

sunday pioneer

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Modi destroyed dignity of PM's post with hollow promises: Priyanka'



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'India committed to SENDAI Framework'



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Scaling Kailash of MUSIC as Mahadev's bhakth




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QUOTE OF THE DAY

The Congress "guarantees" were full of fine print and empty promises. The people of Telangana didn't know that the guarantee card came with "conditions apply." Your claim of delivering on your Six Guarantees is hollow. Let alone 100 days, even 1,000 days or even 10,000 days wouldn't suffice to fulfil them. Every family is supposed to get a benefit of Rs 2.5 lakh as per the Congress guarantee card. But on the contrary, you might end up placing a debt of Rs 2.5 lakh on everyone

- Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State



DON'T MISS...

Telangana CEO releases draft ...

Facilitating voter verification, objections, and claims, a special campaign will be conducted on November 10 and 11, announced Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy on Saturday. He released the draft electoral rolls for the Special Summary Revision 2025, which covers all 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana. Addressing the media at his office, Sudharshan Reddy announced that the total number of electors, including service electors, is ...

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Sparkling stones found in ...

In Veernapalli village in Rajanna Sircilla district, the finding of rare coloured stones has become a topic of discussion. At the Chityala Gutta area on the outskirts of the Veernapalli mandal, a person found three coloured stones weighing over a kilogram and half a kilogram. These stones shine on like valuable diamonds, and the finding of stones has gone viral on social media, with local rumours suggesting they could be expensive diamonds. Pitla Rajesh, a local hotelier from Veernapalli, went to ...

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Amazon India records high...

Demand for premium products across categories, including television, smartphones, and large appliances, dominated the Diwali season sale during the Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2024 that commenced from September 27, a senior company official said on Saturday. Amazon India Vice President Saurabh Srivastava told PTI that the company recorded 10-times growth in Apple iPad sales and five-times growth in Samsung tablets during the Amazon Great Indian Festival ...

-MONEY

Fight against breast cancer ...

With the stirring theme of "No One Should Face This Battle Alone," October offered a moving reminder of the fortitude and resiliency of individuals impacted by breast cancer as we commemorated Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2024. Breast cancer stands as one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers globally, with India reporting approximately 200,000 new cases each year. Fortunately, when identified early, the disease is highly treatable. Raising awareness about the initial signs of breast cancer is crucial for improving patient outcomes. In this article, we share insights from survivors and medical professionals, focusing on recognising early symptoms, the significance of routine screenings, and a comprehensive overview of treatment ...

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'My bombs will go off in 2 or 3 days'

Revanth will continue as CM till end of term: Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that his 'political bombs' were not defused, the Minister of Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, said that his 'political bombs' will explode in two or three days and that some top politicians leaders will be arrested for corruption soon.

Stating that there is no truth in



the remarks of opposition leaders, he made it clear that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will remain in his post for the next four years and one month. They are speaking something as they have to speak as opposition leaders against the government, the Minister pointed out.

He said that the Congress high command will decide the next Chief Minister after coming to power for the second time. The CM change theory by opposition leaders is just a storm in the tea cup, he said.

During a chat with journalists at the Secretariat on Saturday, Ponguleti said the government has decided to conduct local body elections before Sankranti.

He said that the foundation stone will be laid for Indiramma Houses soon. The houses will be allocated to beneficiaries through 'Grama Sabhas'. He said that Rs 5 lakh will be distributed in four phases. Rs 1 lakh for the foundation, Rs 1.25 lakh for the lintel, Rs 1.75 lakh for the slab level and

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Govt okays Phase-II of Hyd Metro Rail Project



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has granted administrative sanction for implementing Phase-II of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project.

This phase, covering 76.4 km, will be undertaken as a joint venture (JV) between the Government of Telangana and the Centre. The estimated outlay of this JV is Rs 24,269 crore.

Phase-II aims to beef up the city's public transportation system by extending the Metro network to cover three additional traffic corridors. This is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion and pollution and provide a modern, efficient and eco-friendly transport option. The project will incorporate state-of-the-art technologies and world-class amenities to ensure optimal safety and comfort for passengers.

The newly sanctioned corridors under Part 'A' of Phase-II are Corridor IV: Raidurg to Shamshabad RGI Airport (Airport Corridor) -

The newly sanctioned corridors under Part 'A' of Phase-II are Corridor IV: Raidurg to Shamshabad RGI Airport (Airport Corridor) - 31 km, Corridor V: BHEL to Lakdikapul - 26 km, Corridor VI: Patny to Kandlakoya - 12 km, Corridor VII: Isnapur to Miyapur - 11 km, Corridor VIII: LB Nagar to Hayathnagar - 8 km

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This extension of the Metro network, along with the development of Corridor IX (RGIA to Skit University, covering 40.6 km), will enhance connectivity and facilitate seamless travel across Hyderabad.

The project will be funded as a 50:50 JV, with contributions from Telangana and the Centre. The total cost of Rs 24,269 crore will include Rs 3,733 crore from Telangana, Rs 2,403 crore from multilateral funding sources like JICA, ADB and NDB, and Rs 1,033 crore from the private sector as the PPP component.

The government has directed the Managing Director of Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) to implement the project, with all financial and administrative protocols endorsed by the Finance Department.

'ABSURD AND BASELESS' India trashes Canada's allegations against Shah

Warns of serious consequences

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday said it has protested in the strongest possible terms the references made by a Canadian minister about Union Home Minister Amit Shah and warned that such "absurd and baseless" allegations will have serious consequences for bilateral ties.

Amid an escalating diplomatic row between the two countries, New Delhi also accused Ottawa of indulging in "harassment and intimidation" of India's consular staff by putting them under audio and video surveillance in "flagrant violation" of



diplomatic conventions.

Canada's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison had alleged on Tuesday that Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gath-

ering targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada. It has drawn a sharp reaction from India.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Randhir Jaiswal, in

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OTS deadline extended to Nov 30

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has extended the deadline of the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme till November 30, responding to widespread demand from consumers.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) had requested an extension following numerous appeals from the public. The government has now granted the extension to allow more consumers to benefit from the scheme.

The OTS-2024 scheme, launched to recover long-pending water bill dues without late fees or interest, initially ran from October 1 to 31. During this period, the scheme generated Rs 49 crore in revenue and was utilized by approximately 70,335 consumers. However, due to the festive season of Dasara and

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REGISTRATIONS IN HMDA GP LAYOUTS

KTR slams government's decision

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR criticised the government's recent move to halt registrations in GP layouts within HMDA limits, calling it a reckless and thoughtless move that targets the poor and the middle class.

He expressed shock at the move and accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of enacting policies that resembled Tughlaq's rule causing avoidable hardships for the public.

KTR asked whether buying plots in GP layouts under the HMDA was the fault of the public and reminded that during elections, the Congress had promised free LRS. He pointed to how countless plots had changed hands over the

years, and now, the government's refusal to allow their registration has put owners in difficulty. "It's surprising that instead of resolving longstanding issues, the government is creating new ones," KTR said.

The BRS leader lambasted the administration for imposing RR tax and intimidating builders and now extending these

taxes to plot owners as well. He accused the Revanth government of exploiting the poor and the middle class through tax collections. "Halting registrations of previously purchased plots in GP layouts is equivalent to seizing the private property of the people," KTR said and urged the government to withdraw the decision.

TG politicians reveal only the secrets of opponents

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU
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■ HYDERABAD

The politicians of Telangana have a unique trait. They will reveal the secrets of their opponents rather than their secrets. Now this trend has peaked. They are revealing shocking internal secrets of others as if they have witnessed them.

The BJP and Congress leaders are alleging that there are serious troubles in the KCR family, that BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao are fighting each other and that the BRS is a sinking ship that can sink any day.

BJP and BRS leaders have been criticising Congress leaders, especially Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying that his Cabinet Ministers will topple him someday and that he must be alert regarding this.

On Saturday, BJP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy said the Congress high command will change Chief Minister Revanth Reddy between June 2025 and December 2025 and that N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka or Komatreddy Venkat Reddy will become the CM.

Countering Maheshwar Reddy's comments, TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud said,

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CM dumps 'guarantees,' refers to 'promises'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reacted strongly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements about the state and its government.

Taking to social media, the CM outlined the accomplishments of his government after assuming office on December 7, 2023, and corrected what he called the "misconceptions and factual errors" in the Prime Minister's remarks.

In his lengthy post, the CM did not use the word "guarantee" but referred to "promises."

The CM emphasised that the Congress government had

brought a renewed sense of joy and hope to Telangana after what he described as nearly a decade of BRS misrule.

"Within two days of taking charge, we implemented our first two major promises: free bus travel for women on all TGSRTC buses and healthcare coverage of Rs 10 lakh under Rajiv Arogyasree," the CM said.

Highlighting key achievements, he said that Telangana's women have benefited from the over 101 crore free bus trips, saving them Rs 3,433.36 crore in less than a year.

The government also enacted the largest-ever farmer loan waiver at the state level, benefiting over 22 lakh

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'Even 10,000 days not enough for Cong'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that even 10,000 days are not enough for the Congress government to implement its assurances in Telangana. He said the Congress deceived the people of Telangana with false assurances.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy re-posted Prime Minister Modi's tweet on Congress assurances in Telangana. However, Sanjay retweeted saying, "Dear Shri@revanth_anumula garu, Your 'guarantees' were full of fine print and empty promises."

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OBTUSE ANGLE



Sabarimala pilgrims to get free insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh

PNS ■ KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

Sabarimala pilgrims, who visit the Lord Ayyappa Temple during the upcoming Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season beginning later this month, will get free insurance coverage of Rs five lakh.

State Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan said here that the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), the apex temple body which manages the shrine, has introduced insurance coverage for all pilgrims coming to Sabarimala this year.



He said arrangements have been completed at the hill shrine to ensure a smooth darshan to all pilgrims.

"An insurance coverage of Rs five lakh will be provided. In case of death of pilgrims, the Devaswoms Board will make all arrangements to bring the body home," Vasavan told reporters during a press conference

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death of pilgrims, the Devaswoms Board will make all arrangements to bring the body home," Vasavan told reporters during a press conference.

He said all preparations for the annual pilgrimage had been completed and a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took stock of the final stage of arrangements on Saturday.

As many as 13,600 police officers, 2,500 fire and rescue personnel and 1,000 sanitation workers will be deployed at Sabarimala during the pilgrimage season, he said.

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If either KTR or Harish is jailed, who among them will get more sympathy?

Amid the fortnight-long tantalizing talk of 'political bombs' in the offing, some of the distinct probabilities being discussed in political circles are whether anyone from the Kalvakuntla family would end up behind bars; and, if yes, who would it be -- Bharat Rashtara Samithi Samithi working president KT Rama Rao or former health minister Harish Rao, and, as a corollary, who among them would be getting more sympathy? Strikingly, Harish Rao's name is less in reckoning. For, it is posited that if he were to face the heat of any legal action, be it on flimsy grounds or otherwise, it could ignite a wave of sympathy for him, and therefore, the BRS, given his strong reputation among the public. Harish, apart from being seen as the party's all-weather trouble-shooter, maintains an unblemished image. Once crown prince KTR, however, has a different back story. There are people, both within the party and outside, who hate him and detest his arrogant behaviour. Further, given their respective case-loads in police stations, Harish has an edge. Harish has been subtly addressing a police case lodged in Begum Bazaar PS concerning the remarks he had made during his public speeches. KTR is facing a heavier case-load and a sizeable number of his detractors in various circles would not shed a tear if things took a turn for the worse for him. When yours truly tried to get KTR to put a number on the cases against him, he did not respond. Perhaps, he lost count.

REPORTERS' DIARY

For once, Ponguleti dwarfs Revanth in airtime

It is customary for the head of the government to get relatively more airtime in TV channels as media persons tend to hang on the Chief Minister's every word. For others lower down the totem pole; in order to get more airtime in TV channels, he or she does not have to put on airs. It is enough if they stand out as the de facto CM or a replacement CM-in-waiting. A Telugu media house known for its soft corner for former Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, 'breaking' its news norms, made waves the other day by celebrating the birthday of Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. It is not a coincidence that the same media outlet often leans heavily into critical narratives about Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. So, the sudden spotlight on birthday boy Ponguleti raised many eyebrows in political circles. The icing on the birthday cake was the predictable reaction in the Chief Minister's Office. For the unversed, the CMO keeps tabs on the airtime, precisely measuring every second of coverage each of the CM's press meet gets. It is micromanagement at its best, with every second analyzed like it is golden moment for the ruling party, if not the current ruler. What some insiders can't help raving about is that, right under the close watch of the CMO, Ponguleti was in the limelight obviating the need for a stopwatch to quantify the celebratory airtime he got. Rumors suggest the shift in focus could be strategic or just another dimension in the tangled web of state politics. Either way, it is clear: when it comes to media games, no one is really off the table and nothing is off limits.

When TDP-style political posturing backfired

Just a few weeks ago, a plot thickened among Warangal's political corridors with over half a dozen leaders banding to file complaints initially with TPCC and later with AICC against Minister Konda Surekha. It all started with seven leaders throwing in their weight. While making their way to Gandhi Bhavan, their numbers dwindled to five. By the time they had a word with TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, only four among them were left. And then came the twist - Palakurthy MLA Yashashwini Reddy, later that evening, took to 'X' to voice her support for Konda Surekha, throwing a wrench into the dissidents' plans. The leftover quartet of MLAs, undeterred, went ahead and sought the intervention of AICC. What they did not realize was that the party high command has its own antennae. So, despite securing an appointment, once they broached the subject of their grievances, they were warned pronto to steer clear of any trouble involving Konda Murali. The AICC's message was clear: nobody messes with the formidable

Lawmaker-doctor gets tips to maintain his cool from hot-headed politicians

BRS legislator from Korutla Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay is a famous spine surgeon. However, he got unsolicited advice to help him maintain his cool, after he had blown his fuse while speaking to media persons, following the sensational Janwada farmhouse raid. Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay first countered inquisitive reporters, asking: "Don't women from Telangana consume liquor at their homes? Having liquor at home is part of Telangana culture". When reporters, who happened to be sober, retorted, 'How can you pose that question to us?', Sanjay became apologetic and said 'sorry' several times. At that point, former MLA Balka Sumna entered the scene and pacified scribes. A couple of days later, leaders of opposition parties, in biting satire, gave Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay tips to maintain his cool while interacting with the media. Driving home his displeasure, BJP MP from Medak M Raghunandan Rao asked Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay to show him where in TG women were consuming liquor at home. Wrapping up the matter, Korutla Assembly constituency Congress party incharge Juvvadi Krishna Rao urged Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay to do 'meditation' before speaking to media persons.

AP Formation Day passes unnoticed

The coalition government in Andhra Pradesh has come under fire for not celebrating the state's formation day on November 1 - a significant occasion that commemorates the formation of undivided Andhra Pradesh and honours the legacy of freedom fighter Potti Srimulam, whose self-sacrifice in 1952 was pivotal in the movement that had led to the formation of a separate Andhra Pradesh state. There were no official celebrations or commemorative events organized by the government, hurting citizens and political leaders. Although many central ministers and leaders wished the people of AP on the occasion, Governor of AP Abdul Nazeer was silent, though he wishes the people of other states on their respective formation days.

Recast TTD Board courts controversy

The recent appointments of members to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board have courted controversy because of the questionable backgrounds of some of its new members, who include individuals facing police cases, non-taxpayers those linked to criminal activities. Such appointments, critics say, undermine the sanctity of the world-renowned Lord Venkateswara temple and the credibility of the TTD. The least the lakhs of devotees who visit the shrine every day expect is transparency and accountability in the selection process so that the members of the TTD board are above reproach. (With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu and C Pradeep Kumar)

BRS gets all the time to prepare for the bomb

Forewarned is forearmed. 'Political bombs' are better dropped when the target least expects it. There is no fun in announcing it beforehand on foreign soil, as if it has cross-border appeal. The Congress government in Telangana may have whetted the curiosity of aam jana by strategically announcing ahead of Diwali the impending 'political bombs' linked to ongoing probes into Kaleshwaram project, phone tapping etc that are nearing completion. The unintended consequence has been that it has given the BRS plenty of room to brace themselves. Going by the whispers within BRS, the leadership has already huddled to flesh out what is to come and who are all in the crosshairs. KTR is primed and ready for whatever unfolds. Congress insiders themselves shared with yours truly that there are people in the government who are giving information to KTR, thanks to their rapport extending over 10 years. They cite how the 'Formula E race bomb' proved to be a damp squib amid promised Diwali fireworks with the matter pending at Raj Bhavan. It is no secret that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, for all his bravado, had the option to personally and directly drop the 'bomb'. Instead, he rolled it towards the Raj Bhavan. Everyone knows even a slow fuse would not take so long. Until (and if at all) it goes off, political tongues will keep wagging, raising eyebrows across Telangana.

Tahsildar, panchayat secretary in ACB net

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

In Asifabad district, Tahsildar Tirupati and Panchayat Secretary Shekhar, who were working in the Jainoori mandal, were trapped by the ACB team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Ramana Murthy. According to the details provided by the ACB DSP, the Tahsildar Durashetti Tirupati demanded a bribe from contractor Kendra Subodh Kanth to approve a bill

of Rs 9.11 lakh for the construction of a cement concrete road in the village. In accordance with the agreement with the officers, the victim handed over Rs 12,000 to the Tahsildar on Saturday. ACB officials conducted a raid at the Tahsildar's



office and seized the tainted money that the Tahsildar received as a bribe. A case has been registered against the Tahsildar and the Secretary who assisted him. The DSP appealed to the public to lodge a complaint with the ACB if any government employees demanded bribe.

BRS won in GHMC area because of Majilis: Asaduddin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday asked BRS to introspect over the Musi Project.

"Didn't the BRS make a plan for the Musi and didn't I oppose it? You started the disease. The BRS needs to introspect. You did

J&K: Top LeT commander among 3 terrorists killed in twin encounters

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

In a huge achievement for the security forces, a top Pakistani commander of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit and two other terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and Anantnag districts on Saturday, officials said. The LeT commander, identified as Usman, was active in the valley for several years and was also involved in the killing of Inspector Masroor Wani, a senior police officer said. Wani was shot dead from close range while

the planning. Even today we are saying if you want to execute the project without damaging houses you are welcome," he said. "In the 2023 elections, the BRS won seats in the GHMC area because of the Majilis. You lost because of your mistakes. If you had not repeated 24 candidates you would have won. You were arrogant. If I start talking, you'll be ashamed," he added.

he was playing cricket in the Eidgah ground here in October last year. Usman was active in the valley for a very long time and was involved in several attacks, the officer said, adding that his killing is a "major blow" to the LeT in Jammu and Kashmir. "Usman was the seniormost Pakistani LeT commander here," he said. Four security forces personnel were also injured in the Srinagar encounter. Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the densely-populated locality of Khanyar in the interior city here following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

Ensure seamless paddy procurement

Uttam holds video conference with Collectors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister of Civil Supplies and Irrigation, Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, directed officials to ensure smooth paddy procurement across Telangana.

Addressing a video conference with Collectors held by Principal Secretary and Civil Supplies Commissioner DS Chauhan, he insisted on meticulous planning as large quantities of paddy start arriving at procurement centres.

Joint Secretary Priyanka Ala, Director of Marketing Uday Kumar, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Uttam said that this season's paddy harvest is expected to be



150 lakh tonnes worth Rs 30,000 crore. The state has allocated Rs 20,000 crore for paddy procurement with provisions for additional funds.

The government expects cooperation from millers as milling charges have been increased by Rs 40 for fine paddy and Rs 30 for coarse paddy.

Special land acquisition teams to speed up Seetharama Lift Irrigation Project

The government is taking steps to speed up the completion of the Seetharama Lift Project which aims to provide irrigation and drinking water to the districts of

Khammam, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem and Mahbubabad. Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy empha-

sized the need for a clear roadmap to complete the project by July 2025 while attending a review meeting held at the Jalasoudha on Saturday.

Free blouse pieces, diyas, oil & wicks for women during Karthika Masam Deepotsavam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister of Forests, Environment and Endowments, Konda Surekha, said the Department of Endowments will conduct a grand 'Karthika Masa Deepotsavam' across the state from November 2 to December 1.

The Minister directed executive officers and assistant commissioners to organise the festivities in all temples under the department's jurisdiction.

The daily Deepotsavam will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm at all temples. Devotees will receive two clay lamps, oil, and wicks free of cost. Surekha asked temple officials to make arrangements for the smooth conduct of these events.

The highlights of the celebrations are free distribution of turmeric and vermilion to



women attending the events, provision of blouse pieces to women at major temples, special prasadam distribution during evening rituals, organization of additional programmes funded by temple resources and donor contributions, cultural performances by artistes every evening, five days of special cultural programmes featur-

ing both local and prominent artistes from across the state and beyond, discourses, bhajans, devotional songs, classical music, dance performances, burrakatha and harikatha, setting up water bodies for releasing karthika lamps and extensive promotion of the festivities through Bhakti channels, FM radio and other media outlets.

Clash among Congress workers leaves party activist injured

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

Tensions erupted between supporters of DCC president Kokkiralala Viswa Prasad and Asifabad Assembly constituency in-charge Shyam Nayak during a gathering at the Rose Garden auditorium here on Saturday. The meeting was intended to discuss the caste-based census. Heated exchanges quickly escalated into violence, with chairs being thrown and a party worker, Sattaiah, sustaining injuries.

The confrontation began with intense arguments, leading to a physical altercation between the two factions. As a result of the chaos, police intervened and removed Shyam Nayak and his supporters from the venue.

Harish blasts Revanth for misleading nation on Cong's promises

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy accusing him of misleading not just the people of Telangana but the entire nation regarding the fulfilment of Congress's election promises.

He said that while the BRS government had filled 1,61,000 posts in government service in the last nine years, it is unfortunate that the current administration is spreading false claims about recruitment.

He pointed out that the government boasts of providing 50,000 jobs, but these posts were already notified, tests conducted and verified by the BRS administration.

Issuing appointment letters pending due to the election code and claiming credit for them is shameful, Harish said. He outlined the Congress government's failures, noting that promises made during elections remain unfulfilled. Despite promising to fill two lakh vacancies in the first year, only less than 10% have been filled.

He said the pledge to complete loan waiver by December 9, 2023, has left more than half of eligible farmers waiting. "The promise of a Rs 4,000 monthly pension has not been implemented even after 11 months. The promise to pay Rs 2,500 per month to all women above 18 has not materialised.



CM, 5 Ministers, TPCC president attend Cong leader's daughter's marriage in Kerala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy went to Ernakulam on Saturday to attend the marriage of former AICC in-charge secretary to Telangana, Srinivasa Krishnan.

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodara Raja Narasimha, D. Sridhar Babu, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy, Advisors Vem Narender Reddy, Harkara Venugopal and others went to Kerala and attended the same marriage.

After attending the marriage they returned Hyderabad immediately on the same night. After reaching, Hyderabad, the Chief Minister went to Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao's residence and took Theertha Prasadams of Kedarnath Swamy Vratam.

Caste census is MRI of society, says Srinivas Goud

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud expressed concern over the BC caste census, emphasizing the need for a meticulous and legally sound approach. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan, he said that while the Congress had promised 42% reservations in local bodies, the current process for conducting the BC census lacks legislative backing and is creating confusion.

He said that the High Court had advised the formation of a special commission for the caste census, but the government proceeded without drafting the necessary legal framework. "Two different GOs have been issued, leading to confusion. There is widespread anxiety among marginalised communities about potential delays," he stated.

Drawing parallels, Goud said that mistakes made in the caste censuses in Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka should not be repeated in Telangana. "Rahul Gandhi called the caste census an X-ray. We consider it an MRI. It should provide a comprehensive and precise picture of castes and sub-castes," he said, urging the government to conduct the survey with utmost care.

Hyd DCC to launch awareness campaign on caste census

- TPCC chief Mahesh asks Congress workers to ensure complete caste census coverage in Hyd
- Sameer to establish ward-level teams for coordination

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud has asked Congress workers across Hyderabad district to make the caste census being conducted by the state government a success.

Addressing a meeting organised by Hyderabad DCC President Mohammed Waliullah Sameer at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh highlighted the need for a caste-based census in India, underscoring the importance of wealth distribution in line with population proportions. He stated that the Congress government had initiated a dialogue on the census to ensure fair representation in welfare and development schemes.

Mahesh noted that the Congress held simultaneous meetings in all districts on Saturday, bringing together intellectuals, student leaders and community representatives to discuss the upcoming caste census.

In his remarks, Hyderabad

DCC chief Waliullah Sameer stressed that every Congress worker in Hyderabad would contribute to achieving 100% survey coverage. He mentioned that the Congress aims to educate the public on the welfare and development objectives of the census and plans to establish ward-level teams for streamlined coordination.

Waliullah Sameer said that nearly 14 lakh socially and economically disadvantaged groups among Muslims are classified as BC-E in Telangana.

He urged Muslims, who comprise around 70% of the Old City's population, to identify themselves as BC-E during the census.

He listed key groups under BC-E, like the Shaik, Siddi, Labbi, Turka Kasha, Pakeerla, Dhobi Muslim, Gosangi Muslim, Nai Muslim, Darvesh and Fakker. He also advised Syed, Pathan, Shia, and other groups not currently within BC-E to ensure accurate self-identification, as this data will assist the government in plan-

ning targeted welfare initiatives.

The Hyderabad DCC chief expressed satisfaction with the enthusiasm shown by Congress cadres in supporting this initiative. He announced that an awareness campaign would be launched to guarantee full participation of all families in the Old City.

With almost 90% of the Old City population facing economic challenges, he emphasised that the caste census would aid in securing fair representation in welfare and development programmes.

Commending Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Waliullah Sameer lauded his swift action in implementing the caste census. He highlighted Revanth Reddy's commitment to Hyderabad's development, mentioning the Musi Riverfront beautification project as a transformative effort poised to bring economic benefits to Old City residents.

He said the Congress government had initiated works on the Metro Rail works in the old city.

TODAY ALMANAC
 Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
 Tithi: Nov 02 08:22 PM to Nov 03 10:05 PM
 Dwitiya: Nov 03 10:05 PM to Nov 04 11:24 PM
 Tritiya: Nov 04 11:24 PM to Nov 05 05:58 AM
 Nakshatram: Anuradha: Nov 03 05:58 AM to Nov 04 08:04 AM
 Rahukalam: 4:14 PM to 5:40 PM
 Yamagandam: 11:59 AM to 1:24 PM
 Variyam: 10:19 AM to 12:03 PM
 Gulika: 2:49 PM to 4:14 PM
 Amritakalam: 08:45 PM to 10:30 PM
 Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER
 Forecast: Partly Cloudy
 Temp: 30°
 Humidity: 69%
 Sunrise: 6:15 AM
 Sunset: 5:44 PM
 Updated: November 2, 2024 5:00 PM

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Prateek Kuhad

SIhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 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 Nambudhiri 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

Standup Comedy

Vivek Muralidharan brings in his signature show "Death by Laughter", where he brings his newest material to stage.

Venue

Multiple venues. till November 24

Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider.in and paytm.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

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

Accused in idol desecration case remanded in judicial custody

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A local court on Saturday remanded Salman Salim Thakur, who is accused of desecrating idol in the Muthyalamma temple in Secunderabad recently, to judicial custody for 14 days. The accused, who was injured and underwent treatment following a scuffle with local people while trying to escape after allegedly damaging the idol, was arrested on November 1 after his recovery, a police release said. The accused had allegedly trespassed into the temple on the intervening night between October 13-14 by breaking open the lock and damaged the idol of Goddess Muthyalamma. Police had found that the accused, a native of Maharashtra, had come to Hyderabad early October to attend a personality development workshop. He has a past criminal record of being involved in similar offences in Mumbai, police said.

City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 3, 2024

03

Telangana CEO releases draft electoral rolls for 2025

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Facilitating voter verification, objections, and claims, a special campaign will be conducted on November 10 and 11, announced Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy on Saturday. He released the draft electoral rolls for the Special Summary Revision 2025, which covers all 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana.

Addressing the media at his office, Sudharshan Reddy announced that the total number of electors, including service electors, is 3,34,26,323, reflecting a 1.18 percent increase this year. He detailed that there are 1,66,16,446 male voters, 1,68,07,100 female voters, and 2,777 third gender voters. The draft rolls also includes 15,948 service electors and 3,578 overseas electors.

He explained that applications submitted by October 20 this year were processed, resulting in 8,02,805 additions, 4,14,165 deletions, and 5,93,956 corrections from 8



Chief Electoral Officer C Sudharshan Reddy addressing the media in Hyderabad on Saturday.

February to 20 October 2024. He mentioned Ranga Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri, and Hyderabad as leading areas in additions and deletions of voter updates.

The CEO highlighted a rise in young voters aged 18 to 19, increasing from 8.51 lakh to 10.03 lakh, counting to

4,73,838 this year and encouraged eligible citizens turning 18 by January 1, 2025 to apply by 28 November.

He also mentioned that a special campaign will be held from 10 am to 5:30 pm on November 10 and 11 and urged electors to submit objections and claims.

He also urged voters to verify their enrolment details and mentioned special efforts for PWD voters. He announced to make use of the toll-free number 1950 and the Voter Helpline App for queries and corrections, along with Form 8 accessible through the Booth Level Officers (BLO).

SCR running 854 special trains for festival season

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railways (SCR) is running 854 special trains this festival season, with 29 special trains on November 1 and 32 on November 2, compared to last year's 626 special trains.

The Indian Railways announced 7,296 special trains during the Diwali and Chhath Puja festivals, up from 4,500 trains last year.

On Saturday, special trains ran from Secunderabad. The trains are: Train No. 07489: Secunderabad to Tirupati at 22:15. Train No. 04122: Secunderabad to Subedargunj at 04:30. Train No. 07003: Secunderabad to Patna at 10:00. Train No. 07419: Secunderabad to Danapur at 15:15. Train No. 07647: Secunderabad to Danapur at 21:00. Train No. 07221: Secunderabad to Santragachi at 06:45. Train No. 07028: Berhampur to Secunderabad at 16:45. Train No. 08846: Secunderabad to Santragachi at 19:50.

Railways had made special arrangements for passengers, allowing entry into trains in an orderly manner, guided by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff at stations.



HC issues notice to Tech Mahindra for not issuing relieving letter to employee

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana High Court issues a notice to Tech Mahindra for not releasing a relieving letter to its employee.

The former employee V Balakrishna filed writ petition that he was not issued the relieving letter, which is his legal right as per the law of the land.

As per the notice, Tech Mahindra's head of the Human Resource Department in Hyderabad, Vinay Agarwal, has been asked to appear before the High Court on November 8.

According to employee's advocate Vijay Gopal V Balakrishna joined TechM in November 2023 as associate technical support and in February 2024 abruptly was told that he did not pass an exam and that his last working day (LWD) would be February 28, 2024.

The employee was not given any relieving letter, which is his right, he approached the Joint

Commissioner of Labour (JCL), Ranga Reddy District - RRD on April 1, 2024. The JCL RRD after multiple notices and informal meetings, informed Balakrishna that they are not the right forum to solve this, despite it being their duty and asked the employee on July 27, 2024 to go to the appropriate forum.

The Employee issued legal notice to the Tech Mahindra through his advocate on 29th July 29, 2024, asking for relieving letter, to which the Tech Mahindra replied issuing a relieving letter to the employee in a discriminatory manner, that is to show the reason for exit from the company, which is not how the relieving letters were issued to any other employee who exited from their company.

The relieving letter (Certificate of Service) is a Statutory Right of an Employee even in private firms, under the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act 1946 read with the 1946 Central

Rules and 1953 Andhra Pradesh Rules, yet the JCL RRD and Labour Commissioner of Telangana avoid doing their duty for the reasons better known to them.

Since the relieving letter issued to Balakrishna is discriminatory in nature (that is issued in a different format than how it is issued to all other employees), we have filed a Writ petition, which was heard on 25th October 2024 and the Court was pleased to issue notice to Tech Mahindra and JCL RRD and Labour Commissioner Telangana to explain their stand. Next date of hearing is 8th Nov 2024 said Vijay Gopal.

The relieving letter issue in private firms is a very concerning topic today, as the firms are using this for their extortion tactics and harassing employees to have everything their way, else refuse to grant the said letter. For this letter, certain firms are charging separately from 20-30 thousand rupees, added Vijay.

Minister calls for infrastructure Development in nursing colleges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha emphasised the need to accelerate the admission process and infrastructure development for 15 newly established nursing colleges affiliated with medical colleges across the state. He directed the officials to prioritise these tasks, ensuring that classes in the nursing colleges commences without delay.

Christina Z Chongthu, Health Secretary RV Karnan, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Hemant Sahadev Rao, MD of the State Medical Services Infrastructure Development Corporation also reviewed the covering of specific needs of nursing colleges in Jangaon, Bhupalpally, Karimnagar, Kodangal, Andole, Asifabad, Medak, Quthbullapur, Mulugu, Narayanpet, Nirmal, Ramagundam, Maheswaram, Narsampeta, and Yadadri.

Guv calls for supporting ex-servicemen, their families

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma presided over the 4th meeting of the State Managing Committee of the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by senior officials and representatives from various departments, including Special Chief Secretaries, military officials, and members of the Sainik Welfare Department.

Col. P Ramesh Kumar, Director of Sainik Welfare and Secretary of the fund, presented an overview of the fund's status, outlining the various welfare schemes and the beneficiaries supported by the fund. He expressed his appreciation for the annual contributions made by government employees and the State Bank of India. The Committee approved several key measures aimed at supporting ex-servicemen and their families: - Immediate financial assistance of Rs 2-3 lakh for widows of ex-servicemen with dependent children. - Enhanced grants for the parents and spouses of soldiers



Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma chairing 4th State Managing Committee Meeting of Armed Forces Flag Day Fund in Hyderabad on Saturday

who died in service. - An increase in the marriage grant for daughters of Ex-Servicemen, now termed "Kalyana Kanuka."

- Monthly assistance for 100% disabled soldiers and financial support for special children of Ex-Servicemen. - Improved reimbursement for hostel fees and funeral grants, reimbursement for the purchase of computers for children, financial assistance for organ transplants at ECHS-empanelled hospitals.

Cash incentives for medal-winning Ex-Servicemen and their children in sports events, funds sanctioned for the renovation of Sainik Bhavans in Karimnagar and Warangal, establishment of a helpline

staffed by Ex-Servicemen or their widows, Statewide awareness camps for welfare schemes.

Governor Varma stressed the importance of supporting ex-servicemen and their families, acknowledging their sacrifices for the nation. He urged timely identification and assistance for those in need and praised Telangana for pioneering innovative welfare schemes and efficient fund disbursement through digital means.

The Governor expressed heartfelt gratitude to all contributors, notably Telangana government employees and SBI, and called upon citizens and corporates to donate generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

NIMS doctor performs complex heart surgery

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Banoth Ashok, a 20-year-old from Narayanpur, Mahabubabad, had been living with Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a rare congenital heart condition. Recently, he developed severe pulmonary regurgitation, which caused the pulmonary valve to malfunction and significantly worsened his health.

Ashok's family, who rely on daily wages, sought treatment at multiple hospitals but faced recommendations for open-heart surgery that could cost between Rs 25 to 35 lakh which is far beyond their means. Desperate for a solution, they turned to Nizam's Institute of Medical

Sciences (NIMS). Doctors performed with Intracardiac surgery in a private hospital when he was five years old.

"We approached several corporate hospitals, but the open-heart surgery was not only costly but also risky. As daily wage earners, we couldn't afford it. I just wanted to save my child; he's been doing well in his studies, passing his intermediate with over 80 percent," Ashok's mother shared.

Dr O Sai Satish, Senior Professor of Cardiology at NIMS, led a team that evaluated Ashok's condition and decided on a transcatheter pulmonary valve replacement—a minimally invasive procedure that avoids the need for open-heart surgery.



Banoth Ashok with his mother at NIMS in Hyderabad

Remarkably, they utilised a 35mm Myvalve from Indian manufacturer Meril Life Sciences, marking the largest and first placement of its kind in India.

"Previous cases have typically used valves up to 32mm, but for Ashok, the 35mm size was crucial for the best fit and function," Dr. Satish explained.

Ashok's family, having already depleted their savings on earlier medical costs, received support from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for Rs 10 lakhs, in addition to Rs 5 lakhs contributed by the family.

Doctors indicated that genetic factors and maternal viral infections during pregnancy might have contributed to Ashok's heart condition. The implanted valve is expected to last about 15 years before it may need replacement due to wear. Although there are risks associated with surgery, including potential obstruction of the left main coronary artery, the procedure was completed successfully without any complications.

MANODHARMA IS MALLADI BROTHERS' FORTE

The Malladi Brothers, Malladi Sreeram Prasad and Malladi Ravikumar, have carved a niche for themselves as a reputed Carnatic vocal duo, by mastering the art through practice under steadfast mentoring. They were initially trained by their grandfather Malladi Sreeramamurthy and their father Malladi Suribabu. It was a baptism by fire, they say, as right from the beginning they were tutored in *gamaka sadhana* for the *sarali, janta swaras* and the *alamkaras*. Later, they went into rigorous training under great gurus Sripada Pinakapani and Nedunuri Krishnamurthy, mastering the *manodharma sangeetham* in presenting the *kritis* of the great trinity,

Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastry. It is wrong to treat *manodharma paddhati* as something to be taught in the penultimate stage of learning, they say, citing benefits to it in the beginning itself.



The different facets of *ragas* they learnt from their father Suribabu, who had been mentored by none other than the multi-faceted genius Voleti Venkateswarlu. They learnt accurate *shruti* sense by mastering the art of tuning the tambura, which everybody cannot do. So, in a way, they were the disciples of Voleti too. Suribabu also

taught them *Annamayya kritis*, which they render in all their concerts ably. The brothers were later mentored by Nedunuri, who taught them the essence of *raga delineation* and its improvisation. Nedunuri also stressed

on the different characteristics of *ragas* which have to be developed through *manodharma paddhati*. The brothers then picked up 200 *kritis* from Pinakapani and thereby fostered the *Pani Bani*, which was unique in its own way and a trend-setter. Carrying on the great tradition has been the forte of Malladi brothers, who have

travelled wide in India and abroad winning the hearts of connoisseurs and laymen alike.

Their inspiration to perform together was their father Suribabu and their uncle Narayana Sarma, who used to perform together as Malladi brothers.

Nedunuri's benign mentoring gave them a sense of punctuality, discipline and systematic approach to music. The brothers say that they learnt about *vidwat, samskara* and *manodharma* from Nedunuri. "It is *purva janna sukruatham*" that we got great gurus," they say, in all humility.

VENKOB R BALANTRAPU Senior Journalist (The writer can be reached at venkobr@gmail.com and 9297204401)

National seminar on FESA to be held on 7 and 8 November in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Biggest National Seminar on Fire, Electrical, Security and Automation (FESA)- 2024 will be held on November 7 and 8 at HICC Novotel. It is organized by the Fire & Security Association of India (FSAI) which has 25 chapters and 10,000 members across India. Addressing a press conference her on Saturday, National president of FSAI Srinivas Valluri said that 300 senior managers from various pharma industries would participate in the seminar.



National president of FSAI Srinivas Valluri at a press conference in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Representatives from over 100 pharma companies, including 50 top firms, are expected to attend.

He emphasised Hyderabad's status as a major hub for phar-

maceutical companies in South East Asia. He noted the rising number of fire accidents in the pharma sector, making this national conference timely. He mentioned being the first Telugu National President of the 22-year-old FSAI.

Srinivas also stated that FSAI is exploring a partnership with the Government of Telangana's Skill University and plans to open Skill Development Centers in Mumbai and Hyderabad. FSAI is also establishing a chapter in Dubai to meet growing demand.



Plans afoot to give to Nizamabad a facelift

A four-lane road will be built to put an end to traffic congestion in the town

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

The Central and State governments have specifically focused on road expansion and new road construction in Telangana. The key Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway, currently a 4-lane road, is set to be expanded to 6 lanes. Additionally, preliminary approvals have been given for the expansion of several other roads in the state.

Recently, the State government has prepared plans to transform the infrastructure in Nizamabad district. The Revanth government is taking special initiatives for road development in the district center, giving the green signal for the construction of a 4-lane road.

A new road is planned to be constructed from the Hanuman Junction in Vinayak Nagar, passing over



Congested road in Nizamabad

Baswa Garden, to the bridge near Devi Theater. The roads and buildings department has formulated plans for the construction of this 4-lane road, and funds amounting to Rs 7.80 crores have been approved for the

project. The tender process has already been completed. Currently, the road from Vinayak Nagar to Baswa Garden leading to Devi Theater is very narrow, often congested due to heavy vehicle traffic.

During morning and evening hours, the congestion is even worse, especially during school hours when buses and bikes flood the roads, causing significant disruptions.

The turns after crossing Baswa Garden have become particularly dangerous, with vehicles frequently encountering each other, leading to regular accidents. This has prompted the need for road construction in the area.

Officials estimate that expanding this busy area into a 4-lane highway will alleviate traffic issues.

Upon receiving proposals, the state's roads and buildings department has given the green signal.

The officials said that construction work will begin soon, and he stated that the new road will greatly relieve the difficulties faced by the town's residents.

SHAMEFUL INCIDENT IN GURUKUL SCHOOL

15 students taken to task for forcing boy to dance in the 'nude'

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Gurukula schools in Telangana have been in the news for various reasons daily. Incidents of students suffering from food poisoning and ending up in hospitals have been frequent, and the behaviour of some teachers towards children has also become controversial. Recently, another shocking issue has come to light, sparking widespread discussion. The inappropriate behaviour of fellow students towards a student has caused agony to the student's parents.

In the Bhikkannur Social Welfare Gurukula School in Kamareddy district, it has been revealed that 15 students from the same class have been behaving inappropriately towards a classmate. This came to light when the student herself expressed his distress to his father, crying out in agony. Fifteen students in the class shut the door at midnight and forced him to dance in the nude. If she slept, they woke her up. He mentioned that he was threatened with dire consequences if he told anyone about it. He further explained that such incidents had increased since he returned from the Dasara holidays and that he felt unable to stay there.

On October 27, with the help of relatives, the affected student returned home and shared everything with his father, bringing him to tears. After hearing about the suffering his son endured, the father became very angry and immediately called the principal to address the issue seriously.



Coloured stone

Sparkling stones found in Rajanna Sircilla district

The discovery of these stones which shine on like diamonds has gone viral on social media platforms

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

In Veernapalli village in Rajanna Sircilla district, the finding of rare coloured stones has become a topic of discussion.

At the Chityala Gutta area on the outskirts of the Veernapalli mandal, a person found three coloured stones weighing over a kilogram and half a kilogram. These stones shine on like valuable diamonds, and the finding of stones has gone viral on social media, with local rumours suggesting they could be expensive diamonds.

Pitla Rajesh, a local hotelier from Veernapalli, went to the Chityala Gutta area on Friday to collect custard apples. While picking fruits from a tree, he noticed three shining coloured stones. Their unusual lustre astonished him and he picked them up to examine them closely, deciding to take them home in his bag.

One of the stones weighs about a kilogram, while the others weigh around half a kilogram. He placed the stones on

the counter of his hotel, and customers who visited were amazed by them. Many took selfies with the stones, which further propelled their viral status on social media.

Some locals began to whisper that these might not just be coloured stones but could indeed be diamonds, speculating that they could be worth crores of rupees. There are calls for officials from the Archaeological Department to confiscate the stones and determine their status. Thus, these three coloured stones have turned into a local sensation. Until the authorities examine them and provide clarity, there remains uncertainty about their true nature.

In the two Telugu states, diamonds are often found in Kurnool district, and many people engage in diamond hunting during the monsoon season at Gudimetla village on the banks of River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, coloured stones are more commonly found in the northern Andhra districts.

2 kids among four killed in road mishap

PNS ■ MEDAK

A tragic road accident occurred at Potharam under the Manoharabad mandal, four people, including a mother and her two children died.

According to local reports, Manna Kumar from Potharam was traveling with his wife Lavanya (35) and their two children, Sahasra (10) and Shanvi (6), on a two-wheeler towards shabashpalle. While they reached near the Prana Foods factory, a tractor coming from the opposite direction collided with their bike at high speed. They were thrown out of the motorbike and fell on the road.

All four people on the bike lost their lives on the spot, leading to a pall of grief hanging over the village. The accident was attributed to the piles of paddy on the road, which caused the vehicles to veer off the course.

Vocational training-cum-placement for youth of Ramagundam SCCL area

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Ramagundam area manager of the SCCL D Lalit Kumar has focussed on development of the SCCL-affected areas and to improve job prospects of the unemployed youth of the region.

He has been extending a reassurance to the youth of the region. He was lending support to them by getting them free training in professional courses.

He also has been trying to obtain placements in noted companies for the trained youth besides imparting them necessary skill training.

To quote an example, 150 unemployed persons from Peddapalli district, besides the unemployed in the Ramagundam SCCL area, have been chosen to provide with them training in GMR Company in Hyderabad for two months in various courses.

Disclosing this to media at SCCL GM's office in Godavarkhanni on Saturday,



D Lalit Kumar

the GM D Lalit Kumar said that 100 more are going to be selected from Ramagundam area to impart them skill training in various courses.

Those who have successfully completed the training would be offered placements in various reputed organisations, he said expressing his full resolve in this regard.



Government Whip Aadi Srinivas inaugurating a paddy procurement centre in Rajanna Sircilla district on Saturday

Govt Whip ridicules KTR for Padayatra plan

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas on Saturday wondered whether Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao's (KTR) padayatra (foot march) is merely to tell people that the BRS government had accumulated a debt of 7 lakh crores over 10 years.

Speaking after inaugurating paddy procurement centres in Bhusha Naravupur and Sirikonda villages under the Kethalapur mandal in the Vemulawada constituency, he criticised KTR and former minister T Harish Rao, saying they were speaking out of frustration after losing their positions. He

expressed doubt whether KTR and Harish Rao would undertake padayatra if they were still in power.

He questioned how the BRS leaders could defend the persons caught with cocaine after someone made a complaint by dialling 100. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working to improve the state's financial position by curbing corruption and weeding out irregularities during the previous administration. The Chief Minister was coming to the Secretariat daily and working for 18 hours. He urged BRS leaders to stop spreading false news and instead focus on development. Congress leaders, activists and farmers were present.

Gudur wants CM to have a relook at Master Plan - 2031

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Saturday demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy take a relook at master plan - 2031, being notified in 2013 by the then government, and implemented by Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority for the planned development of Hyderabad and its adjoining areas.

In a media statement, he said that the Master Plan-31 has become obsolete and was not useful to the present day conditions of Hyderabad and its surroundings. Moreover it has reduced the builders and real estate developers to the level of beggars.

Ironically the same master plan which was being prepared during the combined state period was still in vogue even after the division of the state in 2014, which resulted in change in the development pattern of Hyderabad, he said.

He said that if the government wants any look up in the real estate sector, which is in doldrums now, in Hyderabad and in its surroundings, and if it wants to ensure that the dream of the common people to have a home of their own in Hyderabad region, the CM should take a relook at the Master Plan.

He said that the Chief Minister should ensure preparation of the Master Plan that would be people friendly, free

of red-tapism, ensures all round development of Hyderabad.

He pointed out that establishment of institutions like Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has broken the back of the real estate developers and builders.

Reddy said the Metropolitan Development Plan is planned for a time period up to 2031 taking into consideration population of about 184 lakhs, and a workforce of 65 lakhs. It has

taken into consideration the trends of developments of that time, the Inner Ring Road, the Outer Ring Road, radial roads and has proposed a radial-concentric structure of development with new urban nodes and urban centers in all directions to promote balanced development in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Region.

"However the zoning regulations being introduced in the Master Plan have become cumbersome for the real estate developers and builders. The prices of the lands have shot up and taken away the individual house from the reach of the common man. In the last one decade the prices of flats have gone off the roof and a middle class family was unable to buy a flat in the core city region," he said.

The BJP leader said that the development pattern of Hyderabad and the suburban areas have gone a sea change in the last 10 years and real estate development has become lopsided.

Yadav Sadar Sammelanam poster released

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar took part in the release of the Yadav Sadar Sammelanam poster on Saturday at his camp office.

Addressing a large gathering of Yadav community members, MLA Shankar spoke about the significance of the Yadava lineage, from which Lord Krishna was born, and praised its role in upholding Dharma. He cited the Kurukshetra war, where Krishna and Arjuna triumphed over injustice, emphasising that the Yadava community has long embodied the values of honour and righteousness.

The event, held under the guidance of Sadar Utsav Committee president Nadikuda Yadagiri Yadav, saw enthusiastic participation from numerous community leaders and attendees. MLA Shankar honored Nadikuda Yadagiri Yadav for his dedication to the community, along with other prominent members of the Sadar festival committee, and acknowledged their efforts in organizing the upcoming Sadar Utsav celebrations.



Two police officers celebrating Deepavali at an orphanage in Mahabubabad on Thursday

Two police officers celebrate Deepavali with orphaned girls

PNS ■ MAHABUBABAD

In Mahabubabad, two police officers chose to celebrate Deepavali with orphaned girls by giving them clothes, crackers, fruits, and sweets, personally feeding them and sharing the festivities at the Girls' Child Care Centre.

Sub-Inspectors Gandraathi Satish and Deepika Reddy celebrated Deepavali with the girls at the centre, distributing sweets to them and creating a joyful atmosphere. The girls,

overwhelmed with emotion, hugged the police officers and shed tears of joy. The smiles on their faces reflected their happiness, and many praised the police officers for their kindness and heartedness, saying that such gestures bring joy to the orphaned girls.

The police not only aimed to fill the girls with happiness during the festival but also assured them that they would always stand by them and offer support whenever needed.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

QUOTATION NOTICE

Quotation Notice No. 83/EE/UP/1/GHMC/2024-2025 Date: 01-11-2024

Sealed Quotations are invited from reputed firms, which should be received to undersigned on or before 05-11-2024 up to 03:00 PM, and the same will be opened at 4.00 PM on the same day other participants can be obtained from the Executive Engineer, during office hours.

Sr.	Description of Item	Qty	Unit	Amount
1	See-Saw 4 Seater The Slide made with Fiber steel and arranged between 2no's Angles 40X40X5mm and Riveted both sides of sheet, and MS flat 25X3mm welded on the rivets, and 30mm dia Ms pipe welded on the edges of the both Angles, top and of the slide. One Platform arranged made 4 Fibre Sheet welded to MS Angle frame made with 30X35X3mm, back side one ladder fitted made with 30mm Dia pipe and Steps made with 25mm Dia pipe. One coat red-oxide, Two Coats of 3 colors enamel paint only including cost and conveyance of all materials labour charges etc., complete for finished item of work.	1	Each	
2	Manufacturing supply and fixing of 2no's Seats made with wooden plank 25mm thick and fitted both ends of 50mm O.D. pipe 2mm length of 7" with bolts & nuts and both fitted on horizontal pipe 7" length and 60mm O.D. 3mm "U" shape (revers) with clamps. One coat red-oxide and enamel paint only. One coat red-oxide, Two Coats of 3 colors enamel paint only including cost and conveyance of all materials labour charges etc., complete for finished item of work.	1	Each	
3	Manufacturing supply and fixing of Swing Two Seater with MS pipe 60 O.D. 14G pipe 3" feet with MS pipe 4no's legs 55 O.D. 14G. 6mm chains with clamps. 2no's wooden seats. One coat red-oxide and three colours painting including cost and conveyance of all materials labour charges etc., complete for finished item of work.	1	Each	
4	Manufacturing supply and fixing of Merry-Go-Round Six Seater With Fibre Seats The main centre pipe made with MS pipe 70mm Dia 5" teet long, at top of the pipe 30mm O.D. 14G pipe shaft with 2no's taper bearing fitted, one S Dia ring made with 30mm Dia pipe, and 6no's "S" type pipe made with 25mm Dia 14G, top end welded to bearing set bottom end welded to S Dia ring's fitting seats made with Fibre sheet fitted on the bottom of the "S" type pipe top seat welding. One coat of red-oxide and three colour enamel paint only including cost and conveyance of all materials labour charges etc., complete for finished item of work.	1	Each	
5	Manufacturing supply and fixing of Monkey Climber including cost and conveyance of all materials labour charges etc., complete for finished item of work.	1	Each	

CONDITIONS: 1) The quotations should be received on or before 05-11-2024 upto 3.00 P.M. and the same will be opened at 4.00 P.M. in the O/o. Executive Engineer, Upper Circle-2, GHMC. 2) The Executive Engineer, Upper has the reserve right to cancel the quotations without assigning any reason. 3) For detailed Description of the items please contact the Office of Executive Engineer, Upper Circle, GHMC, Address of undersigned. Executive Engineer, Upper Circle-2, GHMC, Hyderabad. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Upper Circle-2, GHMC.

KARIMNAGAR BRANCH
3-5-335, Gandhi Road
Phone: 0878-2260086, 9948125184
KARIMNAGAR - 505001

PUBLICATION DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Sent on 17.10.2024 by Regd. Post

To: Borrower & Mortgagee: MRS JAYALAKSHMI GRANITES Prop : Mrs Pariyasani Jaya (Smt) W/o Mr. Venkatesh Parthasarathy SURVEY NO 317, ASIFNAGAR VILLAGE, KOTHAPALLY (H) MANDAL, KARIMNAGAR-505001

Guarantor & Mortgagee: 2. Mr Venkatesh Parthasarathy S/o Venkatesh, Address : H/o 9-6-317/1, Saptagiri Colony, Telephone Quarters Road, Karimnagar, Karimnagar-505001

Sd/-

Sub: Issue of Demand Notice on your OD INDSME SEC-MICRO SMALL REPO Account No. 600006278 for 25.00 Lakhs and INDSME SECURE -MCLR - 1-Y Account No. 984743837 for Rs. 225.00 Lakhs & MSME GECLS I.S. EXTN - REPO Account No 714268378 for Rs.21.00 Lakhs With Indian Banks, Asifnagar branch - Regd.

You committed default in repayment of dues to the tune of Rs.92.77 Lakhs (Ninety two Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Rupees only) as on 17-10-2024 together with interest from 04.09.2024 till date of payment. The Bank issued notice under the act on 17.10.2024 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.92.77 Lakhs (Ninety two Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Rupees only) as on 17-10-2024 together with interest from 04.09.2024 till date of payment. The notice was sent to you by Regd. post. You are called upon to pay Rs.92.77 Lakhs (Ninety two Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Rupees only) as on 17-10-2024 together with interest from 04.09.2024 till date of payment. If you fail to do so, the Bank will exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the bank.

SCHEDULE: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: **Mortgaged assets, Property-A: Property belongs to Mrs Jayalaxmi Parthasarathy** All that part and parcel of land along with the residential building & is abed in Sy no 1042 bearing the H/o 9-6-318 in plot no 14B measuring in a total extent of area of land 200 Sq yds situated near Brilliant Sweets Restaurant within the locality of the Karimnagar town and SRO: Secularities of the Land: North: Land of Narsinga Rao South: 35 Feet Wide Road East: 60 Feet Wide Road West: H/o 9-6-302 of Plot no 33

Description of the Property- B: Property belongs to Mrs Jayalaxmi Parthasarathy All that part and parcel of land along with factory shed to be constructed there on in survey no 317 to an extent of 1.0acre 0.08 guntas situated at Asifnagar Village of Kothapalli (H) Mandal of Karimnagar district Boundaries of land: North: RRB Road South: Agri Land of Boosa Komarath East: Agri Land of Somanna/Kanakaiah and Others West: Agri land of Venkatesh Parthasarathy

Description of the Property- C: Property belongs to Mr Venkatesh Parthasarathy S/o Venkatesh All that part and parcel of Land along with Factory shed to be constructed there on in Survey no 317 to an extent of 1.03guntas situated at Asifnagar Village Kothapalli, Mandal Karimnagar District (In this land of Ac: 1.03guntas an extent of 0.05 guntas was given on lease to Mrs Jayalaxmi Parthasarathy Proprietor Mrs Jayalaxmi Parthasarathy S/o Venkatesh Parthasarathy) Boundaries of Land: North: RRB Road and the land of the lessor, South: Agri Land of Boosa Komarath and Others, East: Land of Lessee, West: Land of Somanna/Kanakaiah and Thirupathi

Date: 17.10.2024

Place: Karimnagar Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER Indian Bank

Geetha aks Ramakrishna 9832242118 9440463680

ACROSS THE STATES



Navy airlifts critically ill seafarer from vessel

The Indian Navy on Saturday safely evacuated a critically ill seafarer from a merchant navy vessel off the western seaboard, an official said. The Navy received information from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai and the Indian Coast Guard in the wee hours of the day about a seafarer in a critical condition onboard MV Babylon. The 52-year-old Indian seafarer had suffered a stroke (cerebrovascular accident) the previous night — a case with left-sided hemiplegia, the Navy said in a release. An ALH helicopter was configured to the medical intensive care unit (MICU) role and launched from INS Shikra with a medical officer and medical attendant onboard. "Notwithstanding prevailing poor visibility, the aircraft identified the merchant vessel and landed onboard for a successful medevac (medical evacuation).



Exhibition to feature works by surreal master Dali

The works of Salvador Dali, one of the most influential surrealist artists of the 20th century, will feature in an upcoming exhibition here at Bruno Art Gallery from November 15. The exhibition brings Dali's rare etchings, watercolours, and tapestries from the prestigious Pierre Argillet Collection to India for the first time, the organisers have announced. "Dali Comes to India" celebrates Salvador Dali's groundbreaking contributions to surrealism, presenting over 200 original works that span his illustrious career. The exhibition will feature key pieces from the Pierre Argillet Collection, a celebrated ensemble that reflects Dali's unparalleled creativity and collaboration with his long-time publisher and friend, Pierre Argillet," they said. Dali's surreal landscapes and psychological themes serve as mirrors to contemporary issues, reflecting complex notions of identity, mental health, and the intricacies of human emotion.



379 fresh farm fire cases in Punjab

Punjab recorded 379 farm fires on Saturday, with Sangrur district witnessing the highest number of 66 such incidents, taking the total case count in the state past 3,900. The state registered the current season's biggest spike in farm fires on Friday with 587 cases. Sangrur had reported the highest number of 79 cases. From September 15 to November 2, the state has seen 3,916 farm-fire cases, according to data from the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre. Ferozepur district reported 50 farm fires on Saturday, Tarn Taran 42, Amritsar 27, Bathinda 28, Moga 26, Patiala 21 and Kapurthala and Ludhiana 15 each. The districts with farm-fire cases in single digits included Fazilka (one), Rupnagar (two), Hoshiarpur (two), Faridkot (six), Jalandhar (eight), Malerkotla (five), Barnala (six) and SBS Nagar (three). Punjab reported 484 farm fires on Thursday, with Sangrur recording the highest number of 89 cases. There has been a steep jump in the number of farm fires over the last few days.

Sabarimala pilgrims to get..

Continued from page 1

The water authority made elaborate arrangements to ensure adequate drinking water supply in all places where pilgrims reach, he said. While the LSGD institutions and the Suchitwa Mission made arrangements for comprehensive waste management, the Health Department arranged healthcare facilities at various points including Nilakkal, Sannidhanam (temple complex), and in various hospitals including Kottayam Medical College and Pathanamthitta and Kanjirappally General Hospitals. Special cardiology treatment facilities have also been arranged in Pamba, Appachimedu, Sannidhanam and nearby hospitals, he said, adding that arrangements have also been made to ensure anti-venom treatment for

those who suffer snake bite. The Motor Vehicle Department will open three control rooms and deploy 20 squads as part of implementing their safe zone project with regard to Sabarimala pilgrimage. Police aid-posts would be opened in major railway stations and the Forest Department would open 132 service centres to assist devotees trekking along traditional forest paths. As many as 1,500 eco-guards and elephant squads would also be deployed under the wildlife department. The disaster management authority has prepared an elaborate action plan in connection with the annual pilgrimage and Rs 17 lakh have been sanctioned for the Pathanamthitta disaster management committee for the same. A total of 90 revenue employees would be deployed for disaster management initiatives, he said.

With US cooperation, we'll be able to deter illegal immigration: MEA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the US authorities deported a batch of Indian nationals who were staying in that country illegally, New Delhi Saturday said it hopes that with India-US cooperation on mobility and migration, "we will be able to deter illegal immigration".

At his weekly briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India engages in "regular dialogue" with the United States on migration and mobility.

"On October 22, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), conducted a large-frame charter removal flight to the Republic



of India of Indian nationals who did not establish a legal basis to remain in the United States," the DHS said in a statement last week.

This week's flight demonstrates the department's contin-

ued commitment to pursuing "sustained cooperation" with the Indian government and other international partners to reduce and deter irregular migration and jointly work to counter human smuggling, it had said.

'98% schools have separate toilet facilities for girl students'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that more than 97.5 per cent of schools in the country, including government, government-aided and private ones, have provided separate toilet facilities for girl students.

It has filed an affidavit in a pending PIL moved by Congress leader and social activist Jaya Thakur seeking directions to the Centre and states to provide free sanitary pads to girl students of Classes 6 to 12 and ensure separate female toilet facilities in all government, government-aided and residential schools.

The Centre has told the top court that states and Union territories, such as Delhi, Goa and Puducherry, have achieved 100 per cent targets and complied with the earlier orders of the court.

It has also informed the

court that 16 lakh toilets for boys and 17.5 lakh toilets for girls have been constructed in more than 10 lakh government schools and 2.5 lakh toilets for boys and 2.9 lakh toilets for girls have been made available in government-aided schools.

The Centre has pointed out that in West Bengal, separate toilet facilities have been provided for girl students in 99.9 per cent schools and in Uttar Pradesh, 98.8 per cent schools have separate facilities for girls.

The figure is 99.7 per cent in Tamil Nadu, 99.6 per cent in Kerala, 99.5 per cent in Sikkim, Gujarat, Punjab, 99.6 per cent in Chhattisgarh, 98.7 per cent in Karnataka, 98.6 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 97.8 per cent in Maharashtra, 98 per cent in Rajasthan, 98.5 per cent in Bihar and 96.1 per cent in Odisha, it has informed the court.



BJP says it stands for credibility, Congress for crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday asserted that it stood for the credibility of promises made to people under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the Congress for the "crisis of credibility", as the ruling party fired a fresh salvo at its rival in a war of words between them over unkept poll pledges.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed his party believes in creating wealth and distributing it among the poor while "destruction of wealth" defined the Congress, and was joined by Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri who cited figures to depict India's changing face under Modi.

The ruling party made the fresh charge a day after Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that "Modi ki guarantee" was a cruel joke on people after the prime minister had seized on the Congress president's advice to his state colleagues in Kanataka that they should be guided by budgetary constraints in making poll announcements.

Modi destroyed dignity of PM's post with hollow promises: Priyanka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on Narendra Modi, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the prime minister has "destroyed" the dignity of the country's highest post by repeatedly making "hollow promises" to 140 crore Indians.

She also said that Modi should work on "restoring the dignity of his post by resorting to truth" instead of worrying about the Congress.

Her remarks came after Modi on Friday said the Congress stands "badly exposed" in front of the people for promising to them



what the party knows it will never be able to deliver.

The prime minister launched a fierce attack on the opposition party as he seized on Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's com-

ments that the Congress' state units should make promises that are properly budgeted.

He also said the developmental trajectory and fiscal health in the Congress-ruled states of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana is going from bad to worse.

Hitting back at the prime minister, Priyanka Gandhi said in a post in X in Hindi, "Mahatma Gandhi used to say 'Truth is God.' 'Satyameva Jayate' written in Mundaka Upanishad is our national motto. These mottos establishing truth became the ideals of the Indian freedom movement, the reconstruction of India and public life.

'BJP-SP 'alliance' fighting UP bypolls with mutual understanding'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Saturday claimed that the BJP and Samajwadi Party are contesting the upcoming bypolls in Uttar Pradesh with "mutual understanding" and their "alliance" has lost sleep since the BSP entered the fray on all seats.

The former UP chief minister also slammed the two parties for their ongoing war of slogans -- BJP's 'Batenge toh Katenge' and SP's 'Judenge toh



Jeetenge' -- and said these are designed to divert the people's attention from the real issues.

"Ever since bypolls have been announced and BSP decided to contest the bypolls solo on all nine seats, the BJP-BSP alliance

have lost their sleep. Except for a couple of bypolls, BSP has not contested byelections here," Mayawati said here in a presser. "They have so far been contesting elections with a mutual understanding, but now with the BSP contesting the bypolls, the troubles of their 'alliance' have increased.

"To divert public attention, now the BJP has invoked 'Batenge toh Katenge' slogan while SP says 'Judenge toh Jeetenge' and are busy popularising them," Mayawati added.

India trashes Canada's allegations..

Continued from page 1

response to a query during a media briefing here on Saturday, said India summoned a Canadian High Commission representative on Friday and the official was served a diplomatic note to lodge protest in the strongest terms. Morrison had also told Canadian Parliament members of the national security committee that he had confirmed Shah's name to The Washington Post, which first reported the allegations.

"We had summoned the representative of the Canadian High Commission yesterday. A diplomatic note was handed over in reference to the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security in

Ottawa on October 29.

"It was conveyed in the note that the government of India protests in the strongest terms to the absurd and baseless references made to the Union Home Minister of India before the committee by Deputy Minister David Morrison," he said. In fact, the revelation that high Canadian officials "deliberately leak unfounded insinuations" to the international media as part of a "conscious strategy to discredit India", and influence other nations only confirms the view the government of India has long held about current Canadian government's political agenda and behavioural pattern, the MEA spokesperson said.

"Such irresponsible actions

will have serious consequences for bilateral ties," Jaiswal said. While addressing the Parliament members, Morrison did not say how Canada knew of Shah's alleged involvement.

The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity. Asked about reports claiming the cancellation of a Diwali event at Parliament Hill

in Canada, the MEA spokesperson said, "We have seen some reports in this regard. It is unfortunate that the prevailing atmosphere in Canada has reached high levels of intolerance and extremism." Jaiswal was also asked about reports claiming that many Indian diplomats in Canada were allegedly under surveillance. "Yes, some of our consular officials were recently informed by the Canadian government that they have been and continue to be under audio and video surveillance.

"Their communications have also been intercepted. We have formally protested to the Canadian government, as we deem these actions to be in flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions" Jaiswal told reporters.

Even 10,000 days..

Continued from page 1

The people of Telangana didn't know the guarantee card came with "conditions apply". Your claim of delivering on six guarantees is hollow. Let alone 100 days, even 1,000 days or 10,000 days wouldn't suffice to fulfil them. You cheated Telangana. Your unrealistic guarantees are pushing the state and people into a debt trap. Every family is supposed to get Rs 2.5 lakh benefit as per your guarantee card. But on the contrary you might end up putting debts of Rs 2.5 lakh on every Telangana individual just like KCR placed a debt of Rs 1 lakh on even a newborn."

Farmers were promised waiver of loans up to Rs 2 lakh but most farmers were excluded proving once again that the Congress guarantee means

nothing but smoke and mirrors. Rythu Bharosa was halted this season, let alone hike. In no time you created farm distress, he said. The Rs 500 paddy bonus is bogus. Even kids know that. Grain procurement centres have not been started properly. In the Rs 500 gas cylinders and 200 units of free power, many eligible individual were left out, a stark indicator that the Congress government's guarantees are just empty rhetoric.

You have Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the Musi Project but no money for implementing the six guarantees. Musi is shaping up to be another Kaleshwaram-style ATM. The Centre under the leadership of Hon'ble PM @narendramodiji through the PM Awas Yojana is giving houses for construction but your Congress government knows only to demolish the houses of the poor.

My bombs will go off..

Continued from page 1

the remaining Rs 1 lakh will be paid after completion of the house.

The construction of the house will be in a 400 square feet area and priority will be given to houses constructed on sites owned by the beneficiaries. Later, the government will give government land and take up house construction, he said.

He said the Congress government will extend help for the construction of houses which were sanctioned by the BRS admin.

He said that the Indiramma Committees will send the lists of beneficiaries before November 20 and preparation of the final list will be completed by this month. The con-

struction of houses will start immediately.

He said that 3,500 houses will be sanctioned in each constituency in the first phase. The government will consider giving free sand for Indiramma houses, he added.

Ponguleti said the government is accepting all conditions of the Centre to see that the poor do not suffer injustice while adopting the Central Housing Construction Scheme. He said the state government had agreed to allow the Centre to display the Central logo on Indiramma houses.

He said the Congress government took the Indiramma house issue as a matter of prestige and said that payments would be done through the green channel.

TG politicians..

Continued from page 1

"We have information that there are serious differences between the Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy and BJP leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy. Maheshwar has no chair in the BJP office. What does Maheshwar Reddy know about the Congress? Everybody knows what sort of regard Maheshwar is getting as BJP leader. There is no democratic freedom in any other political party like in the Congress. This applies particularly to the BJP.

One political observer said on condition of anonymity that there is a saying in rural Telangana that 'Tigers' and 'Lions' will never fight but only roar loudly when they face each other and will roar till they move apart.

OTS deadline extended to..

Continued from page 1

Deepavali, many consumers were unable to avail of the scheme, prompting them to seek another opportunity.

As of October, eligible CAN numbers: 711,030, Total due amount: Rs 1,792 crore, Rebate offered: Rs 1,230 crore, Number of consumers who availed of the scheme: 70,335, Total Amount Collected: Rs 49 crore and debt waived Rs 17 crore. Consumers can pay their dues at HMWSSB offices or through online platforms like Mee-Seva, AP Online centres, PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm, NEFT, RTGS, BPPS, the HMWSSB official website, or by scanning the provided QR Code for detailed information.

Consumers who did not use the OTS scheme earlier can

pay the due amount in full and receive a waiver on late fees and interest. Consumers who previously benefited from the OTS scheme will receive up to a 50% waiver on their bills.

Consumers must commit to paying their bills regularly for the next 24 months to continue benefiting from the scheme. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of benefits. Consumers with disconnected connections must clear their pending dues to take advantage of the scheme.

For any queries regarding the OTS scheme, consumers are advised to contact the HMWSSB customer care number 155313. Officials have been actively raising awareness about the scheme through various channels.

CM dumps..

Continued from page 1

farmers by waiving loans up to Rs 2 lakh and injecting Rs 18,000 crore into their accounts within 25 days.

The Chief Minister said that women particularly are grateful for the free electricity provided for domestic use up to 200 units and the subsidized gas cylinders priced at Rs 500, with over 1.31 crore refills benefiting around 42 lakh women. The CM pointed out the successful job recruitment drives that provided employment to over 50,000 youth within 11 months, contrasting this with the recruitment challenges under the BRS administration.

WYNN MACAU DEBUTS DRUNKEN FISH

DINING REDEFINED!



Wynn Macau's Drunken Fish redefines Chinese dining with bold seafood creations and Moutai-infused dishes crafted by Executive Chef Henry Zhang, writes RUPALI DEAN



A vibrant tribute to Chinese culture, Drunken Fish at Wynn Macau, led by Executive Chef Henry Zhang, redefines luxury dining by marrying tradition with contemporary flair. Chef Zhang's innovative approach spotlights the ocean's rarest treasures, enhanced with China's revered national liquor, Moutai, creating an exceptional culinary experience. In Chinese mythology, the creature Kun lives in deep, shadowed waters, where light barely reaches its vast form. Rising to the ocean's surface, Kun morphs into Peng, a radiant bird soaring to lofty altitudes and casting its expansive shadow below. Symbolising transformation and boundless ambition, this legend mirrors human potential, urging us to transcend limitations. Inspired by this myth, Wynn Macau presents its latest venture, 'Drunken Fish, or 'Jiu Kun,' under Zhang's expert vision. This dining experience showcases a lavish seafood spread featuring prized ingredients such as French blue lobsters, Sri Lankan crabs, and

Malaysia's famed 'king of river fish,' all crafted using traditional Chinese techniques with modern twists. "Our philosophy respects tradition while embracing innovation," Zhang affirms.

EXCEPTIONAL SEAFOOD, ARTFULLY CRAFTED

Drunken Fish employs an array of traditional Chinese techniques that amplify the natural flavours and nutrients of the seafood. Steaming preserves freshness, while stir-frying ensures a delightful texture, and braising and poaching add layers of aromatic richness. The restaurant offers a wide range of preparations, inviting guests to explore local and global flavours, including spicy Sichuan, Hong Kong-style, and a fusion of Singaporean, Thai, and Japanese influences. This diverse approach results in a stunning variety of dishes designed to satisfy every palate. Cooking with Moutai is an exhilarating process

that demands balance to enhance rather than overpower a dish's flavour. At Drunken Fish, this unique liquor is used in two signature offerings, demonstrating the culinary finesse required to incorporate Moutai's distinct, pungent essence without it overshadowing the seafood's natural taste.

SAVOUR THE EXPERIENCE

A highlight of the menu is the Moutai flambe crispy chicken, a dish that harmonises tradition with innovation. The crispy skin and tender meat, infused with the distinct flavour of Moutai, create an unforgettable taste experience. Another standout is the red-spotted grouper with pickled tomato, chili, and bean sprouts—a nod to the traditional sour soup of the Miao and Dong ethnic groups of Guizhou, where the liquor subtly enhances the fish's freshness. Additionally, the empurau, a rare Malaysian fish steamed in soy sauce using Cantonese methods, presents a remarkable

delicacy, available only in select seasons and prized for its exquisite taste.



Drunken Fish at Wynn Macau offers a captivating dining experience that celebrates traditional Chinese flavours while embracing innovative culinary techniques. The warm and welcoming setting, accentuated by custom hand-bent aquariums and a chic turquoise Moutai bar, creates an ideal atmosphere for seafood lovers. With a menu that skilfully blends familiar and daring dishes, each visit promises a memorable journey for the senses. Interactive auctions of fresh seafood and exclusive liquors on weekend evenings add to the allure, ensuring each dining experience is as engaging as it is delectable.

(Awarded the "Best Food Writer in the Country" by the Indian Culinary Forum, WACS, and the Ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel.)



Oktoberfest on a Platter

This Oktoberfest season, Smoke House Deli, in collaboration with United Breweries, brings a month-long celebration featuring a host of special culinary delights

BY SHARMILA CHAND

Our Oktoberfest menu captures the essence of the celebration through bold, vibrant flavours thoughtfully crafted to elevate the beer experience," says Chef Shamsul Wahid, Group Executive Chef, Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality Pvt Ltd. "We've curated a unique selection, including Pizza Dogs, Panuzzos, and Tramezzas, blending tradition with modern innovation. It's a menu designed to surprise and delight, offering a fresh, exciting take on Oktoberfest while staying true to the festive spirit," he adds.

SPECIAL MENU

The well-crafted menu offers a variety of small plates, hearty mains and indulgent desserts, all crafted to pair perfectly with your favourite brews. There's a selection of Pizza Dogs, Panuzzos, and Tramezzas, alongside other delectable dishes. It's more than just a meal—it's a festive feast in true Smoke House Deli fashion, where great food meets great beer for a celebration you won't forget. Start your feast with a delicious selection of Pizza Dogs, each offering a unique twist on a classic favourite. Try the Plant-Based Sausage Dog, topped with mozzarella and tomato. For a smoky kick, the Smokin' Chicken Frank is loaded with ketchup, mustard, citrus chilli, and gherkin relish. Meat lovers won't want to miss the Bolognese Dream Dog, featuring a chicken frank and bold paprika for an unforgettable flavour.



black pepper. For something a bit more savoury, try the Chicken Balsamico with balsamic chicken, tomato, onion, and fresh greens, or the A-BLT, with crispy bacon, lettuce, avocado, and tomato for a satisfying crunch. Tramezzas truly pack a punch of flavour in every bite, perfect for those who crave a satisfying yet balanced meal. Do not miss the Truffle Shuffle, a decadent mix of brie and truffle oil tossed with oyster, shiitake, and button mushrooms. For a more comforting option, the Deli Roast brings together roast chicken with hollandaise and caramelised onions. If you're craving something richer, try the BLT Molten Brie, combining bacon, brie, tomato, and lettuce, or go for the crispy, creamy combination of The Pollo Frito, featuring fried chicken and a creamy egg salad. For a heartier choice, the Shroom Smash blends a tenderloin patty with grilled mushrooms for a deliciously savoury experience.

And of course, no Oktoberfest is complete without beer! Pair these delicious dishes with a variety of beers from United Breweries, available in buckets of 4 and 8, specially selected to enhance your dining experience and bring the festive spirit to life.

SIGNATURE VEG DISHES

- Plant Power Frank (Pizza Dog) – Italian-style hot dogs served with French Fries (Plant-based sausage, mozzarella and tomato).
- Classic Caprese (Panuzzo) – Crispy, stuffed turnover pizza sandwiches served with French Fries (Tomato, fresh mozzarella, basil, EVOO & ground black pepper).
- Truffle Shuffle (Tramezza) –



- Folded pizza sandwiches served with French Fries (Brie, truffle oil tossed oyster, shiitake & button mushrooms).
- NON-VEG DISHES
- Bolognese Dream Dog (Pizza Dog) – Italian-style hot dogs served with French Fries (Minced mutton bolognese, chicken frank and paprika).
- Chicken Balsamico (Panuzzo) – Crispy, stuffed turnover pizza sandwiches served with French Fries (Creamy, diced balsamic chicken, tomato, onion & fresh greens).
- The Shroom Smash (Tramezza) – Folded pizza sandwiches served with French Fries (Smashed tenderloin patty & grilled mushroom).

SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

- Peach House – Bitter Ginger Roku Gin, Peach Schnapps & Ginger Beer.
- Nobel Nectar – Hendrick's Gin with Fresh Cucumber Juice & Elderflower Tonic.
- Gimlet Di Basilico – Roku Gin, Limoncello, Basil Oil & Shiso Leaf.

COMFORT MEETS SOPHISTICATION

Smoke House Deli is renowned for its contemporary culinary experience, offering guests comfort food in a casual and relaxed ambience. The menu is curated using locally sourced ingredients, elevating familiar dishes into gastronomic masterpieces. Smoke House Deli is celebrated for its diverse range of modern European cuisine, featuring exceptional grills, artisanal pizzas, exquisite charcuterie, fine spirits, delectable bakes, sumptuous desserts, and a variety of pastas. Each outlet reflects a Deli-style architecture, telling the tales of the unique history and landmarks of its locale, adorned with whimsical décor, creating the perfect setting for memorable dining experiences. It's an ideal destination for a family meal, a romantic date, or a catch-up with friends, offering a versatile and inviting atmosphere for any occasion. "For over a decade, Smoke House Deli has evolved from a café into a cherished classic, known for its beautifully crafted food and memorable experiences," says Chef Shamsul. "At the core of our ethos is a deep commitment to serving comfort food made from ethically sourced, wholesome ingredients. What truly sets us apart is the attention to detail—whether it's sourcing organic produce from local farms or handcrafting every dish with care. Our whimsical décor, combined with novel offerings and a thoughtfully curated, ever-changing menu, strikes the perfect balance between indulgence and mindful eating. This creates a warm, inviting space that has been cherished by our guests for years."

Sharmila Chand is an author, columnist, and journalist who writes on Food, Travel, Culture, and Lifestyle.



Vegan Wonders: Where to Eat Next!

BY TEAM AGENDA

MISS MARGARITA

Miss Margarita features a newly launched menu with a dedicated section for vegetarian and vegan dishes, showcasing its commitment to inclusive dining. Highlights include Classic Guac 'N' Chips with fresh guacamole, Avocado Agua Chile, Charred Sweet Potato & Crispy Cauliflower Tacos, and Stuffed Chilli and Chipotle Potato Skewers, all designed to please plant-based diners.

BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN

BeeYoung Brewgarden offers an exciting range of vegan cocktails that emphasise innovative drinking options. Signature drinks include Hearts on Fire, Pulp Fiction, and Nuttea Sour, along with unique choices like Trufflesome and To Beer, or Not to Beer. These cocktails reflect the venue's dedication to flavourful, inclusive beverages.

ROSE CAFE

Located in Malviya Nagar, Rose Cafe is known for its extensive vegan menu featuring hearty soups, fresh salads, and delicious pastas and pizzas. Diners can enjoy options like Roasted Tomato & Basil soup, Big Greek salad, and Aubergine Parmigiana, all within a cosy atmosphere that makes it a must-visit for vegans.

GUPPY AND THE GRAMMAR ROOM

Guppy and The Grammar Room are celebrated for their creative vegan offerings, focusing on fresh, seasonal ingredients. These restaurants provide inviting spaces for diners to enjoy delightful plant-based meals that highlight vibrant flavours and sustainability.

LIVING IT UP IN AN AIRBNB IN LONDON

When planning my trip to London, selecting the perfect Airbnb was crucial. I focused on vibrant neighbourhoods, safety and charming details to ensure an unforgettable experience in this bustling city

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

RELYING ON AIRBNB

For my travels, I have relied on Airbnb with unwavering confidence. Whether transitioning between flat shares or advising friends, it remains my top choice. The perks include local insights, a genuine neighbourhood experience, and costs often lower than hotels but far superior to hostels. While some listings require minimum stays, and occasionally hosts can be problematic, the advantages far outweigh the drawbacks. Thus, I enthusiastically recommend London Airbnbs.

SELECTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

When selecting my Airbnb in London, the area was my first consideration. If you have a specific itinerary in mind, staying nearby is a no-brainer. Each neighbourhood in London feels like its own city, so I explored options that sparked my excitement. For a taste of the hipster scene, Hackney, Brixton, and Shoreditch were perfect choices. For luxury, Westminster, Soho, Fitzrovia, or Kensington beckoned, while Hampstead, Islington, and Greenwich offered a cosy, local vibe. These insights gave me a clearer picture of what each neighbourhood had to offer.

I opted for a two-bedroom flat in Marylebone. Nestled between Hyde Park and Regent's Park, this area embodies serene sophistication in London's heart. Its upscale charm provided easy access to Mayfair, Westminster, and The City, as well as the captivating shopping, dining, and majestic architecture of the iconic West End. It's truly a refined oasis amidst the bustle. My Airbnb was within walking distance of Marylebone Station, Tesco, and a couple of delightful restaurants, including one that served amazing Vietnamese food and another renowned for its Fish and Chips.

DETAILS MATTER

When considering my stay, I focused on price points, assessing my overall budget and daily accommodation expenses. In London, Airbnbs typically range from £30 for a private room to £80-£100 for an entire unit. Prices climb as you approach Central London. I always seek discounts for first-time stays, ensure my flat has a kitchen to save on meals, and choose a location within walking distance of must-see sites. This time, the Airbnb I liked was



roughly £300 over my budget for the entire stay. I messaged the host on the app, and they kindly waived the extra cost. While it may not be paramount for everyone, the details matter when finding the perfect Airbnb in London. I prioritise essentials like Wi-Fi, a washing machine, a tea kettle, microwave, toaster, hairdryer, lift, and air conditioning. I also appreciate visually appealing rooms, often with a splash of colour or, if I'm fortunate, a lovely view. This time, I enjoyed a spacious terrace adjacent to the living room, offering beautiful views and sunlight.

SUPERHOST FOR THE WIN

When browsing for an Airbnb, I always make it a point to delve into the reviews. No matter how visually appealing a property might be, a poor host can mar the entire experience. I pay particular attention to feedback from other women, as safety is my foremost concern when selecting accommodations. While security measures are in place, one can never be too cautious. If I encounter a single negative review over something trivial, I typically brush it off. However, if there are multiple red flags, it's wise to take your hard-earned pounds elsewhere. I personally favour the "Superhost" option. These hosts often come with glowing reviews and little extras that enhance the stay dramatically. Though some might say it's controversial, I recommend booking your London



Airbnb well in advance — falling in love with a place only to discover it's fully booked is disheartening. Once you find an Airbnb that fits your budget and has good reviews, seize the opportunity and don't look back. After finalising my travel plans, I saved two or three potential Airbnb options. I compared them and made my booking a month in advance. Exploring London was the true highlight of my trip. Visiting London without indulging in afternoon tea is akin to going to Paris and skipping the Eiffel Tower.



LONDON EXPERIENCES

My tea experience began at Sketch, nestled in a stunning 18th-century building in Mayfair. I was enchanted by the restaurant's signature pink dining room, adorned with whimsical artwork by David Shrigley. By night, this charming tea room transformed into a

vibrant restaurant and cocktail bar led by renowned French chef Pierre Gagnaire.

For more culinary adventures, I discovered the modern European flair of The Ivy Cafe Marylebone, the Art Deco elegance of The Wolseley, the fresh seafood at Scotts Mayfair, and the decadent Austrian charm of Fischer's Marylebone. No shopping spree is complete without a visit to Selfridges on Oxford Street, a landmark since 1909, followed by a stroll down Marylebone High Street, where boutiques like Le Labo and Lululemon await. Culturally, I explored The Wallace Collection, housed in a historic Marylebone townhouse, featuring masterpieces by Titian, Rubens, and Rembrandt. I also visited the renowned British Museum nearby. I discovered a world of luxury at the UK's premier shopping destination, Bicester Village. Just a train ride from Marylebone, I explored over 150 chic boutiques in the charming Oxfordshire countryside. With brands like Gucci, Armani, and Givenchy, I indulged in a rich retail

experience and enjoyed savings of up to 60%. As a special guest, I even received an extra 10% off the Village price—truly a shopper's paradise. Surrounded by beautiful parks, my London experience was truly unforgettable.

THE LAST LEG

As my journey from London began, I couldn't help but feel excitement for my return home after a good two weeks in London. I had chosen a Premium Economy seat with Virgin Atlantic after extensive research. For those who don't know, Virgin Atlantic, founded by Richard Branson in 1984, stands out as a refreshing alternative to conventional carriers. Flying in Premium, simply called Premium, was a transformative experience. The leather seats offered noticeably more space than standard Economy, with an extra inch of width and enhanced recline, making the long-haul flight far more comfortable. I appreciated the adjustable headrest and the additional luxuries, like a pull-out footrest. The in-seat entertainment system, Vera, featured a 13-inch screen packed with an impressive selection of films.

Ultimately, my upgrade was a brilliant choice, making the journey back home a truly enjoyable experience. Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef, and a catalyst. She is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in 2016 and 2018.



Srisailam: A journey to spiritual splendour

Discover Srisailam, the "Kailash of the South," where spirituality meets natural beauty. This sacred Andhra Pradesh town offers a profound journey through ancient temples, serene landscapes and cultural wonders, says VISHESH SHUKLA



With a spirit of adventure and a heart full of curiosity, I set out from Bhubaneswar, the vibrant capital of Odisha, on a journey that promised to be extraordinary. Boarding the Yesvantpur Superfast Express, excitement coursed through me as I made my way to a small town in Andhra Pradesh, often called the "Kailash of the South." This enchanting place is home to Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy, one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlingas, and Goddess Bhramaramba, one of the eighteen Mahashakti Peethas, giving it an aura of deep spiritual significance. Nestled in the picturesque Nandyal district, Srisailam is a town where natural beauty and profound spirituality merge, offering a treasure trove of experiences waiting to be uncovered.

Markapur Road railway station serves as the gateway for devotees bound for Srisailam, with convenient connections to this revered destination. Upon arrival, travellers can hire autos for ₹30 to reach Markapuram bus stand, where buses run regularly to Srisailam. The 2.5-hour journey, costing ₹250, offers breathtaking views of the lush landscape, especially during the monsoon season. After arrival, the Shiva temple is within walking distance from the bus stand. Affordable accommodations, such as Kakatiya Anna Satra Sangam (₹1100), cater to pilgrims' needs.



The Mallikarjun Swami and Mata temple, a primary attraction, welcomes devotees until late evening. Local eateries like Trishul Family Restaurant provide delicious refreshments. Srisailam's well-organised transport and amenities ensure a hassle-free experience for pilgrims, making the spiritual journey truly unforgettable.

JOURNEY TO SERENITY

After a refreshing night's sleep, one can start the morning with a visit to the ancient



Hatkeswar Mahadev Temple, where Lord Shiva defeated the demon Tripurasura. Following the blessings of Lord Shiva, visitors often head to the unique Sakshi Ganpati Swamy temple, where Lord Ganesha is depicted seated with a pen and paper,

recording devotees' wishes to fulfil them. As the sunlight gently touches the mountains, the Paldhara-Panchdhara waterfall awaits, captivating visitors with its serene beauty. Covering all the scenic spots, I proceeded to Pothal Ganga, where I enjoyed a ropeway ride and boating on the Krishna River, savouring the serene view of the Srisailam reservoir. After visiting the major sites, I stopped for brunch at a local hotel serving delicious idli, dosa, and mendoovada. Satisfied with my meal, I returned to my place to rest and took a two-hour nap.

SOUVENIRS OF SRISAILAM

The next morning began at 5 AM. After checking out of the hotel, I enjoyed a hearty dosa breakfast before taking an express bus from Srisailam to Markapur for ₹200. I reached Markapur railway station around 10:15 PM to board the Vasco-da-Gama Shalimar Express. With around eight hours left in my journey, I had breakfast from the train's pantry car and spent some time reading. As the journey concluded, I was met with an enchanting surprise—the breathtaking beauty of Chilika Lake, which unfolded before me as the train traversed its waters. Unaware of its majesty, I found myself mesmerised by this unexpected sight, a perfect conclusion to an extraordinary journey.

IN BRIEF



ACI appoints SGK as president for APAC

SGK Kishore, a senior GMR Group executive, has been appointed the new president for the Asia Pacific and Middle East of the world airport operators' apex body, Airport Council International (ACI), effective January 1 next year. Kishore, currently the executive director and chief innovation officer at GMR Airports, will succeed Emmanuel Menanteau, Board Director of Cambodia Airports/Regional Director, VINCI Airports, GMR group said in a statement. As President of Hong-Kong headquartered ACI-APAC & MID, he will be at the forefront of supporting and driving growth in the region, it stated. According to the GMR group, Kishore's leadership will focus on enhancing regional standards, fostering collaboration among members, and addressing challenges unique to this rapidly expanding aviation landscape.



Hero MotoCorp sales rise 18 pc to 6.8 lakh units

Hero MotoCorp on Friday said its overall sales increased by 18 per cent year-on-year to 6,79,091 units in October. The country's largest two-wheeler maker has sold 5,74,930 units in October 2023. Domestic dispatches to dealers rose to 6,57,403 units compared to 5,59,766 units in the year-ago period, the company said in a statement. The company's exports rose to 21,688 units last month from 15,164 units in the year-ago period, it added. This significant growth was primarily driven by robust demand from key urban and rural areas, particularly in the 100cc and 125cc segments during the festive period, the company said. Hero MotoCorp said its electric vehicle brand VIDA continued to have a strong growth trajectory this year and achieved its highest-ever monthly dispatches, reaching 8,750 units in October 2024.



CIL has to ramp up production to higher levels: Minister

Coal production through domestic sources is important to avoid expensive imports and Coal India Ltd (CIL) has to ramp up production to higher levels in the future, Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said, as the state-owned behemoth entered its 50th year. CIL accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output. Coal is yet to peak to its full potential in the country, Reddy said, urging CIL to increase production to even higher levels, as per a statement by the coal ministry. Production through domestic sources is important to avoid expensive imports, Reddy said, adding that Coal India has to ramp up production to higher levels in the future. Coal India Ltd (CIL) came into being on November 1, 1975 as an apex holding company of the nationalised coking coal and non-coking mines. From producing 89 million tonnes (MT) during 1975-76, the maharatna coal behemoth ended FY24 with 773.6 MT, registering an 8.7-fold growth, according to the statement.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 'India committed to Sendai Framework'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra has affirmed India's commitment to the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and called for increased international collaboration on knowledge sharing, technology transfer and sustainable development to enhance disaster resilience globally.

Mishra said this while participating in the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) ministerial meeting in Belem, Brazil, according to an official release.

He led a high-level Indian delegation which took part in the meeting held from October 30 to November 1.

With the active participation of the Indian delegation, a consensus was arrived at on finalising the first ministerial declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the release issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said.

During various sessions,



Mishra shared the progress made by the government of India in reducing disaster risks and in upscaling disaster financing.

He emphasised India's proactive approach to disaster risk reduction on five priorities of the DRRWG which were enunciated during India's presidency of G20 -- early warning systems, disaster resilient infrastructure, DRR financing,

resilient recovery and nature-based solutions.

On disaster resilient infrastructure, he spoke about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global initiative of Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), which now has 40 countries and seven international organisations as members, the release said.

The Indian delegation also participated in a trioka meeting with the ministers of Brazil

and South Africa. It also held bilateral meetings with ministers from Brazil and other countries, namely Japan, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Germany, and heads of invited international organisations.

Responding to discussions on extreme heat, Mishra shared experience and steps being taken, including the focus on promoting traditional practices, to suit local conditions.

The first DRRWG was established on India's initiative during its G20 presidency in 2023.

Mishra congratulated Brazil on its continuation of the DRRWG and scaling it up to the ministerial level and affirmed India's support to South Africa on the DRRWG during their G20 presidency next year.

India's participation underscores its growing role in global DRR efforts and its commitment to building a safer and more resilient world, the release said



ADB said the cess significantly contributed to strengthening the budget of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy during 2010-2017 and provided the initial funds for the country's Green Energy Corridor scheme and its National Solar Mission, which helped bring down the cost of utility-scale solar energy and fund many off-grid renewable energy solutions

ADB lauds India's fossil fuel subsidy reforms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has since 2010 made noteworthy progress on fossil fuel subsidy reform through a calibrated 'remove', 'target', and 'shift' approach, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a new report.

"By carefully balancing the combined effect of three key policy levers - retail prices, tax rates, and subsidies on selected petroleum products - the country was able to reduce its fiscal subsidy in the oil and gas sector by 85 per cent, from an unsustainable peak of USD 25 billion in 2013 to USD 3.5 billion in 2023," it said.

In its 'Asia-Pacific Climate Report', ADB said India gradually phased out the subsidy on petrol and diesel (from 2010 to 2014) and carried out incremental tax increases (from 2010 to 2017), which created fiscal space to increase government support for renewable energy, electric vehicles, and strengthening of electricity infrastructure.

"The additional tax revenues from increases in excise duty on petrol and diesel from 2014 to 2017, a period of low international crude oil prices, were also redirected to improve access and target subsidies for expanding the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) among the rural poor," it said.

Subsidies for LPG have since grown and "may now require efforts to improve targeting and to incubate non-fossil-fuel cooking alternatives," it said.

From 2010 to 2017, Government of India introduced a cess (tax) on coal production and imports. Around 30 per cent of the cess collections were channelled to a national clean energy and environment fund that supported clean energy projects and research.

ADB said the cess significantly contributed to strengthening the budget of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy during 2010-2017 and provided the initial funds for the country's Green Energy Corridor scheme and its National Solar Mission, which helped bring down the cost of utility-scale solar energy and fund many off-grid renewable energy solutions.

However, with the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India after 2017, the cess on coal production and imports was subsumed within the country's GST compensation cess, the flows of which were redirected to compensate states for revenue losses associated with the new tax regime," it said.

As a result of India's subsidy reforms and taxation measures, the country's fossil fuel subsidies plummeted from 2014 to 2018.

Buffett sitting on \$325 billion cash as Berkshire keeps selling Apple stock

PNS ■ OMAHA (US)

Warren Buffett is now sitting on more than USD 325 billion cash after continuing to unload billions of dollars worth of Apple and Bank of America shares this year and continuing to collect a steady stream of profits from all of Berkshire Hathaway's assorted businesses without finding any major acquisitions.

Berkshire said it sold off more Apple shares in the third quarter after halving its massive investment in the iPhone maker last quarter. The stake valued at USD 69.9 billion at the end of September remains Berkshire's biggest single investment, but it has been cut drastically since the end of last year when it was worth USD 174.3 billion.

Berkshire said Saturday that investment gains again drove its third quarter profits skyward to USD 26.25 billion, or USD 18,272 per Class A share. A year ago, unrealised paper investment losses dragged the Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate's earnings down to a loss of USD 12.77 billion, or USD 8,824 per Class A share.

Buffett has long recommended that investors pay more attention to Berkshire's operating earnings if they want to get a good sense of how the businesses it owns are doing because those numbers exclude investments. Berkshire's



bottom-line profit figures can vary widely from quarter to quarter along with the value of its investments regardless of whether the company bought or sold anything.

By that measure, Berkshire said its operating earnings were only down about 6% at USD 10.09 billion, or USD 7,023.01 per Class A share. That compares to last year's USD 10.8 billion, or USD 7,437.15 per Class A share.

The four analysts surveyed by FactSet Research predicted that Berkshire would report operating earnings of USD

7,335.11 per Class A share.

Berkshire's revenue didn't change much at USD 92,995 billion. A year ago, it reported USD 93.21 billion revenue. That number was ahead of the USD 92.231 billion revenue that three analysts surveyed by FactSet predicted.

Berkshire owns an assortment of insurance businesses, including Geico, along with BNSF railroad, several major utilities and a varied collection of retail and manufacturing businesses, including brands like Dairy Queen and See's Candy.

Puri targets Kharge for indulging in shoot and scoot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday took on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for "delusional opinions", saying the opposition party was using "lies, fabricated figures and fake data" in its classic shoot and scoot policy.

In a series of post on X, Puri quoted data to counter Kharge's assertions saying the Modi government's inclusive development policies will make the country a developed nation by 2047. "Congress Party and Mr Kharge seem to be oblivious of the changes that have transformed the lives of Indians for the better," he said. The Modi government has pulled more than 24 crore Indians out of multidimensional poverty.

At 3.87 crore bottles, pre-Diwali liquor sales set new high in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Liquor sales in the national capital in the fortnight leading to Diwali set a record with over 3.87 crore bottles sold, mopping up a revenue of Rs 447.62 crore for the excise department of Delhi government, officials said on Saturday.

From October 15 to October 30, a whopping 3.87 crore bottles were sold from the liquor stores run by four corporations of Delhi government, including 2.98 crore bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and 89.48 lakh beer bottles, official figures showed.

Diwali celebrated on October 31 was a 'dry day', meaning all liquor stores were closed across the city on that day.

On Diwali eve on October 30, a total of 33.80 lakh bottles were sold, yielding a revenue

FESTIVE 'SPIRIT'



of Rs 61.56 crore, according to the data.

As compared to last year, 1.18 crore more bottles were sold in the fortnight leading to Diwali this year, from 2.69 crore in 2023 to 3.87 crore this time. Emerging from the shadows of the disruptions caused due to the withdrawal of the 2021-22 liquor policy, the excise department has earned a revenue of Rs 3,047 crore in

the first half of the ongoing financial year (April-October 2024), a growth of around 7 per cent as compared to the same period in 2023 when liquor worth Rs 2,849 crore was sold, officials said.

The total excise revenue, including VAT, earned between April and October 2024 stood at Rs 4,495 crore as against Rs 4,188 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, said a senior excise department official.

"These figures are despite the hiccups in the ESCIMS software in September and transition to the eAbkr system in October. Revenue flow is being steadily streamlined and scaled up," the official said.

The retail liquor business took a hit in the national capital after a new excise policy launched by the Delhi government was withdrawn in July 2022.

Amazon India records high growth in premium product sales

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Demand for premium products across categories, including television, smartphones, and large appliances, dominated the Diwali season sale during the Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2024 that commenced from September 27, a senior company official said on Saturday.

Amazon India Vice President Saurabh Srivastava told PTI that the company recorded 10-times growth in Apple iPad sales and five-times growth in Samsung tablets during the Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2024.

"One clear trend that was

there is premiumisation. When we look at it, whether it is televisions or fashion and beauty, gaming laptops, home and kitchen appliances, we have seen a clear trend of premiumisation. People are preferring more premium products. Again, this is not limited to just top cities," Srivastava said.

He said large-screen TVs contributed to about 30 per cent of the total unit sales in the segment and there was 10-times growth in their demand on a year-over-year basis with Samsung, Xiaomi, and Sony emerging as the most-preferred TV brands.

"In tablets, Apple and Samsung are premium prod-



ucts.

Apple tablets grew 10 times, and Samsung tablets 5 times year on year (YoY). When you think about large appliances, obviously, these are washing

machines and refrigerators and ACs, but premium ones like front-load washing machines, or side-by-side refrigerators, or bigger than 1.5-ton ACs, grew 30 per cent

YoY," Srivastava said.

He said the fashion and beauty segment recorded a 400 per cent spike in premium categories across watches, fragrances, handbags, Korean beauty, jewellery, luggage, etc.

Srivastava said the company registered 20 per cent more customers visiting during AGIF 2024 compared to the festive season sale during the same period a year ago.

"The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024 witnessed 140 crore customer visits -- the highest ever. More than 85 per cent customers were from non-metro cities," Srivastava said.

Amazon India saw 50 per cent year-on-year growth in

B2B customers who made their first purchase from Amazon Business.

"AGIF 2024 also set new milestones for seller success and witnessed more than 70 per cent increase in sellers surpassing a crore in sales compared to last year. The online marketplace bolstered its fast delivery capabilities, delivering over 3 crore products to Prime members across India within the same or next-day which is 26 per cent increase from previous year," he said.

Amazon India said in a statement that 70 per cent of Prime members who shopped during the festive season were from Tier-2 and 3 cities compared to 60 per cent last year.

Govt revises wastage, input-output norms for gold, silver jewellery exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government revised norms related to the permissible amount of wastage with regard to the export of gold, silver and platinum jewellery.

The wastage norms are the permissible amount of gold or silver that can be lost during the manufacturing process of jewellery for export.

An industry official said the wastage norms have been slightly adjusted from the earlier norms, released on May 27, after the industry urged the government to look into the issue.

The industry had expressed concerns over the May rules which reduced the wastage norms across jewellery categories.

After their concerns, the Commerce Ministry deferred the implementation of those rules till December 2024.

Now, the ministry has come out with the revised norms again, which have been welcomed by the industry.

NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
CIN No. U40109TG2000SGC034119
"E"-PROCUREMENT, SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO.1312024-25 OF CE (PROJECTS)/ TGNPDCL / WARRANGAL.

Bid No.: 11-1052024-25CE/PROJ/PROJECTS/TGNPDCL/WARRANGAL. Name of the work: Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of RTUs and iEDs/BCPUs along with accessories for Phase - 1 of Distribution Automation and Control System of 33/11kV Sub-Station in TGNPDCL area in Telangana state. For further details visit: tender.telangana.gov.in, www.tgnpdcl.com

R.O. No.: 0163-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt: 02-11-2024 TGNPDCL, Warangal.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PRISONS DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible persons for the follow in this Dept., i) Legal Advisor, ii) Auditor, iii) Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in Psychology, iv) Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in Sociology, v) Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor in Criminology, vi) Coordinator. For details at: <http://prisons.telangana.gov.in> from 04.11.2024.

R.O. No: 0160-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Date: 02-11-2024 Sd/- Director General

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
"E" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
SIT No. 18/09/EE/Quilbalpur Circle-25/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 02.11.2024

Name of the Works: 1) Making arrangements for Chest poole at Fox soper lake in ward 130 for the year 2024 Quilbalpur Circle-25, GHMC (Reserved for SC Community), Amount of Estimate: Rs. 1.60 Lakhs, 2) Making arrangements for Chest poole at Venkatesh godde baby pond and various places in Joodimela ward 132 for the year 2024 in Quilbalpur Circle-25, HP Zone, GHMC. Amount of Estimate: Rs. 1.25 Lakhs. Events: For Work Sl. No. 1 to 2. Download Start Date: 04.11.2024@ 2:30 P.M., Download End Date: 05.11.2024 @ 2:30 P.M., Price Bid Opening: 05.11.2024 @ 2:30 P.M. Address of the officer concerned Executive Engineer, Office of the Quilbalpur Circle, 2nd floor, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in

R.O.No: 0160-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt: 02.11.2024 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Quilbalpur Circle-25, GHMC.



"Nothing is easy in cricket. Maybe when you watch it on TV, it looks easy. But it is not. You have to use your brain and time the ball!"
— Rohit Sharma

SHAMI FINISHED THE ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023 AS THE TOURNAMENT'S LEADING WICKET-TAKER, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE 24 WICKETS ACROSS SEVEN MATCHES. HIS REMARKABLE PERFORMANCES INCLUDED THREE FIVE-WICKET HAULS AND A FOUR-WICKET HAUL, HIGHLIGHTED BY A CAREER-BEST 7/57 AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE SEMI-FINALS

Mohammad Shami has been pushing the boundaries of pace and redefining the role of fast bowlers. His comeback adds depth to India's bowling attack, and his journey inspires the youngsters writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

THE COMEBACK MAN

After nearly a year away from the field, 34-year-old Indian pacer Mohammad Shami is set to make his highly anticipated comeback. Having missed out due to an ankle injury that sidelined him since November last year, Shami has been seen practicing hard on the main pitch at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, following the first Test between India and New Zealand. With a five-Test tour of Australia approaching this November, fans are eagerly awaiting the return of one of India's most formidable fast bowlers.

After a year-long hiatus, Mohammad Shami, India's lethal pace bowler, has returned to international cricket with renewed vigour, reminding fans of his remarkable skill and unyielding determination. Shami's journey back to the pitch is not just a testament to his resilience, but also an inspiring comeback story that showcases his unwavering commitment to the game. With career-defining spells and an uncanny knack for turning games in India's favor, Shami's return has once again fortified the Indian bowling lineup. In 2023, Shami delivered an outstanding season, claiming 56 wickets in 27 innings and earning the prestigious Purple Cap in the IPL. He finished the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 as the tournament's leading wicket-taker, with an impressive 24 wickets across seven matches. His remarkable performances included three five-wicket hauls and a four-wicket haul, highlighted by a career-best 7/57 against New Zealand in the semi-finals.

Despite battling a persistent heel issue, Shami's dedication to cricket was unwavering, playing a crucial role in India's World Cup journey. Since India's defeat to Australia in the ODI World Cup final in November 2023, Shami has been sidelined. He was initially selected for India's two-Test series in South Africa in December 2023, but fitness concerns prevented his participation. In January 2024, Shami travelled to London for specialized injections to treat his ankle. Following this treatment, he was advised to gradually resume physical activity. Unfortunately, the injections did not bring the desired relief, leading to surgery on his Achilles tendon. Following a prolonged break due to injuries and personal challenges, Shami's return has been nothing short of extraordinary, proving that his time away from the game did little to diminish his prowess. "Every comeback has its own set of challenges but cricket has always been my calling. Being on the field and playing for the country puts me on cloud nine", Says Shami. Known for his high-velocity deliveries and pinpoint accuracy, Shami has

remained dedicated to refining his craft, training rigorously to ensure his return was one for the books. His work with renowned trainers and sports psychologists was instrumental in fortifying both his physical and mental resilience, setting the stage for a triumphant return to the Indian squad. Returning from a prolonged injury is always a test of resilience, particularly for a cricketer under the global lens. The mental challenges of injury can be as tough as the physical ones, with constant scrutiny adding to the pressure. Shami's journey reflects the dedication required to overcome these obstacles, as he not only returns to the sport but does so with a renewed sense of self-belief.

Comeback after an injury is not easy, the biggest setback is psychological apart from the physical challenge. And if it extends for a year the challenge is immense. "I had one resolve to be back on the field and play for the country. And if the goal is clear God gives you resilience and courage to withstand the storm. I practiced and maintained my poise and worked on my game and fitness and my overall wellbeing." Says Shami with a smile. Shami's transformation has not been limited to his athletic pursuits. In addition to his rehabilitation, he recently underwent a hair transplant as his hairline had thinned. Now when he will be back on the field he would be sporting the look of a younger man with flowing hair. "Indeed it was his perseverance and health regime that the results were better than we expected," says Dr Arika Bansal, at Eugenix Hair Sciences Shami's choice of Eugenix highlights the clinic's reputation for delivering outstanding hair restoration results. Dr. Pradeep Bansal also expresses his gratification working with Shami, calling it "an honour to serve an eminent cricketer who exemplifies resilience." Indeed, the results have not only enhanced Shami's appearance but also reignited his confidence, adding a renewed energy to his presence on and off the field.

Mohammed Shami's home ground is Eden Gardens in Kolkata, where he made his Test debut against the West Indies in 2013. Shami has always had a special connection with India's cricketing venues, with the Eden Gardens, his home ground in Kolkata being particularly close to his heart. He considers the iconic stadium to be his lucky ground, where he has delivered several memorable performances. "Eden Gardens has a special vibe; the crowd and atmosphere push you to go that extra mile. There's no place quite like it." He quips. Shami has now earned a name for himself as a right-arm fast-medium bowler. He's known for his ability to swing the ball at pace, and for his reverse swing. He hails from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh. Shami was a mainstay in India's T20 World Cup teams in 2021 and 2022. In the 2023 World Cup, he was India's highest wicket-taker. The Uttar Pradesh government is building a mini-stadium and gymnasium in Shami's village, Sahaspur Alinagar, to honor him. The stadium will be built on one hectare of land and will also include an open gym and race track. Shami's journey has been marked by significant challenges, both on and off the field. Despite setbacks, he has shown a profound level of mental toughness, using the time off to focus on his inner resilience. He once remarked, "The game of cricket teaches you a lot about life. It's a test of patience, hard work, and mental strength." His perspective has evolved to not only focus on physical fitness but also to prioritize mental well-being, which has been a key element in his recent comeback. When asked who he finds the hardest batsman to ball, he simply smiles and replies, "No one!" Shami's return has not only bolstered India's pace attack but has also brought in a seasoned leader for the younger bowlers. His experience and ability to read the game are assets that elevate the team's overall performance. Known for his tactical approach, Shami's presence is invaluable, particularly in high-stakes matches, where his sharp instincts and seasoned techniques shine. As Shami steps back into the limelight, his journey stands as a testament to grit and resilience. The Indian cricket fraternity and millions of fans eagerly watch as he once again takes to the pitch, embodying the spirit of Indian cricket at its finest.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



From Bollywood classics to *Harvest*

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With a legacy that echoes through the corridors of Indian cinema, Sandesh Shandilya stands tall as a visionary music director and composer. He is a renowned Indian music director and composer who has left an indelible mark on the Bollywood music industry.

With a career spanning over two decades, he has crafted iconic soundtracks for films like *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Chameli*, *Socha Na Tha* and *Jab We Met*, cementing his reputation as a master of melodic storytelling. Born into a family of musicians, Sandesh's innate talent and passion for music drove him to pursue his dreams, from humble beginnings to becoming one of India's most revered composers. His diverse compositions, ranging from romantic ballads to upbeat anthems, have resonated with audiences worldwide, transcending generations and genres.

Through his symphonies, Sandesh has harmonised the heartbeat of India, capturing the pulse of the nation and transporting listeners to a world of love, laughter and tears. Now, he has taken a bold new step with his latest album, *Harvest*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, he shares the inspiration behind this significant departure from his previous works.

"*Harvest* was born out of a desire to reach a broader audience across all ages," reveals the music composer behind *K3G*'s tracks like *You Are My Soniya*, *Suraj Hua Maddham*, *Deewana Hai Dekho* and *Vande Mataram*. Just imagine a debut with these songs that have created a legacy of their own—how astonishing! Well, getting back to *Harvest*, "I wanted to create a fresh listening experience, blending youthful energy with a refined touch." To achieve this, he collaborated with emerging talents like Mir, Pho and Farozan, who brought a raw, authentic sound to the project.

Unlike his previous works, tied to film narratives, *Harvest* allowed Sandesh to embark on a free-flowing creative journey. "Working with a vibrant team of lyricists, musicians, and directors gave the album a diverse texture," notes the *Big Brother* music composer. This album aims to resonate deeply, offering listeners a multi-layered experience that combines familiar Indian sounds with modern, international influences.

Sandesh's music has always balanced traditional Indian sounds with contemporary elements. As he continues to push the boundaries of Indian music, *Harvest* stands as a testament to his innovative spirit and dedication to crafting melodies that resonate with listeners of all ages. *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*'s impact extends beyond the film itself, with its soundtrack influencing a generation

From the soulful notes of *Suraj Hua Maddham* to the modern rhythms of *Harvest*, Sandesh Shandilya's musical journey has been a testament to his innovative spirit. *The Pioneer* presents an exclusive conversation with the acclaimed composer, delving into the making of *Harvest* and his remarkable musical legacy



of musicians and music lovers. His work on the album cemented his position as a leading composer in Bollywood. Reflecting on *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, he says, "It was a beautiful blend of traditional Indian musical roots with subtle modern tones." By including classical instruments alongside a refined arrangement, he shares the songs maintained an emotional depth while appealing to younger audiences. Similarly, *Harvest* pushes this balance further, experimenting with new genres like hip-hop and rap. "The addition of English lyrics and youthful energy brought by artists like Mir and Pho gives it a refreshing edge while still retaining the soul of Indian music."

Collaborations have been a hallmark of Sandesh's career, including working with legends like Ustad Sultan Khan. "His artistry added a timeless quality that elevated the music to another level," Sandesh reminisces. In *Harvest*, working with young talents brought a different kind of magic. "Their

innocence and fresh perspective injected new life into the music." *Chameli*'s soulful soundtrack, crafted by Sandesh, beautifully captured the essence of rain-soaked streets and the emotions that accompany them. Tracks like *Bhichchi Hui* continue to mesmerise listeners with their haunting simplicity and depth. *Chameli*, a special project for Sandesh, marked a shift toward a more layered, soulful approach to music. "Its tracks were crafted to capture the essence of rain-soaked streets and the emotions that accompany them."

As a composer with a long-standing career, Sandesh acknowledges the challenges of creating music in today's evolving industry. "Each project brings new challenges, but *Harvest* felt particularly unique." He notes that working with newer artists introduced fresh ideas and approaches, pushing him to expand his creative boundaries.

Sandesh's iconic tracks, like *Suraj Hua Maddham*

and *Aaoge Jab Tum*, have timeless appeal. "In *Harvest*, I wanted to bring that same emotional depth but in a way that resonates with the modern listener." The mood in *Harvest* is a blend of reflective and uplifting, designed to evoke a sense of journey and connection.

When creating music for cinema, Sandesh emphasises the collaborative process. "You're crafting music that not only sounds good but also supports the characters' emotions and the movie's overall atmosphere." In contrast, *Harvest* offered creative freedom to explore themes without limitations.

With the rise of streaming platforms, Sandesh believes *Harvest* will connect with the new generation of listeners. "By combining hip-hop elements and international sounds, I think *Harvest* will appeal to both young listeners seeking something new and older fans who appreciate depth and melody."

Personal experiences often influence Sandesh's work. "Melodies arise from feelings, memories, or



few fleeting moments in everyday life." *Harvest*'s themes of journey and growth mirror his own creative evolution. For Sandesh, music has always been about connecting with listeners on an emotional level. "Love, longing and nostalgia are universal feelings that everyone relates to." In *Harvest*, these core emotions remain, reimagined in new ways that reflect the world around us today.

Reflecting on his creative process for *Jab We Met*, Sandesh says, "I start with a concept and then build melodies that reflect the emotions of the characters and story." With *Harvest*, the process was similar but more flexible. "I would start with a melody and then we'd experiment with lyrics and voices, letting the song evolve naturally until it felt complete."

WHAT'S NEW

Light up your skin with the Glow On The Go Kit (Mini) by Milagro Beauty! Perfect to prep your skin before and after the season's most glamorous parties. This travel-friendly kit has everything you need to shine. Get glowing with the luminous 24K Gold essential oil, brighten up tired eyes with the under-eye oil and keep your complexion fresh with the green tea & watermelon face toner. The puff, satin sponge and hydrogel sunblock make for the perfect addition to your flawless look.

Price- 6440/-

BE ULTIMATE DESI GIRL THIS FESTIVE SEASON

This festive season, why not gift yourself or your favorite womaniya the ultimate beauty upgrade? Fix My Curls and Fae Beauty—the collaboration you didn't know you needed! The duo brings you a limited edition gift box.

Price: Rs 1500/-

RADIANT ON-THE-GO

Light up your skin with the Glow On The Go Kit (Mini) by Milagro Beauty! Perfect to prep your skin before and after the season's most glamorous parties. This travel-friendly kit has everything you need to shine. Get glowing with the luminous 24K Gold essential oil, brighten up tired eyes with the under-eye oil and keep your complexion fresh with the green tea & watermelon face toner. The puff, satin sponge and hydrogel sunblock make for the perfect addition to your flawless look.

Price- 6440/-

BRACELET WOVEN IN FRENCH NAVY'S HERITAGE

The Pelagos FXD platform has now expanded to suit the needs of the French Naval Aviation, with the addition of a function that allows aviators and flight support personnel to keep track of "Zulu time" in addition to local time and a third time zone. The new Pelagos FXD GMT is master chronometer-certified by METAS to ensure maximum precision and reliability in the adverse real-world conditions endured by personnel of the Aéronautique Navale.

CHOCOLATE HAMPER FOR BHAIDOOJ

Make this Bhaidoj sweeter with the chocolate hampe by FNP - a luxurious collection of indulgent chocolates designed to bring joy to your celebrations. This beautifully crafted hamper is filled with an irresistible assortment of rich, creamy chocolates, offering a mix of classic and festive flavours. Elegantly packaged, this hamper makes an ideal present for family, friends, or corporate gifting, ensuring a memorable Bhaidoj for everyone.

SPARKLE, SHINE AND CELEBRATE

Everyone's favourite season is right around the corner and The Natural Wash made it special with their festive skincare hamper. The hamper includes amazing products like vitamin C serum, multani mitti face wash, underarm roll-on, sun defense SPF50, rose water and more perfect for enhancing your festive glow. Each product is crafted to nourish and protect your skin, making it the ideal addition to self-care routine.

Price: 2300/-

NUTTY GRUTTIES HAMPER

Nutty Grutties has launched its exquisite "Collector's Edition Box - Celebrating Traditions". The box has handpicked, fresh and crunchy dry fruits in jars catering to different taste palates - sweet, savoury, salted and spicy that are must-haves to enhance your celebrations and bring joy to every moment.

TIMELESS ELEGANCE

Sri Jagdamba Pearls offers a timeless collection of jewellery that embodies elegance and tradition, making it ideal for gifting during these auspicious occasions. From delicate pearl pendants and earrings to modern pearl-studded bracelets and rings, Jpearls has something for everyone. Each piece is crafted to complement traditional and contemporary styles, allowing your loved ones to treasure these gifts long after the festivities are over. Make this season extra special by gifting jewellery from Sri Jagdamba Pearls that adds sparkle and meaning to every celebration.

GOLDEN GLOW GIFT HAMPER

This beautifully curated hamper by IGP is crafted to elevate your traditional Bhaidoj celebrations. Presented in an eco-friendly red box, it includes roasted and salted cashews and almonds, two elegant metal candles, besan laddoo, incense sticks, a puja kit and a Laxmi-Ganesha idol set—perfect for a complete festive ritual. With essential puja items, this hamper makes a thoughtful gift for friends and family, sending warm wishes for a prosperous and blessed Bhaidoj.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

You may feel insecure, leading to stress and relationship challenges, but your energy attracts support. Balance work with rest and nurture your loved ones. Success will follow.

LIBRA

Manage emotions and avoid clashes with siblings. Your energy and boldness attract others but may invite criticism. Nurture relationships, embrace joy, and stay communicative.

TAURUS

You may feel irritable but stay calm under pressure. Focus on health, relationships and purposeful work. Use your energy wisely and let others' insecurities be their burden.

SCORPIO

Your humour and energy attract others, but work challenges may arise. Stay calm, consult wisely, and embrace new opportunities. Avoid depression by focusing on family harmony.

GEMINI

Stay calm under pressure and nurture relationships. Balance work with family, and prioritize romantic moments. Your energy and resilience will help you overcome and revitalize yourself.

SAGITTARIUS

Focus on self-improvement. Stay confident and logical while managing stress. Separation from the family will foster independence. Students should focus on their studies.

CANCER

Restless and energetic, you'll tackle challenges and succeed. Balance work with family time to strengthen bonds. Embrace new experiences. Your loving nature draws care from others.

CAPRICORN

Stay calm amid workplace challenges and balance personal and professional obligations. Your supportive nature will bring contentment. Find rejuvenation through new friendships.

LEO

Stay confident through challenges, as success is near. Manage emotions carefully. Romantic moments and unexpected support will uplift you. This is a crucial phase for students.

AQUARIUS

Your charm and wit attract others, but insecurity may arise. Embrace new challenges and accept advice to progress. Emotional issues could affect health. Go for a fresh start.

VIRGO

Harmony surrounds you, though frustrations may arise. Stay positive, nurture relationships, and avoid negative thoughts. Health needs attention, but joy and success await in plenty.

PISCES

Your humour and enthusiasm make you popular, but agitation may hinder your charisma. Focus on family time, accept others' ideas, and seek balance to improve health and revitalization.

CHAT-O-CINO

Hansal Mehta on storytelling, social change and creative evolution

TEJAL SINHA
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Hansal Mehta, the visionary Indian film director, producer and screenwriter, has been celebrated for his unflinching and socially conscious storytelling. With a prolific career spanning over two decades, Mehta has helmed critically acclaimed films like *Shahid* (2013), *CityLights* (2014), *Aligarh* (2016), *Simran* (2017), *Omertà* (2017), *Chhalaang* (2020) and *Faraaz* (2022), showcasing his mastery over diverse genres and themes.

Through his production company, Mehta nurtures emerging talent and pushes the boundaries of Indian cinema. Mehta's films consistently spark important conversations and garner prestigious awards. With a commitment to exploring complex social issues, Mehta solidifies his position as one of India's most respected and innovative filmmakers.

His latest thriller, *The Buckingham Murders*, continues his legacy of provocative storytelling, delving into the darker aspects of human nature.

The Pioneer had the opportunity to quickly have an exclusive chat with the much-celebrated filmmaker just after being a jury for the Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films at the 2024 MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.

Mehta's association with MAMI dates back to 2012 and he has been an integral part of the festival's growth. His involvement has included mentoring emerging filmmakers and showcasing his own critically acclaimed films. This year, Mehta brought his expertise to the jury panel.

"I've been a part of MAMI in some capacity or the other since 2012... When they asked me to be on the jury, I was thrilled," Mehta shared. "The opportunity to discover new voices and filmmakers is always exciting." With great regards and excitement in his voice for his fellow jury members, he gleefully enthuses, "We rarely get to meet and discuss something that all of us love the most we share in common—a love for stories."

When evaluating the short films, the *Aligarh* filmmaker and his fellow jury members considered multiple factors. They sought films that told compelling stories, showcased exceptional craftsmanship and left a lasting impact. The emotional resonance of each film played a significant role in their decision-making process.

"We responded emotionally. What did the storytelling do to us? What is the story you're telling? What is the world you're showing me?" Mehta explained. "We argued, discussed, but ultimately had a unanimous choice."

The *Scam* franchise filmmaker's approach prioritises character development.

ment over plot. His films often explore complex social issues, delving into the human condition. This approach has yielded nuanced characters in films like *The Buckingham Murders*.

"For me, stories are more about character than about plot. I follow characters and explore them and through them, I find the plot," Mehta revealed. "I'm glad people see it that way."

Just a few days back, we had this fun chit-chat with chef Ranveer Brar, during which he discussed Hansal Mehta and Brar's bond over food on sets. In fact, it was because of his love for food that got him the role in *The Buckingham Murders*.

"Ranveer cooked a lot for us. Whatever you see on TV, his food is even more amazing," Mehta chuckled. "Collaborating in the kitchen, he doesn't let anyone work with him in the kitchen. All he let me do was chop onions and that too he didn't allow because he chops onions so fast."

Mehta's filmmaking has evolved over the years, driven by his desire to learn and

observe. He attends film festivals, engages with emerging talent and explores new themes. This growth mindset enables him to stay relevant and innovative.

"I'm still evolving and learning," says the *Shahid* director, who being present at the festival adds, "I'm watching all these new films and then they've had a huge impact on me. You watch more; you observe the world more. You look at the way people are looking at the world. You keep reexamining your own perspective. I'm not stuck in the past; like, I don't have negatives of my films and I don't have copies of any of my older films. So when people ask me for screenings as I don't have anything, I move on. I leave it behind because you have to start fresh."

Well, this makes it evident that despite the pressures as a filmmaker in the industry, he maintains his mental well-being by not taking things too seriously. He has developed a coping mechanism to deal with criticism and negativity.

"What takes a toll on your mental health is sometimes the way, the pressure you put on yourself to be seen in a particular way or to be perceived in a particular way," affirms the *Chhalaang* director and thus he says, "Work never does that and so I've learned to deal with it. I've had enough pig fights on social media to learn to cope with it. I now amuse myself. I don't take all these things seriously. My first commercial film was called *Dil Pe Mat Le Yaar* and that's what I follow in life."

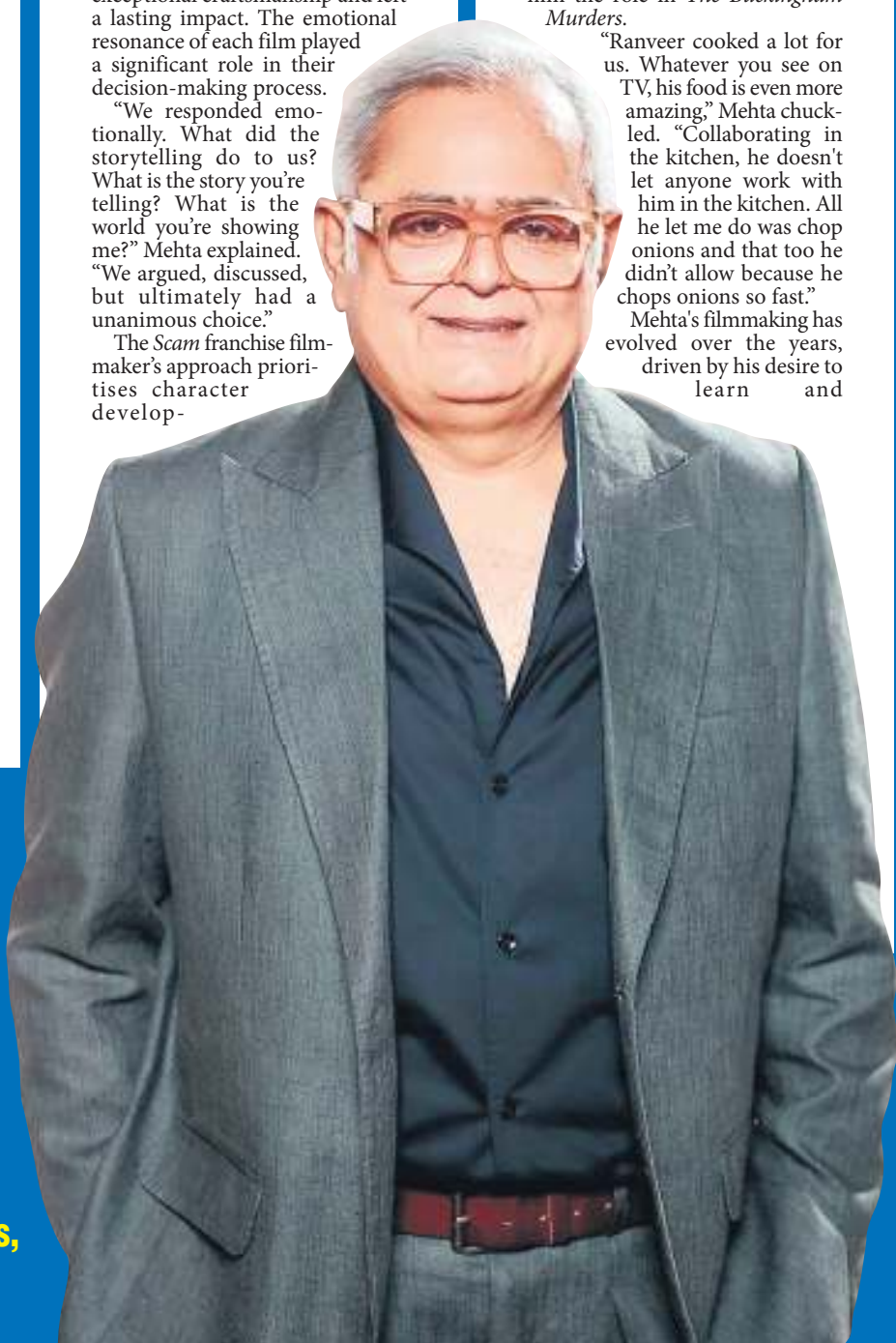
Something we all really need to think of looking at the current scenario—*Dil Pe Mat Le Yaar*.

Getting back to his artistic process, when it comes to tackling true events in his films, he strives for objectivity. He avoids judging his characters, instead observing and exploring their complexities.

"I try to stay away and not judge my characters. Judging your characters will colour your storytelling," he further emphasised. Heading towards the end of the chat, Mehta expressed optimism about the future of Indian cinema, citing the emergence of new talent and innovative storytelling.

"There's a lot of exciting work happening. I'm hopeful about the future of Indian cinema," signs off the *CityLights* filmmaker on a brighter note.

Hansal's influence on Indian cinema will be felt for generations to come. His innovative approach, artistic vision and commitment to socially conscious storytelling have created a lasting impact, shaping the industry's future and inspiring a new era of bold, thought-provoking filmmaking.



From the dark alleys of *CityLights* to the poignant corridors of *The Buckingham Murders*, Hansal Mehta's films have consistently challenged societal norms and sparked crucial conversations. In a candid interview with *The Pioneer*, Mehta lifts the curtain on his artistic process, collaborations and the future of Indian storytelling

TRENDING

PERSON

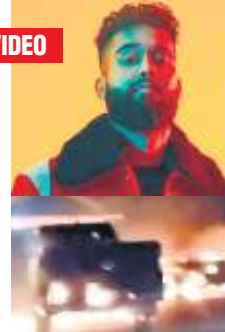
BIBEK DEBROY



In Hyderabad, South star Chiranjeevi received the esteemed Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR) National Award. Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan congratulated the actor. The award was created in 2005 by the Akkineni International Foundation to honour actors who have made exceptional contributions to Indian film.

AP DHILLON HOUSE FIRING

VIDEO



A video that purports to show multiple bullets being fired at the Canadian home of Punjabi musician AP Dhillon has surfaced. Additionally, it depicts two cars that were set on fire during the Vancouver event on September 2. The singer, who resides on Vancouver's Victoria Island, was unharmed in the shooting.

SINGHAM AGAIN

MOVIE



On November 1, Rohit Shetty's cop universe movie *Singham Again* entered theatres. The audience was treated to a unique surprise: Salman Khan.

AMI JE TOMAR 3.0

SONG



Ami Je Tomar 3.0, which starred Madhuri Dixit and Vidya Balan, was released on YouTube. The video has gotten 8 million (80 lakh) views in the 15 hours since it was released.

RETURN OF RAM LALLA TO HIS HOME

PICTURE



On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that Diwali is 'special' since Lord Ram will celebrate the holiday in the Ayodhya temple for the first time in 500 years.

Fight against breast cancer continues

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HEALTH TALK

With the stirring theme of "No One Should Face This Battle Alone" October offered a moving reminder of the fortitude and resiliency of individuals impacted by breast cancer as we commemorated Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2024. Breast cancer stands as one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers globally, with India reporting approximately 200,000 new cases each year. Fortunately, when identified early, the disease is highly treatable. Raising awareness

about the initial signs of breast cancer is crucial for improving patient outcomes. In this article, we share insights from survivors and medical professionals, focusing on recognising early symptoms, the significance of routine screenings, and a comprehensive overview of treatment options based on the various stages of the disease.

"Awareness is essential," says Anchal Sharma, a breast cancer survivor and founder of the CanHeal Community on coto. She emphasises the importance of early detection, especially through self-examinations. "The most common symptom is a new lump in the breast or underarm. These lumps can vary in size, shape and texture; some may feel tender, while others are painless." Anchal stresses that even subtle changes can be significant, and these changes shouldn't be overlooked. Other early signs include alterations in breast size or shape. For example, one

breast may suddenly appear larger or more prominent, indicating a potential concern.

Changes in the nipple, such as inversion or unexpected discharge, are also key indicators. Any unusual discharge, particularly if bloody, should be promptly evaluated by a doctor. Additionally, skin changes on the breast, like dimpling, puckering, or a rough, "orange-peel" texture, may be warning signs. Persistent pain or tenderness, especially in a localised area, is another symptom worth monitoring. Swelling in the armpit area can also signify the spread of cancer to nearby lymph nodes, highlighting the need for vigilance in detecting changes across the entire chest area.

Hina Khan's journey through breast cancer is one of remarkable resilience, made all the more poignant as she chooses to share it publicly. In one of her first posts on Instagram, she reflects on a recent award

night that happened just before her first chemotherapy session. Hina reveals that, though her diagnosis weighed heavily on her mind, she consciously chose to attend the event to "normalise" the experience, not only for herself but for those facing similar battles. "I refuse to bow down," she writes, conveying her resolve to face this life-altering journey with grace and determination.

Through her posts, Hina introduces powerful affirmations: embracing the scars that now tell her story while looking forward

with hope. "The scars are mine; I embrace them with love because they're the first sign of the progress I deserve," she states, emphasising how these marks represent her strength and progress. Another post introduces a deeply supportive figure in her life, Mahima Chaudhry, who has been a source of love and guidance throughout her treatment. Hina describes Mahima as a "hero" and "superhuman," someone who not only shared her wisdom but also ensured that Hina knew she wasn't alone. As Hina opens up about her experience, she brings hope, warmth, and community to others battling cancer, reinforcing that even in the toughest of times, self-belief and the support of loved ones can illuminate the path forward.

Dr. Abhishek Raj, Senior Consultant and Head of Medical Oncology at Sarvodaya Hospital, emphasises that timely screenings are essential, particularly for women aged 40 and above. "Breast cancer treatment has a cure rate of over 90-95% when diagnosed early," he explains. "Regular screenings allow us to detect tumors at stages where treatment is most effective." He advocates that every woman over 40 undergo regular mammograms, as this is the most effective way to detect changes early on. Dr. Abhishek Raj also underscores that while breast changes can signal cancer, many are benign, and only a healthcare provider can determine the cause of these symptoms.

Breast cancer treatment is largely dependent on the stage of the disease, ranging from Stage 0 to Stage IV. "Each stage has distinct characteristics and treatment protocols," says Dr. Lakhani Kashyap, Consultant of Medical Oncology at Manipal Hospital. These stages are classified based on tumour size, lymph node involvement and spread to other organs, determined through tests like CT scans, PET scans and biopsies.



Stage 0: Known as ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), this non-invasive stage confines abnormal cells to the milk ducts. Treatment typically involves surgery, and radiation may be recommended in high-risk cases to prevent recurrence.

Stage I: At this early stage, tumors are usually no larger than two centimeters and may or may not affect nearby lymph nodes. Treatments generally involve surgery, such as mastectomy or lumpectomy, with radiation therapy. Hormone therapy or chemotherapy may also be advised based on the tumor's characteristics.

Stage II: Tumors in this stage range from 2 to 5 cm and are more likely to affect multiple lymph nodes. Surgery remains a primary treatment, but chemotherapy, radiation, and targeted therapies may also be part of the

regimen, depending on the cancer's specific subtype.

Stage III: This locally advanced stage often involves larger tumors that may affect the chest wall, skin, and more lymph nodes in the neck or armpit but have not yet spread to distant organs. Treatment often begins with chemotherapy or immunotherapy to shrink the tumour, followed by surgery and radiation.

Stage IV: Also known as metastatic breast cancer, this stage indicates that cancer has spread to other organs such as the liver, lungs, brain, or bones. The focus of treatment at this stage shifts toward managing symptoms and slowing disease progression to improve quality of life. "Systemic treatments like chemotherapy, hormone therapy, and immunotherapy help manage the disease, even though Stage IV is not curable," notes Dr. Kashyap.



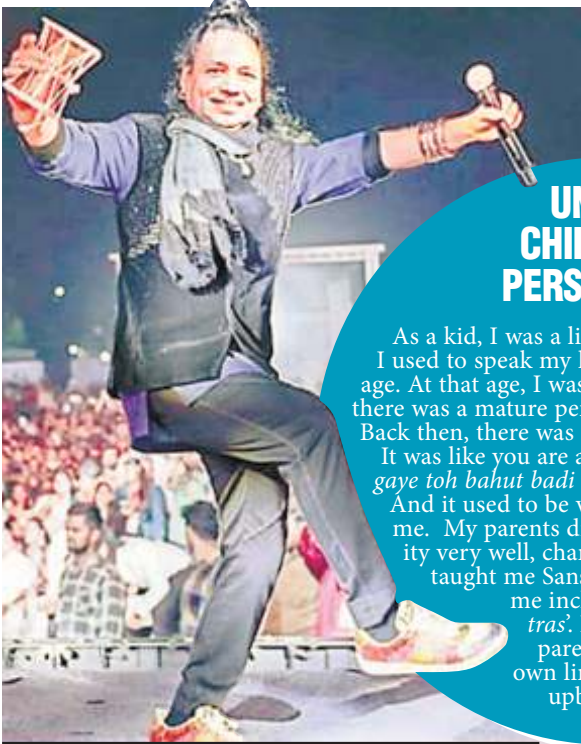
Both experts and survivors stress the importance of seeking timely medical advice. "If you notice any change in your breasts, if it seems minor, consult your doctor," advises Anchal. Family history can also increase the risk, so regular check-ups are especially important for those with hereditary risk factors. Dr. Abhishek Raj adds that early-stage cancers have survival rates nearing 100%, while advanced stages are increasingly manageable with modern treatments. Ultimately, awareness and early detection remain the most powerful tools in the fight against breast cancer. With regular screenings, timely intervention, and adherence to treatment plans, many individuals can achieve positive outcomes. "Don't hesitate to seek medical attention if you have concerns," Anchal Sharma emphasises. Early diagnosis can indeed save lives, turning what may initially seem like a challenge into a story of hope and resilience.

Kailash Kher, renowned Indian playback singer and music composer, who has contributed enormously to various segments of the film industry, including Bollywood and South Indian cinema, with his soulful voice, battled against several odds in life to scale the heights in his career as a musician.

A Padma Shri recipient, Kher has won multiple industry awards, including two Filmfare Awards and a National Film Award nomination. In a conversation with Tejal Sinha of *The Pioneer*, he shares vignettes of his checkered life, including the period when he lived the life of a runaway kid. But that did not really stop Kher, the 'ziddi' kid, from making his mark in life. Perhaps bitten by the singing bug when he, as a kid, joined priests and the devout offering Ganga Aarti in Rishikesh; his breakthrough came with 'Allah Ke Bande' (2003), which became an anthem, catapulting him to fame. Some of his notable works in Bollywood include 'Ya Rabba' from the film *Salaam-e-Ishq* (2007), 'Chand Sifarish' from *Fanaa* (2006), 'Arziyan' from *Delhi 6* (2009) and 'Tumhi Ho' from *Cocktail* (2012). With over 700 songs in his discography across languages, Kailash Kher remains a much-sought-after singer. He is known for his energetic live performances and soul-stirring renditions that resonate with music lovers of all ages and backgrounds. Through his music, Kher has transcended linguistic and cultural boundaries, uniting music lovers across India. Kailash Kher's south Indian connection is a significant aspect of his musical journey. He has sung numerous iconic songs in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam films, showcasing his versatility and adaptability. In Telugu cinema, his notable songs include 'Ek Niranjan' from *Magadheera* (2009), 'Adiga Adiga' from *Jalsa* (2008), and 'Jay-Jaykara' from *Baahubali* (2015), which became a massive hit. He has also lent his voice to Tamil films like 'Oru Kootu' from *Poi Solla Porom* (2008), 'Kaatriley Nadanthene' from *Aadhavan* (2009) and 'Unna Vitta Yaarum' from *Vettaikaran* (2009). In Kannada cinema, his notable songs include 'Hudgeer' from *Birugaali* (2009) and 'Nanaginta' from *Jungle* (2009), while in Malayalam cinema, he has sung 'Kanneer Poovil' from *Paappi Appacha* (2010) and 'Aaromale' from the dubbed version of *Vinnaihaandi Varuvaaya* (2010). Kher has eminent composers, including M.M. Keeravani for *Baahubali* and *Magadheera*, A.R. Rahman for *Vinnaihaandi Varuvaaya*, Harris Jayaraj for *Poi Solla Porom* and *Aadhavan*, Devi Sri Prasad for *Jalsa* and Manam and Ilaiyaraaja for *Unnaipol Oruvan*.

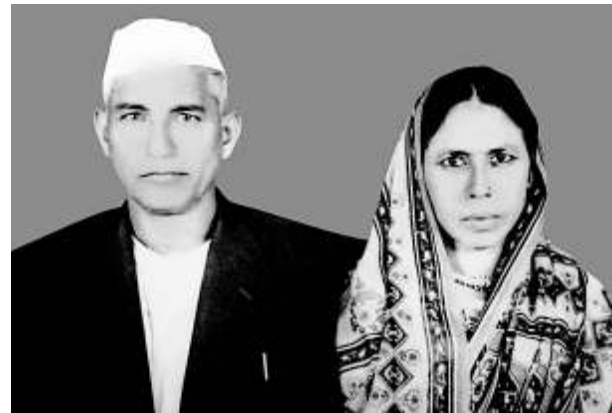


SCALING KAILASH OF MUSIC AS MAHADEV'S BHAKTH



UNIQUE CHILDHOOD PERSPECTIVE

As a kid, I was a little unique in many ways. I used to speak my heart out at a very tender age. At that age, I was very observant; it felt like there was a mature person's soul within me. Haha! Back then, there was no Mama's boy or Dad's boy. It was like you are a boy and *agar aap sambhal gaye toh bahut badi baat hai*. I was a little 'ziddi'. And it used to be very difficult to take care of me. My parents discharged their responsibility very well, channelizing my energy. They taught me Sanskrit and Vedas, making me inclined towards the 'shastras'. I was a 'laadla' of my parents. But I had my own limits during my upbringing.



KABIR FOLLOWING PAPA'S FOOTSTEPS

Yes, Kabir, my son, is actually learning music. He is learning guitar and vocals. He intends to get into performing arts, but right now he is in 9th grade. I first want him to focus on his studies. But let me tell you, he is a good soul.



MOORINGS IN RISHIKESH

I was in Rishikesh, where I was learning all the things of a pandit and all the rituals; pooja-path. It is also a study and a degree course. I had gone there to do my graduation. So, there you have this Ganga Aarti that happens and I used to sing there. When I used to sing, the sadhus and pandits used to dance. It was then that I realised that maybe this is something that I will be able to do well. I believe, *Khush rehna aur rakhta*, not everybody can do. So, singing used to make me happy. I did not really know if I would be able to earn or not, but keeping myself and others happy, I knew I could do that.



OUTLAWS WERE IN AWE OF HIS PIOUS DAD

My father was not a professional musician. He was a priest for whom music was a hobby, like in the case of many people. As an amateur, he used to also sing. He was one of those pious people *joh dil se cheezin karte hai*. It was so nice to be around him. More than his singing, his thoughts and teachings of life used to be very useful for us as kids. There were many criminals in the place where we resided, apart from people from different walks of life. Trust me when I tell you this: not just the other people, but criminals would also touch his feet. That was the kind of aura he had. My dad was an inspiration. His influence, beyond a doubt, has been there in my complete life and not just in my musical career.



FULL CIRCLE IN HIS HOMETOWN

Being conferred Padma Shri was an honour. It was in the same city where I had grown up, which had broken my confidence so many times. In the same city and in such a monumental place, getting the award from the President feels like being on cloud 9. I had never even imagined getting any award, *Padma Shri toh dur ki baat hai*. That moment, I was speechless. Receiving awards does not lessen the challenges in your life and, in fact, this honour has placed a great deal of responsibility on me. I am aware that people will now admire me even more. These rewards are a reflection of your karma.

WHEN HE HAD TO RUN AWAY FROM HIS HOUSE

Back then, the situation was such that I had to run away from our home. Our financial difficulties were such that I could properly learn music. There were a lot of challenges and hardships that we had to go through. However, let me tell you, these situations make you who you are today. It is never going to happen that you only get to witness ease, comfort and happiness. That phase of my life was that difficult one, when no one else but God became my family and kept me strong to face these difficulties. Padma Shri recipient Kailash Kher's journey was never easy and is a learning experience for many. I always say this: '*Kabhi bhi haar na nahin, humaesha darr kar nahin durt kar rehna*'. It was that decision that got me Padma Shri.

TRAVELLING WORLD WITH BAND

My band *Kailasa* was formed in 2005. It all started with just a few people and now we are a 16-member band. We have performed over 1,800 times over the years. I hope we get to perform in different festivals all around the world, be it whatever language, city, or country it is. We are also going to do a US tour soon and we will also be going to Russia and then to Australia. Before this year ends, we have these global tours.

ARDENT MAHADEV BHAKTH

In my 18 years of career, you can say that I have got '100 years of experience and happiness'. There were times in many events (life happenings) when I would lose my self-confidence for various reasons. Surprisingly, the past 20 years have been as if my Mahadev, having given birth to just one child, has taken care of almost 100 people. I have got the opportunity to sing different kinds of songs. I have got the opportunity to travel around the world and sing at different platforms and festivals.



NOT MAKING MUSIC....FOR THE HECK OF IT

Be it any creative work, I do not want to make it just for the heck of it. I believe that the divine being has made us all for some reason, right from trees, fruits, flowers, et al. Every creature has its own 'wajood'.

KKALA DHAAM

I am honored that I am now able to bring in new talents, which not many musicians in the industry have done. People from my own academy are making their own mark in the field of music. In fact, in my recent song *Hey Kanha Hey Gopala's* video, the one who plays the part of Radha is from our Kailash Kher Academy for Learning Arts. In short, the name of the Academy comes from 'KKALA', as we say *Kkala Dhaam*. We believe in empowering each other in the best way possible.

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH BAAHUBALI

Let me tell you this... Even before *Baahubali*, there were so many films made, but highlighting the Almighty so well was in this film, which starred Prabhas. *Baahubali* also created a difference in India that we are just not about entertainment and only entertainment. There are many films that show the divine in a funny way and many put things in a bad light. Many films show India as only poor and needy. It was for the first time, and I believe that the makers had shown God in such a big *swaroop*. It is because of the strength I have got from my *Parmatma*, where we see so many families where the members themselves are against each other, planning negative things around each other, even in that how the truth wins from the strength of *Parmatma* was so well portrayed in this film. The film was strong, the story was strong, and the makers of the film were all so respectful towards all of it. I am glad that God has given me an opportunity to get connected with such a project. I am so proud to have been associated with a project like *Baahubali*. In fact, I had sung three songs in *Baahubali: The Beginning* and then in the second, I sang only one song, *Jai Jai Kaara*, which is huge as compared to many.

HONOURED WITH NANDI AWARD.....

Along with *Mirchi* and *Filmfare*, I have also received the Nandi award from the Telangana government. It feels great, actually. Though awards are like these affidavits, something bigger than that is getting the love from people of a place you had previously never been to. Right? The love that today I've been receiving today from my south fans, I feel so great that they have made them all into an anthem in their own way.



OPENING DOORS WITH ALLAH KE BANDE

The journey of *Allah Ke Bande* has been a beautiful journey. This song opened new doors for me, after which came *Teri Deewani*, *Tauba Tauba* and the rest. Now, as I see, there are so many reels on your Instagrams with this music. Isn't that something adorable? I sang that years ago and here I am, listening to my own songs trending with technology. In fact, it is even more amazing to see how my songs are being sung in so many reality shows. I feel so blessed seeing new performers coming and singing *Allah Ke Bande* or any of my other songs in their own way.

INFLUENCE OF SACRED UPBRINGING



Our upbringing was mainly done by saints in a spiritual environment. So even in my romantic songs—*Teri Deewani*, *Saiyaan*, and *Aaj Mere Piya Ghar*—every song has purity and 'pavitrata'. The world is sacred; that is true romance. Even for '*Shringar*', we are inspired by the example of Shri Krishna. Even in my romantic songs, there is a pinch of spirituality with purity. And I believe that is true love.

TERI DEEWANI...PERSPECTIVE OF SOUL TO ALMIGHTY

This song is special in its own way. The lyrics are from a woman's point of view and the vocals here are of a man. I have always learned one thing in my life: whenever a saint speaks to us, he does not speak based on the gender of the person. We are all souls and ultimately our journey is supposed to be with God. The matching of the soul with God is the whole matter. And so the lyrics say *Tune kya kar dala, marr gayi mai mit gayi mai ho ho ji ha ha ji hogayi mai Teri Deewani*, is a perspective of a soul to the Almighty.



LANGUAGE IS NEVER A BARRIER

Language was never a barrier. When you are loved and loving, language would never be a barrier. The language of love is emotions, feelings. For feelings, you don't need a syllable. You can interact through your eyes and even touch.

RAPID FIRE:
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Father, Himalaya and Gagan
YOUR DRIVING FORCE: Being true to myself
YOUR IDOL: My Mahadev
RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL: Spiritual
HIGHEST PHASE OF YOUR LIFE: Every moment
LOWEST PHASE OF YOUR LIFE: It's never a dull moment for me