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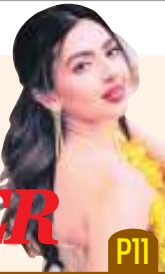


**EAM: Situation in West Asia matter of deep concern**

**DJ LYAN'S 'TAPORI-C' BLEND OF HIP-HOP WITH KERALA'S FOLK**



**Making waves across T'wood with Love YOUR FATHER**



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The Congress government is operating a '15% commission governance' and failing to fulfill its promises to the people of Telangana. Every contract and project under the Congress-led government involved commissions, leading to the exploitation and looting of Telangana's resources. Not a single promise of the six guarantees given by the Congress has been fulfilled."*

- **Bandi Sanjay, MoS**

### DON'T MISS...

**HYDRAA begins lake restoration**

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has begun works to restore Bathukamma Kunta lake located in Amberpet. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath has inspected the Bathukammakunta lake on Wednesday and interacted with the residents assuring them that nobody will touch their houses. Commissioner Ranganath said that with the Bathukamma Kunta...

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**'Attackers will not be spared'**

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has asserted that the government will not spare anyone involved in the attack on the Collector in Kodangal constituency, however powerful he or she is. The Minister was referring to the violence during the Vikarabad Collector's visit to Lagacharla village to gauge the opinion of the farmers who would lose their lands for the proposed pharma company. Speaking to the media...

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**Mahayuti a govt of thieves, says Kharge**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday termed the BJP-led Mahayuti as a government of thieves and called for its defeat at the hustings on November 20. Campaigning in Latur, Kharge accused the BJP and its ideological mentor, the RSS, of having no role in the freedom struggle and the country's unity. In a scathing attack, Kharge criticised the ruling party over the slogans—"Batenge to Katenge" and "Ek Hai to ..."

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**Gambhir is prickly character: Ponting**

Responding to Gautam Gambhir's jibe at him, former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting on Wednesday said the India head coach was a "prickly character" and insisted that his comments on Virat Kohli should not be construed as a dig on the star batter, who himself would be worried about his prolonged lean patch. Ponting, in an interview to ICC, had said that Kohli's poor form would be a concern and any other international player would have struggled to keep his spot in the Test side with just two ...

-SPORTS

## ATTACK ON OFFICIALS AT VIKARABAD

# 'Criminal conspiracy to destabilise govt'

**Ministers slam attack on officials**

Telangana Ministers Damodar Rajanarasimha and Sridhar Babu have strongly condemned the attack on officials on Monday in Lagacharla village of Dudyala Mandal in Kodangal constituency, Vikarabad district.

During a visit to check on the well-being of Venkat Reddy, Special Officer of the Kodangal Area Development Authority, upon his being discharged from the hospital, the Ministers expressed their disapproval of the incident and demanded that democratic principles be upheld.

Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha emphasized that violence had no place in a democratic society. He suggested that protests should remain peaceful and officials visiting communities to address

Continued on Page 2

**Allegations of political influence figure in remand report**

- A1 Patnam Narendra Reddy, upon 'confession', remanded in custody for 14 days
- 19 people among those who attacked don't even own land
- Armed with stones, sticks and chilli powder, their intention was to kill officials, says remand report

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The violent confrontation on Monday in Vikarabad district over proposed land acquisition for a pharma cluster in Vikarabad district, which resulted in vicious attacks on officials and damage to several government vehicles, has assumed political connotations with allegations of political influence behind the attack involving high-profile figures.

On a day of swift developments, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former



Telangana MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy was arrested from Film Nagar in Jubilee Hills on Wednesday for his involvement in the attack on Vikarabad district officials. He was remanded in custody for 14 days by the court.

As per the Remand Diary, "Patnam Narendra Reddy was apprehended on 13-11-2024 at 07:02 hours at his house at Film Nagar at Hyderabad and brought to camp at CI office at Parigi at 09:30 hours. On tactful interrogation, he confessed to have committed this offence with criminal conspiracy by abetting the accused persons in order to destabilize/deteriorate the Govt. and also to gain political mileage and defame the government of Telangana as per the directions of their party prominent leader i.e., KTR and others. Further, he also confessed that he frequently contacted the accused Suresh over his phone to assess execution of their acts."

The Vikarabad Police picked up Patnam Narendra Reddy, a former MLA from Kodangal, from his residence after it was found during investigation that he had been touch with B. Suresh Raj, the absconding main accused in the attack in which two officials were injured. There were 84 calls made between Suresh and Patnam since September, including three over Monday and Tuesday. Suresh Raj is a leader of the

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**'Attacks will not deter govt officials'**

The IAS Association of Telangana has expressed its serious concern over the violent incident that took place in Vikarabad district on Monday, while emphasizing that such acts would not deter government officials from fulfilling their duties.

In a joint statement, IAS Association president Shashank Goel and Secretary Jayesh Ranjan condemned the incidents, while assuring members "the government is taking stringent action to address the matter". The statement said, "IAS Association Telangana takes a very serious view of the incidents that have occurred in Vikarabad district. The Govt is taking strong action in the matter. Such acts cannot dilute the

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## No more bulldozer justice: SC

Lays down pan-India guidelines on demolitions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rule of law is an umbrella concept to protect citizens against the power of the State and it is necessary for democracy and good governance, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday.

Laying down pan-India guidelines on demolition of properties, the apex court said the rule of law ensures that actions of the government and its authorities are governed by established legal principles, rather than arbitrary discretion.

"Ensuring the preservation of the principle of rule of law and the protection of the civil rights and liberties of citizens is essential for protecting constitutional democracy," a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said in its 95-page verdict. It said the law must be just and fair and should protect the human rights and dignity of all members of the society.

"At the same time, the essential purpose of the rule of law is to prevent the abuse of power. The rule of law is an umbrella concept to protect citizens against the power of the State. It is integral to and necessary for democracy and good governance," the bench said.

The court said it is well settled



**'SC parked bulldozer in garage forever'**

With the Supreme Court applying brakes on bulldozer action, opposition leaders on Wednesday hailed the judgement and took a swipe at the BJP, saying the apex court has "parked the bulldozer in the garage forever".

Equating 'bulldozer justice' with a lawless state of affairs where might is right, the apex court laid down pan-India guidelines and said no property should be demolished without a prior

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The bench said this obligation underscores the State's responsibility to maintain law and order and protect citizens from unlawful actions that undermine the rule of law itself.

"It is not necessary to state that the failure to uphold these obligations can erode

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## It is '15% commission governance'

PNS ■ NAGPUR

At a press conference in Nagpur on Wednesday, Union Minister for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Maharashtra, characterizing it as a "15% commission regime" that had failed to fulfil its promises to the people of the state. Sanjay claimed that every contract and project under the Congress-led government involved commissions, which he said were leading to the exploitation and looting of

Telangana's resources.

"Not a single promise of the six guarantees given by the Congress has been fulfilled," he asserted, while accusing the Telangana government of spending crores of rupees on advertisements in Maharashtra to mislead voters rather than focusing on fulfilling its commitments in Telangana.

Sanjay pointed to the promises of farm loan waiver, support for unemployed youth, and welfare schemes for women, and maintained that none of these

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**Praja Vijayotsava fete from today**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari conducted a teleconference with senior officials to review preparations for the 'Praja Palana - Praja Vijayotsava' celebrations, set to commence with a grand event organised by the Education department at LB Stadium on Thursday. The event, commemorating the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, will feature around 14,000 students, with strict arrangements

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REVANTH IN MAHARASHTRA

**'I will be bonus CM for you'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has offered to work for Maharashtra as well. He said, "Vote for Aditya Thackeray; he will be Minister, and, as a bonus, I being Chief Minister, will work for you. Whenever you need me, I will be here".

A campaign round was held on Wednesday in the Worli constituency in the presence of Chief Minister of Telangana Revanth Reddy.

President of Mumbai Congress MP Nashdai Gaikwad was also present at the campaign fair, which started with the leaders seeking blessings of Shri Venkateswara.

Revanth said, "Ek Nath Shinde, Ajit Pawar Milind Deora wants to make Mumbai Adda of gaddar".

Revanth said, "The entire public is ready to teach traitors a lesson. Aadiya Thackeray has entered the fray with Balasaheb Thackeray's blessings and is set to defeat the traitors."



## Minister for smooth paddy procurement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar instructed transport department officials to ensure smooth coordination in the paddy procurement process across Telangana.

In a directive, he emphasised that

trucks and other vehicles required for transporting paddy should be made available without any disruptions. Minister Prabhakar advised Vikas Raj, Special Secretary of the

department, to coordinate with district transport officials and procurement centre managers to prevent vehicle shortages at procurement centres.

Additionally, the Minister held discussions with officials on measures being taken to prevent any shortage of vehicles at paddy purchase centres. He urged district collectors to work closely with local transport department officials, assuring that the government is taking all necessary steps to make the paddy procurement process seamless.



**New RoR Act to resolve disputes: Ponguleti**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a public interaction held at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, met with citizens to address their grievances and accept applications. The session witnessed a large turnout as people submitted petitions outlining various issues.

During his discussion with the

media, Minister Ponguleti announced that the true culprits behind the Lagacharla incident would soon be revealed. "People are aware of those causing destruction under the mask of pink. We will not tolerate attacks on officials dedicated to public service," he asserted.

The Minister highlighted that this face-to-face program, held every Wednesday at Gandhi Bhavan, aims to provide the

Continued on Page 2

## 55-90 per cent voter turnout in Assembly bypolls

PNS ■ JAIPUR/WAYANAD

A turnout ranging from 55 to 90 per cent was recorded in the bypolls to 31 assembly seats in 10 states while in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, the polling percentage was around 65 on Wednesday with voting in West Bengal marred by sporadic incidents of violence in which a TMC worker was killed.

Voting was conducted in seven seats in Rajasthan, six in West Bengal, five in Assam, four seats in Bihar, three in Karnataka, two seats in Madhya Pradesh, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala and Meghalaya besides Wayanad. Votes will be counted on November 23.

The final turnout figures were yet to come in from several constituencies.

Most of these seats fell vacant after the sitting MLAs contested the Lok

LS constituency Wayanad records 65% polling



**Most of these seats fell vacant after the sitting MLAs contested the Lok Sabha elections and won while in some constituencies, the bypolls are being held due to death of the representatives**

and Jerry A Sangma are contesting from the seat.

Former TMC ward president Ashok Shaw was killed in the shootout-cum-crude bomb attack in Bhatpara in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, where the voter turnout was last reported to be 69.29 per cent. The killing of Shaw took place adjacent to the Naihati assembly constituency where bypoll was held.

Three attackers allegedly shot him and lobbed crude bombs around 9 am in full public view while he was having tea at a roadside shop. Polling was also held in Taldangra, Haroa, Medinipur, Sitai and Madarihhat seats.

In Madarihhat, BJP candidate Rahul Lohar's car was reportedly vandalised.

Tension also erupted at a booth in Sitai, Cooch Behar, following allegations that two buttons on an EVM machine was covered with tape.

CALL TO BACK MVA FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

# Uttam urges Maha voters to reject BJP's divisive politics

PNS ■ LATUR

In a compelling appeal to voters in Maharashtra, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy urged them to reject the divisive politics of the BJP and support the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition in the ongoing Assembly elections. Speaking after a massive public meeting in Latur, which was also addressed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior leaders, Reddy emphasised the need for a government committed to unity, development and inclusive growth.

Highlighting the importance of the Maharashtra's heritage, Reddy described it as a 'turning point' for both Maharashtra and the country. "This election is not just about Maharashtra; it's about setting a course for the entire nation," he stated, underscoring Congress vision of



governance that respects Maharashtra's legacy of reform and unity.

Reddy paid homage to Maharashtra's heritage, invoking leaders like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, and Dr BR Ambedkar. He stressed that the Congress, as part of the MVA, is dedicated to upholding their values of unity, justice and equality.

"While BJP seeks to divide, Congress works to unite," he said, accusing the BJP of using religious and caste divisions for political gain.

Reddy criticised the BJP for allegedly undermining Maharashtra's economic interests, citing the transfer of 17 major industrial projects to Gujarat as an example. He pledged that the Congress would restore Maharashtra's

'dignity and rightful place' in the national economy if the MVA coalition gains power.

Referring to the MVA's previous success in Maharashtra, where the coalition won 31 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats, Reddy set an ambitious target of over 200 seats in the current Assembly elections. He positioned the election as a movement to reclaim Maharashtra's pride and progress.

## Srujan is proxy of Revanth and Kavitha: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Rani Rudrama, in a statement issued here on Wednesday, accused the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi of working together to exploit Telangana, particularly by influencing the state's business and industrial projects.

Rudrama highlighted alleged links between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother-in-law Sudini Srujan Reddy and a controversial Pharma company proposed in Lagicherla. According to her, Srujan Reddy, along with Adicore Infrastructure Private Limited, holds a significant stake in the project, with former directorship held by Revanth Reddy himself.

Rudrama asserted that Srujan Reddy was acting as a 'benami' (proxy) for both Revanth Reddy and Kavitha Kalvakuntla of the BRS, suggesting that both families were involved in multiple business ventures in Telangana.

# KTR slams oppression of farmers in Kodangal

Decries Revanth government's land acquisition policies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader KT Rama Rao (KTR) has lambasted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over recent developments in Kodangal, including the arrest of Patnam Narendar Reddy on Wednesday and alleged forcible acquisition of farmers' land for the controversial Pharma Village project.

KTR accused the state government of misleading Telangana's farmers and oppressing rural communities in a bid to push real estate and further industrial agendas.

KTR visited the family of former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narendar Reddy at their residence in Jubilee Hills



in Hyderabad and assuring them of full backing from the party amidst recent controversial developments.

Speaking to the media later, KTR highlighted the historical contributions of Hyderabad in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector, citing institutions like IDPL (Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited), which

produced prominent industry figures. "Hyderabad leads India in bulk drug production, with around 40% of the country's supply coming from here," KTR noted, adding that the Pharma City project envisioned by former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao aimed to further solidify Telangana's position as a pharmaceutical hub.

## Won't back off from 'Pharma Village', says TG CM's brother

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's brother A Tirupathi Reddy on Wednesday declared that the government won't back off from the 'Pharma Village' project in Revanth Reddy's constituency Kodangal. Tirupathi Reddy, who is Congress in-charge for the constituency, visited the office of Vikarabad district Collector and met Collector Prateek Jain who and other officials were attacked on Monday at Lagacharla village allegedly by people opposing the proposed project.

He later told mediapersons that there is no question of backing off from the proposed cluster. "Industries will definitely come up here. Not just pharma but other companies will also be established. The area will develop industrially," he said.

Condemning the attack on the Collector and other officials, Tirupathi Reddy said that the police would arrest all those involved in the attack no matter who they were.

The Chief Minister's brother alleged that innocent people were provoked when a public hearing was being conducted in a peaceful manner.

The State government plans to acquire 1274.25 acres of government and patta lands from the villages of Hakimpet, Polepalli, and Lakacharla in Dudyal Mandal for the proposed pharma village.

On Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader Harish Rao's allegation that the government was forcibly taking away the lands of people, Tirupathi Reddy said they did not vacate the villages overnight and attacked farmers as the previous BRS government had done for Mallannasagar project

# Harish criticises govt's negligence in paddy procurement

PNS ■ NALGONDA

During a visit to the paddy procurement centre in Marriguda, Munugode constituency of Nalgonda district, former minister Harish Rao strongly criticised the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government for its alleged negligence in supporting farmers. Rao pointed out that while paddy cultivation increased from four lakh acres last year to five-and-a-half lakh acres this year due to adequate water flow in the Krishna River, the government's efforts to procure the crop have been inadequate.

The government initially estimated the purchase of 7.5 metric tonnes of paddy in Nalgonda, but due to inefficiencies, it has managed to procure only a fraction of this amount. Rao alleged that farmers are forced to sell their pro-



duce to middlemen at a rate of Rs 1,800 per quintal due to delay in setting up procurement centres and providing gunnysacks.

Harish Rao accused the Chief Minister of spreading false claims during the Maharashtra election campaign, promising farmers a support price with a Rs 500 bonus. "Before the elections, Revanth Reddy promised to provide a Rs 500 bonus and Rs

15,000 under Rythu Bandhu to farmers. Will he stand by his promises now?" questioned Rao.

He further alleged that the government had only paid Rs 50 crore out of the Rs 200 crore owed to Nalgonda farmers. Rao also criticised the Congress government for failing to establish a system to procure fine rice, a situation he said has led to farmer protests, such as roadblocks in Miryalaguda.

## 'Criminal conspiracy ...

Continued from page 1

youth wing of BRS in Dudyala Mandal, according to officials. Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain, Additional Collector G. Lingya Naik, and Kodangal Area Development Authority (KADA) Chairman Venkat Reddy were attacked by a mob in Lagacharla village when they were conducting a public hearing involving farmers whose lands may have to be acquired for developing a proposed 'Pharma village', comprising a cluster of pharma companies.

In the aftermath of the attack, on Wednesday Patnam Narendar Reddy was produced before the Kodangal court, which remanded him in custody for 14 days. Following the court's order, he was transferred to Cherlapally Jail.

According to IG Sityanarayana of the Vikarabad District Multi Zone, Narendar Reddy was named as the prime accused (A1) in the case. In total, 47 people were initially detained in connection with the incident, 16 of whom were remanded.

On Wednesday, five more individuals were arrested and remanded. Four teams continue to search for additional suspects involved in the attack.

Authorities disclosed that some individuals, including one identified as Suresh, had prior cases registered against them for allegedly misleading officials. The police stated that 19 of those involved in the attack did not own any land affected by the acquisition. Furthermore, IG Sityanarayana reported that numerous farmers were questioned and later released.

## No more bulldozer ...

Continued from page 1

public confidence in the justice system, leading to an environment where the rule of law is compromised by lawlessness," it said. The court said the concept of the rule of law is not abstract but is reflected in the substantive content of various legal domains.

It added that the processes enshrined in constitutional law, criminal law and procedure are facets of the rule of law and, thus, serve to regulate the exercise of executive power. Referring to the doctrine of separation of powers, the top court said the executive cannot replace the judiciary in performing its core functions.

It said if the executive acts as a judge and inflicts the penalty of demolition on a citizen on the ground that he is an accused, it violates the

principle of "separation of powers". "We are of the view that in such matters, the public officials, who take the law in their hands, should be made accountable for such high-handed actions," the bench said. It also referred to the aspect of the rights of an accused under the Constitution. "While we consider the issue in this case, we will have to reiterate that even the incarcerated individuals, whether accused, undertrial or convicts, have certain rights, as any other citizen," it said.

"They have a right to dignity and cannot be subjected to any cruel or inhuman treatment. The punishment awarded to such persons has to be in accordance with law. Such punishment cannot be inhuman or cruel," the bench said.

## 'SC parked bulldozer ...

Continued from page 1

show cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond.

The executive cannot assume judicial powers to punish citizens by demolishing their properties without following due process, the top court said while terming such excesses "high-handed and arbitrary" and ruling that they need to be dealt with the "heavy hand of the law".

## Ministers slam ...

Continued from page 1

public concerns must be respected. "Our government values the opinions and suggestions of the public and takes steps to benefit the people. Any involvement in this attack will be met with strict legal action, but innocent people will not be punished," Rajanarasimha assured.

He recalled that protests in the past over land acquisitions for projects like Mallanna Sagar, Kondapochamma Sagar, and Ranganayaka Sagar were peaceful and achieved through legal avenues. Rajanarasimha pointed out that dur-

ing those protests, which lasted for years, people never resorted to violence but instead voiced their grievances to officials.

Minister Sridhar Babu echoed these sentiments and described the attack as unfortunate, and surmised a political angle behind the incident. He stated, "Officials come to villages to gather opinions and suggestions for public welfare. Violence will not achieve anything, and those responsible for this incident will face consequences." Sridhar Babu reiterated the importance of expressing concerns through legal and peaceful means.

Addressing a gathering in Kanpur ahead of the November 20 bypolls, Yadav claimed that the houses of the poor were being demolished in the name of bulldozer action.

## 'Attacks will ...

Continued from page 1

resolve of Govt officials in discharging their duties in any manner".

Several bureaucrats in Telangana, reacting to the incident faced by Vikarabad Collector, said that "such incident is unheard of in Telangana or Andhra Pradesh". Many are seeing it as "preplanned" and done by "vested interests" as people, when they get angry, usually shout & talk but do not resort to such means.

BP Acharya, former president of IAS officers of Telangana Association and retired Special Chief Secretary said, "This is not something that happens in Telangana or Andhra Pradesh. There looks like involvement of vested interests and pre-planned thing to scuttle the inquiry process. Collectors don't anticipate it in normal areas but may be in LWE areas. They prefer to freely meet people because if you go with convoy people get scared. They were determined to create ruckus and bent up to make a scene".

## Praja Vijayotsava ...

Continued from page 1

in place to ensure its success. During the meeting, Santhi Kumari directed officials to make necessary arrangements for a smooth and secure programme. Emphasising seamless organization, she instructed authorities to focus on parking and traffic management to avoid disruptions, especially given the influx of vehicles arriving from various districts. She also stressed the importance of ensuring basic amenities for students and prioritizing their safety.

Key attendees of the teleconference included Principal Secretary of Education Burra Venkatesham, Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand, Fire Services DG Nagi Reddy, GHMC Commissioner Ilambarithi, Special Commissioner of Information Harish, Hyderabad Collector Anudeep, and School Education Director Venkata Narsimha Reddy. Santhi Kumari urged these officials to take all necessary steps to make the event memorable and flawless.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Trayodashi: Nov 13 01:01 PM to Nov 14 09:43 AM  
Chaturdashi: Nov 14 09:43 AM to Nov 15 06:19 AM  
Nov 15 06:19 AM to Nov 16 02:58 AM  
Nakshatram: Purva Ashadha: Nov 06 11:00 AM to Nov 07 11:47 AM  
Uttara Ashadha: Nov 07 11:47 AM to Nov 08 12:03 PM  
Rahukalam: 1:24 PM to 2:48 PM  
Yamagandam: 6:24 AM to 7:48 AM  
Varjyam: 09:05 AM to 10:31 AM  
Gulika: 9:12 AM to 10:36 AM  
Amritakalam: 06:08 PM to 07:33 PM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:38 AM to 12:22 PM  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: Scattered Showers  
Temp: 31°C  
Humidity: 68%  
Sunrise: 6:21 AM  
Sunset: 5:40 PM  
Updated: November 13, 2024 5:00 PM

## New RoR Act to ...

Continued from page 1

public a direct platform to discuss their issues. "A majority of applications we received today were about Indiramma housing and Dharani-related land issues. Many people have faced undue hardships due to previous government policies that disregarded their land rights. Election-time promises of double-bedroom houses left people feeling betrayed," Ponguleti explained.

Addressing the state's plans for land reforms, Ponguleti disclosed that a new ROR (Record of Rights) Act would be introduced to resolve land disputes effectively. The details of this act will be shared in the Assembly, and feedback from opposition leaders will also be incorporated. "We have decided to abolish Dharani. Recently, we transferred Dharani responsibilities to NIC," he noted.

The Minister emphasised the government's commitment to farmers, assuring them that the administration would purchase every grain they produce. "We will also provide a bonus of Rs 500 for

small grains. Unlike previous administrations that jailed farmers, we are committed to supporting them fully," he added, addressing recent opposition activities in the name of farmers' welfare.

Citizens attending the session raised various concerns, with many emphasising housing and land issues. The minister assured that the Indiramma housing program would soon begin, reinforcing the government's dedication to providing homes to the needy.

In a public interaction held at Gandhi Bhavan on November 13, Minister Srinivas Reddy engaged directly with citizens, addressing nearly 300 applications during a face-to-face session with various ministers. The meeting saw a large number of requests related to land issues, Indiramma housing, employment, and pensions.

Minister Ponguleti personally attended to around 150 applications, making direct recommendations to concerned officials on the spot. He even reached out to ten district collectors by phone, urging them to prioritize and resolve pressing issues.

# It is '15% commission ...

Continued from page 1

had been realized in practice. Criticizing the Congress's ongoing campaign in Maharashtra, he alleged that the Telangana government was diverting funds to influence elections in neighboring states. "The Congress is using Telangana's money to place ads in Maharashtra, promising the impossible and fooling the people," he remarked.

Touching on the issue of reservations for minorities, Sanjay reminded the audience that the Supreme Court had already struck down the Congress's previous attempts at implementing reservations for Muslims in Telangana. He accused the Congress of continuing to push this agenda in

Maharashtra as a deceptive tactic.

In his appeal to the people of Maharashtra, Sanjay invoked the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, urging them to reject the Congress's 'divisive politics' that he claimed seeks to exploit caste and religious differences for political gain. He emphasized that Maharashtra had a history of standing against divisive forces and should continue that legacy.

Accompanied by Karnataka BJP leader Narayanaswamy, BJP Himachal Pradesh unit president Rajeev Bindal, Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar, and Telangana BJP vice-president Gangidi Manohar Reddy, Sanjay lambasted the

Congress for what he called "tokenistic welfare promises" that were never intended to be fulfilled.

Sanjay further alleged that the Congress government had ignored the welfare of Telangana's farmers and failed to provide adequate support or even basic MSP for crops. He accused the Congress of selectively favoring minority communities in contracts, pointing to a recent Karnataka proposal reserving 4% of government contracts for Muslim contractors -- a move he called 'discriminatory and dangerous'.

Concluding his remarks, Sanjay urged Maharashtra voters to reject the Congress's promises and support BJP to ensure "real and inclusive development".

## CITY EVENTS

### Telangana Food Festival

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

#### Venue

Aidu  
till November 14

### Travernia Fest

Travernia fest will give you the thrill of exploration, the joy of discovery and the beauty of cultural exchange.

#### Venue

HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad  
November 15, 11 am

### The Joyful Mix

Annual fruit mixing soiree.

#### Venue

Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel,  
November 15th, 4pm to 6pm

### Shaam-e-Rekhta Festival

A magical evening dedicated to rich heritage of Urdu poetry and culture hosted by Rekhta Foundation.

#### Venue

Paiga Palace, Hyderabad  
November 16, 6 pm onwards

### 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

## TGCSB arrests 48 cyber criminals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has arrested 48 individuals involved in cybercriminal activities across the State. This operation was conducted in coordination with local Police.

The suspects responsible for 508 cases within Telangana and 2,194 cases nation-wide, have caused an estimated financial loss of Rs 8.16 crore.

TGCSB identified the suspects through comprehensive analysis of cybercrime data, leading to their arrests under Sections of 66 D of the ITA Act, Sec 318(4), 319(2), and 338 BNS ACT. The criminal activities spanned a range of schemes, including fraudulent business investments, job scams, digital scams and courier fraud.

Among those arrested, 38 individuals are identified as mule account holders who allowed their accounts to be used for cybercriminal activities, while 10 are agents who facilitated these crimes by recruiting and supplying mule accounts. The agents enticed these account holders with promises of commission, enabling large-scale cybercrime across the country.

## L&T Metro Rail awarded for brand communication

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

L&T Metro Rail recognised for outstanding achievements in brand communication, marked by awards for both content marketing and internal engagement efforts.

L&TMRHL has been awarded the Brand Storyz Award for Best Content Marketing Campaign in the travel sector. This accolade highlights the company's innovative content strategy, designed to engage and connect with passengers through impactful messaging. The award was presented at an event in Delhi.



At the 18th Global Communications Conclave, hosted by the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI), L&TMRHL received further

recognition with awards for Best Internal Communications Campaign and Best Social Media Campaign. Competing among 73 participating companies, L&TMRHL's internal communication initiatives and social media presence stood out for their effectiveness in fostering a connected organisation and engaging with the public.

KVB Reddy, MD and CEO of L&TMRHL, said "These awards reflect our team's commitment and hard work. We will continue to aim for excellence in our endeavors to serve our passengers."

# City Pioneer



HYDERABAD THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 14, 2024

03

## LOCALS ASSURED THEIR HOUSES WON'T BE DEMOLISHED

### HYDRAA begins Bathukamma Kunta restoration in Amberpet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has begun works to restore Bathukamma Kunta lake located in Amberpet.

HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath has inspected the Bathukammakunta lake on Wednesday and interacted with the residents assuring them that nobody will touch their houses.

Commissioner Ranganath said that with the Bathukamma Kunta restoration, the flood threat will be avoided and there will be a pleasant weather. Bathukamma Kunta will be restored in the vacant 5.15 acre of land.

Locals have shared that listening to the name of HYDRAA and its demolition drive, they all were afraid that their houses will be demolished but with the

restoration works taking on the surrounding they have got relief.

"I am Thirupathi Amma and I am living for the last 50 years in the vicinity of Bathukamma Kunta. We were afraid that our houses will be demolished but HYDRAA has given us the confidence that they won't touch our houses. All these years we have protected the lake and we plead that no officer should attack us."

According to the Survey No. 563 of 1962-63 the total area of the Bathukamma Kunta lake is 14.06 acres and the survey authorities concluded that the total area including the buffer zone is 16.13 acres.

But the latest survey points out that the remaining land is 5.15 acres, which will be utilised for the restoration works.

HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath has given orders to restore the lake without inter-

rupting the residents living in the locality.

The locals have accepted the HYDRAA move and said that due to the dumping of garbage and construction waste in Bathukamma Kunta, it has become completely polluted.



## Illegal structure near Nagaram Road demolished

HYDRAA demolished an illegal structure built on a 40-foot-wide road in Nagaram. According to the statement by HYDRAA, the structure reportedly built by Nagaram Municipal Chairman Chandra Reddy, blocked a road connecting to Nagaram's main road. Residents had filed complaints with HYDRAA, prompting officials to investigate the encroachment. After confirming the illegal construction, Commissioner Ranganath issued immediate demolition orders, and the structure was dismantled. Residents from five nearby colonies expressed satisfaction as they regained direct access to the main road. Following the demolition, HYDRAA officials requested the Nagaram Municipal Commissioner to rebuild the road for public use, a

proposal the Commissioner promised to implement to ease local commute. Additionally, HYDRAA is yet to file a complaint against Chairman Chandra Reddy at the Kesara police station for the unauthorised construction. Commissioner Ranganath visited Errakunta Lake in Tarnaka on Wednesday following requests from the Nagarjuna Colony Welfare Association to restore the lake, which is free from any legal disputes. It is spread over 5.9 acres. Residents urged the Commissioner to restore and beautify the lake, which would help reduce foul smell and mosquito menace in the area. Responding to their appeal, the Commissioner instructed officials to take steps towards the lake's restoration.

## INDIA GAME DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

### Indian Institute of Creative Tech's regional hub to be set up in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Uplifting skill development in the video gaming sector, the Indian Institute of Creative Technology's regional hub will be established in Hyderabad, said Sanjay Jaju, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), at the 16th edition of the India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) 2024 at HICC Novotel on Thursday.

The conference, an initiative of the Game Developer Association of India (GDIAI), saw over 6,000 attendees on day one, featuring more than 100 global and local gaming developers and publishers who showcased immersive and interactive entertainment for visitors.

Addressing the media, Sanjay Jaju highlighted plans for the Indian Institute of Creative Technology in Mumbai. The project will follow a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with 48% government funding, involving significant participation from the Federation of Indian Chambers



Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Sanjay Jaju addressing the media at the Game Developers Conference - IGDC 2024 at HICC Novotel on Thursday

of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The Secretary confirmed that the Indian Institute of Creative Technology's temporary campus is already operational, with plans for a Regional Hub in Hyderabad to be announced soon by IT Minister D Sridhar Babu. Sanjay stated that the I&B

Ministry will collaborate with the Game Developer Association of India (GDIAI) to develop high-quality talent, enabling India to lead the global gaming sector.

He also mentioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal to cultivate world-class animators and gamers and announced a new international event, WAVES - the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit, to be held in Delhi in February 2025. Sanjay also mentioned that on November 20, Prasar Bharati will launch an OTT platform with live channels and archived content. Additionally, he revealed that private FM radio stations, which are for auction, will expand to 230 smaller towns, including Telangana, to support hyper-local entertainment.

In conclusion, Sanjay announced that the International Film Festival of India in Goa will be held on a grand scale, with significant participation from the Telugu film industry. The event will celebrate filmmakers and celebrities from the industry.



## Digital innovations by GHIAL receives global recognition

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL) earned global recognition for its digital innovations, winning top honours at the prestigious 'Airport Excellence Awards' during the 'Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024' in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The awards were announced on Tuesday at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Centre (RICEC).

GHIAL's Digital Twin won in the Innovation & Technology and Facility Management categories, while the Smart Trolley secured the runner-up position in the Airport Revenue Management category. These awards celebrate GHIAL's innovations in enhancing passenger experience and improving airport operations.

In the second edition of the Airport Excellence Awards, GHIAL was recognised for its pioneering efforts in three categories: Innovation & Technology, Facility Management and Airport Revenue Management.

Meanwhile, ED - South & Chief Innovation Officer of GMR Airports, SGK Kishore said, "These prestigious awards highlight GHIAL's leadership in digital innovation and its commitment to redefining aviation standards."

He added that the Digital Twin, India's first virtual airport replica, integrates data from sensors and IoT devices for a comprehensive view of airport operations. The Smart Shopping Trolley enhances the passenger experience with interactive maps, real-time flight updates, and personalised promotions.

## Startup showcases country's first mythology multiplayer game

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based gaming startup Brahman Studios showcased India's first Indian mythology multiplayer game, AUM, at the IGDC Gaming Conference 2024 at HICC Novotel on Thursday.

When asked, Co-Founder Dheeraj Chintaluri shared that the startup, founded in 2020, aims to increase awareness of Indian mythology, focusing on characters like Om, Brahma and Vishnu. He noted that they developed AUM as an adventure battle arena game, featuring unique multiplayer modes.

Players have choices such as 'Mercy,' 'Take Away the Wealth,' or 'Take Away the Life Force' at the game's conclusion to ascend or descend through different lokas: Bhubhoka, Buvhaloka and Pathalaloka.

Dheeraj also explained that the game incorporates fighting styles based on Danurveda's five different Muktha fighting styles.

He highlighted that AUM also draws inspiration from the Bhagavad Gita, featuring paths like Karma Marga, Jnana Marga and Bhakti Marga. The game includes various astras for use during gameplay.

Meanwhile, Headwriter Prabhav urged the Game Developer Association of India (GDIAI) to support such creative startups and promote multiplayer gaming in India.

## Cyberabad Police holds meet with security agencies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police held a coordination meeting with private security agencies on Wednesday at the Cyberabad CP office conference hall. The meeting, led by SB DCP Sai Sri, was attended by representatives from 145 private security agencies. The goal was to strengthen security protocols and improve coordination between the police and private security agencies to enhance public safety in Cyberabad.

DCP Sai Sri emphasised the important role private security agencies play in supporting police efforts to prevent crime and protect the community. She stressed the need for strict adherence



to the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (PSARA), 2005, to maintain high standards of professionalism. Key points discussed included: Mandatory Licensing: All security agencies must have a valid PSARA licence. Uniform

Regulations: Security personnel must not wear uniforms resembling police or military.

Record Maintenance: Agencies must keep records and ensure guards carry official ID cards. Training Standards: Personnel must complete 160 hours of training.

Currently, 355 licenced private security agencies operate in Cyberabad, and all personnel are unarmed. The meeting also highlighted the need for agencies to report criminal incidents quickly. Cyberabad CSW ADCP Srinivas Rao, Hyderabad CSW ADCP Giriraju and representatives from various security agencies participated.



## TG Fisheries, Karnataka Fisheries chiefs meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Fisheries Chairman Metta Sai Kumar on Wednesday called on Malla Narayana Rao, Chairman of Karnataka Fisheries Corporation.

During the meeting, they discussed the details of the fish stalls inspection organised under the Fisheries depart-

ment, as well as the subsidies provided by the Fisheries department for construction. They also discussed various schemes to benefit the fishermen community, and instructions were given to the officials to make arrangements for the establishment of new fish stalls in Hyderabad to ensure the welfare of fishermen.

## Family neglected at NIMS turns to pvt hospital with success

DEEPIKA PASHAM  
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com  
■ HYDERABAD

A family from Hyderabad, struggling to make both ends meet, has gone through a challenging journey to save their newborn diagnosed with congenital bilateral kidney swelling. The father, an auto driver, and his homemaker wife, were informed of their baby's condition during the

mother's seventh month of pregnancy. Doctors had warned them that if left untreated, the condition could lead to kidney removal.

"We were informed during the seventh month that our child had a large kidney, and doctors told us it would stabilise after birth," the mother, Uma, shared with The Pioneer.

"But when our child started passing white-colored urine, we grew concerned and

went for a check-up. Initially, the couple visited a government hospital for the delivery, but a follow-up visit at a private hospital led to extensive tests and a recommendation for surgery. The estimated cost was over Rs 5 to 6 lakh — an amount far beyond the family's means.

Seeking affordable care, they turned to the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), but faced challenges with long

waiting times, extensive paperwork, and limited doctor availability.

"The slips for appointments took 3 to 4 hours, and the main doctor would come only on Saturdays and Mondays," Uma added. With their child's condition deteriorating, they sought an alternative and were

directed to Preeti Urology & Kidney Hospital, where they met Dr V Chandra Mohan.

His team performed a complex, dual kidney surgery using advanced robotic technology, the SSI Mantra Robo System. "We used just four small keyholes to access both kidneys," Dr Mohan explained.

The surgery was a success. The baby was discharged within 24 hours.

The child will undergo follow-up scans in the coming months to confirm kidney function.

### Three more digital services begin at Bhadrachalam temple

PNS ■ BHADRACHALAM

The SeetaramachandraSwamy temple here has introduced three more digital services for the benefit of the devotees from Wednesday onwards.

In fact, all services pertaining to various departments of the historic temple are being computerised to check corruption and for the convenience of the devotees.

Digital booking of accommodation and arjitha sevaa of the temple are already in vogue.

To ensure greater transparency in services, digitalisation is underway. As part of it, 16 air-conditioned cottages, non-air-conditioned rooms in SriramaNilayam and rooms in Soumitri Sri Rama Sadanam can be booked online.

Online booking facility of 24 pujas and services to the deities has evoked good response from devotees.

Earlier, the arjithseva of abhishekam of the main deities of the temple conducted on Sundays

were accessed by only VIPs in the past. Now even the ordinary devotees can access the services. A large number of devotees have been booking the SuprabhataSeva and PavvalimpuSeva conducted in the wee hours and late at night online.

Earlier printed tickets were used to be issued to the devotees wishing to avail the Arjithsevas.

There were instances of the temple staff recycling the tickets, paving the way for large-scale corruption. However, the e-ticket system introduced by the temple authorities has check-mated the corruption.

The issue of e-tickets is helping the temple authorities to find out the daily revenue earned through sale of tickets.

The temple has introduced three more services through online on Wednesday.

They are issue of Anna Prasaad tickets, protocol darshan services and barcoding of the textiles given to the deities by the devotees.

### MLC condemns arrest of BRS leaders

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

MLC Naveen Reddy has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government, criticising its use of call data to make arrests in connection with attack on the Collector.

Addressing the media in Vikarabad, Naveen Reddy condemned the arrest of former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy, BRS activists and also local farmers who were protesting against land acquisition for a proposed pharma project.

He questioned the role of opposition leaders, asserting that they should be standing up for the people's interests rather than allowing the government to intimidate them. He argued that when farmers are losing their lands under the guise of development, it is the duty of public representatives to voice their concerns and fight for justice. The MLC expressed his worries about the plight of the farmers, who have been vocal in their opposition to the proposed pharma industry.

## 'Will not spare anyone involved in attack on Collector'

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has asserted that the government will not spare anyone involved in the attack on the Collector in Kodangal constituency, however powerful he or she is.

The Minister was referring to the violence during the Vikarabad Collector's visit to Lagacharla village to gauge the opinion of the farmers who would lose their lands for the proposed pharma company.

Speaking to the media, Venkat Reddy described the incident as a "premeditated act." The Minister accused Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders of orchestrating the violence. It was meant to divert the attention of people from the case in which BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KT) was involved, he said. He emphasised that KTR's arrest was inevitable, alleging that he had diverted municipal funds to foreign countries without approval from the Reserve Bank of India. He revealed that ACB (Anti-Corruption Bureau) officials had sought permission from the Governor for the arrest, and if granted, KTR's arrest would happen.

On the issue of the Collector's attack, the Minister demanded a public apology from former chief minister K Chandrababhu Naidu for the actions of his party members.

The Minister accused BRS leaders of instigating the violence and made it clear that those responsible for the attack would not be spared. "We will not forgive those who carried out this attack, no matter who they are," Venkat Reddy stated. He also highlighted that the BRS leaders who were involved in the attack were in constant communication with KTR over the phone, which, according to him, further exposed the party's involvement. "We



Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Wednesday

will ensure that those who have engaged in such activities face severe consequences. We will not tolerate such acts of violence." The Minister also expressed concern that the BRS leaders, who after losing power, were resorting to such tactics.

## CM responsible for law and order failure: Aruna

Tension arose during BJP MP's visit to Lagacharla village as police stopped her

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A tense situation arose in Kodangal as police stopped the vehicle of Palamuru Lok Sabha member DK Aruna during her visit to Lagacharla village. The incident happened near Manneguda, where officers stopped Aruna, citing potential law and order concerns in the area. The move sparked a heated response from Aruna, who questioned the police actions and expressed outrage over being prevented from visiting her own constituency.



BJP Lok Sabha member DK Aruna having heated argument with police personnel at Manneguda village in Rangareddy district on Wednesday

asserted her right to move freely within her Lok Sabha constituency and accused the Chief Minister of failing to maintain order, which, according to her, had resulted in unnecessary tension. The MP also called for the arrest of Revanth Reddy, arguing that his actions in the region had escalated the law and order problems. She remarked, "If Revanth Reddy can go unchecked despite causing disturbances, why am I being stopped as an MP?"

Aruna further criticised the state's approach towards development projects, particularly the establishment of pharma companies in the region. She questioned why CM Revanth Reddy had not engaged with

the local community to address their concerns. She accused the government of attempting to grab lands from gullible farmers in the name of development without properly consulting or convincing them.

During her meeting with the District Collector, Aruna highlighted the farmers' fears of losing their lands and the growing dissatisfaction among the locals. She urged the government to allay misconceptions in the minds of people about the development plans. The MP argued that the Chief Minister must provide assurances to the farmers regarding their rights and compensation if their lands are to be acquired for industrial purposes.

### Farmers block roads demanding swift procurement of paddy

PNS ■ SURYAPET

On Wednesday, farmers in Huzurnagar constituency of Suryapet district staged a massive protest, blocking roads with tractors demanding government intervention to ensure swift paddy procurement at the minimum support price (MSP). The protest took place under the leadership of local farmers, expressing their frustration over the delay in procurement and the exploitation by rice millers.

The farmers raised serious concerns regarding the failure of millers to purchase paddy at MSP. With the growing cost of cultivation and exploitation by millers, the farmers have been facing severe financial strain. The protesters accused millers of manipulating prices and demanded immediate action by the government to ensure that paddy is procured at fair prices.

The farmers highlighted that they were being forced to

sell their paddy at lower rates, leading to significant losses. They urged the government to step in and regulate the millers, who they claimed were taking advantage of the situation and creating additional hardships for the farming community.

The protesters made it clear that they would not tolerate further delays in procurement and demanded that the government ensure the purchase of paddy at MSP to prevent further exploitation. They also urged authorities to take strict action against millers who were found violating the procurement norms.

The protest in Huzurnagar reflected growing discontent among the farmers, a farmer said.

The protest highlights the increasing frustrations of farmers across the State with the lack of proper support from both government authorities and private sector players.



Farmers parking their tractors across the highway at Huzurnagar on Wednesday demanding MSP for paddy

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
**FORM-VI**  
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule -19 And Section-11 (1) of the Act-36(2013))

**Collector/ Additional Collector/ RDO Huzurnagar**  
**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION**

District Collector Suryapet File No: G/999/2024 Date: 07-11-2024  
RDO Huzurnagar File No: F/998/2023; Date: 28-10-2024  
Gazette No: 36/2024; Date: 07-11-2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector Suryapet that a total land of Ac:12.26 Guntas in survey number 469, 470, 472 & 478 situated at Vallaboor village Chinthalapalem Mandal, was requisitioned by Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No 4 Kodav via L/No:EE/ ISDAKODDBIAEE (TY/T/25/1M, Dt 20.09.2024) to acquire for Formation of U/L Irrigation Scheme from Krishna River Vallaboor Village Chinthalapalem Mandal to Mukhyatya Branch Canal.

The said land acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter II and chapter III of the LA Act 2013 (i.e., social impact / assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10 (A) of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013, Telangana Amendment Act-2016 (Act No.21 of 2017)

Therefore it is notified that the above said land situated at Vallaboor village and Chinthalapalem Mandal of Suryapet District a piece of land measuring Ac: 12.26 Guntas of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition.

**SCHEDULE**

Village: Vallaboor Mandal: Chinthalapalem District: SURYAPET

Sl. No.	S. No.	Type of land	Acquisition	Name and Address of Person interested	Name of the Enjoyer	Boundaries				Area in Sq. Yds.	Remarks	
						North	South	East	West			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	469C	Patta	0.15	Gonda Hanamantulu S/o Venkatesh	Gonda Hanamantulu S/o Venkatesh	470.469	469	469	469	-	-	30
2	469A	Patta	0.15	Gonda Krishna Reddy S/o Rathi Reddy	Gonda Krishna Reddy S/o Rathi Reddy	470.469	469	469	469	-	-	31
3	470	Patta	0.35	-	-	472.469	470	470	470	-	-	32
4	470	Patta	0.02	Sr. Sivani S/o Sathu	Sr. Meenu S/o Sathu	472.469	470	470	470	-	-	33
5	470A	Patta	0.10	Sr. Sivani S/o Sathu	Sr. Madhan S/o Sathu	472.469	470	470	470	-	-	34
6	470	Patta	0.10	Sr. Chenna Sathu S/o Natabab	Kala Srinu S/o Purnasiah	472.469	470	470	470	-	-	35
7	472	Patta	0.21	Kolla Srinu S/o Purnasiah	Kolla Srinu S/o Purnasiah	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	36
8	472	Patta	0.20	Yajashah Panthamma W/o Saikumar	Yajashah Saikumar S/o Saikumar	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	37
9	472A	Patta	0.01	Kanna Sarathamma S/o Hanumanth	Kanna Sarathamma S/o Hanumanth	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	38
10	472	Patta	0.01	Gonda Shiva Reddy S/o Linga Reddy	Gonda Shiva Reddy S/o Linga Reddy	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	39
11	472B	Patta	1.00	Sobhan Sunder Rao S/o Parash	Sobhan Sunder Rao S/o Parash	472.472	472	472	472	tem	tem	40
12	472	Patta	0.38	Kalyan Kumar S/o Lachari	Dasa Narasimha Rao S/o Ananthamma	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	41
13	472	Patta	0.04	Kannasah Prakash S/o Sathiah	Kannasah Prakash S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	tem	tem	42
14	472	Patta	0.04	Bandham Venkateshwaru S/o Shanmush	Bandham Venkateshwaru S/o Shanmush	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	43
15	472	Patta	0.11	Kannasah Kishorewaru S/o Hanumanth	Kannasah Kishorewaru S/o Hanumanth	472.472	472	472	472	tem	tem	44
16	472	Patta	0.04	Kannasah Haseen S/o Sathiah	Haseen Prakash S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	Pog	Pog	45
17	472	Patta	0.02	Kannasah Dodi Sathiah S/o Sathiah	Dodi Sathiah S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	Hous	Hous	46
18	472	Patta	0.01	Kannasah Gopi S/o Sathiah (late)	Kannasah Achamma W/o Sathiah (late)	472.472	472	472	472	Pog	Pog	47
19	472	Patta	0.01	Kannasah Narsamma W/o Sathiah	Kannasah Kathappa Jau S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	Hous	Hous	48
20	472	Patta	0.01	Kannasah Narsamma W/o Sathiah	Munagapoti Sivani W/o Sathiah (Late)	472.472	472	472	472	Hous	Hous	49
21	472	Patta	0.01	Kannasah Narsamma W/o Sathiah	Munaga Nagalath S/o Narsamma	472.472	472	472	472	Hous	Hous	50
22	472	Patta	0.03	Kannasah Prakash S/o Sathiah	Prakash S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	51
23	472	Patta	0.10	Gonda Peri Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	Gonda Peri Reddy S/o Nagi Reddy	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	52
24	472	Patta	0.30	Bageswarappa Sambiah S/o Subbesh	Unknown	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	53
25	472	Patta	0.05	Kannasah Laku S/o Sathiah	Kannasah Laku S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	54
26	472	Patta	0.06	Kannasah Gopi S/o Sathiah	Kannasah Gopi S/o Sathiah	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	55
27	472	Patta	0.20	Thakshathi Narsamma Rao S/o Ananth	Thakshathi Narsamma Rao S/o Ananth	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	56
28	472	Patta	0.21	Road	Road	472.472	472	472	472	-	-	57
Total											12.26	

This notification is made under the provisions of Sec-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, (Act No.36(2013)), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the offices of the District Collector Suryapet and the Revenue Divisional Officer, Huzurnagar any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector - cum - appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Revenue Divisional Officer Huzurnagar and his staff and workmen to enter upon and survey land, take level of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil and do all the other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land (i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objection to the acquisition if any, may be filed by person interested within 60 days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before the undersigned and District Collector Suryapet.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer  
Divisional Officer Huzurnagar

Sd/- Addl. Collector, Dist. Collector, Suryapet

Sd/- Divsional Officer Huzurnagar

DIPR No.358/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25

## Sec'bad-Delhi, Delhi-Chennai train services cancelled

Restoration of the affected track between Peddapalli and Raghavapur underway

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

A goods train derailed led to a massive crash on Wednesday. The train, carrying iron and steel materials from Bellary in Karnataka to Ghaziabad, derailed between Peddapalli and Raghavapur railway stations. Eleven overturned. As a result, three railway tracks, including the upper, lower, and third lines, were completely damaged. The goods train wagons were destroyed and scattered all over the area.

This accident caused a complete disruption of train services between New Delhi and Chennai and between Secunderabad and New Delhi. In total, 50 trains were cancelled, including several superfast express trains. Around 55 super-fast express and passenger trains were rerouted from Secunderabad via Nizamabad, and some others through Kazipet, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad towards Nagpur and Delhi. Additionally, eight trains were partially cancelled.

The goods train derailment incident has caused a complete halt to train services at the affected locations. Since Wednesday morning, train operations have been suspended, leading to severe difficulties for a large number of train



Derailed wagons of the goods train being removed between Peddapalli and Raghavapur on Wednesday

passengers across areas including Secunderabad Division, Kazipet Junction, Vijayawada Division, Chennai area, Nagpur, and New Delhi, who are struggling to board trains.

In response to the goods train accident, the Railway Department became alert and launched restoration work on

a war footing. Senior railway officials rushed to the site of the incident. Hundreds of railway personnel, along with heavy machinery, are working to rebuild the damaged tracks. Efforts are underway to clear the wreckage and speed up restoration work. The General Manager of South Central Railway,

Arun Kumar, is personally overseeing the restoration efforts.

Reports suggest that the accident may have been caused due to overloading or excessive speed. This incident appeared to have resulted in a huge financial loss for Indian Railways. Similar accidents involving goods trains happened in this region in the past.

The Central Railway is conducting a thorough investigation into the possible causes behind the goods train derailment. Sources said that the officials are investigating multiple factors, such as whether the incident occurred due to overloading, overspeeding, or any technical fault.

The cancelled trains include major services such as the Nagpur-Secunderabad Express, along with trains scheduled to depart from Hyderabad and Secunderabad towards destinations like Sirpur Kagaznagar, Karimnagar, Bhadrachalam, Kacheguda to Nagersol, Secunderabad-Rameswaram, Secunderabad-Tirupati, Raichur, Nanded, and others.

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar has sought information on the incident from South Central Railway officials.

ACROSS THE STATES



Gadkari makes pitch for seaplane facility in Maha

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday proposed that transportation by seaplanes be encouraged in eastern Maharashtra's Chandrapur district to improve connectivity to the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). The BJP leader was speaking at a rally in Ballarpur assembly constituency in the district in support of state forest minister Sudhir Mungantiwar ahead of the November 20 state elections. In his speech, Gadkari highlighted the development projects initiated by Mungantiwar in the district. TATR is a big tourist attraction but no airport can be constructed nearby due to environmental concerns, he said. To increase connectivity, Mungantiwar should make efforts to set up a "waterport" in Irai dam in Chandrapur and facilitate transportation through 22-seater seaplanes (which can take off and land on water), Gadkari added.



Five of family get lifer for killing relative

A court here has sentenced five members of a family to life imprisonment for killing their relative in 2016 over a land dispute. Special Judge Vinay Kumar Singh found Jitendra Yadav (32), Mohit Yadav (30), Ajay Yadav (20), Ramesh Yadav (26), and Sharda Devi (56) guilty of beating to death Ram Ji Yadav on July 24, 2016. District Prosecuting Officer Brijendra Nath Tripathi said. All five were convicted under various sections of the IPC, including murder (302), unlawful assembly (149), and causing disappearance of evidence (201), he said. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 11,000 on each convict, with an additional six months in jail if they fail to pay, he said. During the trial, 11 witnesses were examined to support the prosecution's case. District Prosecuting Officer Tripathi said he argued for a strong sentence to deter similar offences.



Malegaon blast: Pragma faces new warrant

A special court here on Wednesday issued a fresh bailable warrant against former BJP MP Pragma Thakur, a prime accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, as she failed to appear before it citing health issues. This was the second warrant issued this month against Thakur by the special court for National Investigation Agency (NIA) cases. On November 5, the court had issued a warrant against her for failing to attend the proceedings, and directed her to appear on November 13. On Wednesday, Thakur's lawyer J P Mishra told the court that she could not appear as she was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bhopal. He also submitted related medical records. The judge then issued a fresh bailable warrant of Rs 10,000 and directed her to remain present in the court on December 2. The trial is at the final end, and the court has repeatedly asked all the accused to remain present for daily hearings.

EAM: Situation in West Asia matter of deep concern

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India supports an early ceasefire in Gaza and it has consistently stood for resolution of the Palestinian issue through a two-state solution, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

In his opening remarks at a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Jaishankar said the situation in West Asia is a matter of "deep concern", particularly the conflict in Gaza.

The external affairs minister described Saudi Arabia as an important force for stability in the region.

Jaishankar and Al Saud co-chaired the second meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC) held under the framework of the Strategic Partnership Council (SPC).

In his remarks, Jaishankar said Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and India's Viksit Bharat 2047 hold complementarities for the two sides' industries to build new partnerships.

"Trade and investment are



"Trade and investment are important pillars of our partnership, and we are strengthening our collaboration in new areas including technology, energy, renewable energy including green hydrogen, connectivity, health and education," he said.

important pillars of our partnership, and we are strengthening our collaboration in new areas including technology, energy, renewable energy including green hydrogen, connectivity, health and education," he said.

The situation in Gaza, Jaishankar said any response must take into account the international humanitarian law.

"The situation in West Asia is a matter of deep concern, particularly the conflict in Gaza. India's position in this regard has been principled

MAHARASHTRA POLLS

Mahayuti a government of thieves, says Kharge

PNS ■ LATUR (MAHARASHTRA)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday termed the BJP-led Mahayuti as a government of thieves and called for its defeat at the hustings on November 20.

Campaigning in Latur, Kharge accused the BJP and its ideological mentor, the RSS, of having no role in the freedom struggle and the country's unity.

In a scathing attack, Kharge criticised the ruling party over the slogans—"Batenge to Katenge" and "Ek Hai to Safe Hai", describing them as divisive.

He targeted PM Narendra Modi who had questioned the waving of the book of Constitution by Congress leaders. "Congress leaders laid down their lives to keep the country and all communities united. On the contrary, the BJP and RSS had no contribution to the freedom movement and unity of the country," Kharge said, slamming 'Batenge to Katenge' and 'Ek Hai to Safe Hai' slogans being raised by UP CM Yogi Adityanath and PM Modi, respectively.

Mahayuti is a government of thieves. The assembly elections are an opportunity to teach traitors a lesson, Kharge said.

'Will ban flight of projects from Maha to Gujarat if elected' UBT chief Uddhav slams Shah

PNS ■ KANKAVLI (MAHARASHTRA)

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the flight of industrial projects from Maharashtra to Gujarat and asked him to clarify his vision of development.

Thackeray reiterated the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s opposition to a refinery project at Barsu in the Konkan region over the potential risk it poses to ecology.

"Amit Shah has accused me of stalling development projects during my tenure as the chief minister in the MVA government. What is Shah's definition

of development? I stayed flight of projects from Maharashtra to Gujarat. In future I will ban the movement of projects (if voted to power)," Thackeray said. He addressed a rally for the November 20 assembly elections at Kankavli in the coastal Sindhudurg district, the home ground of his bete noire and BJP MP Narayan Rane. Thackeray alleged that the BJP didn't even spare a submarine project which was supposed to be set up in Maharashtra.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) chief framed the forthcoming polls as a battle between "Maharashtra premi and Maharashtra drohi" (between those who love the state and the traitors).

and consistent," he said. "While we condemn acts of terrorism and hostage taking, we are deeply pained by the continuing death of innocent civilians. Any response must take into account the international humanitarian law. We support an early ceasefire," Jaishankar said.

"India has consistently stood for resolution of the Palestinian issue through a two-State solution. We have also contributed to the building of Palestinian institutions and capacities," he added.

Delving into India-Saudis ties, the external affairs minister said both sides maintained a good tempo of high level engagements and coordination across multilateral fora.

"Our defence partnership has witnessed several 'firsts' over the past few years including the first ever land forces joint exercise 2024; and two editions of our joint naval exercises," he said.

"We had regular exchanges on training and capacity building. And our cooperation has now expanded in the field of defence industry and exports as well," he said.

Rahul, Priyanka lack optimism to see the brighter side: Nadda



PNS ■ MUMBAI

BJP president J P Nadda on Wednesday claimed that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra do not have the positive attitude of seeing the brighter side and wondered if he should teach them economics.

Speaking to media professionals ahead of the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls, he also took a jibe at Rahul's "mohabbat ki dukan" (shop of love) pitch, saying it sells tools of division.

India's growth rate is 6.8 per cent, and the country is the world's third-largest automobile market, Nadda claimed, and attacked the Congress for harping over unemployment and inflation.

"People in rural areas also purchase vehicles. Will they do so if they don't have money? What to say to the brother-sister duo. Should I teach them economics," he wondered without naming the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress general secretary.

"They don't have the habit of seeing the brighter side," Nadda claimed.

The BJP chief called the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi pro-poor and pro-farmer and said 53 crore bank accounts have been opened in the country since

2014, when his party rode to power and continued its winning streak for two subsequent terms.

Assistance under schemes is being transferred to people's accounts through DBT (direct benefit transfers), he said, asserting that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have called India's economy stable.

In Modi's third term, India will be the world's third-largest economy, said Nadda, and claimed that "India is manufacturing effective and cheapest medicines".

The Maha Vikas Aghadi will form a "brake government" if it returns to power, the senior BJP leader said, suggesting that the grouping of

Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) will slow down development in the state.

Nadda claimed that the Congress has submitted to "urban Naxals" and accused Rahul Gandhi of pursuing the agenda of anti-nationals. "They must be taught a lesson," he said.

The BJP president also targeted Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray alleging that he has cosied up to the Congress despite his father and Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's bitter opposition to the grand old party.

BJP to launch 'Parivartan Yatra' in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls due in February next year, the BJP has planned to launch the "Parivartan Yatra" across the national capital starting next month, party leaders announced on Wednesday.

Besides the senior leaders of Delhi unit, including MPs, MLAs and state office bearers, the national leaders of the party will also attend the "Parivartan Yatras" in all the 70 assembly constituencies, said a party functionary.

The Yatras aimed at sending across the message to replace the Aam Admi Party (AAP) ruling in Delhi since 2015 was earlier planned to be taken out in mid November.

Compassionate appointment not vested right: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Compassionate appointment is not a vested right for getting a government job as it is not a condition of service of an employee who dies in harness, the Supreme Court held on Wednesday while declining the plea of a man whose police constable father died on duty in 1997, when the petitioner was seven years of age.

A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih said no direction can be issued asking the State to perpetuate any illegality in favour of a person or a group of individuals contrary to the policy concerned.

Writing the judgment for the bench, Justice Masih said compassionate appointments are intended to address urgent financial distress at the time of a family member's death and do not constitute

a vested right that can be claimed after the lapse of a long period of time.

"As regards the compassionate appointment being sought to be claimed as a vested right for appointment, suffice it to say that the said right is not a condition of service of an employee who dies in harness, which must be given to the dependent without any kind of scrutiny or undertaking a process of selection.

"It is an appointment which is given on proper and strict scrutiny of the various parameters as laid down with an intention to help a family out of a sudden pecuniary financial destitution to help it get out of the emerging urgent situation where the sole bread earner has expired, leaving it helpless and maybe, penniless," the judgment said.

It said compassionate appointment is, therefore, provided to bail out a family of a deceased employee fac-



ing extreme financial difficulty.

"This shall in any case be subject to the claimant fulfilling the requirements as laid down in the policy, instructions or rules for such a compassionate appointment," it said.

The very idea of equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution is a concept clothed in positivity based on law and it can be invoked to enforce a claim having the sanctity of law, it said.

Petitioner Tinku's father, constable Jai Prakash, died alongside an officer while on duty in 1997.

At the time, Tinku was only seven years old, and his mother, who was illiterate, could not apply for an appointment on compassionate grounds for herself.

Instead, she requested that her son's name be entered in the "Minors Register", with the understanding that he might be considered for a post upon reaching adulthood.

In 1998, the Haryana Director General of Police issued instructions for Tinku's name to be recorded, suggesting a future possibility for employment. However, by the time Tinku applied for a post in 2008, after reaching the age of majority, 11 years had passed since his father's death.

Authorities rejected his application on the grounds that Haryana's 1999 instructions had introduced a three-year limit for such claims following an employee's death.

Make Punjab a frontrunner state: CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday called upon all the intellectuals, academicians, industrialists and other stakeholders to join hands for making Punjab a frontrunner state in the country.

Addressing a gathering during 'Vision Punjab' conclave here, the chief minister said Punjab is a fertile land which has been blessed by saints, seers, prophets and martyrs.

Despite being a sacred land, Punjab has lagged behind in the pace of development due to the apathetic approach of the previous regimes, he said. Mann said the hard working and resilient farmers of the state have made the country self-reliant in food production but are facing the apathy of those in power at the Centre.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Metformin, a common anti-diabetes drug, if taken during pregnancy, could possibly restrict foetus growth, including a slow maturing of the kidneys, a study has found.

The drug is known to help one manage the metabolic disorder by lowering blood sugar.

Researchers, led by Baylor College of Medicine, US, said that the drug is now prescribed to pregnant women to reduce risk of complications due to diabetes-related conditions, including pre-diabetes and gestational diabetes.

However, concerns have been raised regarding the long-term effects of metformin on childhood development, even as the drug has been shown to be effective in managing blood sugar in pregnant women.

For this study, published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the researchers developed an experimental primate model.

Within 30 days of conception, 13 female rhesus monkeys were

'Taking metformin during pregnancy could stunt foetus growth'

initiated on twice-daily 10 milligrams per kilogram weight metformin, which is the equivalent of doses prescribed to humans, the researchers said. On the 145th day of a monkey's pregnancy, the foetus and the placenta were delivered by performing a caesarean section.

Analysing metformin levels, results showed that when given to the mother, the drug freely crossed the placenta and accumulated in the foetal kidneys, liver, intestines, placenta, amniotic fluid (in which the embryo is suspended) and urine, levels of which was similar to those found in the mother's urine.

This accumulation of metformin during pregnancy was found to be linked with a restricted growth of kidneys, liver, skeletal muscle, heart, and fat deposits known to support the abdomi-



nal organs -- all of which served to lower the foetus's body weight, the researchers said.

"Our study demonstrates fetal bioaccumulation of metformin with associated foetal growth restriction and renal dysmor-

phology after maternal initiation of the drug within 30 days of conception in primates," the authors wrote.

They added that while the anti-diabetes drug is not known to cause birth defects, the foetus

also doesn't have a way to clear the drug.

"Many drugs undergo 'first-pass' metabolism by becoming absorbed first in the liver, which decreases the concentration before it continues through the body. However, metformin does not experience the first-pass effect; rather, it is transported across the placenta, exposing the fetus to an adult dose of the drug," co-author Jed Friedman, associate vice provost for diabetes programs at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences, said.

The researchers also analysed the effects of feeding the pregnant primates different diets -- half were fed a conventional diet with 15 per cent calories from fat, while the other half received a high-fat diet with 36 per cent calories from fat.

ILLEGAL INFILTRATION

ED arrests 4 including Bangladeshi nationals

PNS ■ RANCHI

Four people, including two Bangladeshi nationals, have been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to illegal infiltration from Bangladesh into Jharkhand and neighbouring areas.

Rony Mondal and Sameer Chowdhary, both Bangladeshi nationals, and Indian national Pintu Halder were arrested on Tuesday. An Indian woman, Pinki Basu, was taken into custody in this case on Wednesday.

All four accused were apprehended from Kolkata, West Bengal for "facilitating" illegal human trafficking into India, the federal agency said in a statement.

The ED is taking transit remand to bring all of them to Ranchi, it said.

In this case, the ED launched searches at 17 locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal on Tuesday.

The agency said its probe found that a "syndicate" operates "extensively" across West Bengal and Jharkhand and it is engaged in facilitating the proceeds of crime out of the said activities.

The agents of this syndicate help in illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi citizens into India and provide them fake documents to obtain Indian citizenship, it said.

This is "corroborated" from the seizure of mobile phones containing various incriminating chats relating to monetary

transactions in lieu of the said illegal activities including prostitution, according to the ED.

During the searches, documents containing the details of payments made in lieu of the prostitution racket being run by the syndicate were recovered, the agency said.

"Incriminating" items like fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, immovable property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proforma used for forging Aadhaar cards were also recovered during the raids, it said on Tuesday.

The action came on the eve of polling for 43 assembly seats in Jharkhand on Wednesday. The remaining 38 seats of the state will vote on November 20.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## High stakes battle

Jharkhand election is a crucial test for the ruling coalition as well as for the BJP, which seeks to reclaim its hold

The Jharkhand Assembly elections commenced with the first phase of voting on November 13, with 43 seats across 15 districts up for grabs. This election marks a pivotal moment in the state's political landscape, where two key coalitions—the BJP and the INDIA bloc led by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress—are locked in a fierce battle for control of the Assembly. With high-profile candidates, pressing issues and a focus on tribal constituencies, the stakes are incredibly high for both camps. Jharkhand, carved out of Bihar in 2000, has been a battleground for various political parties, with the BJP historically dominating the state. However, in the last Assembly elections in 2019, the BJP lost power, managing to secure only 25 seats out of the total 81. The JMM emerged as the largest party, winning 30 seats and subsequently forming a coalition government with the Congress, which won 16 seats and the RJD, which held one. This alliance brought Hemant Soren of the JMM into the Chief Minister's seat,



where he has served for the last five years. Hemant Soren's tenure, however, has faced turbulence, including a brief removal from office after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a corruption case. Despite these setbacks, Soren has returned to the political stage with a renewed campaign to lead the INDIA bloc's bid for re-election.

The election campaign has highlighted multiple contentious issues. One of the most polarising topics has been "Bangladeshi infiltration." Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is spearheading the BJP's campaign in Jharkhand, has accused the Hemant Soren-led administration of facilitating illegal migration

from Bangladesh for political benefits. Soren, in response, has accused the BJP of sowing communal discord in the state, with support from Congress's national leadership. His counter-campaign has focused on emphasising the BJP's alleged divisive politics and positioning the JMM-led INDIA bloc as a safeguard for Jharkhand's communal harmony and tribal rights. The first phase features several high-stakes contests with major political figures. Among these is the Seraikella seat, where former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, who recently left the JMM after four decades to join the BJP, will contest. In Jamshedpur East, Congress's Ajoy Kumar faces off against BJP's Purnima Das Sahu. In Jamshedpur West, Congress Health Minister Banna Gupta is up against JD(U) leader Saryu Roy, who gained fame after defeating Raghubar Das in 2019 when Das was the sitting Chief Minister. For the BJP, regaining control in Jharkhand is crucial in their larger national strategy to consolidate power in eastern India, especially given their historical dominance in the state. The INDIA bloc, however, views retaining Jharkhand as a cornerstone for strengthening their coalition at a national level. Ultimately, it is the voter sentiment on the ground and the influence of tribal constituencies which are likely to play decisive roles in Jharkhand elections.

## PICTALK



Young men play cricket as dark clouds hover in the sky at the Marina Beach, in Chennai

PTI

## Diverse, climate-responsive design is key to net-zero goals

As cities push toward net-zero targets, it is crucial to consider how climate-responsive design can drive a sustainable future

Diversity is the rule of nature. Unfortunately, globalisation has made uniformity a common rule of thumb. This uniform culture not only erodes the cultural diversity we used to observe in every corner of the world but also harms the environment. It is imperative to look closely at how building architecture contributes to the stability of the environment.

The universalisation of building architecture poses a significant challenge to achieving net-zero targets. Though widely adopted for efficiency and branding purposes, this "one-size-fits-all" approach may ultimately hinder the push for sustainable, regionally adaptable and carbon-neutral construction. Different regions possess unique climatic and environmental conditions, from the humidity of tropical areas to the aridity of deserts and the chill of temperate zones. The universal approach to architecture fails to acknowledge these variations, leading to buildings that are fundamentally out of sync with their surroundings. For example, glass buildings are highly



energy-intensive in hot climates, requiring powerful air conditioning to maintain comfort levels. Traditional architecture provides a blueprint for climate-responsive design. Indigenous buildings reflect local knowledge of materials and climate, demonstrating how structures can achieve comfort with minimal energy input. For example, the traditional architecture of Kerala, the nalukettu style (four-sided structure with a central open courtyard), an ettukettu (eight-sided) or even a pathinarukettu (sixteen-sided) layout brings in natural light and ventilation, creating a cooling effect within the home. The steep, sloping roofs of clay tiles that usual-

ly adorn the traditional architecture allow rainwater to run off efficiently during Kerala's monsoon season. This roof style not only serves to prevent waterlogging but also helps keep the interiors cool. Similarly, the thatched houses made from palm leaves, straw, or reeds provide excellent thermal insulation, making the interiors naturally cool. These traditional designs, often overlooked or deemed "outdated," hold valuable lessons for sustainable construction. These structures rely heavily on natural climate-responsive strategies, including natural ventilation, and air conditioning systems by ignoring local environmental factors, resulting in increased energy consumption and carbon emissions. Incorporating regional adaptations into building codes can encourage architects and developers to consider climate-responsive designs. Municipalities and urban planners play a critical role by mandating energy-efficient designs aligned with the local environment. Additionally, incentive structures—such as tax breaks or subsidies for buildings that achieve high

environmental ratings using regional materials—could drive more developers toward climate-responsive practices. Achieving net zero requires a fundamental shift in how we conceive, design, and construct buildings. Global architectural firms and developers must recognise that regional adaptation is not a limitation but an opportunity for innovation. A glass-and-steel tower may look sleek, but its environmental footprint should be minimised by integrating green roofs, indigenous materials, and passive climate strategies. Ultimately, the transition to net zero requires a new paradigm where buildings are no longer static, universal symbols of modernity but dynamic, responsive structures that work with—rather than against—their environment. Embracing diversity in architecture is not just about aesthetics or cultural representation; it is an essential strategy for sustainable living in a warming world. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

## India's tax overhaul: Why simplification is the key

There is an urgent need for structural reform, streamlining tax rates and enhanced digital transaction incentives to bring clarity, efficiency and fairness to tax regime



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

The Indian tax system is notoriously complex and outdated, rooted in the six-decade-old Income Tax Act of 1961, which has undergone numerous amendments. These frequent, piecemeal adjustments have created a convoluted tax structure, leaving both taxpayers and administrators struggling with a lack of clarity. Similarly, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, introduced in 2017 as a landmark reform to streamline indirect taxes, has also accumulated a variety of confusing provisions and multiple tax rates, making compliance challenging and costly for businesses. This layering of amendments and patchwork reforms in both direct and indirect tax regimes highlights the need for a comprehensive overhaul that simplifies the tax structure.

A unified, streamlined tax regime should be introduced, minimising the countless exemptions that are prone to misuse. Implementing the recommendations of the Raja Chelliah Committee to cap the highest income tax rate at 30 per cent in alignment with global norms—had previously succeeded in reducing black money transactions. However, with the reintroduction of additional surcharges and cess, this advantage has largely been negated. Restoring the 30 per cent cap on the highest tax slab would encourage more individuals to report their income accurately, avoiding tax evasion. An alternative solution could be to establish a permanent Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS). Such a system would bring informal transactions, especially in high-value sectors like real estate, into the official economy if accompanied by a reduction in property registration fees to around 3 per cent. To foster transparency and discourage tax evasion, names of taxpayers disclosing income under this scheme could be made public on a government website. Rationalising income tax exemptions would also help simplify the tax landscape. The baseline exemption limit should be set at Rs 5 lakh, removing exemptions for charitable donations, political contributions and even agricul-



tural income, which are often exploited by high-net-worth individuals and celebrities to channel unaccounted income under the guise of agricultural profits. Farmers typically do not earn over Rs 5 lakh annually, so a limit based on this threshold could curtail abuse. Income between Rs5-10 lakh could be taxed at 10 per cent and income between Rs10-15 lakh at 20 per cent, with income above Rs 15 lakh subject to the 30 per cent rate. Additionally, adopting the recommendation of the LK Jha Committee to shift the financial year from April-March to the calendar year would align India's practices with international standards, further streamlining the tax system.

One glaring inefficiency in the tax system is the reliance on cash transactions, particularly for small amounts. All transactions above Rs10,000 should be conducted through banks. To encourage this, transaction fees on credit card payments should be reduced to 0.5 per cent—exempt from GST—and absorbed by the central government, which would also discontinue incentives for credit card purchases. This reduced fee would significantly increase credit card usage and thus bring more transactions into the formal economy. Currently, the high 2 per cent transaction fee often deters traders from using cards, especially in sectors with low profit margins, leading to extra charges for customers. Increased credit card usage would generate substantial tax revenue and boost the income



A SIMPLIFIED GST STRUCTURE WITH JUST THREE TAX SLABS—6 PER CENT, 12 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT—WOULD BE FAR MORE MANAGEABLE THAN THE CURRENT SYSTEM WITH MULTIPLE RATES. INDIA REMAINS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES WITH SUCH A FRAGMENTED GST SYSTEM, WHICH IS OFTEN BEWILDERING FOR BUSINESSES

of banks issuing cards, despite the lower transaction fee. To facilitate smooth payments, every GST-registered dealer should maintain at least two card-swiping machines and those refusing to accept cards should face strict penalties. Another significant concern is the Input Tax Credit (ITC) mechanism in the GST regime, which has become a hotbed for tax evasion, especially in manufacturing. Unsold GST invoices are often purchased by manufacturers seeking ITC, who then receive cash back from sellers. This practice has exacerbated the currency-in-circulation issue that demonetization sought to address. To prevent misuse, an annual forensic audit should be mandated for all ITC claims. An even better solution might be to eliminate the 18 per cent GST slab and restrict ITC eligibility to specific sectors like tradable goods, which would streamline GST compliance for manufacturers and reduce tax evasion. A simplified GST structure with just three tax slabs—6 per cent, 12 per cent and 30 per cent—would be far more manageable than the current system with multiple rates. India remains one of the few countries with such a fragmented GST system, which is often bewildering for businesses. Over time, the 6 per cent and 12 per cent slabs could be consolidated into a single 10 per cent rate. Essential raw materials such as agricultural products, fish and cotton yarn, which require further processing, could remain

exempt. High-value items like cars, appliances, and electronics should fall under the 30 per cent GST bracket, while parts for these items could be taxed at 12 per cent. The existing system, which categorises similar items under different rates, such as clutch plates at 18 per cent and clutch bearings at 28 per cent, causes unnecessary confusion. Similarly, edible items sold by confectioners are subject to different rates, with sweets, biscuits and snacks varying between 5 per cent and 28 per cent.

Jewelry is another area that could benefit from rationalisation. The GST on gold jewelry could be split into two parts—one for the metal content and the other for making charges. Cess on luxury items could be replaced with additional GST slabs, ideally bringing petroleum products under the GST regime to standardise fuel prices nationwide. Further reforms should address inconsistencies in applying GST to government transactions, postal services, and foreign mail tariffs. It is counterintuitive for government payments to incur GST, as this creates unnecessary accounting complexities, merely transferring funds between government departments. Similarly, postal rates, both domestic and international, require a more logical pricing structure with consistent increments.

(The writer is Guinness World Record holder and RTI Consultant; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## YUNUS FACES CHALLENGES

Madam — Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus, which has shown very few signs of effectively tackling major problems confronting the country, intends to approach Interpol to arrest and bring back former premier Sheikh Hasina and other members of her administration. The people in Bangladesh remain concerned about the high cost of living, law and order and the return of Islamist forces suppressed under Hasina. The world community has its concerns about violence against minority communities, especially Hindus, who make up 8 per cent of the country's population.

The Yunus-led setup needs to rethink its priorities if it wants a healthy electoral democracy for Bangladesh, especially at a time when members of the caretaker administration appear to be working at cross purposes. The Yunus government is also seeking to impose a ban on the Awami League. An election without the Awami League will be a sham; it will be the same kind of controlled democracy Hasina imposed on Bangladesh to prevent her rivals from participating in electoral politics. Yunus, an unelected caretaker, should provide the healing touch of reconciliation rather than letting radical colleagues, some with dubious antecedents, dictate the politics of revenge. At the same time, Yunus should not let political chaos return to Bangladesh, harming relations with neighbours and derailing the positive economic path the country had been pursuing.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

## ARAB LEADERS UNITE

Madam — Arab and Muslim leaders gathered in Saudi Arabia for a summit to address Israel's conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon. The summit, organised by the Saudi Foreign Ministry, comes a year after a similar meeting condemned Israel's actions in Gaza. Leaders are expected to discuss ongoing violence and regional developments, as well as call for an end

## Health risks of tattooing



The growing trend of tattooing, which has become a widespread fashion among people of all ages, including celebrities and common individuals. However, this practice often continues without consideration of its harmful health impacts. The increase in tat-

tooning has been linked to the spread of serious diseases. For instance, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 60 women were diagnosed with an AIDS-like disease due to the repeated use of a single, HIV-infected needle. Such unsafe practices pose a significant threat, leading to the spread of diseases like HIV and hepatitis. Additionally, reports warn of a potential risk of skin cancer from tattoo inks containing harmful chemicals such as polyethylene glycol. These findings emphasise the urgent need for awareness and caution. It is crucial for individuals to ensure that tattoo parlours use sterilised needles and safe, approved inks. Consulting a doctor before getting a tattoo can also help mitigate health risks. Public health authorities should conduct awareness campaigns to educate people about these dangers.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

to the Gaza conflict and Israeli military actions. Exactly a year ago, after a similar formality, the Islamic countries went home, considering their duty done. While the Israeli army has expanded the range of its bombing, it is now raining death bombs on Lebanon and Yemen as well. The figures give a count of 50 thousand deaths, but this figure could go up to lakhs as tens of thousands of people were badly wounded and injured. They are not getting proper and adequate medical help either. Obviously, they are also sure to die. Israel is claiming that Trump has become president again, so Israel will now take over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Will the Arab countries take some concrete steps to stop the Israeli oppression cycle, or will they keep praying with folded hands in front of it? It is said that a person who is beaten does not listen to words. To defeat Israel, the Arab countries will have to increase their military strength and combat equipment. Israeli atrocities cannot be avoided by just offering prayers five times a day. For that, the countries of this group will have to

increase military equipment with immediate effect.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

## RENEW CRICKET TIES

Madam — It will be nice if the BCCI reconsiders its decision of not sending the Indian cricket team to Pakistan to participate in the Champions Trophy to be held there next year. Unlike politics, sports enable people to channel emotional impulses through victory and defeat, which may help explain why some key India-Pakistan cricket games have helped both nations move closer diplomatically in tense geopolitical environments. Through phased timelines and subnational trust-based initiatives, India and Pakistan can certainly resume cricketing ties and normalise their political relations. The Champions Trophy 2025 provides a great opportunity to realise the same.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### MAKE A HABIT OF PRAYING

Praying is the easiest and best way to take shelter from God



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We, souls, are intrinsically small, quite ignorant, unsafe and mostly helpless. God is omnipotent, omniscient and controller. God is quite prepared to guide and help, but we have to pray for His guidance and help. God won't do it on His own, because that will encroach upon our free will. So, what is the wise thing to do? Just pray. It is as simple as that. Not praying is not really an option. Otherwise, we will begin to speculate and, yes, worry. Why does one not pray? There are two main reasons.

One is ignorance about its benefits. The other is a feeling that one doesn't need God's help; I can manage. We don't till we get in trouble. We can pray anytime; God doesn't mind. Strangely, we request favours from so many, but not from God, who is the source of everything. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 10.41) Praying is a positive act. This is linked with our desires, which define us. Did you not know that all worship is praying only? All schools worldwide start with prayers. Prayers are of three types. One is for what we feel we need. (9.22) The second is for the protection of what we have like health. (9.22) The third and most important is to protect us when there are good times.

Lord Krishna has commended those who can tolerate 'sukha' just as one tolerates 'duhkha' (2.14, 2.38 and 12.13) Because all big mistakes are generally made in happy times only when one feels that one cannot do any wrong. This is when lust raises its ugly head the most. The mind becomes super active prodded by senses. (15.7) God can



help as only He can. But before doing that ego has to be curbed. We have to accept that someone can be superior to us and to such an extent that we must take His shelter. This is how we get started. You begin praying and start becoming deserving of favours by God, because praying is a spiritual act, as it links us with God. Does being connected with the rich and powerful not bring some benefits? Then, God owns all that we see.

Yes, it is all His; we get it to use for a limited period only. Then, we are relocated. Now I will list what all we can pray for. This is not an exhaustive list, but it will be a good beginning. The first must be for guidance because direction is all important. Who is better placed than God, who is omniscient and knows past, present and future also. The second on my list is help from God. Who again is better placed than God – the omnipotent?

Don't we get in trouble helplessly? God can help. (18.58) The third must be for 'shakti' (strength) of five kinds, which are inner strength (Atma Bala), intellectual strength, mental strength, physical strength and strength to be able to tolerate. We need all of them, especially the tolerance part because we must tolerate what cannot be avoided. (2.10) Aren't we living in 'duhkhalaya' (place of miseries) (8.15) Material wealth is on everyone's list. This is possible if we remain in contact with God. (18.78) Not only wealth but success is there to be had if we pray and pray sincerely for all our 'dharma-sangat' (according to 'dharma') activities. (18.78)

The conclusion is that praying is the easiest and best way to take shelter from God. And as we receive what we crave for, and we can thank gratefully. What this will do is make us deserving of more rewards from God. Life will be nicely set. Keep praying.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

# Are e-commerce giants violating FDI norms?



UTTAM GUPTA

As policymakers consider future regulatory steps, the ongoing ED investigation may serve as a pivotal moment in clarifying the regulatory framework for e-commerce operations in India



Reportedly, on October 7, 2024, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the offices of half a dozen sellers operating on the e-commerce platforms of Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart for alleged violations of Foreign Investment norms and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The intent behind the searches was to gather evidence on complaints that these sellers have been importing products from China but routing them through other locations to avoid paying higher import duties and longer time in getting the consignment cleared at the ports (that would be the case if the products were imported directly from China involving higher import tariff and more security-related checks). The agency also wanted to verify if the firms had indulged in 'under-invoicing', a practice that involves understatement of the true value of goods to save on payment of import duty. Establishing such violations will be less of a headache for the enforcement authorities although proving them in the court will remain a challenge apart from the process being long drawn. However, the big headache relates to proving violations of the norms relating to foreign direct investment (FDI). E-commerce, put simply, is the practice of buying and selling goods or services using the Internet. Amazon and Flipkart essentially operate the "market-place" model of e-commerce – a special dispensation carved out by the Narendra Modi Government under which 100 per cent FDI is permitted.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade or DPIIT in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries issued a Press Note (PN) in 2016 detailing the guidelines in this regard. The "market-place" is a platform where vendors sell their products to consumers even as its owner (say, Amazon) merely acts as a facilitator. The marketplace owner books orders, raises invoices, arranges deliveries, accepts payments, handles rejections, warehousing and so on. But, he can't own and control the inventory of goods and undertake "direct selling" to the consumer. But, this is happening.

The charge has been levelled by none other than the Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. At the launch of the Pable India Foundation's report 'Net Impact



AMAZON IS SELLING PRODUCTS ON ITS E-COMMERCE PLATFORM AT UNREALISTICALLY LOW PRICES WHICH RESULTS IN HEAVY LOSSES ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT A BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY

of E-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India' on August 21, 2024, Goyal took a shot at Amazon, for selling products directly to consumers and indulging in "predatory pricing". That could lead to massive growth of e-commerce capturing half of the Indian retail market ten years from now. This would adversely impact an estimated 100 million small retailers across the country. Predatory pricing involves setting prices for a product at an unrealistically low level to undercut the competition and gain market share. Generally practised by a new player, predatory pricing violates antitrust laws even as it seeks to create a monopoly. Goyal opines that Amazon is selling products on its e-commerce platform at unrealistically low prices which results in heavy losses estimated to be about a billion dollars annually. To fund these losses, it brings the money from its parent but camouflages it as FDI. Pertinently, he levelled these charges in 2020 also.

Apart from the top brass in the political establishment being fully seized of the matter, it has engaged the attention of the judiciary up to the level of the country's top court. In 2019, Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM) complained to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) alleging anti-competitive behaviour by Amazon Seller Services (ASS) and Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL).

It argued that ASS and FIPL had entered into exclusive sales agreements with smartphone makers to sell certain phones through a small number of preferred sellers and offering to pay for part of the discount that such sellers would offer during key sales periods such as Flipkart's big billion day and Amazon's Prime Day.

Prima facie, the CCI agreed with DVM's contention and ordered a probe by the Director General (DG) – Investigation. ASS and

FIPL went up to the Supreme Court (SC) to get the order quashed. In August 2021, dismissing their appeal, the SC ordered "the CCI – DG will complete the probe. In its recent findings, the CCI-DG has charged ASS and FIPL with indulging in 'predatory pricing' and violation of antitrust laws. Has Amazon/Flipkart violated FDI norms also?"

To answer this let us look at the fine print. While allowing 100 per cent FDI in a market-place model of e-commerce, the PN (2016) had prescribed two main riders viz., (i) the entity can't permit more than 25 per cent of total sales on its platform from one vendor or its group companies". (ii) it can't directly or indirectly influence the sale price. The first condition didn't specify that a firm connected with the owner of "market-place" (say its subsidiary or its joint venture or JV with an Indian company) couldn't be a vendor. Thus, contrary to the real intent of the policy which disallowed the e-commerce platform owners from direct selling to individual consumers, the fine print permitted them to do so. Putting a cap of 25 per cent on each such entity led to a bizarre scenario whereby four JVs or subsidiaries of Amazon could control all of the sales on its platform.

And, having permitted it as a direct seller, you can't prevent him from deciding/influencing the price. Thus, the second condition becomes redundant.

Meanwhile, the extant policy permits FDI in business-to-business or B2B segments in physical/offline format. This has enabled Amazon and Flipkart to set up offline stores. From these stores, they sell products to sellers (many of such entities are the darlings of the duo or JVs set up in collaboration with them), who in turn, sell those products on their marketplace platform.

So, it was a well-crafted policy framework intended to enable e-

commerce majors to do all that is necessary to control inventory and undertake direct selling to consumers on their own marketplace platform. Meanwhile, in a note issued on December 26, 2018, the DPIIT clarified that "the owner of the marketplace or its subsidiary or its JV with Indian company can't have ownership of the seller." Further, "a seller on the platform can't source more than 25 per cent of its inventory from a firm connected with the latter. The above clarification has prompted e-commerce majors to rework strategies in a manner such that their links with the 'preferred' sellers are not clearly visible.

Meanwhile, the enforcement agencies are in full action mode raiding the latter's premises, looking at the documents with the intent to identify and expose such links. But, this won't lead them anywhere. The government should face the facts head-on. If, its original intent was to ensure that the marketplace can't have any connection whatsoever with the seller whether by way of ownership or sourcing of the latter's inventory, that should have been mentioned in the guidelines issued in 2016. Anything done subsequently even if it comes by way of a clarification will be considered a retrospective change of policy and send a wrong signal.

Instead of going back, the government should clearly say '100 per cent FDI is permitted in direct selling to consumers alongside running a marketplace model'. It should also allow 100 per cent FDI in retail in all forms, single-brand or multi-brand retail (MBR), online or offline sans any riders. All these distinctions should go. This will enable millions of Indian retailers to have 'unrestrained' access to foreign capital thereby ensuring a level playing field.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## Taiwan and India: A partnership in climate action and sustainable development

This partnership is poised to make meaningful contributions to net-zero transitions, green finance and climate adaptation, paving the way for a resilient future

As climate change reshapes our world, Taiwan and India, like many other nations, find themselves grappling with the profound challenges it brings. As major economies in the Indo-Pacific, Taiwan and India not only bear responsibility for their environmental welfare but also share a commitment to addressing the global climate crisis. Our cooperation on climate change holds immense potential, as Taiwan and India pursue a shared vision of green growth, innovation and sustainable development. In recent years, Taiwan has faced severe impacts from climate change, including the worst drought in a century, unprecedented rainfall and powerful typhoons. Under the leader-



BAUSHUAN GER

ship of President Lai Ching-te, Taiwan has outlined a comprehensive strategy for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. This vision includes advancing a second energy transition, accelerating the development of geothermal, hydrogen, biomass, solar and ocean energy, fostering a dual digital and green transformation of industries, and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Taiwan's

net-zero journey prioritises fairness, ensuring that every individual benefits from this transformative process. In June, Taiwan established the National Climate Change Committee under the Office of the President. This high-level initiative strengthens policy transparency and public engagement, aligning Taiwan's efforts with global climate goals.

With a focus on seven key areas—including pathways to net-zero, diverse carbon reduction technologies, green finance and sustainable living—the committee provides a solid foundation for both domestic and international climate action. Taiwan's commitment to climate governance offers an opportunity for new collaborations with

India on issues of mutual interest. India has demonstrated its ambition to become a global leader in clean energy, possessing rich resources for renewable energy development.

Taiwan, a world leader in green technology, climate adaptation and low-carbon innovation, complements India's strengths, allowing both countries to accelerate their sustainable development goals. Taiwan has integrated its 2050 net-zero target into the Climate Change Response Act and will implement a carbon fee system starting in 2025.

This initial carbon fee of approximately USD 10 per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) will gradually increase, aligning with inter-



national standards of USD 40 to USD 60 per tCO2e by 2030. Additionally, Taiwan plans to introduce an emissions trading system within the next four years, enhancing its role in the global carbon market. This framework presents a robust platform for cooperation in carbon markets, policy exchanges, and technology sharing. Taiwan is launching three major funds to

boost the growth of green industries, including the NT\$10 billion Green Growth Fund to support emerging net-zero industries domestically. Additionally, long-term investments in energy-saving, circular economy, and net-zero sectors will be supported by the Green Finance Innovation Fund, backed by the insurance and finance sectors.

The Taiwan Net-Zero Fund will collaborate with high-emission industries, venture capital, and financial institutions to invest in advanced carbon reduction technologies. These initiatives align with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, which calls for mobilising climate finance from various sources to support global climate actions.

Taiwan's efforts will attract greater green investment, strengthen international competitiveness and deepen its climate partnership with India. In the realm of climate adaptation, Taiwan released its latest National Climate Change Science Report in May.

This report provides essential scientific data to assist local governments in planning effective short- and medium-term adaptation measures, enhancing urban resilience.

It underscores the need for early-warning systems and disaster prevention mechanisms that integrate prediction, response and recovery. Taiwan's adaptation initiatives align with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and we see

great potential for Taiwan and India to collaborate on early-warning technologies, disaster prevention and resilience-building, strengthening both nations' ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Taiwan and India share a clear goal in climate action. Bilateral cooperation will promote green growth and jointly confront the global climate crisis. As Taiwan advances carbon pricing and green technologies, we look forward to deepening cooperation with India in renewable energy, net-zero transition, and technological innovation, contributing together to global climate governance.

(The writer is Taiwan's Representative to India; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Gold slips to Rs 77,750 per 10 gm amid global trends

Gold prices slipped Rs 50 to a four-week low of Rs 77,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid firm global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Tuesday, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 77,800 per 10 grams. However, silver prices rebounded after two days of straight fall by climbing Rs 1,200 to Rs 92,500 per kg against the previous close of Rs 91,300 per kg. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 50 to Rs 77,350 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had finished lower at Rs 77,400 per kg on Tuesday. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery rose Rs 204, or 0.27 per cent, to trade at Rs 75,105 per 10 grams. "Gold saw minor gains as investors anticipate the release of US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, which could offer some short-term support amidst an overall weak trend," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said. The CPI's downward trend towards the Federal Reserve's 2 per cent target could pave the way for continued interest rate cuts, potentially supporting



Rupee rises 1 paisa against US dollar to close at 84.38

The rupee moved in a narrow range and appreciated 1 paisa to close at 84.38 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, as persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities weighed on the local unit. The USD/INR pair is trading in a narrow range as strength of the American currency in the overseas market dented investor sentiments, while suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the rupee supported at lower levels, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.40 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.37. It finally settled at 84.38 (provisional), 1 paisa higher than its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee fell 1 paisa to a new lifetime low of 84.39 against the US dollar. According to Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas - the USD/INR pair may rise to Rs 85 level in near term, though the intervention by the RBI may slow the pace. "Support is at 84.25/84 and resistance is at 84.50/84.75," Singh added.

RBI: Municipal corporations need to enhance sources of revenue

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Municipal corporations need to enhance their sources of revenue through reforms in property tax, rationalisation of user charges, and better collection mechanisms, an RBI report has suggested.

The elasticity of property tax revenues, the predominant source of tax revenue, can be improved through adopting property tax formulae which are more reflective of property valuation, it said. "The Report on Municipal Finances" released by the Reserve Bank on Wednesday noted that the demand for high-quality public services in urban areas is growing rapidly with a rising urban population.

"Yet municipal corporations (MCs) in India invested with this responsibility generate limited revenues and rely heavily on the upper tiers of the government for their funding needs, limiting their operational flexibility," it said. State-specific strategies to strengthen MC finances through local taxation reforms, better enforcement, augmenting institutional capacity and transparent financial management are cru-

cial for resilient municipal finances and effective urban development. Compared to advanced economies and other comparable emerging market economies, Indian MCs generate much lower revenues and consequently, spend fewer resources as a percentage of GDP.

"The MCs have underdeveloped own-source revenue streams, including both tax and non-tax revenues," the RBI said. At present, the report said the MCs remain heavily reliant on Central and state governments for their funding needs through revenue transfers. Timely and adequate revenue assignment from the upper tiers of the govern-

ment is essential. "In this regard, a State-level rule-based system of compensation and transfers, including the regular setting up of State Finance Commissions (SFCs) assumes importance," it emphasised.

The report further said municipal revenues, which were hit during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, recovered in 2021-22 and 2022-23. Despite significant responsibilities, the revenue streams of municipalities are limited and pale in comparison to those of State and Central governments. Property taxes are the major constituent of tax revenues. Municipal bond financing has seen some recovery in recent years.

'India at forefront of digital revolution'

PNS ■ JAIPUR

India is at the forefront of the digital revolution and financial technology is speeding up digital payments, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said on Wednesday. Vibrant e-markets are springing up and expanding their reach. It is estimated that the digital economy currently accounts for a tenth of India's GDP, he said, adding that going by growth rates observed over the past decade, it is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026. In his inaugural address at the DEPR Conference on 'Digital Technology, Productivity and Economic Growth in India' here, Patra also said India is uniquely positioned to unlock new growth avenues and optimise existing ones with its digital public infrastructure (DPI), a vibrant information technology sector and a burgeoning youth population, including one of the largest AI talent bases. On digitalisation of Indian finance, Patra said micro-level evidence from surveys of Indian banks shows that while all of them have

Five-fold jump in ITR filers with income above Rs 50 lakh

Middle class tax burden falls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tax burden on individuals earning less than Rs 20 lakh a year, broadly described as middle class, has come down during the 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, while there has been a substantial increase in taxes paid by those having annual income above Rs 50 lakh, sources said on Wednesday. As per the income tax return (ITR) filing data, the number of individuals showing annual income of over Rs 50 lakh has gone up to over 9.39 lakh in 2023-24, a five-fold jump from 1.85 lakh in 2013-14. Also, the income tax liability of those earning above Rs 50 lakh has gone up 3.2 times, from Rs 2.52 lakh crore in 2014, to Rs 9.62 lakh crore in 2024.

A source said that 76 per cent of income tax collected is from those earning above Rs 50 lakh a year. This has led to reduced tax burden on the middle class. Also, the increase in number of people filing ITRs with annual income above Rs 50 lakh is

due to "strong anti tax evasion and black money laws implemented by the Modi government", the source added.

The source further said that in 2014, individuals earning above Rs 2 lakh a year had to pay income tax. However, because of various exemptions and deductions announced by the Modi government, individuals earning up to Rs 7 lakh need not pay any taxes.

The percentage of income tax collection from taxpayers earning less than Rs 10 lakh has reduced, from 10.17 per cent of the total tax paid in 2014, to 6.22 per cent in 2024.

According to the source, the income tax liability of those earning between Rs 2.5 and Rs 7 lakh was an average Rs 43,000 in 2023-24, which is around 4-5 per cent of their income -- a level which is the lowest amongst emerging economies. The source further said that as per official calculations, after adjusting inflation over the 10-year period, there is almost 60 per cent decrease in tax liability for those earning in the range of Rs 10-20 lakh.

Mines ministry, IEA sign pact for cooperation in critical mineral sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The mines ministry on Wednesday entered into a pact with the International Energy Agency (IEA) for cooperation in the area of critical minerals.

The Cabinet had earlier this month approved the proposal of signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between IEA and the mines ministry.

The present association would provide India with access to reliable data, analysis, and policy recommendations in the critical mineral sector.

The IEA is an international organisation within the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). "This collaboration would enable India to streamline its

policies, regulations, and investment strategies in the critical mineral sector, aligning them with global standards and best practices," the mines ministry said in a statement.

The agreement would also promote capacity building and knowledge exchange between India and the IEA member states, it said, adding that the collaboration on data collection, modelling, and analysis would enhance India's technical capabilities and institutional capacity in the critical mineral sector.

Joint research projects, workshops, and training programmes carried out under this agreement would help fostering collaboration and innovation in technology development, extraction techniques, and recycling methods for critical minerals, it said.

Sun TV Q2 PAT down to Rs 409.3 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sun TV Networks Ltd on Wednesday reported an 11.9 per cent decline in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 409.32 crore for the September quarter. The company had reported a PAT of Rs 464.69 crore in the July-September period a year ago, according to a BSE filing by Sun TV Network, one of the largest broadcasters in the country. Its revenue from operations was down 10.86 per cent to Rs 934.54 crore in the quarter from Rs 1,048.45 crore in the year-ago period.

Sun TV Networks' total expenses increased 9.7 per cent to Rs 593.54 crore during the quarter, while its total income was at Rs 1,106.10 crore, down 4.66 per cent. Moreover, in a separate filing, Sun TV said its board has declared an interim dividend of 100% -- Rs 5 per equity share of Rs 5 each for the financial year 2024-25.

Investors poorer by Rs 13 lakh cr in two days of market crash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors suffered an erosion of Rs 13 lakh crore in market valuation in two days of crash in the BSE benchmark Sensex which lost over 2 per cent during this period.

Retail inflation soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October, unabated foreign fund outflows and muted quarterly earnings are the major reasons behind the heavy correction in the markets, traders said.

The BSE benchmark tanked 1,805.2 points or 2.27 per cent in two days. On Wednesday, it slumped 984.23 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 77,690.95.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded by Rs 13,07,898.47 crore to Rs 4,29,46,189.52 crore (USD 5.09 trillion) in two days.

Retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of rising food prices.

"With inflation once again



rising sharply and breaching above the RBI's comfort level, receding hopes of any major rate cuts in the near future by the central bank put the markets into a tizzy.

"Also, relentless FII selling in local equities, along with rising US bond yields and dismal corporate earnings show has prompted overseas investors to park their funds in relatively cheaper markets like China," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, HDFC

Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest laggards. NTPC, Tata Motors and Infosys were the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,024.31 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 3.08 per cent and mid-cap slumped 2.56 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended lower. Realty tumbled 3.23 per cent, industrials (2.95 per cent), capital goods (2.72 per cent), services (2.54 per cent), metal (2.54 per cent) and commodities (2.45 per cent).



PHF Leasing rebranded as Credifin Limited

PHF Leasing, a non-banking financial company has announced its rebranding as Credifin Limited. The company has also relocated its corporate headquarters to Delhi-NCR to better serve its expanding customer base across India. The new name, Credifin, reflects a broader range of loan offerings and aligns with the company's mission to provide accessible financial solutions, backed by technology, nationwide," the company said in a release. Founded in 1998 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India, Credifin specialises in mortgage loans for first time home owners, loan against property, MSME business loans and financing for electric vehicles. The total AUM of the company was about Rs 245 crore as of June 30, 2024. Operating in 11 states and UT, Credifin is operating in over 150 locations and employs more than 550 people.

NTPC Green targets to invest Rs 1 lakh cr in solar, wind assets

PNS ■ MUMBAI



IPO-bound NTPC Green Energy is aiming to invest up to Rs 1 lakh crore in solar and wind assets by FY27, a top official said on Wednesday.

Assuming about 20 per cent of the investment to come from equity, it will need Rs 20,000 crore of its own funds for the expansion, its chairman and managing director Gurdeep Singh told reporters here, adding that Rs 10,000 crore of funds will be coming through the upcoming initial public offering.

The company will be able to raise the remaining resources through internal accruals, he added.

For the debt part, the company enjoys a very good credit rating from multiple agencies courtesy the strong parentage in India's biggest power pro-

ducer NTPC, Singh said, stressing that this enables it to land debt at softer rates when compared to rivals. NTPC Green Energy, which has an installed capacity of 3,220 MW right now, is aiming to take up the same number by 6,000 MW by March 2025, 11,000 MW by March 2026 and 19,000 by March 2027, Singh said, adding that 11,000 MW of projects are already under implementation at multiple levels.

It will operate at a level where 90 per cent of the capacity will be solar, which requires an investment of Rs 5 crore per MW, and the rest will be wind which needs Rs 8 crore per MW, he said.

"The capital expenditure requirement by FY27 will be approximately Rs 1 lakh crore," he said speaking at the IPO roadshow here.

In the IPO, which will be open from November 19-22, the company is planning a fresh issue of shares worth up to Rs 10,000 crore at a price band of Rs 102-108 apiece.

Investors will have to apply for a minimum of 138 shares and in multiples of 138 thereafter in the IPO, which is one of the biggest offerings by any companies in recent times and comes right after food delivery company Swiggy's Rs 7,000-crore share sale.

Adani commits \$10 bn in US energy, infra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani on Wednesday committed to investing USD 10 billion in energy and infrastructure projects in the United States.

"Congratulations to @realDonaldTrump," he posted on X, congratulating the incoming US President.

"As the partnership between India and the United States deepens, the Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and invest \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs."

He, however, did not give the time period or details of the projects that his ports-to-energy conglomerate will be pursuing in the US.

'Will press for FTA with India'

PNS ■ LONDON

The UK's newly elected Leader of the Opposition, Kemi Badenoch, said she will continue to press for the conclusion of the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations which she had worked towards as former business and trade secretary.

Addressing a special diaspora gathering to celebrate the festive season at the High Commission of India in London on Tuesday evening, the Conservative Party leader said she would continue to champion the "important" bilateral partnership from the Opposition benches.

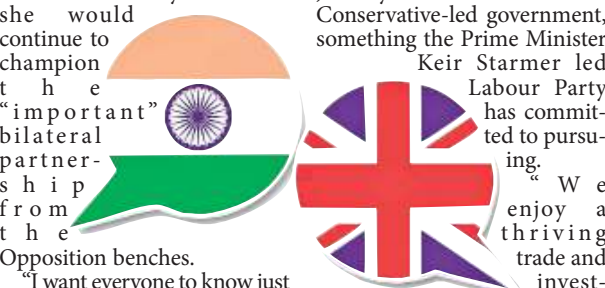
"I want everyone to know just how important the UK-India relationship is, not just to the government but also to the Conservative Party," said Badenoch. "In the Department for Business, I did everything we could to continue strengthening relations with India and just because the Conservatives are not in government anymore doesn't mean that work will not continue. We really do value this relationship. We will continue to press for the conclusion of the India-UK FTA," said the Tory member of Parliament who succeeded Rishi Sunak as party leader earlier this month. "The elections in both our countries got in the way; elec-

tions are now out of the way, it's time for us to get back to business and make sure our two governments are working towards this," added Badenoch.

Her intervention came as the latest Department for Business and Trade (DBT) statistics revealed that the annual two-way trade in goods and services between both countries had registered a 9.7 per cent hike over the past year to hit GBP 42 billion. India and the UK have been negotiating an FTA since January 2022 under the then Conservative-led government, something the Prime Minister Keir Starmer led the Labour Party has committed to pursuing.

"We enjoy a thriving trade and investment partnership, which, through a future free trade agreement and Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), could create one of the strongest and most prosperous relationships and partnerships in the world, which we're very proud of," said UK Treasury minister Tulip Siddiq in her keynote address to the London Global Convention organised by the Institute of Directors (IoD) this week.

"The UK and India alike have businesses crying out for greater access to export markets, and through the combination of a new trade strategy and, of course, a free trade agreement, we can provide that access.



India's workforce to increase to 457.62 mn: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India is on track to increase its workforce from 423.73 million in 2023 to 457.62 million by 2028, reflecting a net gain of 33.89 million workers, a report said on Wednesday.

According to a report by American software company ServiceNow, emerging technology will transform talent across India's key growth sectors, generating 2.73 million new tech jobs by 2028.

According to the report this surge in demand presents retail professionals with a valuable

opportunity to upskill in areas like Software Application Development and Data Engineering, equipping them for a tech-driven landscape.

This is followed by manufacturing (1.50 million jobs), education (0.84 million jobs), and healthcare (0.80 million jobs), propelled by expected economic growth and tech transformation, it stated.

"AI will be a key catalyst for job creation across India's growth engines, particularly in roles requiring advanced technical skills. This strategic emphasis will not only create



more high-value opportunities for professionals but will also empower them to build enduring digital careers,"

ServiceNow India Technology and Business Center Senior Vice President and Managing Director Sumeet Mathur said.

By equipping the country's talent with these essential skills, it can be ensured that India remains a leader in the global tech economy, he added.

The report is based on an analysis of the baseline of the country's labour market sourced from census and labour force survey data and the economic growth projections are derived from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

It further revealed AI Systems Engineers will also benefit significantly from Gen AI, with half of the total tech

impact on this role coming directly from AI technologies.

Similarly, implementation consultants are poised to benefit significantly from the integration of Generative AI, saving 1.9 hours per week as AI takes over repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on more strategic projects, it said.

Even the least-impacted role, Platform Owners, could save nearly half an hour each week. Emerging technologies will revolutionize roles across the tech ecosystem, enabling professionals to work smarter and faster, their report added.



## SEVA TO SANGAT: TELANGANA SIKH SOCIETY'S IMPACTFUL INITIATIVES

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Nestled in the heart of Telangana, where ancient traditions meet modern aspirations, lies the vibrant Telangana Sikh Society. This flourishing community is a shining exemplar of unity, diversity and spiritual growth, weaving together the rich cultural heritage of the Sikhs with the warm hospitality of Telangana.

This thriving community is a testament to the power of unity, where the timeless values of Sikhism blend harmoniously with the rich heritage of South India.

With its roots firmly planted in the principles of equality, compassion and selfless service, this society has blossomed into a beacon of hope, warmth and celebration. From the majestic Gurudwaras that stand as sentinels of faith to the vibrant festivities that dance with joy and different services, every moment is a testament to the boundless spirit of the Telangana Sikh community.

Here, the gentle waters of the Musi River merge with the sacred sounds of the Gurbani, creating a symphony of love and unity. Founded in 2018 by Tejdeep Kaur Menon, the Telangana Sikh Society is a registered NGO dedicated to promoting social welfare, education, and cultural preservation within the Sikh community. As an apex body for Sikhs in the state, the Telangana Sikh Society serves as a welfare institution and NGO, catering to the needs of the downtrodden and marginalised. "We focus on those who have been left behind in the developmental process for various reasons," explains the founding president in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*.

She further goes on to highlight that there are 44 Gurudwaras across Telangana, serving a sizable Sikh population of approximately 4.5



to 5 lakhs. However, a significant portion of this community struggles with poverty. "Many, who are likely to be migrant workers, employed as welders, or manufacturing pots and pans. They face numerous challenges associated with poverty, including homelessness and displacement."

She highlights the plight of these migrant workers, who often settle in an area for 20-30 years, only to be forcibly relocated due to infrastructure development or private interests. "Governmental agencies and private entities frequently displace them, citing reasons such as road widening or construction projects."

Despite these challenges, the Telangana Sikh Society remains committed to addressing the community's needs, working tirelessly to provide support and resources to our members, ensuring their well-being and empowerment.

Her dedication to the organisation's mission is evident in her words, "We strive to create a better future for the Sikh community in Telangana and we will continue to work towards this goal."

The Telangana Sikh Society has established itself as a beacon of hope for the marginalised Sikh community, providing essential services and advocacy. Menon explains, "When our community members face challenges, we intervene, navigating courts and government agencies to ensure they receive a fair deal."

One of the organisation's significant achievements is securing housing and land for displaced Sikh families. "We've successfully obtained BHKs and alternative land for our community members, including four Sikh families who were previously denied land due to neighborhood pressure."

Then comes healthcare, which has been another critical area that they have been focusing on. The society provides free medical treatment, including cashless hospitalisation, physiotherapy and medication, primarily targeting those with congenital issues, accidents, or pro-

fessional hazards. Menon notes, "We've supported over 2,000 patients, often accompanying them throughout their treatment journey." The organisation conducts regular health camps, including eye camps, in collaboration with hospitals like Lawrence and Mayo. "We screen patients and provide free spectacles to those below the poverty line, while others receive a 25% discount."

Menon highlights the society's partnerships with Punjabi doctors, leveraging their expertise to benefit the community. "Our network of doctors provides specialised care, from dental to orthopedic services, at subsidised rates."

The Telangana Sikh Society's initiatives extend beyond the Sikh community, supporting anyone in need. "We've helped patients from various backgrounds, including migrant workers and those with cancer."

In addition to healthcare, they operate several skill development hubs, offering training in fashion designing, computer courses and pre-primary teacher training. During summer holidays, the society conducts spoken English classes for children across various locations. Menon reflects, "We've exhausted the population in some areas, but neighboring communities also benefit from our initiatives. We offer various programs, including computer courses, spoken English classes and women's empowerment initiatives. However, during school seasons, it becomes challenging to engage children in our programs."

To address this, the society organises residential children's camps, providing a holistic experience. "We've hosted two massive camps, catering to 600 children, focusing on moral code, art, music and critical issues like alcoholism, abusive families and women's empowerment."

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted these camps, but society has since shifted focus to women's development centers, offering 45- to 60-day courses.

Emphasising the society's commitment to preserving Sikh history and culture. "We showcase cultural events and exhibitions in Hyderabad, promoting our rich heritage." During the pandemic, society sprang into action, distributing essential supplies. "We provided millions of packets of food, rice, milk, and cooked meals to suburbs of Hyderabad."

Going ahead, she recounts the initial challenges to us, including a promised land allocation from the government that never materialised. The organisation collects funds from the community and channels resources from other institutions. A notable example is the approximately Rs 1 crore secured for Gurunanath High School's repairs and infrastructure development.

She notes, "We support schools with outdated infrastructure, addressing pressing issues like waterproofing, toilets and drainage."

Menon highlights the organisation's focus on holistic support. "We conduct group marriages, providing newlyweds with essential items like gas cylinders, almirahs, TVs and more." The society's healthcare initiatives are comprehensive. "We partner with Dental Hospital for regular screenings, education, and treatments like fillings and root canals."

Serious cases are transferred to government hospitals like NIMS, NAMS and Milofa, with the society covering expenses. "We utilise the Centimeters Relief Fund on a case-to-case basis, addressing expensive treatments for accidents and orthopedic, plastic and vascular surgeries." Particularly among lower-middle-class families. "We regularly counsel our community members on obtaining driving licenses and adhering to traffic rules." To amplify this initiative, the society collaborates with traffic authorities. "We organise sessions where traffic cops engage with our community, highlighting the importance of road safety."

Menon notes that many families in the community are vulnerable to road accidents. "Often, you'll see a mother, father, and child on a single bike, which is alarming."

The Telangana Sikh Society's proactive approach aims to mitigate such risks. "We strive to empower our community members, ensuring they prioritise road safety and responsible driving practices." As we are going to celebrate Guru Nanak Jayanti tomorrow (November 15), the society is organising an eye camp for the poor and needy at the exhibition grounds. "We've been organising several such camps every year. Instead of just focusing on general health camps, we try to focus on the importance of maintaining their eye and dental health. Cleaning of teeth, the filling procedure for kids, we've been doing regularly. When there are any serious cases, we transfer it to the hospitals and pay for it."

In a world often marked by division and inequality, the Telangana Sikh Society stands as a shining example of humanity's capacity for kindness, generosity and love.



With Guru Nanak Jayanti around the corner, *The Pioneer* sits down with Tejdeep Kaur Menon, the driving force behind Telangana Sikh Society, sharing the society's impactful initiatives that are transforming lives, embodying the values of compassion and more



## Vegan skincare uncovered

As more consumers become conscious of what goes into their beauty products, vegan skincare has become a prominent choice for individuals seeking ethical and plant-based solutions. As we celebrate the World Vegan Month, here, we debunk the top myths surrounding vegan skincare.

**Vegan skincare is not same as cruelty-free skincare**

Contrary to popular belief, vegan and cruelty-free are not interchangeable terms. Vegan skincare excludes animal-derived ingredients, while cruelty-free skincare ensures no animal testing was involved in the product's development.

**Vegan skincare is just as effective as traditional skincare**

Many assume vegan skincare lacks the potency of conventional products, but plant-based alternatives, such as seaweed or soy protein, can deliver equally effective results.

**Vegan skincare is for everyone, not just vegans**

You don't need to follow a vegan lifestyle to enjoy the benefits of vegan skincare. Vegan skincare aligns with a broader shift toward environmental responsibility and products are designed for individuals of all skin types.

**Vegan skincare products do contain preservatives**

Preservatives are necessary to ensure product safety and our vegan skincare line includes natural preservatives like vitamin E and rosemary to maintain freshness.

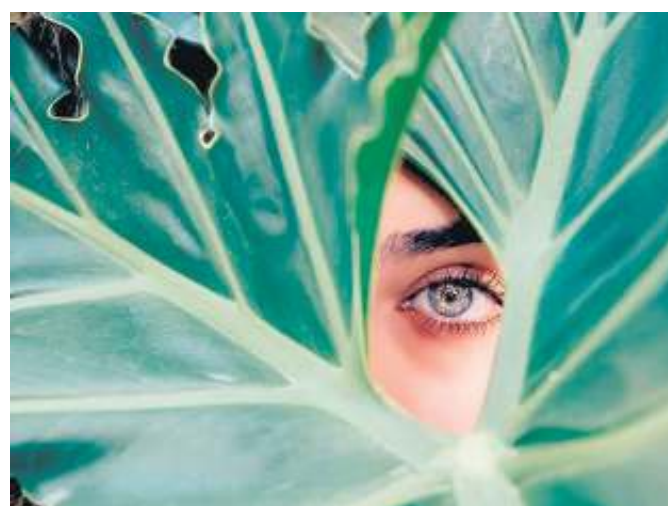
**Not all natural skincare is vegan**

It's easy to assume that "natural" means vegan, but many natural products still contain animal-derived ingredients like beeswax or lanolin.

**Vegan doesn't always mean clean**

Vegan products align with "clean beauty" standards, avoiding harmful & toxic chemicals and ensuring sustainability throughout process.

(The author, Ravina Jain, is a skin tech expert and founder of Skin Story.)



## DJ Lyan's 'Tapori-C' blend of hip-hop with Kerala's folk

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Behind the decks is DJ Lyan, a master storyteller whose musical narrative is fashioned from strands of dedication, passion and inventiveness. A personal journey, each set is designed to arouse feelings, establish relationships and immerse listeners in a realm of sound that speaks to their innermost selves. He shares his soul with every beat, beckoning you to embark with him on a musical journey that will uplift your soul, move your body and touch your heart. In an exclusive interview with the maestro of mixing, the music artist shared, "I'm constantly searching through playlists for the newest music and I stumbled into one of Baby Jeans' albums. I knew I had to get him on a record right away because I could relate to his voice and flow. The basis for Tapori was created by fusing a South Indian drum sample with bass and trap/hip-hop beats. To be honest, I had no idea how an artist would ride the beat, but when Jean sent me a voice message expressing his thoughts, I immediately understood and let him handle the music and lyrics." What a stunning blend!

In response to the question of how the Maramadi bull surfing ritual was incorporated into a lively club song, the musician revealed, "More significantly, we wanted the image to convey Jean's cultural background. Someone from the Desi Trill team shared the Maramadi bull surfing with us and we immediately knew we had to spread the word as soon as we saw the YouTube videos. Making it work with the song wasn't too difficult because the sport is really energetic." This Kerala folk-driven dancefloor hit Tapori, featuring Malayalam rapper Baby Jean, was released earlier this week by the and movement Desi Trill and was produced by British-Asian producer DJ Lyan. So, "The most important thing, in my opinion, is to have faith in your work and create music that is authentic and true to you. I always come up with ideas and records that I know I adore and my music is a reflection of who I am. Everything else will work itself out as long as you are being who you truly are."

His candid responses demonstrated how innovation is fuelled by the tenacity of even successful DJs! "These days, audiences are ravenous for anything new and genuine and Malayalam offers distinctive textures,

rhythms and viewpoints. The goal of Tapori was to convey Kerala's unadulterated, street-level energy and music to a global audience."

A high-octane look at Kerala's thrilling bull surfing sport, Maramadi, is intercut with pictures of DJ Lyan and Baby Jean from Malappuram! The video —captures the raw energy and daring athleticism of bull surfing," according to him.

—As I previously stated, I never try to overthink a song, "remarked the Thank You Come Again star.—I always comes down to the inspiration and energy I am experiencing at the time. Like the environment I grew up in, I constantly aim to produce a sound that feels like a genuine cultural mix. I naturally get affected by other genres and cultures because I listen to a lot of music from around the globe. With all of its colour and attitude, I wanted Tapori to feel unfiltered and genuine, like a snapshot of actual life here. The video was filmed with Keralans in a remote area in the state. The entire experience is local, as are the images. For me, it all comes down to continuously presenting the story of South Asian music blended with the sound of the world. You must first believe in the story in order to captivate readers. The songs on every record I release have a South Asian vibe. I want to make sure that I never forget that."

Tapori features a lot of booming, topsy-turvy bass music treatment pumped over South Indian percussion sounds and is bookended by two rap passages by Baby Jean. A reflection of the testosterone-fueled chaos that awaits anyone who crosses the wrong person in Kerala is also seen in the video! —From beginning to end, it required a thorough investigation and cooperation with locals," explains the Campfire musician.—To recreate the genuine sound, I made sure to experiment with the many instruments and melodic concepts from the area. Sameer, the video's director, collaborated closely with a local team to realise the concept. We always consider cultural sensitivity and make sure to convey authentically without sacrificing its core. "It's an invitation to listeners outside of India to discover a more authentic, gritty and vibrant aspect of India than is typically portrayed. Additionally, it's a way for local listeners to celebrate their heritage and see their everyday culture elevated on a worldwide scale.

According to him, this experience deepens respect for India's vast diversity while also expanding people's horizons. —I'm expressing the realities of living in a foreign region of the world while also drawing on South Asian customs, sounds and cultural allusions. It's about accepting who I am while respecting my heritage. People who feel as though they are living in two different worlds and who are figuring out who they are in a combination of tradition and modernity will find resonance in my works because of this fusion," he reflects.

Jean gave him an explanation of the subtleties of the language while he was in Kerala. This only helped Lyan realise how many different languages there are in India, even if they are only a district or two away. He is willing to work with everyone to explore as many languages, cultures, sounds, instruments and artists as possible. He wishes to continue experimenting with various concepts while utilising India's untapped abilities.

As Tapori continues to electrify dancefloors and captivate audiences worldwide, *The Pioneer* catches up with the genius behind the track—DJ Lyan. In an intimate and insightful conversation, Lyan shares his thoughts on cultural identity, musical evolution and the pioneering spirit that drives him to push boundaries and redefine Indian electronic music

# what's brewing?

**Malabar Gold & Diamonds** launched the **Mine Lightweight Diamond Show** at its Mehdiapatnam showroom. The exclusive event will feature meticulously designed lightweight diamond jewellery pieces, available till November 20. From elegant chains and dainty bangles to delicate rings, the collection makes the perfect choice for minimalists who like to keep it light and bright on every occasion.

● Gayatri ● Varsha ● Bhavana Goyal

November 14th, a day dedicated to the tiny hands that hold our hearts, the bright smiles that light up our lives and the innocent laughter that fills our homes. Children's Day is a celebration of the pure joy and unconditional love that our little ones bring to our world. As we honour the magic of childhood, let's treat our tiny superheroes to a culinary adventure they'll never forget

## STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

**For the cake Portions: 3 moulds**

- Cream cheese 1kg ● Egg white 4nos ● Egg yolk 4nos ● Corn flour 60gm
- Milk 70ml ● Cream fresh 225gms ● Sour cream 200gm

### Method:

- In a medium mixer fitted with a paddle combine cream cheese, corn starch & sugar. ● Cream for some time until light & fluffy. ● Slowly add in the whole eggs & keep on creaming. ● Add the sour cream & finally add in the heavy cream.
- Cream for some more time. ● Arrange cookie crumb base cake mold or ring
- Strain the mixture & pour in well-greased cake molds. ● Bake at 160 C in a water bath for almost 1 hour. ● Cool down, demolded & refrigerate.
- Once the cake has cooled down, garnish the top with strawberries. ● Brush boiled apricot glaze on top



## MELTING CHOCOLATE CAKE

**Warm Chocolate Cake served with Vanilla ice cream**

### Ingredients Quantity

- Semi-Sweet Chocolate 400gms ● Butter 8 each
- Fresh Eggs 160 gms ● Sugar 113 gms
- Flour-113 gms ● Vanilla essence 1 cup

### Method:

- Step 1:** Melt chocolate and butter together (ensure butter and chocolate is melted together - do not melt chocolate first Do not overheat the chocolate - max tempering temperature to be 31°C).
- Step 2:** Mix half of the fresh eggs and sugar together and whisk for a few minutes, then add flour. Whisk for a few minutes and then add the remaining fresh eggs.
- Step 3:** Add the above egg mixture to the melted chocolate mixture. Pour 120gm of the mixture into each ramekin.
- Step 4:** Bake on a water bath in the oven at 160 C for 25to 35 minutes (ensure to cook on low temperature).if cook without water 200 c 10 to 12 minutes
- Step 5:** Serve hot with vanilla ice cream

### Garnish:

- Sweet Chocolate
- Chocolate Run Out (please see the steps for making Run out)
- Powder sugar.



### Ingredients

- Dark chocolate -500gm ● Heavy cream- 200gm
- Liquid glucose- 10gm ● Orange zest -1gm
- Dark chocolate melted -100gm
- Rainbow sprinkle -100gm

### Method:

- Boil the cream and add chopped chocolate, mix well
- Remove from pan and strain well keep it for resting 6 hours in air-condition room
- Take truffle mixture make a ball each 15 gm
- Coated with melted dark chocolate and coated with rainbow sprinkle
- Arrange in plate enjoy your home-made chocolate truffle

**Attribution:** (Gopalasamy S. Speciality Chef, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd.)

RAINBOW CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE BALLS



The **Natya Geethanjali** event, a vibrant celebration of Indian classical dance and music, took place in collaboration with the **Medlife NoVA High School Chapter**. The event in Hyderabad showcased renowned Gurus and talented students performing various classical art forms, including Bharatanatyam and classical singing, to both promote Indian arts and raise funds for underserved communities. Renowned artists including **Indrani Davaluri**, a Bharatanatyam artist and **Vidya Sankaranarayanan**, artistic director of **Brihadisha**, were among the dignitaries.

PARTY

Photos by- SV Charly

**Vishal Computech** has launched its two new stores: premier tech hub with free AI & gaming café, at **CTC and SP Road** by **Lalitha Devi Hisariya**, **Vikash Hisariya**, **Vishal Hisariya**, **Ramesh BabuPyla**, among the rest.

**Aikhya Infra Developers** backed by the promoters of **IKF Finance**, announced the unveiling of **e5world**, a 20-acre resort living community set to redefine luxury in Hyderabad. **VGK Prasad**, Founder of **IKF Finance**, announced the details of the project at a press conference organised at **Taj Deccan**; alongside **Keerti Shah**, a renowned architect, urban planner and a key member of **e5world's** founding team; **Raghu Ram Vupputuri**, Managing Director, **OPUS Industries**.

## FUN

### ARCHIE

DO WE HAVE ANY TESTS TODAY? NO!

ANY BIG ASSIGNMENTS DUE? NO! AND IT'S PIZZA DAY IN THE CAFETERIA? YES!

THEN JUGHEAD MUST REALLY BE SICK!

IS THE BEE STILL ON ME OR NOT? I'M NOT TELLING YOU CALLED ME A HAIRBALL. OK, OK, I'M SORRY, YOU'RE NOT A HAIRBALL. NO, IS THE BEE THERE OR NOT? GOOD. NOW I... I MEANT "NO, THERE IS A BEE; TODAY IS OPPOSITE DAY!" DON'T FORGET... AT MIDNIGHT OPPOSITE DAY IS OVER, OK? YES!

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

### GARFIELD

ARE YOU GOING TO STARE AT YOUR PHONE THROUGH OUR ENTIRE DATE? YES, I AM.

COOL.

### REALITY CHECK

RELAX! IT'S JUST A HALF MARATHON TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE WALKING DEAD.

### SPEED BUMP

I'M WAITING TO SEE HOW MANY "LIKES" MY DIAGNOSIS GETS BEFORE I SHARE IT WITH YOU.

### CROSSWORD

1	2		3	4	5
			6		
7			8		
			9		
10					
11				12	
			13		
14					15
16				17	
18				19	

### NANCY

HOW'S THE PROJECT GOING, GIRLS? GOOD.

I'M REALLY IMPRESSED BY NANCY.

... I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE MINIMIZE A SCREEN SO FAST.

### SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### SUDOKU

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

### ACROSS

- 1 A season
- 3 Strike with an open hand
- 7 Jump over
- 8 Having a sharp sour taste
- 10 Applauded
- 13 Bumped
- 16 Sleepy
- 17 A biting, jumping insect
- 18 Require
- 19 Something built over a river

### DOWN

- 1 Not sick
- 2 Just about
- 4 Overdue
- 5 A talking pet bird
- 6 A permit to drive
- 9 The language of Spain
- 11 Concealed from view
- 12 Shouted
- 14 Gown
- 15 A strong box for storing valuables

**SOLUTION**

S	C	L	D	T	O	R	S	
T	H	I	N	K				
T	H	I	N	K				
H	P	E	N	S				
E	A	S						
A	T	O						
T	E	A	B	A	G			
F	R	I	S	H				
E	I	G	H	T				
U	O	A						
R	I	C	O	G				



# IF FILMS FAIL, IT'S OUR MISTAKE, NOT THE AUDIENCE'S : CHIRANJEEVI

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**M**egastar Chiranjeevi attended the pre-release event of *Zebra*, starring Satya Dev and Dolly Dhananjay, directed by Eswar Karthik. Speaking at the event, Chiranjeevi reflected on the evolving film industry, noting, "This year, some films became superhits, proving that audiences still come to theatres. After the pandemic, many industries, including cinema, faced setbacks. Some filmmakers overlooked what kinds of films would truly attract audiences. Many turned to OTT platforms, watching movies in all languages," Chiranjeevi shared.

He expressed concerns that audiences were attending theatres primarily for big releases, which he believes is not healthy for the industry. "All types of films, including small ones, need to succeed in theatres for the industry to thrive. This way, more shoots happen, people get work and many families depend on it. But the audience has shown they will come if the film is worthwhile. If they don't show up, it's on us," he stated.

Chiranjeevi pointed to several successful films this year, starting with Prashanth Varma's *HanuMan*, Siddhu Jonnalagadda's *Tillu Square*, *Committee Kurrollo*, *Aye* and latest hits like *Lucky Bhaskar*, *Ka* and *Amaran*. He noted, "If a film has strong content and entertainment, audiences will support it. This year, out of around 125 films, 20% succeeded—a positive sign that audiences appreciate good content, whether it's a small or big film."

During his speech, Chiranjeevi praised actor Satya Dev, referring to him as a "younger brother" and a "versatile actor." He recalled his first impression, mistaking Satya Dev for a non-Telugu actor until he learned he was from Vizag! "Satya Dev has an intense presence and a bright future, though he hasn't yet had the right role. I cast him in *Godfather*, where he delivered a fantastic performance. He's a rare talent in Telugu cinema," said Chiranjeevi, wishing him the best. Satya Dev expressed gratitude, crediting his role in *Zebra* to his work with Chiranjeevi in *Godfather*. "Annayya (Chiranjeevi) blessing us today is unforgettable. This film is like a fresh



start for me, and I dedicate it to Annayya," Satya Dev said, promising a "new Satya Dev" in upcoming films.

During Chiranjeevi's address, a fan from Vizag shouted, "Bossou, I came from Vizag

to see you!" Chiranjeevi responded in an Uttarandhra accent, encouraging support for the Vizag-based actors in *Zebra*. "Make this film a success in Vizag," he replied, connecting warmly with his fans.



**FROM SPORTS TO CINEMA, KASHIKA KAPOOR'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY IS A TESTAMENT TO HER DEDICATION AND PASSION. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE PIONEER, KASHIKA OPENS UP ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS, OFFERING A UNIQUE GLIMPSE INTO HER LIFE AS A RISING STAR**

## Making waves across T'wood with *Love Your Father*

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**K**ashika Kapoor, a multi-faceted young talent, is quickly making her mark in Indian cinema with a flair that spans both screen and stage. She has represented India in national-level swimming, throwball and basketball, showcasing her athleticism before she delved into acting.

Her journey into the films began with rigorous training at the Jeff Goldberg Studio, followed by a year at the prestigious New York Film Academy. Kashika is now set to captivate pan-Indian audiences in her Tollywood debut, *Love Your Father*, a pan-Indian, multilingual film.

With a fresh role that contrasts her previously celebrated character in *Aayushmati Geeta Matric Pass*, she opens up about the excitement and challenges of her journey across film industries, her hopes for the future and her drive to keep her audience captivated.

"It's amazing!" beams Kashika, describing the experience of joining a pan-Indian film. *Love Your Father* boasts a high-profile cast including

Sri Harsha, Nawab Shah and Aman Verma, while being helmed by Pawan Ketharaju, the creative talent who co-directed *Pushpa*. She praises the entire team, sharing how thrilled she was to work alongside such renowned faces. "Everyone on set was wonderful and it felt like a big, supportive family," she shares.

For her, portraying Sweetie in *Love Your Father* brings an exciting shift from her role in *Aayushmati Geeta Matric Pass*. Unlike her traditional portrayal of Geeta, Sweetie embraces a modern, Western flair, embodying a lively yet grounded personality. "Sweetie is bold, confident and supportive of her partner," says the young actor, highlighting her character's unique traits. She believes Sweetie's charm lies in her relatability and her unwavering support for her loved ones.

The shift to Tollywood wasn't without its challenges, particularly the language barrier. Kapoor had never acted in Telugu before, and she candidly admits it took some time to adjust. "I would get my script just an hour before the shoot. It was intense, but it pushed me out of my comfort zone," she says with a laugh. Despite her initial concerns, her first take earned praise from the

crew. "They were thrilled to hear me speak Telugu so fluently, which was a huge confidence boost."

Kashika's poster for *Love Your Father* has already generated significant buzz and she's delighted by the audience's anticipation. "First impressions are everything," she says. "The poster is what pulls people in and I'm so happy it's creating that excitement!" The film's storyline, which centers around family values, resonates with her, who expresses how meaningful it is to be part of a project that connects so deeply with audiences.

Looking ahead, she is eager to explore diverse roles, mentioning her interest in collaborating with Bollywood's top directors like Karan Johar, Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Zoya Akhtar. In Tollywood, she's excited to take on stories with mass appeal. "It's all about the content. I want to bring impactful films that everyone can enjoy," she says passionately. When it comes to what's next, the actress remains tight-lipped but hints at some thrilling projects on the horizon. With one foot planted in Bollywood and the other in Tollywood, Kashika Kapoor is clearly on her way to becoming a lasting name in Indian cinema.

## Kanguva release nears; Suriya says, 'Calm before storm'

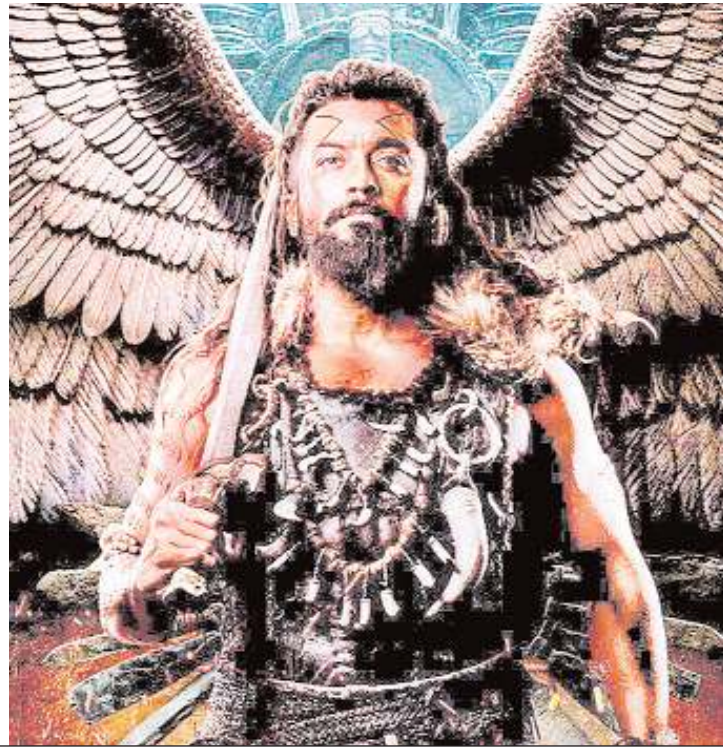
**A**s the much-anticipated film *Kanguva* gears up for its grand release, actor Suriya and the film's producer have shared their thoughts at a press conference on the emotional journey behind the project, highlighting their dedication and optimism.

Suriya, who plays the lead role in the film, spoke about the calm before the storm as the team braces for the release! In a candid reflection at a press conference, he said, "I think a calm before this storm, trying to be as calm as possible and giving all positivity, just manifesting in. I just want everybody associated with this film to be really, really happy and proud. It's just that in Tamil Nadu, we make another person happy. That's what true hap-

piness is. I'm really hoping that happens with the film." Suriya emphasized that every film is like a baby to its creators and the entire team has poured their heart and soul into *Kanguva*. "For this film also, we have given a lot of love and hoping the 14th will be a celebration for all of us."

The producer of *Kanguva*, K. E. Gnanavel Raja, also expressed immense dedication, revealing the toll the filmmaking process has taken on him and the director. In a lighthearted yet sincere comment, the producer shared, "Siva sir didn't sleep for the last 90 days and I didn't sleep for the last 30 days. So I think after seeing the result and seeing the audience's excitement, we should take good rest."

*Kanguva* is the biggest and most expensive film of this year and is set to release on November 14, 2024. With an estimated budget of over 350 crore, it's bigger than the likes of *Pushpa*, *Singham* and several other big films. Moreover, the film has been shot across seven different countries on various continents of India. The makers had a very specific look in mind, as this is a very unique film showing the prehistoric period. The makers hired experts from Hollywood for the technical departments like action and cinematography. The film has one of the biggest war sequences, featuring over 10,000 people. Studio Green has signed up with top distribution houses to release the film on a massive scale across the globe!



## RASHMIKA IS 'SHORT ON WORDS' AS SRIVALLI'S DUBBING IS ON GO

**P**ushpa 2: *The Rule* is undoubtedly one of the most anticipated films of the year, eagerly awaited by audiences. After its electrifying teaser, the nation stood still, captivated by the grandeur and intensity the film promises to bring to the big screen. This has certainly raised the excitement for the trailer and finally, the time has come—the trailer for the biggest film of the year is set to release on November 17. The trailer will be released in Patna, which is going to be India's biggest trailer launch.

Rashmika, who reprises the role of 'Srivalli' in the much-awaited sequel, shared pictures from her dubbing session with a caption that read, "Now that the fun and games are over, let's get down to business!!"

Meaning-  
1- *Pushpa* shoot is almost done.  
2- *Pushpa: The Rule* - dub for the first half is over.  
3- 1 am dubbing for the second half and MY GOD!

The film's first half is already freaking amazing and the second half is even more so. I am literally short on words... You guys are really really in for a mind blowing experience!!! I can't waittttt!

Ps: this face is for the shoot almost getting over and I am sad about it!!!"

*Pushpa 2: The Rule* has truly become a brand, creating a massive buzz in the market. It's safe to say this is the biggest film everyone is eagerly waiting for. The nationwide craze for the film is undeniable and now that the trailer has finally been announced, the excitement is palpable.

*Pushpa 2: The Rule*, directed by Sukumar and featuring Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil. The film is produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings with music on T-Series. The film will be released on December 5, 2024.



## IS BALAYYA'S UNSTOPPABLE COMPLETELY SCRIPTED?

**T**he fourth season of Nandamuri Balakrishna's talk show, *Unstoppable*, is now streaming on the Aha OTT channel. Besides Chandrababu Naidu, the new season primarily features actors promoting their upcoming films, including Dulquer Salmaan for *Lucky Baskhar*, Suriya for *Kanguva* and Allu Arjun for his upcoming film *Pushpa 2*. The talk show has effectively become a platform for film promotion for these stars.

However, according to a source, some episodes are scripted. "The Allu Arjun episode

was shot over nearly an entire day, with both questions and answers scripted," the source stated. The types of questions Balakrishna asks and Allu Arjun's responses are all pre-determined. "Everything is written in advance before the actual show, but when you watch the final version on the channel, it appears genuine," the source added. This scripting is why season four may not be up to the mark compared to earlier seasons. Nevertheless, the talk show remains at the top of the charts, thanks to Balakrishna.

## Rana Daggubati launches another talk show



**A**fter his previous talk show and Balakrishna's venture into the format on an OTT platform, Rana Daggubati is set to launch a new talk show on Prime Video. Premiering on November 23, this eight-episode unscripted series, created, hosted and executive produced by Rana, promises unfiltered conversations with top celebrities, including Dulquer Salmaan, Naga Chaitanya, Siddhu Jonnalagadda, Sree Leela, Nani, SS Rajamouli, Ram Gopal Varma and more.

Offering a refreshing twist on traditional talk shows, *The Rana Daggubati Show* combines candid chats with fun activities, showcasing a side of stars rarely seen. Each guest reveals personal stories and surprises, giving viewers a true backstage pass into the world of these icons.

New episodes will air every Saturday. "This show is all about real connections — just friends hanging out, sharing stories, and having fun. It's a no-filter, behind-the-scenes experience with the biggest names in the industry, and I can't wait for audiences worldwide to tune in," said Rana Daggubati.



# Work on technique and hit the reset button: Brett Lee's advice to Rohit, Kohli

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former Australian pacer Brett Lee has advised India skipper Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli to hit the "reset button", work on their technique and hit the ground running in the five-Test series against Australia, beginning in Perth in less than 10 days' time. The two batting stalwarts will be keenly observed during the Border-Gavaskar series. Under following their underwhelming performance in the 0-3 Test whitewash by New Zealand recently. "When you have a couple of bad runs back to back, that's when the pressure gets set in. So, I guess the thing now is that someone like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, they've just got to go back to the drawing board," Lee said on his YouTube channel. "They are champions because they do the basics better than anybody else. Then, just hit the reset button, almost." Lee also warned that the Australian pacers would be aiming to attack Rohit and



Kohli with the new ball, and that they should quickly sort their technique, freshen up, much as they can and then get away from cricket for as their batting. ("They should) work on hit the ground running when Lee wondered.

they go to Australia because I can promise you the Australian fast bowlers will be attacking Rohit Sharma with that brand-new ball," he added. Rohit has managed 588 runs in 11 Tests at an average of just 29.40 this year, while Kohli has accumulated 250 runs in six Test at an average of 22.72. Lee felt the tendency of the two batter to be too aggressive might have resulted in their poor show so far this year. "It's hard to put your finger on why they (Rohit and Kohli) failed. If you first look at the way that Rohit Sharma got out, a lot of the quicks. "So, I can't say there's a technical fault there because I've seen him play for the last decade. I still believe he's one of the best players of the pull shot in world cricket, but maybe he's a little bit too aggressive. "Maybe there were a couple of shots... Was there a technique issue? Was his bat leaving his pad a bit too early? Was he getting that far forward or not enough forward? Or, was he sort of being a little bit hesitant?"



## Parthiv Patel joins Gujarat Titans' support staff as batting and assistant coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Titans have trusted former India keeper-batter Parthiv Patel with the dual responsibility of serving as their assistant and batting coach in the upcoming IPL, the franchise said on Wednesday. Parthiv will perform the dual role in the support staff led by head coach Ashish Nehra. "The Gujarat Titans are pleased to announce the appointment of Parthiv Patel as their new assistant and batting coach. With a distinguished 17-year career as a former Indian wicketkeeper-batter, Parthiv brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team," the franchise said in a statement.

"As the Titans prepare for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season, Parthiv's insights into batting techniques and strategies will play a crucial role in enhancing the players' skills. "Parthiv, who is known for his sharp cricketing acumen and ability to mentor young talent, will strengthen the coaching staff and contribute to player development and performance," GT added in the statement. This is the first coaching role in the IPL for Parthiv, who retired in 2020. Right after his retirement, he served as talent scout for Mumbai Indians for three seasons until 2023, and also the batting coach for MI Emirates in the inaugural season of IIT20.



## Ponting, Langer could skip Perth Test commentary gig due to IPL auction

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting and his longtime teammate Justin Langer could potentially miss out commentating on the opening Test against India at Perth, starting November 22, due to commitments with their respective IPL teams for the mega auctions in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah on November 24 and 25. According to Australian newspaper "The Age", "Channel Seven could be without Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer for parts of the Perth Test due to a clash of commitments, and Australia may lose a vital backroom coach for the start of the blockbuster Border-Gavaskar series in a potential stand-off with Indian cricket."

Ponting, who has been appointed the head coach of Punjab Kings and Langer, who will be in his second season with Lucknow Super Giants, could be present at the IPL auction table for their respective franchises along with Australian team assistant coach Daniel Vettori, who is in-charge of Sunrisers Hyderabad. "Unless (Channel) Seven and Cricket Australia can protect their interests against powerful cricket authorities in India, Ponting, Langer and Australia assistant coach Dan Vettori will likely be in Saudi Arabia holding a paddle at the IPL's mega player auction in Jeddah instead of being at Optus Stadium when the first Test reaches its conclusion," the paper reported. "Seven" has a seven-year AUD

1.5 billion deal with Foxtel for broadcast of the game in Australia and even that, many fear, can't stop Ponting or Langer from missing the last three days of the Perth Test. Last year, Ponting, then coaching Delhi Capitals, left after day three of the Perth Test to attend the auction, while Langer stayed through till the end of the match. Vettori completed his duties with Australia before attending last year's auction, held two days after the Perth Test finished. "As of Wednesday morning, no decision had been made on whether Vettori would stay with the team through the entire Test or leave early for the auction, according to a team source with knowledge of the situation," "The Age" reported.

# I've found ways and means to break it down: Ashwin on Smith's batting

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Senior India off-spinner R Ashwin says he has figured out ways to tackle Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith in the upcoming five-match Test series, extending their fascinating, decade-old rivalry in top-flight cricket. The two seasoned campaigners would face off during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy starting November 22 in Perth. They have in the past spent time together at IPL franchises Rising Pune Supergiant and Delhi Capitals, helping Ashwin to "break down the game plans" of Smith. "Steve Smith is especially fascinating as a player against spin. He has a unique technique, even playing fast bowling," Ashwin said in an interview with "Cricket". "But with spin, I think he came in with sound game plans and sound



preparations, and yeah, he used to execute it come what may. And over the years, I've found ways and means to break it down. "His time at Delhi Capitals, his time at RPSG, all these net sessions that I've seen him go about his business gave me an insight as to how he prepares and what he likes and

doesn't like." Ashwin, who first bowled to Smith during India's 2013/14 tour of Australia, lauded his fierce rival for being a "thinking cricketer", who has so far scored 348 runs in 570 balls while facing the ace spinner. Smith has got out to Ashwin three times. "He's a very thinking cricketer as well.

He wants to get one up on you all the time. But, he's got unique ways of practising and battling out with you in the middle. "And sometimes, as a bowler, when you're watching a batter go through his process, you do identify whether you have him or not. And several times in these years of having played with Steve Smith, I've felt he has me. "But several times, much later, when I think I've figured out what he does or how he bats, I've had an edge over him. I've had the wood over him." A modern-day batting great, Smith will be desperate to play some big knocks following his subdued stint as an opener after the retirement of David Warner, managing only 171 runs in four Tests at an average of 28.50. Ashwin is the third-highest Test wicket-taker for India in Australia with 38 scalps, behind Anil Kumble (49) and Kapil Dev (51).

## Gambhir is prickly character, never took dig at Kohli: Ponting

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Responding to Gautam Gambhir's ribbe at him, former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting on Wednesday said the India head coach was a "prickly character" and insisted that his comments on Virat Kohli should not be construed as a dig on the star batter, who himself would be worried about his prolonged lean patch. Ponting, in an interview to ICC, had said that Kohli's poor form would be a concern and any other international player would have

struggle to keep his spot in the Test side with just two hundreds in five years. He though had also spoken highly of Kohli's ability to bounce back. Gambhir, when asked about Ponting's comments, said the Australian legend needn't be concerned about Indian cricket. "I was surprised to read the reaction but knowing the coach, Gautam Gambhir ... He's quite a prickly character, so I'm not surprised it was him who said something back," Ponting told 7News when asked about Gambhir's comments.



"If he comes my way, yeah. I don't expect him to. We have got quite a bit of history, against each other. I have actually coached him at Delhi Capitals and he is quite a prickly character," Ponting said in jest when

the anchor asked if he would shake hands with Gambhir if they cross path. One of the greatest batters of his time, Ponting then explained what he meant and felt that things were taken out of context. "In no way was it a dig at him (Kohli). I actually followed it up by saying he's played well in Australia and he'll be keen to bounce back over here...If you ask Virat, I'm sure he would be a little bit concerned that he hasn't been able to make the same amount of hundreds as he has in previous years," he said.

# Indian batters 'can't stand up' to Aussie pacers: Haddin

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former captain Aaron Finch believes Rishabh Pant and Alex Carey will be crucial in determining the outcome of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, while retired wicketkeeper Brad Haddin predicts that Indian batters will struggle against the Australian pacers. Finch feels the two wicketkeepers have the ability to shift the momentum in their team's favour in the event of a top-order collapse. "I think the key could be Alex Carey and Rishabh Pant. The two wicketkeepers are going to be so important," Finch said on "Willow Talk Podcast" when asked where this series is going to be won or lost. "A time or other in series the top order will get knocked over as both fast bowling attacks are so good and they will get on a roll. For me, it is that really crucial role of Alex at number seven and Rishabh at number six likely."



Both Pant, who played a key role in India's series victory last time, and Carey are

known for their aggressive brand of cricket. "Carey is aggressive, Rishabh

is aggressive. The game is going to go one or two ways really quick. And I think that

will be so important. "Maybe when you are five down and the second new ball

comes just before stumps and they take it for 50 that 10 overs before stumps, that

changes the momentum of the game." Finch feels both side's bowling units are at par which each other, while their batters haven't been at their best recently. India head to the the marquee series on the back of an embarrassing 0-3 home series defeat to New Zealand. "It's so important that the number 7 has the impact on the game. In my opinion both fast bowling attacks cancel each other out Nathan Lyon and Ashwin or Jadeja cancel each other out, Lyon has the slight advantage of it being Australia. "Both batting line ups haven't been at their best for a little while so that's why the keepers are important." Indian batters to struggle against Australian pacers Haddin reckons the fast-bowling trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood would trouble the Indian batters on bouncy pitches. "I don't think that the Indian

batters are going to stand up to our quicks," Haddin. India are likely to be without the services of skipper Rohit Sharma in the series opener at Perth, starting November 22. In Rohit's absence, either KL Rahul or Abhimanyu Easwaran will open the innings alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal, who will be playing his first series in Australia. Jaiswal has quickly established himself as one of the fiercest Test openers in recent times. In just 14 games, he has amassed 1,407 runs at an impressive average of 56.28, including three centuries, eight fifties, and a highest score of 214 not out. But Haddin is not sure how the youngster would negotiate the bouncy track that awaits India at Perth. "I know Jaiswal is a really good player, but he hasn't come out and seen Australia before, so I'm not sure whether he is going to handle the bounce. Opening in Perth is hard work," Haddin said.