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Wave in favour of **'Mahayuti'** alliance: Modi



Trump's presidency may **BENEFIT** India: Moody's



Building on **LEGACY** with ambition



QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

Modi ji, caste census started in Telangana today. We will use the data obtained from this to frame policies for the state's development. Soon this will happen in Maharashtra also. I want to tell Modiji clearly, "You cannot stop the caste census. We will pass the caste census in this Parliament and break the wall of 50% on reservation"

- Rahul Gandhi, LoP

DON'T MISS...

HYDRAA dismantles encroachments

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has dismantled encroachments near Road No. 9. The residents told the HYDRAA that these illegal constructions blocking the road widening. After inspection, The HYDRAA demolished a number of sheds. In a statement, the HYDRAA said that officials inspected the Film Nagar layout and it was ...

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Police crack whip on moneylenders

Police conducted simultaneous raids on moneylenders and seized 216 promissory notes worth Rs 80 lakhs. The police action is intended to curb usury and protect the economically privileged section from loan sharks. On Friday, the police conducted sudden inspections across the district on illegal moneylending and finance businesses operating without permission. As many as 24 police teams were forced to conduct raids. During the raids, 216 documents, most of them promissory notes, valued ...

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'No right to stay in power'

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday attacked Maharashtra's BJP-led Mahayuti, saying a coalition that has no grasp of agriculture and lacks concerns for the educated unemployed has no right to remain in power. Farmers in the state are being neglected, while key projects are being diverted to Gujarat, he said at a campaign rally for the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Udgir in Latur district. Pawar's party has fielded Sudhakar Bhalero against Sanjay Bansode of rival NCP, headed by his...

-NATION

AI Express plans more international flights

Expanding its network and tapping group synergies, Air India Express will focus on connecting smaller cities and towns with metros as well as fly to new overseas destinations, according to senior officials. The airline, which recently completed the merger of AIX Connect with itself, has a fleet of around 90 aircraft and the count is expected to cross 110 by the end of this fiscal. It also aims to fly to a total of 55 destinations by the end of March 2025 and has also rationalised its network as part of Air India Group strategy. Apart from adding domestic routes, the Tata Group-owned airline will start flights to more foreign destinations, including Bangkok and Phuket in Thailand, the officials said. Air India Express Managing Director...

-MONEY

Won't stop telling the truth if Modi doesn't stop lies: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the Congress will continue to tell the 'truth' if Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn't stop speaking 'lies'. The CM said that Modi has been telling lies regarding the implementation of the Congress guarantees in TG along with the canards being spread by Maharashtra BJP leaders against the Telangana Government.

Addressing the media at the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee office in Mumbai on Saturday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy who went to take part in the Maharashtra Assembly election campaign in Mumbai, appealed to the people to defeat the BJP which had 'deceived' the people of Maharashtra. "Modi said during the Maharashtra election campaign that the Congress gave impossible assurances to the people of Telangana. That is the reason I came to



Maharashtra to appraise people of the truth about the implementation of the six guarantees in Telangana. The government of Maharashtra and the Centre ignored the welfare of farmers. Modi introduced 'black' laws to 'help' Adani and Ambani. We waived the loans of farmers up to Rs 2 lakh in Telangana as we promised. The Telangana Government waived the loans of 22 lakh farmers amounting to Rs 17,829 crore in just 25 days. We are ready to furnish details regarding this if anyone wants," Revanth said.

The CM said that he gave befitting answers to Modi's criticism on issues concerning TG farmers. Modi deleted his post on X after my strong counter, Revanth said. Revanth said that the highest number of suicides by farmers were reported from Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Government and the Centre 'forgot' farmers, he said. The CM said that the Congress Government of Telangana launched a caste census to provide 'social justice' to the people. **Continued on Page 2**

TG, Cong-ruled states ATMs for 'Shahi Parivar:' Modi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Modi said that wherever the Congress forms a government, that state becomes the ATM (Automated Teller Machine) of the party's 'shahi parivar'. "We won't let Maharashtra become the ATM of the Congress, Modi asserted while addressing a campaign rally in Akola for the November 20 Assembly elections. When the Congress indulges in so much corruption to win polls, one can imagine how corrupt the party will be once in power, the PM pointed out.

"Wherever the Congress forms a government, that state becomes the ATM of the shahi parivar. As much as Rs 700 crore has been extorted from the liquor business in (Congress-ruled) Karnataka for the Maharashtra polls. Telangana and Himachal have

"Wherever the Congress forms a government, that state becomes the ATM of the shahi parivar. As much as Rs 700 crore has been extorted from the liquor business in (Congress-ruled) Karnataka for the Maharashtra polls. Telangana and Himachal have also become this shahi parivar's ATMs," he said.



also become this shahi parivar's ATMs," he said. The PM said the manifesto of the Mahayuti (ruling alliance in Maharashtra) focuses on women's security, job opportunities, expansion of the Ladki Bahin Yojana, while the Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP, have come out with a 'ghotala patra'. "The entire country knows that the MVA means corruption, token money and transfer post-ing business," he said.

You cannot stop caste census, Rahul tells Modi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, made it clear that Prime Minister Modi cannot stop the caste census across the country. Rahul posted on X regarding this on Saturday. "Modi ji, caste census started in Telangana from today. We will use the data obtained from this to for-



mulate policies for the development of every section. Soon this will happen in Maharashtra also. Everyone knows that the BJP does not want to conduct a comprehensive caste census in the country. I want to tell Modiji clearly, You cannot stop the caste census across the country. We will pass the caste census in this parliament and break the wall of 50% on reservations," Rahul said.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy retweeted Rahul's post saying, "Telangana has embarked on a revolutionary journey today with the commencement of enumeration for the caste survey. The promise of our leader Shri @RahulGandhi ji of social justice for all weaker sections is going to be a reality in Telangana and will be based on the above exercise. This day will be etched in golden letters in history, and we will work hard in the coming days to ensure we are the top state in India in the next-gen initiatives and policies for social justice. #Telangana #CasteSurvey". **Continued on Page 2**

People have realised what they have lost: KCR

Says he is confident of victory in next elections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS supremo K Chandrashekar Rao said that he is confident that his party will return to power in the next elections. In a meeting with leaders from the Palakurthi constituency at his residence in Erravalli in Siddipet district, KCR highlighted the changing sentiments of the people.

Speaking on the occasion, KCR said that the public has understood what they have 'lost'. "A government exists to protect everyone, to build society and not to engage in destructive talk," he said. "Power is given to construct, not to demolish," he added, asserting that if needed, he could talk nonstop until Sunday.

KCR emphasized that they also know how to handle rowdy tactics



BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao addressing party leaders at his Erravalli residence in Siddipet

but asked whether people should feel frightened instead of being protected. He urged leaders to serve responsibly, as entrusted by the people and clarified that he is not afraid of arrests. Asking BRS leaders not to fear, he affirmed that their government

would return to power. He expressed confidence in securing a complete victory in the next elections. Reflecting on the current government's tenure, he said, "It has been 11 months since the new government took charge, and people now realize what they have lost."

Telangana govt unveils holiday calendar for 2025

At least 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 others injured on Saturday in a suicide bombing at a railway station in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, officials said.



PNS ■ ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

The explosion ripped through the railway station of the provincial capital Quetta as passengers gathered on the platform before the departure of the Jaffar Express, scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9:00 am. There were around 100 people on the platform when the blast occurred. "So far, we have received 27 bodies and at least 62 people are injured, with some in critical condition," said Dr Wasim Baig of the Quetta Trauma Centre.

Dr Arbab Kamran Kasi, Managing Director of the Trauma Centre, warned that the death toll may increase since several wounded individuals, aged 20 to 50, remain in critical condition. Quetta Division Commissioner Hamza Shafiqat said it was a suicide attack targeting security forces and civilians were also hit badly.

'Don't overstep boundaries to please govt'

KTR warns police, condemns attack on Koushik

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leaders KTR, Harish Rao, B. Vinod Kumar and others strongly condemned the alleged police assault on Huzurabad MLA Koushik Reddy and expressed outrage over the brutal treatment of a public representative.

Reacting sharply, KTR questioned the motive behind the police's "inhuman attack" on an MLA who was merely demanding the second phase of financial aid for Dalit Bandhu beneficiaries.

"Is this what Indiramma Rajyam



stands for, attacking public representatives when they raise people's concerns?" he asked. KTR accused the government of

failing to fulfil promises and resorting to intimidation against those who hold it accountable. "Revanth's government, **Continued on Page 2**

Bandi challenges CM to undertake Padayatra on 6-guarantees

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Saying that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's statements made in Maharashtra on Saturday were lies, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, asked the Chief Minister whether he had the guts to take up a padayatra in Telangana on the basis of the six-guarantees?

Speaking to the media after visiting a 'Jithender Reddy' movie in Karimnagar on Saturday, Sanjay said that the CM spoke true lies in Maharashtra stating that he had implemented all the assurances given to the people of Telangana.

Sanjay asked whether CM Revanth Reddy has the guts to take up a padayatra on Congress assurances given to the people, loan waiver and 6-guarantees and whether the



CM has the guts to explain about them to the people.

Sanjay alleged that the Congress means lies. Revanth is an address for frauds and lies. Is it not a lie to go to Maharashtra? Do you have the guts to say those things back in Telangana? If the Congress has implemented the six guarantees, why did they not mention that in the advertisements given in Maharashtra after spending crores.

OBTUSE ANGLE



CANADA ENDS FAST TRACK STUDY VISA PROGRAMME

Indian students likely to be impacted most

PNS ■ OTTAWA

Canada has ended with immediate effect the popular fast track study visa programme, SDS, a major policy decision that is likely to impact scores of international students, including from India.

The processing time for students applying under the Student Direct Stream (SDS) was significantly shorter and approval rates higher, something that will change after Canada ended the scheme on Friday.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in September had announced on X: "We're granting 35 per cent fewer international student permits this year. And next year, that number's going down by another 10 per cent."

"Immigration is an advantage for our economy - but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down," he



government said it was looking to reduce the number of temporary residents.

The move comes amid the ongoing diplomatic row between India and Canada.

According to the Indian High Commission here, India is the largest source country of foreign students with an estimated 4,27,000 Indian students studying in Canada.

"Canada is committed to giving all international students equal and fair access to the application process for study permits," the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) said in a statement on Friday.

Canada's goal is to "strengthen programme integrity, address student vulnerability, and give all students equal and fair access to the application process, as well as a positive academic experience," the statement said.

When all Ministers were flooded at Yadagirigutta!

Those whose memories are not like sieves will remember that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's first grand visit to the Lakshminarasimha Swamy shrine at Yadagirigutta did not pan out well. Perhaps calculated steps in seating arrangements got everyone talking. Picture this: all but one of the Ministers present were seated on high stools. The eyes of the lone Minister who was seated on a smaller stool looked like embers of an agarbatti. The setup then looked almost like a scene mirroring social structure, with all forward caste Ministers sitting pretty up high. On the whole, the scene did not sit well with the public, who called out the glaring (sit)uational optics. Any backlash? Oh, it was intense. So much so that on the second visit of CM and company, those stools disappeared faster than anyone could say 'protocol'. This time, everyone was seated on the floor—a move clearly intended to smooth things over. Although they were literally on the same level before the Lord, none got a chance to lord it over. The grapevine has it that even the Endowments Minister did not quite make it to the front row. It looks like beneath the level 'playing' field, the seating drama at Yadagirigutta is not quite over yet.

meet in Mumbai, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar was positioned centrally with multiple mics, while Reddy's presence seemed more peripheral. Such arrangements are typically reviewed by the Chief Minister's team to ensure there are no protocol violations. Still, if such things happen, surely there is more to it than meets the eye. No camera lens can capture all of that. It is one thing for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to publicly affirm his loyalty and proximity to the Gandhi family and assert that he and AICC are on the same page and quite another for the Congress overlords' differential outreach to party's regional heads.

Gandhi Bhavan is an open house unlike Telangana Bhavan

The word on the street is that Gandhi Bhavan is like a journalist's dream hang-out when compared to the nightmarish

rooms on TV and a two-minute viral video clip". Ironically, every morning, KTR and Harish Rao are spotted sharing newspaper clippings, suggesting they still love the good old ink when it suits them! A senior journalist & Political Editor of a prominent English newspaper pointed out, "Almost everyone picks my call but KTR. Never did he". When a seasoned journalist from a Telugu newspaper, who had been trolled by BRS loyalists for a trip to Seoul, caught KTR's eye, the BRS working president actually posted the journalist's exclusive story on the Seetha Rama Project. The journalist hit back, asking why so much baseless abuse is hurled at journalists when they are using his exclusive story to take on the Congress.

'Political bombs', damp squib, or carpet bombing?

Ahead of Diwali, when Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy talked about 'political bombs' in the offing in Telangana, many people, particularly political circles, started guessing the probabilities in the wake of multiple ongoing probes into scams relating to Kaleshwaram project, phone tapping, Formula E racing irregularities and the like. Two weeks have passed and God knows when those 'political bombs', if any, will go off in Telangana. Meanwhile, taunts and jokes about the impending 'bombs' have reduced the potential 'noise levels' of those explosives to that of a damp squib, resulting in eruption of laughter at the most. Among people celebrating Diwali it did not have half the impact of pop pop crackers. Shrewd politicians still point out that the period of bursting firecrackers (not excluding political bombs) continues right up to Karthika Pournami (November 15). Bombs do scare dogs. Yet, some are commenting 'Barking dogs seldom bite', not realising that even strays will coop themselves up in anything that looks like a bomb shelter when people set off a variety of 'bombs' to celebrate Diwali. Those who are convinced that there might be no 'political bombs' at all say even roars of tigers and lions are enough to send shivers down the spine of people and animals in their vicinity. Given the line-up of political rivals on either side, some people say both sides will make only serious comments without any action. Another indication is that, come December 7, the Congress government in TG will be completing a year. So, it is launching celebrations starting November 14. Unless, the Minister meant 'carpet bombing' starting a day ahead of Karthika Pournami, nothing much is in the offing, say those who believe in 'Nanna-pull' fable.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate and K Venkateshwarlu)

REPORTERS' DIARY

Visuals of Revanth and Rahul suggest they are not in sync

A contrived smile can conceal many bitter emotions, but a picture or a clip can speak a thousand words. Keen political observers perceive a strain in the relations between the All India Congress Committee (AICC) leadership and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. During AICC leader Rahul Gandhi's recent visit to Telangana, the interactions between the two leaders appeared formal to a fault, lacking the warmth typically associated with bonds that obviously go beyond intra-party political connections. At least going by the visuals, no such bonding was visible. Further, on Rahul Gandhi's birthday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy publicly conveyed his wishes, but there was no reciprocal gesture from Rahul Gandhi on the birthday of the Chief Minister, raising pertinent questions about their rapport. Although the CM himself issued a statement that Rahul wished him, the larger question is: Was Rahul Gandhi's team so busy that they could not put out one tweet? Perception about the widening faasla between AICC and Revanth is not new. The faasla was perhaps made during a rally in Wayanad, Kerala, after Priyanka had filed her nomination papers. On that platform, Revanth was seated at a corner not normally assigned to a Chief Minister, while the Karnataka CM made himself comfortable between Rahul and Priyanka. Similarly, at a press

doors-shut vibe of Telangana Bhavan. At Gandhi Bhavan, reporters are welcomed like family—you can stroll into just about any room, and everyone from the spokesperson to the MLA or Minister will pull out a chair, saying, "Come, sit". It's almost like an open house with hardly any instances of journalists being asked to leave. Now, flip the scene to Telangana Bhavan, and it is a contrasting story. Walking into any room? Not a chance! If the working president is in, you will need a bit of inside help to even make it past the door. And if you do manage to get in, do not expect to stay long—forget about anyone offering you a seat. You will be asked to leave. Telangana Bhavan is not exactly the cozy, journalist-friendly spot, no matter how close others pretend you are.

BRS doesn't want print media but falls back on their 'dam'ning reports

Here's the real dope on media antics of the BRS' brass. It is no secret—they don't seem to give a rat's ass about old school journalists. If you are from a typical print media outlet, you need a lot more than good luck to get their attention; you need pluck to let them realise that you are there on duty. But if you are from a YouTube channel or an agency; they are rolling out the red carpet! It is as if there is an unwritten warrant of precedence: YouTubers and agencies first, traditional journalists last, if at all. And Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, never missing a beat, summed it up perfectly: "For BRS, it is all about three min-

ing to Kaleshwaram project, phone tapping, Formula E racing irregularities and the like. Two weeks have passed and God knows when those 'political bombs', if any, will go off in Telangana. Meanwhile, taunts and jokes about the impending 'bombs' have reduced the potential 'noise levels' of those explosives to that of a damp squib, resulting in eruption of laughter at the most. Among people celebrating Diwali it did not have half the impact of pop pop crackers. Shrewd politicians still point out that the period of bursting firecrackers (not excluding political bombs) continues right up to Karthika Pournami (November 15). Bombs do scare dogs. Yet, some are commenting 'Barking dogs seldom bite', not realising that even strays will coop themselves up in anything that looks like a bomb shelter when people set off a variety of 'bombs' to celebrate Diwali. Those who are convinced that there might be no 'political bombs' at all say even roars of tigers and lions are enough to send shivers down the spine of people and animals in their vicinity. Given the line-up of political rivals on either side, some people say both sides will make only serious comments without any action. Another indication is that, come December 7, the Congress government in TG will be completing a year. So, it is launching celebrations starting November 14. Unless, the Minister meant 'carpet bombing' starting a day ahead of Karthika Pournami, nothing much is in the offing, say those who believe in 'Nanna-pull' fable.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate and K Venkateshwarlu)

CM's speeches must be certified 'A,' says Harish

Criticising the Congress leadership, he asserted that ministers, including the Chief Minister, have neglected governance and are focused on politicking. "While the administration drifts aimlessly, the leaders are busy chasing the wind," he said. Blaming the Congress and the TDP governments for the longstanding problems of the Musi River, Harish said that all communities have been let down by the Congress's failures. He announced his willingness to lead a padayatra to address the worsening conditions of the Musi River. "The stench of the Musi is less than the foulness of Revanth's words," he said.

Govt using police to evict poor from their homes: BRS

2013 Land Acquisition Act package for Musi's displaced residents. Sudheer said that the BRS had initiated plans for cleaning the Musi and expressed disappointment at the Chief Minister accusing the BRS of blocking the project. He said that the BRS's stance has always been to ensure the development of the Musi area and not to harm the rights and livelihoods of displaced families. "Our demand is that no harm should be done to the lives of those staying near the river," he said, adding that the CM is instigating farmers in Nalgonda district unnecessarily.

Won't stop telling ...

Continued from page 1

He said that 17 projects that could have come to Maharashtra have gone to Gujarat. The CM said the Congress Government filled 50,000 vacancies in TG government service in just 10 months after taking over the admin. The TG government is also distributing LPG cylinders for Rs 500 under its Mahalakshmi scheme and 50 lakh households have benefited from the scheme which supplies free power up to 200 units a month, he said. The CM said the Telangana Government is providing Rs 500 as a support price for paddy. Around 1.04 crore women have so far made use of the free RTC bus travel scheme in the last 10 months. The TG government paid Rs 3,541 crore to the TGSRTC to fund the free bus travel scheme, he said. He said that Maharashtra has a special place in Indian history. Maharashtra gave birth to many great leaders who changed the destiny of the country like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Savitribai Phule, Dr BR Ambedkar and others, Revantha added. He asked the people of Maharashtra to defeat the BJP which 'deceived' the state.

'Don't overstep ...

Continued from page 1

incapable of keeping its word, has now opened the door to a culture of attacking those who dare to question it," he said. Warning the police against overstepping boundaries in an attempt to please the government, KTR said, "If you go overboard to win the favour of this government, remember that when we return, you will be held accountable." He said the CM Revanth Reddy holds a grudge against Kaushik Reddy who has been challenging the government's actions. KTR also mentioned a recent incident where Congress supporters attempted an attack on Kaushik Reddy as per the guidance of Revanth Reddy. "Despite repeated efforts to intimidate him, Kaushik has not backed down and continues his fight for the people," KTR noted, accusing Revanth Reddy of orchestrating this latest attack through the police. In Hyderabad, former BRS MP Boyinapalli Vinod Kumar voiced strong opposition against the recent assault on BRS leader Paadi Kaushik Reddy, who was supporting Dalits protesting for the second phase of the Dalit Bandhu scheme in Huzurabad constituency.

'Praja Vijayotsavalu' from Nov 14 to Dec 9

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will celebrate its first year in office with 26 days of victory celebrations from November 14 to December 9. Announcing this after a Cabinet sub-committee meeting, officials detailed the events at the Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Advisors K. Keshava Rao and Vem Narender Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and dignitaries like Alekhya Punjala, the President of the State Literary Academy, Poet

Jayaraj and Secretaries. Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti said that the government has undertaken revolutionary development and welfare initiatives unmatched by any other government in the country. "These celebrations aim to showcase the government's vision and the 'extraordinary' achievements over the past year," he noted. The event will spotlight schemes like the free bus travel for women in TGSRTC buses, the Rs 500 cooking gas cylinder scheme, monthly 200 units of free electricity, Rajiv Arogyasri, and Indira Mahila Shakti. Bhatti recalled that over 50,000 posts have already been filled, farm loans worth near-

ly Rs 18,000 crore waived and Rs 20,000 crore in interest-free loans have been granted to women's self-help groups. He also announced a Rs 4,000 crore revival plan for the closed Kamalapur Reins. The celebrations will kick off on November 14, the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, with large-scale cultural events across the state. The grand finale in Hyderabad on December 9 will feature performances by thousands of artists, laser shows and fireworks. During this period, Group-4 exam qualifiers will receive appointment letters through the Telangana Public Service Commission, and new policy measures will be introduced.

Will the BJP support caste census or not: Ponnamp

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar asked BJP MP Dr Laxman to reveal whether the BJP is in favour of the caste census or not. He asked Laxman whether he would pressure the Centre to conduct a nationwide caste census or not. Laxman was asked to give his opinion on the caste census in Telangana. Ponnamp held a media conference at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, and criticized the BRS and the BJP. He said that BJP leaders are saying that the Congress government is conducting the caste census for election benefits. Ponnamp said that Laxman would be a traitor if he tries to block the survey.

Allow commercial use of Begumpet Airport land: Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader Gudur Narayana Reddy requested Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammoan Naidu to allow commercial use of the Begumpet Airport land. In a statement released here on Saturday, he said that the nearly 90-year-old airport is almost idle as there is no commercial aviation there. He said that although the army has been allowed to use it, it is using the Hakimpet IAF station mostly. He said that after the inaugu-

He said that after the inauguration of the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Shamshabad on March 23, 2008, the Begumpet Airport is mostly deserted except for air traffic control office operations.

Gudur said that the Begumpet Airport is being used by chartered flights and also as a parking place for chartered flights and helicopters. Some pilot training academies are also using it, he said. Pointing out that almost Rs

one crore is being spent on maintaining the airport every month he said that the 790 acres of the airport is underutilized. He said that so far neither the state government nor the Centre had suggested plans to use the area for commercial purposes. No proposals have been made regarding this, he pointed out. He said that the airport, valued at nearly Rs 80,000 crore and owned by the Airports Authority of India, could be a golden goose for the Centre if it is commercially exploited.

KTR hits out at CM, calls him 'Cheap Minister'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a fiery post on X, BRS Working President KTR launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, contrasting the CM's contributions to Telangana with those of his father, KCR. KTR accused Revanth of having a history of opportunistic politics and hailed KCR's sacrifices that led to the formation of Telangana. "When you were an errand boy, carrying slippers for political favours, he KCR resigned from his post, for the people of Telangana" KTR wrote, taking a direct jab at Revanth's early political life. He continued to list accusations, claiming that while Revanth was lobbying for party tickets, KCR was envisioning a Telangana born of perseverance. KTR's post also said that Revanth resorted to using "guns to silence dissenting voices," in stark contrast to KCR, who, according to KTR, risked his life for a Telangana state. Referring to the infamous "cash-for-vote" scandal, he said, "When your hands carried 'Bags' to destabilize Telangana, his heart charted a course for a state that would make history." KTR's post emphasized the honour Telangana has as a state, asserting that no one can erase KCR's legacy.

CM must conduct padayatra first at paddy purchase centres: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy engaged in a campaign of lies in Maharashtra, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said. Criticising the CM for saying that he will launch a padayatra from Vadapally to Charminar in January, Kishan said that the CM should launch a padayatra first at paddy procurement centres and the threshing fields (Kallalu) of farmers. He said the Congress government is behaving irresponsibly at paddy procurement centres instead of procuring the paddy produced by farmers.



He said that the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, should visit the farmers' threshing fields and the paddy procurement centres in Telangana if he has any sincer-

ity towards farmers. Kishan recalled that Congress leaders staged a dharna in New Delhi regarding paddy problems during BRS rule. However, nobody knows why they did that.

'CM, Ministers ignoring TG issues'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his Ministers for ignoring Telangana's pressing problems and conducting election campaigns in neighbouring states. He questioned the priorities of the Congress administration pointing out that while the state grapples with problems, the CM and his ministers are off on political tours elsewhere. He specifically highlighted the neglect of key departments, stating, "In the home district of Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, paddy procurement has halted. Bills are yet to be released, and gram panchay-

at offices are being mortgaged to meet financial needs. But Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka remains indifferent." He pointed out the struggles of cotton farmers in Seethakka's district, who are forced to sell below the support price. "Farmers are crying as they are unable to get a fair price for their cotton, but Seethakka shows no empathy," he added. He also criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who holds the Education portfolio, for failing to act on food poisoning incidents that have taken lives in state-run gurukuls. "The CM is in deep slumber while students are dying due to food poisoning," he said.

Fertiliser buffer stock not maintained: BRS

Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy of the BRS strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent comments about KCR, as well as the approach of the BJP and the Congress in Telangana. Speaking at a press conference, Niranjan accused a BJP Union Minister of constantly supporting the Congress-led state government while ignoring promises made to the people.

Major projects awarded to Megha, Raghava Constructions: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR expressed strong dissatisfaction over the Telangana Government's decision to assign the Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation project to Megha Engineering and Raghava Constructions associated with

Minister Ponguleti. Accusing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of corruption, KTR said that the project was split like a "piece of cake" between the two companies thereby mis-using power. KTR condemned the government's move to side-line established companies like L&T and

NCC for these favoured firms and accused the CM of engaging in crony capitalism. "Ignoring reputed firms citing 'technical reasons' and awarding the contract to Megha and Raghava shows the government's arrogance," KTR remarked, adding that the public will not ignore this malpractice.

You cannot stop ...

Continued from page 1

TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud also posted Rahul's post saying "Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji's commitment to equality and social justice shines with the launch of Telangana's caste census under

Congress-led State Government. This data will empower every community, creating policies for true inclusive development. Let's make it clear to Modi Ji, BJP, and the BRS... "A true democracy ensures every community is counted, valued and uplifted." Congress will break down every barrier to fair representation across India. This vision of an equitable nation is UNSTOP-PABLE."

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CITY EVENTS

Mixing Memories

Exiting noon of merry-making and toasting with fruit mixing brunch

Venue

Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, November 10, 12 noon to 4 pm

Telangana Food Festival

A unique journey through the rich and diverse flavors of Telangana's culinary heritage.

Venue

Aidu November 11 to 14

Comic Con India

This year for the first time, the Hyderabad Comic Con will extend across three action-packed days, offering an extraordinary experience for anime, gaming, and pop culture lovers.

Venue

HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad November 15, 16 and 17

Entrepreneurs Meetup

By We Founders Collab, Hyderabad

Venue

The Headquarters, Space Orbit, Hyderabad November 23

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

IITH hosts first national well-being conclave

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IITH has hosted India's first National Wellbeing Conclave (NWC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE).

It was inaugurated by Chief Guest K Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of MoE. It aimed to promote mental health, resilience, and well-being among students and faculty members.

Over 500 participants from 100 centrally funded institutions have attended it at IITH,

which has been selected as the Host Institution by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Numerous institutions set up stalls showcasing their emerging practices for well-being, each highlighting unique approaches.

Dr Jitendra Nagpal, Senior Psychiatrist and Program Director said: "Let's work together to build resilience. As I visit the stalls outside, I see inspiring quotes on well-being—now, it's up to you to live these messages,

becoming ambassadors of happiness and strength. Our aim is to come together often, not just to understand wellness but to truly celebrate it. Over the next two days, we stand unified, taking the first steps toward creating secure, wellness-centered campuses. We believe that expertise lies with each of us, and by connecting regularly, you'll inspire others within your university and extend that influence to neighboring institutions."

City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 10, 2024

03

WE Hub launches 'WE-Engage' to empower women entrepreneurs

THE PROGRAMME IS UNDERTAKEN UNDER ITS URBAN INNOVATION VERTICAL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

'WE Hub', a key initiative by the Telangana government aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs, launched its new programme, 'WE-Engage', on Saturday under its Urban Innovation vertical. Designed to offer tailored support, WE-Engage caters to women entrepreneurs at various stages of their journey, from ideation to business growth.

The programme brings together a network of partners to provide critical resources, including mentoring, expert-led sessions, market access, funding opportunities, and strategic networking. Its goal is to foster a nurturing environment for women-led ventures across diverse sectors.

As part of the launch, 21 women-led startups were introduced through the Wadhvani Liff-off - WE-Engage Propel programme, which will equip them with the tools and resources necessary for scaling their businesses.

Additionally, WE Foundher, a new initiative to support women founders with funding, was unveiled during the event.

The launch also featured a panel discussion with key leaders from Telangana's startup ecosystem, who shared valuable insights on growth opportunities and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

Sita Pallacholla, CEO of WE Hub, emphasised the initiative's commitment to redefining the entrepreneurial landscape for women through WE-Engage. Meanwhile, Vinutha Rallapalli, CSA of WE Hub, highlighted the importance of WE Foundher in bridging the funding gap and increasing women's representation in investment portfolios.



Women participating in the launch of 'We-Engage' by We-Hub in Hyderabad on Saturday



An earthmover dismantling encroachments at Film Nagar in Hyderabad on Saturday

HYDRAA dismantles encroachments in Film Nagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has dismantled encroachments at Film Nagar on Saturday.

The Film Nagar residents made complaints about violations near Road No. 9. The residents told the HYDRAA that these illegal constructions blocking the road widening. After inspection, The HYDRAA demolished a number of sheds.

In a statement, the HYDRAA said that officials inspected the Film Nagar layout and it was confirmed that constructions were raised by encroaching on the road.

It was confirmed that the boundary wall of a house was also an encroachment. The tin shed along with the adjacent house's boundary wall was demolished. The officials cleared the debris following the demolitions.

HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath spoke with GHMC Khairatabad Zonal Commissioner and suggested that the road widening works be started immediately to ensure that no encroachments took place.

Locals mentioned that the construction had been there for 15 years and expressed happiness that the road would be expanded after the removal of the encroachments.

Food poisoning complaint against Grill House

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Food Safety officers of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Saturday received complaints of individuals taking ill due to suspected food poisoning after eating shawarma at Grill House in Lothkunta here.

Alwal Police, speaking with The Pioneer said, "The Food Safety officers of GHMC are inspecting the Grill House located at Lothkunta as they received complaints."

This is not the first time. There are allegations on this eatery. The police are yet to receive a complaint to register a case, said Alwal Police.

Telangana govt unveils holiday calendar for 2025

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has unveiled the official holiday calendar for 2025, with several major festivals aligning with weekends, creating multiple long weekends for citizens across the state. This arrangement is expected to encourage travel, family gatherings, and participation in cultural events without the need for additional leave, offering a welcome boost to tourism and local businesses.

The list reveals that Holi on Friday, March 14, will be the first significant long weekend of the year, allowing residents to celebrate the vibrant festival over three days. Following this, Eid-ul-Fitr falls on Monday, March 31, presenting another extended weekend for people to engage in the festivities. The much-anticipated Independence Day on Friday, August 15, will provide a patriotic three-day weekend, ideal for celebrations and relaxation.

September also brings a long weekend, with Eid Milad-un-Nabi scheduled for Friday, September 5, setting the stage for another break extending into the weekend. In October, citizens can enjoy an extended holiday as Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti and Vijaya Dasami fall on consecutive days, October 2 (Thursday) and October 3 (Friday), creating a four-day weekend, perfect for travel or extended celebrations.

To round off the year,

Christmas on Thursday, December 25, followed by Boxing Day on Friday, December 26, will provide a festive long weekend, marking the final extended break in 2025.

The alignment of these holidays with weekends is expected to facilitate family bonding, cultural engagement, and leisure activities across Telangana, making the 2025 holiday calendar particularly advantageous for holiday planning and regional tourism.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

MAUD appoints coordinating officers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) has appointed coordinating and monitoring officers under Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits for the ongoing household survey.

The Government of Telangana has initiated a comprehensive door-to-door household survey aimed at

evaluating the socio-economic, educational, employment, political, and caste status of the population.

In a recent review, the Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of completing the survey on schedule and directed officials to prioritize the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, given its large share of the state's households.

To oversee this extensive survey, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Municipal Commissioner of HMDA, has been appointed as the Coordinating Officer said the order.

Additionally, senior officers from the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAandUD) Department have been designated as Monitoring Officers for various GHMC zones.

Free Cyber Security scholarship test on Nov 24

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A free Cyber Security scholarship test was announced by The Quality Thought Software Training Institutes, a leader in software training for over 15 years. The test scheduled for November 24 at 11 am is available both online and offline for students across India.

According to Quality Thought, the free 100 per cent scholarships will be provided to the top 100 or top 20 per cent of merit-based students and other participants will get scholarships based on their scores.

The programme offers six months of training along with three months of intensive learning and a three-month internship. Participants will also receive soft skills training to prepare for their careers.

At a press conference on Saturday, Founder of Quality Thought, Ramana Bhupathi,



Quality Thought Founder Ramana Bhupathi and Chief Information Security Officer Rajendra Bodda unveiling posters on cyber security scholarship test in Hyderabad

along with Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Rajendra Bodda, introduced this initiative aimed at nurturing future cyber security talent. Bhupathi highlighted their commitment to breaking financial barriers to education, while Bodda emphasized the growing need for skilled professionals in digital security.

The scholarship includes over 100 practical projects, hands-on training in a cyber lab, expert mentorship, placement assistance, and soft skills development. Participants will also benefit from video lectures through a Learning Management System.

Sari catches fire, woman dies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman rag picker died after being caught in a fire while burning waste at a dumping yard at Abdullapurampet on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Lalitha (45). She had picked up the waste and segregated it in the dumping yard at Abdullapurampet.

She lit fire to waste and her sari caught fire. The woman died of burns, said Inspector Anji Reddy of Abdullapurampet Police Station.

Anji Reddy speaking with The Pioneer added "The incident happened in the early hours of Saturday and the woman died."

We have filed a case involving section under 194 BNS."

FLO undertake training of 100 women in vegetable farming

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Training over 100 women for modern vegetable farming. The FLO Hyderabad Centre of Excellence for Training Women in Modern Vegetable Farming, hosted a crop showcase at Ravalkore Village, near Medchal on Saturday.

This initiative, launched in May this year, involves women from 16 villages in cultivating 50 hybrid vegetable varieties. It focuses on empowering women with advanced farming skills, business strategies, and digital and financial literacy.

Women demonstrated their learning outcomes during the showcase, presenting crops such as bottle gourd, sweet corn, marigolds, and more. The event emphasised how the project builds economic independence and sustainability in rural communities.

The initiative is collaboration between FLO Hyderabad Chapter and the East-West



Women who are undergoing training in vegetable farming at Ravalkore village near Medchal

Seed Knowledge Transfer Foundation.

On this occasion, The Chairperson of FLO Hyderabad, Priya Gazdar highlighted the project's potential, emphasising skills, confidence, and economic growth. Meanwhile, East-West Seed India's GC Shivakumar appreciated the commitment to

improving women's livelihoods.

The initiative aims to create a sustainable cycle of learning, earning, and teaching, enabling women to lead in agriculture and uplift their communities.

The showcase was also attended by Agrpreneur Eatala Kshamita Reddy and other senior FLO members.

Tight security for Salman Khan film shoot in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The shooting of Salman Khan-starrer 'Sikandar' was going on at a star hotel in the old city of Hyderabad amid tight security against the backdrop of threats received by the top actor from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

The security has been tight as Khan is a 'Y plus' category security protectee, police sources said on Saturday, refusing to share details.

According to reports, Khan

had his own security in addition to that of the government.

Khan, who had earlier received death threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, was issued a fresh threat, officials said in Mumbai on Friday.

The threat message was sent to Mumbai traffic police's WhatsApp helpline Thursday night.

The sender of the message threatened the actor and demanded Rs 5 crore, claiming

it was being made on behalf of the Bishnoi gang. Besides, the individual also threatened the lyricist of the song 'Main Sikandar Hoon', an official said.

On a complaint by traffic officials, the Worli police has registered a case and launched a probe.

'Sikandar' also features 'Pushpa: The Rise' star Rashmika Mandanna.



A MASTER AND A MENTOR

Music is divine. It not only enriches the culture but encompasses everything. The divinity enshrined in it captivates every soul. From ages unknown to the present one, it is music that has been sustaining different cultures and enriching them with the presence of masters of music. From singers to musicians to the people who dedicated themselves to this divine art, the music and cultural arena of the land of the Telugu States have been expanded and enriched. With the advent of TV channels the interest to learn music among people of all ages

is getting enhanced day by day. Many channels have started to encourage young talent in the propagation of music in its different shades. It is this kind of encouragement that sustains interest and gives constant fil-

music, he knows the importance of training young talents so as to make them masters of the art. As a child prodigy who became a celebrity with Paadutha Teeyagaa, he tries hard to make young people become celebrities

the field. The LMA, as it is called, was established in 1999 and since then it has been expanding with ever-increasing number of students. To learn anything, it is discipline that makes learners perfect the art along with know-



lip that fosters interest among people who want to know, learn and master the art. Here come people like Ramachary Komanduri, with a passion and commitment to propagate and enrich the art of music. As Ramachary himself got initial encouragement to nurture his interest in

in their own right. His genre is film and light music. The services he has been rendering for over two decades have made many a bud to flower into a star of music. Balagandharvam and the Little Musicians Academy (LMA) he established have made hundreds of young people well-known figures in

credit, Ramachary's interest in music is insatiable and also his passion for making children learn music.

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

Collector told to persuade Dilawarpur people to take part in survey

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

According to reports in some newspapers on Friday, the villagers of Gundampalli and Dilawarpur in Nirmal district's Dilawarpur mandal boycotted the comprehensive household survey in protest against the establishment of Ethanol Industry. Backward Classes Commission Chairman G Niranjan spoke to Nirmal District Collector Abhilash Abhinav over the phone on Saturday. The Collector was directed to speak to villagers and explain the benefits of this comprehensive survey to them and persuade them not to obstruct the process. It has been informed that the Collector is in contact with the villagers and a comprehensive survey would be conducted. A letter has been written to the Collector on behalf of the BC Commission in this regard.

Every grain of paddy will be purchased: Ponguleti

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The Congress government will purchase every grain of paddy at the support price, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy assured the farmers on Saturday. The Minister distributed Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to beneficiaries at the Kushmanchi mandal Tahsildar office. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Srinivas Reddy urged farmers who cultivated paddy not to entertain fears about the purchase of paddy they produced. He further said that an additional Rs 500 per quintal would be paid for fine quality paddy. He also recalled how previous governments had treated farmers, emphasising that the Congress government was focusing on the welfare of farmers, women, and the poor. The government is implementing welfare schemes while clearing the State's debts and maintaining financial discipline, he pointed out. As promised to farmers, the



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy distributing Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to beneficiaries at the Kushmanchi mandal Tahsildar Office on Saturday

government has already waived Rs 18,000 crore worth of loans for farmers and an additional Rs 13,000 crore is pending for waiver, which will be credited to their accounts by the end of December, the Minister stated. Regarding unemployment, he

pointed out that over 57,000 jobs had been filled by the people's government within 10 months. Examinations for Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3 posts were held, and steps are being taken to provide appointment orders to the selected candidates by December, he assured. The Minister reiterated that the government would fulfil every promise made to the people. On this occasion, the Minister distributed cheques worth Rs 6,107,076 to 61 Kalyana Lakshmi/Shadi Mubarak beneficiaries. He also handed over land titles to the children of Sheikh Yakub and Saeedabi, a couple who lost their lives in recent floods in the Nayanaknaguda area of Kusumanchi mandal. The event was attended by State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, Khammam Revenue Divisional Officer Narasimha Rao, Assistant Director of Agriculture Saritha, Khammam Rural ACP Tirupati Reddy and other officials.



Anna prasadam process to be made online in Bhadrachalam temple

PNS ■ BHADRACHALAM

Good news for the devotees of Sri Seetarama Chandra Swamy in Bhadrachalam. The Executive Officer (EO) of the temple has made a key decision regarding the Anna Prasadam that devotees of Lord Rama receive with reverence. A plan has been devised to provide services relating Anna Prasadam online. The process for this has already been completed. For a long time, employees of the temple have been distributing Anna Prasadam tickets to devotees. Devotees would take these tickets to the Annadanam hall, where staff would serve them food. Every day, more than 1,000 devotees avail themselves of this offering. On weekends, as well as during important festivals and celebrations, the number of devotees seeking prasadam increases significantly. However, since the tickets are distributed only for an hour each day, during peak hours, not all devotees are able to receive food. To address this issue and ensure that every devotee who wishes to receive the offering can do so, the temple authorities have decided to provide prasadam to all devotees through an online ticketing system. The Annadanam hall is located near the western steps of the temple, and the online ticketing system will be implemented in that area. Devotees who wish to receive the food offering can stand in front of a computer camera set up there. The camera will take their photo, and a receipt with a unique number will be generated. Devotees can take this receipt to the hall, where the staff will serve them food. The temple authorities have emphasised transparency in the distribution of the food offering and have decided to prepare meals based on the number of devotees, ensuring that everyone receives food according to demand. Currently, the meal offered includes rice, a curry, dal, sambar, chutney, buttermilk, and a sweet dish. Many devotees contribute generously to the Anna Dhanam, and with these donations, there is currently a fund of about Rs 40 crore in the temple's account. This money allows for the provision of food to at least 2,000 people every day. However, a larger hall will need to be built to accommodate this number. The temple authorities say that they will soon expand the Annadanam hall to provide food to an even greater number of devotees.

Collector directs enumerators to carry out error-free survey

PNS ■ MEDCHAL MALKAJGIRI

In the ongoing comprehensive household survey, the enumerators are directed to fill out the form with utmost care. Medchal Malkajgiri District Collector Gowtham Potru emphasised that supervisors should thoroughly carry out the job. The household survey, which began on Saturday, was reviewed by the Collector during the enumeration of family details in Aliabad under Shamirpet mandal in the district. On this occasion, the Collector interacted with the enumerators to understand how they were filling out the forms. He urged them to carefully check the forms and fill in the coding exactly as specified in guidelines. Since it was the first day of the survey, he directed the Mandal Parishad



Medchal Malkajgiri Collector Gowtham Potru interacting with enumerators at Aliabad village in Medchal Malkajgiri district on Saturday

Development Officer (MPDO) to ensure that the enumerators take extra care and avoid mistakes while filling out the forms. The program was attended by MPDO Mamathabai, supervisors, enumerators, and others. During the review, Additional Collector Radhika Gupta advised that the survey should be conducted carefully, ensuring that no errors occur. She instructed enumerators to verify family details with documents such as Aadhaar and voter ID cards before filling out the forms.



Police inspecting documents in one of the finance companies in Rajanna Sircilla district

District police crack whip on usurious moneylenders

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

Police conducted simultaneous raids on moneylenders and seized 216 promissory notes worth Rs 80 lakhs. The police action is intended to curb usury and protect the economically privileged section from loan sharks. On Friday, the police conducted sudden inspections across the district on illegal moneylending and finance businesses operating without permission. As many as 24 police teams were forced to conduct raids. During the raids, 216 documents, most of them promissory notes, valued at approximately Rs 80 lakh were seized, and several suspects were taken into custody, according to District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan. This is the first time that the police conducted raids to curb usury and rein in loan sharks who fee on economically underprivileged sections. The Superintendent of Police warned that strict legal actions would be taken against those running unlicensed financial operations and charging usurious interest rates and causing distress to the public. He emphasised that only those operating legally with government authorisation should be trusted for financial services. He further stated that individuals should not fall prey to moneylenders offering loans at high-interest rates to meet immediate financial needs, leading to an inability to repay and, in some cases, resulting in suicides that cause hardships for families. He urged the public to avoid such illegal moneylenders. People were advised to rely only on finance operators with proper government authorisation and follow legal methods. He appealed to people report any information regarding unlicensed moneylending operations to the district police office, local police stations, or through the Dial 100 service. He promised to ensure that the identity of those providing information would remain confidential, and a thorough investigation would be carried out. Akhil Mahajan reiterated that any illegal moneylending operations and exploitation through excessive interest rates would be dealt with strictly according to the law. The raids caused quite a stir in the district. Those who landed in the police net included influential people, it is learnt.



MG University to be developed on par with OU

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday exhorted students to focus on studies. The Minister was laying the foundation stone for the construction of an academic building, a women's hostels in Nalgonda with an estimated cost of Rs 37.95 crore. During the event, Venkat Reddy instructed the engineering officials to complete all the works as soon as possible. He advised students to study well, set great goals, and move forward with determination. He urged female students to take inspiration from the District Collector, who is a woman, and pursue their education. He emphasised that there is nothing that cannot be achieved with determination. He also mentioned that a gym would be set up at the university. The minister stated that the goal is to develop Mahatma Gandhi University on a par with Osmania University and Kakatiya University. He also highlighted that the State government prioritised education. The government is constructing integrated residential hostels with a budget of Rs 150 to 200 crore for students from all castes, with one hostel being built in each Assembly constituency.

Distressed by debt, weaver couple commits suicide

PNS ■ RAJANNA-SIRICILLA

Distressed by debt burden, a weaver couple allegedly committed suicide in Sircilla on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Bairi Amar and his wife Sravanthi. They were found hanging at their home at Venkempet. Amar used to operate powerlooms. As there was no work for the last six months, he was forced to sell his powerlooms a few months ago. With pressure mounting on the couple to repay their loans, they were struggling to make



ends meet, neighbours said. On Saturday morning, they were found hanging at their home. They are survived by two daughters and a son.

'Govt will not be spared until it purchases all paddy'

PNS ■ MEDAK

Former minister and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao has warned that the Congress government will not be spared if it fails to purchase the last grain of the farmers produced in Telangana. He made these remarks at the farmers' protest held on Saturday at Kulcharam village under Narsapur constituency in Medak district under the leadership of MLA Sunita Laxma Reddy. The event was attended by BRS party district president Padma Devender Reddy, MLC S Subhash Reddy, Yadav Reddy, D Srinivas, MLAs Chinta Prabhakar and K Manik Rao, former MLA Chanti Kranti Kiran, Pratap Reddy, Devender Reddy, Eroolla Srinivas, farmers, and others. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao criticised the Congress party for making false promises before coming to power. He said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had failed to fulfil promises, including the six guarantees made to the people.



Former minister T Harish Rao speaking at farmers' protest at Kulcharam village in Medak district on Saturday

He especially accused the Chief Minister of failing to implement the promise of a loan waiver. The Congress party promised to waive crop loans. Despite making vows in front of the Seven Hills Durga Temple, Medak Church, and Yadagirigutta Lakshmi Narasimha

Swamy Temple, the Chief Minister failed to deliver on the promise of waiving crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh. He mentioned that in the small village of Chinnaganpur under Kulcharam mandal, 600 farmers still had not received loan waiver benefit. The farmers themselves confirmed that the loan waiver benefit had not reached them, Harish Rao said. Harish Rao also demanded that the Congress party's padayatra (foot march) should begin not from Nalgonda, but from Nallakunta. He criticised Congress for making promises but failing to implement them and raised concerns about the party filing cases against those questioning the government. He recalled that the previous BRS government, headed by K Chandrashekar Rao, fulfilled all promises made to people in the party manifesto. He said the Chief Minister was busy making derogatory remarks against opponents, he said.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar addressing the advisory committee meeting at the government hospital in Shadnagar on Saturday

'Sadaram' camp for benefit of disabled to be set up in Shadnagar

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar on Saturday announced plans to set up a 'Sadaram' camp in the region, aimed at easing the problems being faced by disabled individuals who currently need to travel long distances for examinations. The announcement came during an advisory committee meeting held at the local government hospital, where Shankar was joined by Municipal Chairman Narendar, doctors, and other healthcare staff. During the meeting, Veerlapalli Shankar highlighted the challenges faced by people with disabilities who are often required to visit examination centres in areas like Manikonda and Vanasthalipuram in Hyderabad. He emphasised the hardships and financial burdens that such travel would impose on already vulnerable individuals. The MLA stated that the establishment of a 'Sadaram' camp in Shadnagar would significantly alleviate these difficulties by providing necessary services. He expressed his commitment to ensuring that disabled individuals no longer have to endure such distressing conditions for their medical evaluations. Addressing the hospital staff, Veerlapalli Shankar urged them to prioritise the care of poor and vulnerable patients who visit the Shadnagar Community Hospital.

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(1)(c) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 17.06.2024 calling upon the borrower 1/Mr. Mandala Srinamulu, 2/Ms. Mandala Tarana (Borrower/Applicant/Mortgagor), Flat No. D-107, Renuka Enclave, SNEHA TOWER II, Rajbhawan Road, Somajiguda, Nampally, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500085 3/ Mr. Mandala Nagala kalmiti, 4/Ms. Mandala Srinamulu (Borrower/ CoApplicant/ /Mortgagor), Flat No. D-107, Renuka Enclave, SNEHA TOWER II, Rajbhawan Road, Somajiguda, Nampally, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500085. 5/ Mrs. Sowtha Bai Aqua Feeds, Prop:Mr. Mandala Srinamulu, 6/Ms. Mandala Taraswathi Flat No. 401, Westlink Inn-2, Parkside/Inver Street, RR. Pal. East, 504031 with our BARKATPURA BRANCH to repay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs.2,69,18,766/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty nine lakhs eight thousand seven hundred and seventy one Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(1)(c) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on the 06th day of NOVEMBER of the year 2024. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs.2,69,18,766/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty nine Lakhs eight thousand seven hundred and seventy one Only) on 04.11.2024 and interest thereon from 05.11.2024 onwards. We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(6) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Residential Property 1./ SNEHA TOWER-I/ premises M.C.H.NO. 6-3-1257, 1257/A, and 1258 abutting 3100 sq feet, of super built-up area inclusive of the common areas, 3 Car parkings, and other amenities, such as swimming pool, Gym, etc., in "SNEHA TOWER-II" in the complex known as RRS Towers along with an undivided share of Land of 109 Sq yards situated at Rajbhawan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad Boundaries of Plot:North - Open to Sky, South - Open to Sky, East:Sheha Tower West - Open to Sky. Boundaries of Building Property: North - H No. 6-3-1258 11/A, South - Property No 6-3-1258, East:Sky Rajbhawan Road, West:30' wide Road.

Date: 08.11.2024
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES



Bird festival proposed to be held during Kumbh

A two-day bird festival is being planned on February 1-2 during the Kumbh here next year to make people connect with nature at the world's largest religious gathering, an official said on Saturday. A proposal on the event aimed at providing information on the biodiversity of the wildlife sanctuaries in the state, is being sent to the government. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Arvind Kumar said. Mahakumbh will begin on January 13, 2025 on the occasion of Paush Purnima and end on February 26 on the occasion of Mahashivratri. The bird festival, themed 'Kumbh's faith, conservation of nature and climate', will also help the tourism department in creating a circuit of the forests, historical sites and places of natural beauty in the state, he said.



Clothes alone don't make one Yogi: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said a man becomes a "saint" not by what he wears but what he speaks. The dig, apparently aimed at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, was made on the birthday of 'Khaijanchi' - a boy born to a woman standing in a queue to exchange banknotes after demonetisation. The boy was named so by Yadav. "Countdown has started for those who do encounters. Their days in the seat of power are numbered," Yadav said at the programme. Yadav, without naming anyone, said people with cunning tend to become bitter in speech. "You can see that their language has changed, their way of thinking and understanding have also changed," he said. "A person who does not consider anyone to be bigger than him, what kind of a yogi is he? If there is anybody who is setting the seers against each other, it's the people in the government," the former UP chief minister said. "It is said that the greater a saint is, the less he speaks, and when he speaks, it is for public welfare."



Delhi schools to get cybercrime education

The Delhi Directorate of Education has directed the heads of all government and private schools to make children aware of cyber crime through banners and posters. According to a circular issued on Friday, the content is supposed to be issued by the Delhi police, which has developed a series of brochures, focusing on cybersafety, cyberfraud, cyberbullying, online pornography, drug abuse, bullying, human trafficking, and online predators. "This initiative aims to educate students on preventing cybercrimes and ensuring their safety in the digital world," the DoE said. Schools have also been instructed to collaborate with local police and cybersecurity experts to organise educational sessions. "These sessions will help students understand essential topics such as recognising and reporting cyberbullying, protecting personal information online, the importance of strong passwords and privacy settings, and identifying scams and phishing attempts," the circular read.



Wave in favour of 'Mahayuti' alliance: Modi

PNS ■ NANDED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday claimed that Congress hates OBCs as it can not come to terms with the fact that a person from Backward Classes is at the helm of the country. Division among Dalits, Adivasis and Backward Classes suits Congress' politics. Still, due to their unity, it is losing its support base, he said, speaking at a campaign rally here for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections and Nanded Lok Sabha by-poll.

"It suits the Congress' politics if Dalits, Adivasis and Backward Classes are divided. Its game plan is to divide you into different groups and communities," he said. "Congress hates the OBCs because it cannot digest the fact that an OBC is the prime minister for ten years and working by taking everyone along," Modi said. "They want to divide the OBC communities into small castes and snatch the power of their unity. If it happens, Congress will snatch the reservation," he alleged.

Efforts to divide people on caste lines and deprive them of reservation were made by lead-

Says Cong hates OBCs

ers from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi, he claimed.

He claimed there is a wave in favour of the 'Mahayuti' alliance of BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, adding that its goal is

'No right to stay in power' Pawar targets 'Mahayuti'

PNS ■ LATUR

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday attacked Maharashtra's BJP-led Mahayuti, saying a coalition that has no grasp of agriculture and lacks concerns for the educated unemployed has no right to remain in power. Farmers in the state are being neglected, while key projects are being diverted to Gujarat, he said at a campaign rally for the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Udgir in Latur district.

Pawar's party has fielded Sudhakar Bhalero against Sanjay Bansode of rival NCP,

'Viksit Bharat'. "Hence, the BJP and its allies are chosen by the people again and again. Nanded did not vote for us during the Lok Sabha elections. I hope you will bless me now,"

he said, referring to the defeat of the BJP's Pratap Chikhlikar by Congress' Vasant Chavan.

In the Haryana elections, BJP created history by winning the highest number of seats, the prime minister said, adding that the people of Maharashtra were set to repeat the history.



"The Centre even permitted the import of agro products that could have been sourced locally, further harming Maharashtra's soybean producers. Such farmer-unfriendly policies highlight the government's disregard for farmers. This is why these leaders should not be in power," Pawar said.

India has effective mechanism to monitor oceans: Navy chief



PNS ■ KANNUR (KERALA)

India has a highly effective mechanism for monitoring the oceans, known as maritime domain awareness, and is fully aware of "who is where and who is doing what" to ensure the country's interests are not compromised, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has said.

The Navy Chief also dismissed the dual carrier operation by China in the South China Sea as "nothing we should be concerned of".

Addressing the media after the grand finale of THINQ 2024, a nationwide quiz com-

petition organised by the Indian Navy on Friday evening, Tripathi also said India keeps a "close watch" on activities in its "area of interest".

He made these remarks at the Ezhimala Naval Academy here in response to a question on China's growing influence in the region through its cooperation with Sri Lanka.

"What China does in any part of the globe, let them do it. What they do in our area of interest, we are keeping a close watch. Nothing happens in our part of the world which we do not know," CNS added.

Navy to display its maritime capabilities in Puri on Dec 4

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to demonstrate its formidable maritime capabilities and operational strength at the Blue Flag Beach of Puri in Odisha on the occasion of Navy Day on December 4, officials said on Saturday.

President Droupadi Murmu has consented to be the chief guest for the event, a Navy spokesperson said in a statement.

This event showcases the Navy's multifaceted competencies, enhances maritime awareness among citizens and honours India's rich seafaring heritage.

The 2024 'Operational Demonstration' or 'Op Demo' is set to be held against the backdrop of the pristine Blue Flag Beach that symbolises the connection between the Indian Navy and the maritime legacy of the state of Odisha, the statement said.

PM not adhering to unity, 'sabka saath' talk: Digvijaya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday alleged atrocities against minorities in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement his words on unity in society in true letter and spirit.

Addressing a press conference here, the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister accused the state authorities of meting out step-motherly treatment and harassing minorities in the state and demanded justice for them.

In a letter to Prime Minister Modi, Singh alleged that crimes against a particular community are on the rise and he must act to stop them.

He cited several incidents of atrocities and violence against people of the Muslim community in Madhya Pradesh and said the actions of the authorities in BJP-ruled states like Madhya Pradesh are not only dangerous for national unity, but are against the Constitution that grants equal rights to all.

"I hope that to maintain communal harmony and national unity, you will imple-



ment the guidelines of the Supreme Court and the Home Ministry in true letter and spirit.

"I also hope that you will act to protect the constitutional rights of all people and will sincerely adhere and implement your slogan of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas and sabka prayas'," Singh said in his letter.

He also wrote the letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said he hoped that action will be taken, failing which he along with social organisations would protest outside the Madhya Pradesh chief minister's residence and would take to the streets and would even knock the doors of the courts.

"I hope that to maintain communal harmony and national unity, you will implement the guidelines of the Supreme Court and the Home Ministry in true letter and spirit"

PM coaxing investments to home state, alleges K'taka CM

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of showing "relentless favouritism" towards his home state Gujarat. Alleging that major investments are being "coaxed away" from thriving states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, and handed over to Gujarat, the CM demanded fairness and equal opportunity for all southern states.

"PM Narendra Modi's relentless favouritism toward Gujarat is clear as day, with major investments - from semiconductor plants to key manufacturing hubs - being coaxed away from thriving states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, and handed to Gujarat with exclusive subsidies and incentives," Siddaramaiah said in a post on 'X'.

Accusing Karnataka BJP MPs of sitting in silence, unwilling to question this blatant disregard for Karnataka's thriving tech and manufacturing ecosystem, he said, "Instead, they allow Modi's 'helicopter diplomacy' to serve Gujarat alone, leaving our state sidelined."

Demonetisation, GST weapons to kill farmers, labourers: Rahul

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attacked the BJP-led Centre, alleging that its policies on demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST) were weapons to kill farmers, labourers and the poor in the country.

He also claimed that a battle is on in India between the ideologies of the BJP-RSS and INDIA bloc, who are believers of hatred and love, respectively.



The battle is also between violence and unity, he claimed. "Policies of Narendra Modi are responsible for spreading unemployment in India."

Demonetisation, GST are weapons to kill the poor, farmers and labourers," he said while addressing a poll rally in Jamshepur.

FELLING OF TREES FOR RAILWAY OVERBRIDGE Guwahati residents form human chain

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Residents of Assam's largest city Guwahati came out on the streets on Saturday to protest purported plans to fell trees in Bharalumukh area of the city for construction of a bridge over a railway track.

About 100 people, mostly residents of the area including several senior citizens, formed a human chain along the trees, displaying placards and raising slogans against felling of trees.

"These trees have been a hallmark of Bharalumukh area.

In our childhood, the water of Bharalu river was also clean, but it is no longer so. If the trees are also cut, there will be



no trace of history of the place," a septuagenarian, who participated in the protest sitting on a chair, said.

Echoing her another senior resident who has lived in the area for over 70 years added, "We are not against the bridge or development. But there can surely be ways to ensure that beauty and greenery of this area is not destroyed for the sake of construction."

The protest was staged at the call of a citizens coordination committee, expressing concern over locals being reportedly left out from decision-making process regarding a project for construction of a bridge at Railway Gate no 9 (now renamed Gate no 5) in Bharalumukh area.

'Effects of premature birth could persist into adulthood'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Effects of being born prematurely could continue to affect an individual till they turn nearly 30 years of age -- 17 per cent could be less likely to enroll in a university, while 16 per cent less likely to graduate with a university degree, a new study has found.

Premature or preterm birth is said to affect about 10 per cent of all births globally and could account for one in every five child deaths.

The researchers, including those at The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada, looked at all live births in the country between 1990 and 1996, and followed the children for over two decades. About seven per cent of the births were preterm. Data on 24 lakh individuals was analysed.



On an average, people born before 37 weeks of gestation -- preterm infants -- were found to have lower levels of education and earn lower incomes through 28 years of age.

The researchers found that the average yearly income of

prematurely born individuals at age 18-28 years was six per cent lower compared to those born at term.

"Preterm-born individuals, on average, had CAD 958 less employment income per year, 6 per cent lower income per year, than term-born individ-

Preterm-born individuals, on average, had CAD 958 less employment income per year, 6 per cent lower income per year, than term-born individuals, and were 2.13 per cent less likely to be employed," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal PLoS ONE.

"Preterm birth was negatively associated with college or university enrollment (17 per cent less likely to enroll in a

university program). Preterm-born individuals were also 16 per cent less likely to graduate with a university degree," they wrote.

Further, among those born between 24-27 weeks of gestation, which was "extremely preterm", yearly incomes were found to be 17 per cent lower and university enrollment and graduation rates decreased by 45 per cent, the authors found.

"While clinical care during the neonatal period is critical, our findings suggest that the development of long-term supports (including psychological, education and vocational resources) that go beyond clinical care may help mitigate the longer-term effects of preterm birth," said author Petros Pechlivanoglou, The Hospital for Sick Children.

Centre earns over Rs 650 cr revenue from scrap disposal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has earned over Rs 650 crore from disposal of scrap during the recently-concluded cleanliness campaign, an official statement issued on Saturday said.

The special campaigns conducted by the government from 2021-24 have generated a revenue of Rs 2,364 crore through disposal of scrap, it said.

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said that the special campaign 4.0 was India's largest campaign for institutionalising swachhata and reducing pendency in the government offices and has witnessed many best practices and milestones.

Inspired by Prime Minister



Narendra Modi's directions, the saturation approach was adopted in special campaign 4.0 for swachhata and reducing pendency.

"Special campaign 4.0 generated revenues of more than Rs 650 crore in the October 2-31, 2024 period," said the

statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

The special campaign 4.0 has seen swachhata campaigns being undertaken in more than 5.97 lakh sites and has resulted in freeing 190 lakh square feet of space for effective office use, it added.



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

At 'RED', Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida, the new menu brings the vibrant flavours of authentic Chinese cuisine to life. A perfect mix of traditional and modern dishes, it's a dining experience that's bound to excite your taste buds, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

IN RED

Step into 'RED' at Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida and you're instantly transported to the heart of China, where every dish tells a story. With a fresh new menu that celebrates authentic Chinese flavours, the restaurant brings together traditional recipes and innovative twists, promising a dining experience unlike any other. Whether you're a vegetarian or a meat lover, the culinary journey here is one that caters to all tastes, with bold flavours and unforgettable textures that will leave you craving more.

The ambience of 'RED' is equally remarkable. With its dark, red-lit interior, the space exudes a cosy, intimate vibe, evoking the feel of an authentic Chinese restaurant. As you settle in, you know you're in for something special. Ms. Sonica Malhotra Kandhari, Joint Managing Director of MBD Group, shares, "The RED menu has been meticulously crafted with our guests in mind. This menu reengineering underscores our commitment to authentic Chinese flavours. We look forward to welcoming guests to explore this exciting new offering."

At the heart of this dining experience are the sauces, a crucial part of any authentic Chinese meal. 'RED' offers a variety of carefully crafted options, including the classic Chilli Black Bean, the Soya Chilli Coriander and

their signature special sauce made with onion, tomato, chilli and garlic. And for those who enjoy a bit of spice and fermentation, the kimchi adds a delightful punch to any dish. The sauces truly elevate the experience and don't forget to master the art of eating with chopsticks - a fun and authentic way to enjoy the full flavours. Next up, I moved on to the Dim Sum & Bao section. The Truffle Edamame offered a delightful twist on the classic, with a subtle truffle flavour that complemented the beans beautifully, giving them a soft yet earthy taste. However, the Tofu Bao with Chilli Bean Relish turned out to be my absolute favourite. The silken tofu paired with the chilli bean relish was a perfect blend of soft and spicy, all encased in a delicate, fluffy bao bun. This dish encapsulated the balance of textures and flavours that make Chinese cuisine such a treat.

Moving into the Appetisers, the Chilled Mould Tofu with Peanut Sauce was a refreshing change, delicate, smooth tofu dressed in a creamy, slightly tangy peanut sauce. As someone who isn't a big tofu fan, I found it intriguing. It's a dish that might take some getting used to, but the pairing of tofu with peanut sauce certainly creates a unique, palate-expanding experience. This dish left a lasting impression, as did the Mogu with Dry Red Chilli and Sichuan Pepper, a crispy fried button mushroom stir-fry that managed to stay crunchy even as it cooled. This level of attention to texture and flavour is a hallmark of authentic Chinese cooking, blending tradition with a modern twist. The bold, balanced flavours in each appetiser felt like a true celebration of Chinese culinary heritage. Moving on to the main course, the Mapo Tofu was a definite standout. Known for its bold, spicy flavours, the tofu here was incredibly silky, bathed in a slightly fiery sauce that



with exotic vegetables and bamboo shoots, was packed with flavour and left a lasting impression. While 'RED' offers a delightful selection of vegetarian dishes, the restaurant's non-vegetarian options are known to truly shine. As a vegetarian, I haven't tried them personally, but from what I've heard, 'RED' delivers on authentic Chinese non-vegetarian flavours. Crafting exceptional Chinese cuisine in a vegetarian style is no easy feat, but Chef Sachin Malik and his team have truly excelled in creating vegetarian dishes that rival their meat counterparts. From Shandong Style Seafood Soup to Kung Pao Chicken and Braised Lamb, each dish offers a window into authentic Chinese cuisine. Reflecting on the culinary vision, Chef Sachin Malik, Executive Chef, reflects, "We aim to celebrate the vibrant flavours of China. Our new menu is a tribute to this culinary heritage, blending traditional elements with modern techniques, with Chef Ghanshyam Thapa's expertise."

The dessert menu is a lovely, light way to end the meal. The Matcha Baked Cheesecake stands out, with its creamy, indulgent dessert with earthy matcha notes that balance the sweetness. It's rich, so sharing it with

someone is a great idea to end the meal on a satisfying note without it feeling too heavy. Beyond the food, the drinks at 'RED' deserve a special mention. The beverages selection is inspired by China's rich cultural heritage, with classics like the Lion's Tail and innovative creations like the Dragon on the Sky and Junshan Island Sundowner. For those preferring non-alcoholic options, the Chinese Tonic, with lychee, star anise and lime juice is refreshingly fragrant. Meanwhile, the Silver Tips, a ginger-infused drink garnished with dragon fruit, is the perfect quencher, ideal for pairing with the rich flavours of RED's menu.

'RED' offers a dining experience that celebrates both authenticity and creativity. The vegetarian options are exceptional, proving that creating perfect Chinese dishes without meat is possible. Chef Sachin Malik and his team have truly outdone themselves, making this a must-visit spot for anyone craving a true taste of China. Whether you're a fan of vegetarian or non-vegetarian dishes, the menu offers something for everyone, ensuring that your journey through Chinese flavours will be a memorable one.



Cranberry Coffee and Beyond

Through Cranberry Coffee, Roastery Coffee House is redefining how the world experiences Indian coffee, placing India firmly on the global coffee map, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

In an impressive feat that showcases Indian ingenuity, Roastery Coffee House has become the first Indian brand to invent and trademark a specialty coffee: Cranberry Coffee. This unique drink—a refreshing combination of cranberry juice, sparkling water, and espresso—has not only captivated coffee lovers across India but is also gaining international attention. With its signature Cranberry Coffee now protected by a trademark, Roastery Coffee House is setting new standards in the coffee industry and redefining how the world experiences Indian coffee.

THE RISE OF CRANBERRY COFFEE: A REFRESHING INNOVATION

A playful yet refined twist on traditional coffee, Cranberry Coffee combines the boldness of espresso with the tartness of cranberry juice and a splash of sparkling water, creating a refreshing, versatile drink suitable for any time of the day. In the last six months alone, over 100,000 cups of Cranberry Coffee have been sold across Roastery outlets, making it one of the fastest-selling specialty coffees in India. Its popularity spans all age groups and has even become a staple on many café menus, signalling a growing demand for creative coffee options in India and beyond.

Roastery Coffee House's founder, Nishant Sinha, is thrilled by the response, noting how Cranberry Coffee has quickly become a customer favourite. "It's very heartwarming to see how positively everyone has responded to this beverage," he said. "The success of is undeniable, and almost every



order across our chains includes it. Many coffee brands have drawn inspiration from Roastery's innovative creation, and we are very proud that people have embraced it."



ROASTERY COFFEE HOUSE: PIONEERS OF INDIA'S SPECIALTY COFFEE SCENE

Since opening its doors in 2017, Roastery Coffee House has continuously pushed the boundaries of India's coffee culture. Expanding across six cities, the brand has built a strong reputation for offering diverse, high-quality coffee options paired with mouth-watering snacks and light meals, creating an inclusive space for coffee enthusiasts. The introduction of Cranberry Coffee



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



THE SUCCESS OF CRANBERRY COFFEE IS UNDENIABLE, AND ALMOST EVERY ORDER ACROSS OUR CHAINS INCLUDES IT. MANY COFFEE BRANDS HAVE DRAWN INSPIRATION FROM ROASTERY'S INNOVATIVE CREATION, AND WE ARE VERY PROUD THAT PEOPLE HAVE EMBRACED IT

exemplifies the brand's mission to innovate and cater to the evolving preferences of coffee drinkers while staying rooted in authenticity and quality. Beyond its local success, Roastery Coffee House has recently set its sights on the international stage, opening its first flagship store in Helsinki, Finland. The move reflects Roastery's vision of not only sharing Indian coffee with a global audience but also positioning India as a significant player in the specialty coffee industry. The Cranberry Coffee trademark marks a pivotal milestone, as it is the first Indian-origin coffee to secure a global trademark—a



groundbreaking achievement for an Indian brand in this competitive market.

AN INSPIRING FUTURE FOR INDIAN COFFEE

With Cranberry Coffee, Roastery Coffee House has demonstrated how Indian coffee can resonate

on the global stage by combining local creativity with a deep understanding of customer preferences. This achievement is not just a victory for the brand but for India's coffee industry as a whole, setting a powerful example for other Indian brands and creating opportunities for international recognition.

Roastery Coffee House has truly redefined Indian coffee culture and continues to chart a new course for the industry. As it expands internationally, it carries with it a legacy of innovation, quality, and passion, firmly establishing India's place on the global coffee map.

MY FILMS PLAY ONLY IN BENGAL, AND MY AUDIENCE IS THE EDUCATED MIDDLE CLASS IN THE CITIES AND SMALL TOWNS. THEY ALSO PLAY IN BOMBAY, MADRAS AND DELHI WHERE THERE IS A BENGALI POPULATION

— SATYAJIT RAY

THE TIMELESS ALLURE OF DELHI BAZAARS

Delhi's bazaars are more than just places to shop, they're vibrant, historical hubs where the city's past and present blend seamlessly, writes KANISHKA SRIVASTAVA



Delhi's bazaars, pulsing with life, colour, and history, are much more than marketplaces. They are a blend of heritage and modernity, places where the past and present meet in a seamless confluence of aromas, sounds, and sights. From the labyrinthine lanes of Chandni Chowk to the bustling avenues of Dilli Haat, Delhi's markets tell stories of centuries gone by and reflect the city's evolving culture.

Delhi's bazaars have been central to the city's identity since its days as the capital of empires. Mughal emperor Shah Jahan established Chandni Chowk in the 17th century as a marketplace that would rival any in the world. Its name, meaning "Moonlight Square," was inspired by a water canal that once reflected the moonlight, lending a magical glow to the surroundings. Chandni Chowk became the heart of trade in Mughal India, where merchants from across Asia brought in silk, spices, and jewels, turning the area into a melting pot of cultures.

As the years passed, other bazaars sprang up, each with its own speciality and charm. For instance, Khari Baoli, the spice market, emerged as a go-to for spices and dried fruits, its intense aromas filling the air and adding a signature fragrance to Delhi's streets. Over time, bazaars like Daryaganj, which once hosted booksellers and publishers, and Sarojini Nagar, famous for its affordable fashion, have added layers to Delhi's shopping culture.

Every festive season, Delhi transforms into a radiant hub of celebration, where joy, traditions, and community take centre stage. Festivals like Diwali, Navratri and Dussehra infuse the city with vibrant energy, filling its streets with lights, colours, and shoppers in search of the perfect outfits, decorations, and gifts. From historic bazaars rich in tradition to modern malls showcasing top designer brands, festival shopping in Delhi is an experience that beautifully combines heritage and contemporary flair.

CHANDNI CHOWK: WHERE HERITAGE MEETS STYLE

Steeped in history, Chandni Chowk is the ultimate destination for exploring Delhi's cultural roots. With narrow lanes lined with shops, this iconic market offers an impressive selection of traditional wear, including bridal lehengas, sarees, and intricate jewellery. The new Omaxe Chowk adds modern amenities to the shopping experience, blending historic charm with contemporary conveniences. Chandni Chowk is a must-visit for



DOWNTOWN BY MANSAN - SOUTH DELHI'S MODERN SHOPPING DESTINATION

Soon to open, Downtown by Mansan Group brings a new shopping experience to South Delhi, conveniently located near the Sarojini Nagar Metro Station. Spread over 2.18 acres, this modern retail complex combines high-street brands with luxury outlets, offering a blend of shopping and contemporary office spaces. With ample parking and a range of dining options, Downtown is set to become a favourite for festival shoppers seeking convenience and a touch of sophistication.



KHAN MARKET: THE UPSCALE MARKET

One of Delhi's upscale markets, Khan Market presents a more sophisticated experience. Although it originated as a market for refugees from Pakistan after Partition, Khan Market has evolved into a high-end shopping hub, known for designer boutiques, international brands, and posh eateries. Its ambience strikes a balance between global trends and Indian tastes, attracting the city's elite and expatriates.

Delhi's bazaars are not just shopping destinations—they are cultural institutions that hold a mirror to the city's diverse population. During festivals like Diwali and Eid, bazaars take on a life of their own, with streets decked in lights, special offerings at every stall, and an air of celebration all around. Vendors and shoppers, coming from varied cultural and economic backgrounds, interact with warmth and camaraderie, making these spaces truly inclusive.

Besides, the food scene in Delhi's markets is an experience in itself. From Paranthi Wali Gali's fried delights to the chaats of INA Market and the kebabs of Jama Masjid, the bazaars have something to tantalise every palate. Street food vendors, often in families for generations, have honed their craft, turning simple snacks into icons of Delhi's culinary landscape.

The Future of Delhi's Bazaars: Balancing Heritage with Modern Needs.

As Delhi modernises, its bazaars are also evolving. The government has initiated efforts to preserve historical markets, restoring facades and improving infrastructure to cater to tourists and preserve heritage. However, challenges persist: rapid urbanisation, increased footfall, and modernisation pressures can sometimes erode the traditional spirit of these markets. Yet, the resilience of Delhi's bazaars lies in their adaptability.

anyone looking to immerse themselves in Delhi's rich heritage during the festive season.

LAJPAT NAGAR: A FESTIVAL SHOPPER'S PARADISE

Known for its affordability and variety, Lajpat Nagar is a favourite among festival shoppers. This lively market offers everything from ethnic wear to home décor and accessories, all at competitive prices. Whether you're after an elegant saree or bridal outfit, Lajpat Nagar's vibrant atmosphere and wallet-friendly options make it a popular spot for families prepping for the festive season.

KAROL BAGH: THE HEART OF TRADITION

Karol Bagh is famous for its mix of traditional and contemporary attire,

making it a top destination for wedding and festival shopping. With stores packed into narrow, bustling streets, shoppers can explore an extensive range of bridal wear, textiles, and unique jewellery. The energetic vibe and variety make Karol Bagh ideal for those seeking traditional attire and festive accessories.

GREATER KAILASH: ELEGANCE IN EVERY CORNER

If you're looking for a more luxurious shopping experience, Greater Kailash is the place to be. Home to designer boutiques and high-end stores, this area is perfect for finding exclusive bridal wear, premium jewellery, and sophisticated trousseau outfits. With its upscale ambience, Greater Kailash attracts festival-goers who want to celebrate in style.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

A Soulful Sojourn in Puri and Konark

Puri and Konark, two jewels of Odisha, offer a rich tapestry of spirituality, history, and culture that captivates the soul of every traveler, writes VISHESH SHUKLA

In quest of spiritual enlightenment, I embarked on a spiritual journey to Jagannath Puri, the revered abode of Lord Krishna. Boarding a local train from Dhenkanal railway station at dawn, I felt a thrill of excitement for the adventure ahead. The weather was beautiful, with the sun just beginning to rise, casting a warm glow over everything. As the train moved along, I found myself pondering my plans for the day once I reached Puri, eagerly anticipating the experiences that awaited me.

After a few hours of the train's rhythmic motion, I finally arrived at my destination. Upon exiting the station, I immediately started looking for a place to stay. Fortunately, I found Hotel Nemili nearby. I settled on renting 1400 to the hotel reception to get a room. The room was cosy and inviting, a perfect spot to rest after my journey. After resting and freshening up for a while, I felt rejuvenated and ready to explore.

Eager to soak in the local ambience, I grabbed a cup of tea from a nearby stall, enjoying the vibrant atmosphere around me. The streets buzzed with life, filled with locals and tourists alike, all making their way to the temple. Soon, I decided to take a shared auto to the famous Jagannath Temple. The driver charged me Rs. 20 and dropped me a short distance from the temple entrance.



TEMPLE

As I walked along Chakratirtha Road, I noticed a significant crowd gathering, likely due to the weekend and the special occasion of Govardhan Puja. A police officer stationed nearby mentioned that it would take at least three hours to have darshan due to the rush. Many brokers approached me, promising faster entry for a fee of Rs. 500, but I decided not to engage with them and continued on my way, determined to experience the authentic essence of the pilgrimage.

The heat was intense, and I felt a bit uneasy, the sun bearing down as I moved through the throngs of people. After a while, I reached the temple's entrance, where I stored my mobile and shoes in the locker provided by the temple trust. I joined the long line for darshan, the anticipation building with

each step. After two hours of waiting and moving through the crowd, I finally had darshan of Lord Jagannath, along with visits to the Sakshi Gopal and Ganesh temples within the premises. The atmosphere was electric with devotion, and I took a moment to soak in the spiritual energy that filled the air. I also made sure to visit the Mahalakshmi Temple before leaving the complex, feeling grateful for the blessings received.

As I emerged from the sacred precincts of the Jagannath Temple, I was blessed with a profound spiritual experience witnessing the live installation of the Patitapabana Bana, a revered flag atop the temple's majestic spire. This sacred ritual, steeped in tradition and significance, left an indelible mark on my soul, with a sense of serenity and connection to the divine. By the time I exited the temple, my stomach growled in protest. I walked down Chakratirtha

Road again and stopped at Ram Lalla restaurant, where I enjoyed a satisfying meal. The flavours were delicious, and I found myself reflecting on the incredible experience of the day—the vibrant sights, the sounds of prayers, and the palpable sense of community.

To make the evening even better, I set out for Puri's popular Golden Beach, where many people were already present. After sitting there for a while, I felt a deep sense of peace watching the waves crash against the shore. The sight of the ocean calmed my mind, and I enjoyed an ice cream being sold nearby,

savouring the moment. After spending some more time lost in thought and tranquillity, I decided to call it a day and returned to my hotel to rest.

DISCOVERING KONARK

The next morning, I woke up early, checked out of the hotel, and placed my luggage in the locker room near the station. With excitement bubbling within me, I made my way to Vatika Restaurant for breakfast, relishing the local flavours before setting off for Konark. I took a shared auto to reach there, and as soon as I arrived, I was greeted by intense heat, much stronger than in Puri.

My first stop was the Sun Temple, an incredible historic site under the Archaeological Survey of India, which required an entry ticket for Rs. 35. Thankfully,

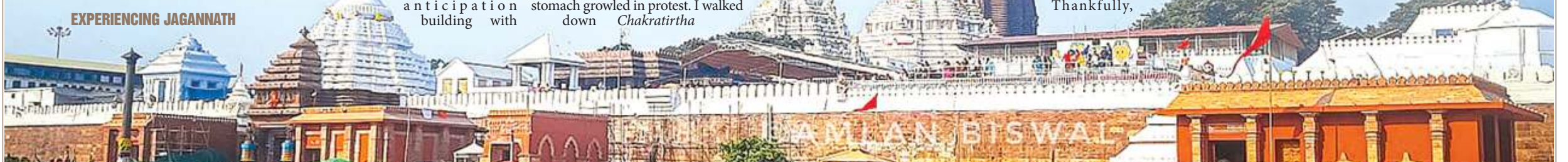


PHOTO: ANILAN BISWAL

IN BRIEF



Action Construction Equipment PAT grows to Rs 95 cr

Action Construction Equipment Ltd has reported a 28 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 94.82 crore for September quarter, on account of higher income. It had posted a PAT of Rs 73.94 crore for the quarter ended September 2023, the company said in an exchange filing on Friday. Income increased to Rs 790.90 crore from Rs 690.21 crore in the year-ago quarter. For the April-September period, the company reported a PAT of Rs 179 crore, higher from Rs 141.51 crore in the corresponding six-month period of FY24. "In the quarter gone by, we have reinforced our liquidity position, improved working capital efficiency and further fortified our balance sheet which gives us the flexibility to seize growth opportunities in the future," Executive Director Sorab Agarwal said in a statement.



Rs 500 cr scheme to support medtech industry

The government on Friday launched a scheme with an outlay of Rs 500 crore for strengthening critical areas of the medical device industry. The scheme covers the manufacturing of key components and accessories, skill development, support for clinical studies, development of common infrastructure, and industry promotion. Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers JP Nadda said the scheme is going to be a game changer and it will not only help the industry but will also be a long leap in making India self-reliant. He noted the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a government of action and the PLI scheme itself is something which has opened new paths. Nadda appealed to the medical device industry to make good use of the scheme and assured the industry that the Department of Pharmaceuticals will provide all support.



Tripura to start rationing petrol from today

Tripura Food and Civil Supplies minister Sushanta Chowdhury on Saturday said the government would start rationing petrol from November 10 as supply of fuel to the state has been affected due to derailment of railway track between Lumding and Badarpur section of NFR. The minister said two-wheeler owners will get petrol worth Rs 200 petrol per day from Sunday, while three-wheeler owners will get Rs 400 worth of petrol and four-wheeler Rs 1000 worth of petrol per day. "Due to derailment of track between Lumding and Badarpur, there has been a steep reduction in the state's fuel stock. Therefore, the state will impose restriction on selling of fuel especially petrol from Sunday," he said in a Facebook post. Around 5 km of railway track was affected due to the derailment of a fuel tanker between Lumding and Badarpur section on October 31 which has impacted normal fuel supply to Tripura.

Trump's presidency may benefit India: Moody's

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Donald Trump's presidency may see trade and investment flows diverting away from China as the US tightens investments in strategic sectors but this shift might benefit India and ASEAN countries, Moody's Ratings said.

The November 5 election of Trump as the next US President will likely materially shift its policies from those of the current Joe Biden administration. In a second Trump administration, Moody's expects large fiscal deficits, protectionist trade actions, climate-measure rollbacks, a stricter stance on immigration, and easing regulations.

Trump is likely to pursue more aggressive immigration policies, including increased deportations, the construction of additional border barriers, stricter visa regulations, and reduced asylum grants.



Although aimed at reducing unauthorised immigration and prioritising legal immigration based on merit, they could lead to labour shortages in sectors that rely heavily on immigrant labour, such as agriculture, retail, hospitality, construction and healthcare," Moody's said in its comment on US presidential elections.

About Trump's foreign policy, Moody's said in the Asia-Pacific region, trade and investment flows might be further diverted away from China as the US tightens investments in strategic sectors, which would negatively affect China's economy and consequently dampen regional growth.

However, this shift might benefit India and ASEAN countries. Continued US-China

polarisation also risks exacerbating geopolitical divisions in the region, increasing risks of disruption to the global supply of semiconductors," it added.

In Europe, the reduced US support for Ukraine might increase European governments' fiscal burdens as governments initially try to compensate for the US support, Moody's said.

"US disengagement from NATO would also increase security risks in Europe by emboldening Russia, putting countries along NATO's eastern border at greatest risk. Also, the proposed blanket tariffs and US-China tensions will likely hurt trading partners in the region, but could indirectly benefit Europe by making it a more attractive investment destination because of its relative policy stability," the US-based rating agency said in its report released late evening.

Indian airspace is getting more users; need to adopt new tech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Emphasising the need for ways to further streamline air traffic movements in the Indian airspace, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam on Saturday suggested that air traffic controllers should look at the use of new technologies such as generative artificial intelligence.

He was speaking at the 40th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA), hosted by the Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (India), in the national capital.

The three-day meeting, with the theme 'Safety in Future Air Traffic Management', began on Saturday.

The participants will discuss cutting-edge technologies,

innovative strategies, and sustainable practices that will shape the safety in future air traffic management, according to the meeting's website.

Vualnam said airspace is getting crowded. "Airspace is getting more and more users".

While mentioning about new technologies such as Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI), he emphasised that "instead of ignoring and closing our eyes, we should collaborate".

He also suggested that ways should be looked on how to streamline air traffic management.

Joint Director General at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Maneesh Kumar said that growth with safety is being ensured and also stressed the importance of human resources in the aviation space.

AI Express plans more international flights

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expanding its network and tapping group synergies, Air India Express will focus on connecting smaller cities and towns with metros as well as fly to new overseas destinations, according to senior officials.

The airline, which recently completed the merger of AIX Connect with itself, has a fleet of around 90 aircraft and the count is expected to cross 110 by the end of this fiscal. It also aims to fly to a total of 55 destinations by the end of March 2025 and has also rationalised its network as part of Air India Group strategy. Apart from adding domestic routes, the Tata

Group-owned airline will start flights to more foreign destinations, including Bangkok and Phuket in Thailand, the officials said.

Air India Express Managing Director Alok Singh said the airline will focus on Tier 2 and 3 cities and towns as they are the growth engines, and the largest chunk of the market is metro to non-metro.

"On the regional short haul international network, it will be primarily from Tier 2, 3 cities to points in the Gulf, Middle East, South East Asia and going forward, South Asia. Perhaps, Far East in a couple of years," Singh said at a select media interaction on Friday.



CCI probe finds Zomato, Swiggy violating competition norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Competition Commission probe has found that food delivery platforms Zomato and Swiggy indulged in unfair business practices, including alleged preferential treatment to some restaurant partners, according to sources.

The detailed investigation was ordered by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in April 2022 and the probe report was submitted to the regulator earlier this year.

Under the norms, CCI Director General's report has been shared with the parties concerned and later, they will be called for hearings by the watchdog. After gathering all the views and explanations, the regulator will pass the final order.

The decision to probe the two entities had come on a complaint filed by the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).

The sources said the probe has found that the two entities indulged in anti-competitive practices, including allegedly extending preferential treatment to some restaurant partners. The report was submitted to the regulator earlier this year, they added.

Query sent on e mail to Swiggy remained unanswered while Zomato declined to comment.

NRAI said it has reviewed the redacted



investigation report that was sent to it in March 2024.

"In order to properly protect the interests of the market, we have petitioned the High Court very recently in November 2024 to request CCI to grant us access to the report in its entirety," the association said in a statement. NRAI President Sagar Daryani hoped that CCI will also speed up the investigation on the other issues raised by the NRAI in its petition in 2022. Last month, Swiggy mentioned about the CCI case in the Red Herring Prospectus for its Initial Public Offering. The IPO closed on Friday.

While ordering the investigation in April 2022, CCI had said that "prima facie there exists a conflict of interest situation,

warranting a detailed scrutiny into its impact on the overall competition between the RPs vis-à-vis the private brands/entities which the platforms may be incentivised to favour".

As per the April 2022 order, preferential treatment accorded to the Restaurant Partners (RPs) in which these platforms have an equity or revenue interest can create barriers for the existing RPs to compete on fair terms. "Such preferential treatment can be through various ways given the platform's control over different aspects that influence competition on them, including control over deliveries, search ranking, etc. which can only be examined appropriately in an investigation," it had said.

Coal ministry 'optimistic' about achieving production target

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday expressed optimism that it will achieve the production target of more than 170 million tonnes from captive and commercial coal blocks in the ongoing fiscal year.

The production from captive, commercial mines from April 1 to November rose 33 per cent to 100.08 MT over 75.05 MT in the year-ago period, the coal ministry said in a statement. The total dispatch from captive, commercial coal mines during the period rose to 107.81 MT from 80.23 MT, it said. "The coal ministry is optimistic about reaching a production target of more than 170 million tonnes from captive and commercial coal blocks in 2024-25," the statement said.

Ashok Leyland expects to record in exports: Hinduja

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Hinduja Group flagship company Ashok Leyland has drawn up plans to expand its business in the South East Asian markets as it pegs to post record business in international operations during this financial year.

The company has lined up plans to enter four different markets in South East Asia this year and has already forayed into the Philippines, with plans to enter Malaysia as well, company Managing Director and CEO Shenu Agarwal said.

"Our next target in terms of geographical expansion is South East Asia. We have been talking about it for long. We want to get into four different markets in South East Asia. Philippines we have already started retailing there. In Malaysia, we were very close to



launching some vehicles but due to some regulatory changes at a short notice, we are working on them (to launch their products)," he told reporters here.

Ashok Leyland Executive Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said despite Bangladesh going through a slight economic crisis, Middle Eastern markets are doing very well at the moment. "We expanded our range of products (in Middle Eastern

markets) and that is why as a result we believe we should be in a position to record one of the best years when it comes to international operations," Hinduja said.

Responding to a query, Agarwal said that GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) market has been a 'star performer' for Ashok Leyland and added that the company's products have been well accepted in those regions.

UP govt holds talks with World Bank on Rs 3,903-cr project

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the World Bank on Friday held negotiations for the Rs 3,903 crore Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening project.

The negotiations were held in New Delhi with Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh representing the state government, according to a statement here.

The six-year project aims to revitalise the state's agriculture and allied sectors, enhance productivity and link small-holder farmers to high-value commodity clusters.

Singh outlined the project's pivotal role in advancing the state's vision to achieve a trillion-dollar economy by 2030, it said.

He highlighted that the project will support high-value crop clusters and establish a stronger fisheries ecosystem, with particular focus on the state's eastern and Bundelkhand regions, it added.

The project will also create a digital agriculture platform to provide real-time insights to farmers, helping optimise resources, increase resilience, and boost productivity.

"I am convinced that the farmers of Uttar Pradesh can achieve great things if they are given exposure to the best national and international practices," the chief secretary said.

The project's key components under discussion include climate-resilient productivity enhancement, development of value-added commodity clusters, and strengthening the state's digital and financial ecosystems.

By mid-2025, Uttar Pradesh's Jewar airport is expected to become operational, providing further export avenues for local produce, according to the statement.

World Bank's Country Director for India, Auguste Tano Kouame, voiced strong support for the initiative, underscoring the institution's commitment to assist Uttar Pradesh in implementing this transformative project, it said.



Goa's marigold cultivators reap benefits of govt's subsidy

PNS ■ PANAJI

The Goa government's subsidy for marigold farmers is proving to be a boon for cultivators and has reduced the state's dependency on neighbouring Karnataka and Maharashtra, an official said on Saturday.

Talking to PTI, Goa Director of Agriculture Sandeep Phal Desai schemes from the Union and state governments have encouraged farmers to cover more area under marigold plantation.

Marigolds are in demand in the coastal state during festivals such as Dussehra, Diwali and Padwa, and the dependency on other states has reduced significantly over the last couple of

years. This year, 400-odd farmers have produced 180 tonnes of marigold, covering an area of 30 hectares.

Phal Desai said 15 hectares came under marigold cultivation in 2022, and it increased to 25 hectares in 2023 and is at 30 hectares this year.

Farmers receive Rs 75,000 per hectare as subsidy, which includes Rs 16,000 under the National Horticulture Mission and Rs 59,000 under the state government's scheme for promoting the cultivation of flowers, the official said.

He said farmers from Bardez, Sattari, Sanguem, Canacona and Quepem have been cultivating marigolds as it



yields instant money.

The state government has allocated Rs 90 lakh for the current fiscal for the Cultivation of

Flowers scheme, he said.

Phal Desai said self-help groups prepare seeds under the state government's ATMA

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(Agriculture Technology Management Agency) scheme.

The state government's initiative under the guidance of

the pioneer agenda

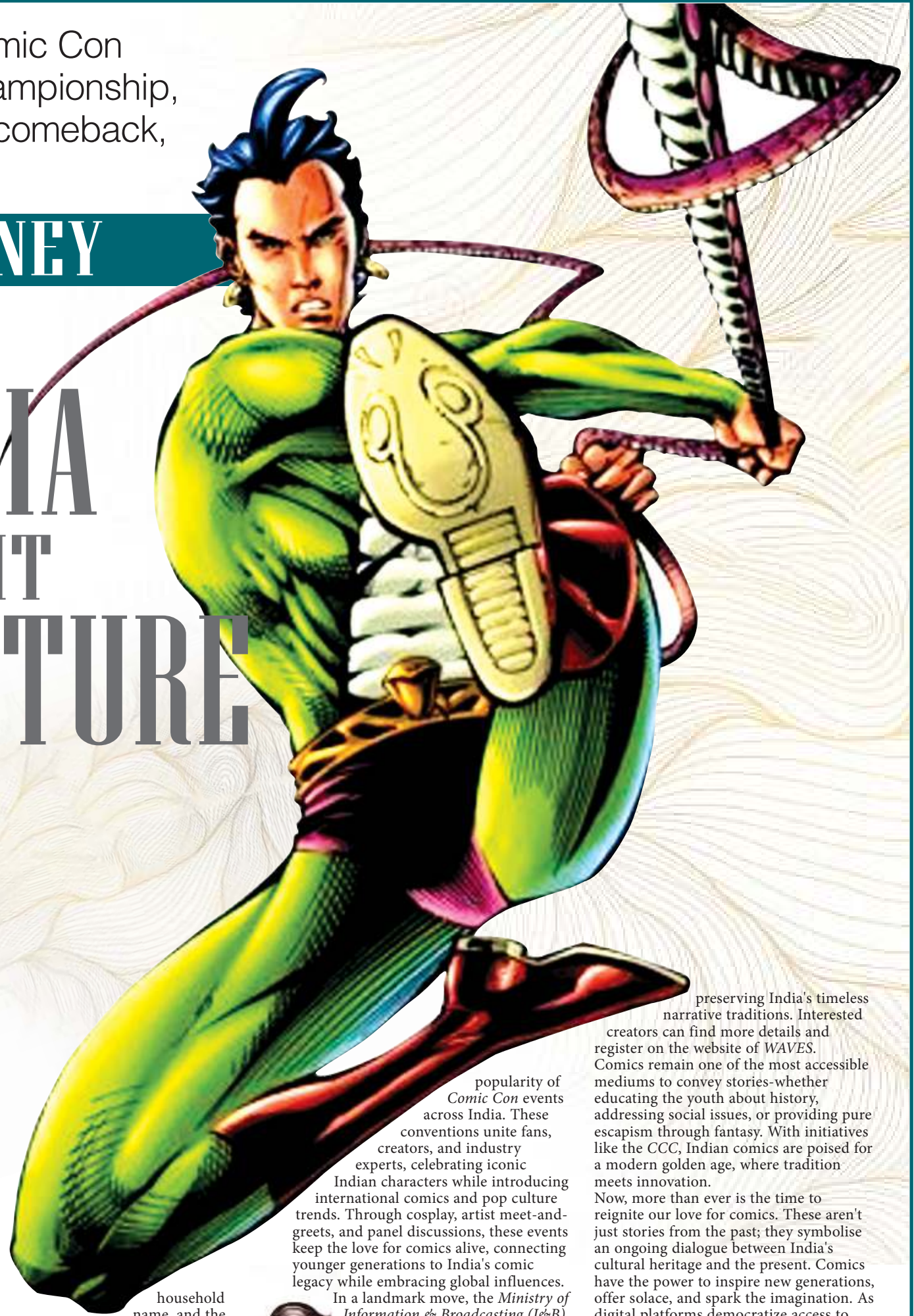
"My family put a lot of emphasis on homework, so there weren't too many comic books or video games for me, when I was growing up"
— Wentworth Miller



With a resurgence fueled by events like Comic Con India and the upcoming Comic Creator Championship, Indian comics are making a powerful comeback, writes SUPRIYA GHAYTADAK



A COMIC JOURNEY FROM NOSTALGIA TO A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE



Growing up, comics were an integral part of my life. My brother and I would save every bit of our pocket money just to buy our favourite comics. Whether it was *Champak*, *Amar Chitra Katha*, *Super Commando Dhruv*, *Nagraj* or *Chacha Chaudhary* stories fueled our imagination and became a key part of our reading journey. Whenever someone asked what we wanted for our birthdays, the answer was always the same—comics! Those colourful pages, filled with heroes and adventures, were more than just entertainment; they were treasured gifts that we eagerly awaited and cherished. There was a time when streetside stalls, bookstores, bus stands, and railway stations buzzed with the vibrant display of comic books. The chatter of children and adults alike, poring over pages that transported them to fantastical worlds, was a common scene. Comics like *Amar Chitra Katha*'s mythological tales, *Chacha Chaudhary*'s wit, or *Raj Comics*' heroic sagas, invoked a sense of wonder and excitement. For many of us, these stories were more than just a form of entertainment; they were an integral part of our childhood—a gateway to imagination and learning. As years passed, digital platforms gradually replaced the physical charm of these marvels. Yet, in this fast-paced world, the nostalgia for these stories remains strong. Many long for the days when characters like *Bahadur*, *Super Commando Dhruv*, *Parmanu*, *Tenali Raman*, *Suppandi*, and *Shikari Shambu* lived not just in our imagination but in the comic strips that shaped our understanding of bravery, wit, and justice. For older generations, these comics represent a simpler time, filled with cultural knowledge and entertainment. For the younger generation, revisiting them now holds the potential to rediscover India's rich folklore and mythologies while connecting with modern interpretations of these beloved characters. The Indian comic industry, once a booming sector from the 1970s to the 1990s, produced iconic characters and stories that captured the hearts of millions. The 'Golden Age' of Indian comics brought us legendary creators like Pran, whose *Chacha Chaudhary* became a household name, and the rise of superhero giants from *Raj Comics*.



SUPRIYA GHAYTADAK

“THE INDIAN COMIC INDUSTRY, ONCE A BOOMING SECTOR FROM THE 1970S TO THE 1990S, PRODUCED ICONIC CHARACTERS AND STORIES THAT CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS. THE 'GOLDEN AGE' OF INDIAN COMICS BROUGHT US LEGENDARY CREATORS LIKE PRAN, WHOSE CHACHA CHAUDHARY BECAME A HOUSEHOLD NAME, AND THE RISE OF SUPERHERO GIANTS FROM RAJ COMICS.

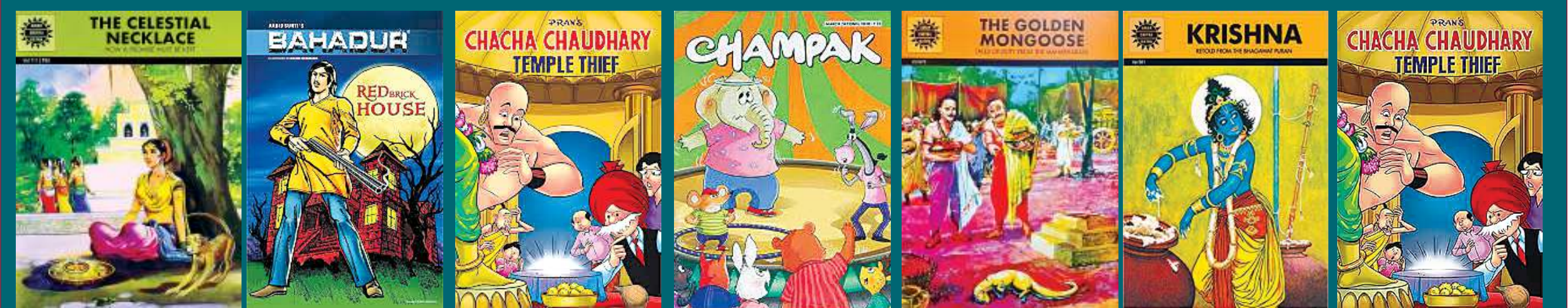
household name, and the rise of superhero giants from *Raj Comics*. It was an era when *Indian superheroes*, mythological epics, and social commentary blended seamlessly, creating relatable content that resonated with generations. However, at the turn of the millennium, the industry witnessed a decline. Changing reading habits, the rise of television, and the flood of digital content pushed these comics to the background. Yet, despite this downturn, the comic book medium is quietly experiencing a resurgence, aided by digital platforms and a renewed interest in India's rich storytelling tradition. The resurgence of Indian comics is further boosted by the growing



popularity of *Comic Con* events across India. These conventions unite fans, creators, and industry experts, celebrating iconic Indian characters while introducing international comics and pop culture trends. Through cosplay, artist meet-and-greets, and panel discussions, these events keep the love for comics alive, connecting younger generations to India's comic legacy while embracing global influences. In a landmark move, the *Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)*, Government of India has partnered with the *Indian Comics Association (ICA)* to spearhead the first-ever *Comic Creator Championship (CCC)*, a centrepiece event at the upcoming *World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES)*. This three-phase comic-making competition is designed to nurture emerging talent and showcase India's creative potential on a global stage. By providing a platform for both amateur and professional creators, the CCC encourages fresh voices to engage in storytelling that tackles contemporary issues while

preserving India's timeless narrative traditions. Interested creators can find more details and register on the website of WAVES. Comics remain one of the most accessible mediums to convey stories—whether educating the youth about history, addressing social issues, or providing pure escapism through fantasy. With initiatives like the CCC, Indian comics are poised for a modern golden age, where tradition meets innovation. Now, more than ever is the time to reignite our love for comics. These aren't just stories from the past; they symbolise an ongoing dialogue between India's cultural heritage and the present. Comics have the power to inspire new generations, offer solace, and spark the imagination. As digital platforms democratize access to these narratives, an entire world of possibilities opens up for creators and readers alike. As we look to the future, let us celebrate this revival by participating in the *World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)*, to be held in New Delhi from February 5th to 9th, 2025. This summit promises to be a landmark event, uniting industry experts, creators, and fans. It will also host the final round of the *Comics Creator Championship*, where India's brightest new talents will be showcased. Together, we can ensure that the stories of the past continue to inspire, innovate, and captivate audiences in the future. India's comic industry stands on the threshold of a renaissance, and all are invited to be a part of it. Now is the time to turn the page and start a new chapter in the vibrant world of Indian comics. Let's revive and elevate Indian comics to their rightful place in popular culture. Will you join this journey?

(The writer is an Indian Information Service officer, Ministry of I&B; views are personal)



The man behind Comic Con India's magic!



SHIKHA DUGGAL
shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

ing. He goes on, "The whole post-pandemic trend of retribution outings has turned into a broader quest for meaningful experiences! If fans believe they are receiving something special, they are prepared to spend more. Fans are eager to spend more to see their favourite concerts, as evidenced by the rise in concert prices. I observe more committed spectators who want to invest time and funds in engaging activities."

Popular Indian and foreign artists will be featured at this year's Hyderabad Comic Con, entertaining and engrossing us with their perspectives on pop culture and comics. "I believe the live events sector is growing because Indian viewers are aware of global events and want to experience something similar here in India as well. The demand for top-notch events is enormous and has not yet been completely satisfied. I anticipate that this increase will continue in the foreseeable future, which is one of the reasons Comic Con India is growing into new locations. Like our counterparts throughout the world, we have supported—and in some cases, started—a number of fan communities in India, whether they be cosplay, comics, collectibles, etc. But we've also served as a forum for fans to find new content; they come to us to find new things. We regard ourselves as having a significant impact on Indian pop culture."

Fans assemble to meet these creators and artists at the comic book convention, which is a fan conference that emphasises comic book culture. "As a

fan discovery platform, we have played a crucial role in introducing a wide variety of new content to audiences in India, whether it be via comics, animation, or live action entertainment," the founder further explains. "In addition, we have contributed to the development of communities for a number of Indian fandoms. Making the decision to convert a free performance into a ticketed event was one such crucial moment! This was necessary for us to maintain our financial stability and keep up with the rising expenses. We took this risk in 2014; it took us several rounds of deliberation to settle on a price, but in spite of our initial anxiety, the event sold out. Another such difficulty was the pandemic, which prevented us from conducting business as usual. During those two years, we made the most of our online presence to remain current and maintain relationships with our followers. Additionally, returning from the pandemic presented a special set of difficulties, but they were a good problem to have because they allowed us to accommodate big crowds despite the limitations of our facilities."

Therefore, there were particular difficulties in creating a community-based event like Comic Con India and growing it into a national phenomenon. Numerous such turning points required him to reconsider his strategy in order to account for Comic Con's expansion. He said, for instance, "As I indicated, in some instances we have contributed to the cre-

ation of such communities, case in point—cosplay. In 2011, the first-ever group of cosplayers attended our first event. Additionally, many of them were family members and acquaintances. We had around 3000 cosplayers at each of our events on average during our final season of activities. Over the years, we have contributed to the creation, upkeep and development of this community. With the Indian Championship of Cosplay, we also established the country's first professional cosplayers' platform. It made it possible for a large number of gifted Indian cosplayers to exhibit their work abroad. Our nation is now home to some of the greatest in the world. Of the many accomplishments we have made, this is by far the most proud."

Comic Con India has grown to be an important venue for creators, artists and cosplayers in addition to fans. "I can share the example of artist and creator Rahul Mohsin," the founder says, highlighting noteworthy instances of creators who used the event to establish or grow their careers. "He made his artistic debut at one of our events in our early years as an artist for another publication. He



expanded his collection of work over the years by self-publishing and cooperating with other publishers. Additionally, he debuted his own original series, *Hallu Bol*, during one of our events in 2022. At the majority of events, he is a part of our creator's section and I am constantly curious to see what he will create next. The risk of "selling out" or alienating the core audience then arises as live events grow increasingly commercial. Indeed, this is a problem and we have encountered it with fans as well, particularly as our events have grown in size. Additionally, it is a highly subjective matter; therefore, as we continued to expand, we made sure that the quality of the fan experience also improved and continuously invested in the show's content to provide value for all audience segments."

Comic Con India serves as a fan discovery platform and has been instrumental in bringing a diverse range of new content, including live-action, animated and comic book entertainment, to Indian consumers. In addition, we have contributed to the development of communities for a number of Indian fandoms. A lot of the content mix at their events is driven by their content partners, who include creators, publishers and studios. Curating the event entails a number of different aspects. In order to better understand their viewers' tastes and curate content for them, they also continuously research and poll their audiences. Observing the fans engage with one another and form new friendships and groups is the most fulfilling aspect. The atmosphere and sense of community that one experiences at a Comic Con is perhaps its best feature. The founder himself has made new acquaintances as a result of the event; in fact, he met his wife at Comic Con and presto!



Comic Con India, the premier pop culture event that has taken India by storm, is gearing up for an unforgettable experience in Hyderabad in 2024. In an exclusive interview, Jatin Verma, the founder, shares his journey and insights on how Comic Con India has become a catalyst for pop culture, offering fans not just an event but an immersive and evolving community that continues to grow and thrive year after year

BEATS AND KIM KARDASHIAN REUNITE!

Beats announced a new collaboration with mogul Kim Kardashian for the iconic Beats Studio Pro and the all-new Beats Pill. It is a visual expression of creativity and identity wrapped around a premium sound. The new collaboration reimagines its flagship over-ear product in three neutral colours inspired by Kardashian's signature palette: Moon (light), Dune (medium) and Earth (deep) and the iconic Beats Pill in two gorgeous hues: Light Gray and Dark Gray. The sleek designs create an elevated listening experience with function and style in mind.



WHAT'S NEW

ELEVATING SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Terra Luna's newest collection, a celebration of sustainable fashion and versatile, elevated basics that redefine the modern wardrobe. Crafted predominantly from khadi, each piece reflects eco-conscious fashion and Indian craftsmanship, with a fresh approach to making khadi both stylish and timeless.



TRIBUTE TO COFFEE HERITAGE

Starbucks Reserve® has announced the launch of its single-origin coffee, Monsooned Malabar, in India. This exceptional Arabica blend hails from the Malabar coast and embodies the rich traditions of Southern India's coffee culture, shaped by coastal winds and monsoon rains. Crafted as a tribute to the artistry and dedication of Indian coffee farmers, it offers a unique flavour profile featuring earthy sweetness, chocolate, dried spices and a satisfying malty finish.

SHRYOAN PRETTY ME! LIQUID MATTE LIPSTICKS & LIP GLOSS

For a flawless pout, the Pretty Me! Collection offers two matte liquid lipsticks and one glossy shade in a single set. These waterproof, smudge-proof and transfer-proof lip colors deliver intense, long-lasting pigmentation—ideal for achieving that bold lip.



Price: INR 575

WINTER ESSENTIAL RANGE OF BODY BUTTERS

Inspired by India's Ayurvedic heritage, Dusky India's journey has been fuelled by a desire to make Ayurveda accessible to everyone. Enriched with India's favourite Almond oil, known for its healing and hydrating properties, this butter comes with the goodness of rose extracts, jojoba oil; aloe vera extracts and rose oil. Almonds are rich in natural oils, which help moisturise the skin with deep and long lasting hydration. Rose helps tighten and tone the skin and reduces the appearance of pores. It has a cooling effect on the skin and its aroma has a calming effect on the mind. It helps calm inflammation and soothing irritated or sensitive skin. Regular use of this body butter helps in improving skin complexion, reducing appearance of scars, blemishes and provides a natural glow to the skin.

ULTIMATE WINTER FASHION REVOLUTION

Overlays, is delighted to announce the release of its highly anticipated winter collection "Ember: Steel Winter '24." This creative collection emphasizes the raw power of fire & strength and is ideal for those who value both warmth and resilience during the cold months. Inspired by the elements of fire, the collection is more than just winter fashion—it's a mindset.



WHERE TIMELESS HERITAGE MEETS POP OF GREEN

Unera, with a focus on quality and design, introduces its newest piece, the Peridot Vertical Single Bar Pendant. This pendant combines heritage inspired design with a modern aesthetic, showcasing the vibrant green of Peridot—a gemstone valued for its refreshing, natural tone. Each gemstone is carefully chosen for its quality and sparkle, making this piece both simple and striking.

SHINE ON YOUR BIG DAY WITH BRIDAL MAKEUP MUST HAVES

The wedding season is here and every bride deserves a flawless, breathtaking look on her big day! Achieve perfection with ABH's magic touch concealer and luminous foundation for a radiant, long-lasting base. Elevate your eyes with the enchanting fall romance palette, bringing depth and allure to every gaze. With its essentials, you're set to captivate and create unforgettable memories, looking your absolute best in every cherished moment! A bridal must-have, featuring 12 jewel-toned metallics and rich neutrals in a full-pigment formula. With shades that blend effortlessly, it offers high color payoff—from soft romantic tones to bold pigments—perfect for creating timeless or dramatic looks that shine in every wedding moment.

Price - INR 6400



HOROSCOPE



ARIES

You seek excitement but will struggle to find harmony. Face challenges calmly, balance emotions, and communicate with loved ones. Show confidence and rely on optimism for growth.



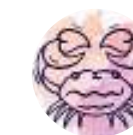
TAURUS

You'll balance joy and stress, navigating others' expectations and criticism. Embrace independence, stay calm in challenges and find solace in family connections and personal growth.



GEMINI

Amid stress and doubts, stay calm, rely on patience, and avoid suspicion. Embrace fatherly guidance, prioritize self-care, and work on financial goals while remaining cautious with travel.



CANCER

Balance confidence with patience, especially with family. Embrace new challenges and communicate openly. Manage emotions to avoid stress and stay true to your ethics.



LEO

Your charm attracts others, but open communication is needed. Stay cautious in ventures and embrace new ideas thoughtfully. Favorable outcomes await, along with emotional stability.



VRIGO

Focus on moneymaking but avoid stifling creativity. Favourable projects await, and a stimulating partner will enhance joy. Stay optimistic and balance analysis to maintain relationships.



LIBRA

Open communication is a must to prevent misunderstandings. Embrace challenges confidently, trust your ethics, and focus on self-care. Maintain harmony through thoughtful interactions.



SCORPIO

Stay calm in challenges, communicate openly, and avoid emotional blowups. Women have a favourable week. Embrace self-control, and mindful planning, and find joy in new love.



SAGITTARIUS

Maintain patience in relationships, stay calm under pressure, and avoid self-pity. Your humour and commitment earn respect. Stay optimistic and resilient to handle challenges effectively.



CAPRICORN

Stay calm in challenges, balance family time with work and show kindness. Embrace optimism and new opportunities; your supportive nature and resilience will bring you recognition.



AQUARIUS

Your supportive nature brings positivity to loved ones. Stay calm under pressure, define goals and embrace new opportunities. Expect relief from long-standing ailments.



PISCES

Your charm and generosity shine this week. Embrace calmness in challenges, prioritize family time, and nurture relationships. There will be a desire for rejuvenation and self-care.

TRENDING

DONALD TRUMP



PERSON

Trump has received the number of votes needed to become the 47th president of the United States.

TEENAGER IN HYD LIT FIRECRACKER IN MOUTH OF STATUE OF GANDHI



VIDEO

A young guy was spotted placing a firecracker inside the mouth of a Mahatma Gandhi statue in Telangana in a video that has gone popular on social media.

BABY JOHN



MOVIE

Excitement has been heightened by the action-packed teaser and captivating plot, which have amassed an incredible 157.1 million views in a single day.

HEY MINNALE



SONG

The producers of the upcoming Sivakarthikeyan movie *Amaran* released the first track, *Hey Minnale*. The song, which has vocals by Haricharan and Shweta Mohan, was previously hinted to by music composer GV Prakash.

CHHATH PUJA CELEBRATED WITH POMP



PICTURE

On Friday, November 8, 2024, the final day of Chhath Puja, devotees around Bihar offered morning prayers to the rising sun. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and a number of other prominent figures joined in the celebrations.

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When we take antibiotics to treat infections, we generally focus on the benefits—clearing up bacteria and helping us recover. However, a growing body of research and firsthand experiences from patients suggest that these powerful medications might also have a hidden side effect: they could contribute to mood changes, including depression.

Take, for example, a patient recovering from a routine dental procedure who is prescribed antibiotics like clindamycin to prevent infection. While the procedure itself was straightforward, a few days into the antibiotic treatment, the individual begins to notice feelings of sadness, anxiety, and a sense of detachment—emotions that are out of character for them. Initially, they chalk it up to the stress of recovery, but as the symptoms persist, they start to wonder whether the antibiotics might be to blame.

Dr. Rahul Rai Kakkar, Consultant Psychiatrist & Psychotherapist, Narayana Hospital, highlights, “Antibiotics, though critical for treating bacterial infections, have been linked to potential side effects on mental health, including depression. This connection is often surprising to patients, who may not realise that their gut and brain are intricately connected through what’s called the gut-brain axis. The gut hosts trillions of bacteria, which not only aid digestion but also play a role in regulating mood and cognitive functions.”

Certain medications have been connected to depression, points out Dr. Sushma Dharavath, mental health expert and psychiatrist.

According to research, she explains to us, “Taking one course of antibiotics from the penicillin group is linked to a 23% increased chance of developing depression. The risk increases by 40% after two sessions of penicillin and by 56% after five or more courses. The connection comes from the fact that altering gut flora has been linked to sadness.”

Antibiotics, while eliminating harmful bacteria, also disrupt the balance of these beneficial bacteria in the gut microbiome, leading to what we call dysbiosis. Dysbiosis can impair the production of neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine, and GABA—chemicals that help regulate mood, sleep and stress responses. Low levels of these neurotransmitters are associated with an increased risk of mood disorders, including depression.

Meanwhile, Dr. Irfan KJ, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, SPARSH Hospital, highlights, “It is often observed that there is a complex interplay between our immune system, gut health, and mental well-being. While antibiotics are vital in fighting infections and bacterial diseases, their impact on the nervous system can be multifaceted. Antibiotics can alter the gut microbiome, which plays a critical role in regulating mood and cognitive functions through the gut-brain axis. One of the most concerning effects of antibiotics is their potential to contribute to depressive symptoms. The gut microbiome produces various neurotransmitters, including serotonin, which significantly affects mood regulation.”

Amaal Malik’s classical reboot with *Ami Je Tomar 3.0*

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Amaal Malik is a musical force who has crafted anthems and heart-wrenching ballads that speak to multiple generations, seamlessly blending contemporary and classic sounds. Since bursting onto the Bollywood music scene, Amaal has built an impressive catalog of tracks that capture both the youthful energy of today and the emotional depth of timeless melodies. His ability to mix electronic elements with live instrumentation, seen in hits like *Sooraj Dooba Hai* and *Kar Gayi Chull*, has made him a household name.

However, his talents go beyond just upbeat tracks—his soulful compositions like *Main Rahoona Ya Na Rahoona* demonstrate his versatility in striking emotional chords. Amaal’s musical journey began at a young age, assisting industry legends and then stepping into the limelight as a solo composer with *Jai Ho* in 2014.

His track record speaks volumes: whether it’s an adrenaline-pumping anthem or a reflective melody, he knows how to craft songs that resonate with listeners across ages. His work isn’t just about catchy tunes; it’s about creating music that evokes real feelings. He has a knack for blending old-school musical influences with modern sounds, making each song feel both fresh and nostalgic. With every composition, he doesn’t just create music—he crafts the soundtrack to our lives, proving that a good melody can transcend time and trends.

The dynamic composer who’s been behind some of Bollywood’s most infectious dance anthems and heart-melting ballads has taken his music career to a whole new level with his latest track, *Ami Je Tomar*, for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. Known for creating hits that blend modern sensibilities with a nostalgic touch, Amaal is now venturing into a space he’s never explored before—Indian classical music. In this candid chat, Amaal reflects on how *Ami Je Tomar* marks a turning point in his career, not just as a composer but as an artist who is constantly evolving.

For him, working on *Ami Je Tomar 3.0* was a monumental challenge. “This is a huge deal for me,” he admits, excited yet reflective. “People always see me as the ‘contemporary guy,’ but I wanted to show that I can work with something much more rooted. It’s a chance for me to showcase another side of my musical identity.” His vision for this track was to honour its classical roots while still making it his own—a balancing act that he has always strived for in his decade-long career.

What’s even more fascinating is how fate played a part in Amaal’s involvement with this iconic song. He reveals that during the making of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, he casually played around with the melody of *Ami Je Tomar*, just as an experiment. “One evening, I wondered, ‘What if I were to reimagine this song?’ It was more of a ‘what if’ than a serious attempt,” Amaal laughs. He never expected it to go anywhere, but when Preet Amda, the original composer, had to step aside due to prior commitments, Amaal found himself entrusted with the song—a serendipitous moment that turned into a musical milestone.

The responsibility of reinterpreting a Bollywood classic for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* was no small feat, especially with the likes of Vidya Balan and Madhuri Dixit bringing their powerhouse performances to the screen. He explains, “The song is integral to the story—it’s not just background music. It plays during key emotional moments, including a high-stakes dance-off and the climactic sequence. With such powerful actresses leading the scene, I knew I had to get it just right.” His nine-month creative journey to breathe new life into *Ami Je Tomar 3.0* shows

just how seriously he took this responsibility. “I don’t often recreate songs, but when I do, I make sure to respect the original. I added a new stanza, but the soul of the song is untouched,” Amaal says, proud of his delicate balance between staying true to the original and infusing his own signature style.

What makes this version of *Ami Je Tomar* stand out is not just its classical elements but its timeless appeal. He has an uncanny ability to marry the old with the new, and it’s a skill he’s perfected over the years. “I’m lucky to be an ‘old soul,’” he laughs, referencing his deep connection to melody and meaningful lyrics. His approach to music is one of continuity—preserving the magic of timeless classics while adapting them for modern ears. This duality is at the heart of his philosophy: melody and lyrics come first, always. “The goal is to create something that lasts,” Amaal asserts. “Whether it’s a new song or a recreation, I don’t want my work to fizzle out after the promotional cycle.”

His work on *Ami Je Tomar 3.0* is a continuation of this love of creating songs that endure. It’s a track that appeals to both young audiences and those who grew up with the original. His versatility is on full display in *Ami Je Tomar 3.0*, where he infused darker, deeper tones into the raags, aligning them with the horror elements of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. “The melody needed to carry the emotional weight of the film,” he explains. This darker interpretation was not without its challenges, but director Anees Bazmee understood the vision and allowed him the creative freedom to experiment. He worked tirelessly with live instruments—tabla, dholak and strings—to give the track a warmth and authenticity that stands apart in an age of digital and AI-driven music production. “Eighty percent of what you hear is real

musicianship,” he proudly notes. And this will to live, organic sound is something Amaal is eager to continue in his future work. “I’m working on an EP, something fresh and independent, the first of its kind for me,” he teases, hinting at more surprises in store for his fans. In the meantime, *Ami Je Tomar 3.0* is already making waves, with Shreya Ghoshal and Sonu Nigam’s renditions adding a new layer of charm to the track. “The reaction has been amazing,” Amaal says, pleased with the positive feedback from both the audience and critics.

For him, the journey of crafting songs like *Ami Je Tomar 3.0* is as much about introspection as it is about artistic growth. As he approaches his tenth year in the industry, his focus remains on creating music that feels genuine and authentic. “I want my songs to stand the test of time,” he says, noting that his music has become more mature over the years. “The melodies now have a different depth. They reflect where I am in life and in my music.”

In a world where the pressure to meet audience expectations is ever-present, he stays grounded in his creative principles. “I focus on the essentials—good melody, meaningful lyrics and a sound that’s relevant to the times,” he says. This approach, he believes, ensures that his work resonates with listeners across generations. As he continues to push boundaries and redefine what it means to be a composer in Bollywood, one thing is clear: Amaal Malik is here to stay.



ANTIBIOTICS’ DARK SECRET!

While antibiotics are essential for treating infections, emerging research suggests they may have an unexpected side effect: mood changes, including depression. As highlighted by *The Pioneer* this week, speaking to the experts, we understand the link between antibiotics and depression in this health column this week



Health Talk

When antibiotics disrupt the balance of beneficial bacteria in the gut, this can lead to reduced production of these essential neurotransmitters. Consequently, the altered gut flora may contribute to feelings of depression or anxiety in some patients.

However, according to Dr. Kakkar, not all antibiotics affect mental health to the same extent. Broad-spectrum antibiotics, such as fluoroquinolones (like ciprofloxacin) and macrolides (such as azithromycin), are particularly impactful because they target a wide range of bacteria, including both harmful and beneficial

types. With broad-spectrum antibiotics, the degree of microbial disruption in the gut is more pronounced, which can lead to more significant changes in mood and cognitive health. There is also evidence that long-term or frequent antibiotic use can lead to cumulative effects on the microbiome. This means that repeated courses of antibiotics over time could potentially increase the risk of depressive symptoms.

The side effects of antibiotics themselves—such as fatigue, gastrointestinal discomfort and general malaise—can also mimic or exacerbate depressive symptoms. “It’s essential to recognize that the psychological effects of taking antibiotics may not only stem from the chemical changes in the body but also from the illness being treated and the treatment’s physical toll. Patients often report feeling low or unwell during recovery from infections, leading to a temporary dip in mood,” shares Dr. Irfan.

However, it’s important to remember that the risk of depression and other mental health effects varies widely from person to person and depends on factors like age, lifestyle, pre-existing mental health conditions, and individual microbiome composition. For patients who must take antibiotics, there are ways to mitigate these risks. Probiotics and fermented foods can help replenish healthy bacteria during and after antibiotic treatment, potentially reducing the mental health impact. Patients must talk with their doctor or pharmacist about using probiotics alongside antibiotic therapy. If you experience mood changes or depressive symptoms during or after antibiotic treatment, don’t hesitate to speak to your doctor. Sometimes, small adjustments in diet, lifestyle, and probiotic support can make a significant difference.

The importance of monitoring mood changes in patients undergoing antibiotic treatment should be more emphasised. Collaborative care involving primary care providers, psychiatrists, and nutritionists is crucial in managing these potential side effects effectively. Moreover, while antibiotics serve as a powerful tool against bacterial infections, we must remain vigilant about their broader implications, particularly concerning mental health. A holistic approach that considers both physical and psychological well-being is vital for optimal patient outcomes.

Should you avoid using antibiotics if you have depression?

Dr. Sushma, enunciating on the above, says, “It’s best to discuss these concerns with a healthcare provider if you have a family history of depression, have experienced depression in the past, are currently experiencing depression or its symptoms, or are concerned about the risks of antibiotics because of a family history of depression (especially before you begin taking antibiotics). Telling a healthcare professional about your concern is an important safety measure for safeguarding your mental health while treating your physical health, even though it is likely that the consequences of not treating an infection will be worse than those of the treatment itself if your risk of depression is high.”

BUILDING ON LEGACY WITH AMBITION

Forty-two-year-old **Member of Rajya Sabha from Telangana M Anil Kumar Yadav**, son of veteran Congress leader Anjan Kumar Yadav, brings a unique blend of traditional values and modern vision to his role. In a conversation with **Naveena Ghanate** of *The Pioneer*, Anil shares that his journey has been anything but feather-bedded. With an academic background that spans law and commerce, he has passion for sports and an unswerving commitment to strengthening the Congress unit in Hyderabad



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN HYDERABAD

I grew up in the Old City of Hyderabad. People may assume that I was born with a silver spoon. Far from that, when I was born, my father, Anjan Kumar Yadav, had just started his political journey with the Congress party. We did not have a background in politics; my father was the first in our family to step into this field. Before he took that path, we were a family deeply rooted in traditional values, while engaged in dairy farming. I am the eldest one among four siblings; I have two sisters and a brother. My childhood was about hard work, dreams, and values—not the luxury or fame that people might imagine. Academics were never my strong suit; I was drawn more to sports and physical challenges, which I think came naturally to me because of phelwaans in the family.

CONTESTING AGAINST STATE BJP CHIEF

My first major contest was against the then-state president of the BJP Dr K Laxman in Musheerabad. When I contested, the situation was bad and the party was in not a good shape then. Despite putting in my best efforts, I did not secure a victory. I always thought my contest was with the BJP Telangana chief, but BRS won surprisingly. I lost to TRS but was ahead of BJP but I did give very good fight. Because of voting pattern, I lost. That defeat taught me resilience and reinforced my belief that setbacks are part of a larger journey. Each challenge brings new lessons and perspectives, making me more committed to my goals. My father's tag will be there till my last breath and there is nothing to shy away. He is an established leader but why compare me with him. In my political journey, I have experienced both triumphs and setbacks. I have many police cases against me for doing political dharnas, protests among others.

PURSUEING EDUCATION BEYOND TRADITION

I attended Ivy League Academy, a boarding school in Shamirpet, starting from the first grade. This experience taught me independence early on. Though I was not a top student, I always leaned towards sports and extracurricular activities, finding joy and purpose in the physical challenges they presented. After school, I pursued Intermediate in St. Mary's, obtained a Bachelor's degree in Commerce and later a law degree from Osmania University. I went for law because when I was young people used to think that I don't study and hardly did anything, seeing my deep involvement in extracurricular activities. I took it more as a personal challenge to prove that I could excel academically if I focused. I completed and enrolled as advocate also. It was not about following a particular career path but more about pushing my boundaries.



ACADEMICS AND EARLY FASCINATION WITH SPORTS

Phelwaans have been a part of our family tradition. We have our own Akhaada where a lot of youngsters join and train. At a young age, I too got attracted to it. I was a medalist at the university level and even represented at nationals. Early mornings became a ritual of practice, training, and workouts, which instilled a sense of discipline that has stayed with me. From a young age, I have had immense fascination for wrestling and strength sports. Wrestling is almost part of our family's DNA, both maternal and paternal. So, I often dreamed of becoming a heavyweight champion myself. I also fought in heavyweights and I feel my career is satisfactory. Now I practice on and off and not regularly. My time in sports deeply shaped my character and taught me the value of resilience.

A NEW ROLE AS RAJYA SABHA MEMBER

My father wanted to be at a state level leader, while I was aspiring for MP position. PCC president Revanth Reddy told that he will give two tickets to our family one in the Assembly and one at Parliament and asked us to decide which to take up. We have been loyal to the party always. Father contested and lost and I was supposed to contest from the Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat. I was preparing for the Lok Sabha. Leadership was in discussion to promote a youngster to Rajya Sabha and thought about me. So, I have been entrusted with a significant role as a Rajya Sabha member. It was a very long battle of 10 years working and somewhere I think, there was a need to get a political break. Stepping into Parliament and sitting alongside leaders like Sonia Gandhi Madam and Khargeji is an honour and a responsibility I carry with humility. For me, this position is not just a title; it is a call to serve, especially as I focus on strengthening Congress within Hyderabad. The city has complex political dynamics, and I am committed to making an impact where it is needed most.



ENTERING POLITICS AND LEARNING RESILIENCE

My entry into politics was far from straightforward. I began my journey with the National Students Union of India, serving as a state general secretary, and later, I took on roles such as national coordinator and in-charge for the NSUI unit in Maharashtra. I was vice president of Andhra Pradesh Youth Congress. Then after Telangana was formed, I was elected as first Telangana Youth Congress president. My father was my guide through this journey, always reminding me, "I am there, at the end of the day you have my tag. But I can take you to some extent and I can introduce you to people, but it is your abilities that will ultimately carry you forward". Because he had started all by himself, he believed in my capacity to stand on my own, emphasising a philosophy of self-reliance over leaning on our family's name. His approach shaped how I viewed politics and my responsibility within it.



FROM NOWHERE TO SOMEWHERE

When I sit back and think about things, from nowhere to somewhere I came. No one believed that I would make it here. I was a naughty person as a youngster, fun-loving person following live and let live. No one knew I was focused and had a vision for self. Today if I look back, it has been a big journey. Through the challenges, I have lost many close associates, seen my tough times and happy times. I have close friends who have stood by me in both the highs and lows. I have travelled a long way from the mischievous, carefree kid I once was, evolving into a focused individual with big dreams. I am a teetotaler. People often mistake me for my brother. Even in the case related to raids at a birthday party, it was my younger brother who was there. Unfortunately, the Opposition always tries to twist and my name comes up. Each chapter—every defeat and every victory—has contributed to the journey that has brought me here. While I still have many dreams left to realise, I know I am on the path I am meant to walk.

QUICK BYTES

- Favorite colour:** White
- Favorite movie:** I'm waiting for my own movie to be released! (chuckles)
- Favorite actor:** Akshay Kumar and Salmaan Khan
- Song you listen to often:** Many Bollywood songs
- Favorite politician:** Other than my father, it is Rahul Gandhi
- Favorite food:** Biryani
- Hobbies:** Playing sports, working out at gym, listening to music, spending time with friends
- Favorite sportsperson:** Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, Dhoni. I'm a huge cricket fan and I play all sports
- Happy moment:** When my dad won elections for the first time
- Sad moment:** Losing elections as we had put all our energy and resources into the fight

DABBLED IN ACTING, MADE FILM

At the age of 25, I decided to try my hand at acting as a challenge. I come from a basti in the Old City; I did not have a background in film. But I thought why not give it a shot? I saw my dad trying out politics without background; so, I thought I should pursue acting and prove. It was a way to step out of my comfort zone and prove to myself that I could succeed in a completely different field. Although I completed a film *Yuva Andhra Student* on college elections and youngsters, it has not been released yet. People often ask me about it, wondering why it is still on hold. Honestly, the film industry operates very differently, with its own set of politics and challenges. But I see my attempt in acting as a success in its own way, a personal accomplishment. Stepping onto that stage was something I never expected, and I look back at it proudly. Politics is not same as acting. As a politician you have to be real as it is real people involved.

FAMILY LIFE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

On the personal front, I am married to Sunayana and ours was an arranged marriage. We have two wonderful children - Aarav and Anshul. Aarav is in 7th and other one is in 4th standard. I am not a very strict father. As a father, I strive to be present in their lives. Due to the discussions at home, they know a bit about wrestling. I am encouraging them in their pursuits. My wife's support in my career allows me to focus fully on the demands of public life, knowing my family is well cared for.



PIVOTAL MOMENT AND LIFELONG PURPOSE

My father winning the first election was a game-changer for my life. I was in my degree first year then and I only seen him struggle. It came after a long wait. All his peers were established in good positions, having started at about the same age. That moment when we fought and won the election, it gave birth to my political system. Reflecting on my life, I consider my father's first electoral victory a pivotal moment. Watching him struggle and persevere for years shaped my own aspirations, paving the way for my journey in politics. His victory was not just a win; it was a testament to his resilience and a moment that defined my purpose in this field. It reminds me that in public service, it is not about where you start but the relentless drive to keep moving forward.

RAHUL GANDHI'S STYLE OF FUNCTIONING

I have always believed in Rahul Gandhi's style of functioning; he always says 'just keep doing what you are doing; elections will come and go'. We used to have a lot of interaction with him because of national executives and all this. He says often: 'You always stick to the ideology and keep working on it; work for identity, work for the party, strengthen it with whatever capability you can in whatever way you can. You try to just stay there, stay there; because we have seen a very tough time in the last 10 years'.

