

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The age to contest for MP and MLA should reduce to 21 from 25. This would encourage greater youth participation in politics. Empowering the youth could bring fresh perspectives and energy into governance, making politics more accessible to aspiring young leaders. If IAS and IPS can enter service at 21 and if people are eligible to vote at 18, then politics also should be open to youngsters.
 - Revanth Reddy, CM, Telangana P2

Cong gave 'Garibi Hatao' slogan but looted poor: PM

AROUND THE WORLD WITH BRUISED PASSPORTS!

Even Varun Tej couldn't save MATKA!

DON'T MISS...

Life science projects invested Rs 36,000 cr

Highlighting that the government welcomed almost 140 life science projects in 10-and-a-half months, which made cumulative investments of Rs 36,000 crore and committed 51,000 direct jobs along with 1,50,000 indirect jobs, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu shared the life sciences sector's achievements from December 2023 - November 2024 at a press conference at HICC Novotel on Thursday. Addressing the media, Sridhar Babu said that the Telangana government ...

-PAGE: 3

SBI staff stop digital arrest

Staff at the State Bank of India's Clock Tower Branch in Mahabubnagar on Thursday thwarted a cyber fraud attempt, saving a customer from a potential financial loss. M Anitha, a senior associate at the branch, played a key role in preventing the fraud. At around 11 am, a customer visited the branch and requested a real time gross settlement (RTGS) transfer of Rs 4.20 lakh. However, Anitha noticed that the ...

-PAGE: 5

Exports up 17.25% in Oct, highest in 2 yrs

India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent, highest in over two years, to \$39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to \$27.14 billion. According to the government data released on Thursday, imports increased by 3.9 per cent to \$66.34 billion in October compared to \$63.86 billion in the year-ago period. The trade deficit (gap between imports and exports) narrowed as compared to \$30.42 ...

-PAGE: 8

India thrash Thailand in women's hockey

Young striker Deepika slammed five goals as defending champions India thrashed minnows Thailand 13-0 to virtually assure a semifinal berth at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday. It was a completely one-sided match as the Indians found the net at will, with Thailand failing to take a single shot at the opposition goal. Deepika (3rd, 19th, 43rd, 45th, 45th minutes) found the net five times, while Preeti Dubey (9th, 40th), Lalresiamani ...

-SPORTS

Congress will force Centre for caste count in natl census: CM

'Caste survey a mega health check up for society'



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy greeting children at a public meeting held on the occasion of Children's Day celebrations at LB Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday said Congress would force the Centre to include caste count in the national census next year to pave the way for providing 'political, education and employment reservations' by breaching the 50 per cent cap on quotas. Speaking at the Children's Day celebrations organised here, he said the state government's ongoing caste survey should be made successful to realise its objectives, including increasing reservations and allocation of resources proportionate to population. Some are spreading false information that the government benefits would be stopped if the details are furnished as part of the survey but the exercise would only increase the benefits to eligible beneficiaries, he said.

Describing the caste survey as a "mega health check up for the society", he said the government intends to provide welfare schemes to all after collecting relevant details from the people. Highlighting the government's initiatives in education sector, Reddy asserted that those who supply inferior quality items to government residential schools would be sent to jail. He said the government has increased the allocation of funds for providing food and other basic needs to the students of the residential schools. The Telangana government's "historic" comprehensive socio-economic, employment, political and caste survey, an election promise of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, got underway on November 6.

Congress, BRS in war of words over attack on officials

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ruling Congress and opposition BRS in Telangana were on Thursday engaged in a war of words over the recent attack on officials in Vikarabad during a public hearing for land acquisition. "If KTR's involvement is there (in Vikarabad incident)...if it gets proved in the investigation, then I feel the government should go ahead with the action... if anyone is guilty, then he should be punished," Goud said. The state police on Wednesday alleged that former BRS MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy, arrested in connection with the attack on district authorities in Vikarabad during a recent public hearing on land acquisition, revealed that the incident was planned under the directions of the party's working president K T Rama Rao, and others. [Continued on Page 2](#)



'Cong govt taking over lands for real estate business'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress government is seizing lands to do real estate business, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that farmers who gave up their lands for the GMR Airport are now leading horrible lives working as toilet cleaners and daily wage labourers. Speaking to the media on Thursday, Eatala said that some brokers and middlemen are threatening Kodangal farmers who have assigned lands.

"The government tried to take over forcibly the lands of farmers who have title deeds. The government is trying to take over lands costing Rs 40 lakh an acre for Rs 10 lakh per care. However, the farmers staged a dharna and made it clear that they will not leave their villages come what may," he said. Eatala said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy arrogantly sent the Collector for the public hearing but the people protested. "The Collector himself said that nobody had attacked him, but still the government sent 1,500 policemen to four villages and arrested people. [Continued on Page 2](#)

Delay in Guv's nod for probe doesn't mean BJP & BRS are one

Kishan asks TG govt to probe 'corruption' in Amrut Scheme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The delay in the Governor deciding on the request by the TG government to probe BRS Working President KT Rama Rao doesn't mean that the BJP and the BRS are one, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.



Governor cannot take a decision without consulting legal experts and that the Governor will decide after legal experts give their opinion. [Continued on Page 2](#)

He said the TG government should come forward to probe the corruption that took place in the Amrut scheme. Speaking to the media on Thursday in New Delhi, Kishan said the

Kishan said that some people are spreading the lie that the BJP and the BRS are one due to the delay in taking a decision by the Governor regarding granting permission to the state government to probe KTR. It is the BJP which has demanded an inquiry into the Kaleshwaram scam and Revanth Reddy has never demanded that, he said. The BRS and the Congress are playing politics to protect their selfish interests ignoring the development of the state, he said. [Continued on Page 2](#)

CM REVIEWS 'PRAJA PALANA VIJAYOTSAVAM'

Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans across TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting with officials to finalise plans for the upcoming 'Praja Palana Vijayotsavam,' a celebration marking the government's achievements over the past year. Officials outlined the events scheduled until December 9, aiming to spread awareness of the government's welfare and development initiatives widely among the public. As part of the Vijayotsavam, the

Chief Minister advised that welfare and empowerment initiatives, particularly those focused on women, farmers and youth, that should be highlighted through various programmes. He emphasised the importance of public engagement in reflecting on the government's progress, with open gatherings planned in Warangal, Karimnagar and erstwhile Mahabubnagar districts. On November 19, the Chief Minister is set to inaugurate Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans across 22 districts from Warangal, reinforcing the

government's commitment to women's empowerment. The main Vijayotsavam events are scheduled for December 7, 8 and 9 at Hyderabad's Tank Bund, Secretariat and Necklace Road, featuring cultural activities organised by constituencies across Telangana. A major highlight of the Vijayotsavam will be the unveiling of the Telangana Tali statue in the Secretariat complex on December 9, with women from across the State invited to attend. [Continued on Page 2](#)

COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

'30 % complete'



Transport Minister Ponnamm reviewing the survey at the Roshan Bagh Colony Apartments in Hyderabad on Thursday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The comprehensive household survey is 30 per cent complete, said Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar after reviewing the survey with GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi. Telangana's comprehensive house-to-house family survey has become a 'model' for the nation, said Ponnamm, the Minister for Transport and BC Welfare and in-

charge of Hyderabad. Ponnamm reviewed the survey at the Roshan Bagh Colony Apartments and Nazar Mithali Nagar in NBT Nagar in Banjara Hills on Thursday along with GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, Additional Commissioner Sneha Sabarish and Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durishetty. [Continued on Page 2](#)

Patnam disowns 'confessional statement'

NAVEENA GHANATE
 naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
 ■ HYDERABAD



The former Kodangal BRS MLA, Patnam Narendra Reddy, the No: 1 accused in the Lagacherla case, has strongly refuted the allegations against him. He said that his arrest and the charges filed against him were politically motivated and marred by procedural improprieties. Patnam wrote to the Magistrate that the police did not ask him anything. The confession report is false. The police wrote their own script just to drag KTR into the case. He said that only after his Advocate received a copy of the remand report did he know about the lies written by the police in the remand report.

In a statement submitted to the Judicial Magistrate of Kodangal, Vikarabad, Patnam gave a detailed account of his detention, challenging the narrative presented by the police and claiming that he was targeted due to his political affiliation. "I heard from my wife on

Thursday that the police had created a fake story of some confessional statement allegedly given by me, saying that my alleged involvement in the above case was as per the directions of my party leader KTR and others. I deny the above allegation as false and concocted and made up by the police. I have not given any confession to the police at any point of time and I have not said anything as alleged in the police's remand report. I deny the allegations levelled by the police in their remand report in toto, as it was made at the behest of our political adversaries. [Continued on Page 2](#)

Trump selects Miller; tough time for H-1B visa seekers

PNS ■ WASHINGTON DC

US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed as White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy immigration hardliner and close aide, Stephen Miller, who believes "America is for Americans and Americans only" and who promised to "restore America to the true Americans".



Now in his new role in Trump 2.0, Miller is expected to continue his advocacy for restrictive immigration policies, including limits on H-1B visas. He argues that the H-1B program can lead to American worker displacement and wage suppression

Confirming Miller's appointment, Vice President-elect JD Vance on Monday, congratulated the incoming Deputy Chief of Staff for policy on X, calling him "another fantastic pick by the President."

Miller was part of the President-elect's first administration and served as his senior

adviser and director of speech-writing at the White House. He was also a central figure behind several of Trump's policies on immigration, including the

Muslim travel ban and the 2018 family separation policy. Miller's stance on H-1B visas Known for his extremist rhetoric, Miller was a frequent pres-

ence during the President-elect's 2024 campaign, often seen speaking at Trump's rallies. Addressing Trump's infamous Madison Square Garden rally in New York, which saw an attendance of nearly 19,500 Americans, Miller told the crowd that "America is for Americans and Americans only" and promised to "restore America to the true Americans". [Continued on Page 2](#)

Last year, during an interview with the New York Times, Miller asserted that if Trump was re-elected, his administration would bring policies to restrict legal and illegal immigration. He also talked about plans to detain undocumented immigrants in camps while they await expulsion. [Continued on Page 2](#)



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Bulldozer justice quashed

The SC strikes down 'bulldozer justice,' mandating strict accountability for officials involved in illegal demolitions

The Supreme Court of India has delivered a landmark judgement against the practice of "bulldozer justice," emphasising that officials who engage in illegal demolitions will now be held personally liable to restore properties and pay damages. The judgement is a response to the growing concern over arbitrary demolitions used as punitive measures, often targeting properties associated with individuals accused of crimes. The judgement introduces strict procedural requirements and enforces personal accountability for officials. This liability includes covering the cost of restoring the demolished properties and compensating affected parties. This measure is designed to deter officials from disregarding due process and underscores the responsibility that comes with exercising state power. The Supreme Court has established mandatory procedural guidelines to prevent arbitrary demolitions— A 15-day prior show-cause notice is required, along with a personal hearing; a detailed final order justifying why demolition is the only viable action must be provided and a 15-day grace period post-final order allows the affected party to seek legal recourse or vacate the premises.



The Supreme Court has mandated real-time updates on a digital portal for all demolition notices and orders to prevent arbitrary actions and foster transparency. Additionally, the entire demolition process must be videographed, with a list of officials involved to ensure accountability and adherence to procedure. Officials violating these directives risk contempt proceedings and prosecution, underscoring the Court's commitment to upholding the rule of law. The judgement holds far-reaching implications for governance, rule of law and individual rights in India. By restricting demolitions carried out as a form of punishment, the Supreme Court reinforces the fundamental legal principle that the executive cannot act as judge and enforcer. The decision underscores the judiciary's role in protecting individuals' rights against arbitrary state action, affirming that everyone is entitled to due process before facing punitive measures. The decision is laudable because it is tough on arbitrary demolitions, which often infringe on the right to shelter, impacting families and communities and safeguards citizens' fundamental rights, emphasising that actions targeting individuals suspected of crimes must follow legal due process. The judgement must come as a relief to many families who dread the demolition as one of them might have been on the wrong side of the law. However, the judgement falls short of putting onus on the political masters of the bureaucrats on whose behest such actions are often taken. Nevertheless, it would rein in the erring officers who go out of way to please their political masters. It is a bold move that could reshape administrative conduct.

The judgement holds far-reaching implications for governance, rule of law and individual rights in India. By restricting demolitions carried out as a form of punishment, the Supreme Court reinforces the fundamental legal principle that the executive cannot act as judge and enforcer. The decision underscores the judiciary's role in protecting individuals' rights against arbitrary state action, affirming that everyone is entitled to due process before facing punitive measures. The decision is laudable because it is tough on arbitrary demolitions, which often infringe on the right to shelter, impacting families and communities and safeguards citizens' fundamental rights, emphasising that actions targeting individuals suspected of crimes must follow legal due process. The judgement must come as a relief to many families who dread the demolition as one of them might have been on the wrong side of the law. However, the judgement falls short of putting onus on the political masters of the bureaucrats on whose behest such actions are often taken. Nevertheless, it would rein in the erring officers who go out of way to please their political masters. It is a bold move that could reshape administrative conduct.

PICTALK



A crow quenches its thirst by drinking water from a fountain, in New Delhi

India's cricket boycott is a safety issue, not politics



BHOPINDER SINGH

As the deadliest year in Pakistan's recent history unfolds, calls for separating sports from safety concerns overlook the urgent realities facing the nation

Global Terrorism Index 2024 reports that Pakistan had the highest recorded terror attacks of any country in the world. 490 attacks were formally recorded with spiralling instances in the fourth successive year of increased deaths and terror incidents. The US Department of State currently maps the situation at "level 3" i.e., warning its citizens to "Reconsider Travel". Similarly, British authorities "advise against all travels to parts of Pakistan" and note bluntly, "No travel can be guaranteed safe".

There are two dedicated Pakistani Army Divisions deployed to secure Chinese personnel and assets of the various Chinese-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) imperatives in Pakistan, yet the same gets targeted with seeming impunity and deadly consequences. Even royals from various Arab sheikdoms who used to descend into the Pakistani hinterland for the annual Houbara hunting season have desisted from the same, given the acute security concerns prevailing. Whereas India has rightfully slammed Pakistan for being the "world's terrorism factory" for its nefarious record in fanning religious extremism and armed insurgency on Indian soil, since independence. Stating that there is a grave security concern in Pakistan is not a political statement but a statement of fact. The fact that it was featured prominently in the Grey List of the global anti-terror watchdog agency, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) till very recently, is also a fact. Amidst this undeniable security landscape in Pakistan, Pakistani authorities pooh-pooh concerns of the Indian Cricket Board, i.e., BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India), to avoid sending the Indian Cricket Team to play in Pakistan owing to security concerns, is not political one-upmanship but the expected concern of any board towards the safety and welfare of its team. That several India-facing terror groups are thriving on Pakistani soil is a very old story that needs no reiteration, and that itself makes the threat to the Indian team especially severe. The official breakdown and



downgrading of diplomatic ties between Delhi and Islamabad since 2019, do not help mend popular mood or perceptions about India or Indians in Pakistan (or vice versa), either. While it is certainly true that sporting ties between the two restive nations were always given to political 'point-scoring' and even positive leverage in the form of 'cricket diplomacy' (to thaw bilateral freeze) - this time the security situation in Pakistan has deteriorated to such levels, that to suggest that it is the usual 'point-scoring' diplomacy is to live under a rock. The reality of the situation is even beyond the intellectual debate of allowing or disallowing sports between two 'enemy' countries. Sometime back, India did choose to conflate sports with other bilateral engagements owing to Pakistan's established role in sponsoring terrorism in India, but even if one were to delink the two, the security situation in Pakistan itself warrants a cautionary note from the Indian side.

Understandably the Pakistanis are miffed and embarrassed about what they perceive as a deliberate Indian affront, but deep down they know better given that 2024 has emerged as the deadliest year ever, from the perspective of terrorism in



PAKISTAN IS IN THE MIDST OF AN UNDENIABLE AND COMPLEX SECURITY CRISIS AND WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO RESUME EVENTS WITH INDIAN PARTICIPATION, ONCE THE GROUND SECURITY SITUATION CHANGES

Pakistan. However, coming from its imagined nemesis i.e., India, it is a bitter pill to swallow openly. Given that Pakistan's Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, also double-hats as the Chairman of the Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB) - the Pakistani reaction to BCCI concern assumes a political reaction. He has cavalierly downplayed the 'Hybrid Option' (wherein India plays its matches in a neutral venue, while others can play in Pakistan) by countering, "one of the options the government is mulling is that of asking the PCB to ensure Pakistan don't participate in the Champions Trophy", as a political face-saving comeback. He also fumed that the PCB ought not to be expected to "carry on with their good gestures" of playing in India, as Pakistanis did earlier. This wounded statement misses the point of contrasting the security situation existing in India, vis-à-vis Pakistan, currently.

The Pakistani Government may be tempted to 'retaliate' optically and go as far as asking its team to desist from playing against India in any of the ICC or Asian Cricket Council tournaments, to negate the perceived sleight. Currently, the heavily invested narrative of a perennial 'enemy' in India leads to an instinctive ostrich-like head in the soil, and denials by Pakistan. Situational irony is magnified by the chairing of the global body of cricketing governance i.e., the ICC, by the son of India's Home Minister (equivalent of Interior Minister in Pakistan), Jay Shah. Pakistani social media is agog with memes of Kathik-calling-Karthik allusions and its questionable neutrality in handling the current situation. Fair as that concern might be from a Pakistani perspective in normal times, it still does not take away from the genuineness of security concerns in Pakistan. For Pakistan to give examples of the security cover afforded to India's Foreign Minister on a recent visit to Pakistan as an example of its preparedness to host matches with tens of thousands of spectators and other accompanying circumstances, is contrived and grossly stretched logic. Pakistan is in the midst of an undeniable and complex security crisis and will only be able to resume events with Indian participation, once the ground security situation changes. For now, it is clearly beyond political one-upmanship. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; the views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLIMATE CRISIS IGNORED

Madam — The editorial, 'Deliver tangible results' (November 13), should sensitise all the concerned. The COP29 is seen more as a ritual congregation than as producing anything tangible in the interest of humanity. The present economic order, marked by rabid chasing of capital for instant profits with its predatory character, knows no sentiments. As capital has gained such power over the policies of a government or even changed the government itself to make its course further smooth. In this background, Trump regaining his political power grossly reduces the scope for any further positive developments in this affair. He is for outright support for faster exploitation for mines and oil wealth to enrich the rich at the cost of the very survival of the living beings. The latest manifestations of climate change are serious signals to attend to the damages inflicted on the environment but have yet to be taken seriously by any country. COP 29 that meets periodically, discusses the issue, receives consents and commitments for its resolutions from members but utterly fails to put in practice to bring about any tangible improvements in the status. The Indian government is not different. The amendments brought in by the Forest Act last year will see more damage to forests and more men and material loss. Attaching more importance to money has its toll on living beings, which, under the present economic order, is very difficult to infuse a humane face to it.

A G Rajmohan | Anantpur

VISTARA MERGED WITH AIR INDIA

Madam — The Indian full-service airline called Vistara Airlines has finally reached its merger completion stage with Air India. With this, it is now only the Tata Group-owned Air India in the country to manage the full-service flight facility in India. The ten-year-old Vistara, which is a joint venture between Indian and Singaporean companies, has finally flown its last flight from Delhi to Singapore with the code name UK. The premium Club

Inflation rates surge



The inflation rate based on the consumer price index increased to 6.21 per cent in October, up from 5.49 per cent in September, according to the data released by

the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The increase was driven by the prices of food products, particularly the vegetables, especially tomatoes, onions and potatoes (TOP), rising above 42 per cent.

The food inflation rose sharply to 10.87 per cent in October from 9.2 per cent in the preceding month. There is a greater need for the government to implement additional supply-side measures to stabilise food prices. A weakening of the rupee to an all-time low (November 13, rupees 83.40 against one dollar) against the dollar has also raised the specter of India's oil import bill climbing, which could stoke inflation if retail fuel prices go up. Since this is man-made inflation, the government, which has virtually failed to check inflation, needs to make all-out efforts to check it to give a sigh of relief to the poor.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

Vistara tickets and pre-booking orders of Vistara have already been shifted to the Maharaja Club of Air India.

Although this whole merger and amalgamation process of Vistara is quite heartening, as Vistara is renowned for its quality service, while Air India grapples with some service issues. Although Air India is in its process of transitioning, any comment with respect to its services quality and experience post merger with Vistara would be too early. Tata's are the trusted group of India, and let's not forget that their airline's contribution holds a long history. They have been in national service in India since 1932, with the visionary mentality of JRD Tata. The expansion of Air India with the merger of Vistara will surely improve the aviation operations of Air India and also help the Air India group to focus more on customer-centric service with a memorable quality experience in every flight.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

PROMISES AND POLITICS

Madam — The political scenario is getting hotter as the stakes are very high in the

Maharashtra state elections. Honours are even and fighting for supremacy is gearing up in a fancy mood. Allegations and counter-allegations are mounting up and a war of words is now in a now-or never situation. Freebies funds find routes in a big way, finding routes from the household items and electronic items.

As the manifestos are out, the realities come to light in the electioneering. In the public view, election manifestos are issued solely to sway voters, who know they will hear about these promises again only when the next election comes. People will have to simply wait and watch as mute spectators. If parties truly believe in the validity of their manifestos, they should allow voters to judge these promises on their own merits, rather than muddying the waters with divisive or defamatory statements. The real lie lies in cheating voters. Lies lay low in a political flow of fight between EVMs and electorates.

C K Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Pathway to a knowledge-rich, future-ready nation

By promoting multilingualism, skill development and character-building, NEP 2020 aims to empower students to tackle both national and global challenges



UMANG BAJAJ

On July 29, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 completed four years, a transformative framework that has reshaped the country's educational landscape by connecting contemporary needs with its traditional roots. NEP 2020 stands as the first education policy since independence that genuinely aligns with Bharat's ancient traditions, advocating for accessible, quality education with an emphasis on relevance and inclusivity. The policy introduces a host of progressive features, such as flexible study options, multiple entry and exit points, the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), credit transfer mechanisms, and a focus on online courses, aiming to create a seamless, adaptable educational journey for learners across the nation.



Bharat's ambition to reclaim its heritage as a knowledge superpower. One of the most notable additions is the incorporation of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), promoting the revival and research of traditional subjects such as Vedic mathematics, Ayurveda, environmental studies, linguistics, Yoga and other indigenous disciplines. This shift helps bridge the gap left by prior policies, which often neglected or excluded these areas under the influence of Western paradigms. The NEP also recommends a three-language formula, promoting multilingualism by including at least two Indian languages in school curricula. While this policy is intended to support India's linguistic diversity, it

faced resistance in some non-Hindi-speaking states, where concerns about linguistic hegemony and regional language preservation surfaced. The central government may need to address these concerns carefully, especially given education's status on the Concurrent List, to ensure a balanced approach that respects regional identities while achieving national integration. The policy's emphasis on Sanskrit, often regarded as a foundational element of Bharat's cultural heritage, is a major milestone. With Sanskrit included as an optional language under the three-language formula, both school and higher education institutions are encouraged to integrate it into their curricula. NEP serves as a turning point in Bharat's educational history, aiming to foster character development and national pride alongside academic excellence. NEP 2020 emphasises two overarching themes: nurturing Indian values and fostering character-building among students. This holistic approach is intended to develop responsible, ethical citizens ready to tackle both national and global

challenges. Despite allegations of "saffronisation," proponents argue that the NEP aims to realign the educational system with what benefits the nation and its people. Science and history, though based on facts, are often viewed through the lenses of time and place. A major thrust of NEP 2020 is skill development, with the objective of enhancing employability by integrating vocational training and practical learning into the curriculum. The inclusion of courses on data structures, programming, machine learning and artificial intelligence is intended to prepare students for a tech-driven future. NEP 2020 also encourages societal engagement through initiatives like internships and community visits, fostering creativity and real-world problem-solving skills. Institutions like NIT Uttarakhand have already embraced the NEP's multidisciplinary model, focusing on research and innovation to build a skilled and socially conscious workforce. (The author is the BJP Councilor, New Delhi; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

UNVEILING THE SHAKTIS

Shakti forms are central to authentic spiritual practice. Nature's energies are accessible but require dedication



ASHWINI GURURJI

The creation is governed by certain *Shaktis*. As you progress in your *sadhana*, you can experience their forms. Every day, each one of the 365 days, is governed (sanchalit) by a specific *shakti*. That is why the importance of *niyam* and daily practice is insisted upon in yoga. If one misses the *sadhana* for even a single day, the *shakti* of that day is left behind and the *sadhana* of an entire year goes to waste because in Brahmand, if a single thing goes missing then its effect is felt on everything — our body, the earth, as well as other planets and stars. Every *Shakti* has a day, but one need not perform rituals to access them. In yoga and *tantra*, there is no ritual, just the *sadhana* of *Shakti*. It is important to understand the *shakti* of each day and the *Swaroop* of that *shakti*. There is a name for every form of *Shakti*, but at the present moment, we will only be discussing their forms. The names are taken only after generating the capacity in the body, through specific *sadhanas*. At a basic level, when you do *dhyana* with your *guru*, you can see certain forms in him/her, like the sun or even the moon. Ever wondered where these forms come from and what they represent? There are many *sadhaks* who have reported seeing the form of the sun in *dhyana*. What is so special about the Sun? If you look at the Sun at the time of Sunrise and Sunset, keeping the awareness of *Manipoorak* and chanting the mantra 'Ram', you will find a certain glow starts coming into the body and just within a month you will start looking very different (A word of caution here, for any yogic practice it is important to have a Guru who guides you as per your capacity). Just like the sun, the moon too is an extremely interesting energy. The moon merely reflects the light of the Sun, but with that



light, it can attract the tides as well as the earth's surface on a full moon night. Have you ever thought about it— what is so special about the moon? Not just that, on a full moon night, animals become violent, the mentally unstable start behaving funny and accidents and fights are on the rise. Right now I am only discussing the basic aspects, to give you a hint that there is something different about these forms. What that is, is a subject of experience and you will get that experience with the correct practice of *Sanatan Kriya*.

The speciality of the Moon is that it looks calm and peaceful but it is more volatile than even the Sun. When you look at the moon under the guidance of a *Guru*, you will be able to see all the mantras in its form because you cannot see the sun, which channelises that *Shakti*. There are certain *shaktis* which you cannot see and so there are certain other *shaktis* through which you can see and feel their effect, it becomes an experience for you. And till you have that experience, yoga is a waste for you, nothing can happen and nothing is possible.

Experience is the basis of yoga. All the things that we see in the sky and on the earth, there are so many flowers of so many different kinds and colours, if you simply look at them without blinking your eyes under *Guru Sanidhya*, all the defects and imbalances in the body disappear. But there is a small problem... *niyam*. There should be no break in the practice, and the break will come if you do not have the capacity for that *Shakti* or if you don't have a *Guru*. Nature, everything that we see around us, has all the *swaroops* of *shaktis* hidden in it and all these *shaktis* are very easily accessible. If one makes him/herself stir on these *shaktis* and accesses them properly, then they start following that person. The nine days leading to Diwali are especially powerful because of the congregation of specific *shaktis* during these days. Our ancestors prescribed observing the *vrat* of *brahmacharya* during these days to make the body strong enough to accept these *Shaktis*.

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

AI revolutionises the beauty and wellness industry



DINESH SOOD

As global demand for unique beauty solutions surges, the sector's embrace of AI reflects a profound shift towards customisation, efficiency and consumer satisfaction



Innovative products and services utilising new technologies are beginning to disrupt the beauty and wellness sector. As a result, traditional skills need to be strengthened and combined with modern technological skills such as artificial intelligence (AI), app development, augmented reality for try-on services, data analytics and enhanced customer engagement strategies. AI has made significant advancements in the beauty and wellness sector, particularly as the demand for customisation and personalisation has increased.

This trend reflects diverse customer preferences, lifestyles, body types and genetic factors. Recent news about Maybelline's AI-powered "makeup" filters for Microsoft teams has reignited discussions on AI's role in the beauty sector. It is crucial to explore how AI is transforming the industry and to stay updated on the latest developments. The global beauty industry market utilising AI was valued at \$216.12 million in 2020 and is projected to reach \$1.26 billion by 2027. An industry report indicates that the annual growth rate (CAGR) of AI in the beauty sector from 2021 to 2027 is expected to be 33.2 per cent. Several laboratories have developed AI-driven skin consultation tools that integrate augmented reality and artificial intelligence to analyse skin ageing.

These tools can identify signs of ageing and assess skin strength, providing tailored skincare recommendations to prevent further deterioration. Their algorithms are based on 10,000 images and 15 years of dermatological expertise. Users can take a selfie and provide their age and skin type to receive an estimate of their skin condition along with a personalised analysis. They will then receive customised skincare prescriptions. AI assists in analysing skin conditions, recommending personalised skincare and wellness routines and even predicting trends, ultimately enhancing product development and customer satisfaction. Acne is a common concern worldwide, affecting 80 per cent of teenagers and 40 per cent of adults. With AI, a database of 6,000 images representing various ethnic skin types

enables accurate analysis and personalised routine recommendations for those suffering from acne. This groundbreaking AI technology draws from a library of 10,000 authentic images evaluated by real dermatologists, achieving an accuracy rate of nearly 97 per cent across eight clinical parameters and a wide array of skin types.

In the ever-evolving beauty and wellness industry, where innovation fosters confidence and self-expression, AI has become a powerful ally in creating more effective and personalised product formulations than ever before. By leveraging its diverse applications and capabilities, AI is driving a revolution that is changing how beauty and wellness products are developed, personalised, and marketed.

From trend spotting to precise product formulation, AI is reshaping the beauty industry in exciting and groundbreaking ways. Integrating AI into the formulation process can also ensure product effectiveness. AI algorithms can simulate how ingredients are absorbed and metabolised by the skin, identifying potential unwanted interactions or side effects.

This approach minimises the risks associated with bringing new products to market and ensures consumers achieve optimal results without compromising their wellbeing. Traditionally, skincare products have been developed with a one-size-fits-all approach, often failing to meet individual consumers' unique needs. AI changes this methodology by analysing various data points, including skin type, age, environmental factors and personal preferences.

By using AI-powered tools, brands can create customised skincare products tailored to each customer's specific requirements. For instance, AI algo-

ritms can assess a user's skin condition through photographs and questionnaires, recommending or formulating products with particular concentrations of active ingredients that address individual skin concerns. Additionally, AI can analyse molecular structures to predict how new compounds will interact with human skin, significantly reducing the time and cost of traditional trial-and-error methods.

The AI system recommends suitable ingredients, products and skincare routines tailored to each individual's needs. It can also suggest branded products that address specific conditions in the beauty and wellness industry, aiming to connect deeply with each customer's preferences. As technology continues to evolve, it promises solutions that will enhance both appearance and wellbeing in the future. Importantly, your data remains private; it is not stored and only you can view the results unless you choose to share your information with others. A personalised experience is crucial for success in the beauty and wellness industry. AI technology plays a significant role in identifying each customer's unique preferences and addressing their individual needs.

As technology advances, beauty companies are expected to introduce innovative services that enhance customer interaction and contribute to the global growth of the beauty market. Online services are evolving rapidly alongside these technological advancements. The importance of websites, engaging social media platforms and online marketplaces is increasing. The share of online revenue in the beauty and personal care sector, which was approximately 4.6 per cent in 2017, is projected to rise to 18.2 per cent by 2025. The

future of the beauty and wellness industry will depend on an omnichannel experience that seamlessly integrates online and offline interactions, utilising a range of digital tools to enhance the consumer experience.

Virtual try-ons and consultations have become standard in beauty retail; however, replicating the human connection remains a challenge. Online influencers and "show me how" content are gaining popularity as consumers learn to master services that they previously sought from professionals. Additionally, live streaming on platforms like Facebook Live and Instagram significantly engages younger consumers. In India, the beauty and wellness industry is growing rapidly, expanding twice as fast as that of the United States and Europe. Greater consumer awareness and aspiration have led to increased spending on beauty and wellness products and services.

Per capita spending on beauty and personal care products rose from Rs 450 per annum in 2017 to Rs 684 in 2022, with a further increase projected to Rs 772 by 2025. Today's consumers demand unique experiences, making traditional approaches less effective. There is a growing preference for convenience and on-demand services, which have become essential in the fast-paced lives of working professionals. As a result, there is an increasing need for transferable skills within the workforce in the beauty and wellness sector, as customer service expertise becomes more in demand.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; the views expressed are personal)



IN THE EVER-EVOLVING BEAUTY AND WELLNESS INDUSTRY, WHERE INNOVATION FOSTERS CONFIDENCE AND SELF-EXPRESSION, AI HAS BECOME A POWERFUL ALLY IN CREATING MORE EFFECTIVE AND PERSONALISED PRODUCT FORMULATIONS THAN EVER BEFORE

Cybersecurity: Safeguarding a digital future amid rising cyber threats

India must act swiftly to secure its digital future in an era where technological prowess is now essential for national security

Today, cyber-attacks impact every aspect of life, from government agencies and corporations to individuals' personal data and privacy. While the reach of cybercrime is vast, the underlying complexity remains poorly understood by many, with significant security consequences for nations that fail to address these threats adequately. Cyber-attacks threaten national security and underscore the vulnerabilities associated with our increasing dependence on digital infrastructure. Although the internet has revolutionised the world by providing incredible convenience, connection and comfort, these benefits come with the challenge of safeguarding critical data and



VINAY PATHAK

infrastructure. As cybersecurity becomes the essential defense for peace, prosperity, and privacy in the digital age, recent incidents such as the breach of 7.9 million customer records at India's stock-broking firm Angel demonstrate the necessity of strengthening digital protections. While the internet facilitates ease of access, it also introduces serious vulnerabilities that call for immediate,

concerted efforts.

The recent cyber-attack on Iran marks a chilling advance in digital warfare, illustrating that no nation is immune to the risks of a hyperconnected world. As countries, corporations, and citizens expand their online presence, the scope for potentially devastating cyber-attacks rises dramatically.

This incident serves as a reminder of the need for nations to address cyberspace's complex, escalating risks. India, for example, is undergoing a digital revolution with over 936 million internet users as of December 2023. These "Digital Nagriks" fuel a dynamic digital economy, supporting critical sectors such as healthcare, education, finance and agricul-

ture. However, the rapid pace of digital adoption has outpaced India's cybersecurity measures, creating opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit these gaps.

According to the 2024 Cisco Cybersecurity Readiness Index, only 4 per cent of Indian companies are fully prepared to counter cyber threats, exposing significant vulnerabilities within the nation's digital framework. These threats arise not only from criminal organisations but also from state-sponsored entities targeting India's economic and strategic assets. Moreover, emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) enable more sophisticated cyber-attacks, including deepfake technology and disinformation cam-



paigns, adding complex layers to cyber defenses. In today's world, technological prowess in fields such as AI and cybersecurity equates to national security, rivaling traditional military strength. However, India faces several challenges in coordinating an effective cyber defense. While initiatives like Cyber Surakshit Bharat have shown early progress, a comprehensive national cybersecurity

strategy is still missing, which limits effective threat response and assessment. A recent step forward has been the Prime Minister's Office's appointment of a cybersecurity oversight official, but gaps remain in the infrastructure needed to support comprehensive defence. Cyberspace's borderless nature complicates defence efforts, as attacks can target both military and civilian assets globally, bypassing traditional political and geographic constraints.

India has implemented several initiatives to tackle cyber threats. For instance, the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC) at the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre in New Delhi unites major players—including

banks, telecom providers and law enforcement agencies—to combat online financial crimes. This initiative, exemplifying "Cooperative Federalism," enables swift responses to fraud. The government has also introduced the Samanvaya Platform, a centralised repository of cybercrime data to foster interagency cooperation. Despite these initiatives, further action is required to establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework. Without unified regulatory standards, gaps remain in protecting the public and private sectors, especially for small businesses that may lack the resources for robust cybersecurity protocols. This vulnerability could undermine both national

security and public trust in India's digital infrastructure. Programs like Cyber Surakshit Bharat, the National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC), and CERT-In have all aimed to strengthen India's defences, with additional measures such as the Information Security Education and Awareness Project (ISEA) helping to create a culture of security consciousness among citizens. The 2023 Digital Personal Data Protection Act reinforces this commitment by aligning with global data security standards to improve transparency and accountability among companies.

(The writer is an assistant professor, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sonapat; views are personal)

From the sun-kissed beaches of French Polynesia to the snow-capped peaks of Antarctica, Savi Munjal and Vidit Taneja have been on a journey of a lifetime. In an exclusive chat, they share their most unforgettable experiences and what's next for the power couple behind 'Bruised Passports'



AROUND THE WORLD WITH BRUISED PASSPORTS!



TRAVELOGUE

AARTI SREENATH
aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

In a world where wanderlust is a way of life, one couple stands out from the rest: Savi Munjal and Vidit Taneja, the trailblazing duo behind Bruised Passports, whose collective passport pages boast an impressive tally of over 100 countries visited. With 1.2 million Instagram followers, these travel aficionados redefine wanderlust with every photograph and every captivating post. From National Geographic to BBC, their story has transcended borders, inspiring millions to view travel as a profound, nature-revering and slightly eccentric adventure.

As they share the highlights of their latest escapades in French Polynesia, plus a few unforgettable memories, they invite us all to step into their journey—and maybe even start planning our next. We caught up with them fresh from their latest escapades to dive into their world of scenic beaches, hidden islands, and... cheese & onion chocolate? Here's what they had to say!

In the heart of Polynesia, Savi and Vid found paradise on earth. "We've been smitten," they admit. From the moment they touched down, every detail enchanted them: white-sand beaches, the vibrant hues of coral-filled waters and people who are as warm as the island sunshine. But it was the locals' reverence for nature that left the most lasting impression. "Their relationship with nature isn't just respectful; it's deeply spiritual. You don't just see this connection—you feel it."

If you're picturing French Polynesia as a backdrop for some truly Instagram-worthy looks, you're right. Their travel wardrobe mirrored the Polynesian aesthetic with a sarong that catches the breeze, flower crowns fit for royalty and long, flowing dresses that add a playful punch of colour to any sandy shore. "For us, dressing up is part of the travel experience," they explain. "Fashion lets me engage with the vibe of each destination and Polynesia was all about natural, flowy beauty."

In Polynesia, where every island feels like a chapter from a dreamy novel, the pair still managed to find a hidden gem—an island so unique it almost felt otherworldly. Taha'a, they confess, was a delightful discovery. "It's like stepping into another realm where time slows down and all you breathe is vanilla," they recall. "We'd never even heard of it before, but we left with the feeling that we'd found an island as magical as it gets."

Of course, being seasoned travellers, Savi and Vid have their fair share of contrasting travel tales. When they talk about their favourite places back home, Ladakh always gets a special mention. "Even after visiting over a hundred countries, Ladakh's landscapes are extraordinary," they added. The barren beauty, the isolated monasteries, the peace that settles over you—it's something they haven't quite experienced anywhere else.

Their journey through Polynesia was enhanced by the right hotel choices—something they believe can make or break a trip. "In a beach destination, nothing beats a room with an ocean view," they insist. "Our hotel in Polynesia didn't just have incredible views; it added an extra layer to our experience. A little planning goes a long way in making a holiday unforgettable."

When they need a break from all the planning, though, Savi and Vid have a tried-and-true sanctuary: Bali. They've spent almost 20 months there over the years, making it an

easy escape for recharging their batteries. "It's a dream destination for digital nomads," they say. With everything from yoga studios to waterfalls and organic cafes, Bali offers a perfect balance of calm and adventure, letting them enjoy the slower rhythms of life whenever they need to rest.

However, not all of their travel stories are as relaxing. One chilling memory involves being stranded in a Croatian forest, thanks to a malfunctioning GPS. "It was pitch dark and we were completely lost. At the time, we were terrified!" they recall.

A continent that holds an almost mythical status in their memory is Antarctica. "They say you should save Antarctica for last, because nothing will ever measure up afterward," they say, describing the icy beauty of the place. "Seeing penguin colonies, hiking glaciers and floating past icebergs felt like we were on another planet." It was an experience they'd dreamed of and it didn't disappoint—though both admit they may be ruined for snowy landscapes anywhere else!

Of course, travel is also an experience that brings out the nostalgia for simpler times. One of their most cherished travel memories involves squeezing into a Maruti 800 and heading for hill stations like Shimla with their families. "It's such a core part of the childhood travel experience in India. It taught us early on that the journey itself is the most memorable part sometimes."

With South America firmly on their travel radar, Savi and Vid are eager to explore Brazil and Colombia, two places they've been longing to capture for their social media audience. "We think our followers would love it," they say. As they share their stories and dreams with a loyal community, it's clear that for this couple, travel is as much about the people who join them on their virtual journey as it is about the destinations themselves.

Their soundtracks are carefully curated, too. Savi and Vid love discovering local music wherever they go, but if they need a go-to playlist, you'll hear old-school jazz and Frank Sinatra wafting through their speakers. But travel brings laughs, too—especially with cultural misunderstandings. One of the funniest happened in Australia, where they misinterpreted the phrase, "How are you going?" as an inquiry into their mode of transportation. "We actually answered by saying we'd be taking a cab!" they remember. It was a moment that reminded them why travel is truly the greatest education.

When it comes to mementos, they skip the usual fridge magnets and instead collect quirky snacks from around the world. "We've brought home everything from electric-blue Takis to wasabi KitKats and cheese-flavoured chocolates. It's a fun way to relive our trips after we're back," they share.

If you're looking for their top travel hack, Savi has one that every over-packer needs to hear. "Pack lighter than you think you need to! Once you lay everything out, take out about a third of it. You'll be surprised at how much you can do without." As seasoned travellers who know the importance of making space for new experiences (and maybe a few extra snacks), Savi and Vid have learned that the lightest bags hold the best memories.

As they prepare for the next chapter in their journey, they remind us that travel isn't about ticking places off a list, it's about discovering just how much magic the world holds and maybe even sharing a little of it with others.

Promising show with room for growth

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

The wait is over! The realm of love, unexpected twists and complex feelings makes its way back with the thrilling second season of *Half Love Half Arranged* on Amazon MX Player! The popular rom-com series from Dice Media has just released its trailer, offering fans a sneak peek into Riya's heartfelt adventure as she seeks love amidst family pressures and revelations.

REVIEW

PL0T
In this season, *Half Love Half Arranged* reintroduces the cherished dynamics between Riya (played by Maanvi Gagroo) and Jogi (played by Karan Wahi), while adding a fresh element with Ved (played by Ritvik Dhanjani), who enters the cast in a significant role. Set in the context of contemporary love, the series centers on Riya as she reaches a pivotal moment, deciding between her dreams and a future filled with obstacles. Filled with touching scenes and comedic turns, Season 2 guarantees a deeper exploration of Riya's journey to self-discovery and the fragile equilibrium between her happiness and family customs.

HIGHLIGHTS

The series explores themes of love, relationships, family and identity, all set against the backdrop of modern-day India. The tone is light-hearted and humorous, with a touch of wit and sarcasm. The show balances comedy and drama beautifully, making it an engaging watch. The season being divided into six episodes, each episode's title, including *Kya Karein Kya Na Karein*, *Chup Chup Ke*, *Dard-e-Disco*, *Bhaagam Bhag*, *Tere Mere Pyaar Ke Charche* and *Kuch Khaas Hai*, aptly hints on what the episode is going to be about. And so do the particular episodes too. This season buckles up to being more heart-pumping drama, sultry romance and life-altering choices. The climax is surely worth the watch.

DRAWBACKS

Though the plot is pretty much relatable to current-day love and relationships, some scenes do feel predictable, of course with a few surprises along the way. The show's focus on romantic love feels overwhelming at times, with other aspects of the characters' lives taking a backseat. The show could have benefited from a more nuanced portrayal of the challenges and complexities of arranged marriages. In a few scenes, some viewers may feel bored.

PERFORMANCES

Maanvi Gagroo shines as Riya Tanwar yet again, bringing a nuanced and relatable performance to the role. She perfectly captures Riya's vulnerability, wit and charm, making her a lovable and rootable protagonist. Karan Wahi has a natural charm and likability that makes his character hard to resist, and his chemistry with Maanvi Gagroo is undeniable. The lasting relationship between Maanvi Gagroo and Karan Wahi is making a comeback in the latest season and Ritvik Dhanjani also holds an



important role. Ritvik being Ritvik adds his own humour, fun and let's not forget, he and his skills make you feel pretty much relatable to his character. The supporting cast gives you the perfect vibes of your regular Indian family and the chaos.

TECHNICAL ASPECT

The editing is crisp and well-paced, with a good balance of fast-paced and slow-burning scenes. The transitions between scenes are smooth and the show's timeline is easy to follow. Music by Vishal Patil, Advait Sawant and Karthik Rao is another plus point this season. But again, there are a few places where the cinematography doesn't reach the mark.

VERDICT

Half Love Half Arranged Season 2 is a resplendent and captivating romantic comedy series that masterfully navigates the intricate complexities of love, relationships, and family in modern-day India. With phenomenal performances from Maanvi Gagroo and Karan Wahi, who bring a mesmerising blend of wit, charm and vulnerability to their characters, the show is an absolute triumph and a must-watch for fans of the genre.

DIRECTOR: Simarpreet Singh

WRITER: Parikshit Joshi

PRODUCER: Aditi Shrivastava

CAST: Karan Wahi, Maanvi Gagroo, Ritvik Dhanjani, Supriya Shukla, Amit Singh Thakur, Aradhana Tripathi and Grusha Kapoor, among the rest

MUSIC: Karthik Rao

RATING: 3.5/5

Navigating complex world of Huntington's disease

Huntington's disease is a progressive hereditary disease that is caused by the mutation of faulty gene cells. It leads to the decay of nerve cells present in the brain, affecting a person's ability to think, move and memorise. There are two forms of Huntington's disease: adult onset, in which the symptoms usually begin after the age of 30, and early onset, which is a rare condition known as juvenile Huntington's disease, affecting children and teenagers. When it develops at an early stage, the symptoms are different and have a faster progression than the ones that begin later in life. According to the Huntington Disease Society of India, the disease is prevalent but rare, and approximately 7 in 1 lakh people have it.

The most common cause of this condition is the presence of a faulty gene, passed on from one parent who has the same condition. Individuals with a family history of this condition are at higher risk of being diagnosed with it. It causes a wide range of physical, behavioural and cognitive symptoms and varies from person to person, which worsens over time if not treated.

These include:

Physical symptoms:

- Facing difficulty while eating, speaking or swallowing
- Uncontrolled movement and lack of coordination
- Loss of consciousness or seizures
- Chorea, involuntary movements causing spasms, jerks or twitches in the body
- Loss in weight and weakening of a person's

immune system

Behavioural symptoms

- Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) that leads to repetitive behaviours affecting everyday life
- Inability to sleep or insomnia
- Stubbornness
- Irritability and mood swings due to the inability to perform daily tasks
- Delusional disorders, which involves false beliefs that are not based on reality

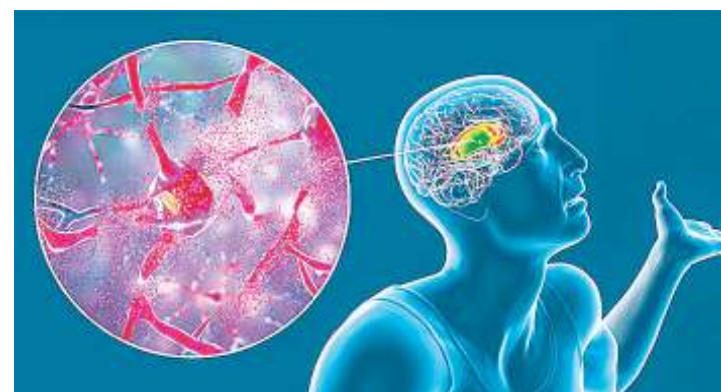
Cognitive symptoms

- Inability to memorise things
- Hallucinations
- Lack of focus while performing activities
- Trouble in learning new things
- Often causes dementia if it worsens

With no cure yet, Huntington's disease cannot be completely treated, but there are a few options available to help manage its symptoms and provide a better quality of life. It has a multifaceted approach, from medications and therapy sessions to lifestyle modification. Medications like antidepressants are usually prescribed to help manage the anxiety and depression that can be caused by the inability to do basic tasks. Therapies like speech therapy to help with communication and cognitive behavioural therapy to help manage cognitive symptoms like improving concentration. Apart from this, a healthy lifestyle and an increase in the intake of nutritious food and diet to strengthen the immune system can significantly help. Including exercise, yoga, and other

physical activities in daily life can help manage the symptoms. It is important to be aware of the symptoms of this condition and seek medical help in case it can't be managed. Treatment, which is tailored to the specific condition, ensures effective care and improvement in the quality of life.

(Dr. Purva Sharma, is a Consultant in neurology, at Manipal Hospital.)



what's brewing?

Actresses Kushitha Kallapu, Chandini Bhagwanani and Urmila Chauhan, Miss India Telangana - 2023, attended the grand curtain raiser of Mine & Yours, being held at Hotel Taj Krishna in Banjara Hills.

● Chandini Bhagwanani

● Dr.Nandita

● Preethi

● Priya

● Siripapa

● Sony

● Bhuvanewari

● Urmila Chauhan

The Brahmakumaris Shanti Sarovar, under patronage of Raunaq Yar Khan, 9th Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty, organised a transformative event titled "An Evening on Stress Detox." This special gathering featured motivational leader Asha Didi Head of Brahmakumaris and focused on understanding and managing stress, while uncovering internal solutions for emotional well-being.

GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi, along with Chairman of Manikonda Municipality Kasturi Narender and other dignitaries, marked their presence at the inauguration ceremony of PraAn Eye Care at Alkapur Township.

Bangarutalli Foundation initiated by Building Blocks Group (BBG) showcased its commitment to social responsibility and education at an inspiring event held at Novotel HICC in Hyderabad. The gathering highlighted the dedication of educating and empowering young girls across India. Key speaker at the event, Neeraja delivered a powerful address on the importance of supporting girls' education, highlighting how it influences not just the girl's future but also uplifts her family and community.

abCoffe, grab-and-go specialty coffee chain is excited to announce its expansion into Hyderabad. Known for its exquisite grab-and-go concept and seamless app-driven coffee experience, it is ready to bring India's best grown coffee and beverages at honest prices to the city.

Uber unveiled a suite of new features aimed at enhancing the daily experiences of its drivers in India, focusing on safety, fairness, and ease of use. The new features and app improvements have been introduced to improve the every day experience of drivers in a way that makes driving with the platform rewarding and fulfilling.

Vaishnai Group announced the launch of Vaishnai Southwoods in Mamidipally, Shamshabad. Under the visionary leadership of founder Yelishala Ravi Prasad, the group continues to create remarkable projects that blend spacious living, innovation and luxury.

Resonance - Hyderabad Centre hosted its grand annual college festival, ResoFEST 2024, today at the Gachibowli Stadium. The event was inaugurated by chief guest Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, I&C, IT, E&C, Government of Telangana, marking the largest junior college festival in the twin cities. Distinguished personalities, including Srikanth Bolla, Founder of Bolland Industries; Bhaskar Rao, Founder of KIMS Hospitals; and Prof. B.S. Murthy, Director of IIT Hyderabad, addressed and inspired the gathering. Over 5,000 students from Resonance campuses across Hyderabad joined the event.

In celebration of World Diabetes Day, Continental Hospitals successfully hosted a diabetic awareness session, bringing together leading experts in diabetes care and launching India's first-ever diabetic support channel on WhatsApp. The session focused on empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to take control of their health and manage diabetes effectively. Dr Guru N. Reddy, a renowned gastroenterologist, founder and chairman of Continental Hospitals, highlighted the growing diabetes epidemic.

Photos by- SV Chary

FUN

ARCHIE

WE HEARD YOU WERE SICK, JUG, SO I PICKED UP YOUR READING FOR ENGLISH LIT!

I BROUGHT YOUR HISTORY HOMEWORK! AND HERE ARE YOUR MATH AND SCIENCE ASSIGNMENTS!

YOU GUYS SURE KNOW HOW TO TAKE ALL THE FUN OUT OF FEELING LOUSY!

CALVIN AND HOBBS

I'M NOT HAVING DINNER TONIGHT.

OH NO?

NOPE. I'M JUST GOING TO EAT COOKIES IN FRONT OF THE TV.

YOU, YOUNG MAN, ARE GOING TO SIT AT THE TABLE AND EAT WHAT I'VE FIXED. JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.

OH, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I MEANT.

GARFIELD

HEY, GARFIELD!

GUESS WHAT TODAY IS

NATIONAL DONUT DAY!

I THOUGHT THAT WAS EVERY DAY

REALITY CHECK

THIS RUSSIA INVESTIGATION HAS MANY DIFFERENT LAYERS

SPEED BUMP

YOU HAVE THE WORST SPRING BREAK!

CROSSWORD

NANCY

IN ROBOTICS CLUB, WE GET TO MAKE ROBOTS, RIGHT?

SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

GINGER MEGGS

RIGHT, JUGEARS, YOUR WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER BY FITZGY IN A FANCY LAB!

AMBITION IS THE ORIGIN OF THE POLITICAL CURS.

FIRST THINGS FIRST... NO MORE EATING FIVE KIDS' LUNCHES EVERY DAY.

SO... SWITCH TO FOUR KIDS' LUNCHES?

ACROSS

- Words that ask you politely to come
- Arm joint
- The head of a city council
- Very tall city buildings
- From Ireland
- A person who has seen something happen and can give evidence in court

DOWN

- A round handle
- The scene from a window
- Do damage to
- Very small
- Took clothes off
- Sweated
- A desert green place
- This fruit has pips
- Rub with a towel
- A thought
- This grows on heads
- Firearms
- The direction opposite west

SOLUTION

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

Even Varun Tej couldn't save *Matka!*

Varun Tej, a member of the Mega family, has been searching for a breakout hit in recent years. Though he attempted different genres in his previous films, success has eluded him. Now, he has ventured into a period drama with *Matka*, directed by Karuna Kumar of *Palasa* fame. Varun Tej extensively promoted the film across Andhra Pradesh, pinning his hopes on its success. Meenakshi Chaudhary stars as the female lead, with Nora Fatehi in a significant role. Produced by Vijender Reddy and Rajani Talluri, did *Matka* finally deliver the success Tej has been seeking? Let's find out.

Story:

The plot follows Vasu (played by Varun Tej), who arrives in Visakhapatnam from Burma with his mother. Following a confrontation with a local, Vasu lands in jail, where he develops a fearless demeanor under the influence of the jailer (played by Ravi Shankar). After his release, he tried to secure work in Poorna Market. In an incident, he saves Reddy (played by Ajay Ghosh) from the goons of local don KB (played by John Vijay), which leads to a friendship with Nani Babu (played by Kishore), a local politician. With Nani Babu's support, Vasu ventures into business, opening garment shops and other enterprises.

During this time, he meets Sujatha (played by Meenakshi Chaudhary), a woman from an underprivileged background, and they fall in love and marry. A trip to Mumbai introduces Vasu to a group gambling with small sums, sparking his interest in starting a matka game in Hyderabad. The popularity of the game soon spirals out of control, affecting the Indian economy, prompting the Prime Minister to initiate an inquiry. Sujatha urges Vasu to abandon the game as it leads many to ruin, yet the investigation intensifies. Rival groups begin targeting Vasu, and his journey through these challenges forms the crux of the story.



Cast: Varun Tej, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Nora Fatehi, Naveen Chandra, Ajay Ghosh, Satyam Rajesh, Kishore, John Vijay, Ravi Shankar and others
Writer, director: Karuna Kumar
Producer: Vijender Reddy Teegala, Rajani Talluri
Music: GV Prakash Kumar
Cinematographer: A Kishor Kumar
Rating: 2/5

Analysis:

Director Karuna Kumar drew inspiration from the real-life Matka King Ratan Khatri. However, while he spoke extensively about the game pre-release,

it is scarcely explored on screen, limited to roughly 15 minutes. The narrative begins with Vasu's arrival in Visakhapatnam and his rise to local prominence, which is initially intriguing but quickly loses momentum as the pacing slows.

Though Vasu ventures into multiple businesses, it's only when he stumbles upon gambling that he sees a lucrative opportunity. However, the director fails to delve into the nuances of the matka game, a missed opportunity to explore its mechanics and impact. A notable absence of storytelling depth in this regard detracts from the film, as the director handles the subject matter in a formulaic and predictable way.

The film's strongest aspect is its production value, effectively capturing the period backdrop. Certain loca-

tions, such as Visakhapatnam's Poorna Market, offer a nostalgic touch that local audiences may appreciate. However, the climax is weak and the storyline becomes predictable, devolving into a standard revenge drama between Vasu and his adversaries. A highlight in the second half is an interaction between Varun Tej and Nora Fatehi, but otherwise, the narrative lacks engaging elements. The songs detract from the film's flow, and GV Prakash Kumar's background score is underwhelming, though the cinematography is commendable.

While films like *KGF* and *Pushpa* showcased protagonists with darker shades in compelling ways, *Matka* fails to replicate this success. Despite Varun Tej's honest portrayal, the story's lackluster execution hinders the film. The slow-paced narrative offers little excitement beyond a couple of notable scenes.

Performance:

Varun Tej brings sincerity and depth to Vasu, especially in portraying the character's aged version. However, even his dedicated performance cannot compensate for the film's weak storyline.

Meenakshi Chaudhary delivers an adequate performance, while Nora Fatehi impresses with her negative role! Supporting actors like Ajay Ghosh, Kishore, John Vijay, Satyam Rajesh and Salloni perform adequately but aren't given substantial material to shine.

The dialogues are ordinary, and the music, as noted, detracts from the overall impact.

Verdict:

Ultimately, Karuna Kumar's *Matka* is a formulaic film with an uninspired story and conventional narration. Apart from Varun Tej's performance, *Matka* has little to offer.

While the title suggests a focus on 'matka', it's limited to brief moments, leaving the audience wanting more substance on the subject.

What went wrong with *Kanguva*?

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

One of the much awaited films, *Kanguva* starring Suriya in dual roles was released on Thursday. The film which took years to complete, is finally released. Siva, who made films with Tamil superstar Ajith, is the director of this film. This is also one of the high budget films in the latest times, with the inclusion of graphics because of its periodic story. Previously, Suriya's *Jai Bhim* which was released directly on OTT in 2021, has now high hopes on this one. The movie was also released in a 3D format. Disha Patani plays the female lead. Did this film live up to the expectations and give a hit to Suriya? Let's see the film's story and how it goes...



Story:

Francis (played by Suriya) is a bounty hunter and helping the police to nab the people whoever they wanted. He works with his friend (played by Yogi Babu) and his rival is his ex-girlfriend Angelina (played by Disha Patani). One day Francis meets a boy and he finds that there is some connection between him and the boy.

Whenever the boy sees into his eyes, Francis feels some kind of bond and then the story takes us centuries back. *Kanguva* (played by Suriya) or Kanga, who is the leader of a tribal sect and he does anything to save his people. On the other side a Roman leader is trying to occupy the tribal lands, with the help of other tribal sects. Udhiran (played by Bobby Deol) is leader of one tribal sect and he wants to help the Roman. How *Kanguva* defends his land from the enemies and what is the connection between *Kanguva* and a boy? Also what is the connection between *Kanguva* and Francis and the boy? You have to see the film for all the answers.

Analysis:

Director Siva and Suriya's *Kanguva* got big hype and expectations. Before the release, the makers had praised the film pretty much. The promotional videos also look interesting, so one expects something from this one. The story starts with the present day and the director starts with Suriya and Yogi Babu's combination scenes in a more comic way. The director feels those scenes are humorous, but actually it tests the patience of the

Cast: Suriya, Disha Patani, Bobby Deol, Yogi Babu, KS Ravi Kumar, BS Avinash, Redin Kingsley and others
Director: Siva
Producer: KE Gnanavel Raja, V Vamsi Krishna Reddy, Pramod Uppalapati
Music: Devi Sri Prasad
Cinematographer: Vetri Palanisamy
Writers: Siva, Adhinarayana, Madan Karky
Rating: 2/5

ing on the screen and one can't be sure what they are and whom they are fighting.

The 3D version of the film is completely bad and not up to the mark. I watched the film in 3D and I found it very difficult to see it as the miniature kind of visuals. After the first half completed, I watched the second half of the film in 2D which looked good. I don't know why the makers wanted to release it in 3D, which is completely a bad thought. The movie completely falls short of expectations and except the visuals, the film offers nothing.

Performance:

When it comes to the performance, Suriya is good in the warrior and period look. After watching him on the big screen, one can see that his efforts are sincere! Disha Patani is there for glamour and nothing more. Yogi Babu and Redin Kingsley characters are irritating.

There are many other characters, most of them are in Tribals and some of them are Russians. The music is not up to the mark, but the cinematography is good.

Verdict:

Finally, *Kanguva* is a complete dud and falls short of expectations. Director Siva is not showing anything new, as it simply sees as if he has remade the *Magadheera* film, in his own style. Despite Suriya's efforts, you can skip this film, especially the 3D version.

SDT'S 10 GLORIOUS YEARS IN TFI

Mega Supreme Hero Sai Dharam Tej is an energetic phenomenon. The entertainer made his smashing entry into the Telugu film industry on November 14, 2014, with *Pilla Nuvvu Leni Jeevitham*. The crazy and beautiful love entertainer became a massive success. The actor made a powerful debut and continued his rise with a string of successful films. First impressions are often the best, and this mega nephew quickly won over mega fans with his energy in his first movie. Over his 10-year film career, he has experienced both highs and lows. However, the major setback came when he became the victim of an accident, which took a toll on him. But, he made a remarkable recovery and returned to the sets in no time. The actor delivered his career-best blockbuster last year with *Virupaksha* and shared screen space with his inspiration and the current Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in *Bro*. His massive comeback impressed everyone. Now, after a long gap, he is gearing up to create a sensation with *SDT18*.

His new looks and makeover have raised expectations for the film. Along with entertaining his audience, he continues to showcase his good heart and social responsibility. Recently, he responded to miscreant comments about children and donated a significant amount for the flood relief efforts in the Telugu states. With everything going perfectly for Sai Dharam Tej, he is all set to continue his Supreme reign.



Sobhita Dhulipala has chosen her wedding trousseau on her own!

Sobhita Dhulipala is gearing up for one of the most special days of her life—her wedding with the Telugu star Naga Chaitanya. Sobhita, known for her chic choices in fashion and style is planning to give a personal touch to her wedding by getting it all done by herself and not taking help of a stylist, which is very common with Bollywood celebs. Also, its an attempt to keep everything closer to Telugu culture.

According to a source, she is planning to choose her wedding outfit without a stylist, "Sobhita Dhulipala has chosen her wedding trousseau on her own without a stylist's help," shared the source. "She has been shopping with her mother at old local shops in Andhra Pradesh and a few regions of Telangana and Tamil Nadu which are popular for authentic and traditional fabrics for sarees from the land. She believes in giving a personal touch to the big day and so she has been discussing her outfits with the designers just as she wants them to be," source concluded.

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala got engaged in a traditional ceremony a few months ago. Chay and Sobhita are set to tie the knot soon in the presence of their family and friends. The actress has been giving sneak peeks at several traditional pre-wedding functions that were held at her house on her social media account. The simple and stunning traditional silk saree Sobhita donned for the wedding ritual was gifted to her by her mother-in law Lakshmi Daggubati (Naga Chaitanya's mother).

Nithiin's *Robinhood* teaser hints actor's much-deserved break

Nithiin, who was once a much-celebrated star in the Telugu cinema, had the biggest turn offs in his life with back-to-back flops, affecting his career in a way.

However, now the actor has teamed up with his favourite director, Venky Kudumula, for an action-comedy titled *Robinhood*. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has been in the making for the last two years. On Thursday, the makers released the first-look teaser of the film, which has been creating quite a good buzz. From story, to comedy, looks and actions, the teaser hits the right chord. The teaser hints at the actor in the character of *Robinhood*, who cheats the rich. Venky Kudumula has surely raised the expectations. Sreeleela also makes her comeback after a hiatus. She surely enraptures hearts. The film also stars Rajendra Prasad and Mime Gopi.



Aditi Shankar is an 'Allari Pilla' in *Bhairavam*

Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas's upcoming film *Bhairavam*, is a neo-noir action thriller. Not long ago, Nara Rohit and Manchu Manoj's characters were introduced.

Now, on Thursday, the makers introduced the character of Aditi Shankar. Her character, Vennela is described as 'Allari Pilla'. "She will capture your hearts like never before," wrote the makers. The poster shows the actress as a milk vendor. Aditi was previously seen in *Viruman* and *Maaveran* in Tamil.

