forming a trust and other formalities. At the same time, cremation should be done as it cannot wait," Patra said.





"LET FOOD BE THY MEDICINE AND MEDICINE BE THY FOOD" — HIPPOCRATES **food 06** Vijayawada, December 29, 2024

With 2024 about to end, we reflect on the food trends and unforgettable flavours that defined the year, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

he year that Was:

s 2024 draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the tastes and trends that defined our culinary year. From viral dishes that united food lovers to beloved celebrity recipes that took over our kitchens, the year reminded us how food connects us. Whether it was the streets of Delhi buzzing with chatter over piping-hot kachoris or Instagram feeds flooding with quirky food combos, 2024 proved that our love for good food knows no bounds. So, let's dive into the highlights that made this year a feast for both our plates and our hearts.

A YEAR TO SAVOUR: FOOD MOMENTS OF 2024



VIRAL CELEBRITY RECIPES

Jackie Shroff's Anda Curry Patta and Baingan Bharta

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

Aditi Rao Hydari's Khagina

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

THESE DISHES NOT ONLY DEFINED THE CULINARY LANDSCAPE OF 2024 BUT ALSO REMINDED US OF THE DEEP CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FOOD, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY. HERE'S TO MORE DELECTABLE ADVENTURES IN THE YEAR AHEAD!

INSTAGRAM VIRALS

Vada Pav in Delhi: A tiny stall in the heart of Delhi sent Mumbaikars into a frenzy! Foodies queued up for hours to get a taste of this Mumbai classic, proving that Delhi truly embraces all flavours.

Popcorn Momos in GK: Momo mania reached new heights with this crunchy, buttery twist. Found at a GK corner, this snack became the ultimate winter indulgence, drawing food bloggers and crowds alike.

Viral Cucumber Jar Salad: Healthy eating met Instagram aesthetics with this layered cucumber salad in a jar. With its vibrant colours and zesty dressing, it became a favourite for fitness enthusiasts and food photographers.



CELEB VIRAL FOOD COMBOS

Farah Khan's Yakhni Pulao Farah Khan's Yakhni Pulao was the culinary sensation of the year. A soulful mix of tender meat and fragrant rice, the dish captivated fans who couldn't stop praising its simplicity and rich flavour. On ber YouTube channel, she

showed every step, making it easy to recreate. Viewers loved her detailed tips and rated it a perfect 10, proudly sharing their own versions online and creating videos titled "Trying Farah Khan's Favourite Yakhni Pulao".



FLAVOURS THAT TRAVELLED

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

Banaras #malaiyo #tamarchaat Banaras delivered on all fronts this year, especially with its food. The winter-special *Malaiyo*, a frothy dessert that melts in your mouth, became a seasonal must-try. Meanwhile, the tangy and spicy *Tamatar Chaat* delighted foodies with its zesty flavours, making it the city's street-food superstar. Kashmir #kahwa #roganjosh The "Paradise on Earth" showcased its culinary treasures alongside its natural beauty in 2024. *Kahwa*, the traditional spiced tea and the aromatic *Rogan Josh* were must-haves for travellers seeking warmth and flavour amidst the snow-draped landscapes

Lakshadweep #muskaavab

The smoky and succulent *Mus Kaavab* paired perfectly with the aromatic, coconut-infused *Tuna Curry*, making every bite a celebration of coastal flavours. Each meal offered a taste of island life, blending the sea's bounty with vibtant flavours. Ladakh #thukpa #buttertea Ladakh's dishes weren't just delicious, they were soul-soothing. The hearty *Thukpa*, a noodle soup packed with vegetables and meat, became a favourite, while the creamy, salty *Butter Tea* was a comforting companion in the chilly weather.

Goa #porkvindaloo #crabxecxec

table.

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

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

Janhvi Kapoor's Idli and Chicken Curry This unlikely combo went viral after Janhvi shared her love for it. Foodies everywhere couldn't resist trying it, and it quickly became a trending dish, with fans recreating it at home and experimenting with the combo in their own kitchens.



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

Kamla Nagar: A shopper's paradise, the area also shone for its unbeatable *chole*

bhature and Sharma Ji's kachoris. Lodhi Colony: Anna Durga South Indian offered perfect dosas and idlis, earning its spot as a social media favourite. Connaught Place & Janpath: From Jain Chawal Wale's iconic rajma rice to mini samosas and Wenger's timeless baked treats, CP and Janpath were unmissable.











"LIVE LIFE WITH NO EXCUSES, TRAVEL WITH NO REGRET" — OSCAR WILDE

travel 07 Vijayawada, December 29, 2024

WANDERLUST OF INDIAN DESTINATIONS

BANARAS





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



#gangaaarti #kashivishwanath Banaras or Varanasi or Kashi, a sacred city in Uttar Pradesh and it holds immense significance in Hinduism. It is a renowned pilgrimage site, deeply intertwined with traditions of death and mourning. The city was known for the most visited and trending places in India in 2024.

LADAKH

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

LAKSHADWEEP





LADAKH

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

GOA



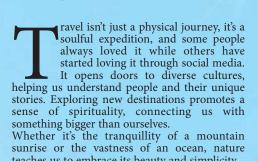
#goadiaries #beachlover Goa, a coastal paradise in India, is a vibrant blend of Portuguese heritage and Indian culture. There are pristine beaches lined with swaying palm trees, azure waters perfect for swimming and watersports, delicious seafood, and a lively nightlife scene.

UDAIPUR



BANARAS





teaches us to embrace its beauty and simplicity. Meeting new people on these adventures broadens perspectives, bridging gaps and giving a sense of empathy. Travel is a reminder of how small yet interconnected the world and fills your heart with gratitude for the experiences that shape your journey through life.



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

FOR TROPICAL CLIMATE LOVERS

#NEWYEARGETAWAYS

LAKSHADWEEP



FOR WINTER LOVERS



GUWAHATI

From Guwahati you can expect a cool and pleasant weather in the north east on the New Year and can plan a getaway around visiting Kamakhya Temple.

KERALA



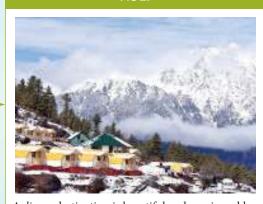
Kerala, "God's Own Country," can work as a perfect New Year's getaway helping in rejuvenating yourself amidst serene backwater cruises, and lush greenery.

MANALI



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

AULI



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





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

MAP NOT TO SCALE



Money 08

VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29, 2024

IN BRIEF



Reliance acquires Karkinos Healthcare for Rs 375 cr

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has sought funds from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the Department of Posts to make it profitable by 2029, according to official sources. The Department of Posts (DoP) is working on plans to

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

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

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



operational efficiency.

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

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

future-ready to international best practices The minister said that the

postal department will work and come up with innovative strategies for the department. towards automation of processes to make them efficient and Scindia during the meeting with Sitharaman assured that This is the second stint of the postal department will be globally competitive by 2028-

the Scindia at Communications Ministry. He was a Minister of State

under the UPA government in in India Post's potential to 2007 when he steered Project increase market share for most Arrow for modernization of of its products, increase revenue and compete in the the postal department and helped Dak Sewaks get office industry in the next 5-7 years. equipment. Scindia in six months of taking charge of the department in 2024, asked the India Post team to get exposure cals

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

Scindia said that he believes

He shared that the focus will

Coal exchange on anvil, work underway to raise output

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Talking to PTI, Coal Additional Secretary Rupinder Brar said that "the demand (for coal) is extremely important. And we do see demand growing in India considering the growing size of the economy... Therefore, coal will also definitely be required and we are conscious of that and are work-

year. Air India Express intro-

duced a Boeing 737-8 service

connecting Chennai and

Mangaluru via Bengaluru,

while IndiGo increased direct

flights to Chennai. These addi-

tions have improved travel

several prestigious awards. At Wings India 2024, Asia's

MIA's performance earned it

options for passengers.

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

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

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

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

don't then there are penalties attached to it," the official said. Elaborating on the priority areas of her ministry in the new year, Brar said the government is committed to a sustainable coal sector, balancing environmental sustainability with the wellbeing of coal-dependent communities.

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



Edu Ioan provider Credila files **IPO** papers

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



Vodafone Group clears Rs 11,650 cr dues to lenders

PNS NEW DELHI

UK-based Vodafone Group has cleared dues of around Rs 11,650 crore or about 109 million pound that it raised against shares of Vodafone Idea, according to a regulatory filing. V o d a f

one Group had pledged almost the entire stake in VIL to raise the debt. The pledge was created in favour of

HSBC Corporate Trustee Company (UK) for the debt raised bv Mauritius and

India-based entities of Vodafone Group.

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

owed to the lenders by the Vodafone Promoter Shareholders

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

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

the indirect encumbrance on 15,720,826,860 equity shares of Vodafone

the target company held by the Promoter Shareholders representing 22.56 per cent of the equity share capital of the target company on a fully diluted basis has been released," the filing said

PNS MANGALURU (KARNATAKA) Mangaluru International

future-ready.

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

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

Infrastructure upgrades at the airport received recognition with the Build India Infra Award 2024 in the innovation category.

The accolade was awarded for the rapid completion of a



ing project, which featured a flexible asphalt overlay on a

in just 75 working days, enhancing safety and operational efficiency.

In sustainability efforts, the airport implemented energyforcing its commitment to largest civil aviation exhibition,

the airport was named the best Expanded connectivity was in the "under 5 million passenInternational Airport in Kerala PNS MUMBAI Indian Hotels Company

IHCL launches

111-key Taj Cochin

(IHCL) on Saturday announced the opening of 111-key Taj Cochin International Airport in the industrial capital of Kerala.

"Having pioneered tourism in Kerala, IHCL is delighted to introduce Taj Cochin International Airport, strengthening our presence in the state.

"Developed in partner-ship with CIAL, this hotel expands our portfolio to 19 hotels in Kerala with three in pipeline, reflective of our commitment to enhancing Kerala's travel landscape," IHCL Managing Director and CEO Puneet Chhatwal said in a statement.



rigid concrete base.

The project was completed

efficient lighting and waste management systems, rein-

greener operations.

be on expanding the market share in mail and parcel verti-**Mangaluru Airport sees robust growth**

Tax officials initiate inspection of M&M records

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

Telcos investment recovery in limbo as tariff hike backfires

been

Consequently,

PNS NEW DELHI

The country's private telecom operators face twin challenges on investment recovery in the New Year - customers leaving their network after tariff hikes and satellite players mainly Elon Musk's Starlink eyeing a chunk of their bread and butter data business.

Private operators have invested around Rs 70,000 crore in telecom infrastructure and radiowave assets this year to expand the coverage of next-generation 5G services which is one of the main highlights of 2024 for the sector.

To recover investments and of rolling out 4G network protect margins, private telcos resorted to tariff hikes in midyear but that move backfired.

Around 2 crore subscribers dropped their connections. Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea jointly lost 2.6 crore customers due to a 10-26 per cent price hike.

The Directorate General of

ry audit conducted by DGCA on Oct 7, 2024, at M/s SNV

Aviation Private Limited

(Akasa Air), Mumbai, that

RNP training (Approaches) is

being conducted on simulators

which have not been qualified

Āround 68 customers switched to state-run player



BSNL which refrained from Bharti Airtel and Vodafone price hike. The loss-making Idea was around Rs 70,200 PSU still offers generation-old crore in 2024. 3G service and is on the path

Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) Director General Manoj Kumar Singh says the telecom infrastructure sector looks at a cumulative investment of Rs 92,100 crore to Rs 1.41 lakh crore in 2022-2027 to support

the 5G ecosystem. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia also backed telecom operators on the tariff hike

issue citing investments made by companies in the network.

The rollout of 5G services in 2024 has paved the way for the adoption of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence which offers huge growth potential.

"5G deployment has been a game-changer. We've witnessed a significant surge in 5G base transceiver stations, rising from 412,214 in December 2023 to 462,854 by November 2024," says DIPA, whose members include Indus Towers and American Tower Corporation.

Impending huge investments in 5G and maintaining healthy margins in the face of subscriber loss are not the only challenges for private telecom players.

Å new threat from satellite broadband service providers is staring at private telcos in the New Year.

The satellite broadband sector has seen intense lobbying on the spectrum allocation issue in 2024

Housing price at Noida Expressway jumps 66 pc

Gunjur in Bengaluru sees 69 pc rise: Report

PNS NEW DELHI

Housing prices in Bengaluru's peripheral location Gunjur have risen by 69 per cent in the last five years, while Noida Expressway in Delhi-NCR witnessed 66 per cent appreciation, according to Anarock. Real estate consultant Ananrock's data showed that

per square feet in 2019.

expressways, and the upcoming Jewar International Airport, the area is poised for further Salil Kumar, Director

ty through metro extensions,

Noida-Greater Noida Expressway has always been a prime residential destination average housing prices in Noida Expressway stood at Rs 8,400 per sq ft in the September but in the last few years, the region consolidated its position 2024 quarter against Rs 5,075 as one of NCR's most promi-NCR's peripheral area Sohna nent luxury residential hubs.

saw price growth of 43 per cent to Rs 5,900 per sq ft from Rs 4,120 per sq ft, while prime area New Gurugram witnessed a 59 per cent rise in the same period. Dwarka Expressway saw a significant 93 per cent jump in average housing prices to Rs 10,350 per sq ft from 5,359 per sq ft.

In Bengaluru's peripheral location Gunjur, the housing prices have increased to Rs 8,500 per square feet from Rs

5,030 per square feet. Housing brokerage firm InvestoXpert.com founder and MD Vishal Raheja said, "The Noida-Greater Noida Expressway strikes the perfect balance between affordability and growth potential, drawing mid-segment buyers and investors alike".

While average property prices in Noida have risen to Rs 1.05 crore, this region still offers competitive pricing compared to Gurugram or central Delhi, he added. "With enhanced connectivi-

price appreciation of 10-15 per cent annually," Raheja noted. (Marketing & Business Management) of CRC Group, said the

"This, in turn, led to a mas sive investment in the commercial segment, both office and retail spaces. One of the major factors is the Expressway's

strategic location. Its proximity to Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway, including the upcoming Noida Airport, has led to a massive interest in the region, resulting in a significant price hike," he said.

Sunil Sisodiya, founder, Geetanjali Homestate, said the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway has seen price appreciation because of infrastructure development and seamless connectivity.

DGCA order suspension of 2 directors of Akasa Air for training lapses accordingly. "Safety is of utmost

PNS MUMBAI

Aviation safety regulator DGCA on Friday ordered the suspension of director of operations and director of training at Akasa Air for six months for alleged lapses in pilots' training. The two senior executives of the airline, in which the Rakesh Jhunjhunwala family holds stakes, have "failed" to ensure "compliances" with the civil aviation requirements, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in its two separate orders of December 27.

The suspension of the Akasa

Air director of operations and director of training came after importance, and we continuthe DGCA found the replies to ously trive to pursue the highthe show-cause notices issued est standards of safety." to them on October 15 and October 30, respectively, as Civil Aviation (DGCA) while issuing suspension orders, said: "unsatisfactory" "It has been found in regulato-

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

Akasa Air in a statement said, "Akasa Air is in receipt of an order from the DGCA dated 27th December 2024.

for the same ... which is in vio-We will continue to work lation of Para 7 of CAR Section with the DGCA and comply 7, Series D, Part VI.

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

across the country.

drive future growth.

Despite subscriber loss, pri-

vate players need to recover

investment and invest more in

5G to offer new-age services to

According to EY India

Markets and Telecom leader

Prashant Singhal, the cumula-

tive investment of Reliance Jio,

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

Ltd (ZWPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary company, has received an intimation from the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence, Surat Zonal Unit, alleging GST demand of Rs 56.33 crore, along with applicable interest and penal-

ty, Zydus Wellness Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

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

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

the next steps based on a detailed review of the intimation," the filing said.

the tax authority. Zydus Wellness Products

Zydus Wellness arm gets

Rs 56.33 cr GST demand



VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29, 2024

vijayawada 09

INGREDIENTS

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

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



INGREDIENTS

Preparation Time : 15 mins |

Cooking Time : 25 Mins | Makes : 14 Paneer crumbled 3/4 cup
 Cooked millet 1 cup • Onion 1 • Capsicum 1/4 cup

 Besan | kadalai maavul gram flour 3 tblsp • Garam masala 1 tsp • Red chili powder 1 tsp

 Coriander leaves and mint 2 tblsp • Oil for deep frying • Salt as needed

METHOD

much moisture.

METHOD

25

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

RECIPE

Step 2: Cut the baguette loaf and spread butter on the top portion.

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

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

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

Step 6: Place the baked baugette on a plate.

Step 7: Spoon in the aloo channa chaat on the bread. Step 8: Garnish with sev.

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

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

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

AS THE **CLOCK** STRIKES MIDNIGHT **RINGING IN** THE NEW YEAR **GATHER YOUR** LOVED ONES **AROUND THE** TABLE TO

INDULGE IN A

FEAST OF

DELICIOUS

AND

SYMBOLIC

DISHES

X



INGREDIENTS

Preparation Time : 10 mins | Cooking Time : 15 Mins | Serves: 2 • Doritos or corn chips 10-12 • Rajma I Red kidney beans 1/4 cup • Sweet corn kernels 3 tbsp

• Capsicum (red and green) 1 tbsp each • Potato 1/4 portion • Olives 4 • Onion 1

- Tomato 1/2 Sweet chutney 2 tsp Green chutney 2 tsp Chaat masala 1/4 tsp
 - Roasted cumin powder 1/4 tsp
 Sev for garnishing

METHOD:

Step 1: Cook the over night soaked rajma, potato and sweet corn in a pressure cooker. Step 2: Drain the water and keep it aside. Step 3: Chop the onion, capsicum and tomato finely. Step 4: Cut the olives into circles. Cut the potato into small cubes. Step 5: In a wide bowl add the red kidney beans, potato, sweet corn, olives, capsicum, onion and tomato into it. Step 6: Add the green chutney, sweet chutney, chaat masala and roasted cumin powder. Step 7: Mix well evenly. Step 8: Slightly crush the Doritos and add it to the bowl. Step 9: Gently mix it. Step 10: Add it to the serving plate and garnish with sev. Step 11: Serve immediately.

MUNDIRI PAKODA

INGREDIENTS

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

INSTRUCTIONS



Step 1: In a grinder coarsely pulse the ginger, garlic(if adding), fennel seeds, and curry leaves. Step 2: Chop the mint leaves. Step 3: In a wide bowl add the besan, rice flour, chopped mint leaves, pulsed ginger mixture, red chili powder, salt and cashew nuts. Step 4: Do not roast the cashew nuts. Add raw (whole) cashew nuts **Step 5:** Heat the 2 tsp of oil and add it to the flour mixture. Step 6: Mix everything and sprinkle a little water. Step 7: Make a stiff dough. Step 8: Heat oil for deep frying. Step 9: When it becomes hot, bring the flame to medium. Step 10: Take the cashew pakoda dough in small portions and carefully put them into oil.

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

HOROSCOPE

ARIES LIBRA

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





Be gentle with relationships under pressure. Embrace family time, stay humble for prosperity

JAMIE DUFFLE BAG

WHAT'S NEW

Ultimate New Year's gift guide for every budget

Christmas is around the corner and finding the perfect gift can be a huge challenge! That's why we've created a Christmas gift guide

STARTER SET

for every budget - the one-stop solution for thoughtful gifts, no matter your budget. Whether you're shopping for beauty lovers, decor connoisseurs, or adventurers, this list covers every diffing need.

NOURISH GLOW KIT



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PANEER MILLET CUTLET

This gift set contains: luxury ocean breeze whipped soap - moussetextured, innovative soap to gently cleanse, loaded with shea butter and cold-pressed coconut oil for soft, smooth skin; luxury coffee sugar scrub - gentle, foaming scrub to polish and reveal glowing skin loaded with raw sugar and coffee; luxury whipped body butter extra nourishing, non-sticky moisturizer loaded with the power of 3 natural plant butter: shea butter, cocoa butter, kokum Price: Rs 1,600.00/-

MESSIKA SET (EARRING+PENDANT)

14k gold set beautifully crafted vith a timeless design that exudes elegance and sophistication. This motif is dotted with sparkling diamonds, featuring a solitaire emerald and a solitaire pear-shaped diamond adorned with a delicate round diamond border. Price: Rs 204,569



TNW (THE NATURAL WASH) FIVE SCENTS, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Discover the alluring world of TNW perfumes, where each fragrance is a carefully curated scent designed to enhance the emotions and create lasting memories. A unique combo collection features five signature scents, each is a successful blend with enchanting ingredients, perfectly covering all seasons-Summer, monsoon, autumn, winter and spring. Price: Rs. 2498

PHILIPS HAIR DRYER BHD356/10

The perfect hair dryer to enjoy glossy, frizz-free hair with powerful ionic system, generates up to 20 million ions per drying session. Powerful 2100W dryer with 6 different settings ensure precise control for professional tailored styling. With the ThermoProtect Airflower that covers a wider drying area, you can dry your hair without fear of heat damage. Compact design with foldable handle makes it easy to pack and travel friendly.

Price: Rs 3,795

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

Price: 2,699/-



Jeyashri Suresh,

Jeyashri's

Kitchen

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

Price: Rs 4,636.00/-

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

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

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

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

Celebrate this holiday season with YSL Libre Flowers & Flames - a sultry floral burst that embodies bold femininity and radiant allure.

Price: Rs 7,600/-



and rely on loyalty for support.

TAURUS

Stay calm under

unexpected love



and focus on studies. Avoid undue worry and trust your reasoning power.

GEMINI

Clear up



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

CANCER

setbacks with

Overcome



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

LEO

ideas, face

Embrace others'



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

VIRGO



challenges arise, but your guidance and adaptability will bring resolution and energy.

SCORPIO

Embrace career changes and family bonding. Meditate to release old



illusions. Loyal relationships and financial growth bring fulfillment this week.

SAGITTARIUS

Your humour charms others, but avoid ego clashes. Embrace change,



focus on goals and trust love for lasting stability.

CAPRICORN

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

AQUARIUS

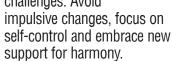
Reconnect with siblings, stay calm under pressure and embrace unexpected



love. Focus on goals, avoid distractions and stay motivated.

PISCES

Stay calm amidst workplace or relationship challenges. Avoid









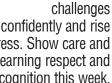
projects. Family





stimulating partnerships and successful











OF SHILPI

Make your holiday season stylish in

Banarasi silk tissue zari pleated top with

slip that is crafted from exquisite

Banarasi fabric. Dazzling like a dream, this

top can be paired with a skirt or trousers

for a voguish and elegant look. The

delicate silk tissue interwoven with golden zari threads gleams with a subtle and

enchanting luster.

Price: On request

sunday magazine VIJAYAWADA, December 29, 2024

TOP 10 FILMS

Amar Singh Chamkila: The film takes you through the lives of pop star duo Amar Singh Chamkila and Amarjot Kaur, shedding light on their rise to fame in the 1980s through chart-topping songs. RATING: 4/5

Do Patti: Do Patti is a story of twin sisters, whose troubled relationship is tested by love, betrayal, and redemption. The film explores the themes of domestic violence with standout performances by Kriti Sanon. RATING: 4/5

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

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



Lapataa Ladies: Laapataa Ladies is a humorous and heartwarming tale of identity, empowerment, and self-discovery, marking Kiran Rao's triumphant return to direction. RATING: 4.5/5

E.

2024 has yet again been an amazing year for films, from iconic performances to thrilling narratives and unexpected misses, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

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

POLICE

Looking back at the journey of Indian cinema, it is astonishing to witness its evolution—from the poignant realism of Satvaiit Rav's "Pather Panchali" and the about films like Pushpa 2, Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, Kalki 2898 AD, Kill, and more there has been a discernible shift in the motives behind filmmaking. While the essence of cinema as an art form endures, the industry has leaned heavily towards commercialisation. With a focus on box office

the pioneer

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

As we look back at the year that was



Yodha: Yodha an action thriller following Arun Katyal (Sidharth Malhotra), a former soldier suspended after a failed mission, who is found on a hijacked plane years later. Blamed for the hijacking, Arun seeks revenge against the

WRONG CHOICES (FLOPS)

"Cinema's characteristic forte is its ability to capture and communicate the intimacies of the human mind" Satvaiit Ray

Bade Miyan Chote Miyan: Bade Miyan Chote Miyan is a Hindi sci-fi action film directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, starring Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The story follows two ex-soldiers racing to thwart a vengeful scientist's plan to attack India.

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

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

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

RATING: 4/5

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

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

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

Berlin: In 1993, the Bureau accused and arrested a deaf-mute young man of spying in New Delhi. An interpreter with expertise in sign language is brought in. **RATING: 3/5**



Sector 36: Sector 36 is a

chilling crime thriller showcasing Vikrant Massey

as a psychotic serial killer.

must-watch for crime

delivering an unsettling

genre enthusiasts,

narrative

RATING: 3.5/5

The 124-minute drama is a

thought-provoking narratives of Shyam Benegal to the visual spectacles crafted by modern filmmakers like S.S. Rajamouli and Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Over 69 years, the industry has grown into a cultural phenomenon, shaping not just entertainment but also the values and ideals of its audience.

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



Actor of the year

No

Kriti Sanon stole 2024 in her name by her stellar, glamorous performances and delivering back to back hit films even with female protagonists loved by the audience.

it becomes evident that cinema continues to straddle the line

between its artistic roots and its commercial aspirations.

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



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

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

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

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

 $L \cap$

5

S

TOP 5 WEB SERIES

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

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

R

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





TRENDIN

PERSON

MANMOHAN SINGH

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

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

PNS| HYDERABAD

CHAT-O-CINO

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

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

tament to their resilience and dedication. When asked about the emotion that best captures their journey, Calm expresses deep grat-itude for their listeners and the growing Seedhe Maut Nation. "We feel grateful, firstly, for everything we have—our listeners, the fans who show up for every tour, and the entire desi hip-hop community that has supported us from the beginning. It's been a long road, but it's just the beginning," he says. As the duo looks forward, they're

focused on continuing to evolve their sound. "Our music and what we say have evolved with our own experiences. As we grew up, what we wrote and how we approached music changed. We're not going to hold back from experimenting with fresh sounds and we'll explore themes

that are relevant to us," Encore shares. "What we create will

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

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

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

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

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

As Seedhe Maut continues to row and break new ground in the





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

DAMMUNTE PATTUKORA

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

PICTURE



SANTA KEJRIWAL





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

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

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



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

THE BLEEDING EYE VIRUS A call to action for awareness and prevention

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

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

What is the bleeding eye virus?

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

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

Symptoms and complications

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

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



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

This is often accompanied by:

- Intense redness and swelling
- Burning sensations
- Sensitivity to light
- Excessive tearing
- Crusting discharge, particularly after sleep

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

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

Prevention: A proactive approach

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

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

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

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

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

Treatment: Early intervention is key

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

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

Raising awareness and building resilience

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

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

Final thoughts

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





vijayawada 12

DISCOVERING POLITICS WITH ABVP

Although my entire family was inclined to the Congress and left ideologies. I was drawn to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) -- the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). I used to go to shakas

and did everything. In fact, I had become the target of Naxalites because of

this. At that time, Revanth Reddy, Kishan Reddy we all were together. For a while, I found myself aligned with their ideology, but over time, I realised my true calling lay elsewhere. In my teenage, once when I was going on a

bike, Naxals who had been looking for someone stopped me to know what I was doing there. They shot me as they had missed their target. I did fight

with them. They thought I was dead and left. Later, someone gave me first aid and I was under the care of Dr Sarangi in NTPC. For 9 days, I was in

coma. I had seven bullets, one is lodged somewhere close to my heart.

'ROWDY' SPIRIT REDEFINED

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

A HUMBLE BEGINNING

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

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

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



BRUSH WITH NAXALITES

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

MY CALLING

Everyone was surprised why I became their target.



My entry into the Congress party was a turning point. I started with the Youth Congress and worked my way up through sheer hard work. Leaders like Y S Rajashekar Reddy and Sudhir Kumar inspired me with their vision and commitment. I joined NSUI, became City Congress president and served in various capacities in Youth Congress. In 1998, YSR gave me a chance to become municipal chairman. But due to internal politics in party local leaders proposed someone else. I did not even know where to take B-Form, so my name was announced but local leaders gave it to someone else. I was active in the Youth Congress. I have always had a deep connection with my native place Ramagundam. Despite having

opportunities to contest from Hyderabad, I was resolute in my desire to fight for the people of Ramagundam. In 2004, I sought the Peddapalli ticket, but due to political alliances, it was allocated elsewhere. Understanding my passion and determination, Rajashekar Reddy promised me an opportunity and entrusted me with the chairmanship of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SATS).

ELEVATING SPORTS

Becoming SATS Chairman was a defir in my career. As a sportsman myse holding a Guinness World Record-I to my larger goal of serving the people of Ramagundam



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

TURNING **DOWN PRP** OFFER

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

hekar Reddy was not just a leader but a mentor ed me through some of the mos s in my life. I vividly remember the time I was rman of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh-a that came with immense responsibility and public scrutiny. A day controversy erupted, with baseless allegations of land grab circulation y morning I used to be at the Chief Minister's re vas shocked seeing the reports. I was overwhelmed and on id. YSR called me to his residence and offered words that stil th me: "In politics, controversies and accusations are politics, they will write worse things on family, personal life and everything Never fear and never do a mistake. What matters is standing our truth and answering your critics with your work. If you talk, tal strongly or don't talk at all. Don't let fear dictate your actions

YSR'S TIMELESS ADVICE

His advice became my guiding principle. Even today when faced with criticism or adversity, I draw strength from his words and his unwavering belief in me.





the future.

I was present during critical moments, like the Mahabubabad incident and the meeting in Kadapa where Jagan openly stated that he had no issues with the formation of Telangana. While the statement was significant, what hurt me the most was seeing those who had once vehemently opposed and insulted Jagan later becoming his close allies once he became Chief Minister. These were individuals who had no role in the party's foundational struggles but reaped the rewards when power was within reach. I visited Jagan in jail during this turbulent time and pleaded with him not to adopt an anti-Telangana stance. I reminded him that just because Chandrababu Naidu had taken a controversial tw eyes policy, he didn't need to take a U-turn. I urged him to stand firm, but by then, I had started to lose faith. Jagan hugged me, held my hand, and asked me not to leave, assuring me that he would take care of my future. But the damage was done-I had sacrificed everything, only to see the leader I believed in change his stance for political convenience. After leaving YSRCP, I witnessed other Telangana leaders like Konda Surekha, Bajireddy Govardhan, KK Mahender Reddy, and Jitta Balakrishna Reddy leave the party. I couldn't help but think that if Jagan had stayed true to his principles, we could have won 26 seats PUPPY Love that endured in Telangana.

HOPE AND HEARTBREAK

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

OPPORTUNITIES AND LOYALTY

ADD CONCALCTORY After my departure from YSRCP, I found myself at a political After my departure from YSRCP, I found myself at a political Musheerabad, but not from Ramagundam, my home and the mostituency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride head me to statuency I was determined to serve. At the time, my stance. My reluctance to statuency I was a congressman. But even Congress had its to statuency in the tot serve to serve to statuency in the statuency in the tot was understandably upset. I knew that if I be with his agreenent.

FROM LONDON TO LEADERSHIP

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

RESILIENCE

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





QUICK BYTES

Favorite Food: Pure non-vegetarian Fitness routine: I am passionate about fitness and plan to restart my regime soon Favorite actor: Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna. Favorite actress: Aishwarya Rai Favorite colours: Black and Red Favorite holiday destination: Zurich Happiest moment: Spending time with my family and becoming MLA **Sad moments:** When my mother and father passed away Movies: I watch a lot of movies, especially action Bad habit: Getting angry Weakness: I trust people Strength: Family

THE 'ROWDY' IMAGE AND FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

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

CONTESTING INDEPENDENTLY

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



I married at a very young age, and it was a love marriage with Manali-one that came with its own twists and turns.

Initially, I was interested in another girl, but fate had different plans.

My wife fell in love with me, and when I realized her feelings, I made a

ny while feir in nove while the, and whilen i realized her reelings, i filade promise. I will marry you and take care of you. Her father, a close provide of Chandrabehy Maidward extension

promise: I win many you and take care or you. Her latter, a close associate of Chandrababu Naidu and a staunch supporter of the TDP, was nderstandably apprehensive, as Luce firmly aligned with VSP, and Congress

associate of Chandrababu Nation and a staunch supporter of the TDP, was understandably apprehensive, as I was firmly aligned with YSR and Congress. Despite these differences, our families came together, and the wedding was held with their consent. Today, we have four wonderful children-two boys and byo eids. My eldest con-Proteck is married and rupping a business.

tio wint men consent. Today, we have four wonderfur cinuterriwo boys at two girls. My eldest son, Prateek, is matried and running a business. My oldest develter. Mensee is else matried while Developmenteeperd develter

two yins, wy eluest son, mater, is married and rummy a business; my eldest daughter, Manasa, is also married, while Reva, my second daughter, is puraving ber undergraduate degree. My youngest, Midbieb, is in

