

**'Release grant for Vizhinjam seaport without strings'**

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**CURRY-ING CONNECTIONS IN HYDERABAD**

9

**It's a Dulquer Salmaan show all THE WAY!**

PTI

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer  
Telangana will get a new Chief Minister and that will happen in between June 2025 to December 2025. The Congress party high command has been doing vigorous exercise in this regard and at the same time the Chief Minister aspirants are competing for the same. Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are trying for the Chief Minister position. There are chances of any one of these three becoming CM  
- Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJP leader

**DON'T MISS...**

**Hyd Police, peace panel confer...**

In a move aimed at reinforcing communal harmony, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, CV Anand, held an interactive session with members of the Central Peace and Welfare Committee from various zones across the city at TGC&CC in Banjara Hills. The meeting focused on recent sensitive religious issues and explored ways to prevent potential disturbances. Joining the discussion were senior police officials, including Vikram Singh Mann, Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) and Chairman of the ...

-PAGE: 3

**Medical mafia calling shots in ...**

The medical mafia is allegedly calling shots in the Mother and Child Health Centre (MCH) here. The hospital may appear attractive from outside, but what is happening inside is completely different. The conditions in government hospitals in Jangaon are deteriorating by the day, with both higher officials and lower-level staff exploiting the poor. Just three days ago, staff at the Jangaon area hospital allegedly collected money from patients who came for surgery, taking advantage of their ...

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**'Karnataka govt approves Tourism...**

The Karnataka government has approved the Tourism Policy 2024-29, allocating Rs 1,349 crore to develop essential infrastructure and attract international tourists, state Minister Laxmi Hebalkar announced on Friday. Speaking at the 'Karnataka Rajyotsava' celebrations here, the Women and Child Welfare Minister, who is also Udupi district in-charge, emphasised the government's commitment to transforming Karnataka into a global tourism hub through enhanced services and facilities...

-PAGE: 8

**India hand New Zealand control...**

India's batters lost the plot in a matter of 20 minutes, leaving the side at a jittery 86/4 after Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar gave the hosts the early bragging rights by dismissing New Zealand for 235 on an eventful day one of the third and final Test here on Friday. Jadeja (5/65) and Sundar (4/81) did their job to perfection but India's batting continued to be a weak link as the side lost three wickets in the space of eight balls, starting with Yashasvi Jaiswal's (30) inexplicable reverse slog sweep. With his 14th...

-SPORTS

**Modi lashes out at fake promises of the Congress**

**'TG going from bad to worse'**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp attack on the Congress party on X, targeting its governance in Telangana and other Congress-ruled states. Modi's remarks focused on Congress's 'fake promises' and accused the party of deceiving voters with promises it cannot fulfil. "Check any state where the Congress has governments like Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana. The developmental trajectory and fiscal health are turning from bad to worse. Their so-called guarantees lie unfulfilled, which is a terrible act of deceit on the people of these states. The victims of that are the poor, the young, the farmers and women, who are not only denied the benefits of these promises but also see existing schemes for them watered down," he said. In Telangana, Modi highlighted the Congress's promise to waive farmers' loans and said that they are yet to deliver on this promise. "Farmers in Telangana are still waiting for loan waivers which the Congress promised during the elec-

tion campaign," he said and said that the delay reflects poorly on the party's governance capabilities. Modi alleged that such unkept promises are not only hurting farmers but are a "terrible act of deceit" on all citizens relying on the promised support from the Congress government. Modi expanded his criticism by asserting that Congress's governance style has affected the fiscal health and development trajectory of the states it controls. He pointed out issues in other

Congress-ruled states like Karnataka, where he said that internal party conflicts are taking precedence over development. He also cited Himachal Pradesh's struggles with delayed salaries for government employees as an example of Congress's inability to manage finances effectively. Maharashtra heads into election. Modi's comments on loan waivers could resonate with the state's large farming community, many of whom have expressed frustration over delayed benefits. Modi warned voters across the country to be vigilant against the "Congress-sponsored culture of fake promises," referring to what he called a legacy of "non-governance, poor economics, and unparalleled loot." He said that Congress's approach has left many segments of the population like the poor, the youth, the farmers and women without the benefits they were promised, leaving a trail of disillusionment. He contrasted this with the stability, progress and action-driven governance offered by the BJP. People will have to be vigilant against the Congress-sponsored culture of fake promises, he said. "We saw recently how the people of Haryana rejected their lies and voted for a government that is stable, progress-oriented and action-driven," the PM said. There is a growing realisation across India that a vote for the Congress is

Continued on Page 5

**Modi expanded his criticism by asserting that Congress's governance style has affected the fiscal health and development trajectory of the states it controls**



**#TASK KTR**

**State-wide padayatra against Cong 'misgovernance' soon**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Heading widespread calls from BRS workers, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) declared that he would conduct a state-wide padayatra. "In response to the demands of our party workers, I will embark on a padayatra across the state. Telangana has suffered under Congress rule, and it is unlikely that the state can recover from the damage caused by their governance. The BRS will undoubtedly return to power," KTR said. He announced this decision during a social media interaction on Diwali, where he shared his views on the current political climate and the state of Congress rule in Telangana. Reacting to a report published in 'The Pioneer' on September 6, headlined 'AICC to take over TPCC's social media ops,' KTR said, "The administration operates from Delhi, to Delhi and for Delhi," ignoring the people of

Telangana," adding that the state's progress has regressed under Congress rule, creating a challenging situation for any future administration. During the hour-long interaction, KTR said he was disappointed with the Congress-led government and described it as a "curse" on Telangana. He criticized the Congress for failing to fulfil its promises and accused the government of deceiving the public with false promises. KTR asserted that his primary responsibility now is to stand by the people, particularly farmers affected by unfulfilled promises like loan waivers and financial support schemes. He pledged to fight transparently on behalf of the people, stating that the BRS would focus on issues affecting Telangana and challenge Congress's policies constitutionally. KTR addressed the trend of dragging family members into



Continued on Page 5

**New CM for TG between June 2025 & Dec 2025: Maheshwar**

**KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU**  
venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD  
It is not just the public who have been eagerly waiting for Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's 'political bombs' aimed at BRS leaders but also Congress leaders like TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud. However, before Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's 'political bombs' are hurled at BRS leaders, the BJP threw a teaser bomb at none other than Chief Minister Revanth Reddy saying that the Congress is going to remove Revanth from the Chief

Minister's post. BJP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said that Telangana would get a new Chief Minister between June 2025 and December 2025. The Congress high command has been engaged in a vigorous exercise regarding this and at the same time the Chief Minister hopefuls had joined the race for the same. Maheshwar said that Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are in the race for the Chief Minister's post. There are chances of any one of these three becoming the CM, Maheshwar said. Continued on Page 5



**INTERNAL REPORT**

**CM Revanth banks on weak BRS cadre**

**NAVEENA GHANATE**  
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD  
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy highlighted a crucial advantage the Congress has ahead of local body elections, as the BRS struggles with a weak cadre network. Highly placed sources said the CM recently got an internal report

saying that the BRS remains vulnerable due to its lack of grassroots strength, a weakness worsened by consecutive electoral losses in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. On the ground, BRS cadre are not very active. Minor leaders have migrated to other parties. There is no coordination among leaders. Most importantly there is no leader to coordinate things

While BRS's social media activity has increased, its on-ground presence and organizational structure appear insufficient to counteract the Congress's momentum. "On the ground, BRS cadre are not very active. Minor leaders have migrated to other parties. There is no coordination among leaders. Most importantly there is no leader to coordinate things. The social media wing may be strong but the ground-level cadre network is not," sources indicated. On the other hand, the BJP has not focussed on Telangana after the Lok Sabha polls. The BRS has been planning to strengthen its party framework, including potential organizational restructuring and has seen only limited progress. Continued on Page 5

**Six momo sellers held for culpable homicide after woman's death**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Six individuals operating stalls selling momos were arrested in connection with the death of a 31-year-old woman and the hospitalisation of several others, including children due to food poisoning. The suspects, all carrying on the momos business, allegedly served contaminated food at a local vegetable market last



**TG govt allocates Rs. 4,791 cr for power subsidies**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Telangana government has approved the transfer of Rs 4,791 crore in power subsidies to support various sectors. Transco, the State's power transmission corporation, announced on Friday that these funds are allocated to cover subsidies from November 2024 to

**Manappuram reports misappropriation of gold assets at TG branch**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Manappuram Finance Limited has reported a case of misappropriation involving gold assets at its Allampally branch in the Kukatpally region, Telangana. The incident, which came to light on October 16, 2024, involves the alleged misappropriation of 63

packets of gold valued at Rs 1.28 crore, by the branch head, identified as Vishal. According to the company, Vishal, who was responsible for the safe custody of the branch's assets, breached company protocols, leading to the theft of the gold packets. An investigation has been launched, with the case registered at the

Vikrabad police station. A special team, led by DSP Sreenivas Reddy and supervised by SP Narayana Reddy, is handling the case. The investigative team has successfully apprehended Vishal in Belagavi, Karnataka. However, recovery efforts have so far yielded only six of the 63 stolen packets. Continued on Page 5

**Ponnam asks people to cooperate with comprehensive survey**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar wrote an open letter to the people on Friday asking them to participate in the household survey - 'A social, economic, educational, employment, political and caste survey' which will be carried out from November 6. He said the survey will be useful for getting the benefits of all kinds

of government schemes in the future and that it is like a mega health check-up providing information. He appealed to everyone, who is collecting information, and every individual of Telangana, who is giving information, to participate in this survey. Ponnam said the survey is going to be conducted as per the word of Rahul Gandhi and it is the first of its kind across

Continued on Page 5

**A LA CHANDRABABU...**

**Revanth plans to instal tallest Gandhi Statue in Hyd**

**Gandhi Sarovar to surpass Statue of Unity in Gujarat**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
The Telangana government has made ambitious plans to transform Babu Ghat on the banks of the Musi River into a symbol of global peace and unity. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently announced the installation of the world's tallest statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Babu Ghat, along with the construction of a bridge-cum-barrage and a Gandhi Ideology Centre. The Telangana Assembly currently houses the state's tallest Gandhi statue, standing 22 feet tall. Unveiled in 1999 during



**The Telangana Assembly currently houses the state's tallest Gandhi statue, standing 22 feet tall. Unveiled in 1999 during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure, this bronze statue bears the inscription 'My Life is My Message'**

Chandrababu Naidu's tenure, this bronze statue carries the message, 'My Life is My Message.' Situated at the confluence of the Musi and Esa rivers, flowing from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, Babu Ghat is slated to be transformed into "Gandhi Sarovar." The area will reflect Gandhi's principles, with the establishment of an Ideology Centre and an Education Hub, offering courses on communication skills, ethics, and values. In 2018, Gujarat set a global record with the 182-meter Statue of Unity dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Hyderabad now

aims to establish a Gandhi statue surpassing this benchmark. Discussions focus on whether Gandhi should be portrayed in a meditative sitting posture or standing like marching during the Dandi March. The government plans to gather inputs from intellectuals, leaders and representatives of all backgrounds to ensure a broad consensus. In line with the Chief Minister's directives, the government expedited the international-level development of Babu Ghat. Revanth envisaged Babu Ghat as a space representing fraternity, spiritual values and education. Continued on Page 5

**Govt to set up model markets in all districts: Tummala**

**'Take action immediately if irregularities found in cotton procurement'**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
The government is going to set up model markets in every district on an experimental basis, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao said. He directed officials to prepare proposals regarding this. Tummala conducted a review meeting with cooperative marketing officials at the Secretariat on Friday. He discussed with officials the steps to be taken up in PACS and Marketing Yards. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the maintenance of godowns, which were under markets,



Continued on Page 5

# Is Law & Order in a shambles or in the wrong 'hand'?

Unbeknownst to all of us, has the Law and Order situation in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad deteriorated to such an extent that it is on the verge of total collapse? Is there widespread unrest of unimaginable scale brewing under the surface among the residents of the twin cities against the state government that has the potential to erupt violently, destroying the lives and properties of its citizens on an unimaginable scale? Is it the police assessment that the threat to the lives and properties of Telangana citizens is so grave that even extraordinary measures sacrificing their fundamental rights over an extended period are a small price to pay for ensuring peace?

Nothing that the average resident of the twin cities is aware of points to such an alarming situation prevailing

in the twin cities. Yet, the action of CV Anand, Commissioner of Police of Hyderabad, ominously points to such a precarious Law and Order situation prevailing in the twin cities. Otherwise, why would a senior IPS officer like CV Anand, who has a reputation for being a sincere, no-nonsense officer, invoke section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), popularly known as section 144 under the prior Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), to prohibit every gathering of five or more persons anywhere in the twin cities? That, too, for an extended period spanning more than a month - 32 days, to be precise?

The gravity of the danger posed by the suspected threat to the twin cities' Law and Order becomes apparent once we understand the breadth of the draconian restrictions

**The Order issued by the Commissioner of Police restricting gatherings of five or more persons in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad for over a month points to only one thing: our police organisation is in such a shambles that the only way it feels confident of maintaining Law and Order in the twin cities is by curtailing the fundamental rights of every citizen for an extended period.**

imposed by the Police Commissioner's Order. The Order dated 27th October directly restricts more than 1.2 crore citizens' fundamental rights of liberty, association, and movement while indirectly impinging on their right to livelihood. That is why the powers under section 163 of BNSS (section 144 of now replaced Cr PC) are never exercised casually. They are exercised only under extraordinary and urgent circumstances when standard police methods are deemed inadequate in ensuring peace.

These powers are also exercised surgically, restricted to specific areas, and for very short periods spanning a few hours to a few days. The aim is to ensure that the suspension of fundamental rights is limited to the fewest people and for the shortest time possible.

Our past experiences make it easy to assume that this oppressive order resulted from our political rulers' dictatorial tendencies. The earlier Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS)



KISHORE POREDDY

leaders, who ruled until last year, tried to eliminate all political opposition and stifle dissent by closing down even Dharna Chowk. The Congress party ruling the state currently has a track record of suspending all the fundamental rights of all Indians by imposing an Emergency. However, one has

to remember that Commissioner CV Anand has issued the order in question by exercising his magisterial powers and not police powers, making it less prone to being dictated by political masters. Also, given his image as an upright officer, it would be unfair to the current Commissioner to assume he has suspended the fundamental rights of so many citizens for no reason but to please his political masters.

Again, given our past experiences, it is easy to assume that the order, issued just a couple of days before Deepavali, was aimed at restricting the Hindus' fundamental right to religion. The order explicitly exempts police and military persons on duty, funeral processions, flying squads of the education department and those with prior permission; it did not list participation in religious

festivities like Deepavali as exempt. To his credit, the Commissioner quickly clarified in a tweet on the social media platform "X" (previously Twitter) that his order was not aimed at curtailing Deepavali celebrations.

"When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth," says Arthur Conan Doyle through Sherlock Holmes. If the order was not motivated by political or religious reasons, the only explanation must obviously be the one mentioned by the Commissioner in his tweet. He cites intelligence reports that certain groups are planning agitations and surprise raids on government offices, and the order to curtail the fundamental rights of more than a crore residents of Telangana was given "to give legal backing

to police action in arresting such elements or detaining them".

The Commissioner's reasoning is shocking, to say the least. It can imply only two things. One, he is unaware of the numerous laws already in the books the police could use against agitators, even preventively, reflecting poorly on his competence. Or, two, that the police organisation in the twin cities is in such a shambles that the Commissioner believes only draconian measures curtailing the fundamental rights of every resident of Hyderabad and Secunderabad for a long, long period is the only way to ensure peace. In either case, the state's citizens deserve an explanation from the Chief Minister, who holds the Law and Order portfolio.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

## Raj Bhavan celebrates Foundation Day of 8 States, 5 Union Territories

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a vibrant celebration under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, Telangana Raj Bhavan marked the Foundation Day of eight States and five Union Territories at Samskruthi Hall, Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad, on November 1. Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma was the chief guest.

November 1st is celebrated nationally as the Foundation Day of the eight states - Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu - and five Union Territories: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

Governor Varma extended warm greetings to the people of these states and Union



Territories, commending the cultural and student exchange programmes under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. He remarked on the unifying power of music and dance, which transcend language and cultural boundaries, fostering a deeper sense of national integration.

He also applauded the artists for their captivating perfor-

mances that enriched the celebration.

In his address, the Governor noted, "This initiative has created a beautiful confluence of cultures and traditions, furthering our unity as a nation."

Attendees were treated to a spread of culinary delights representing the rich flavours of the eight states and five Union

Territories, showcasing their unique food heritage.

The cultural programme included a variety of performances, such as: Andhra Pradesh: Kuchipudi dance by Padma Sri Padmaja Reddy and troupe Kerala: Thiruvathira and Mohiniyattam Haryana: Haryana folk dance Karnataka: Gadag Kala Tanda folk dance Punjab: Bhanga and traditional martial arts Tamil Nadu: Veena recital by Keerthivasini, Murugan Shabdham and Bharatanatyam performances by S Sai Sahasra Vani and R Sri Rakshitha

The celebration was attended by Principal Secretary to the Governor B Venkatesham, Tejdeep Kaur Menon; VC Sajjan, MD, TGRTC, Joint Secretary J Bhavani Shankar; other senior officials of Raj Bhavan, and delegates from the eight states and five Union Territories.

## Organise DCC meetings on Nov 2, take caste census to people: TPCC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The caste census will be undertaken by the Congress government and the programme will start in villages from November 6.

The caste census is AICC leader Rahul Gandhi's idea and as per the directions of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress is conducting a large-scale campaign on caste census.

It may be recalled that on Wednesday, the CM, Revanth Reddy, and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka gave directions to the party's ranks on caste census at a meeting held at the Gandhi Bhavan under the chairmanship of TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud. The TPCC said in a statement on Friday that caste census information is sent on behalf of the party.

## Animal Husbandry Dept organising 2,210 free veterinary camps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Department of Animal Husbandry is organising 2,210 free veterinary womb camps with the help of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Special Chief Secretary Sabayaschi Ghosh announced the initiative during the launch of a brochure on the 'Free Veterinary Camps' at the Secretariat, emphasising the government's commitment to boosting dairy productivity through targeted support.

The camps which would function from November 25 to February 28, 2025, aim to provide essential veterinary services and guidance to farmers, enhancing the health and productivity of cattle in all villages. Dairy farming has achieved substantial progress in the state, due to the government's continuous support and investment, Ghosh said.

The government allotted Rs 1,980 crore in the 2024-25

budget for the Department of Animal Husbandry, stressing the importance placed on dairy development by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

"These camps are not just for providing free medical care. They represent our broader commitment to increasing milk yield, improving livestock health and educating farmers on best dairy farming practices," Ghosh said.

The services offered in these camps will address the common medical problems of cattle. For long-term non-pregnant cattle, treatments including artificial insemination, eye tests, anti-nutritional drugs for calves, vitamin injections and mineral salt mixtures are being administered.

The comprehensive range of services also focuses on enhancing milk production through scientific nutrition. "Proper reproductive management is crucial in dairy farming," noted Ghosh. "If a cow

matures and conceives within 2.5 to 3 months after weaning, it allows the farmer to get a calf each year, thereby improving milk yield swiftly."

In addition to medical services, the camps will include educational components in 300 selected villages, where exhibitions of calves born through artificial insemination and milk yield competitions will take place.

Awareness sessions on the benefits of artificial insemination and breeding high-yielding dairy cattle are also planned, providing farmers with valuable insights into improving herd genetics.

The initiative addresses a critical aspect of dairy farming — preventing reproductive health issues that can hinder milk production. Ghosh highlighted the significance of treating uterine diseases promptly to prevent fat loss in dairy cattle, which can impact their reproduction abilities.

## Somasila to Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar to Srisailem cruises to begin today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The much-awaited cruise journeys from Somasila to Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar to Srisailem are set to be launched from November 2, according to Telangana Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao.

These cruises will take travellers through the scenic beauty of the Krishna River, nestled amidst the lush green landscapes of the Nallamala forests. The Telangana Tourism department has made all necessary arrangements for a memorable water journey experience, he announced.

For those interested in embarking on this journey, tickets can be booked through the Telangana Tourism department's official website, <https://tourism.telangana.gov.in/>. The website provides comprehensive details on the tour packages, prices, and booking

procedures, offering convenience for travelers looking to secure their spots.

The cruise journey offers both single and round-trip options from Somasila and Nagarjuna Sagar to Srisailem. The ticket prices remain the same for both routes, providing flexibility for travellers. For a single journey, tickets are priced at Rs 2,000 for adults and Rs 1,600 for children. The round-trip journey, which includes a return option, is priced at Rs 3,000 for adults and Rs 2,400 for children. Along with the cruise, the package includes tea and snacks, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for all passengers.

With these new cruise services, the Telangana Tourism department aims to showcase the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the region, creating a unique and enriching travel experience on the Krishna River.

## People burst Diwali crackers but Ponguleti's political bombs were not seen: Raghunandan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP MP, M. Raghunandan Rao, said that people burst crackers on roads to celebrate Diwali. However, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's political bombs did not explode.

He said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao has no confidence in his father KCR, sister Kavitha and brother-in-law and demanded that the Congress government should reveal footage of KTR's brother-in-law's farmhouse party. The truth will come out then, he added.

Criticising Korutla MLA Sanjay for stating that women consume liquor in Telangana, Raghunandan asked Sanjay to explain whether women consumed liquor in Telangana.

Lashing out at KTR for stating that he would conduct a padayatra, Raghunandan said that KTR started saying that he would launch a padayatra only after losing power. KTR is not taking out his padayatra for the sake of the people but for the sake of his money, power and farmhouse.

He asked KTR who is not in a position to bear the Congress government's 10-month rule, to reveal how the people of Telangana tolerated BRS's rule, which was similar to Congress's rule for the last 10 years.

He asked KTR to explain whether the people suffered any loss as KCR has confined himself to his farmhouse for the last 10 months. He said that people won't believe KTR even if he conducts a knee yatra.

## Cong, BRS padayatras intended to block BJP's growth in TG: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the Congress and BRS padayatras are intended to block the BJP's growth in Telangana.

He said the Congress is using the Musi Project and the BRS public issues to conduct padayatras to block the BJP's growth in the state.

Speaking to the media at Bejjanki in Manakondur Assembly constituency on Friday, Sanjay mocked the padayatras of the Congress and the BRS and asked BRS Working President KT Rama Rao to take up a padayatra to tell the people about their harassment and deceptions.

He asked the CM to conduct a padayatra and tell the people that he is not implementing the assurances given to them.

Sanjay said that the CM is

speaking about the Musi Project only for the sake of a contract to be given to Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law Robert Vadra instead of implementing promises like the six guarantees, fee reimbursement and others using the Rs 1.5 lakh crore being spent on the Musi Project.

He said that it is a wonder that the BRS, which blocked his padayatra is now contemplating conducting a padayatra. He said that KCR is not coming out from his farmhouse. KCR also did not come out when Group-I, HYDRABAD, Musi, floods and employee issues arose. KCR comes out when his family members face trouble. The people hated KTR's arrogance, he said.

Sanjay said that Congress's rule is similar to KCR's rule as the Congress government is also engaging in diversion politics like KCR to hide its failures.

## Maheshwar speaking as if Cong is in his hands: Adluri Laxman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJLP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy has been speaking as if the entire Congress party is in his hands, Government Whip Adluri Laxman Kumar said.

It is said to see Maheshwar talking about changing the Chief Minister and Rahul Gandhi denying appointment to Revanth, he said and added that Maheshwar is just trying to increase his media footprint. Maheshwar's actions resemble spitting at the sky, he said.

In a video message issued on Friday, Laxman said that Maheshwar is talking about corruption scandals although the Congress has been in power only for nine months.

He threw a challenge at Maheshwar to order a probe against the CM using Central agencies if he had the guts.

Laxman said the BJP gov-

ernment has not conducted a single inquiry against the BRS admin which had been involved in many scandals.

He warned Maheshwar that the public would teach him a lesson if he tried to launch a Goebbalian campaign against the CM. If you want to become the Telangana BJP President, go to Nagpur and meet RSS leaders, Laxman told Maheshwar.

"All MLAs under the leadership of the CM are working on public issues. No problem with Revanth's leadership. All ministers and MLAs are with the CM. The BJP is trying to topple governments," Laxman said.

He warned Maheshwar to control his tongue and added that Maheshwar is fit to become a parrot astrologer. Maheshwar can practice astrology under the tree in front of the Secretariat, he said.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Pratipada: Nov 01 06:16 PM to Nov 02 08:22 PM  
Dwitiya: Nov 02 08:22 PM to Nov 03 10:05 PM  
Nakshatram: Vishaka: Nov 02 03:31 AM to Nov 03 05:58 AM  
Anuradha: Nov 03 05:58 AM to Nov 04 08:04 AM  
Rahukalam: 9:09 AM to 10:34 AM  
Yamagandam: 1:24 PM to 2:50 PM  
Varijyam: 10:19 AM to 12:03 PM  
Gulika: 6:18 AM to 7:43 AM  
Amritkalam: 08:16 PM to 10:02 PM  
Bhijji Muhurtham: 11:36 AM to 12:22 PM  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Showers  
Temp: 31°  
Humidity: 70%  
Sunrise: 6:15 AM  
Sunset: 5:44 PM  
Updated: November 1, 2024 5:00 PM

**NOT JUST FOR SUMMER**  
**'Brat' is Collins Dictionary's word of the year**  
PNS ■ LONDON  
Collins Dictionary has declared "brat" - the album title that became a summer-living ideal - its 2024 word of the year.  
The word, used by singer Charli XCX as the title of her sixth studio album, has been defined as "characterised by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude." Collins lexicographers said on Friday that in the phrase "brat summer," it became "one of the most talked about words of 2024."  
"More than a hugely successful album, 'brat' is a cultural phenomenon that has resonated with people globally, and brat summer established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life," the dictionary

**Govt primary schools to operate half-day schedule for 3 weeks from Nov 6**  
PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
Starting November 6, all government primary schools across Telangana will operate on a half-day schedule, functioning from 9 am to 1 pm for a span of three weeks. This adjustment aligns with the commencement of the statewide caste census, which will see numerous teachers and educational staff members drafted to assist with the survey process.  
According to the directive issued by the School Education Department, the adjusted school timings are intended to facilitate the involvement of educational staff in the census operations. After the mid-day meal, which will be served as per

**BRS MLAs call BCs' panel as 'Congress Commission'**  
PNS ■ HYDERABAD  
During a heated public hearing on Friday, BRS MLAs Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay and Padi Kaushik Reddy strongly criticised the Backward Classes (BC) Commission and accused it of operating like a "Congress Commission."  
The hearing, held at the Karimnagar Collectorate auditorium, saw representatives of political parties and BC communities gathering in large numbers to air their opinions on local body reservations.  
The BRS leaders said that despite the public turnout, the commission failed to give due respect to elected representatives.  
"The court may not have valued the BC Commission, but we attended out of respect for it. Yet, they refused us a

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## CITY EVENTS

### Halloween with BashBuzz Events

Prepare for a night of terror and thrill, where reality and nightmares blur. The Master of Mystic Falls awaits, ready to challenge your courage in a spooktacular adventure!

Spine-Chilling Live Music: Feel the eerie vibes with Melotrance and top DJs spinning haunting beats all night long.

Costume Contest: Don your best spooky outfit and stand a chance to win thrilling prizes! Scavenger Hunt of Shadows: Unlock secret missions, solve eerie clues, and win exclusive rewards in this haunted scavenger hunt.

Halloween-Themed Cocktails: Sip on creepy cocktails crafted by Hyderabad's coolest bartenders. Beware-they're as delicious as they are spine-tingling!

#### Venue

Akan, Hyderabad  
Dress Code: Spooky, scary, or creative Halloween costumes!  
November 2, 7:30 pm onwards.

### Abhishek Upmanyu Live

Abhishek takes you on a hilarious journey through the everyday quirks and absurdities of life. With his unique observational humour, he takes everything from relationships and technology to Indian culture and more, offering a fresh perspective on the world we live in.

#### Venue

Shilpakala Vedika  
November 2 and 3

### Texture art workshop

This workshop is suitable for artists of all levels, from beginners looking to explore new artistic horizons to seasoned artists seeking to enhance their skills and repertoire.

#### Venue

Multiple venues in Hyderabad  
from November 2 to December 8

### 66th Annual Art Festival of SICA-2024

South Indian Cultural Association presents:  
November 2: Vocal concert by Prince Ravi Varma  
November 3: Vocal by Sudha Ranganathan  
November 4: Vocal by Rudrapatnam Brothers  
November 5: Vocal by Sikkil C Gurucharan  
November 6: Vocal by Sankaran Nambudhri  
November 7: Violin concert by A Kanyakumari  
November 8: Dance ballet by Deepika Reddy

#### Venue

Main Hall, Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad  
6.30 pm on all days

### Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

#### Venue

Shilpakala Vedika  
November 2

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 2, 2024

03

## '100% accurate survey on socio-economic conditions from Nov 6'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising that a 100% accurate survey on socio-economic conditions will start on November 6, Principal Secretary to the Municipal and Urban Development Department, Dana Kishore, on Friday, participated as the chief guest in the training programme at the Gaurishankar Community Hall in Banjara Hills for supervisors and enumerators involved in the Khairatabad Zone survey.

Addressing the gathering, Dana Kishore said this comprehensive survey will carefully record the social and economic conditions of various groups without errors.

He mentioned that 21,000 enumerators, along with resource persons (RPs), will take part in the survey, with one supervisor assigned for every 10 enumerators to ensure accuracy.

The survey aims to help government schemes reach the poorest and most marginalised individuals.

To ensure clarity in data collection, he advised municipal officials to have enumerators practice with photocopies of survey forms before starting fieldwork, improving understanding and accuracy.

Additional Commissioners K Shivkumar, Sneha Shabarish, Chandrakanth Reddy, Zonal Commissioner Anurag Jayanti and Deputy Commissioner Rajanikant also attended the training session.



Hyderabad Commission of Police CV Anand addresses the Peace Committee in Hyderabad on Friday

## Hyd Police, peace panel confer to address religious sensitivities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a move aimed at reinforcing communal harmony, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, CV Anand, held an interactive session with members of the Central Peace and Welfare Committee from various zones across the city at TGC&CC in Banjara Hills. The meeting focused on recent sensitive religious issues and explored ways to prevent potential disturbances.

Joining the discussion were senior police officials, including Vikram Singh Mann, Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) and Chairman of the Peace Committee, along with P Viswa Prasad, Additional Commissioner of Traffic, and Deputy

Commissioners.

Approximately 350 committee members, including general secretary Srikishan Sharma and patron Hafiz Muzaffar Hussain, participated in the session. They collectively condemned any attempts to disrupt communal harmony and stressed the importance of respectful dialogue among Hyderabad's diverse communities. The group acknowledged the role of the Peace Committee in bridging communication between residents and law enforcement to effectively resolve grievances and prevent misunderstandings.

During the meeting, Anand called for a proactive approach in identifying and addressing the potential flashpoints. He encouraged the committee members to serve as 'ambassadors of peace' within their communities, fostering trust and cooperation. Anand emphasised, "Hyderabad's peaceful atmosphere is a collective responsibility and with the committee's support, we can ensure timely intervention during any unexpected situation."

The committee proposed a range of initiatives to promote communal understanding. These include community engagement programmes that promote tolerance and respect for diversity, educational workshops aimed at combating misinformation and awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of rumours that may stoke communal tensions. The group also discussed plans for workshops that bring together people from different back-

grounds to engage in constructive discussions and build mutual respect.

Furthermore, the Peace Committee pledged to support law enforcement efforts during upcoming festivals, ensuring events proceed smoothly without disruptions. Members also expressed a commitment to combating anti-social activities that harm the social fabric of the city.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to maintaining Hyderabad as a city where all communities coexist peacefully. The committee members affirmed their dedication to upholding the city's reputation as a safe, inclusive space and pledged ongoing collaboration with law enforcement to address future challenges.



With no action from the Municipal Corporation, Sai Teja and his friend Srinivas fill the gaps with stones and sand on Pragathi Nagar Road on Friday.

## Uneven road causes motorbike skidding

Techie activists say officials were unresponsive to complaints

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An uneven road in Pragathi Nagar is causing motorbike skidding and inconvenience to commuters. Techie activist Sai Teja said it has been four days since a formal complaint was filed with the Nizampet Municipal Corporation, but there has been no response.

He explained that the road was repaired long ago but left uneven, leading to accidents involving two-wheelers. Sai Teja noted that despite multiple messages and reminder calls, officials have not responded.

Seeing no action, Sai Teja and his friend Srinivas took the initiative on Friday to fill gaps with stones and sand. Sai Teja emphasised that despite their efforts with limited resources, the municipal corporation has the means to do much more with every resource at hand. He warned that if the road is not repaired soon, it could lead to serious accidents for motorists.

## Special buses arranged for Sri Kurumurthy Swamy Jathara

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To facilitate devotees visiting the renowned pilgrimage site of Sri Kurumurthy Swamy in Telangana, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has arranged special buses from Hyderabad. The main event of the Jathara, the Uddala Utsavam, is scheduled for November 8, with a high influx of devotees expected between November 7 and 9. Considering the anticipated crowd, TGSRTC has made special bus services available from Hyderabad on these days. The buses will travel from MGBS via Aramghar and Mahabubnagar to the Jathara site. To enhance convenience, TGSRTC is offering advance reservation for these special buses, which can be booked through the website tgsrtc.in. The TGSRTC management has encouraged devotees to use these special buses for a safe and comfortable journey to visit Sri Kurumurthy Swamy.

## ENCOURAGING YOUNGSTERS' CONTRIBUTION

## Nominations sought for first-ever Governor's Awards for Excellence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Encouraging youngsters' exemplary contributions and building trust, Raj Bhavan invites nominations for the Governor's Awards for Excellence 2024. This marks the first-ever initiative in the country by Raj Bhavan, based on the idea of Governor Jishnu Dev Varma.

Addressing the media at Raj Bhavan on Friday, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Burra Venkatesham, said these awards will recognise individuals, institutions, organisations and trusts within Telangana for their contribution over the past five years.

He announced that the awards will be presented in four categories: Environment protection, Welfare of physically challenged (Divyangans), Sports & Games, and Culture. Nominations will be carefully reviewed by a special selection



Principal Secretary to the Governor of Telangana, Burra Venkatesham, addressing the media at Raj Bhavan on Friday

jury, including K Padmanabhaiah, chairman of the Court of Governors of ASCI, and others.

Venkatesham stated that awardees will receive Rs 2,00,000, a citation, and a medal from the Governor and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the Republic Day, January 26, 2025. He noted that applications can be submitted online at

governor.telangana.gov.in or sent offline to the Principal Secretary.

Venkatesham concluded by highlighting that Raj Bhavan sees this programme as a people-inclusive initiative promoting environmental protection and announced that Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is launching this first-ever initiative himself and inviting others to join.

## IT Minister launches developmental projects in Boduppall Corporation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Launching development projects in several divisions of Boduppall Municipal Corporation, with a total budget of about Rs 7 crore, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu emphasised that the government is not a government of words but of deeds. "We are implementing the six guarantees given in the manifesto," he added.

Speaking on the occasion on Friday, Sridhar Babu said that the Congress party is working for the development of Greater Hyderabad by allocating Rs 10,000 crore in the

Telangana State budget.

Stating that the previous government had failed to allocate funds, he noted that the government will take up the issue of the Wakf Board in Boduppall and the issue of SC lands and will take the advice of legal experts on these issues.

The Minister added that the Congress government will ensure that people living in Musi catchment areas do not face such problems.

Local MP Etela Rajender, Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy, Mayor Ajay Yadav, Congress in-charge Vajresh Yadav and former MLA Sudheer Reddy also participated.



## Govt drives oil palm expansion benefiting farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant push towards self-sufficiency in edible oil production, the Telangana government has taken substantial steps to expand oil palm cultivation across the State.

Recognising the need for crop diversification and self-reliance, the government has implemented the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), a Central government-sponsored initiative. This expansion is taking place across 31 districts, with permissions granted to 14 companies to boost oil palm cultivation.

Telangana's commitment to oil palm cultivation began in 1993, with the establishment of the first plantation in erst-while Khammam. Since then, the Telangana Oilseed (TG Oilseed), a State-run body, has overseen significant advance-

ments, extending the crop to eight districts. As of the 2023-24 season, over 2.27 lakh acres have been dedicated to oil palm, benefiting approximately 34,338 farmers and constituting 61% of the State's total oil palm area.

To meet growing demands, TG Oilfed has established nurseries, currently hosting enough seedlings to cover 70,000 acres. With advanced processing mills in Aswaraopeta and Apparaopeta, which can handle up to 120 tonnes per hour, the infrastructure is in place to support this expansion. Additional mills are being planned for two other districts, further enhancing capacity.

An official delegation, led by Agriculture Minister Tummal Nageswara Rao, had visited Malaysia to study best practices in oil palm cultivation, pest control and processing technology.

## Students celebrate enhanced diet and cosmetic charges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Students of the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) are celebrating a thoughtful Diwali gift from the Telangana government, which had announced an increase in diet and cosmetic charges across its campuses.

This enhancement, aimed at uplifting the health and well-being of students, has sparked joy and gratitude within the TSWREIS community, as students and staff alike acknowledge the positive impact on their daily lives. This increase in charges is set to aid approximately 7,65,705 students across Telangana, providing them with better resources for both dietary and personal care needs, aligning with the government's commitment to enhance the welfare of students in State-run hostels.

The increased allocations will benefit students from Class 3 through post-graduate levels, providing improved nutrition and personal care resources essential for fostering a more supportive educational environment. Students extended their heartfelt thanks to the Chief Minister, appreciating his dedication to mak-



ing education more accessible and comprehensive.

Following this announcement, State Principal Secretary to Education B Venkatesham, along with the Secretaries of various welfare departments, met with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to express their gratitude for this impactful decision. They shared their appreciation for the implementation of the Official Committee's recommendations, which advocated for an increase in diet charges.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed the officials to make necessary adjustments in the diet provided in hostels, ensuring that students receive nutritious meals daily. He also instructed that the new diet plan be introduced within 10 days to promptly benefit the students.

Expressing the collective gratitude of TSWREIS, Secretary Alugu Varshini noted, "This enhancement will significantly improve the health and well-being of our students and will enable us to uphold higher standards in our institutions."

The announcement has uplifted the spirits on campuses, with students marking the occasion as a step forward in Telangana's vision for inclusive, quality education.

The Diwali celebrations saw TSWREIS students in a festive mood, celebrating the government's support as an affirmation of their educational journey.

This increase in charges is set to enhance health outcomes, while also creating a more conducive learning environment within TSWREIS institutions, aligning with the State's continued commitment to student welfare and educational excellence.



## 384 grievance applications received at Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 384 grievance applications were received in Prajavani on Friday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan.

According to the officials, 255 applications were received for minority welfare, 60 for the panchayati raj & rural development department, 15 for revenue department, 24 electricity department, and 31 for other departments.

Deputy Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, G Chinna Reddy and Special Officer of Public Administration, D Divya, participated in the programme and received the applications.

## Pro-Kabaddi League Telugu Titans celebrate Diwali

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telugu Titans team from the Pro-Kabaddi League 2024 took a break from their busy schedule to celebrate Diwali in Hyderabad.

Matches for the league were being played energetically at the GMCB Indoor Stadium. Led by Captain Pawan Sehrawat and coached by Krishan Hooda, players Krishan Dhull and Ashish Narwal joined the celebrations, enjoying one of India's most loved festivals.

The Bengal Warriors also celebrated Diwali, with Captain Fazel Atrachali, Maninder Singh, Nitin Dhanekar and Sushil Kambekar coming together for the festivities.



Pro-Kabaddi League 2024 (PKL) Telugu Titans along with other teams celebrating Diwali in Hyderabad

## Medical mafia calling shots in Jangaon MCH?

It is alleged that patients are forced to undertake tests in private labs, though the hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic devices

PNS ■ JANGAON

The medical mafia is allegedly calling shots in the Mother and Child Health Centre (MCH) here. The hospital may appear attractive from outside, but what is happening inside is completely different.

The conditions in government hospitals in Jangaon are deteriorating by the day, with both higher officials and lower-level staff exploiting the poor. Just three days ago, staff at the Jangaon area hospital allegedly collected money from patients who came for surgery, taking advantage of their vulnerable situation. Now, in a similar vein, another incident has come to light at the Mother and Child Health Centre in Champ Hills, revealing the presence of a medical mafia.

Poor people approach government hospitals for better treatment, but at the Jangaon MCH Hospital, it is alleged that



only those who can afford to pay receive services. The state government has been allocating huge money for these hospitals to ensure that the poor get free medical services.

Patients who come in for deliveries or other gynaecological issues find that although all necessary medical equipment is available, it is merely for show, as no tests are conducted. They are forced to undertake tests in private laborato-

ries. The hospital staff allegedly colludes with private labs and clinics, ensuring that required tests are not performed within the hospital. The labs may exist in name only, but they often claim that equipment is not in proper condition, pushing patients to pay for tests outside before they can receive any operations or treatment, patients complained.

Government hospitals are

supposed to provide treatment, medication, and surgery free of charge, but at the MCH, it is a different story. Patients and their relatives are allegedly forced to dig into their pockets for medical care.

A resident of Jangaon took his wife to the MCH for delivery two days ago. She was kept under observation overnight, but when it came time for surgery the next day, he was told that essential items like injections, gloves, blood tests, and IV fluids were not available.

He was handed a piece of paper instructing him to buy everything outside. With no other option, he ended up spending Rs 5,000 on tests and others.

People are appealing to the district administration to order a probe into the alleged medical mafia and take strict action to prevent such incidents from happening again.

## DRI seizes Rs 7 cr worth marijuana at Hyderabad Airport

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a significant crackdown on drug smuggling, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), intercepted two Indian passengers arriving from Bangkok at Shamshabad International Airport on Thursday.



Marijuana

Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officials conducted a detailed search of the passengers' check-in luggage and discovered 13 vacuum-sealed transparent packets concealed within chocolate packets branded as 'Kellogg's'.

Upon examination, a greenish, lumpy substance was found in each packet. Using a field test kit, the officers confirmed the substance as marijuana.

In total, 7.096 kilograms of hydroponic marijuana, valued at approximately Rs 7 crore in the illicit market, was seized.

The passengers were subsequently arrested under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and remanded to judicial custody. Further investigations into the case are ongoing, as DRI intensifies efforts to curb drug trafficking activities in the lead-up to Diwali.



Container from which the police seized marijuana in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district on Thursday

## Telugu film Pushpa-inspired smuggling racket busted

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

The movie *Pushpa* has gained a huge craze not just in Telugu states. The scenes depicting sandalwood smuggling in the film have captivated audiences. A particular scene in the film shows sandalwood being smuggled in a water tanker.

Interestingly, a real-life incident mirrored this scene, but instead of sandalwood, it involved marijuana smugglers. They had set up a similar plan, but they were caught red-handed by the police.

In the Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district near Wankidi, an interstate check post has been established in view of elections to the Maharashtra Assembly.

On Thursday evening, the police conducted checks at the check post.

During this process, a tanker approached suspiciously from Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh and it was heading towards Maharashtra. The police stopped the

vehicle for inspection and the true nature of the cargo was exposed.

Inside the middle section of the tanker, specially made compartments were found containing marijuana. A total of 290 kilograms of marijuana was seized, valued at approximately Rs 72.50 lakh, according to the police.

The driver, Balveer Singh, was arrested, and the police stated they would track down the main culprits behind the operation. The police team that confiscated the marijuana was commended by the District Superintendent of Police DV Srinivas Rao.

The container truck was stopped for inspection due to the driver's suspicious behaviour. Inside the container, 145 packets of marijuana, each weighing two kilograms, were found, totalling 290 kilograms.

The police confirmed the value of the seized marijuana and the arrest of driver Balveer Singh, while they continue their search for the gang behind this smuggling racket.

## TG Food Commission mulls strengthening food security measures

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Food Commission, led by Chairman Goli Srinivas Reddy, convened a crucial meeting on October 29 at the Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex here.

Attended by District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGROs) from 33 districts, along with officials from multiple departments, the gathering aimed to reinforce the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013, and address related grievances.

The meeting focused on various issues, including the need for monitoring and improving services at Anganwadi centres, as well as enhancing transparency in fair price shops. Chairman Srinivas Reddy highlighted the importance of visiting Anganwadi centres, constituting food committees, and ensuring the display of contact information for easy grievance redressal. He also emphasised placing complaint boxes and conducting hemoglobin (HB) level monitoring at these centres.

Member V Anand underscored the need for forming Vigilance Committees and collaborating with Food Safety Officers. He pointed out the lack of essential facilities at Anganwadi centres,

such as designated spaces for dining and learning, which forces pregnant and lactating women to consume food at home, deviating from the scheme's objectives.

Member K Goverdhan Reddy explained the significance of the National Food Security Act, 2013, stressing its role in providing food security to vulnerable sections. Meanwhile, Member R. Sharadha advocated for regular reporting to state authorities and displaying contact details of relevant officers in Anganwadi centres, schools, residential hostels, and fair price shops.

The DGROs reassured the Commission of their commitment to the National Food Security Act, pledging to implement its provisions with full compliance. Discussions also covered challenges faced by beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (PDS), issues related to mid-day meals for school children, and health status monitoring at social and tribal welfare hostels.

The meeting concluded with Member Secretary M. Narender Rao expressing gratitude to all participants, acknowledging their efforts in working towards effective grievance redressal and strengthening food security across Telangana.

## Two students go missing while bathing in river

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

On the day of the Diwali festival, a tragedy happened in the Mancherial district. Two students from Dugnapalle village under Chennur mandal went missing while bathing in the Godavari river at Sundersal village during the Diwali celebrations with their friends.

The persons who reportedly went missing are Dasari Sai (16), first-year intermediate

student studying at SR Junior College in Karimnagar, and Konda Ashwith (19), a first-year student at the Kishtampet Government Degree College in Chennur mandal. They had come home for Diwali holidays and went to bathe in the Godavari river today and it left their family members in tears.

Local villagers informed the police, who arrived at the scene and began search operations.



## Collector for systematic door-to-door survey

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector Valluru Kranti has directed the officials to conduct a systematic door-to-door survey. On Friday, the Collector inspected the arrangements for the door-to-door survey being conducted at Shivajinagar in Sangareddy town and in Irigipalli village under Sangareddy mandal.

During the visit, the Collector interacted with people. He emphasised that people's cooperation is essential for a comprehensive survey. The Collector urged everyone to participate in this prestigious survey programme initiated by the government.

He stated that the family survey will review social, economic, educational, employment, and political aspects. For this survey, enumerators and supervisors have been instructed to prepare household details by blocks. The Collector directed the Municipal Commissioner to review all arrangements.



## Thieves on prowl; steal cash, jewellery from temples

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In Warangal district, thieves have been on the prowl, committing multiple thefts on Thursday night. They broke into two temples, smashing the hundi and stealing cash as well as jewelry that had been offered by devotees.

Thieves wreaked havoc at the Durgamma and Peddamma temples near Konareddy Cheruvu in Wardhannapet town in the district.

The miscreants broke open the hundis, stealing cash along with decorative items offered to the goddesses. Apart from it, they also broke into a nearby shop, taking cash and other items.

This morning, local resi-



Hundi abandoned in fields at Konareddy Cheruvu in Warangal district on Thursday night

dents informed the police, who arrived at the scene, registered a case, and began their investigation. The series of thefts caused a fear among the people.

## Maoists send letter threatening MLA

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

In a letter, Secretary of the Maoist party in the Coal Belt Prabhath, has alleged that the followers of Bellampalli MLA Gaddam Vinod are indulging in rowdiness, violence, and land grabbing. He accuses MLA Vinod and his personal assistant Prasad of engaging in illegal activities and using intimidation tactics against the public. The letter asserts that if these leaders failed to mend their ways, they would face people's wrath, he warned.

The letter discussed how the public, unable to bear the misdeeds of local leaders under the BRS rule, elected Gaddam Vinod in the hope of change. However, it claimed that he is now part of the problem, engaging in illegal land acquisitions along with his followers and fostering a climate of fear and violence.

The letter also mentions that local leaders, including Bandhi Prabhakar, Venkataswamy, and others, are involved in grabbing public lands and threatening those who oppose them. The letter expresses that people are becoming increasingly frustrated due to ongoing issues and mismanagement in the area.

Prabhath called for the leaders to abandon



their unlawful practices, warning that public patience is wearing thin.

## CP congratulates talented athlete

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt congratulated Sk Afreen, daughter of Khammam unit Home Guard Rahim, for securing third place at the 35th South Zone Junior Athletics Championship held at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur district.

Training under Khammam athletics coach Gaus, Sk Afreen showcased her talent by participating in various competitions, including the 10th Telangana State Youth Athletics Championship at Osmania University Grounds in Hyderabad, the 10th Telangana State Junior



Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt congratulating athlete Sk Afreen for her achievements in athletics, in Khamma on Friday

Athletics Championships in Hanumakonda JAIN Stadium, and the 9th Telangana State South Zone Athletics Championships in Karimnagar, where she excelled in the triple jump events for 200 and 400 meters.

## Steps taken to establish star hotel at Nagarjunasagar: Min

PNS ■ NAGARJUNASAGAR

Minister for Excise and Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao said that the government was taking steps to establish a star hotel through a public-private partnership in the areas surrounding Nagarjuna Sagar and Buddhavanam, along with initiatives to promote water sports. On Friday, he visited the Buddhavanam region near Nagarjuna Sagar in Nalgonda district, accompanied by Kamlesh D Patel (Daaji), the founder-president of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission.

Initially, the Minister reviewed the layouts of Buddhavanam and Vijay Vihar, which span a total of 270 acres. Managing Director of the

State Tourism Development Corporation Prakash Reddy, and Buddhavanam Consultant Sivanagi Reddy briefed the Minister and Daaji about the highlights of the Buddhavanam project.

The Minister emphasised that many Buddhists from various Asian countries, particularly from Sri Lanka and other regions, visit Nagarjuna Sagar and Buddhavanam. He noted that by providing essential amenities and facilities, it could attract even more international visitors. During his visit, the Minister inquired about the availability of land in and around Vijay Vihar and the surrounding areas of Nagarjuna Sagar. He directed Miryalaguda Sub-Collector Narayan Amit to conduct a



Minister for Excise and Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao, along with Shri Ram Chandra Mission Founder Kamlesh D Patel, visiting Buddhavanam on Friday

survey of the available government land and submit a detailed report.

## SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING 30 tribal Ashram school students take ill

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

In Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, a total of 30 students at the tribal ashram school at Wankidi took ill due to food poisoning.

Following dinner, the students experienced symptoms such as stomach ache, vomiting and diarrhoea.

They were promptly taken to a local health centre. As many as 27 students were discharged and three were shifted to the district hospital.

The students expressed concerns about the unhygienic cooking conditions and noted that the drinking water tank was cleaned only once a month.

They also reported that similar

incidents of food poisoning had happened previously but went unreported.

Students alleged that food poisoning and contaminated drinking water were the causes of their illness.

They complained about the unhygienic conditions in the kitchen and stated that the water tank providing drinking water had not been cleaned for months.

They also claimed that, despite previous incidents, the staff took all the care to keep them under wraps. Apart from it, the warden, who is responsible for ensuring the safety of students, is reportedly commuting daily from Kagaznagar, resulting in a lack of proper supervision and care for the students.



Students undergoing treatment at a hospital in Asifabad on Friday

ACROSS THE STATES

SWIPE AT ELECTION COMMISSION

MAHARASHTRA POLLS



Three killed as motorcycle hits tree

Three friends, visiting a temple after Diwali puja, died after their motorcycle collided with a tree here, police said on Friday. The victims were identified as Pradeep Kumar (22), Shivkumar (23) and Girish Kumar (35), they said.



Relaxation in criteria for jobs to 1984 riots victims

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Friday approved relaxation in qualifications for recruitment of victims of the 1984 Sikh riots to the post of multi tasking staff (MTS), Raj Niwas said in a statement.



Bid to stop outsiders' from Mizoram voters list

Mizoram's largest civil society organization would take steps to ensure that only genuine residents are enlisted in the state's voter list in the ongoing special summary revision. A leader of the central committee of the Young Mizo Association (CYMA) said that the organisation has taken the decision since over 42,000 people from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Manipur have taken refuge in the state due to various reasons.

'Remarkably striping itself of last vestiges of neutrality'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday hit out at the Election Commission after it rejected allegations over irregularities in the Haryana assembly polls, saying if the poll panel's goal is to "strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality", then it is doing a "remarkable job" at creating that impression.



language used, and the allegations made against the INC compel us to submit the counter-response." "We do not know who is advising or guiding the hon'ble

Commission, but it seems that the Commission has forgotten that it is a body set up under the Constitution and charged with the discharge of certain crucial functions - both administrative and quasijudicial," the response by the Congress leaders said.

Posting the reply on X, Congress general secretary Ramesh said, "ECI gave a non-reply to Congress' specific complaints in 20 Vidhan Sabha constituencies in Haryana."

The Congress letter said that if the Commission grants a

recognised national party a hearing or examines issues raised by them in good faith it is not an 'exception' or 'indulgence' but it is the performance of a duty which it is required to do.

"If the Commission is refusing to grant us a hearing or refusing to engage on certain complaints (which it has done in the past) then the law allows recourse to the higher courts' extraordinary jurisdiction to compel the ECI to discharge this function (as happened in 2019)," the letter said.

Jharkhand CM urges EC to direct district admins not to deny leaves to employees in festivals

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to issue directions to district administrations not to deny leaves to employees, including police personnel, in the ongoing festive season.



Bhaiya Dooj, Sohrai, Gohal Puja, Bandhana festival and Chitragupta Puja. The great festival of Chhath falls between November 4 and November 8. These festivals are very important for the people of Jharkhand.

He stated that leaves were denied to the employees in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the state and election work.

PM Modi is scheduled to address two rallies at Chaibasa and Garwha in poll-bound Jharkhand on November 4.

"Diwali was on October 31, now there is

Upcoming election is for saving 'Sanatan' in Jharkhand: Himanta

PNS ■ DEOGHAR (JHARKHAND)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said that the upcoming assembly election in Jharkhand was for saving 'Sanatan' in the state.



Jharkhand," he said. He claimed that Santhal Pargana region, which comprises six districts of Sahibganj, Godda, Pakur, Dumka, Deoghar and Jamtara, had a total population of 26 lakh in 1951.

He claimed that the Hindu population in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region has declined from 90 per cent in 1951 to 67 per cent in 2011.

Sarma, also the BJP's Jharkhand election co-incharge, was addressing an election rally in Deoghar district in favour of BJP nominee Randhir Singh, who filed his nomination from Sarath assembly constituency.

"The election this time is not for JMM or Congress but for saving the Sanatan in

44 per cent of the total Hindu population. In the 2011 Census, the Hindu population declined to 67 per cent and the tribal population to 28 per cent in the Santhal Pargana region," Sarma claimed.

He said that the Hindu population might go down to 60 per cent in the latest census, which is yet to be conducted.

Sarma claimed that the native Muslim population in the region has not increased that much.

"We don't have any issue with them. But we have a problem with the Bangladeshi infiltrators, who are coming to Jharkhand through West Bengal's Murshidabad and getting the government's patronage here," he said.

TG govt allocates Rs. 4,791 cr for power ...

Continued from Page 1

March 2025, ensuring a zero electricity bill for selected beneficiaries under the 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme - one of the six key promises made by the

Congress government. The government has committed to providing free electricity for eligible households and this latest release of funds will ensure seamless continu-

ation of the scheme. The subsidies also extend to certain communities and industries, reflecting the State's commitment to both welfare and economic support.

New CM for TG between ...

Continued from Page 1

During a chat with journalists on Friday, Maheshwar said that Rahul Gandhi has stopped giving appointments to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. In fact, Rahul has refused to give appointments to Revanth seven times already. Priyanka Gandhi also did not give appointment to Revanth while in Kerala, he pointed out.

"Revanth Reddy's holiday is over. The countdown has started for him. The Congress has launched a hunt for a new Chief Minister. The Congress high command felt that Revanth has been using the project Musi for his personal needs. Original Congress Ministers filed a complaint with the high command regarding this. The original Congress leaders have no interest in the Musi Project," Maheshwar said.

"Senior Ministers are not accepting the decisions of Revanth and complained that Revanth has been engaging in huge fund collection. The Ministers are now divided into two camps. The anti-Revanth faction is in New Delhi. The Minister who oppose Revanth have succeeded in convincing the high command," Maheshwar added.

Six momo sellers held...

Continued from Page 1

Friday, leading to severe medical complications for several customers. The arrested individuals face charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and are accused of selling noxious, adulterated momos which allegedly led to severe illness and the death of a customer.

The deceased, Reshma Begum, a resident of Singada Basthi, had visited the market with her daughter, Rafia, on October 25. They purchased momos from the food stall operated by Armaan, Sajid Hussain and Shahrukh.

After consuming the food, Reshma and her family developed the symptoms of food poisoning like vomiting and diarrhoea. By Sunday morning, her condition deteriorated, and she was rushed to NIMS hospital, where doctors declared her dead. Her two daughters and some other customers were also affected and required hospitalization.

State-wide padayatra ...

Continued from Page 1

political debates and expressed deep disappointment over such tactics. He emphasized that, in his political journey of over two decades, he has never disrespected others' families and found it distressing that his family was being targeted.

He voiced concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Telangana and attributed it to political interference in police functioning.

He warned that police officers engaging in illegal harassment of BRS leaders would face strong legal actions when the party returns to power.

"The safety of the state requires a dedicated Home Minister,

BJP MLA asks PM Modi to nationalise Waqf properties

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to nationalise the Waqf properties.



He said the overreach of the Waqf Boards and the lack of accountability have led to significant distress among property owners.

Calling it a "Tyranny of Waqf Board", the former union minister said it is claiming lands of farmers, mutts, temples and landowners, which is against the principles of equality enshrined in our Constitution.

The current Waqf Act, under which Waqf Boards operate, has led to widespread issues, including the unauthorised acquisition of private lands, farms, historical institutions, and even properties predating independence, the Vijayapura BJP MLA alleged.

"In light of these concerns, I humbly request your esteemed office to consider nationalising Waqf properties to ensure fair administration and to prevent further

injustices," the MLA said.

"The overreach and apparent lack of accountability have led to significant distress among property owners and created a sense of injustice. The law, as it currently stands, is perceived as draconian and allows for actions that often go unchecked, resulting in property seizures that challenge the rights of Indian citizens," he alleged.

Yatnal said the nationalisation of Waqf properties would not only help to establish greater transparency but would also protect the interests of rightful property owners.

Further, it would also prevent any institution or board from wielding unchecked power over private and public lands, ensuring that our laws uphold the fundamental right to equality.

All eyes on whether debutant Amit Thackeray

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The upcoming Maharashtra polls will test the hegemony of the Shiv Sena in Mumbai's Mahim constituency, where MNS chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit Thackeray is making his electoral debut.



BJP has added a layer of complexity to what otherwise seems like a three-corner contest involving Amit Thackeray, Shiv Sena's sitting MLA Sada Sarvankar and Mahesh Sawant nominated by rival Shiv Sena (UBT).

Despite Shiv Sena being its ally in the ruling Mahayuti coalition, the BJP has expressed its keenness to back the MNS candidate. Efforts are underway to persuade Sarvankar to withdraw from the race, according to sources.

The Mahim constituency, which witnessed the birth of the undivided Shiv Sena (1966) and then the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) in 2006, sits in the heart of the city, stretching from Century Bazar in Prabhadevi to Mahim Koliwada.

It is also dotted with landmarks like Siddhivinayak temple, Portuguese Church,

Mahim Church, Citylight Cinema, Mahim Dargah and Sena Bhavan, now the headquarters of Sena (UBT), and is home to white-collared upper caste voters, who have traditionally been anti-Congress.

Though voters in Mahim have mostly sided with the Shiv Sena in the past, Uddhav Thackeray's decision to align with the Congress as a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) disturbed that equation, said a political observer. They also feel Uddhav has given up on the Marathi and Hindutva agenda, he said.

Sena (UBT) nominee Anil Desai won the Mumbai South Central Lok Sabha seat, covering the Mahim assembly segment, but Shiv Sena candidate Rahul Shewale got 13,990 more votes than the eventual winner here.

'TG going from bad to worse'

Continued from Page 1

a vote for non-governance, poor economics and unparalleled loot, the Prime Minister said in a series of posts on X with the hashtag 'fake promises of Congress.'

He said the "so-called guarantees" of the Congress lie unfulfilled, which is a "terrible deceit" upon the people of these states.

"In Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, earlier the Congress had promised some allowances which were never implemented. There are numerous such examples of how the Congress works. The people want development and progress not the same old fake promises of the Congress," the PM said.

CM Revanth banks ...

Continued from Page 1

Although the party initially explored replicating the successful models of other regional parties, like the DMK, little has changed after the initial meetings. This lack of structural reinforcement has left BRS cadres underprepared, potentially leaving the door open for the Congress to secure a foothold on local governance in Telangana.

In contrast, the Congress appears well-positioned to benefit from local body elections. Political analysts point out that in local body elections, the ruling party will always have an edge as nearly four years of its term remain. Congress leaders are reportedly eager to leverage BRS's weakened ground support.

However, the government wants to conduct local body elections after the caste census is over. But recently the High Court gave an order to set up a dedicated commission. This was reportedly challenged before a division bench. Political analysts said that it is easier to conduct local body elections without a caste survey than after that for the Congress.

Revanth plans to instal...

Continued from Page 1

creating a destination that captures global attention. He shared his thoughts with officials emphasizing a modern, utilitarian design for all.

Given the picturesque, expansive location along the Musi, extensive consultations are underway to determine the design, height and structure of the Gandhi statue. The Chief Minister has asked officials to study Gandhi statues and ashrams worldwide to create a unique, iconic sculpture that would enhance the Ghat's image.

Currently, the tallest Gandhi statue in India stands 72 feet in Patna's Gandhi Maidan. It was established in 2013. Crafted from bronze, this statue depicts Gandhi warmly interacting with two children. Internationally, one of the most prominent Gandhi statues stands at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Plaza in Irving, Texas, at 8 feet, portraying Gandhi in his iconic Dandi March pose. This new vision for Babu Ghat under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership has already captured public interest. The government is committed to establishing a statue that will make Babu Ghat an enduring icon, resonating worldwide with Gandhi's ideals of peace and unity.

Govt to set...

Continued from Page 1

should be funded by increasing the revenue of markets by using vacant places for commercial needs.

He said that officials should re-organise primary cooperative societies to extend effective services to farmers and to set up new branches where they are needed. He asked officials to prepare proposals to strengthen the societies.

The Minister asked the officials to launch departmental action against persons responsible for the irregularities that took place in DCCB and DCMS in the past. He also directed the officials to recover surcharges and added that cotton purchases would be taken up immediately after the cotton came to the market and ginning mills.

He asked farmers to use WhatsApp services available through the phone number 8897281111 to know things like waiting time, payment status, complaint forum and other services. He directed officials to assure farmers that their yields would not get soaked in the rain when they bring it to markets. He warned officials that action will be taken immediately if irregularities take place while procuring cotton.

Ponnam asks...

Continued from Page 1

the nation. He said the TG government considers the survey as a matter of prestige.

He said the government is using the services of 85,000 enumerators for the survey and one observer for every 10 enumerators. The observation will be at the village, mandal, district and state-level, he said.

The government will collect the information and the data entry process will be done immediately and the government is moving forward with the plan. The process will be completed before November 30.

Manappuram reports ...

Continued from Page 1

approximately 175 grams of gold, along with Rs 10 lakh in cash. Preliminary findings suggest that Vishal had been planning the misappropriation over a prolonged period, allegedly manipulating records and bypassing standard verification procedures to execute the scheme. Manappuram Finance's management has expressed its commitment to safeguarding customer assets and is fully cooperating with the ongoing investigation.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Message from Kutch

PM Modi's Diwali with the troops shows the profound respect and support between a nation and its defenders

In a powerful address from Kutch, Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his Government's unwavering commitment to the country's sovereignty, vowing that India will not cede "even an inch" of its land. This steadfast message, delivered while celebrating Diwali with India's security forces, emphasised the government's pledge to fortify the nation's defences to meet the challenges of the 21st century. "When the world looks at you, it sees India's strength," Modi said to the soldiers. "When our adversaries look at you, they see the end of their malicious plans."



Addressing personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF), Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force at Lakki Nala in Gujarat's Kutch region, the Prime Minister highlighted his administration's dedication to transforming the country's military into one of the most advanced in the world. Modernisation efforts, he said, are anchored on the principle of self-reliance, a cornerstone of his government's vision for India's defense sector. PM Modi also spoke on the lesser-discussed role of border tourism, an initiative he believes holds strategic importance in national security. With Kutch being a crucial geographical area, he mentioned that promoting tourism in border areas helps increase awareness, instills a sense of patriotism, and brings citizens closer to the nation's defense reality.

This Diwali marks yet another year of Modi's cherished tradition of celebrating the festival with India's armed forces. Since 2014, the Prime Minister has made it a point to spend Diwali with soldiers across various fronts, symbolising both gratitude and solidarity with the defenders of the nation. Each year, his Diwali visits have become moments of deep emotional connection with

the troops, underscoring the mutual respect and morale shared between the leader and his soldiers. As the Prime Minister continues to foster self-reliance in defence, his words serve not only as a reassurance to the nation but as a warning to adversaries. Indeed, the soldiers stationed in India's remote borders stand as sentinels of peace, and their Diwali with the Prime Minister serves as a reminder of the unity and resilience that drive India forward. In times of celebration, when families gather to share in the joy of festivals, there exists a silent, steadfast group of heroes who forgo these moments with loved ones to protect the heart and soul of our nation. Our soldiers, standing guard at the borders, embody resilience, courage, and patriotism that transcends any personal sacrifice. They endure the harshest of conditions, from the scorching sun to the bitter cold, and face unforeseen challenges to ensure that our celebrations remain undisturbed, safe, and joyous. This sacrifice takes on a deeper meaning during festive seasons, such as Diwali. While we light our homes with lamps, these brave souls light the way of duty, standing as sentinels against any threats to our country. They spend their festivals under the open sky, far from the warmth of family and loved ones, driven solely by their sense of duty and deep love for the country.

### PICTALK



Illuminated Bapu Bazar on the eve of the Diwali festival, in Jaipur

# A pathway to deeper connections

Effective communication demands more than mere words; it requires rhythm, empathy and the ability to adapt to the nuances of each moment



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Communication is central to existence. All living creatures communicate with each other, and there are people who believe that even plants and foliage, amongst other leafy life existences, communicate with each other. In certain cases, language is coded, and in other cases, the impact is seen not because of a translation of a coded language but because of the results it produces.

The long and short of the matter is that communication is a way of transmission of feelings, ideas, possible actions, and more. Volumes of literature have been surfaced in different languages about communication, which can take place through eyes and without making a sound. However, a language code is necessary if somebody other than two live existences, in communication, are involved. Therein comes the language, the sound, and the script. The language of sounds has developed as phonetics, and the language of the written word with or without oral transmission is known as linguistics. The sophistication of these specializations has used the machine and technology to lend both credence and depth to the field of specialization.

The present understanding of digitalization needs to be more enriched while incorporating these ideas. However, the moot point remains that communication is central to existence. The more adept persons have incorporated music and rhythm into such communication, not to overlook the power of touch, which ranges from fingers to other parts of the body.

Accordingly, the study of communication needs to be enriched by the realization of the wide spectrum of its ambit. Many aspects of process are still to be explored in a deep scholastic mode. This alone will enable credible theories to emerge. This process will be a major contribution to the concerns of relationships.



Relationships and emotions are difficult to comprehend and manage because of various levels at which the exchange occurs. The mind is supposed to be affected by various kinds of waves, which have been identified as alpha waves, beta waves, and so on and so forth. This is not only the touch but also the rhythm and words which impact a response.

If someone is annoyed, the level and pitch of the voice is often raised. A common response to somebody's annoyance is a follow-up question, some what to the effect of 'Why are you annoyed?' The truth is, one knows why the other person is annoyed. One is only waiting for a verbalization of the cause of annoyance. This act by itself may or may not help. In fact, unless sincerely intended, asking this question is questionable and indeed could have the effect of aggravating the situation.

For good communication, rhythmic synchronization of each other's moods is necessary. Usually, the opportunity for rhythmic understanding is disturbed by the different moods of the two or more persons involved in communication. In such circum-



THE MIND IS SUPPOSED TO BE AFFECTED BY VARIOUS KINDS OF WAVES, WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ALPHA WAVES, BETA WAVES, AND SO ON AND SO FORTH. THIS IS NOT ONLY THE TOUCH BUT ALSO THE RHYTHM AND WORDS WHICH IMPACT A RESPONSE

stances, a change of topic, a change of tone, or even some humour may help in 'aiding' ease all-round.

The challenge is that in the heat of the moment, one loses track of the options for keeping the communication on track or simply persisting with one's perspective.

The message is simple: at all stages, one needs to keep one's calm, look at the options, and select wisely. This would help one to not only adjust better in communication but also help carry the other person along.

To do this, it is essential to realize that a major purpose of any communication is to be able to share one's own chosen facts in an appropriate tone and content, for the other person to hear. Similarly, to intertwine the communication, it is important to hear what the person is stating. A person who can read the other persons unstated wish to 'posture' can communicate better.

It is this complexity coupled with intangible simplicity that makes communication so much of an art and a skill beyond words. Deft negotiators know how to be flexible and accommodating to the other person's point of view. There is also scope for

emphasizing an assertion, but that is few and far between and has to be timed properly with chosen words, appropriate posture, accompanying softness, and suitable intonation in the voice or more.

At the end of the day, unless there are special circumstances, in most communication to win, both must win. It is a rarity to have 'peace' if one wins and the other person loses. People generally do not like to accept defeat, which means that the apparent loser will bounce back in the communication and raise it again sooner or later. All in all, it is important to realize that communication, like all arts, must be gradually perfected. It also requires technological sensitivity. It requires choice of appropriate methods/medium such as the telephone, video, and more to relate with each other. In many cases, the choice of medium itself can convey a message. The art of communication is challenging and fascinating. There are many who are better than others in the practice of this art.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AMUSING AND EMBARRASSING!

Madam—A recent news report mentions that the French Ambassador's phone was stolen by "experts" in the trade, only to be promptly recovered, likely due to the high-profile nature of the owner. An average citizen, however, would not have been as fortunate in similar circumstances.

The incident was undoubtedly amusing for readers, likely alarming for the Ambassador, and ultimately embarrassing for India as a nation. This is one experience the Ambassador may never forget. As the saying goes, "When in Italy, keep three purses, two pairs of shoes, and one heart open to adventure." Perhaps this applies equally well to India, particularly to areas like Chandni Chowk. Finally, a note of reassurance: some CCTV cameras do indeed function at strategic locations—at least, sometimes.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

### ISRAEL BANS UNRWA

Madam—Israel's recent policy to ban UNRWA, the UN agency assisting Palestinian refugees, is a deeply concerning move that only intensifies an already devastating humanitarian crisis. This decision raises critical questions: by cutting off an agency that has supported Palestinian refugees for decades, what alternative does Israel propose to address the immense health and nutrition needs of millions? Additionally, can Israel's detachment from global efforts be deemed legitimate if it comes at the expense of the welfare of vulnerable populations? This policy appears to prioritize political gains over humanitarian duty and risks further destabilizing the region. If sustainable peace is the ultimate goal, policies must aim to reduce suffering, not exacerbate it, ensuring all vulnerable populations are given the support they urgently need. The war must end before it spills over across the region.

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

### Traumatic traffic



The editorial "Traffic Mayhem" addresses the pressing traffic issues plaguing Delhi—an issue common to most major metro cities. Despite only 7% of Indians owning cars, a large portion of this car-owning population is concentrated in metropolitan areas. In high-traffic zones, parking becomes another major hurdle that demands effective solutions. The experience of being stuck in traffic during peak hours, often resulting in delays and frustration, detracts from

the convenience and enjoyment of car travel. Unfortunately, governments typically respond only once traffic congestion reaches critical levels. Even then, plans are often focused on immediate needs rather than long-term solutions. By the time projects like flyovers are completed, the surge in vehicle numbers has already reduced their effectiveness.

Given the significant resources spent on infrastructure, planning should be forward-looking, ideally considering projections for the next fifty to a hundred years. For main traffic arteries, three-tiered flyovers with side wings to manage separate lanes for heavy vehicles, cars, and smaller vehicles could greatly improve traffic flow. While long-term planning may demand greater initial investment, it offers lasting relief from congestion while creating employment opportunities during project development.

A G Rajmohan | Ananthpur

### LONG WAIT FOR JUSTICE

Madam—It has been 40 years since the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, yet justice remains elusive. Thousands of Sikhs were brutally killed in cities across the country, yet not a single individual has been sentenced to death for orchestrating, planning, or participating in these atrocities. Despite numerous inquiries, commissions, extensive charge sheets, and the establishment of fast-track courts, justice has been endlessly delayed, leaving the accused in limbo as undertrials. One wonders what kind of "fast" justice these courts offer, given that even after four decades, they have yet to reach a conclusion. India, as a nation, failed to learn from the horrors of 1984, leading to repeats of such violence in places like Gujarat and Manipur. The impunity with which the orchestrators of these riots operate is evident, as convictions remain rare. The system has allowed mass murderers to escape accountability, and justice has turned a blind eye. Had the perpetrators been adequately punished, it might have

served as a deterrent to others. For the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots who still await justice, hope fades with each passing day.

The saying "justice delayed is justice denied" rings painfully true when thousands of deaths remain unacknowledged in the eyes of the law. Justice may have lifted her blindfold, but she remains blind to the tears of the widows and mothers who witnessed their loved ones burned alive four decades ago. As a country that has greatly benefited from the Sikh community's contributions, we should feel a deep sense of shame for the suffering they endured. While an apology was offered by the Prime Minister, an apology is no substitute for justice.

The time has come to correct this injustice and enact laws that deliver timely justice—before both the victims and the accused are lost to time.

Gurnoor Grewal | Chandigarh

## A good lifestyle is essential for overall wellbeing

Lifestyle changes can significantly reduce risk of brain stroke. One can recognise it by its early symptoms and take preventive measures

Understanding the Neurological Damage of a Stroke: What Happens in Your Brain Dr Praveen Gupta, Principal Director & Chief of Neurology, Fortis Hospital Being the central organ of the human nervous system, the brain controls both motor and sensory functions throughout the body.



During a stroke, the blood supply to a part of the brain is obstructed depriving the brain of much-needed oxygen and nutrients. This lack of oxygen damages the brain cells resulting in inflammation and swelling in the brain. As the blood supply remains obstructed, more cells die, weakening the blood-brain barrier. This breakdown of the barrier causes water to enter the brain, worsening the swelling. The swelling usually lasts for seven days, following which the brain's natural mechanisms begin to take effect, causing the swelling to subside as the body starts to repair the damaged tissue. How Strokes Can Be Prevented,

A healthy lifestyle is key to the prevention of stroke. To begin with, consume a diet rich in fresh fruits and veggies, have walnuts and almonds, engage in regular physical activity, aim for 30 minutes of walking every day, take care of central abdominal obesity, control your salt intake (less than 6 grams per day) along with eating food low in saturated fats like oil, butter, ghee. In addition, develop a proper sleep schedule to get at least six to eight hours of peaceful sleep every night, and avoid smoking and excess alcohol intake. Also,

you need to be watchful of excess pollution and keep your blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure under control. In addition to a healthy lifestyle, you need to keep other parameters in check. If you suffer from heart disease, it's essential to take appropriate medical care to prevent the clots from moving to the brain. This can control the possibility of strokes in at least 50 per cent of people. Warning signs everyone should know. The warning signs of stroke can be classified as BEFAST, where B stands for

balance. Being unable to walk properly or losing your balance can be one of the first signs of stroke. E is for eyes - if you suffer from a stroke; you may have difficulty seeing properly or have double vision. F is for face, your face droops to one side, A is for arms - you may have trouble lifting one of your arms and S is for speech - there is slurring of speech or inability to speak. T is for time. Time is of the essence when you suffer from a stroke. A person suffering from a stroke loses 1.9 million brain cells for every minute. A person's risk of being disabled or dying increases with the length of time they have a stroke. If you can recognize the symptoms of a stroke within the first four and a half hours, you can receive clot-busting drugs, which can break the clot, restore the blood supply to the brain, and prevent the occurrence of a cascade of events.

(The writer is a Principal Director & Chief of Neurology, Fortis Hospital; views expressed are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

### BUILDING A MENTAL RETREAT

We often chase external escapes, yet the true sanctuary lies within



RAVI VALLURI

We should develop a holiday home in the mind to relax. Instead, we build concrete jungles of thoughts where we fear to tread. Summer was simmering, temperatures were rising in Delhi, and the beer-guzzling husband and wife duo, and their college-going children fed on junk food, were looking forward to their first overseas trip "together". "Eureka," he screamed, "Leave sanctioned." "Trip to Chiang Mai will now be a reality," screamed the children and wife. "Bonding at last," the wife mused effusively. The manic and frenetic-paced lifestyle had invaded a bonding that ought to have been a natural part of their living.

This is a familiar tale of several upper-middle-class families and the ones who mimic them as they crave to keep up with the Joneses. The prana levels of such individuals are low. In several cases, opulence without proper responsibility has corrupted their minds and they carry the burden of the twin maladies of inflated egos and judgmental attitudes. But this was not the case with the family. Would they have relished the get-away to Chiang Mai?

The human mind is both a friendly retainer and a dangerous liege. A beleaguered mind causes immense suffering to the individual, those around him and also society at large. An alert mind learns positive lessons from life to take recourse to remedial measures and discovers ingenious ways to address and arrest negativity. Just as an architect designs buildings, we humans can construct an oasis of peace in our minds where we can luxuriate on a genuine holiday. This is mandatory for individuals who are at the worn-off edge or the precipice of disequilibrium. The land-



scape of the mind should be attractive and harmonious, which one would like to frequent. Aeon's ago, there was an old farmer. One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, his neighbours came to commiserate. "Maybe," the farmer replied laconically. The next morning the horse returned, bringing along with it three other wild horses.

Taken aback at the turn of events, the neighbours congratulated the farmer. "Maybe," was the reply. His son tried to ride one of the untamed horses and was thrown off the saddle and broke his leg. The neighbours expressed their grief. "Maybe," answered the farmer. Shortly, some military officials came to the village to draft young men into the army. The wounded son was not recruited. Soon congratulatory messages poured in from the neighbours as the son escaped the hazardous employment. "Maybe," said the farmer.

The stoic farmer remained unfazed in all situations. The supercilious family from Delhi was so full of themselves hurtling towards an imminent disaster that it would undeniably benefit by learning a few secrets from the old farmer. Instead of planning an annual holiday, the family ought to create a sacred space within their hearts and minds where positivism mushrooms and develop a delicate balance of detachment like the old farmer. They could visualise and connect to a soothing terrain in their minds, which would restore equilibrium to their disoriented lifestyles. This topography could upend the pyramid and radically alter a desultory lifestyle to a more harmonious one. Imagine the mind conceptualises a retreat within its containments, where supposedly a thousand monks practice meditation, observe their breath and remain in silence say for three months. Pranayama and the practice of yoga – be it for the propertied or poor, healthy, or unhealthy – help in mental reconfiguration, rejuvenation, and revitalisation, which soothes frayed nerves and makes individuals happy. This should rekindle happiness, energy and joy in their minds.

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

# Turn of the tide in Myanmar?

As the opposition secures control over key territories, including vital trade corridors, the junta's authority appears increasingly tenuous



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR



Myanmar's ruling junta is facing defeat and ouster, which will happen sooner than most people think.

The latest, and one of the most serious, reverses suffered by the Sit-Tat (Myanmar's Army's name), has been the fall, on October 8, 2024, of the township of Pinlebu to the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), an important part of the coalition of forces fighting the junta, and its allies. Located on the border of the Sagaing Region and Kachin State, its capture opens up to the opposition forces the routes leading to the Kawlin township and the surrounding areas.

Apart from its geo-strategic importance, the township's capture is significant for what it revealed of the Sit-Tat's state. It suffered a resounding defeat. A report by Saw Lin, published in the news website, The Irrawaddy, on October 14, 2024, cites the opposition National Unity Government as claiming that the junta's troops, numbering 800, were defeated despite 670 airstrikes and the dropping of over 5,000 bombs, that around 70 junta soldiers were killed, 275 were missing, 225 were wounded, 48 surrendered and 102 captured during the fighting. Around 400 firearms and other military equipment were seized.

The report further cites Thoe Gyi, the leader of Kawlin District People's Defense Team, as saying that Pinlebu, surrounded by forests and mountains, was easy to defend, and difficult to attack. There had been four attacks since the first one in 2022, each of which had almost succeeded but the regime held on with air support and airlifted troops. The fifth one, which began on August 15, 2024, was successful. The enemy, Thoe Gyi said, was weak. Those who were forcibly recruited or drafted under the conscription law dared not fight and surrendered when the fighting broke out. Others surrendered after they ran out of food and could no longer fight. The Sit-Tat suffers from other weaknesses as well. There is discord within. Several three-stars generals have been removed. Many younger officers are unhappy as they recognise that almost the entire country is against them.



THE ODDS ARE NOW RAPIDLY INCREASING AGAINST THE JUNTA. THE LATTER DOUBTLESS HAS TANKS AND OTHER ARMoured VEHICLES, ARTILLERY AND AIR FORCE. TANKS AND ARMoured VEHICLES ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEPLOY IN THE AREAS DOMINATED BY THE ETHNIC FORCES

Prior to Pinlebu, anti-junta forces had captured four towns in northern Mandalay. According to a report by Andrew Nachemson published in Al Jazeera dated September 23, 2024, their capture had placed them within striking distance of the city of Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest urban centre, with a population of nearly two million.

In fact, the Sit-Tat has suffered a series of reverses since the opposition Three Brotherhood Alliance (henceforth the Alliance) launched its offensive, codenamed Operation 1027, on October 27, 2023. Comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), active in the Kokang Special Region of northern Shan State, the Taang National Liberation Army (TNLA), also active in the Shan State and the Arakan Army (AA), based in the Rakhine State in the country's western part, it has been acting in close cooperation with the opposition National Unity Government's military arm, the People's Defence Force (PDF) and other ethnic armies like the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and Karen National Army. The AA had brought almost the entire Rakhine State under its control by April, 2024. In a major development, the MNDAA claimed on July 31, 2024, that it had captured Sit-Tat's military base in Lashio, a city in Shan State close to the border with China, and its airport. This was a major loss for the junta. As Vivek Shankar has pointed out in a piece in The New York Times datelined August 5, 2024, the "city of Lashio and its airport lie on a crucial trade corridor to Yunnan Province in China, which is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a high-speed rail link and other infrastructure projects on both sides of

the border."

The opposition forces now control large swathes of territory along Myanmar's borders and mountainous region; the military retains control over the major cities and lowlands in the central Irrawaddy Valley. It is losing even the cities and towns. As Vivek Shankar has stated in the article cited above, the forces resisting the junta now hold "roughly 75 cities and towns across Myanmar and two airports, one in Thandwe in Rakhine State in the west, and the other in Lashio." The odds are now rapidly increasing against the Junta. The latter doubtless has tanks and other armoured vehicles, artillery and air force. Tanks and armoured vehicles are very difficult to deploy in the areas dominated by the ethnic forces. With densely forested mountainous terrains, deep gorges and steep climbs, these are ideal for staging ambushes. Moreover, airstrikes and artillery do not win wars, even when backed by heavily armed and trained infantry. Otherwise, the United States would have romped to a victory in Vietnam.

Can the junta see the writing on the wall? During its 8 p.m. news broadcast on September 26, 2024, the junta seemed to offer, for the first time, a major concession to the opposition armed resistance groups. It said in a statement, "The state lost a large number of human resources, infrastructures, lives and property of the people due to the fact some individuals and organizations chose to resort to armed terrorism and armed struggle line without solving political problems through political ways." Given the statement's accusatory undertones and unbelievable inherent irony, it is hardly surprising that several commanders of the rebel forces, ethnic armies, and the opposition NUG government,

promptly rejected the offer.

A report (datelined September 27, 2024) by Sui-Lee Wee in The New York Times, quoted Ye Myo Hein, a visiting senior expert for the Myanmar programme of the United States Institute for Peace, as saying, "The reason they made this announcement is to appease China." It could well be so.

As Wee points out in her report, while expressing support for the junta, Beijing has also been engaged in talks with northern Myanmar's ethnic armed groups. According to the report, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, had travelled to Myanmar in August, 2024, to urge the country's army chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to pursue political reconciliation and hold elections. Earlier, in a meeting with Myanmar's president, Thein Sein, in China in June, Wang Yi had also called on the military to hold talks with Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently serving a 27-year prison term on totally false charges.

There is no indication that the junta has any intention of holding talks with Suu Kyi. In fact, in an interview to Myeinn Myeinn carried in The Irrawaddy on October 24, 2024, her son, Kim Arris, said she had been kept completely incommunicado in prison in Naypyitaw with even her family and lawyers barred from meeting her. The conditions in the prison being terrible and with Suu Kyi having serious health issues, he expressed the fear that she might die in prison, which may well happen. In that case, the burden of guilt not only be on the junta but the Western democracies which seem no longer bothered about developments in Myanmar.

*(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)*

# Reforming India's education system for job market alignment

With comprehensive planning, a revitalised education system could become the catalyst for national prosperity and social stability

In today's industrialised economy, formal education has become the backbone of personal and national development. Originally introduced around 1830 by Lord Macaulay, formal education gained momentum post-independence, facilitating India's shift from an agrarian to an industrialized economy. However, as the job market has evolved, a concerning mismatch has emerged between the skills provided by the education system and the needs of the workforce. This disparity has led to high unemployment rates, particularly among educated youth, while certain sectors experience a shortage of skilled labor. Thus, India's education policy requires significant reform to better align with employment needs and sup-



R P GUPTA

port the country's development goals. Human capital is undoubtedly the most valuable resource for a nation's growth and development. However, to leverage this asset, it must be channeled appropriately into the economy. Failure to do so could lead to an increase in poverty rates and potential social unrest. For meaningful employment and economic improvement, the workforce

must be equipped with skills relevant to market demands. By bridging the gap between education and employment, India can reduce unemployment, enhance income levels, and improve overall economic efficiency.

According to a survey by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), in the third quarter of fiscal year 2022-23, only 12% of job-holders were graduates. The majority, 40%, had completed only high school (10th grade), 28% had not completed high school, and the remaining 20% had education levels below the 5th grade. Surprisingly, the unemployment rate among graduates was 17.2%, compared to 10.2% for high school graduates and 1.6% for those with lower education levels. This

data reveals that India's education policy is misaligned with its employment demands, underscoring the urgent need for change.

The first step in this reform should involve conducting a comprehensive survey to assess current and future labor demands across various sectors. Such a survey would help young people make informed decisions about their education and career paths. Using this data, policymakers could create a dynamic, responsive education system that evolves with changing market needs. Firstly, completing basic education, up to matriculation, should be universally encouraged. Financial assistance programs could be provided for those in need. Physical activities, like yoga



and sports, should be made compulsory to promote physical health. Ancient teachings on humanity, ethics, and nationalism could also be incorporated to build a responsible, compassionate society. After completing matriculation, students should have access to short, specialized courses (2-4 years) in fields such as engineering, nursing, and hospitality management.

This model could be expanded to cover a broader range of fields based on market demand. These courses should blend formal education with vocational training, with course duration varying according to job requirements. For students pursuing higher education, curricula should be adapted to reflect the skills demanded by the job market, and mandatory internships should be introduced to provide hands-on experience. Developing soft skills, like communication and problem-solving, is also essential. With India's growing population, opening new educational institutions, supported by both public and private sectors, is necessary to meet increasing demand. Research and innovation are

crucial for a nation's future. India must support a select group of students pursuing research to meet the country's long-term needs. However, given the limited market for research roles domestically, many scholars are compelled to seek opportunities abroad. Governments, both central and state, should invest in research institutions, providing more funding to retain skilled researchers and encouraging innovation within India. Self-employment accounts for nearly 50% of India's workforce, with a large portion comprising farmers and small business owners. However, these individuals often earn less than those in salaried positions and may have entered self-employment due to a lack of alternative oppor-

tunities. Beyond the industrial sector, there is a significant demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers, including drivers, electricians, masons, cooks, and security guards, among others. Many self-employed individuals, like craftsmen and repair technicians, have learned their trades informally, often without pay. Vocational training combined with formal education could significantly enhance their earning potential. For example, an educated driver with certification in vehicle maintenance and traffic regulations would have better job prospects and could command higher wages. *(The writer is an author and writes on education; views are personal)*

IN BRIEF



India's power consumption rises to 140.4 bn units

India's power consumption rose marginally by about one per cent to 140.47 billion units (BU) in October compared to a year ago, mainly due to heavier base effect. In the year-ago period, the power consumption grew by over 22 per cent to 139.44 BU from 113.94 BU in October 2022. The highest supply in a day (peak power demand met) dipped to 219.22 GW in October 2024 from 221.53 GW in the year-ago month. The peak power demand touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May this year. The previous all-time high peak power demand of 243.27 GW was recorded in September 2023. Earlier this year, the power ministry projected a peak power demand of 235 GW during the day and 225 GW during evening hours for May while 240 GW during daytime and 235 GW in the evening hours for June. The ministry also estimated that peak power demand may hit 260 GW this summer.



'JSW-POSCO to set up steel plant in Odisha's Keonjhar'

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday said that India's fastest growing conglomerate JSW Group and South Korean steel major POSCO will jointly set up a greenfield steel facility in his home district of Keonjhar. Majhi revealed this amid nationwide speculation over the exact location of the JSW-POSCO joint venture. "During our roadshows for the ensuing Make-in Odisha conclave in Delhi and Mumbai, I had discussed with both JSW and POSCO regarding the establishment of a steel plant in Odisha's mineral-rich Keonjhar district," Majhi, who is on a two-day visit to Keonjhar for celebrating Diwali, told reporters. "Meanwhile, they have signed an MoU. They will do it jointly. They have also mentioned doing it in Keonjhar district. It is under process and Odisha will get another steel plant," the chief minister said. The two steel makers on October 29 signed an MoU at JSW Group's corporate headquarters in Mumbai, in the presence of JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal and POSCO Chairman Chang In-hwa.



Bengaluru gets food security boost with subsidised grains

With the aim of easing the price rise challenge, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) have started distribution of essential food grains in Bengaluru at an affordable price. In a press statement issued by NCCF on Friday, it was mentioned that these products are made available in Phase 2 of Bharath products. Under the initiative, high quality essential grains are made available at an affordable rate for Bengaluru residents. Bharath rice is being sold at Rs 34, while the Bharath wheat flour Rs 30, Bharath Chana Dal Rs 70 and Bharath Moong Dal is being sold at just Rs 107. The market rate for the same products are rice Rs 55-60, atta Rs 45-50, dal Rs 90-100 and moong dal Rs 120-130.

'Karnataka govt approves Tourism Policy 2024-29'

PNS ■ UDUPI (KARNATAKA)

The Karnataka government has approved the Tourism Policy 2024-29, allocating Rs 1,349 crore to develop essential infrastructure and attract international tourists, state Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar announced on Friday. Speaking at the 'Karnataka Rajyotsava' celebrations here, the Women and Child Welfare Minister, who is also Udupi district in-charge, emphasised the government's commitment to transforming Karnataka into a global tourism hub

through enhanced services and facilities. Highlighting Karnataka's investment appeal, Hebbalkar stated that Bengaluru continues to lead the nation in investment inflow, a feat credited to the government's strategic efforts. She noted that youth skill development programmes have equipped local talent to contribute effectively to various industries, further driving economic growth and investor confidence. Reaffirming the government's dedication to promot-



ing the Kannada language, Hebbalkar urged the public to engage more deeply with Kannada literature and culture. "We are committed to estab-

lishing Kannada as the primary administrative language and have initiated several measures to support this goal. Programmes celebrating literature, folk arts, and environmental and cultural heritage are central to our mission," she added. Hebbalkar also highlighted the government's broader vision for socio-economic empowerment. "Our five guarantee schemes are designed to give people greater autonomy in social and economic realms," she asserted. Addressing educational initiatives, she announced Rs 14.2 crore grant under the 'Odhru Karnataka' (Read Karnataka) programme, aimed at improving literacy among government school students in

Classes 4 and 5. Study materials and teacher training have been implemented to ensure the scheme's success. Turning to irrigation developments in the Udupi district, Hebbalkar revealed plans to construct vented dams worth Rs 1.88 crore under the Paschima Vahini project this financial year. "These dams will irrigate 33 hectares of farmland. Additionally, embankments will be built along 151 km of riverbanks at a cost of Rs 6.15 crore to prevent farmland flooding," she explained.

KERALA CM TO FM

'Release grant for Vizhinjam seaport without strings'

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to release the Centre's share of Rs 817.80 crore in the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the Vizhinjam seaport here without imposing the condition that the state has to repay it later.

Vijayan, in a letter to the FM, said the condition imposed by the Empowered Committee constituted by the Department of Economic Affairs, that the VGF amount should be repaid by Kerala in Net Present Value (NPV) terms by way of premium (revenue) sharing, would result in a huge loss of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 crore to the state exchequer.

"The state is investing resources to the tune of Rs 5,595 crore out of the total project outlay of Rs 8,867



crore. I am sure, the Hon'ble Minister would appreciate that given the financial situation of a small state, like Kerala with limited financial resources, this scale of investment involves tremendous sacrifice on the part of the state.

"In addition, as the repayment of Rs 817.80 crore is to be made on NPV basis, this would involve a further loss of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 crore

to the state exchequer in actual terms, computed on projected interest rates and revenue realisation from the port over the period of repayment," the CM said.

He further said that the VGF was a financial support mechanism that was introduced to encourage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure projects that are economically justified but not financially viable

without additional financial support.

The VGF is invariably provided as a grant, not a loan and its defining elements are that "the payment to the concessionaire is non-repayable, it is a one-time grant and that it is over the construction period of the project," the CM said.

"Thus, the condition that the VGF has to be repaid, "defies the rationale" behind it, he added.

"...the government of India and government of Kerala, as the two project proponents, have jointly decided to give this grant to the concessionaire."

"But to further stipulate the condition that one of the project proponents, viz.- the government of India, will advance this money as a deferred 'loan' to the other project proponent viz.- the state government, defies the rationale behind the VGF itself," he said in the letter.

India's coal production rises 7.4 pc in October, dispatches increase to 82.89 MT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coal production rose by 7.4 per cent to 84.45 MT in October compared to 78.57 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, the Coal Ministry said in a release.

Coal production from captive and other entities rose to 16.59 MT in October over 11.70 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal.

Coal dispatches witnessed a boost in October reaching 82.89 MT compared to 79.25 MT recorded in October last fiscal.

"Coal dispatch from captive and other entities also grew to 16.18 MT in October 2024, compared to 11.83 MT in October 2023, representing

growth of 36.83 per cent," the coal ministry said.

In the April-October period of 2024-25, India's coal production rose by 6.1 per cent to 537.45 million tonnes (MT) compared to 506.56 MT in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the coal ministry said.

Cumulative coal dispatch during the April-October period rose to 571.39 MT compared to 541.51 MT during the corresponding period in 2023-24.

The Centre, the ministry said, remains committed to ensuring a reliable coal supply to meet the country's energy demands, with continued focus on boosting production, streamlining logistics, and supporting the nation's energy goals.

Facebook India Online Services profit grows 43 pc to Rs 505 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media major Meta's advertisement unit, Facebook India Online Services, has posted a 43 per cent growth in profit to Rs 504.9 crore in the financial year ended on March 31, 2024, according to documents shared by ToIfler.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 352.91 crore in FY2023. Facebook India Online Services Private Limited is engaged in the business of selling advertising inventory to customers in India and providing IT-enabled support services and design support services to Meta Platforms Inc.

The company reported a 9.33 per cent increase in turnover to Rs 3,034.82 crore in FY24 against Rs 2,775.78 crore in FY23.

Petrol sales rebound, diesel demand continues to drop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's petrol consumption soared 7.3 per cent in October on the back of increased demand from the start of festive season but diesel sales were down 3.3 per cent, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed on Friday.

Petrol sales of three state-owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, rose to 3.1 million tonnes during October when compared to 2.87 million tonnes of consumption in the same month last year.

Diesel demand dropped 3.3 per cent to 6.7 million tonnes.

While petrol sales were up mostly due to an increase in use of personal vehicles as the festive season kicked in, diesel demand dropped due to lower demand from the agriculture sector owing to the extended rainy season.

Petrol and diesel sales have

Gross GST collection in October rose 9 per cent to over Rs 1.87 lakh crore, the second-highest ever, on pick-up in domestic sales and improved compliance.

The Central GST collection stood at Rs 33,821 crore, State GST at Rs 41,864 crore, Integrated IGST at Rs 99,111 crore and cess at Rs 12,550 crore during the month.

As per the government data released on Friday, the total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 8.9 per cent to Rs 1,87,346 crore. In October 2023, the mop-up was at Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

After adjusting refunds, net GST collection grew 8 per cent at over Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

Deloitte India Partner MS Mani said the buoyancy in GST collections is an account of an excellent combination of festive season sales and increased compliance.

"The driver appears to be domestic supplies... While many large states have recorded an increase in GST revenue above 9 per cent, some of them and many of the smaller states have shown a below average increase, which would be an area of concern for those states," Mani said.

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal, however, said the single-digit growth in monthly GST collections signals a cooling-off period, indicating a potential slowdown in consumer spending in India, which surged in the previous fiscal year.



been tepid during the last few months as monsoon rains reduced vehicular movement and demand for the agriculture sector.

Month-on-month petrol sales were up 7.8 per cent when compared to 2.86 million tonnes of consumption in September. Diesel demand was however almost 20 per cent more than 5.59 million tonnes of consumption in September. Diesel is India's most con-

sumed fuel, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum product consumption. The transport sector accounts for 70 per cent of all diesel sales in the country. It is also the predominant fuel used in agriculture sectors, including in harvesters and tractors.

Consumption of petrol during October was 10.5 per cent more than in October 2022, and 32.8 per cent more than in Covid-marred October 2020.

Diesel demand was up 1.7 per cent over October 2022, and 12.6 per cent compared to October 2020.

Jet fuel (ATF) sales rose 2.5 per cent year-on-year to 6,47,700 tonnes during October 2024. But this was 2.6 per cent lower month-on-month when compared with 6,31,100 tonnes of fuel sold in September.

Like petrol and diesel, ATF demand too is now firmly above pre-Covid levels.

OUTSTANDING BILLS OF USD 846 MILLION

Adani reduces power supply to Bangladesh

PNS ■ DHAKA

India's Adani Power Jharkhand Limited (APJL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power, has stopped half of its power supply to Bangladesh because of outstanding bills of USD 846 million, according to a local media report on Friday.

Data from Power Grid Bangladesh PLC showed the Adani plant reduced supply on Thursday night. The Daily Star newspaper said Bangladesh reported a shortfall of more than 1,600 megawatts (MW) on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday as the 1,496 MW plant is now producing 700 MW from a single unit, the newspaper reported.

Earlier, the Adani company wrote to the power secretary asking the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) to clear its outstanding dues by October 30. The letter, dated October 27, said that if the bills are not paid, the company shall

be constrained to take remedial action under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) by suspending the power supply on October 31.

The company said that the PDB has neither provided a letter of credit (LC) for an amount of USD 170.03 million from Bangladesh Krishi Bank nor cleared the outstanding amount of USD 846 million.

The newspaper quoted a PDB official as saying that they had earlier cleared a portion of previous dues, but since July, Adani has been charging more than the prevailing months. He said the PDB has been paying around USD 18 million weekly, while the charge is more than USD 22 million.

"This is why the due payments increased again," he said, adding that they had submitted last week's payment to Krishi Bank as well, but due to a dollar shortage, the bank failed to open a letter of credit against the payment.



Telangana Tourism Development Corporation Limited			
Tourism House, #3-5-101, Himayathnagar, Hyderabad-500029			
e-Procurement Tender Notice No. 13/SE/TGTD/2024-25, Date: 30.10.2024			
Sr.	Name of the Work	Est. Cost Rs.	Bid downloading start Date
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of On-Grid roof mounted SPV power plant at pilgrimage infrastructure & Heritage Tourism at Ramappa, Mulugu Dist.	Rs. 1,79,95,000/-	04.11.2024
2	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of On-Grid roof mounted SPV Power plant at site 1&2 Bhadrachalam site 3 at Pranzala, Bhadrachalam Dist.	Rs. 79,75,000/-	04.11.2024

Further details can be seen @ [www.tender.telanganagov.in](http://www.tender.telanganagov.in)

Sd/- Superintending Engineer  
TGTDCL Ltd., Hyderabad.



With 23 years of global hospitality expertise, John Biswas discusses his love affair with Hyderabad's food scene, people and culture, revealing what makes this city truly special in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*

AARTI SREENATH  
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

In a city where biryani reigns supreme and the food scene is as diverse as its inhabitants, John Biswas has carved out a niche that beautifully intertwines his culinary expertise with the vibrant culture of Hyderabad. As the Culinary Experience Curator at Radisson Blu Plaza Hyderabad, John's journey beautifully illustrates the vibrant blend of flavours and friendships that make this city so unique.

With nearly 23 years in the hospitality industry, his career has taken him across the globe, from the Middle East to Africa, Bermuda to Dhaka. After a successful stint at JW Marriott Aerocity in Delhi, he arrived in Hyderabad in 2018, initially planning to stay just a couple of years. Yet, the warmth of the people and the burgeoning food and beverage scene captured his heart, and he's been here ever since.

"Hyderabad is such a vibrant city! The people are fantastic and the F&B scene is thriving," he shares, reflecting on his unexpected long-term love affair with the city. "I thought I'd explore new places, but the creativity and passion for food here inspired me to stay."

For him, food is more than just a career; it's a powerful connector. He notes, "I've never encountered a city where biryani is not just a dish but a sentiment. Biryani in Hyderabad is a lifelong topic of discussion! It's not just a meal; it's part of the city's identity."

When asked about his favorite culinary spot, John enthusiastically points to Bawarchi on RTC Road. "It's the original Bawarchi and I know the owners personally. The experience there is fantastic!" he

exclaims, highlighting the importance of local connections in his culinary journey.

His adaptation to the local culture was surprisingly smooth. "I was curious about how I would be received, but I quickly realised it was quite simple: food connects everyone. The warmth of the people made it easy to feel at home," he explains. He sees Hyderabad as a melting pot of cultures, noting that the city embraces its diversity, welcoming people from across India and beyond.

Contrasting Hyderabad with his hometown of Calcutta, he remarks, "Hyderabad is fast-paced, especially with the tech crowd. There's a certain vibrancy here that I love. The food scene is also incredibly diverse, with influences from Middle Eastern to Iranian cuisines."

Among his fondest memories is an unexpected connection formed over food. During a food blogging session, John met local resident Parash Pashori and they bonded over their shared love for cricket. "I started playing cricket on his team, and it's become an important part of my life here," John shares, smiling at the serendipitous way food brought him into the sports community.

Yet, life in Hyderabad isn't without its challenges. "The traffic can be quite overwhelming," he admits, acknowledging a common frustration among residents.

When hosting friends and family, John introduces them to the city through its culinary

## CURRY-ING CONNECTIONS IN HYDERABAD

"The food scene is incredibly diverse in Hyd, with influences from Middle Eastern to Iranian cuisines."

delights. "Food is always first! I take them to experience Irani chai at Nimra Cafe and biryani at places like Pista House or Karachi. We usually end up at Golconda Fort too; there's just so much to see!" he says, emphasising the importance of food in his explorations.

Beyond food, he is also a devoted pet parent. "Hyderabad is becoming increasingly pet-friendly, which is one reason I'm not moving out anytime soon! I love Indian dogs and have adopted a street dog who's been with us for six years now," he shares, revealing the deep connection he feels to both his furry friend and the city.

If John had to sum up Hyderabad in three words, they would be "food, technology and fun." He reflects, "My journey in Hyderabad

has been filled with delightful surprises; food brought me here, but it's the people and their stories that keep me grounded. The connection is what makes this city truly special."

In a city known for its rich culinary heritage and the warmth of its people, John Biswas embodies the spirit of Hyderabad. His journey illustrates how food transcends mere sustenance, forging bonds and creating memories that resonate far beyond the plate. As he continues to curate culinary experiences in this dynamic city, he reminds us that every meal is an opportunity for connection, discovery and love, a true celebration of the heart and soul of Hyderabad.



## FROM BAT TO MIC:

### Babbal Rai balls over his passion and profession

TEJAL SINHA  
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Punjabi entertainment's versatile sensation, Babbal Rai, has taken the industry by storm with his captivating music and impressive acting skills. From his early days as a budding cricketer to becoming a household name, Babbal's journey is a testament to his dedication and passion.

Born in Samrala, Punjab, Babbal grew up with a passion for cricket and music. His childhood dream was to become a cricketer, but fate had other plans. "Yes, I used to sing as a kid, but never thought of it as a profession growing up. My dream was to be a cricketer. But now, after becoming a celebrity, I am able to play in the cricket leagues, which is a good feeling because somehow that dream has also come true," reveals the *Tere Layi* singer in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*.

Babbal's journey to stardom began when his YouTube videos went viral. His debut song, *Australian Challa*, released in 2008, became a massive hit. "Social media had the biggest role in my journey. It all started when my videos went viral on YouTube."

Babbal's music is known for its unique blend of traditional and contemporary styles. He has released numerous chart-topping tracks, including *Tere Naam*, *Küche* and *Ja Dhol Bajega*. His acting career has also garnered immense appreciation, with notable roles in films like *Mr. & Mrs. 420* and *Ghuggi Yaar Gupp Na Pyar*. *The Jattan Da Munda* fame says, "It feels really good when people appreciate my acting and my music."

For Babbal, the key to success lies in quality over quantity. I always prefer quality over quantity, so the songs that I did, the movies I did, I have always been very selective about it, so that really helped," shares the *Tere Naam* singer.

Social media has played a pivotal role in Babbal's journey. "Only the medium keeps changing; once there was Orkut, then Facebook, then Snapchat and now Instagram. Social media plays a huge role in the life of an artist, and it feels really good whenever my song gets viral," he acknowledges.

Babbal credits his team, EYP, for their unwavering support. "We have the same aim. We started together, so whatever we are doing today, EYP has had a huge role in it, and it will always be this way."

The Punjabi industry's global recognition fills Babbal with pride. The *Sohni* singer enthuses, "Firstly, I feel very blessed that God has given me this talent of singing and acting. And it's amazing that the Punjabi industry is receiving so much love worldwide. A lot of our

music is also a part of Bollywood movies, which has led to new opportunities for the Punjabi industry."

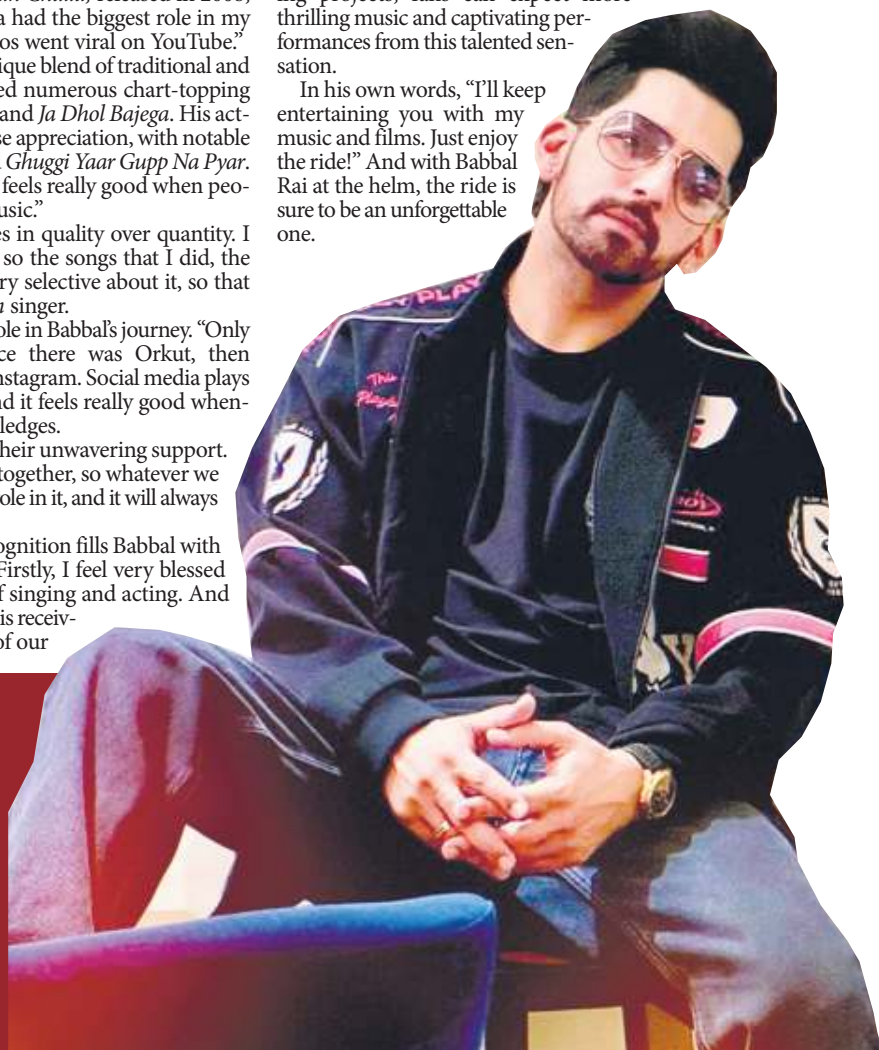
Babbal believes in giving back to society. "I always say I am not the best, but I am blessed. I have always tried to give my best and entertain the audience with my work," he humbly admits.

Babbal has several exciting projects lined up. "There are a few films in the lineup; one is *Intha Da Ghar* and another is *Chacha Jaan*, which will start filming soon. I am also working on my EP, which I hope to release soon."

As Babbal Rai continues to soar to new heights, his journey serves as a shining testament to the power of passion, dedication, and perseverance. From his humble beginnings as a budding cricketer to becoming a household name in the Punjabi entertainment industry, Babbal's story is an inspiration to millions.

With his multifaceted talent, humility, and commitment to his craft, Babbal Rai has cemented his position as one of the most sought-after artists in the industry. As he gears up for his upcoming projects, fans can expect more thrilling music and captivating performances from this talented sensation.

In his own words, "I'll keep entertaining you with my music and films. Just enjoy the ride!" And with Babbal Rai at the helm, the ride is sure to be an unforgettable one.



In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Punjabi entertainment's versatile sensation, Babbal Rai, opens up about his captivating journey from a budding cricketer to a household name, his passion, perseverance and more

## JEE RE-ATTEMPT? Change your strategy for better results!



### DEVELOP STRONG STUDY PLAN

If you decide to reattempt JEE, a comprehensive and well-structured study plan is essential. Instead of repeating the same study patterns, focus on creating a more efficient schedule that prioritises building a strong foundation in math, physics, and chemistry. These subjects form the core of the JEE syllabus, so ensuring clarity in fundamental concepts is important.

Organise your preparation to allow enough time for regular practice. Solving previous years' question papers and taking mock tests will improve your speed and accuracy. Consistent practice is the backbone of effective preparation, allowing you to spot mistakes early and refine your approach over time.

### SEEK GUIDANCE AND EXPERT SUPPORT

Enrolling in a reputable coaching institute or seeking help from experienced instructors can make a significant difference. Expert guidance provides more than just study materials and offers strategic insights into the exam pattern, common pitfalls, and areas where you can maximise your score. Interacting with professionals can give you a fresh perspective on your preparation methods.

Coaches often offer personalised feedback, which can help you adjust your study techniques and improve weaker areas. Engaging in a supportive community of learners also keeps you motivated and on track.

A retry at JEE is not just about trying again; it's about doing things differently and smarter. By reflecting on your previous performance, assessing your readiness, following a disciplined study plan, and seeking expert guidance, you can significantly improve your chances of success in JEE 2025. Remember, perseverance, adaptability and self-awareness are your best allies in this journey.

(The author, Rohit Gupta, is the COO of College Vidya.)

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) is one of the most popular exams for engineering aspirants in India. Conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), the JEE serves as a gateway to prestigious institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs). Every year, lakhs of students appear for this highly competitive exam, hoping to secure a seat among the 2.5 lakh available in top engineering colleges.

However, the exam's difficulty and fierce competition mean that not everyone achieves their desired rank on their first or second attempt. If you're considering a re-attempt for JEE 2025, scheduled for January and April 2025 (exact dates to be announced in November 2024), it's crucial to adopt a refined strategy to improve your chances. Here are some expert tips and strategies to guide you through your preparation for JEE 2025.

### REFLECT ON YOUR PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS

Before considering re-attempting the JEE, it is crucial to assess your earlier performance. Identifying the specific reasons behind any shortcomings, whether related to conceptual understanding, anxiety during the exam, or ineffective time manage-

ment, can provide clarity on how to improve.

Many students struggle with balancing their knowledge across subjects, which makes it important to reflect on whether your weaknesses were spread across all areas or concentrated in certain topics. Understanding these patterns will help you build a more targeted study plan for your next attempt.

### EVALUATE YOUR CURRENT READINESS

Deciding to re-attempt JEE is not just about academic commitment; it also requires physical and mental readiness. The intense preparation phase demands sustained effort, and any signs of burnout or stress from your previous attempt should be carefully considered.

If you are feeling drained or uncertain about your ability to manage the pressures of another year of studying, seeking emotional support may help. Talk to trusted friends, family members, or even a counsellor to ensure you are in the right mindset.

Mental health is a critical aspect that often gets overlooked in competitive exam preparation, yet it directly impacts your ability to focus and perform.



A distinguished gathering of academics and dignitaries, including Prof. Y. Jahangir (Head, Department of Business Management, UCCMB, OU), Prof. Smitha Sambrani (Chairman, Board of Studies, Department of Business Management, UCCMB, OU), and Ilyas ur Rahman (Principal), attended the graduation ceremony at Shadan MBA College, Hyderabad.

PARTY  
Photos by- SV Chary

## Patakha-perfect outfit for this Chhath Puja

**G**et ready to soak in the warmth and splendor of Chhath Puja! This auspicious occasion demands attire that blends tradition, style and poise. Explore our curated collection of Chhath Pooja outfit ideas, featuring timeless classics and modern twists, to make your celebrations truly special.

Indian festival and a minimal floral lehenga in a rich red hue is the perfect choice this season. The subtle floral patterns give it a graceful touch, while the grilled dupatta adds a modern twist. Pair this look with simple yet elegant jewellery and keep the makeup soft to let the outfit speak for itself.

### Glam up in gold for a radiant look

Chhath Puja is all about lights and sparkle and gold is the ultimate colour for this festival. Keep the jewellery bold and the makeup glowing to add a festive shine.

### Vibrant pink saree for a traditional glow

Nothing says Chhath Puja like a vibrant, intricately embroidered saree! The saree adorned with floral designs, perfect for bringing a festive glow. Pair it with classic jewelry and Gajras for an elegant look that exudes traditional charm.

### Royal blue lehenga for evening glam

Embrace a royal vibe mirror embellished lehenga. Go for deep colors like emerald green or royal blue. Add statement jewellery and a sheer dupatta to elevate the look. This style is perfect for evening gatherings and family poojas.

### Minimalistic yet classy anarkali

For those who prefer understated elegance, a minimalistic anarkali is ideal. Pair it with delicate accessories. This outfit style is comfortable yet festive, making it ideal for day events or family gatherings.

### Traditional banarasi saree for regal vibes

Nothing beats the allure of a Banarasi saree during Chhath Puja! Complete it with heavy jhumkas and bangles to embody timeless elegance.

### Classy charm in a white net saree

With delicate embroidery and a graceful drape, this saree exudes timeless elegance. Paired with minimal jewellery, it brings a subtle yet sophisticated charm, making it ideal for festive gatherings. Embrace this chic and effortless style to make a memorable statement.

Effortlessly elegant in a Red Minimal Floral Lehenga with Frill Dupatta  
Red is a classic color for any



## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



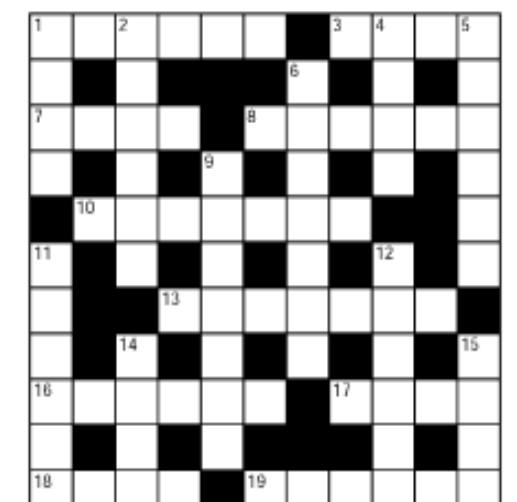
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

### ACROSS

- An eight-legged creature
- Small mark
- Opposite of succeed
- Well-mannered
- Spectacles
- Largest
- Floppy
- A stringed instrument
- Uncommon
- An imaginary fire-breathing monster

### DOWN

- Not in danger
- A frozen drip
- Twosome
- One tenth of two hundred
- From another country
- A drug used for treating headaches
- A precious metal
- Enquiring
- Bitter-tasting
- Twirl





# It's a Dulquer Salmaan show all the way! REVIEW

**SURESH KAVIRAYANI**  
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Malayalam star Dulquer Salmaan's latest Telugu film, *Lucky Bhaskar*, released this Diwali, marking his third direct Telugu outing after *Mahanati* and *Sita Ramam*. Directed by Venky Atluri, with Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead, the film's promotional content hinted at a storyline centered on a banking scam set in the past. With music by GV Prakash Kumar, here's a breakdown of the storyline and its journey on screen.

## STORY

Set in 1990s Mumbai, *Lucky Bhaskar* follows Bhaskar Kumar (played by Dulquer Salmaan), a middle-class bank employee and the sole breadwinner for his family, including his wife Sumathi (played by Meenakshi Chaudhary), his siblings and his father (played by Sarvadaman Banerjee). Bhaskar's dedication and hard work make him the bank's top employee, but financial burdens and family debts weigh heavily on him. An enticing but risky offer from a trader named Antony (played by Ramki)

presents Bhaskar with a chance to clear his debts, though he's hesitant to take the risk. However, with mounting pressure from creditors and Sumathi's desire to start a pickle business, Bhaskar decides to take the plunge with Antony. What follows is a high-stakes journey, will Bhaskar's risk pay off and will Sumathi's dreams come true? The answers unfold in *Lucky Bhaskar*.

## ANALYSIS

Director Venky Atluri, known for his nuanced storytelling, once again explores period drama with *Lucky Bhaskar*, weaving in elements of financial fraud. Inspired by the infamous Harshad Mehta scam of the '90s that rocked India's financial sector, Venky Atluri adapts the tale to center around a middle-class worker's plunge into the world of banking scams. Instead of using real names, he introduces the character Harshad Mehra to echo the scam's essence, drawing a parallel to *Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story*.

While banking scandals aren't new themes in Indian cinema, Atluri makes it accessible to Telugu audiences by narrating the story in an engaging way that balances complexity with clarity. The film opens with a CBI

officer arresting Bhaskar for involvement in a bank scam, leading Bhaskar to recount his journey. Atluri skillfully depicts Bhaskar's challenges at work and his aspirations, providing a relatable portrayal of his struggles. As Bhaskar joins hands with Antony, the plot gains momentum. Notable scenes, like Bhaskar pleading with the bank manager and his clever maneuvering through challenging situations, are highlights.

In the second half, Bhaskar exploits banking loopholes for financial gain, but as he climbs higher, his family dynamics change. His relentless pursuit of wealth strains his relationship with Sumathi, leading to well-crafted scenes of conflict. There are a few scenes between the couple that come out very well. However, the latter part of the film leans on cinematic liberties that may confuse some viewers with intricate details about banking and finance, especially for those in rural areas which may not be understood by the front bench audience in rural areas.

## PERFORMANCE

Dulquer Salmaan shines as Bhaskar, delivering a compelling performance from start to finish. He is one of the finest actors, he did a splendid job as Bhaskar

and the way he showed the emotions is simply superb. His portrayal is both engaging and emotionally resonant, carrying the film with a powerful screen presence and adept delivery of Telugu dialogue. Meenakshi Chaudhary delivers her best performance to date, portraying Sumathi with both strength and grace. The child actor Ritwik impresses, while seasoned actors like Sai Kumar, Ramki and Sarvadaman Banerjee provide solid support. Kasireddy, in a memorable role as Bhaskar's friend, adds charm. GV Prakash Kumar's background score amplifies the film's tone, while Nimish Ravi's cinematography beautifully captures the 90s ambience. Atluri's writing adds depth, with dialogues that resonate with meaning.

## CONCLUSION

*Lucky Bhaskar* is a well-crafted film with good dialogues, marked by Dulquer Salmaan's stellar performance and GV Prakash Kumar's impactful music with an amazing background score. Despite some narrative liberties and a few slow moments in the second half, the film is an engaging watch for fans of dramas with an edge. It is a good one time watch.

**Cast:** Dulquer Salmaan, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Sai Kumar, Ramki, Sarvadaman Banerjee, Kasireddy, Hyper Aadi, Sachin Khedekar, Manasa, Tinu Anand and others  
**Cinematography:** Nimish Ravi  
**Music:** GV Prakash Kumar  
**Producers:** Naga Vamsi, Sai Soujanya  
**Director and Writer:** Venky Atluri  
**Rating:** 3.5

# KA gives new experience, credits to director duo

PNS | HYDERABAD

This year, the festival of Diwali was a feast for cinema lovers, as nearly few Telugu and Tamil dubbed into Telugu films were released. One of them is the Kiran Abbavaram starrer *KA*. After delivering two flops, Kiran Abbavaram has come up with this film *KA* and had previously said that the film story is unique and new in cinema. Well, ahead of the release of his film, he also stated that if anyone felt that the subject wasn't new or somehow disliked the film, he would quit the industry. *KA* marks director duo Sujith and Sandeep's directorial debut and also stars Nayan Sarika and Tanvi Ram as the female leads.

## PLOT

Abhinav Vasudev (played by Kiran Abbavaram) is an orphan and works as an assistant postman in a mysterious village called Krishnagiri. His worst habit is that he reads and occasionally responds to all the letters. During his childhood, he developed this habit, which he continued even more after becoming a postman. In the village, he falls for Satyabhama (played by Nayan Sarika) instantly, the postmaster's (played by Achyuth Kumar) daughter. In a strange manner, several of the girls from the village are vanishing one by one and Vasudev aimed to take action regarding this situation. Therefore, he discovers a hint in one of the letters regarding the whereabouts of the girls who have disappeared. He initiated his own inquiry into the disappearance of the girls and encountered several obstacles. A man wearing a mask abducts Vasudev and school teacher Radha (played by Tanvi Ram), placing them in separate rooms. Who is the man wearing a mask and what is the reason for him locking up these two individuals in different rooms? What is the story behind the disappearance of the girls and who is responsible for it? The essence of the story revolves around the outcome of the masked man and the fate of Vasudev's love story.

## ANALYSIS

Just as Kiran Abbavaram challenges, this concept is a complete new subject, which brings a different experience to the audience. The story starts with a masked man interrogating protagonist Vasudev in a room. Then the story starts with Vasudev narrating his story, which the director narrated more in an interesting way, especially the conversation between the masked man and the protagonist, which is gripping and definitely new to the audience. At the same time, in another room, a woman called Radha is also captured.

Sujith and Sandeep's story narration is different, as they take it in a non-linear way. Whenever the masked man is asking Vasudev, he goes back to his past and then the story is revealed. Though there are some normal and regular scenes in between, the interval bang is a big surprise and definitely no one expects. On the other hand, Radha's flashback story that happened in the same village is also interesting. We can't tell the story more as it has a lot of twists and turns. After the interval suspense, the climax is very interesting and definitely never comes before on the big screen. There is a lot of spiritual, mythological and the philosophy of Karma all interlinked in the story. The way they reveal the meaning of *KA* is also interesting and once the climax part is done, you can recall the story that happened from the beginning.

The village itself gives some curiosity because it was designed so well. Vasudev's investigation on the disappearance of girls, the court scenes, and the action scenes are all designed so well and create some kind of interest for the audience. The romantic scenes between Vasudev and Satyabhama are normal, but the action scene in the end is definitely one of the highlights. The climax is a big surprise. The other highlight of the film definitely goes to Sam CS, the music director, who gave the background score. It not only elevates the protagonist in some scenes but also creates some sort of interest to watch every scene. The cinematography is simply superb, showing the village and action scenes and it travels with the story. The art director should get a pat for designing the 1977 period look of the village and the ambience. The entire credit goes to the director duo for showing a complete new world to the audience.

**Cast:** Kiran Abbavaram, Nayan Sarika, Tanvi Ram, Achyuth Kumar, Saranya Pradeep, Ramachandran, Annapurna, Kota Jayaram, Aruna Balaraj, Annapurna and others  
**Cinematography:** Daniel Viswas, Satish Reddy  
**Music:** Sam CS  
**Producers:** Chintna Gopalakrishna  
**Directors:** Sujith and Sandeep  
**Rating:** 3.5



## PERFORMANCE

When it comes to the performance, you can see Kiran Abbavaram's hard work on the screen. This film is going to be his best in his career and a memorable one for him. The way he carried his character, the emotions and the way he handled the action scenes were simply superb. There is a meaning for his open challenge before the release; as he says, this film is a new subject, never before on the big screen. Tanvi Ram's performance as Radha is another highlight. She did a very good job and a good one to showcase her talent. Nayan Sarika is cute and beautiful, though her role is limited. Achyuth Kumar, Kota Jayaram, Saranya Pradeep, Annapurna and all others supported well in their roles. Ajith appeared in a cameo. Tamil actor Redin Kingsley gets irritated in his role.

## VERDICT

Finally, though there are a few flaws here and there, *KA* is definitely worth watching. Full credit to the director duo Sujith and Sandeep, narrating a new subject in a gripping way with twists and turns and Kiran Abbavaram fully supported them with his performance. The interval and climax are the strong points for this film.

## Director duo Sujith and Sandeep celebrate KA success



"Will he accept this story, because it's a different genre and new? But when we narrated the story, he was excited and asked us to do the film," they said. Both are in good understanding and they know which one is doing what. "When we get clarity on everything and also a constructive discussion between us before the shot," they said. Sometimes they will go with the flow also.

Why is the protagonist a postman? "When we write a period drama and a person who is reading other letters, then the postman comes into our mind, who can easily read the letters," said why they choose the postman. "I would like to share my philosophy; we do some things every day, but what we don't know is that every work we do is interlinked with some other person; that's what we showed in the film," said Sujith.

Both wanted to continue as a director duo in the future and also wanted to give stories that were original. "I don't want to get inspired by other language films. I have written some unique stories and I wanted to create a new world with every film. Now, we are enjoying the success of this *KA* film," said Sujith. They are also getting calls from industry people for their next project.

# Pushpa Raj & Srivalli's sizzling chemistry continues

The anticipation for *Pushpa 2: The Rule* continues to build as Mythri Official released the highly anticipated official poster featuring the dynamic duo, Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna. The poster showcases the pair in striking poses, showing off the intense and electrifying chemistry that fans have come to adore since the first installment of the franchise.

In the poster, Allu Arjun, reprising his role as Pushpa Raj, exudes charisma and intensity, while Rashmika Mandanna, as Srivalli, captures hearts with her alluring presence. The official

handle of Mythri Pictures shared the poster with a caption that reads, "Pushpa Raj & Srivalli wish you and your family a very Happy Diwali#Pushpa2:TheRule will bring celebrations and fireworks on the big screens. Grand release worldwide on 5th December 2024."

As we bid adieu to the year 2024, *Pushpa 2: The Rule* will be an apt entertainer to end the year. Starring Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil, the film is directed by Sukumar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, with music on T-Series.



# Ram Charan's Game Changer teaser set for Nov 9 release

Following the global success of *RRR*, Ram Charan returns to the screen as the solo lead in the upcoming film *Game Changer*, directed by Shankar and produced by Dil Raju. Unlike *RRR*, which was a multi-starrer, *Game Changer* focuses entirely on Charan's character. The film is set to release on January 10, 2025, just in time for Sankranti, with the team gearing up for a robust promotional campaign. The makers recently revealed that the film's teaser will drop on November 9, sparking excitement among fans eager for a first look at Charan's appearance and the grand visual spectacle promised by the film.

Adding to the anticipation, music director Thaman hinted at a stunning train fight



sequence that is expected to raise the bar in action filmmaking. Two songs from the movie have already been released, giving audiences a taste of the film's musical grandeur. Known for his ability to create immersive, larger-than-life experiences, director Shankar is set to present Charan in a career-defining role with *Game Changer*, positioning it as the biggest film in Charan's career.

Alongside Ram Charan, Kiara Advani stars as the female lead, with Anjali, Samuthirakani, SJ Suryah, Srikanth, Sunil and Naveen Chandra taking on powerful supporting roles. Dialogues are penned by Sai Madhav Burra, adding depth to the film's narrative.

# Rishabh Shetty transforms into Hanuman in Jai Hanuman

Prashanth Varma is set to continue the success of his film *Hanuman* with an exciting sequel titled *Jai Hanuman*. Anticipation has been building over who would portray the role of Lord Hanuman in this sequel, and on Diwali, the makers finally put the curiosity to rest by unveiling the first look of the character. National Award-winner Rishabh Shetty has been cast in the lead role, taking on the powerful and revered character of Hanuman.

Known for his unique approach to blending modern storytelling with mythology, Prashanth Varma has built a strong following. Meanwhile, actor Rishabh Shetty is riding high on the widespread success of *Kantara*, which resonated across multiple languages. With this star-studded pairing, *Jai Hanuman* is generating high expectations and is set to capture the attention of audiences nationwide. Alongside the casting announcement, the filmmakers released a captivating first-look poster that embodies the essence of Hanuman.

The poster features Rishabh Shetty as

Hanuman, seated with an idol of Sri Ram held reverently in his hand. The narrative explores Kaliyug, where Hanuman lives in Agnathavasam, an exile prompted by his sacred promise to Ram. In *Jai Hanuman*, Hanuman's silence represents not surrender but purposeful strength, a hidden power that awaits its moment to awaken. The film pays homage to unwavering devotion and the power of a vow that withstands all challenges. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, *Jai Hanuman* is being created on a grand scale on a very high budget, promising a cinematic spectacle.

Meanwhile, adding to the excitement, behind-the-scenes (BTS) footage from the film has been released, perfectly capturing the intensity of the project as it brings Rishabh Shetty and director Prashanth Varma together in one frame.

The makers took to their social media to share BTS footage from the *Jai Hanuman* photo shoot, featuring National Award winner Rishabh Shetty and director Prashanth



Varma, and added the caption:

"When Focused Vision meets Metaculous Perfection Team #JaiHanuman is beyond grateful for the outpouring of love and all the Epic Responses for the #JaiHanumanFirstLook. A BTS click of National Award Winning Actor @shetty\_rishabh and Visionary Director @PrashanthVarma from the photoshoot session."

While replying back on this, the Rishabh Shetty also shared the BTS picture on his social media and wrote, "Dear brother @prashanth-varmaofficial, your vision and creativity is incredible! Loving these BTS moments, Your direction brings magic to life on screen."

# Lucifer returns with bang this March

The cinematic powerhouse that began with *Lucifer* is set to make an explosive comeback as its much-awaited sequel, *Empuraan*, gears up for a grand release on March 27, 2025. The sequel dives even deeper into the intense and enigmatic world established by *Lucifer*, weaving together power struggles, betrayal and the allure of the unknown with a fresh narrative and heightened stakes.

Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, who also returns in a key role, *Empuraan* stars the legendary Mohanlal, reprising his iconic role as Stephen Nedumpally, alongside a stellar cast that includes Manju Warrior, Tovino Thomas and Indrajith Sukumaran. The production boasts some of the industry's best, with Murali Gopy's gripping screenplay and

Antony Perumbavoor and Subaskaran taking the reins as producers, alongside the creative forces at Aashirvad Cinemas and Lyca Productions.

The film promises thrilling visuals, dynamic action sequences choreographed by Silva Stunts, and a powerful score by Deepak Dev, heightening every moment of the experience. Cinematographer Sujith Vaasudev captures each frame with meticulous artistry, ensuring that *Empuraan* will not only continue but elevate the *Lucifer* legacy.

As fans eagerly await Stephen's return, the excitement and speculation around *Empuraan* only grows, with audiences ready to explore deeper dimensions of his character and witness confrontations that promise to redefine Indian cinema.



# India hand New Zealand control after batting flop show on Day 1

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's batters lost the plot in a matter of 20 minutes, leaving the side at a jittery 86/4 after Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar gave the hosts the early bragging rights by dismissing New Zealand for 235 on an eventful day one of the third and final Test here on Friday. Jadeja (5/65) and Sundar (4/81) did their job to perfection but India's batting continued to be a weak link as the side lost three wickets in the space of eight balls, starting with Yashasvi Jaiswal's (30) inexplicable reverse slog sweep. With his 14th five-for in Tests, Jadeja also moved ahead of former pace bowling teammates Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma to climb to the fifth spot in the list of highest wicket-takers for India in the format. With 314 wickets so far, Jadeja is now behind Harbhajan Singh (417 wickets) in the all-time list. India, who lost by eight wickets in Bengaluru and by 113 runs in Pune, are in a desperate position to remain alive in the race to the World Test Championship final but the contest seems to be slipping away. If Virat Kohli (4) missed an innocuous full toss to be cleaned up in first innings at Pune was an aberration, the batting maestro ran himself out in ending stages of the first day's play which left India



staring at a mountain to climb. India's rapid fall displayed their fast eroding confidence with the bat as Rohit Sharma (18) too was among those who fell without making a significant dent. In between the loss of the team's batting pillars, Jaiswal and Shubman Gill (31 not out) forged a 53-run stand for the second wicket before the closing stage collapse. Rohit, playing only his second Test on his home turf of the Wankhede Stadium, dazzled

with a few attractive strokes to get off the blocks quickly but failed to make the most of a reprieve. William O'Rourke spilled a tough chance at fine leg off Henry when Rohit pulled one towards his left with the fielder also covering fair distance to get to the ball in the fifth over. In the seventh, Rohit played awkwardly at a back of a length ball, looking to work it on the leg side, the Indian skipper was perhaps surprised with the

bounce as he closed the face of the bat but the ball flew to his counterpart Tom Latham in the second slip. Rohit's fall had Gill joining Jaiswal and the two did try to rebuild before the latter's dismissal. Earlier, spinners ruled the roost as Jadeja (5/65) and Washington (4/81) shared nine wickets between them to keep New Zealand to 235 after the visitors opted to bat. Washington sparkled with a crucial two-wicket burst

back and handing the advantage to India with his mastery over the pitch and the conditions, picking five wickets along the way. R Ashwin, deployed first among the Indian spinners, remained wicket-less despite his variations but his bowling partners exploited the pitch perfectly, particularly left-arm Jadeja who bowled comparatively quicker and attacked the wickets. New Zealand, who crumbled from 159 for three to 235 all out predominantly against Jadeja, did deserve credit for braving the conditions which had their highest scorer in the innings, Mitchell, really struggling in the middle. The burly batting all-rounder consumed liquids frequently and kept dropping to his haunches and even lay flat on his back as he made a fighting 82 off 129 balls, laced with three fours and as many sixes. Mitchell felt the heat more than anyone else also because he dealt a lot in singles and doubles until he brought up his maiden fifty of the tour. Each of his three sixes came towards the end. Like Mitchell, Young too looked set for a century but Jadeja's brilliance ended his knock. Getting one to turn away against Young's front-foot defence, Jadeja had the ball kissing the shoulder of the bat and Rohit did the rest at first slip, bringing an end to a fine knock in which Young scored 71 off 138 balls with four fours and two sixes.



## Kolkata Anish three years old becomes youngest rated chess prodigy

PTI ■ KOLKATA

While most children of his age are absorbed in cartoons like Peppa Pig or Chhota Bheem, or simply playing with toys, young Anish Sarkar found his fascination in the quiet strategy of chess pieces, sparking a journey few could fathom. At just three years, eight months, and 19 days, the kid from Kaikhali in north Kolkata on Friday became the youngest rated chess player in history. Born on January 26, 2021, Anish made his debut in competitive chess with the West Bengal state Under-9 Open in October, securing an impressive 5.5 out of 8 points and finishing 24th overall defeating two rated players -- Arav Chatterjee and Ahilaan Baisya. He was also fortunate to get an opportunity to play against India No. 1 and World No. 4 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi in a simultaneous exhibition match during the Bengal Rapid Rating Open. Just a week later, Anish tested his skills again in the West Bengal state Under-13 Open, where he faced older, experienced players. Though the event was challenging, it became a vital step in his journey, meeting the requirement of facing five rated players, ultimately earning him an initial FIDE rating of 1555, which was updated on Thursday. In doing so, he surpassed the previous record set by Tejas Tiwari, who had become the youngest FIDE-rated player at five years, India's second GM and his coach Dibyendu Barua said. "He reminds me of Mitrabha Guha (who became GM at 20 years). Anish definitely has potential but he has a long, long way to go," Barua, the director of Dhanuka Dhunseri Dibyendu Barua Chess Academy, told PTI. Anish's emergence comes as India witnesses an exciting era in chess, with young talents like Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa, and D Gukesh shines internationally. These prodigies have shattered records, inspired fans worldwide, and recently, India celebrated a historic double-gold victory at the Chess Olympiad in both the open and women's categories. Their success has not only put India on the global chess map but has sparked a nationwide interest in nurturing young talents like Anish. In most videos of Anish at chess tournaments, he is seen sitting on a stack of chairs just

to reach the chessboard, making it an endearing sight. In one video, Anish plays against three GMs, including Barua and Surya Sekhar Ganguly, while balancing on the chairs as his coach Barua, playfully pinches his cheek. "We've put him in a special group, where he trains for seven to eight hours," said Barua. "Sometimes, he even comes to my home to play, and once he sits down at the board, he simply won't get up. His focus is truly astounding." Born into a lower-middle-class family with parents who had "zero knowledge of chess," Anish's journey began just a year ago when he was a toddler. "We introduced him to different YouTube channels, including cartoons like Peppa Pig, but he was drawn to chess videos," his mother said. "By January, his interest had grown, and he would watch those videos endlessly. I bought him a chessboard and pieces, thinking it was safe for him to handle even if I couldn't supervise him closely. "Since he was already good with numbers and counting, chess quickly became his favourite. That's when we decided to place him under the guidance of Dibyendu Sir," she recalls. His mother, however, prefers to stay anonymous for now. "We come from a lower-middle-class family and would rather avoid the limelight at this stage," she said. "This is his moment, and he deserves to be the one in focus. We'll be happy to share our names when he becomes a GM!" "Till date, I don't know a single chess move," his mother admits with a laugh. "Maybe his father knows a bit more, but he hasn't managed to beat him even once." She goes on, "We're happy to support him quietly from behind and let him make his mark, wherever his interests lead him. There's no pressure on him; we just want him to enjoy himself. My time is fully devoted to him," she adds. Although she holds a master's degree, she chose to be housewife to support her son. "Who is his idol? "He absolutely loves watching GothamChess on YouTube, but his real hero is none other than Magnus Carlsen," his mother signs off with a smile. Barua, meanwhile, mentioned that they are trying to put him in the field of the upcoming Tata Steel Kolkata Chess where Carlsen has confirmed his participation.

## Four senior players led IPL retention discussions: MI coach Jayawardene



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene has disclosed that the team's senior quartet - Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, and Suryakumar Yadav - was actively involved in discussions about captaincy and retentions for the IPL's 2025 season. The five-times champions have retained the quartet of Bumrah, Suryakumar, Pandya and Rohit along with youngster Tilak Verma. "We had extensive discussions. These four senior guys led those discussions. Obviously, what happened last season, as well as how we collectively move forward that was crucial for us to align in that right direction," Jayawardene told Jio Cinema on Thursday. "So coaching staff, owners,

management and these four guys the direction came from them, what needs to be done, how it needs to go about." MI have paid the top retention price of Rs 18 crore to pace spearhead Bumrah while Suryakumar and Pandya have been retained for an equal retention price of Rs 16.35 crore each. Jayawardene said Rohit (Rs 16.30 crore), who has retired from the format after leading India to the T20 World Cup in June, agreed to be the fourth retention. Verma (Rs 8 crore) was the former champions' final retention pick. "And obviously Ro (hit) led the retention part, and everyone agreed that Booms (Bumrah), you know, being the best sport in the world, and it's been very consistent, and we need to recognise that at the top. "And then he wanted the other

young Indians to be recognised, and it was his call. So all in all, it was brilliant to see that you know them leading that conversation and agreeing to everything. So it was quite easy for us." Pandya was named captain last season, replacing Rohit amid a lot to backlash from the fans. However, Jayawardene, who recently returned as the team's head coach, said the all-rounder will continue to lead the side. "The leadership, as well Hardik being appointed captain, we had that conversation with them. So that was led by them." MI endured a disastrous season, finishing at the bottom of the 10-team league. Asked what the discussions are going into the new season Jayawardene said, "It's about learnings for us, understanding what went right, what went wrong. We need to learn from that and that was part of the discussions that we had." "We need to control things on the field and then off the field stuff will be handled quite easily. I think with it, it was tough for us to perform on the field, and everyone acknowledged that, you know, we underperformed as a group." MI will head into the auction with a purse of Rs 45 crore.

## Man United target Rúben Amorim promises decision after his Sporting Lisbon

AP ■ LISBON

Manchester United target Rúben Amorim has promised to clarify his future coaching plans after his Sporting Lisbon team plays a Portuguese league game on Friday evening. Amorim spoke on Thursday at a news conference ahead of league-leading Sporting facing Estrela da Amadora. Sporting has started its title defense with nine straight wins. "After the game tomorrow, we will have the decision made," Amorim said. "It will be very clear, so it's one more day." The 39-year-old coach's growing reputation and two Portuguese league titles in four seasons attracted Man United, which hired Erik ten Hag on Monday with the team 14th in the English Premier League. Sporting's statement to the Lisbon Stock Exchange said United was interested in paying the release clause in Amorim's contract worth 10 million euros (\$10.8 million). "It is a negotiation between two clubs," Amorim said on Thursday. "It's never easy. Even with the clauses it's never easy, they have to talk." Reports in English and Portuguese media suggest



Amorim will move to Manchester during the next break for national team games. That would make his first Man United game on Nov. 24 at Ipswich. One of Amorim's likely final games with Sporting is hosting Manchester City on Tuesday in the Champions League. Amorim had been linked to joining Man City, where Pep Guardiola has not publicly committed to renewing a contract that expires after the season. Man City's next director of football, Hugo Viana, will join from Sporting after this season. Man United was led by interim coach Ruud van

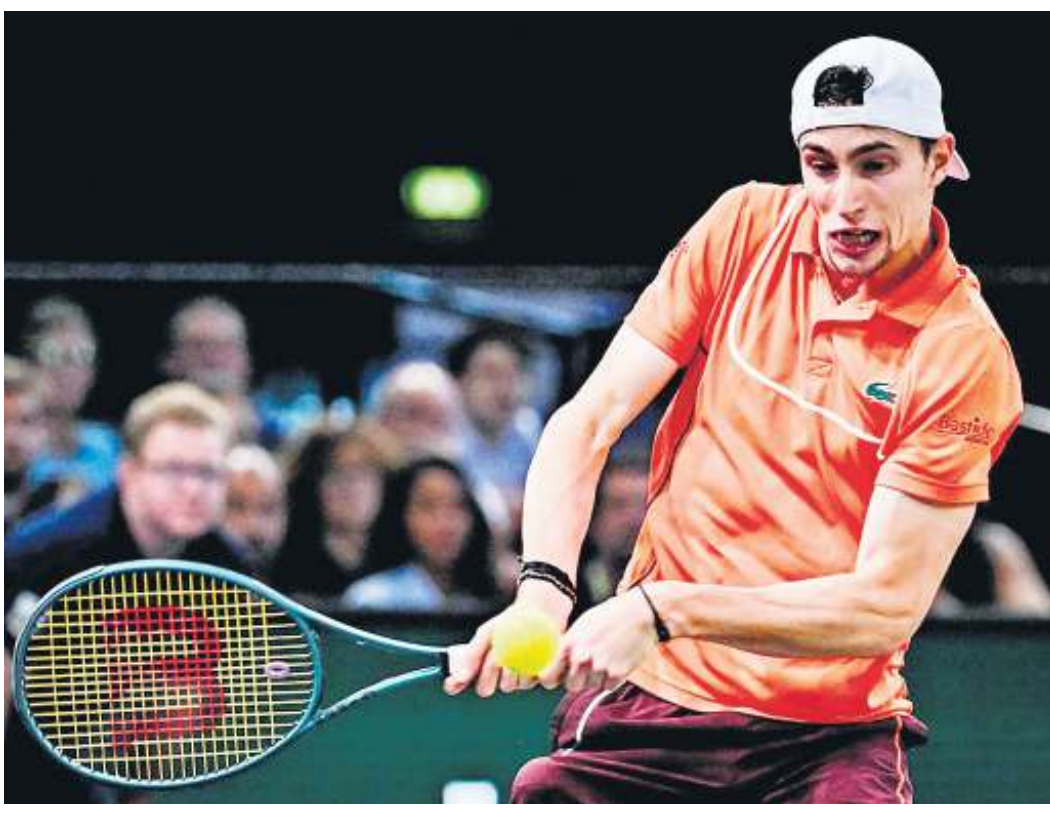
Nistelrooy on Wednesday and beat Leicester 5-2 in the English League Cup. Van Nistelrooy, a former Man United star striker who returned in the offseason to assist his Dutch compatriot Ten Hag, seems set to coach the team for three more home games: Chelsea visits in the Premier League on Sunday, then PAOK in the Europa League, and Leicester again in the Premier League on Nov. 10. Van Nistelrooy said on Thursday that it had been well-communicated that his new role would be interim only. "I was happy with that," he said at a news conference ahead of Sunday's game. "I felt that I was called upon to help the club forward in the situation and obviously it was difficult that Erik had to leave." Van Nistelrooy, who is under contract as an assistant through next season, said "you have to switch and (adopt) the mindset to win because in the end 75,000 (are) people waiting and celebrating and millions watching at home. "I think that's what we try to do," he continued, "and same for Sunday at least, and then after that we'll see.

## Humbert knocks out Alcaraz to join Zverev and Tsitsipas in Paris Masters quarterfinals

AP ■ PARIS

Frenchman Ugo Humbert harnessed the energy of the home crowd and produced one of his best career performances in beating Carlos Alcaraz 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals of the Paris Masters. A flurry of forehand and backhand winners had Alcaraz 5-0 down in a first set so one-sided that Alcaraz - a four-time Grand Slam winner - ironically waved his racket and grinned to the crowd after holding in the sixth game. "There were some incredible points, I think I have just experienced one of my greatest moments on a tennis court," Humbert said. "I don't want it to end here." The second-seeded Alcaraz controlled the second set but, after missing chances during the third set, served to stay in the match. The crowd jeered a replayed point but Alcaraz was unperturbed and held comfortably for 5-5. Sensing a big upset, Humbert got the Bercy Arena crowd going in

the next game. The 26-year-old left-hander looked like he was about to do a lap of honor after a brilliant forehand pass down the line at full stretch and earned ovations following a superb angled volley and a booming winner that flew past his Spanish opponent. "I have to congratulate Ugo. His performance has been really high," Alcaraz said. "The way he hits the ball is unbelievable." Alcaraz said Humbert deserved victory, but added that the unusually high speed of the court made it more difficult for him - especially with the low trajectory of Humbert's shots. "The stats came out that this is the fastest court in the Masters 1000, probably on the tour," the 21-year-old Spaniard said. "For example, the Davis Cup indoor court (was) way slower." A rattled-looking Alcaraz trailed 0-30 in the 12th game. Umpire Richard Haigh intervened to calm the crowd, urging them not to cheer when Alcaraz made a fault on serve and then said in English "Guys, you're affecting both players."



Serving again to stay in the match at 15-40, Alcaraz saved one match point but returned long on the next as the 15th-seeded Humbert set up a last-eight contest with Australian Jordan Thompson. Eighth-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov beat Arthur Rinderknech 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5) to have an outside chance of reaching the season-ending ATP Finals. Dimitrov, who served 17 aces, needs to reach Sunday's final and next faces 2018 champion Karen Khachanov. Earlier, Alexander Zverev silenced the raucous home crowd, beating French prospect Arthur Fils 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. The third-seeded German compiled 16 aces compared to nine for the 20-year-old Fils in their first indoor meeting. "I am happy I hung in there today," Zverev said. "He is a great player and has improved a lot this year. I am looking forward to the next few battles we are going to have." Zverev, the French Open runner-up, saved three break points in serving for the match at 5-3. "The atmosphere here is a lot

louder than at Roland Garros," the 27-year-old Zverev said. "The crowd is on top of you." He next plays 10th-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in his 16th career meeting, with Tsitsipas 10-5 up. The big-serving Greek earlier rallied to beat Francisco Cerundolo 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-2 to stay in contention to qualify for next month's Finals in Turin, the year-end tournament gathering the season's top eight players. Although Tsitsipas hit nine aces and saved all three break points, he converted only three of his 11 break-point chances. In other third-round matches, ninth-seeded Alex De Minaur kept up his chances of reaching the Finals with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 victory against Britain's Jack Draper, the U.S. Open semifinalist, and 2022 champion Holger Rune edged out lucky loser Arthur Cazaux 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Khachanov won 7-6 (5), 6-4 against Alexei Popyrin and Thompson advanced to the first Masters quarterfinal of his career by beating veteran Adrian Mannarino 7-5, 7-6 (5).