









## 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 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 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." 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 motorcycles, 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 creating 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 85 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

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

(Chinni), Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rama Mohana Rao, and other dignitaries released the official tournament poster at a ceremony held at the PB Siddhartha College Conference Hall on Saturday. This mega sports event is expected to attract talented young volleyball players from across the country and highlight Vijayawada's emerging role as a hub for sports and youth activities. Addressing the media, MP Kesineni Chinni stated that sports have a promising future in the state, alongside education. He mentioned that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has plans to develop a Sports City in Amaravati, along with a Sports University, to nurture talent-

ed sports persons. He also noted that the state government is preparing to host the National Games in 2027, with renovation work on stadiums already underway. The event was attended by various dignitaries, including DCEO CSSN Reddy, PB Siddhartha College Principal Dr. M. Ramesh, Junior College Principal Venkaeswaru, AP Building and Other Construction Workers Advisory Committee Chairman Gottimukkala Raghu Raju, Corporator Chennupati Usha Rani, former SAAP Chairman Dr. P. Ankamma Chowdary, School Games Federation of AP Assistant Secretary KV Radhakrishna, Krishna District (under-19) Secretary Ravikantha, and others.

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

Kishan said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge and Manmohan Singh's family that the Centre will allocate land for the memorial of Manmohan Singh as per rules and regulations applicable to all former Prime Ministers. However, the Congress is continuing its political game, he said. Kishan said that history is telling that the Congress had deceived and insulted former Prime Ministers Dr Manmohan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and former President Pranab 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.



## 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 December 26. The accused, 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 pre-meditated murder. On the night of the crime, Sambasiva Rao and Vani carried out their plan while Lakshmi was asleep. After 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. Gunadala Inspector Vasireddy Srinivas and Sub-Inspector Rakkhibh, 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 Rakkhibh for their swift and effective investigation in solving the case.



## 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 Nadu, Kerala, 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.

## SC SUB-CLASSIFICATION

## Rajiv Ranjan Mishra panel receives petitions in Machilipatnam



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

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The One-Man Commission, headed by retired IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, conducted a session at the Krishna Zilla Parishad Convention Hall in Machilipatnam on 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 the session, Rajiv 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 Department Deputy Director Shahid Babu, RDO K Swathi, DSP MD Abdul Subhani, and others were also present at the event.

## ACA announces Rs 25 lakh cash reward for Test cricketer Nitish

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Cricket 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 state-of-the-art facilities. Additionally, the ACA is renovating the Visakhapatnam 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

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 Basavapunniah 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.

new cricket academies would be opened in Anantapur and Vizianagaram in January next year. 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

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.



# The year that was: food

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

## A YEAR TO SAVOUR: FOOD MOMENTS OF 2024

As 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.

## 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".



### 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 her 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".



## INSTAGRAM VIRALS

**Vada Pav in Delhi:** A tiny stall in the heart of Delhi sent Mumbaiers 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.



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!



## CELEB VIRAL FOOD COMBOS



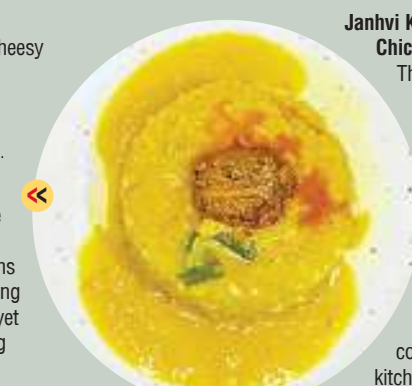
**Deepika Padukone's Ema Datshi**  
Deepika's love for the Bhutanese cheesy chilli dish *Ema Datshi* had people flocking to Tibetan restaurants to experience its fiery, creamy magic.



### 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.

**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.



## FLAVOURS THAT TRAVELLED

As we say goodbye to 2024, we revisited 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.

### 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.

### Lakshadweep #muskaavab

The smoky and succulent *Muskaavab* 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 vibrant flavours.

### Goa #porkvindaloo #crabxecxec

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



## ALL-TIME FAVOURITE FOOD STREETS OF DELHI

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.



WANDERLUST OF INDIAN DESTINATIONS


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**

**KASHMIR**




**#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.

**BANARAS**




**#gangaarti #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**



**#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.

**LAKSHADWEEP**



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

**GOA**



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

**THE YEAR THAT WAS: TRAVEL**



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

#NEWYEARGETAWAYS

FOR TROPICAL CLIMATE 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.


FOR WINTER LOVERS

**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**



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







# the pioneer agenda

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



## THE YEAR THAT WAS: GINEMA

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

Cinema 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.

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

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

about films like Pushpa 2, Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, Kalki 2898 AD, Kill, and more there has been a discernible shift in the motives behind filmmaking. While the essence of cinema as an art form endures, the industry has leaned heavily towards commercialisation. With a focus on box office numbers and global appeal, the cinematic experience has transformed into a spectacle, often prioritising grandeur and entertainment over substance. Yet, amidst the crowd of mass-market releases, there remain exceptions about the films that challenge norms, provoke thought, and carry forward the tradition of meaningful storytelling.

As we look back at the year that was, 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 will 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.



@kritisanon

### Actor of the year

Kirti 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.

### 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.  
**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**



**Laapataa 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**



**Sector 36:** Sector 36 is a chilling crime thriller showcasing Vikrant Massey as a psychotic serial killer. The 124-minute drama is a must-watch for crime genre enthusiasts, delivering an unsettling narrative.  
**RATING: 3.5/5**

### WRONG CHOICES (FLOPS)

**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 Soorai Potru, 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.



**Yodha:** Yodha an action thriller following Arun Kabyal (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 system.



### LOVED SONGS

**Aaj Ki Raat:** Madhubanti Bagchi, Divya Kumar, Sachin -Jigar

MixSingh

**Sahiba:** Jasleen Royal

**Ve Haaniyaan:** Danny Ft Avvy Sra

**Suniyan Suniyan:** Juss and

**Kaavaalaa:** by Shilpa Rao, Anirudh Ravichander

### TOP 5 WEB SERIES

**1 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.

**2 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.

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

**4 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.

**5 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.

# '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-HOP, EARNING A DEDICATED FOLLOWING**



PNS| HYDERABAD

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

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

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

As the duo looks forward, they're focused on continuing to evolve their sound. "Our music and what we say have evolved with our own experiences. As we grew up, what we wrote and how we approached music changed. We're not going to hold back from experimenting with fresh sounds and we'll explore themes that are relevant to us," Encore shares. "What we create will always remain true to who we are. That's something that will never change."

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

recalls, "The passion our fans have for us and our music is beyond anything we've ever experienced. It feels amazing to perform in front of such dedicated people. Seedhe Maut is more than just a group; it's a lifestyle." The duo is known for writing and producing their music 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 grow and break new ground in the Indian music scene, their passion for their craft remains unshaken. The duo's dedication to evolving their sound while staying true to themselves promises an exciting future ahead. For Seedhe Maut, the grind never stops and their music will always remain a reflection of their journey and their unwavering commitment to their art.

## TRENDING

PERSON

MANMOHAN SINGH

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



VIDEO

RAHA'S 'HI' TO THE PAPS



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

MOVIE

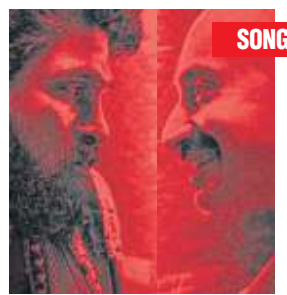
BABY JOHN



The Varun Dhawan, Keerthy Suresh and Wamiqa Gabbi-starrer, 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.



SONG

PICTURE

SANTA KEJRIWAL



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

## THE BLEEDING EYE VIRUS

# A call to action for awareness and prevention

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

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

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

**Symptoms and complications**

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

HEALTH TALK



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 com-

plications 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 Dusat, 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. Dusat adds.

Access to clean water, improved sanitation, and healthcare resources in outbreak-prone 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. Dusat explains, "Early treatment with antiviral medications, supportive care like lubricating eye drops and symptomatic relief through cold compresses can effectively manage the infection and prevent complications."

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

**Raising awareness and building resilience**

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

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

**Final thoughts**

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

# 'ROWDY' SPIRIT REDEFINED



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

## YSR'S TIMELESS ADVICE

YS Rajashekar Reddy was not just a leader but a mentor whose words have guided me through some of the most challenging moments in my life. I vividly remember the time I was appointed chairman of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh—a position that came with immense responsibility and public scrutiny. A day after a controversy erupted, with baseless allegations of land grab circulating in the media. Daily morning I used to be at the Chief Minister's residence and even I was shocked seeing the reports. I was overwhelmed and on the verge of resigning. YSR called me to his residence and offered words that still resonate with me: "In politics, controversies and accusations are inevitable. In politics, they will write worse things on family, personal life and everything. Never fear and never do a mistake. What matters is standing firm in your truth and answering your critics with your work. If you talk, strongly or don't talk at all. Don't let fear dictate your actions." 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.

## 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. Chiranjeevi, 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 loyalty over ambition and consulted YSR. His response was firm: "When I say no, it means no, because your candidacy will be seen as something I 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."



## DISILLUSIONMENT WITH YSRCP

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 two-eyes policy, he didn't need to take a U-turn. I urged him to stand firm, but by then, I had started to lose faith. Jagan hugged me, held my hand, and asked me not to leave, assuring me that he would take care of my future. But the damage was done—I had sacrificed everything, only to see the leader I believed in 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 in Telangana.



## DISCOVERING POLITICS WITH ABVP

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

## A HUMBLE BEGINNING

I was born into a large family. We were nine siblings, but one passed away early, so we eight members grew up. Being the fourth child, I was very naughty. My forefathers were landlords and they had migrated here many generations ago. My father was a government employee in GENCO. My mother is a homemaker. I had a somewhat nomadic schooling experience. It started in a private school, but soon I was moved to Kothapalli 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.

## 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

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 defining moment in my career. As a sportsman myself—a powerlifter, bodybuilder, athlete, and a sixth-level black belt in taekwondo, even holding a Guinness World Record—I understood the potential of sports in transforming lives. My tenure was not just about holding a position; it was about elevating local sports to national level. We introduced initiatives that improved infrastructure and provided opportunities for athletes across the state. The role allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the sporting community while staying connected to my larger goal of serving the people of Ramagundam.

## GREATEST DISASTER

The passing of YS Rajashekar 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 karyakarthis 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 padayatra. 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 padayatra. I vividly remember being with Sharmila and Vijayamma in Sirilla, where we were attacked by KTR and his people. Such incidents were a harsh reminder of the intensity of our fight.



## 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. TPOC 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 Yashiki, 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.



## 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

## 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 betrayal 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."



## 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.



## OPPORTUNITIES AND LOYALTY

After my departure from YSRCP, I found myself at a political crossroads. The TRS leadership reached out to me, inviting me to join their ranks. I was offered a chance to contest from Mancherial or Musheerabad, but not from Ramagundam. My home and the constituency I was determined to serve. At the time, my pride held me back—I couldn't see myself aligning with a party that I hadn't been a part of from the start. Those who were pragmatic and joined TRS, like Putta Madhu, went on to become MLAs. In hindsight, I acknowledge their strategic decisions, even as I stayed firm in my stance. My reluctance to join TRS or BJP—even after Kishan Reddy personally invited me—was rooted in my identity as a Congressman. But even Congress had its challenges. My association with Putta Madhu, who later joined TRS and rose to prominence, created friction with Sridhar Babu, who was understandably upset. I knew that if I were to return to Congress, it would have to be with his agreement.

## 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.

