

MAHARASHTRA

Target: 145

**Total Seats** 

288/288

NDA 236

OTH 4

### DON'T MISS...

### SBI thwarts digital arrest

Preventing what could have been another digital arrest, the alert staff at the State Bank of India (SBI), Chandrayanagutta branch, acted in time and thwarted the bid by cybercriminals to relieve a retired employee of his hard earned money. According to SBI officials, a retired employee visited the bank branch at Chandrayangutta along with his wife to request a transfer of Rs 46 lakhs via Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS). B Praveen, the Senior Associate at the counter, noticed that ...



## Unbridled corruption in Nirmal district

Corruption in Nirmal district continues to spiral out of control, despite repeated efforts by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to curb the menace. A recent case highlights the ongoing issue. Shakeer Khan, a Junior Assistant at Nirmal Municipality, was caught by ACB officers while accepting a Rs 20,000 bribe. The bribe was allegedly demanded to secure the regularisation of a complainant's order from the Regional Director of Municipal Administration in Warangal. Corruption seems .



## Maha win boosts **BJP's RS prospects**

The BJP on Saturday snatched one Lok Sabha seat from the Congress lowering the opposition party's tally to 98. while a runaway victory in Maharashtra will also boost the ruling alliance's rospects in the Baiva Sal where the western state sends the second-highest number of members. The BJP had won 240 seats in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year. After its win in the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll on Saturday, the party's tally in the 543-member Lower House has gone up to 241 ..

## BJP's Maha 'tsunami', INDIA retains J'khand

#### **A CELEBRATION IN MAHARASTRA**



#### PNS MUMBAI/RANCHI

The BJP on Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra winning a record number of seats to propel the partyled ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM.

As speculation mounted on who would the third time.

## Message of development endorsed: Modi

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the latest round of elections has endorsed the message of development and defeated the politics of lies and betrayal propounded by the Congress and its allies. Addressing a gathering at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters here, Modi said divisive forces, negative politics and

be the next CM face from the Mahayuti alliance--which also includes the Shiv Sena faction of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP (Ajit Pawar)--and the three allies put up a united front after the "historic" victory, the focus quickly shifted to Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is being seen as a strong contender to occupy the top post for

dynasticism have been defeated in the Maharashtra election and bypolls in various states. He said the people of Maharashtra have voted for stability and taught a lesson to those who tried to create instability. The prime minister asserted that the message from the Maharashtra election is that of unity and it is also an **Continued on Page 2** 



JHARKHAND

Target: 41

**Total Seats** 

81/81

#### Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday cruised to her maiden electoral victory, from the Wayanad Lok a margin of Sabha seat in Kerala, with a margin of over 4.1 lakh votes against CPI(M)-led LDF's Sathyan Mokeri, according to figures released by the Election Commission. Priyanka got 6,22,338 votes which was less than the 6,47,445 votes

Such was the BJP's dominance that helped the Mahavuti alliance to get a three-fourths majority and continue the winning momentum after its recent historic hat-trick in Harvana, 128 of the 149 candidates fielded by the saffron party won. Four BJP candidates were also leading.

Wins with

4.1 lakh

votes

"Maharashtra has broken all records, it is the biggest win for any party or pre-poll alliance in the last 50 years," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told BJP workers at party headquarters to a thunderous applause late in the evening. **Continued on Page 2** 

**AN ECSTATIC MOOD FOR INDIA** 

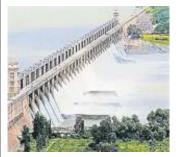
## Priyanka bags Wayanad

received by her brother Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha polls in Wayanad in April this year, but her vic-

tory margin of 4,10,931 was more than his lead of 3,64,422 votes, despite the decline in turnout in the Wayanad bypoll. The LS poll turnout in Wayanad, which

has over 14 lakh registered voters, was close to 74 per cent Continued on Page 2

## **CHANGE OF DAM GATES** AP, TG & Karnataka okay Tungabhadra **Board's proposal**



Congress a lesson: Harish PNS HYDERABAD Mahalakshmi scheme. He said the people of Maharashtra noticed that The people have taught the the Congress had promised to pay

## Maharashtra taught **GODAVARI WATER TO HYD** CM directs officials to prepare report



sweeps south

Hyderabad Water Board on



### Breather for Adani's **Dharavi project**

The landslide victory for ruling BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra will bolster billionaire Gautam Adani-led group's USD 3-billion project to redevelop Mumbai slum of Dharavi into a "world-class" district Opposition Uddhay Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) had pledged to reclaim all land given to the Adani group for redeveloping Asia's largest slum and promised to scrap the project altogether, if voted to power. For Adani, who is facing bribery charges in a US court, the scrapping of his pet Dharavi project would have been a big setback. With election results showing the BJP and its allies Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party factions led by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, winning more than. -PAGE: 8

did not believe the jugglery of the Congress in the name of its five guarantees and that this election has shown that the people of Maharashtra have

Congress a lesson in the

Maharashtra Assembly elections,

BRS leader Harish Rao said. He said that the people of th

recognised the fraud committed by the Congress in Telangana. Harish was responding on the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections on X

He said the Congress cheated the people of TG by saying that it would give Rs 2,500 per month to women under the

evaded paving Rythu narosa farmers and is not giving pensions. He said that people have noted things like farm loan waivers not being completed even after a year. Harish said that all these factors hit the Congress hard in the Maharashtra elections. He said that TG people live in cities like Mumbai, Sholapur,

Rs 3,000 in Maharashtra without

implementing the scheme in TG. He said the Congress government

> Pune and Nanded and news about the frauds committed by the Congress in TG had spread widely in Maharashtra.

CM A Revanth Reddy participates in a reveiw with Water Board and Irrigation Department officials on Saturday

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed the proposal to transfer 20

Gautam Adani, 62, and seven

y agreed to pay about USD 265

cials to conduct a detailed study on the total cost of transferring water from the reservoirs and the availability of water in the reservoirs.

Saturday. The CM ordered officials to

prepare a comprehensive report on pumping Godavari water from

Kondapochamma and Mallanna

Sagar reservoirs. The CM asked the

The CM asked officials to invite tenders by December beginning and to coordinate with Mission Bhagiratha officials.

Municipal Administration Department Principal Secretary Dana Kishore, HMWSSB MD

TMCs of Godavari water to meet Hyderabad's drinking water needs at Ashok Reddy, Irrigation Secretary Prashant J. Patil and other officials a meeting with officials of the Irrigation Department and the attended the meeting.

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana have accepted the Tungabhadra Board's proposal to change the gates of the Tungabhadra Dam.

The Board has also accepted Telangana proposal to ensure that the storage capacity of the dam does not increase after increasing the height of the gates.

Member Secretary ORK Reddy presented the report of the expert committee on installing new gates at the Board meeting. The authorities of the three states approved this, and they decided to change the gates in a phased manner.

**Collector warns Social Welfare** school staff of action against laxity Page 4

#### BRIBERY CASE Public uprising imminent in TG, says Sanjay US SEC summons Gautam Adani, nephew Predicts Congress MLAs themselves may bring down their Govt

serve on the plaintiff (SEC) an

answer to the attached complaint or

#### PNS NEW YORK

Adani group founder and chairman

Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar have been summoned to explain their stand on the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) allegation of paying USD 265 million (Rs 2,200 crore) in bribes to secure lucrative solar power contracts. Summons have been sent to Adani's Shantivan Farm residence in Ahmedabad and his nephew Sagar's Bodakdev residence in the same city for a reply to SEC within 21 days.

Within 21 days after service of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," this summons on you (not counting

ASI.



tracts on terms that expected to yield said a November 21 notice sent USD 2 billion of profit over 20 years, the day you received it) ... you must through the New York Eastern according to an Continued on Page 2

♦ Asserts Maharashtra people did not believe Congress's lies District Court PNS HYDERABAD "If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you

A public uprising is imminent in for the relief demanded in the Telangana, the Union Minister of complaint. You also must file State for Home, Bandi Sanjay your answer or motion with the Kumar said.

He said that the BJP will declare war on the failures of the Congress Government. Despite the Congress spreading lies in Maharashtra, the coalition failed to gain the trust of the people. He emphasized that Modi's development mantra succeeded and the increased majority of the BJP alliance is proof of that.

He criticised the Congress as an 'Iron Leg' party, causing the downfall of its allies and predicted internal conflicts in the Congress unit in

#### Telangana. Congress MLAs themselves might bring down their government without BJP's intervention, he added.

Addressing the media at the Mahashakti Temple in Karimnagar, Sanjay said the BJP alliance's resounding victory in Maharashtra confirmed surveys predicting an impressive majority for the NDA coalition, exceeding 220 seats. The BJP, which had earlier won 105 seats, is expected to cross 120 this time. Meanwhile, the Congress is

expected to secure fewer seats than before and their coalition has disappeared, Sanjay said. Continued on Page 2



## Govt determined to check urban pollution: Uttam

### ays e-vehicles can protect health, save lives

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Irrigation, Food & Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy reaffirmed the Telangana government's commitment to promote electric vehicles (EVs) to check the increasing pollution in urban areas. Speaking at the launch of the 'E-Raja -5 Segment Electric Auto,' a 'Make in India' product by Rap Eco Motors, at the Administrative Staff College of

India (ASCI) on Saturday, Uttam highlighted the urgent need for both immediate and long-term measures to address urban pollution, which is severely affecting public health, productivity and the environment. He pointed to alarming trends in cities like New Delhi, where air quality is deteriorating rapidly due to the increasing number of vehicles.

"Vehicle emissions are among the largest contributors to urban pollu-



tion, leading to a surge in respirato-ry diseases, reduced life expectancy and worsening overall general health. This is a crisis that requires decisive action," he said.

Drawing parallels with New Delhi's air quality emergency, he warned, "Unchecked pollution could push our cities into a similar catastrophe, forcing people to live in unlivable conditions. Telangana is determined to prevent such a scenario."

He said that the Telangana government has given 100% exemption on road tax and registration fees for electric vehicles Continued on Page 2

## hyderabad 02

People *bindaas* amid political rumbles

sunday pioneer

Telangana is set to complete one year shortly, the ongoing pitched battle between the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the ruling party continues to heat up the political scene with both parties striving to dominate each other with competitive political narratives. While BRS relentlessly highlights new issues and the Congress makes attempts to counter them, the ground reality tells a different story. For the common people, politics seems to be the least of their concerns. They are bindaas. Only a few topics spurred interest and that too among impacted sections of the public, such as HYDRAA operations, introduction of free bus services, and the revisiting of restrictions on alcohol following raids in Janwada. Beyond these, life in Telangana moves on unhindered with affected sections deterred. Whether it's business along the banks of the Musi

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2024

River or other bustling areas of the Telangana, daily routines remain unchanged. Reports from intelligence wings, mirroring observations

on the ground, suggest that the public has had their fill of politics after last year's intense campaigning. Conversations among aam janata have shifted away from political debates, with most preferring to focus on issues concerning everyday life that outweigh sparring between the parties. It looks like only political heavyweights are boxing in the ring with hardly any spectators, let alone seekers of ringside view.

#### Kalvakuntlas in awe of media-savvy Kavitha

When it comes to media management, no one in the Kalvakuntla family can hold a candle to Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC K Kavitha. With a strong grip on both national and state media networks, Kavitha is said to be the go-to person whenever the family needs to polish any fading side of its public image. It is an open secret that whenever party work-

ven as the Congress government in ing president KT Rama Rao visits Delhi, just understand what clicks with the media but also commands its respect. Her courteous and professional approach with journalists has earned her goodwill that the rest of the family could only dream of. "The rest of the Kalvakuntlas should probably enrol in Kavitha's school of how to treat journalists. She has figured out that they're just doing their job," observed a senior scribe chuckling. Kavitha stands out in the family as one who knows how to handle media gingerly without ruffling any feathers.

#### When scribes bomb(ard)ed Ponguleti with questions!

Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti

Srinivas Reddy, having claimed quite tantalizingly much before Diwali that Telangana will witness some 'political bombs', has now become the butt of banter with Secretariat beat reporters calling him 'Bombs Minister'. That is not all. Every time he interacts with the media, the question that is at the top of the mind of every scribe is: "When will it (political bomb) go off?" At a recent presser, when scribes bombarded him with loaded questions, the Minister, aware that Diwali has passed without any major political fireworks, sheepishly countered: "Are you not seeing 'polit-ical bombs' these days?" When newshounds denied seeing anything other than the less appealing Diwali bombs, Srinivas Reddy said that the political bombs will certainly go off at an appro-priate time, and added a teaser again: most probably within a week". Tired of the 'impending' political bombs, one of the scribes asked him: 'Why did your old

friend (KTR) go to Delhi sir?' Caught off-guard, the Minister replied: "I don't know why he (KTR) went to Delhi; perhaps, to protect himself from police arrest". Then scribes together asked the Minister to tell when 'it' will happen. Srinivas Reddy reiterated "at an appropriate time". One of the scribes responded, saying: "We have to write on walls saying 'very soon'."

#### Bhatti outshines Revanth: Is AICC watching?

Following victories in elections, 'star' campaigners of political parties twinkle brightest in the blaze of glory that envelops winning parties. It is a differ-ent matter whether the star campaigner of the winning party did it or the star campaigner of the losing party did not do it. Whatever it be, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has just emerged as a star

performer within the state unit of the Congress after his campaigning efforts in Jharkhand, where INDIA bloc has

registered a resounding victory. His active role in steering the campaign there is factored for the much-needed boost that the alliance got in the state against odds. In 'striking' contrast, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who had jumped on the campaign bandwagon in Maharashtra, has nothing to crow about, since the Maha Vikas Aghadi is licking its wounds. The differing stellar pulsation of the 'star campaigners' from Telangana has not gone unnoticed, especially within media and political circles. Amid whispers of a rekindled leadership tussle, all eyes are on the party's high command which tracks performance metrics. Whether the high command will factor in performance beyond the state's borders to disturb the dangerously delicate equation within Telangana is another question that only time will answer.

> (With inputs from Naveena Ghanate and K Venkateshwarlu)

## **CM** calls on people to celebrate 'Praja Palana Vijayotsavalu'

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy called on people to celebrate 'Praja Palana Vijayotsavalu' from December 1 to 9.

The Chief Minister ordered officials to make arrangements on a grand scale for the celebrations by roping in all depart-ments. The Government will explain its achievements during its first year and its plans for the future during the celebrations.

The CM held a meeting to make arrangements for the celebrations with Secretaries and high officials of all departments at the Secretariat on Saturday.



The Chief Minister congratulated officials for conducting the Mahila Shakti Sangham meeting successfully in Warangal on November 19. The Chief Minister asked offi-

cials to make arrangements for the farmers' conference being organised in Mahbubnagar on November 30.

Officials were asked to

We will not allow takeover of farmers' lands in Lagacharlla: KTR

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the BRS would not remain idle if the Congress government takes over lands in Lagacharlla village, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that innocent people have been imprisoned in jails like the Sangareddy jail and the Cherlapally Jail. He said that evil forces planning anarchy are now occupying the CM's seat. He said that in Kodangal

they attacked houses in the middle of the night and committed violence against women and children to grab the lands

of poor farmers. He criticised the CM's moves against the 85-year-old for-mer Sarpanch, Sai Reddy, of the CM's hometown, Kondareddy Palli. Sai Reddy had worked for Revanth during the Assembly elections. But Sai Reddy's house was blocked by a wall. Sai

dents only during the rule of empire? Are you the emperor dictators. We were in power there? If it is your homefor 10 years. Have you ever town, your constituency, the heard of such incidents? Is game you played there cannot your constituency your be tolerated.

### 'Maharashtra rejected Congress's lies'

The people of Maharashtra said. have seen how the Congress Despite spending Rs 300

betrayed the people of crore of Telangana taxpayers' Telangana by not implemoney on false advertisementing election promises ments the people of Maharashtra did not believe the lies of the Congress, he said.

organise awareness programmes from November 28, two days before the Farmers conference, and also set up exhibition stalls at the venue.

The programmes launched by the government during its first year for farmers like the farm loan waiver scheme, crop insurance and bonuses for small farmers will be extensively publicised.

The Chief Minister decided to organise a victory rally of unemployed youth in Peddapalli district on December 4. Arrangements will be made to hand over appointment letters to 9,000 selected candidates at the venue

## Make arrangements for farmers' meet

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asked officials to make arrangements to enable farmers to attend the November 30 farmers' conference at Mahbubnagar. The CM was addressing a review meeting of the Agriculture Department on Saturday.

The CM and officials discussed the 'Rythu Sadassu' (farmers conference) being organised in connection with the victory celebrations of the Congress Government at Mahbubnagar on November 30. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao also attended the meeting. The CM asked officials to organise the farmers' conference to raise awareness of the farming community and not as a public

meeting. Stalls will be opened by the Agriculture, Horticulture and Husbandry Animal Departments at the venue of the farmers' conference.

and have rejected the Reddy committed suicide due Congress, BRS Working to that, KTR said. President KT Rama Rao "We have seen such inci-

## Maha win not that of Modi & Amit but of Adani & Ambani: VH

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said the BJP victory in Maharashtra is not that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, but it is the 'victory of Adani and Ambani' He said the BJP won using money in Maharashtra.

Speaking to the media after performing a milk bath on the portrait of AICC General Secretary Privanka Gandhi on Saturday at the Gandhi Bhavan along with Telangana Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, VH said that Priyanka Gandhi won the Wayanad by-poll with a majority of around four lakh. He said that



Gandhi) will bring the Congress to power at the

Centre in the next elections. The Congress will

come to power if Priyanka Gandhi tours the nation

as people adore Priyanka, he added.

## Maharashtra rejected Congress's venomous campaign: Kishan

#### PNS HYDERABAD

did Revanth Reddy's cam-The people of Maharashtra did paign but his money also did not work in Maharashtra. The not believe the venomous campaign unleashed by the Congress in the name of caste and religion, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.

Congress spread many lies but that did not work, he added. He said the Congress made gains in the Lok Sabha elec-

Kishan said that not only

Veerabhadram said they had

Left asks CM not to take over lands

forcibly from farmers

down data with pencil on Didn't the KCR government caste census forms. But they are taking signatures with conduct a comprehensive pen. The reason is that if you family survey? I demand that

write with a pencil it can be the report should be made changed.

public. If that report is not The Congress wants to there, then the money spent change caste census data on that should be recovered from KCR. It is shameful to according to what it wants. That is why the people are make allegations against "Enumerators are taking not cooperating and are EVMs. If EVMs were in our hands, the BJP would have protesting in many places. won in Jharkhand.

How did the Congress win in Telangana, Karnataka and

NDA tastes bypoll

Assam, Meghalaya

success in Bihar,

Caste census bogus: Sanjay Himachal Pradesh? People won't believe such lies," Sanjay said.

Left leaders Thammineni Veerabhadram and Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had responded positively to their request not to acquire lands forcibly in Lagacharla.

PNS HYDERABAD

PNS HYDERABAD

Kumar, said.

The caste census is bogus, the

Union Minister of State for

Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay

They said the Chief Minister responded positively when they requested him to remove police camps from Lagacharla. The CM made a phone call on the spot and directed the police to remove their camps from Lagacharla. Speaking to the media after submitting a memorandum to the Chief Minister asking him to stop land acquisition in Lagacharla and to withdraw the cases filed against the farmers of Lagacharla, CPM state Secretary Thammineni

### IODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi:	
Chaturthi:	Nov 23 07:25 PM
	to Nov 24 09:22 PM
Panchami:	Nov 24 09:22 PM
	to Nov 25 10:57 PM
Nakshatram:	
Purva Ashadha:	Nov 23 07:27 PM
	to Nov 24 09:53 PM
Uttara Ashadha:	Nov 24 09:53 PM
	to Nov 25 11:57 PM
Rahukalam:	7:53 AM to 9:16 AM
Yamagandam:	10:39 AM to 12:02 PM
Varjyam:	06:34 AM to 08:19 AM
Gulika:	1:26 PM to 2:49 PM
Amritakalam:	04:36 PM to 06:22 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:40 AM to 12:25 PM
<b>HYDERABAD</b>	WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp:** 29° Humidity: 49% Sunrise: 6:26 AM Sunset: 5:39 PM

Updated: November 23, 2024 5:00 PM

Minister and had told him that the government should not seize the lands of farmers forcibly.

Thammineni said the CM told them that the government is going to set up an Industrial Park in Lagacharla and not Pharma City as it pollutes the

environment. The government should take over lands from farmers only if they are ready to give their lands. The farmers who gave lands for the Mallanna Sagar Project have not got justice even now. The government should change its policy towards land losers and give them land. I am appealing to the government to announce its new policy in the next Assembly session," Kunamneni Sambasiva said.

#### PNS KOI KATA

The juggernaut of the BJP-led NDA, which triumphed in three of the four east and north-eastern states that went for assembly bypolls on Saturday, was halted yet again in West Bengal where Mamata Banerjee's TMC registered a six-on-six clean sweep.

In its process of continuing to deny the BJP its coveted foothold in the state's political theatre, the TMC retained five of the six seats it had previously won during the 2021 polls, while wresting the key Madarihat seat from the saffron camp in north Bengal's Alipurduar district, and opening its account in the segment for the first time.

## US SEC summons ...

#### Continued from page 1

indictment unsealed in a New York court on Wednesday. Separate from the indictment brought by the US Department of Justice, the US SEC has also charged the two and Cyril Cabanes, an executive of Azure Power Global, for "conduct arising out of a massive bribery scheme".

The ports-to-energy conglomerate has denied the allegations and said it will seek all possible legal resources. 'The Adani Group has always upheld and is steadfastly committed to maintaining the highest standards of gov-

ernance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all jurisdictions of its operations. We assure our stakeholders, partners and employees that we are a law-abiding organisation fully compliant with all laws."

An indictment in the US is basically a formal written allegation originating with a prosecutor and issued by a grand jury against a party charged with a crime. A person indicted is given formal notice to reply. That person or persons can then hire a defence lawyer to defend. Prosecutors said the investigation started in 2022 and found the inquiry obstructed.

They also allege that the Adani Group raised USD 2 billion in loans and bonds, including from US firms, on the backs of false and misleading statements related to the firm's anti-bribery practices and policies, as well as reports of the bribery probe.

## Public uprising

#### Continued from page 1

Despite spending heavily and attempting to win through false promises and money power, the Congress failed in Maharashtra. The failure of the Karnataka and Telangana Governments to deliver on their election promises is the primary reason for the defeat of INDIA in Maharashtra, he said.

Even though Telangana Congress leaders campaigned widely in Maharashtra thev were ignored. Maharashtra

Message of ...

Continued from page 1

endorsement of the "ek hai toh safe hai" slogan. Modi

also said he bows down

before the people of Jharkhand and that the BJP

will work more zealously for

the development of the state.

become the 'maha-mantra'

for the entire nation and it has

punished those who wanted

to divide the country on

caste and religious lines," he

said, adding that all sections

of the society have voted for

the BJP. "The Congress and its

ecosystem had thought that

by spreading lies in the name

of the Constitution, they

could divide the Scheduled

Castes (SCs), Scheduled

Tribes (STs) and Other

Backward Classes (OBC) in

small groups. This is a solid slap on their faces," he said.

"Ek hai toh safe hai' has

voters recognized the reality and dealt a severe blow to the Congress coalition, he said. Sanjay hailed Maharashtra voters for their unity and for supporting Hindutva. Congress alliances are

. . .

doomed. The situation in Telangana will mirror what happened in Maharashtra. None of the promises of the Congress have been fulfilled. They must explain to the public when they will implement their promises like pro-

scooters, and Rs 2,500 monthly, or addressing farmers' issues. Otherwise, the public will rise against the Congress government and teach them a lesson at the ballot box," Sanjay said.

He said that Congress misused Telangana funds in Maharashtra, neglecting the promises made to Telangana voters. He reiterated that the BJP will soon declare war against the Congress government as public unrest grows.

## BJP's Maha 'tsunami' ...

Continued from page 1 The prime minister also asserted that the message from the Maharashtra elections is that of unity and it is also an endorsement of the "ek hai toh safe hai" (united we are safe) slogan.

also came just months after it was written off in Maharashtra by some political pundits

the NCP, Shiv Sena(Shinde) Sena(Shinde) fought from 81 seats and the Ajit Pawar-led

NCP in 59 constituencies. The BJP's highest tally in Assembly elections in Maharashtra was in 2014 when it bagged 122 seats after which Fadnavis became the chief minister for the first time. In 2019, it got 105 seats.

The extent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) decimation can be gauged from the fact that the Congress won just 13 and was ahead in three, the Shiv Sena(UBT) in 20 and the NCP(Sharad Pawar) in 10.

The Congress had fielded 101 candidates, Shiv Sena(UBT) 95 and the NCP(SP) 86.

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray called the poll results completely unexpected and incomprehensible. Thackeray said the results

reflect that there was a "tsunami rather than a wave.

He said the Congress won Himachal Pradesh, ons by trumpeting the lie that Karnataka and Telangana by deceiving the people with false guarantees. Speaking to the media at the

Saturday, Kishan said that the

people of Maharashtra have

voted for a double-engine

sarkar and gave more seats and

people would lose reservations if the BJP won. However, the people identified the real culprits, Kishan said. State BJP office here on

He said the Congress had kept ready four flights and had arranged meals to be served in the flights to shift Congress MLAs to Karnataka or Telangana from Maharashtra.



## Govt determined ...

Continued from page 1 of all categories, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers (autorickshaws and light goods carriers), and electric buses. These incentives are designed to reduce costs and make EV ownership accessible for both individuals and businesses.

He also said that the state has extended additional support to electric buses operat-

## Priyanka bags ...

*Continued from page 1* in April, but had declined to 65 per cent in the by-election in November.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Wayanad, CPI's Annie Raja had secured second place with 2,83,023 votes, while BJP's K. Surendran finished third with 1,41,045 votes. However, both fronts were

ed by the TGSRTC, which enjoy indefinite exemptions. Private companies using electric buses for employee trans-port have been given tax waivers till December 2026. "This is part of a strategy to phase out polluting diesel and

petrol vehicles and to replace them with electric alternatives. It's a necessary step to reduce rising health costs and environmental degradation caused by conventional vehicles," he said.

#### unable to replicate their performance in the bypoll, despite a reduced voter turnout in the hill constituency. Mokeri got 2,11,407 and BJP-led NDA's Navya Haridas came third with 1,09,939 votes.

Close to the announcement of the final counting results, Priyanka, in a post on social media platform X, thanked the people of Wayanad for electing her as their representative to the Parliament.

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viding women with gold,

The BJP's stellar showing

owing to its poor showing in the politically significant state in the Lok Sabha polls. In the first assembly elections in Maharashtra since the split in the Shiv Sena and

bagged 56 and led in one and the NCP(Ajit Pawar) 40 and ahead in one. The majority mark in the 288-member Assembly is 145. The Shiv



# City Pioneer

#### **Dimsum & Bao**

Exiting selection of steamed buns

Venue Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel, Till November 24th. 3pm to 6.30 pm.

### Standup Comedy

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

Venue Multiple venues. till November 24

#### Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and bak-ing in 09 fun weekends

#### Venue

Culinary Guru Institute, Hyderabad. Till January 11, 2025.

Zakir khan live

Stand up comedy show

Venue

Shilpakala Vedika

November 27

Sweccha-Nela Nela

Naatakam

Exhibition-cum-sale

Venue

Ravindra bharathi

November 27

Arijit Singh

Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for

now. General sale on

## **Hyderabad City Traffic Police** book 52,080 drunk drivers PNS HYDERABAD

### Hyderabad City Traffic Police has caught 52,080 drunk dri-vers and booked them for

violation. This was part of a drive against drunk drivers for the last three months from 24 August to 21 st November.

Ă total of 13,933 motorists who were driving the vehicles in a drunken state have been booked and 13,188 Charge sheets have been filed in various Courts and the same have been disposed of. So far during this year said P Viswa Prasad, Addl Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Hyderabad. Among 52,080 drunk drivers 824 drunk drivers have been sentenced to imprisonment from 1 to 10 days and 227 drunk drivers have been sentenced to do social service for 2 days. Further, 99 driving licenses were also suspended for 2 to 6 months by the RTO based on the orders

## **Alert SBI staff saves senior** citizen, wife from digital arrest

day pioneer Hyderabad | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2024

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Preventing what could have been another digital arrest, the alert staff at the State Bank of India (SBI), Chandrayanagutta branch, acted in time and thwarted the bid by cybercriminals to relieve a retired employee of his hard earned money.

According to SBI officials, a retired employee visited the bank branch at Chandrayangutta along with his wife to request a transfer of Rs 46 lakhs via Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS). B Praveen, the Senior Associate at the counter, noticed that the customer appeared tense and anxious, which raised his suspicion. Trusting his instincts, he immediately escorted the couple to the Branch Head Dr Shiva Kumar, AGM.

Shiva Kumar welcomed the customer into his office and attentively listened to their concerns. The couple explained their har-rowing ordeal. They had been contacted by scammers who posed



them.

investigating a Rs 100 crore scam. The fraudsters told them that a person named Sunil Goel, who was allegedly involved in the scam, had been arrested. They claimed that the couple's KYC and Aadhaar details had been used to open a fraudulent account, and the authorities were now searching for

For the past three days, the scammers held the couple hostage through video calls, forbidding them from contacting anyone or revealing the situation. They emotionally manipulated the couple, threatening to arrest them.

In desperation, the couple came to SBI Chandrayangutta branch to

initiate the transfer. However, Shiva Kumar quickly realised the seriousness of the situation and seriousness of the situation and took immediate action. He con-tacted the couple's children to inform them of the incident and reported the matter to the Cyber Crime Helpline. He also reached out to Conara Book to verify out to Canara Bank to verify whether any account had been opened in the customer's name. Canara Bank confirmed that no such account existed and advised the couple not to fall for the fraudsters' scheme.

Thanks to the swift intervention of the branch manager and the team at SBI Chandrayangutta branch, the cyber fraud was successfully thwarted, according to SBI Assistant General Manger G Ramakrishna.

SBI urges all customers to remain vigilant and seek assistance at their nearest branch if they have any doubts. The customers are advised to contact Helpline at 1930 or lodging a complaint on the official government portal at www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Director General of Police Jitender awarding the Investigation Officers and others in securing convictions under NDPS Act cases on Saturday.

## Officers excelling in **TGANB** awarded

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) announced awards to Investigation Officers, Court Duty Officers, and Public Prosecutors for their contributions in securing convictions under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act cases.

At a ceremony in the DGP Office on Saturday, Jitender, Director General of Police, commended their efforts and awarded the officers, highlighting the out-comes of 226 judgments delivered in 2024, with 39 convictions (17%). Units like Mahabubabad, Warangal, Khammam, and others showed strong results. Convictions included 17 individuals

sentenced in four cases to 20 years, 19 convicted in 11 cases to 10 years, and others receiving sentences ranging from six months to 12 years.

Despite progress, the conviction rate remains low, with 11% in 2023. Efforts are

ongoing to achieve "Nasha Mukt Telangana" with zero tolerance for drugs. Around 20,000 officers from the Police, Excise, and Prosecution Departments were trained in NDPS Act enforcement focueing on proper guidance handling focusing on proper evidence handling, opposing bail, and effective trials. Telangana State Police Academy (TGPA) has trained over 22,000 personnel through courses and workshops.

TGPA also mentioned that Future training will include supervisory officers to ensure strong oversight of investigations. Joint workshops with judicial officers and prosecutors aim to enhance professionalism in investigations and trials, essential for increasing convictions and combating drug-related offenses effective-



PRAJA PALANA – PRAJA VIJAYOTSAVALU Dana Kishore directs officials to deck up Tank Bund, Necklace Road

#### PNS HYDERABAD

of Magistrates.

Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department M Dana Kishore has directed officials to complete the ongoing construction of underground reservoirs in Greater Hyderabad on a war-foot-

ing. The instruction aims to prevent waterlogging and traffic disrup-tions during heavy rains. The steps taken proved successful.

On Saturday, Dana Kishore, accompanied by officials from HMDA, the Water Board, and GHMC, inspected the construction progress of an underground reservoir (Rainwater Holding Structure) at Lake View Guest House entrance on Rai Bhavan Road in the Khairatabad zone. He also inspected the construction of another underground reservoir near Dr BR Ambedkar Secretariat. GHMC officials informed him that the state had undertaken the construction of 12 experimental underground reser-



Principal Secretary of MAUD Dana Kishore, along with HMDA, GHMC officers inspecting civic works in Hyderabad on Saturday

voirs with capacities ranging from and 9 around Tank Bund, 10 to 40 lakh liters, four of which are Secretariat, and Necklace Road, complete while the rest are at var-Dana Kishore has instructed to clean and beautify the major connecting roads in these areas to ensure smooth access during the celebrations.

Long-pending promotions in Transport dept to be completed PNS HYDERABAD

Long-pending promotions in the transport department would be completed, and the Electric Vehicle (EV) policy would be made known to the public, said Minister for Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar. The Minister, along with Special Secretary Vikas Raj, held a review meeting at the Khairatabad Transport Office on Saturday. Officials from the Transport Department participated in the meeting.

The Minister reviewed revenue targets and directed improvements at the field-level performance and directed not to burden the public. He directed the officials to complete the promotions of employees pending for a long time in the Transport Department and noted that promotions would be made.

He instructed officials to submit a report within 15 days on employee performance, infrastructure needs, and the status of 62 transport offices statewide. He highlighted the importance of educating students on road safety through traffic awar sees parks in school ing NGOs like UNICEF to train drivers before issuing licenses.

October 23, 1 pm. Get and paytm.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

#### Texture art workshop

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

Venue

Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

#### NYU CARNIVAL

With singer KARTHIK Venue Boulder Hills, Hyderabad

December 31

ious stages of progress.

The reservoirs are being built to ease traffic congestion.

collect rainwater, prevent water from accumulating on roads, and With the state government plan-

ning the Prajapalana Prajavijayotsava on December 7, 8,

He provided guidance on the necessary actions to ensure the success of the celebrations, which are expected to draw large crowds.

School buses older than 15 years should be seized. A special drive should be conducted for imposing a green tax on private vehicles over 15 years old. Poonam Prabhakar appreciated the state's EV policy and asked Electrical Vehicle companies to fund traffic awareness initiatives.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of Energy, holding a review with CMDs at Vidyut Soudha in Hyderabad on Saturday.

## **Officials told ensure** uninterrupted power supply

#### PNS HYDERABAD

To ensure uninterrupted power supply during sum-mer, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of Energy, held a review meeting with CMDs and officials at Vidyut Soudha on Saturday.

In the meeting, Sandeep emphasised the growing power demand and directed officials to focus on capacity augmentation of Power Transformers (PTRs) at EHT and 33/11 KV substations. He directed the officials to take steps to maintain a consistent supply of quality power, especially given the projected 5% rise in power demand and a

15% increase in the Greater Region compared to last year. The CMDs of Telangana Transco, Genco, and DISCOMs were instructed to install new PTRs in highdemand areas and complete the summer action plan projects by January 31. New PTRs should be set up urgently at substations in areas experiencing record-

high demand. Officials updated Sandeep on capacity upgrades at Arsipuram and Bowrampet substations, and progress on the 132 KV circuits at Jadcherla and Narayanpur. Repair works under SPDCL and NPDCL are also progressing quickly.

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has ordered immediate inspections of fire safety measures in government hospitals and directed the formation of a 10-member team to oversee the situation. This action aims at preventing incidents similar to the

recent fire tragedy in Uttar Pradesh. On Saturday morning, Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha held a teleconference with senior officials of the Health Department to review fire safety measures in hospitals across the state. Expressing deep concern over a recent fire accident at a hospital in Uttar Pradesh, which tragically resulted in the death of children, the Minister called such incidents extremely distressing.

Minister Narasimha directed officials to ensure that all government and private hospitals in the State comply with fire safety regulations. He urged that immediate measures be taken to inspect and prepare

## Inspect fire safety measures in hospitals: Minister to officials

#### PNS HYDERABAD



reports on fire safety standards in government hospitals.

He ordered the formation of 10 teams to conduct these inspections and submit their reports. The teams will begin their inspections at major hospitals such as Gandhi, Osmania, Niloufer, and MGM hospitals.

The inspections will focus on checking whether fire alarms and smoke detectors are in place, and whether there are sufficient fire extinguishing machines available. They will also verify the expiry dates of these machines to ensure they are functioning properly.

The Minister also instructed that training be provided to hospital security staff and other personnel on the use of fire safety equipment and extinguishing machines.

In addition, the Health Minister emphasised the need to inspect the power supply systems in hospitals, ensuring that any old electrical cables are replaced with high-quality, new ones.

## **ROW OVER VIDEO ON SOCIAL MEDIA** Survey forms fell off car; retrieved

them personally.

Commissioner

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Medchal Malkajgiri District Collector Gowtham Potru addressed concerns regarding the Caste Census Survey forms found discarded on roads in Tarnaka, Hyderabad, on Friday. He assured the Chairman of the Telangana Commission for Backward Classes that the forms were safely retrieved and no data was compromised.

In a detailed response to the Chairman's request for a report, the Collector clar-

belonged to Ward No 27 of nated the retrieval of the the Jawaharnagar Municipal Corporation. The forms

forms. He stated that the forms are now securely were discovered on the stored in the Municipal streets after they fell from Commissioner's custody.

the vehicle of a municipal The District Collector supervisor, identified as M also emphasised that due to Jyothi, MPSO, Office of the the supervisor's negligence, Tahsildar, Kapra Mandal, she was suspended immediwhile she was transporting ately

Ádditionally, the Upon noticing the inci-Municipal Commissioner, dent, staff from the Hyderabad Metropolitan who was responsible for ensuring the safety of the Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) quickforms, has been issued a show-cause notice for failly informed the Municipal ing to properly monitor the of secure transportation and ified that the forms Jawaharnagar, who coordi- storage of the filled forms.

#### SOULFUL RENDERING WITH DIVINITY **IS VEDAVATHI PRABHAKAR'S FORTE**

usic merely for commer-" cial use is not good. The

L mass commercialisation of music hurts me. I am not saying that commercialisation is not good. It helps take music to the masses, but mindless commercialisation is bad. I want to render music such that I am able to please Gods," says Vedavathi Prabhakar, whose richly decorated career has seen her scale many heights in the soothing arena of light music. It is but apt to remember her on her birthday which was celebrat-ed by her fans recently. Music icon Vedavathi made an everlasting mark for herself with her soulful renditions in the AIR and Doordarshan. As



they say, music is divine.



for over 45 years, she has rendered songs not just in Kannada and Telugu, but also in Tamil and Hindi. As a top ranking musician, she lent her voice to the compositions of stalwarts like



as ever," say her die-hard fans.

Born in a family of Carnatic music lovers, Vedavathi had her initial training under Chennamma in Bengaluru for 10 years and after her marriage with IPS officer R Prabhakar Rao, she shifted to Devi, Voleti Venkateswarlu and oth-Hyderabad and there was no looking

Balamurali Krishna, Emani Sankara Sastry, Balantrapu Rajani Kanta Rao, Pendyala Nageswara Rao, Manchala

Jagannadha Rao, Palagummi Viswanadham, Chittaranjan, Viswanadham, Vinjamuri Anasuva Devi and Seetha ers. She has recited slokas in the back. During her career as a singer Sanskrit film Adi Sankaracharya

directed by GV Iyer and worked with renowned music director and singer SP Balasubramanyam. Her rendering of Meera bhajans with lyrics penned by C Narayana Reddy and set to music by Pendyala have been immensely popular.

She has rendered popular songs like Telugu Tiruppavai and slokas on Mangalampalli Devi. She has been invited by the

TTD to sing for the famous Srinivasa Kalyanam. She was selected by the TTD to sing Annamacharya keertanas and she has been performing at the famous shrines of Srisailam, Bhadrachalam and

Raghavendra Swami Mutt. Ă plenty of awards have come her way and she has become a global phenomenon in light music.

**VENKOB R BALANTRAPU** 

Senior Journalist (The writer can be reached at venkobbr@gmail.com and 9297204401)

# lelangana HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2024



District Collector IIa Tripathi conducting surprise inspection at Social Welfare Residential Girls School at Kondamallypally in Nalgonda district on Saturday

## **Collector warns Social** Welfare school staff of action against laxity

#### PNS NALGONDA

District Collector Ila Tripathi conducted a surprise inspection at the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Girls School/College in Kondmallapally under Devarkonda Division in Nalgonda district. During her visit, she inspected the kitchen, storeroom, and classrooms.

While interacting with the kitchen staff, the Collector focused on cleanliness and questioned the management of food items. She noticed that old and new rice were mixed and vegetable waste was not properly disposed of. She directed the staff to keep premises clean. She emphasised that cooks must wash their hands before preparing food and ensure that vegetables and rice are thoroughly cleaned before

cooking. The Collector also expressed dissatisfaction with the man-agement of the school's registers. She reviewed the teacher atten-dance register, stock register, and indent registers and warned that any future mistakes would lead to strict action. She inquired about the regular attendance of the health supervisor and expressed her displeasure with the principal and caretaker for the lapses in the management of with the right mindset.

school records.

During her inspection, the Collector also checked the rice storage and verified the stock, asking for detailed information on the rice received. She took immediate action when she found that eggs had not been supplied to the school for the past 15 days, questioning why an indent had not been placed. She contacted the egg supplier and demanded an explanation.

In addition to inspecting the school facilities, the Collector interacted with students to encourage their academic progress. She spoke to the sec-ond-year MPC (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry) students about Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. She explained various concepts on the blackboard, highlighting the importance of chemistry and its future career prospects. She told the students that the scope of chemistry is vast, and it opens up multiple

The Collector then visited the first-year BIPC (Biology, Physics, Chemistry) students and asked them what they product to be them what they needed to do to become a successful teacher, engineer, or doctor. She motivated them to do hard work, saying that anything can be achieved



Shadnagar Market Committee chairman and members addressing a media conference in Shadnagar on Saturday

PNS RANGAREDDY

**Market Committee chief, members** 

vow to work for welfare of farmers

**Unbridled corruption in Nirmal district** 

Common people complain that Anti-Corruption Bureau raids prove futile in curbing graft

#### PNS NIRMAL

Corruption in Nirmal district continues to spiral out of control, despite repeated efforts by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to curb the menace. A recent case highlights the ongoing issue. Shakeer Khan, a Junior Assistant at Nirmal Municipality, was caught by ACB officers while accepting a Rs 20,000 bribe. The bribe was allegedly demanded to secure the regularisation of a complainant's order from the Regional Director of Municipal Administration in Warangal

Corruption seems to have infiltrated various departments, with extortion ring operating in full force. Those who resist these corrupt practices are reportedly facing severe retaliation. Even law enforcement agencies are not

immune as demonstrated by a recent ACB trap that led to the arrest of a sub-inspector from Mamada Police Station for alleged-ly accepting a Rs 10,000 bribe for granting bail.

Despite multiple raids and arrests, corruption remains deeply entrenched. The ACB's actions, while commendable, have yet to achieve a change in the behaviour of the corrupt officials. Local residents are growing increasingly desperate, as they continue to face demands for bribes for even basic services to which they are legally entitled.

Frustrated citizens have questioned why officials continue to demand bribes, especially when the government is already paying them salaries for their work. Yet, officials remain unwilling to perform their duties without their palms being



A junior Assistant in Nirmal Municipal Shakeer Khan who was caught for allegedly accepting a bribe (File photo)

greased. Allegations are also surfacuation, demanding bribes for every ing that senior officials involved in task. There are growing concerns that lower-level officials across recruitment and transfers at the district level are exploiting the sit-

multiple departments, including Revenue, Registration, Municipal, and Labour, are running extortion rackets. Despite the ACB's ongoing efforts, the corruption in Nirmal

Frustrated citizens

have questioned

demand bribes,

already paying them salaries for

their work

especially when

the government is

why officials

continue to

remains rampant, with little sign of meaningful change.

## 'Conspiracy' to create communal unrest in Shadnagar: DK Aruna

#### **PNS** RANGAREDDY

Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha member DK Aruna has expressed strong concern over the recent vandalism at an ancient Shiva temple at Janampeta Vivekananda Colony in Shadnagar. He expressd the view that it was a conspiracy to create communal unrest. During her visit to the temple on Saturday, she condemned the disappearance of the Shiva lingam and the destruction of idols of Ganapati and Nandi, calling it a deliberate attack on Hindu sentiments.

Speaking to the media, Aruna criticised the State government and police for their inaction in preventing such incidents, stating that repeated attacks on temples across Telangana were part of a larg-er conspiracy. She demanded that the authorities immediate-



Mahabubnagar MP DK Aruna, accompanied by BJP state executive members Palamuru Vishnuvardhan Reddy, visiting the vandalised ancient Shiva temple at Janampeta Vivekananda Colony in Shadnagar on Saturday

ly identify and punish those responsible for the theft of the Shivalingam and the desecration of other idols. She further questioned the lack of progress in recovering the missing Shiva lingam and called on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to address the issue urgently.

DK Aruna was accompanied by BJP state executive members Palamuru Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Ande Babaiah, Kedala Venkatesh, Enkanolla Venkatesh, Kasoju Shiva, Akula Pradeep, and Balaraj, among others, who also demanded immediate

action against the perpetrators.

## CEO inspects voter registration process

#### PNS SANGAREDDY

District Collector Kranti Valluru has explained the progress achieved in the voter registration process in the district to the Chief Electoral Officer through PowerPoint presentation.

On Saturday, the State Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy, visited Sangareddy and Andole constituencies in the district to inspect the special voter registration campaign.

During this visit, he inspected the Sangareddy and Andole Revenue Divisional Offices and reviewed the new voter registrations. He instructed the staff to expedite the online process. He also reviewed the special voter registration event at TARA Degree College in Sangareddy. During this visit, he interacted with local BLOs (booth-level officers) to gather information about Forms 6, 7, and 8 online and regular applications. Additionally, he inspected the EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) stored in the Strongroom in Sangareddy.

Later, a meeting was held at the RDOs.



Chief Electoral Office C Sudharshan Reddy inspecting a voter registration camp in Sangarreddy on Saturday

Integrated Collectorate Conference Hall in Sangareddy with the district's Election Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, and other officials. District Collector Kranti Valluru briefed the Election Commissioner on details related to the SSR 2025 voter registration for teacher and MLC graduate seats.

The meeting was attended by the dis-trict's Election Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, and

## Strict action will be taken against illegal layouts: Revenue officer

#### PNS PATANCHERU

Ameenpur Mandal Thasildar P Radha stated that the authorities are dealing strictly with land encroachments on government lands in the Ameenpur mandal

At a media conference here on Saturday to explain the controversy surrounding a land in Sultanpur, which falls within the Ameenpur Municipality limits, the officer said that the Survey No. 30/2, comprising 384 acres, is not government land, but rather is Inam land. A court case is ongoing between the government and the Inam landholders regarding this land.

She also mentioned that despite the ongoing legal dispute, there have been reports of illegal layouts being developed on the disputed land. In response to these complaints, action was taken on September 21 under the supervision of Revenue Inspector Raghunath Reddy. However, it was reported that illegal plotting and fencing were once again being carried out around the land, leading to further encroachments.

Following instructions from the District Collector, action was taken to prevent these encroachments. During



Ameenpur Mandal Thasildar P Radha speaking to the media at Patancheru on Saturday

an inquiry, it was found that a person named Mohammed Sohel was illegaldeveloping plots and fencing around the land.

As part of the action against these illegal activities, the Tahsildar stated that a written request for police pro-tection was made to the Ameenpur Circle Inspecto on the November 16. With police protection, the illegally constructed plots and the fencing around the land were removed on the last Friday, she said.

Radha emphasised that the Revenue Department is taking strict action against land encroachments and illegal occupation of government land in the Ameenpur Revenue area.

## Not words action required for Musi cleaup: Gudur

#### PNS HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Saturday demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy speed up Musi River cleanup programme. In a media statement, he said that action was required

more than words as far as cleaning up of the Musi were concerned. He said that the government must launch the project at the earliest.

He said that though the government has been issuing statements on the cleaning and beautification of the river, so far no concrete measures

have been taken. The government has made a bad start to the Musi Development Project by resorting to demolition of houses on the riverbed and earned the wrath of the people and political parties alike.

"Instead of clearing the land on the river banks, the government, in the first place, should have focused controlling the flow of contaminants into the

river, construction of sewage treatment plants, releasing fresh water into the river, and removing the sludge from the bed of the river," he said.

He has suggested that first the government concentrates all its efforts on cleaning the river and then takes up beautification and river front development. Once the river is cleaned it would pave the way for the beautification.

The BJP leader said that cleaning up activities do not need thousands of crores of rupees. It needs strict enforcement of anti-pollution measures

He said that the pollution in the river has become so unbearable that no one dares to

pass by the river. The river water is filthifrom est

Ghatkesar to Valigonda under the Bhongir Assembly constituency area. The paddy grown in about 48,000 of acres in the constituency is also becoming inedible.

He said that the 250 kmlong River has become Styx (an underworld river of western mythology like the Vaitharini of Hindu mythology) with pollution at unimaginable lev-

"The water of the river has become so polluted that it has turned into poison. People even cannot pass by the river as it stinks to the high heavens," he said.

Narayana Reddy said that bacteria have developed in the river water and it has been causing var-ious types of skin dis-

eases among the people who live near it. The milk drawn from the cattle that graze the grass on the banks of the river has also been getting

people." Criticizing the BRS government's record over the last decade, they high-Shadnagar Market Committee Chairperson Sulochana, Vice Chairman lighted that the BRS government had Babar Khan, and other directors have failed to honour its promise of waivng crop loans up to Rs one lakh, the pledged unwavering support to farmers in the Shadnagar constituency, promising to stand by them even at Congress government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has initiated midnight for their welfare. Speaking at the processof waiving crop loan up to a media conference held at the Rs two lakh. Shadnagar MLA camp office on Saturday, the leaders expressed their The leaders announced that the swearing-in ceremony of the new Saturday, the leaders expressed then gratitude to MLA Veerlapalli Shankar for appointing them to the governing body of the Market Committee. The leaders emphasised their com-mitment to fulfilling their responsibil-Market Committee governing body would take place on November 27 at

10 am. in the Market Committee yard. State Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Jupally Krishna Rao, along with MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, are expected to attend as chief guests.

The Market Committee leaders showered praise on MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, describing him as a leader. They also thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Jupally Krishna Rao for their support.

## **BVRIT** celebrates Freshers' Day

#### PNS SANGAREDDY

BVRIT Narsapur welcomed its I.B Tech students with grandeur and enthusiasm at the Freshers' Day 2024 celebration. The event, filled with traditional, classical, and modern festivities, set the tone for a memorable journey for the new batch of engineering students.

Renowned classical dancer On Saturday and chief guest Ashrita Vemuganti Nanduri inaugurated the event. In her address, she emphasised the importance of art in shaping personalities and redefining perspec-



Students celebrating Freshers' Day at BVRIT college in Narsapur

their engineering education.

tives, encouraging the stuyou and elevate your journey," dents to explore and apprecishe said. ate artistic pursuits alongside

The highlight of the day was the dazzling performances by "Art has the power to redefine the freshers, who showcased

their talents through spell-binding dances, musical acts, and other artistic displays. Students donned an array of traditional, classical, and Western attire, adding vibrancy and cultural diversity to the event.

Speaking at the occasion, Director Dr Lakshmi Prasad emphasised the need for engineering students to admire and engage with art, as it pro-vides a unique lens to view life. Principal Dr Sanjay Dubey affirmed BVRIT's commitment to supporting the allround development of its students, balancing academic

rigor with co-curricular excellence. Freshmen Engineering Head Dr Mrunalini highlighted the meticulous practice and dedication of first-year students in preparing for the event, showcasing their inner talents and creativity. She reiterated the department's focus

on nurturing students' holistic growth through diverse opportunities.

BVRIT management Vice chairman Ravi Chandran Rajagopalan, Secretary Sri Aditya Vissam have sent their best wishes to all 1st BTech students on the gala and pomp event

## Officials told to speed up launch of Mahila Sakti units

ities, ensuring the development of the

Shadnagar Market Committee, and

working tirelessly for the farmers.

They acknowledged the support of the

people and attributed their political success to MLA Veerlapalli Shankar's

leadership. Chairperson Sulochana

remarked, "The status we have received

and the respect we hold belong to the

#### PNS KHAMMAM

polluted.

Additional Collector P Srija has instructed government officials to take comprehensive measures to meet the monthly targets for establishing Indira Mahila Sakti units in villages. She sought detailed reports from officials on the number of units being set up by Assistant Project Managers each month, whether the targets are being met, and the extent of any shortfalls. She also asked for an

explanation on why some targets are not being achieved.

procurement and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) works.

Srija emphasised the impor-She urged officials to regulartance of timely action, warning ly monitor progress at the man-dal level, stressing that a lack-adaisical approach would not that failure to meet targets would lead to strict consequences. She made these vield positive results. Pending NREGS works should be prior-itized and completed quickly, remarks during a review meeting on the progress of launch-ing Indira Mahila Sakti units, she instructed, and officials were asked to submit a report on the suspended works at the

which was held at the Collectorate conference hall on Saturday. During the meeting, she also reviewed the progress of paddy actions to complete them.



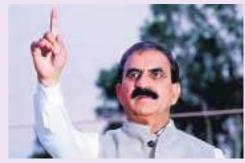
# Nation 05

## **ACROSS THE STATES**



## Woman kills her child to marry another man

A woman allegedly strangled her five-year-old daughter to death in northwest Delhi to marry a man she met on Instagram, police said on Saturday. The woman also told the police that she lived with a relative in Himachal Pradesh before coming to Delhi where her child was sexually assaulted, they said. Police received information from Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital on Friday about a child being brought dead. Inquiries revealed strangulation marks on the child's neck, they said. A case was was registered and the child's relatives, including her mother, was interrogated, the Delhi Police said in a statement. After sustained interrogation, the mother broke down and revealed that she had strangulated her daughter, the statement said



## Himachal govt to consider ranking colleges: CM

imachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday said that the government is considering ranking the colleges of the state and a formula is also being prepared for it. Presiding over a programme of the Alumni Association at Government Degree College in Sanjauli, he said that there are about 138 colleges in the state. He said, "We want to strengthen the facilities in the colleges and all other government educational institutions. The state government is emphasising providing quality education to the students and there is no dearth of funds for this work." He said that an arts block, girls hostel and parking will be built in the college complex in two years. He also announced Rs 50 lakh to the Alumni Association.



#### HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2024

## **AGRI DISTRESS Cost and debt rising**, yield stagnant: SC panel

### Suggests examining MPS, other measures

#### PNS NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed panel on farmers' grievances and protests has filed its interim report, listing reasons for agrarian distress which among others include stagnant yield, rising costs and debts and inadequate marketing system. The high-powered com-

mittee, constituted on September 2 under former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nawab Singh to resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border, also suggested solutions including examining the possibility of giving legal sanctity to Minimum Support Price and offering direct income support.

While forming the commit-tee, the SC had observed farmers' protest should not be politicised. A bench of Justices Surva Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan on Friday took the interim report on record and praised the committee for its efforts and framing of the issues to be

examined and defuse the agitation.

In its 11-page interim report, the panel said, "It is a wellknown fact that the farming community in the country in general and that of Punjab and Haryana in particular has been facing an ever-increasing crisis over the last more than two decades.

The stagnation in yield and production growth since the mid-1990s, after the initial higher gains of the the Green Revolution, marked the beginning of the crisis, said the report.

The panel said the debt on farmers and farm workers increased manifold in recent decades.

"In 2022-23, institutional debt of farmers

The stagnation in yield and production growth since the mid-1990s, after the initial higher gains of the the Green **Revolution, marked** the beginning of the





#### in Punjab was Rs 73,673 crore, while in Haryana it was even higher at Rs 76,630 crore as per National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD, 2023). In addition, there is a significant bur-den of non-institutional debt on farmers, which is estimated to be 21.3 per cent of total outstanding debt on farmers in Punjab and 32 percent in Haryana, according to National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO, 2019)," the committee flagged.

The committee also comprised retired IPS officer B S Sandhu, Mohali resident Devinder Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman and Punjab Agriculture University agricultural economist Dr Sukhpal Singh.

and Marathi.

## A setback to fake wellwishers of Constitution

## Amit Shah on Maha poll results

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday expressed gratitude to the people of Maharashtra for the "historic victory" of the Mahayuti alliance in the state polls and said that by giving such a huge mandate to the NDA, people have shut shops of "fake wellwishers of the Constitution".

Shah also thanked the people of Jharkhand for blessing the BJP with the highest percentage of votes.

"Jai Maharashtra! Heartfelt gratitude to the people of Maharashtra for this historic Constitution: Rahul mandate," the Union minister said in a post on X in Hindi

Maharashtra, the holy land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Babasahéb Ambedkar, Jyotiba Phule and Babasaheb



Veer Savarkar, has always kept culture and nation supreme

along with development, the

"By giving such a huge man-

date to the Mahayuti alliance

amidst illusion and lies, the

people have closed the shops

of those who are fake well-

wishers of the Constitution.

This victory is the victory of

every Maharashtra resident,"

Jharkhand results

victory for

he said.

senior BJP leader said.

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hailed the INDIA bloc's victory in the Jharkhand Assembly polls on Saturday as one for the protection of the Constitution as well as of water, forest and land, even as he described the Maharashtra poll results as "unexpected" and said his party will analyse the election outcome in the

ensuring his party's good show state in detail. in the elections, particularly in Channapatna, coming under In a post in Hindi on X, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha thanked his home district Ramanagara, a Vokkaliga-dominated region. the voters of Jharkhand as The Congress retained its stronghold of Sandur, but the well as those who voted for the INDIA opposition bloc in Maharashtra.

## NDA DEBACLE IN JHARKHAND No CM face, focus only on infiltration cost BJP dear

#### Hemant Soren regime.

Despite the BJP-led NDA throwing all its weight to snatch Jharkhand from the hands of a JMM-headed coalition, the saffron camp suffered a debacle leaving the party's rank and file wondering what had gone wrong.

PNS RANCHI

Top BJP leaders such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma canvassed aggressively, but the NDA did not project any CM candidate, as its campaigns mainly focused on "infiltration from Bangladesh" and "corruption" of the

About 200 rallies were addressed by BJP leaders including about two dozen by Shah and PM Modi who also held mega road shows including one in Jharkhand's capital Ranchi drawing huge crowds. The NDA was leading barely in 24 of the 81 seats it con-

tested. The BJP contested in 68 seats while it ally AJSU Party which contested on 10 seats is almost wiped out.

Contradicting exit polls, Hemant Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is heading towards a major victory by winning or establishing lead in 34 seats of the total 43 it contested.

Assembly seat. The CPI (M) retained Chelakkara, a left

In neighbouring Karnataka, it was Congress all the way, with the party winning all the three Assembly seats where bypolls were held.

The Mallikarjuna Khargeled party wrested Shiggaon and Channapatna from the opposition BJP-led bloc which had put up a spirited fight and the electoral victory was being seen as an endorsement of the



Bypolls: Cong sweeps south

leadership of Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, also the party's state unit chief.

The elections were a litmus test of sorts for the two leaders. While Siddaramaiah is embroiled in the MUDA land allotment case, Shivakumar had invested a lot of pride in



### HC TO CENTRE

stronghold.

Southern electors overwhelmingly supported Congress nominees as the grand old party swept the Lok Sabha and Assembly by-polls held in Karnataka and Left-ruled Kerala on Saturday. Besides, the party retained the Palakkad

## 'Raise voice for release of **Engineer Rashid'**

he Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) Saturday appealed to the Members of the Parliament to raise their voice for the release of fellow parliamentarian and party chief Sheikh Abdul Rashid. Addressing a press conference here, AIP vice president G N Shaheen said Rashid alias Engineer Rashid "was summoned to Delhi and detained under false and baseless charges" on August 5, 2019, the day Article 370 was abrogated. "Despite being held in custody, he contested the parliamentary elections, won with a massive mandate and became the elected voice of the Baramulla constituency. However, since taking his oath as a Member of Parliament, he has not been allowed to attend even a single session of the Lok Sabha," Shaheen said. He said the Baramulla constituency consists of 18 assembly segments and accounts for nearly 40 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's population, and from 2008 to 2018, Rashid "fearlessly served" his people, voicing their concerns and aspirations without compromise.

## 'NCC will touch strength of 20 lakh in coming years'

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The National Cadet Corps has competed 76 years of its existence and made commendable efforts in increasing the strength of cadets, the defence ministry said on Saturday asserting that the Corps will touch the strength of 20 lakh in coming years.

The largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, the NČC was raised in 1948.

The Corps will celebrating its 76th Raising Day on Sunday, the ministry said in a statement.

The NCC has made "commendable efforts in increasing the strength of cadets by 3 lakh and will be touching the strength of 20 lakh in coming years", Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh was quot-



ed as saying in the statement. He laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen heroes on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity at the National War

Memorial here.

Singh emphasised the role of the NCC in the 'Viksit Bharat' campaign, a pivotal initiative by the Government of India.

## Nominate panel members to examine deepfake menace

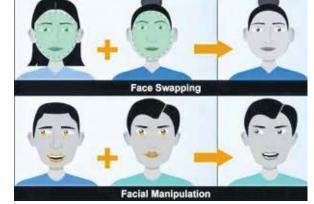
#### PNS NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to nominate members for a committee constituted to examine the issue of deepfakes.

The high court's direction came after it was informed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) that a committee had been formed on November 20 on deepfake matters.

The Centre submitted that it was actively taking measures to address and mitigate the issues related to deepfake technology.

A bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela directed the central government to



nominate the members within a week.

"The committee shall examine and take into consideration the suggestions filed by the petitioners. The committee

shall also consider the regulations as well as statutory framework in foreign countries like the European Union," the bench said in an order passed on November 21.

## Maha win boosts BJP's RS majority prospects

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday snatched one Lok Sabha seat from the Congress, lowering the opposition party's tally to 98, while a victory runaway in Maharashtra will also boost the ruling alliance's prospects in the Rajya Sabha where the western state sends the secondhighest number of members.

The BJP had won 240 seats

in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year. After its win in the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll on Saturday, the party's tally in the 543-member Lower House has gone up to 241.

The Nanded bypoll was necessitated by the death of Congress MP Vasantrao

#### Chavan on August 26.

Bareli and Wayanad. He vacat-

ed his Wayanad seat from

where his sibling Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra won on

Saturday. The Congress had won 99 After winning Wayanad and seats in the Lok Sabha elections losing Nanded, the Congress' with party leader Rahul tally in the Lok Sabha now Gandhi winning from Rae stands at 98.

The Basirhat seat in West Bengal is now the lone vacancy in the Lok Sabha.

Trinamool Congress MP SK Nurul Islam died on September 25. However, a bypoll could not be held in the seat as an election petition is pending against Islam in Calcutta High Court.

The BJP-led alliance's landslide victory in Maharashtra has also boosted its prospects in the Rajya Sabha and could help it get a majority in the

Upper House. Maharashtra sends 19 members to the Rajya Sabha

## 'Pollution in Delhi aggravating respiratory ailments'

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Bad air in Delhi has aggravated respiratory ailments, especially for patients with preexisting lung diseases, doctors

Dr Ankita Gupta, Assistant Professor in the Department of Respiratory Medicine said that air pollution aggravates respiratory diseases by introducing

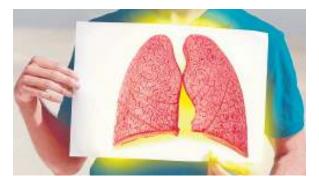
particulate matter into the lungs. This can lead to symptoms like shortness of breath, sore throat, and in some cases, secondary infections.

tive," Dr Gupta said.



**Patients with** pre-existing lung diseases are often on regular medication throughout the year. However, during periods of severe pollution, their usual dosage may not be effective," Dr Gupta said

Dr Ujjwal Parakh, Senior Consultant, Department of Chest Medicine at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said, "Prolonged exposure to pollutants can trigger inflammation, airway constriction, and reduced lung



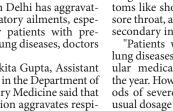
function, making routine management of conditions like asthma, COPD, or chronic bronchitis far more challenging."

"In such cases, we often need to increase the dosage or frequency of medications, such as inhalers, bronchodilators, or corticosteroids. Rescue inhalers might also be required more frequently to manage acute symptoms," Dr Parakh said.

Patients with coexisting conditions, such as diabetes, face longer recovery times because of weakened immunity, Dr Gupta said.

Another doctor from the Lok Nayak Hospital's Department of Respiratory Medicine said that emergency cases of respiratory distress are also being observed during this period.

"Patients with pre-existing lung diseases are often on regular medication throughout the year. However, during periods of severe pollution, their usual dosage may not be effec-





FOOD, IN THE END, IN OUR OWN TRADITION, IS SOMETHING HOLY. IT'S NOT ABOUT NUTRIENTS AND CALORIES. IT'S ABOUT SHARING. IT'S ABOUT HONESTY. IT'S ABOUT IDENTITY - LOUISE FRESCO





Step into Melt House for a warm ambiance with culinary delights, from cheesy grilled sandwiches to delightful desserts, writes ABHI SINGHAL

ucked on a road full of cafe's and eateries, between the streets of Greater Kailash II, the Melt House café invites you to step inside and have the essence of a cozy vibes like you feel on the mountains while enjoying inside. The warm yellow colour mixed with brown,

with bulbs hanging above the wooden tables, while the aroma of fresh ground coffee and wine mingles with the soft humming of acoustic music. Melt House is the kind of place where time seems to slow, promising a cozy experience with posters of coffee and scenic

experience with posters of conce and scenic beauty giving you a beautiful time. From the dishes to the bar menu to *malted milkshakes the Melt House* caters everyone for a quality time and quality treat. Beginning with the grilled cheese speciality of the coff the *Diri Diri Cottage Charge Crilled* 

the café, the Piri Piri Cottage Cheese Grilled Cheese sandwich is zesty containing pulled cottage cheese with onions, peppers, cheddar, mozzarella and American cheese. The Piri Piri Cottage Cheese Grilled Cheese sandwich gave a texture of firm and crunchy on the outside but the cheese enhanced the taste of the same.

After the mouth-watering sandwich, you can embrace yourself and order the flavourful Smoky Cajun Penne Alfredo under the Big Plates menu. Indulged with a luscious blend of butter, heavy cream, and freshly grated

Parmesan for that perfect creamy Alfredo sauce, *the pasta* with *garlic bread* will activate your taste buds.

. If you are a pizza lover and a vegetarian, trying Burrata Margherita will be a delicious one. Bursting with vibrant, tangy flavour, balancing richness with just the right amount of acidity, Burrata Margherita is filled with Burrata cheese, red and yellow cherry tomato and fresh basil which will not be very visually

appealing but is tasty and soft. Jumping into the small plates menu, *Pink Garlic Aioli Parmesan Truffle Fries* with *russet potatoes* cut into matchsticks with freshly grated Parmesan cheese, black truffle oil and

grated Parmesan cheese, black frume on and mayonnaise for the aioli are moreish. Reflecting on the history and the aura of the café Chef *Rohit Negi* said, "The Melt House basically started from Gurugram itself as an artisanal sandwich shop and then we have opened to big places having the energility of opened to big places having the speciality of cheese. There is the melted cheese concept we infuse in our dishes. Now, after we have all the totally cheesy flavours in our food, and we have differentiated it from any other restaurant you get on to. We have some Italian have cuisine in it, and we have mixed it with cheese for the cheese lovers."

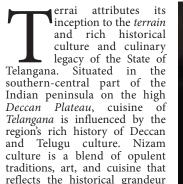
The café also has different offerings in Vodka, Tequila, Red Wines, White Wines, Gin and more. For the milkshake enthusiasts and the



hot chocolate connoisseurs, the Classic Hot Chocolate at the Melt House is a must try beverage. The Cold coffee at the Melt House is a refreshing blend of smooth, chilled coffee, served with ice for an invigorating lift. Its rich, bold flavour comes alive with each sip, perfectly balanced between the sweetness and

the robust, aromatic essence of freshly brewed coffee for the caffeine kick.

This signals a shift towards indulgence, setting the stage for dessert as the grand finale. So, Nutella lovers assemble as the Chocochip Walnut Nutela is a treat that combines the richness of Nutella with the satisfying crunch of toasted walnuts and the delight of chocolate chips. Each bite bursts with soft chocolate chips. Each bite bursts with sc and nutty layers of flavour, balanced perfectly by the sugar content. The ones looking for mouth watery chocolate and high sugar *Melt's Matilda Cake* is a decadent masterpiece that promises to masterpiece that promises to satisfy even the most discerning sweet tooth. With its spongy layers of chocolate sponge, every bite melts effortlessly in your mouth, leaving behind a trail of humanian support trail of luxurious sweetness. In conclusion, the Melt House Café offers more than just a meal; it provides an experience. Whether you're seeking a cozy corner to unwind with a cup of freshly brewed coffee, wanting the cheesy delights, or treating yourself to decadent desserts, Melt House promises to deliver warmth and comfort with every





#### Telangana's culinary traditions,

## THE ART AND SPIRIT OF CAKE

#### TEAM AGENDA

#### AT CROWN PLAZA, MAYUR VIHAR

he Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar recently hosted its annual Cake Mixing embracing



diverse and heritage of Telangana.

Founded by the visionary restaurateur, Rohit Kasuganti and the creative powerhouse, Anisha Deevakonda, Terrai derives its name from terrain defining the topography of the young-historical State. Reinventing traditional cuisine, propagating the culture and community is the ethos of this new restaurant, Terrai.

#### THE VISION

The objective of *Terrai* is simple - it aims to propagate the deeply rooted culinary culture of the State, becoming synonymous with it. Terrai is a glorious homage to the rich heritage, culture and culinary prowess of Telangana. At Terrai, every dish serves as a resplendent tribute to the land, celebrating local women farmers and tribal chefs who utilise timetechniques honoured and ingredients.

Rohit Kasuganti, Founder and CEO, TSK Food Works, says, 'Telangana food has been overshadowed by the popularity of its neighbouring cousin. Taking immense pride in our roots, our thought and vision behind Terrai is to simply showcase the tradition and history behind the food from our State, designed for the modern diner. We want Terrai to lead a revolution, of sorts and to propagate Telangana cuisine to the World and enlighten our colleagues and guests to the rich legacy that it represents."



**ELEGANT WITH LOCAL** 

CRAFIS prawling in 12000 sq. ft., is the dining Shere is the din destination, offering luxurious experience with seating for 250 guests across four distinct dining halls, each designed to provide a unique ambiance. As you step in Terrai, you are



From terrain to table, Terrai presents the evolution of Telangana Cuisine, says SHARMILA CHAND



enveloped in an ambiance that exudes sophistication and warmth. Influenced by and representing the rich crafts of the State, the terracotta walls, adorned with intricate Ikkat mouldings and exquisite Dokra art, radiate an earthy elegance, while the captivating Bathukamma-inspired ceiling lights create a mesmerising glow throughout the space. Crafted by the renowned Sona Reddy Studio, every detail - from the repurposed traditional doors to the stunning original artworks by Narahari invites guests on an enchanting journey through Telangana's rich cultural tapestry. Terrai is a creative canvas where we weave the rich cultural and artistic elements of Telangana into every detail. From collaborating with local artisans on the stunning Dokra art to sourcing textiles for our Ikat-inspired decor, every partnership reflects the soul of Telangana, bringing its stories to life. Our mission is to ensure that every guest experiences the essence of our heritage through innovative

Head and Partner, Terrai.

THE COMMUNITY

NARRATIVE

Terrai aspires to elevate stage, and traditional cuisine", adds Anisha Deevakonda, Creative distinctive identity

Indian influences. Guests are invited to embark on a glorious culinary adventure, reconnecting with the land through an exquisite array of flavours.

## A MELANGE OF FLAVOURS & TEXTURES

Picture indulging in the Karim Nagar Fried Chicken Wings, a fiery sensation complemented by tangy pickled onions, or experiencing the opulence of Terai Mutton Curry paired with spiced Masala Pooris. The Golichina Mamsum, crowned with crispy fried curry leaves, is a flavour explosion, while the refreshing Not So Mirchi Cocktail adds a zesty flourish. Round off your culinary adventure on a sweet note with the delectable Saffron Cheesecake, Kandha Doodh, adorned with delicate saffron pearls, each a testament to the glory of Telangana's rich culinary heritage.

Terrai is more than just a celebration of exquisite flavours; it is a cultural sanctuary where the stories of Telangana come alive. Each dish encapsulates the region's unique traditions and customs, inviting diners to embark on a journey that honours the past while embracing contemporary flair. Here, every bite is a narrative, woven from the intricate tapestry of spices and age-old recipes down through passed generations, all set against a backdrop that resonates with the soul of the Deccan.

In a world brimming with dining options, Terrai emerges as a splendid celebration of Telangana's heritage, inviting food enthusiasts to partake in an unforgettable journey that captures the very essence of the region. It's not merely a meal; it's a resplendent experience that delights the senses and nourishes the soul.

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

ADDRESS: Terrai, Sattva Knowledge Park, Silpa

Gram Craft Village, HiTECH CITY, Hyderabad

for

charming theme of an English This Country Christmas. delightful event transformed the hotel into a festive wonderland, inviting guests to partake in a time-honoured tradition that has brought people together for centuries.

The roots of cake mixing trace back to 17th-century Britain, where this delightful ceremony marked the end of the harvest season. Farmers would gather to soak fruits and nuts in spirits, preserving them for the rich Christmas cakes that would grace tables during the cold winter months. This joyful gathering symbolised abundance, gratitude and the spirit of community, a celebration of nature's bounty and the warmth of togetherness.

At the Crowne Plaza, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and laughter as guests rolled up their sleeves and joined in the festive fun. The delightful aromas of dried fruits, fragrant spices and rich spirits filled the air, creating an inviting and warm environment. This year's theme of an 'English Countryside Christmas' was beautifully reflected in the decor, featuring the traditional red, white and green colours that evoke feelings of warmth and festivity. The venue was adorned with charming elements reminiscent of the British countryside, where cosy cottages and snow-covered landscapes create a magical setting for the holiday season. This theme perfectly encapsulated the simplicity of nature, celebrating the spirit of family and community gatherings that are central to the festive season. As guests stirred the mixture, they shared stories and laughter, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and family. This camaraderie mirrored the gatherings of the past, where communities would unite to prepare for the joyous celebrations ahead. Once the mixing was complete, the cakes created during the ceremony would be set aside to mature in their rich blend of flavours, ready to be enjoyed during the Christmas festivities. The sharing of these cakes with the wider community reflects the

essence of the occasion, joy is amplified when shared with others.

The Cake Mixing Ceremony at Crowne Plaza embodies the essence of tradition, community and connection. In our fast-paced world, such events encourage us to pause, reflect and appreciate the simple pleasures that life offers. As attendees departed, they left not only with a sense of festivity but also with cherished memories of laughter and connection.

#### AT LE MERIDIEN, NEW DELHI

n recent years, *cake mixing* has become a much-anticipated L ritual in the culinary calendar, where the joy of the holiday season is brought to life through the vibrant mixing of ingredients that will eventually turn into Christmas cakes. Traditionally marking the beginning of Christmas preparations, cakemixing ceremonies have their roots in the mediaeval custom of feeding the Christmas cake with spirits and fruits, infusing it with rich flavours that are synonymous with the festive season. In hotels, restaurants and homes around the world, cake mixing symbolises warmth, joy, and a shared experience of holiday spirit.

The *cake mixing* ceremony serves as a festive kick-off, celebrating togetherness and the joy of giving. This tradition often includes the blending of dried fruits, such as raisins, cherries, apricots, and

nuts, along with a blend of warming spices and a generous pour of spirits. The ingredients are then left to mature, allowing the fruits to soak in flavours, adding depth and complexity to the Christmas cakes and other holiday treats that will be shared with family and friends.

Each year, Le Meridien New Delhi joins in this timeless tradition, creating a unique and memorable experience for guests and locals alike. This year, the hotel launched its '#WinterOfJoy' celebration with a magical cake mixing ceremony at their elegant venue, Longitude.

The event drew food enthusiasts, media, and hotel guests together, where they witnessed the rhythmic blending of exotic fruits, spices, and luxurious ingredients, building anticipation for the holiday treats that await. Meena Bhatia, Vice President and General Manager of Le Meridien New Delhi, remarked on the occasion, "We are thrilled to embark on our '#WinterOfJoy' celebration with this heartwarming timeless tradition. We invite everyone to join us in experiencing a symphony of flavours, sights, and sounds as we embark on a festive journey."

The cake-mixing ceremony at *Le Meridien New Delhi* symbolises more than just the beginning of Christmas preparations; it represents a celebration of life, tradition and community.

Community is integral to the Terrai experience. The founders prioritise partnerships with local women farmers, artisans, and home cooks, ensuring that every ingredient is fresh, ethically sourced and imbued with the spirit of Telangana. This commitment to collaboration extends beyond the kitchen, celebrating the invaluable contributions these communities make to the state's culinary legacy, transforming each meal into a traditional story of connection.

Telangana's cuisine to its rightful place on the global gastronomic offering a dining experience that transcends mere nourishment. It embodies a modern renaissance, a movement dedicated to establishing a



ITS THE NOT THE DESTINATION, IT'S THE JOURNEY. RALPH WALDO EMERSON

travel 07 HYDERABAD, November 24, 2024



nvision a captivating tale of Invision a captivating tale of luxury and sophistication in the heart of *Hong Kong*: This exquisite *five-star harbour* front gem has been a beacon of elegance since ago, hosting a prestigious clientele of celebrities, dignitaries, and CEOs. Its allure knows no bounds, boasting flawless service, state-of-the-art amenities, and a culinary experience that is simply unparalleled.

HARBOUR VIEWS, URBAN VIBES settled against the stunning backdrop of Victoria Harbour, with the vibrant pulse of Hong Kong Island at its core, Four Seasons Hong Kong effortlessly combines opulence with convenience. Step outside to breath-taking views of the barbour to breath-taking views of the harbour, while being seamlessly connected to the glamour of the *IFC mall* via air-conditioned walkways. Stroll along these pathways to access the *Central Ferry* and Star Ferry piers, the bustling Central business district, the Macau ferry terminal, as well as the Airport Express and Central MTR subway station. A flawless fusion of luxury and accessibility awaits at this unforgettable destination. As I approach the hotel's majestic entrance, I am immediately enveloped by the brilliance of its gleaming surfaces and soaring three-story windows, illuminated by the warm embrace of the sunlight. It feels as though I am stepping directly into the vibrant heart of the harbour itself. I find the hustle and bustle of people-watching utterly delightful— there are elegantly attired billionaires in Ferragamos gliding gracefully across the polished marble, while men in dark suits equipped with sockets, USB ports, and engage in hushed, intense negotiations, their powerful presence palpable. The air lighting and curtains, making it easy to is rich with accents from around the transition from day to night. The globe, creating a symphony of cultures bathroom is a lavish escape, adorned in converging in this one place. Settling into rich honey marble that tempted me to





the Glass Room lobby lounge with a steaming cup of coffee in hand, I immerse myself in the spectacle of Hong Kong at its glamorous, cosmopolitan

#### **INDULGE IN LUXURY**

tepping into my superior harbour From suite feels like entering a serene sanctuary bathed in natural light. The elegance of the space is unmistakable, with its clean, contemporary lines and a harmonious palette of neutral tones. I am instantly drawn to the inviting textures—the pale gold lozenge-patterned headboard, the sleek glossy lacquer cabinetry, and the softly striped carpeting that added warmth beneath my feet. The sumptuous bed beckons, flanked by high-tech panels equipped with sockets. USB ports, and front suite feels like entering a serene intuitive touch-button controls for



Experience an unparalleled luxury at the prestigious harbour front 'Four Seasons' hotel in Hong Kong, where elegance meets world-class amenities and panoramic views of



indulge in long, relaxing soaks. As a guest with access to a suite, I also enjoy the privilege of the Four Seasons remarkable 45th-floor Executive Club *Lounge*. It is an absolute delight, offering complimentary breakfast and afternoon tea, along with all-day refreshments, including beer, wine, soft drinks, and hot beverages. As evening approaches, the lounge transforms into a vibrant social space, serving champagne, cocktails, and a delightful array of both hot and cold buffet options—truly one of the city's best-kept secrets.

#### SIP, SAVOUR, CELEBRATE

he Four Seasons is an extraordinary culinary haven, boasting an impressive eight Michelin stars pread across three of its exceptional

each dish as a masterpiece. *Caprice*, under Chef *Guillaume Galliot*, masterfully blends classic French cuisine with global influences, showcasing fresh ingredients, inventive techniques, and an exceptional wine and cheese selection for a remarkable dining experience. The French fine dining restaurant mesmerises me with a stunning visual and culinary symphony, also graced with and culinary symphony, also graced with three stars. Then there is the renowned *Sushi Saito*, where the expertise of Japanese seafood truly shines, earning its well-deserved two stars. Each morning, I savour a *sumptuous international* breakfast served in The Lounge on the ground floor. The offerings are nothing short of delightful: a vibrant selection of tropical fruits, delicate *dim sum, eggs* cooked to order, and an endless array of breads and pastries that set a luxurious tone for the day ahead. In the evenings, I discovered cocktail bar *Argo*, one of the discovered cocktail bar Argo, one of the world's best bars, presenting a new cocktail menu featuring 12 creations that celebrate familiar Hong Kong fruits and botanicals, showcasing their versatility. Its deco-inspired interior of glass and mirrors creates an enchanting atmosphere as I relish some sensational mixology. The Silver Fox, a remarkable concoction featuring Hawang Club rum





- The author is an independent food & the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category

Victoria Harbour, writes **AKANKSHA** DEAN

of its exceptional restaurants. I am fortunate enough to indulge in Lung King Heen, the first three-Michelin-star Chinese restaurant, delivering exceptional Cantonese cuisine through teamwork, quality ingredients, and outstanding hospitality, presenting

concoction featuring Havana Club rum, fig leaf, oak lactone cordial, preserved lemon, and tonka, feels like drinking a piece of bliss. Each moment at The Four Seasons Hong Kong is a celebration of the finest flavours and experiences.

## **Discovering the World's True Essence**

In a landmark celebration, Mercure Hotels recently unveiled its 1,000th address worldwide at Mercure Dubai Deira last month. This flagship location introduced the innovative '1,000-Hours of Local Flavours,' a 42-day culinary experience designed to showcase the rich tapestry of local food and beverages. This initiative underscores Mercure's commitment to unveiling the authentic tastes of each destination.

#### By RUPALI DEAN

Since its inception in 1973, Mercure has been a champion of wanderlust, inviting Jof wanderlust, inviting globetrotters to embrace their inner inviting local in every corner of the world. With a footprint spanning 65 countries and boasting 1,000 distinctive addresses, Mercure is dedicated to enveloping guests in a tapestry of local charm while upholding the highest hospitality standards.

EMBRACING COMMUNITY THROUGH CUISINE: I was absolutely delighted to join the celebration at Mercure Dubai Deira for the grand occasion of their 1,000th hotel opening worldwide. With 1,000 locations under its belt, Mercure's mid-scale brand truly excels in forging authentic connections to local cultures around the globe. The evening's theme, 'Discover Local Elements,' set the stage for an exquisite culinary experience brimming with dishes crafted from locally sourced ingredients. The standout moment for me was savouring the cinnamon-infused UAE rack of lamb, clay-cooked to perfection, delivering unmatched tenderness and flavour. For dessert, we indulged in a delicious *pistachio* honey cake — a refreshing take on the beloved pistachio chocolate trend. To heighten the excitement, we got a sneak peek at the '1,000 Local Flavours' menu, launched on 1st November and delighting taste buds for 42 days. A highlight was



the desert salad, featuring the iconic ghaf leaves of the UAE, a beautiful homage to local culture and heritage. This gathering not celebrated only Mercure's unwavering commitment to showcasing local flavours but also strengthened community connections in a vibrant and fulfilling way. Paul Stevens, the chief operating wizard at Accor for the premium, midscale, and economy realms across the Middle East, Africa, and Türkiye, exclaimed, "Hitting the 1,000address mark isn't just a number; it's a vibrant badge of Mercure's unwavering commitment to authentic. locally-inspired hospitality around the globe! The "1,000-Hours of Local Flavours" is a delightful dive into cultural richness and community bonds,



adventure that truly captures the heart and soul of each destination. And the excitement doesn't stop there — Mercure is rolling out the welcome mat for over 200 new hotels by 2028!"

#### SUSTAINABLE LUXURY **REDEFINED:** Julia Schamne, cluster general manager, has truly

transformed Mercure Dubai Deira into a beacon of sustainability since its January opening. With an unwavering commitment to ecofriendly practices, the hotel has embraced compostable materials, bid farewell to plastics, and ensures guests enjoy unlimited, filtered water right in their rooms. The garden-to-table concept in the restaurant beautifully main showcases partnerships with local suppliers, including Hatta's Honeybee Farm, emphasising our dedication to sustainability. Nearly half of the menu is dedicated to delightful plant-based options, underlining our focus on health and environmental care. Moreover, diverse Mercure's team, representing 31 nationalities, embodies the 'heartist' spirit, highlighted by strong female leadership in critical roles such as HR and rooms management. The changes instigated under Julia's guidance reflect a holistic approach to hospitality, integrating sustainability and inclusivity at integrating every level.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FUTURE AHEAD: Having learned about the hotel's future

plans, I am truly excited about what lies ahead! The focus remains firmly on members, ensuring their needs are never overlooked. "The fantastic feedback we've received from our loyal Accor members speaks volumes about our robust loyalty programme. In fact, we rank among the top contributors in terms of member stays and direct bookings, thanks to Mercure's wellrecognised and widespread brand. As one of the largest and fastestgrowing mid-scale brands, we thrive on strong storytelling and high standards. Looking forward, we're committed to enhancing our personalised approach for members, providing them with dedicated attention and individual spaces," shares Julia Schamne. Accor is also eager to increase their community contributions, which is essential for them as a group. Additionally, they are exploring ways to deepen their involvement in charity work, allowing them to give back in significant ways. Their vision is to become the go-to spot for the community, whether it's for a cosy cup of coffee or laundry services. They want to be a place where neighbours can comfortably connect to Wi-Fi or hold quick meetings. Ultimately, the goal is to be the neighbourhood hub where everyone feels at home, capturing the essence of 'Discover Local' for the community.

Awarded the "Best food writer in the country" by the Indian culinary forum, WACS and the Ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel



# Money 08

## IN BRIEF



## **Bansal steps down from** board of PhonePe

lipkart's co-founder Binny Bansal has stepped down from the board of PhonePe, the fintech company said on Friday. PhonePe also announced the appointment of Manish Sabharwal as an Independent Director and Chair of its Audit Committee. In this role, Sabharwal will be instrumental in upholding the integrity and effectiveness of PhonePe's financial reporting, internal controls, and risk management practices, he company said in a release. "PhonePe also announced that Flipkart's co-founder, Binny Bansal has stepped down from its Board of Directors. Binny acquired PhonePe in 2016 and has been on its Board since then," the release said. Commenting on the board rejig, Sameer Nigam, CEO and Founder of PhonePe said, "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Binny Bansal for being one of PhonePe's earliest and staunchest supporters.



## India, EU firm up extensive roadmap for green hydrogen

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2024

#### PNS NEW DELHI

India and the European Union (EU) have finalised an extensive roadmap for the green hydrogen sector that includes development of infrastructure, technology cooperation and boosting supply chains.

The two sides deliberated on ways to enhance cooperation in the sector at the 10th meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel held on

Thursday in Brussels. At the meeting, a "work plan" was adopted for the third phase of the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership 2025-28, which will focus on deeper cooperation in five priority areas, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The priority areas are green hydrogen, offshore wind energy, regional connectivity, electricity market integration and



smart grids, energy efficiency, and energy and climate diplomacy. The two sides have set out

an extensive agenda for green hydrogen cooperation, which includes assessing infrastructure development feasibility, regulatory and technology

MEA said on Saturday. It said the energy panel focused on the energy transition priorities of the two sides and took stock of the achievements of the second phase of

the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership 2021-2024. The two sides undertook

and completed joint initiatives

involving technical cooperation in 51 activities divided

into nine sectors, it added. "The two sides have also charted out the framework for green hydrogen cooperation, which includes cooperation on green hydrogen policies of India and the EU," the MEA said

The EU and EU member states participated in the international conference on green hydrogen this year in India.

On its part, India joined as an exclusive country partner of European Hydrogen Week 2024. "India and the EU also entered into long-term research commitments to jointly support research in clean energy projects as part of the India-EU trade and technology council working group on clean and green technologies, which was established in January 2023,'

the MEA said.

## Next round of India-Asean trade pact review talks in Feb

#### PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

Saturday.

The fourth

round of the

negotiations was

concluded here

this month

The next round of talks for the review meeting of the India-Asean free trade

agreement in goods will be held in February next year, an official statement said on

al trade. The bilateral trade in 2023-24 was USD 121 billion and reached USD 73 billion during April-October this year with a

tiate aspects related to market access, rules of origin, stan-

dards and technical regula-

tions, customs procedures,

sions.

economic and

technical coop-

eration, trade

remedies, and legal and institu-

tional provi-

Asean as a

group is one of

the major trade

tainable manner, the commerce ministry said. The next meeting of the AITIGA Joint Committee is scheduled in February 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia," it said.

There are 8 Sub-Committees under the AITI-GA Joint Committee to nego-



5.2 per cent growth. The AITIGA was signed in

2009. The review of the AIT-IGA was a long-standing demand of Indian businesses. India is asking for a review

## of the agreement to eliminate barriers and misuse of the trade pact 'Avg construction cost for



## Myntra pilots foray into quick commerce

lipkart-backed lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra is piloting a quick delivery service that guarantees delivery within two hours in select areas of Bengaluru. The pilot project, "M-Now," is operational in a few pin codes in Bengaluru and offers a limited selection of products "to see how it works", according to a source. The service will be rolled out to additional locations based on the learnings from the pilot, the source added. In 2022, the Bengaluru-based firm launched an express delivery service called M-Express in metro cities, aiming to deliver products within 24-48 hours of order placement. "We launched M-Express earlier, towards enhancing the customer-experience with regard to speed and have been experimenting with a pilot for faster delivery in a select few pincodes. We will look at expanding it further based on the insights gained, before launching it formally," a Myntra spokesperson said.

## **Commerce Secy visits Norway for** implementation of trade pact

ministry said

fication.

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal has visited Norway to discuss the possibility of an early implementation of a free trade agreement between India and the four-nation European bloc EFTA, an official statement said on

Saturday. The agreement, officially dubbed as Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), was inked in March. The implementation date has not yet been finalised.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

'The visit was aimed at furthering the objectives of and unlocking the large market in terms.



#### housing projs up 39 pc in 4 yrs' EFTA countries for Indian exports of goods and services and push for early implementation of USD 100 billion PNS NEW DELHI investment," the commerce

Barthwal met Tomas

Norvoll, State Secretary of the

Ministry of Trade, Industry

The average cost of construction for housing projects in big cities has increased by 39 per cent in the last four years to Rs 2,780 per sq ft, with building materials and labour becoming expensive, according to Colliers India.

Real estate consultant Colliers India data shows that the average construction cost for premium housing projects stood at Rs 2,000 per square feet in October 2020.

The construction cost rose to Rs 2,200 per square feet in October 2021, Rs 2,300 per sq ft in October 2022, Rs 2,500 per sq ft in October 2023 and Rs 2,780 per square feet in October 2024.

Colliers India said these are average costs for a Grade A residential building of 15 floors. The data pertains to tier-I cities.

Over the last one year, the consultant said the average cost of construction of housing projects rose 11 per cent due to a significant surge in labour costs coupled with a moderate price increase in con-struction materials like sand, brick, glass, wood etc. Notably, the cumulative effect of a rise in the prices of four key construction materials, including cement, steel, copper and aluminium, has been relatively low.

Average cement prices have seen a steep decline of 15 per cent, while average steel essed a marginal 1 per cent



decrease over the last 12 months. However, the consultant pointed out that the labour cost rose 25 per cent in the last one year.

The average rate of copper and aluminium increased by 19 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. Badal Yagnik, Chief Executive Officer, Colliers India, said, While the rise in prices of key construction materials was relatively modest over the last year, labour costs have been driving the overall cost of construction upward". "With labour accounting for more than one-fourth of overall construction cost, a 25 per cent annual rise in labour costs has stretched construction budgets and impacted operational expens-es." Moreover, Yagnik said the need for

skilled labour and the associated costs for training, safety and regulatory compliance further add to spiralling labour costs.

To navigate the steady rise in overall construction costs and associated challenges, Colliers India said that developers are optimising costs by reassessing budgets. Real estate developers are also looking at improving supply chain manage-ment by diversifying suppliers and opting for localised sourcing of key construction materials, the consultant added.

Additionally, realty firms are increasingly making investments in training and automation to address challenges related to volatilities in the availability of skilled manpower, which in turn can potentialfacilitate better project sch

and Fisheries of Norway for discussions on promoting trade and investments, mobility for Indian professionals, reenergising existing institutional mechanisms and the next steps for the TEPA rati-In a separate statement, the

ministry said over the past decade, India's seafood exports have doubled to USD 7.3 billion in value and 17.81 lakh metric tonnes in volume

## cooperation, and strengthening of supply chains," the



## **Aurobindo joins hands** with global pharma

urobindo Pharma on Saturday said its US-based subsidiary has inked a licensing agreement with a global Asubsidiary has meet a location g difference of products. Aurobindo Pharma USA Inc has entered into a collaboration and licence agreement with a global pharma major for development and commercialisation of products, the Hyderabad-based drug firm said in a regulatory filing. The partnership is for an initial estimated development duration of three-five years, it added. As per the pact, both parties will co-exclusively commercialise the products. The products, once commercialised, will be manufactured at Partner's facility and will be marketed by both parties. Aurobindo Pharma said. Besides a cost-sharing arrangement has been agreed by both the parties with each of them contributing 50 per cent of the cost incurred with an overall cap of USD 90 million for Aurobindo over the development period, it said.

### KJGF aims to expand Bengal's role in national market PNS KOLKATA

The 5th edition of the Kolkata Jewellery & Gem Fair (KJGF), which commenced on Saturday, highlighted East India's rich jewellery heritage and its evolution in a globalised market, aiming to help the region maintain a critical market share in the over USD 43 billion national industry, growing at a 17 per cent ČAGR.

The three-day event, unveiled by West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) Managing Director Vandana Yadav runs until November 25.

It brings together over 60 exhibitors, 200 plus renowned brands and a dazzling array of jewellery innovations.

## Sebi mulls diversifying ownership of clearing corporations

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed diversifying and widening the ownership of the clearing corporations, which are at present wholly-owned subsidiaries of stock exchanges.

Sebi rules prohibit clearing corporations (CCs) from listing publicly but allow stock exchanges (their parent entities) to list, indirectly expos-

ing CCs to market pressures. "While looking to broad base and diversify the ownership of CCs, it is important to ensure that such a transition is fair to all stakeholders (including to the current shareholders of the parent exchange) and causes minimal disruption to the capital markets ecosystem," Sebi said in its consultation paper.

Considering this, one approach could be a pro-rata



distribution of 49 per cent of shareholding of a CC to the existing shareholders of the parent exchange and the balance 51 per cent of shareholding would remain with the parent exchange to start with. The parent exchange could then be given 5 years to bring down this holding to 15 per cent or lower, by selling down

their stake to other exchanges. This approach would mean that CCs would remain majority-owned by exchanges in line with the SECC norms.

"Alternatively, the entire exchange.

shareholding of a CC could be allotted to the existing shareholders of exchanges, who would then be free to trade their shares in the CC. This would allow for a clean break of the CC from its parent exchange, in a manner that is fair to the existing shareholders of the parent exchange," Sebi has proposed. Further, it has been sug-

gested that CCs will continue to be prohibited from listing.

Jyoti Prakash Gadia -Managing Director at Resurgent India, a Sebi-registered merchant bank, said the discussion paper correctly highlights the fact that with the widening and steep growth of the capital markets, the role of clearing corporations should be to function independently without any conflict of interest or bias in favour of the parent stock

## **BJP WIN IN MAHARASHTRA** Breather for Adani's Dharavi project

#### PNS NEW DELHI

The landslide victory for ruling BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra will bolster billionaire Gautam Adani-led group's USD 3-billion project to redevelop Mumbai slum of Dharavi into a "world-class" district.

Opposition Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) had pledged to reclaim all land given to the Adani group for redeveloping Asia's largest slum and promised to scrap the project altogether, if voted to power. For Adani, who is facing bribery charges in a US court, the scrapping of his pet Dharavi project would have been a big setback.

With election results showing the BJP and its allies Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party factions led by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, winning more than three-fourths of the 288 seats in the Maharashtra assembly, those anxieties have now been set to rest.

Adani plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About seven lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums located close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats of up to 350 sq ft free of cost.

The redevelopment had become a political hot potato with the opposition alleging that that group received undue favours from the state government in awarding the contract

The group has denied benefiting from the government's favouritism.

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly raised the award of Dharavi redevelopment, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party BJP of enriching cronies such as Adani.

## 1,400 Japanese companies operating in India

#### PNS KOLKATA

On Saturday, Japan's consul general in Kolkata, Nakagawa Koichi, said that around 1,400 Japanese companies operating in India are a testimony of the close economic ties between the two countries.

He also said the two nations were working on various global issues, including security and climate change.

"As far as economic relations are concerned, about 1,400 Japanese companies are currently operating in India," Koichi said, speaking at an international conclave here. He said that Japan is the fifth largest foreign investor in India, with a foreign direct investment (FDI) of nearly USD 42 billion

between 2000 and 2024. Koichi said modern Japan-India relationship began taking shape in the early 20th century through cultural and intellectual exchanges among prominent figures from both countries like Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Netaji

Subhas Chandra Bose and Rashbehari Bose. The diplomat was speaking at the conclave on 'Justice Radhabinod Pal and Quest for Justice: Historical Perspective and Contemporary Implications'.



Pal, an Indian jurist, had given a dissenting opinion at the International Military Tribunal of the Far East, in 1948, where trials of several Japanese soldiers were held following World War II, and had questioned the legitimacy of the tribunal.

Koichi said Justice Pal played a key role in building the solid relationship the two countries eniov

Speaking on the occasion, Supreme Court judge Justice P S Narshimha said a dissent offers counter-narratives, holding up a mirror to the trial and serving as a "reminder of the limitations of the legal process-

He said Justice Pal's dissent decision lays the foundation to mend the disparity among nations by demonstrating to the third world that its concerns must be voiced, and they must unite in their needs.

"What the dissenting judge is doing is giving an absolutely new alternative view of the entire matter," said Justice Dipankar Datta, another Supreme Court judge.

He said when there are multiple judges in a bench, differences may come up, and that it all depends on how one interprets the law and how the law is applied in the given facts and circumstances.

NITNo: S4ICIn-16Empg Olv-16ISB2/GHWC12024, Dt: 23-11-2024 Name of the work: Varihanthi Arrangement in Amberpet Circle-10, Secunderabed Zone, GHMK TOTAL Tender Amount Rs.0.68 Lakhs SI. No. 1 Start Date: 25-11-2024 From 11:00 AV: Las Date & Time for receipt of Bid: 26/11/2024 at 11:00 AM, Sri K, Ramesh Babu, Executive Engine Division-18, Circle-16, Amberget, Sectord Zone, GHMC Cell: \$309920991/8790374055, Address of the Concerned Executive Engineer, Div-16, SBZ, GHMC, Abids, Greater Hyderabad Municipa rporation. Further details can be seen at E-Procurement www.tender.telangana.gov.in R.O.No: T801-PP/CL/ADVT/10004-25, Dr. 23-11-2024 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
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NIT No. 29/EE-6/CRZ /0HIMC/2024-25 Dt: 22.11.2024 Nature of the Work: IRT Works, Estt. Cost: Rs. 70.70 Lakhs. Download Start Date & Time: 23.11.2024 at 2.00 P.M., Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 27.11.2024 at 2.00 P.M., Name & Address Officer, Cell No: Sri. M. Peersingh, EE, Div-6, CRZ GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph. No. 9154960551. For further details can be seen at eprocurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. Sd/- Executive Engineer Circle No.6, Charminar Zone, GHMC R.O.No: 6986-PPICLADVT/12824-25, DI: 23-11-3024

sunday magazine HYDERABAD, November 24, 2024

the pioneer 

"A recipe has no soul. You, as the cook, must bring soul to the recipe" Thomas Keller



Pawan Soni Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards





with innovative pop-ups and eateries introducing diverse menus. The latest buzz? The celebrated London-based chain Burger & Lobster has brought its famous pop-up at *Grappa*, *Shangri-La Eros Hotel*.

LOBSTERS CENTRE STAGE AT



(Left to right): Abhishek Sadhoo, General Manager, Shangri-La Eros New Delhi; Chef Brian Chang, Corporate Development Chef, Burger and Lobster and Chef Gagandeep Singh Sawhney, Executive Chef, Shangri-La Eros New Delhi

seating overlooking lush greenery further elevates the experience. For those who crave a pasta twist, the Lobster Mac & Cheese is a musttry. Even as someone who typically steers clear of pasta, I found it irresistible. Rich with lobster meat and coated in a decadent threecheese sauce blended with lobster bisque, the dish is creamy and perfectly balanced. At ₹1,800, it's a satisfying portion worth every rupee.

The menu also offers a variety of burgers. I shared the *Waffle Chicken Burger* with a friend, and it was a delightful surprise. A crispy *fried* birder thickness the dimension





## hyderabad 10

## WAACK GIRLS : WAACKING ITS WAY WITH **HEART-PUMPING & FOOT-STOMPING DRAMA**

REVIEW

**TEJAL SINHA** tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

PLOT

ack Girls is a dance drama film that revolves around a group of young dancers who come together to form a dance crew. The movie follows their journey as they prepare to compete in a prestigious dance competition. Along the way, they face various challenges, including personal conflicts, financial struggles, and self-doubt. Waack Girls follows Ishani (played by Mekhola Bose), a talented Math student from Kolkata, who gains a new passion for life after finding the energetic dance style of waacking. With her diverse team found throughout The City Of Joy, along with new manager Lopa (played by Rytasha Rathore), she explores the underground Rathore), she explores the underground dance world, moving closer to becoming well-known. Spanning nine episodes, the show delves into the search for self-identi-ty through dance, yet struggles to uphold a cohesive level of storytelling. Ishani's grand-father (played by actor Barun Chanda), is the father (played by actor barun Chanda), is the central focus of her personal life as he strug-gles with the initial symptoms of dementia. The show also explores the backgrounds of Ishani's team members, but only briefly touches on their pasts. Tess (played by Chrisann Pereira) faces challenges with her mother's (played by Lillete Dubey) gambling addiction, Michke (played by Priyam Saha) deals with her mother's constant nagging and Anumita (played by Ruby Sah) wrestles with being a gymnast aspiring to dance. Ishani's friend LP (played by Anasua Chowdhury), who is a fashion designer struggling with financial difficulties, brings some moments of joy, but their storylines are hurried, mak-ing viewers want more depth.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Waack Girls series is a captivating and energetic show that showcases the journey of a vibrant dance crew. The series follows these girls as they navigate their passion for dance, overcome challenges, and pursue their dreams. With its inspirational storyline, the show is able to motivate and uplift its viewers. The show fea-



tures high-energy dance performances that blend elements of waacking, voguing, and hip-hop. They are a talented and dynamic group of young women who embody empowerment, self-expression and body positivity. Their strong female leads and authentic portrayal of friendships make the show relatable and engaging. Throughout the series, they face various obstacles and challenges, but they consistently demonstrate resilience, determination, and teamwork. Their ability to overcome adversity is a testament to the power of friendship and perseverance.

#### DRAWBACKS

Despite its impressive style, the series

sometimes struggles, becoming weak in certain areas by depending on familiar emotional patterns instead of originality, emotional patterns instead of originality, and featuring some repetitive storylines. The editing and cinematography, while visually appealing, sometimes feel incon-sistent and lacking in polish, here and there. However, Taraporevala's directing skillfully juggles light-hearted moments with the show's deeper themes, showcas-ing subtlety and strength in handling the six interconnected lives six interconnected lives.

#### PERFORMANCES

Mekhola Bose gives a sincere and gen-uine portrayal of Ishani, exuding a genuine charm that feels new and real. She

depicts the character's complex challenges well - juggling intelligence, money problems and the emotional burden of looking after her grandfather - all while craving the liberation of waacking. Mekhola, granddaughter of the iconic Soumitra Chatterjee, effectively portrays Ishani's experiences, allowing the audience to connect with her happiness and sorrows. Her interactions with the incomparable Barun Chanda evoke a warm feeling and stay with you. Rytasha Rathore, in the role of Lopa, effectively embodies her character on screen. She effortlessly maneuvers through periods of self-doubt, surges of confidence and emotional breakdowns. No matter if she is struggling with inner doubts or exuding a confident and

unapologetic vibe, her performance comes across as authentic and easy to connect with. Barun Chanda and Lillete Dubey are consistently excellent, just like Chrisann Pereira and Priyam Saha.

#### **TECHNICAL ASPECTS**

The girls experience has its moments of peak performance. The problems have always been present, yet there is a certain novelty in how they are presented. A show about females, created by a female....Director Sooni Taraporevala has done a good job. The depiction of Kolkata shines in the series. The cinematography beautifully showcases the city's character, from its lively streets to the charming Bow

Barracks. Yet, a few Bengali figures succumb to overused stereotypes, diminishing the genuineness of the otherwise vibrant backdrop. The show also incorporates various subplots alongside its main storyline, with some being successful while others are not as engaging. They do add some humorous moments, but ultimately do not effectively connect to the overall story.

#### VERDICT

Waack Girls is a vibrant and captivating series showcasing dance's beauty and the strength of female friendships. With its inspiring storyline, talented cast and stunpelling watch. However, it's not without its flaws, as it sometimes relies on familiar emotional patterns and repetitive story-lines, preventing it from reaching its full potential. Despite these drawbacks, the series remains a heartwarming and engaging exploration of female empowerment, self-expression and the power of dance. With some refinement in its narrative and technical aspects, Waack Girls could have been a truly unforgettable viewing expe-rience. Nevertheless, it's still a worthwhile watch for anyone looking for a uplifting and energetic drama.

#### **CREATED & DIRECTED BY:** Padma Shri awardee Sooni

Taraporevala

**CO-WRITTEN BY:** Sooni, Iyanah Bativala and Ronny Sen

**PRODUCED BY:** Caleb Franklin, Vikesh Bhutani and Sooni Taraporevala

**CAST:** Mekhola Bose, Rytasha Rathore, Anasua Chowdhury, Chrisann Pereira, Priyam Saha, Ruby Sah, Achintya Bose, Barun Chanda, Lillete Dubey and the late Nitesh Pandey.

**RATING:** 3.5/5

## LONG-LASTING, MOISTURISING FRUITY SOUEEZE TINTS

**INNISFREE** introduces the all-new Fruity Squeeze Tints, designed to give your lips a glossy, hydrating glow with each application. Infused with the innovative Shine Coating System, these tints boast 30% added moisture content, ensuring your lips stay hydrated, soft

### WHAT'S NEW BROW PERFECTION MADE EAS The Anastasia Beverly Hills Brow Definer is your go-to all-in-one tool for perfectly sculpted brows. Its triangular tip offers three edge sizes for defining, filling and detailing with ease, while the wax-pigment formula ensures smooth application and seamless



## HOROSCOPE



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and luminous, throughout the day.

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Rande (m.)

HAND-CRAFTED EYEWEAR COLLECTION

Coco Leni's collection features frames for glasses and sunglasses handmade by women artisans from Goa. Made from sustainable materials like bio-acetate, ethically sourced buffalo horns and ecofriendly alternatives to traditional plastics.



#### READY **TO SMELL LIKE** A DREAM?

The ultimate pocket perfume by Blur India are compact babies that can be carried wherever you go and glide on effortlessly, making them perfect for on-the-go touchups. They last longer than traditional perfumes and their lasting power further increases in the winters making these a perfect.

### SYMPHONY OF STYLE AND SPARKLE

Heera—The Jewellery Trunk introduced the Modern Muse Collection, a dazzling lineup of jewellery that's as bold, chic and versatile as you are. Crafted in sterling silver and 14k gold, this collection offers stunning options in rose, yellow, and white gold tones. Featuring lab-grown diamonds of D-F colour and VVS-VS clarity, these pieces brings effortless elegance to parties, gatherings and all the moments worth celebrating.

blending. Featuring a soft, custom spoolie for precise finishing, it comes in shades like soft brown, medium brown, dark brown, chocolate, ash brown, ebony and granite, catering to a variety of brow tones.

Price: INR 2700

### SHIELD YOUR LIPS WITH WINTER CHILLS

As winter approaches, many of us start to feel the effects of colder temperatures on our skin—dryness flakiness and that tight, uncomfortable feeling. TNW Lip Serum is enriched with a highly nourishing formula. This lip care product has a smooth texture that easily gets absorbed into your lips, making them soft and moisturised for a long time.

Price: Rs 420

## 5-IN-1 HAIR CARE

The Dreame AirStyle 5-in-1 Hair Care and Styling System is a versatile hair care tool with attachments for drying, smoothing, curling and volumising. Its advanced technology minimises heat damage while ensuring sleek results. This product is ideal for individuals looking for professional-grade styling tools at an affordable price during the sale.

Sale price: 18,999/-

### MINI MASABA

Amid pregnancy cravings and late-night hustle, Masaba Gupta's little one was about to make her official debut-and so was Mini Masaba! Between snacking on pomegranate and dahi and using her own belly jelly, Masaba prepped for a brand launch while juggling a growing bump. She says, Mini Masaba will be a celebration of motherhood, creativity and the beautiful chaos that comes with it.

relationships, and decisions. Success follows organised efforts.

#### **TAURUS**



family needs. Overcome insecurities and communicate openly. Your efforts will bring relief, stability and final success in ventures.

#### GEMINI

and job success.

Seek harmony and

emotional support

while addressing



Overcome confusion by gaining perspective. Balance pressure with gentleness, and nurture relationships to achieve stability and fulfilment in life.

#### CANCER

Focus on self-



on trusted support, and stay determined. Manage family conflicts calmly and embrace new friendships. Success and recognition will follow your hard work.

#### LEO

Focus on health, work organisation,

Embrace setbacks.

remain bold and



and refreshing your mind. Embrace unexpected love and career opportunities. Stay firm amid changes and adapt to new environments for success.

#### VIRGO



harness creative energy. Overcome distress with positivity and succeed in business. Get independence from your family to tide over future challenges.

#### **SCORPIO**



#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Embrace harmony, nurture family bonds, and stay persistent with projects. Your

optimism, love and cooperation ensure relationship stability. Let generosity guide joyful experiences.

#### **CAPRICORN**

There will be unexpected connections and beauty. Overcome



setbacks with willpower and family support. Balance emotions, and secure career success through persistence for growth.

#### **AQUARIUS**

Stay open to others' ideas, balance energy and emotions, and seek advice before making changes.



Patience will bring appreciation, while hard work leads to success and growth.

#### **PISCES**

Stay calm in critical situations. communicate openly and embrace love and support. Control unhealthy habits, offer guidance to others, and think carefully before making changes.







## hyderabad 11





## **'MUSIC'S POWER TO EVOKE EMOTIONS REFLECTS IN MY PERFORMANCE'**

With every note, he touches hearts; with every lyric, he speaks directly to the soul. Step into the symphony of B Praak's world, where every melody tells a story and every note resonates with the human experience. The Pioneer presents a heart-to-heart chat with India's beloved singercomposer, unraveling the threads of his musical genius and the heart that beats behind it

His songs are a masterclass in emotional storytelling, weaving a sonic tapestry that wraps around the heart, squeezing tightly, and releasing a cascade of feelings. His soulful voice, infused with vulnerability and

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ith a voice that tugs at heartstrings and compositions that resonate deeply, B Praak has established himself as one of India's most celebrated singers and music composers. His soulful voice has become synonymous with emotional depth, effortlessly conveying the complexities of the human heart through his music. With every rendition, he breathes life into lyrics, transcending mere melody and speaking directly to the soul. As a gifted singer and music composer, his distinctive sound has captivated audiences, earning him a revered place in the Indian music industry. With a remarkable discography that spans a remarkable uscography that op ... chart-topping Punjabi hits and iconic Bollywood playback singles including Mann Bharrya, Filhaal, Baarish Ki Jaaye, Kesari, Maana Dil, Heer Aasmani and Saari Duniya Jalaa Denge, to name a few out of many from the endless list. is enough for one to get pretty much engrossed into the sone His journey, the Mukke Paye Si singer says, has been nothing short of blessed. "I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and feel humbled by the opportunities that have come my way." From composing music for films to lending his voice to soul-stirring tracks, his growth has been remarkable. depth, has an uncanny ability to tap into the human experience, resonating with the joys, sorrows and triumphs that make us uniquely human. With each note, he skillfully excavates the complexities of love, loss and longing, crafting melodies that echo the whispers of our own hearts.

Well, to prove this is the Saari Duniya Jalaa Denge, the climax song from the Ranbir Kapoor starrer Animal. While it was all action, punches and kicks, his voice certainly made the climax so compelling that it would be wrong to say that anyone would have not been in tears.

His music career has been earnest to his passion and dedication. With a voice that resonates deeply with audiences, he has successfully transitioned from being a music composer and producer to a playback singer. And here, we have the star of the day here with us, as he reflects, "I've always believed that music has the power to evoke emotions and my performances are a testament to that. Every song I've sung carries an emotional element that resonates deeply with my audience, regardless of whether it's a love ballad or a melancholic tune."

Whether you're rejoicing or grieving, B Praak's songs have an unparalleled power to evoke emotions, validate feelings and provide solace – a testament to the transformative magic of music that transcends words, speaks directly to the soul and connects us all in ways both seen and unseen.

For the *Maana Dil Da* crooner, spirituality plays a pivotal role in his life. "I firmly believe in maintaining a strong connection with God. It provides solace amidst life's uncertainties." He stresses the importance of unwavering faith and devotion, believing that positivity and sincere prayers yield blessings.

As a singer, he is extremely selective about the projects he takes on. "My team and I prioritise content above all, ensuring that the song has longevity," he explains. He admires individuals from various industries who strive for excellence and in fact, he is particularly fond of South Indian music. "Growing up, I've been enamored with South Indian music and I still cherish it," he shares. When he received the opportunity to sing a Telugu track, he was immediately captivated. "Recording it was challenging yet enjoyable, taking eight hours to perfect every word." Well, for the unaware, our B Praak paaji was the voice behind Suryudivo Chandrudivo from Sarileru Neekevvaru. Oh! And also, he lent his voice for the Hindi version Kanguva's Fire Song

Kanguva's Fire Song The Filhaal singer' gratitude knows no bounds when he speaks of his Akshay Paaji, who has been instrumental in his career. "He's more than just a mentor – he's a blessing from God. His love and affection for me and the Punjabi community are unparalleled. He promotes talent and encourages me at every turn. His presence in my life is a testament to the power of people's blessings." Well, getting back to his music,

Well, getting back to his music, authenticity remains key to his musicmaking process. "I strive to craft songs that are real, relatable and raw," he shares. "I believe honesty and vulnerability resonate deeply with people." His ultimate goal is to create music that connects profoundly with his audience.

As he looks back on his journey, the *Kesari* artist attributes his success to a combination of blessings, hard work and loved ones' support. "I'm committed to staying true to my art and spreading love and positivity through my music," he affirms. With his soulful voice and heartfelt

With his soulful voice and heartfelt compositions, he continues to captivate audiences worldwide. His dedication to his craft and his faith serves as an inspiration to many, cementing his position as one of Bollywood's most beloved singers.

**G** EVERY SONG I'VE SUNG CARRIES AN EMOTIONAL ELEMENT THAT RESONATES DEEPLY WITH MY AUDI-ENCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT'S A LOVE BALLAD OR A MELAN-

## TRENDING

**LIONEL MESSI** 



Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman on Wednesday (November 20, 2024) revealed that the Argentina football team, including legendary player Lionel Messi, will visit Kerala next year (2025) for an international match.

#### A HEART-WARMING MEET

For the first time ever, the world's shortest VIDE0 Woman, Jyoti Amge, meets the tallest woman, Rumeysa Gelgi, in an inspiring encounter that has captivated audiences globally.



#### THE SABARMATI REPORT



The muchanticipated film *The Sabarmati Report* has sparked considerable discussion following its release. The Uttar Pradesh

government, Haryana and many other states declared it tax-free due to its controversial connection with the 2002 Godhra riots, further fueling its national conversation.



This week, the vibrant track *Payal* has been making waves with its energetic beats. Composed by the renowned Yo Yo Honey Singh and featuring poignant lyrics by Paradox, the music video, directed by Mihir Gulati, has become a fan favourite.



#### **ONE DIRECTION'S EMOTIONAL REUNION**







## Silent menace: Unmasking the rising threat of stomach cancer in India

#### AARTI SREENATH

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magine feeling a nagging discomfort after meals bloating, heartburn, or a stubborn bout of indigestion. You brush it off, thinking it's something you ate. But what if these everyday nuisances are whispers of something far more sinister? Stomach cancer, often called the "silent killer," hides in plain sight, its symptoms blending seamlessly with common digestive woes. Early warning signs like unexplained weight loss, nausea, fatigue, or even a persistent loss of appetite can be easy to ignore. Why does this disease stay so well-hidden, and what can we do to catch it in time?

Stomach cancer remains one of the most challenging cancers to diagnose and treat, often because its symptoms mimic common digestive issues. Dr. Prathyusha, associate consultant in medical oncology at Sparsh Hospital, sheds light on its complexities, from the most prevalent types to groundbreaking treatment options and the role of stress in its progression. The majority of stomach cancer cases are adenocarcinomas, but they're not all the same. "Adenocarcinoma comes in two primary forms-intestinal and diffuse," explains Dr. Prathyusha. The intestinal type is closely tied to environmental factors, such as Helicobacter pylori infection and dietary choices. "When detected early, it offers a better prognosis due to its slower progression," she adds. "This type progresses rapidly and is harder to manage, resulting in a poorer prognosis." Less common types, such as gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) and lymphomas, require specialised treatments and can have varying outcomes depending on how early they are diagnosed. Surgery remains the cornerstone of treatment for early-stage stomach cancer, but techniques like laparoscopy and robotic surgery are transforming recovery times and outcomes. "For advanced stages, perioperative chemotherapy has become standard, improving survival rates," says Dr. Prathyusha.

#### Survival Rates by Stage: Stage I (Early-stage):

Five-year survival rates are around 60-70%, often with curative surgery alone. **Stage II & III (Locally advanced):** These stages see survival rates drop to 30-50%, with a combination of surgery and chemotherapy being key.

**Stage IV (Metastatic):** Survival is less than 10%, as treatment focuses on extending life and improving quality. "Early detection through routine screenings and increased awareness is crucial to improving these outcomes," she emphasises. Though stress doesn't directly cause stomach cancer, it can significantly influence its progression. "Chronic stress weakens the immune system and promotes inflammation, creating a favorable environment for cancer growth," explains Dr. Prathyusha.

Dr. Mansi Khanderia, lead consultant in medical oncology at SS Sparsh Hospital, further delves into the overlooked symptoms, contributing factors and the role of genetics in understanding and addressing this formidable disease Persistent indigestion, mild abdominal discomfort, bloating and feeling full quickly are some early warning signs. Unexplained weight loss and fatigue from anemia caused by chronic blood loss are other indicators. Unfortunately, these symptoms are frequently overlooked, especially in older adults or individuals with risk factors. "Patient awareness and routine check-ups are crucial," says Dr Mansi, adding that timely evaluation can lead to early detection and significantly improve treatment outcomes. Dr. Khanderia explains that one major culprit is Helicobacter pylori infection, which exacerbates mucosal damage over time. Compounding factors like smoking, alcohol consumption and prolonged NSAID use amplify this risk. "Treating the underlying causes of chronic gastritis or ulcers and regular monitoring, especially in older adults, are essential to prevent progression to stomach cancer." she advises

As a Group 1 carcinogen identified by the World Health Organisation, H. pylori infection is a significant contributor to gastric cancer. "It causes chronic inflammation, disrupts the stomach lining and induces precancerous changes," Dr. Khanderia explains. The infection is particularly risky for individuals with a genetic predisposition or additional factors such as poor diet or chronic gastritis. Prevention strategies include routine screening in high-risk populations, timely eradication therapy using antibiotics and improved hygiene to reduce transmission.

"High-risk individuals, such as those with a family history of gastric cancer or chronic gastritis, should undergo regular

The rise in stomach cancer highlights the urgent need to address lifestyle habits, dietary choices, and chronic stress. As *The Pioneer* connects with experts, they emphasise early detection, personalised treatments and awareness as key to combating this formidable disease.



endoscopic surveillance," she advises. Additional diagnostic methods include testing for H. pylori, checking serum pepsinogen levels and using CT scans for staging. The role of genetics in stomach cancer is profound. "A family history of stomach cancer significantly increases risk, especially with inherited genetic mutations like those in the CDH1 gene," explains Dr. Khanderia. Hereditary diffuse gastric cancer (HDGC) and syndromes like Lynch syndrome or familial adenomatous polyposis further elevate the likelihood of developing the disease. Genetic counseling and early screening are crucial for individuals with a strong family history. Preventive strategies include regular endoscopies, dietary modifications and H. pylori eradication. "For those with a genetic predisposition, vigilance is key to catching the disease early or preventing its onset altogether," she concludes.

Priya Paliwal, chief dietician at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, sheds light on how dietary habits influence stomach cancer risk, what to eat to lower it, and how to navigate nutrition during treatment. High salt intake and processed foods are two of the biggest dietary offenders when it comes to stomach cancer risk. "Excessive salt damages the stomach lining, making it more vulnerable to H. pylori infection, a major risk factor for gastric cancer," explains Paliwal. Processed foods, often laden with nitrates and nitrites, convert into carcinogenic compounds during digestion. These diets are also deficient in protective antioxidants and fiber. "The solution lies in fresh, unprocessed foods, moderate sodium levels, and staying hydrated," she advises.

She highlights cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, vitamin Cpacked fruits and foods rich in selenium and beta-carotene as particularly protective due to their antioxidant properties. Fermented foods such as yogurt and kimchi help maintain a healthy gut microbiome. "Red and processed meats, as well as smoked or pickled foods, should be limited," she warns. Anti-inflammatory ingredients like turmeric and ginger can also soothe gastric irritation. The journey through stomach cancer treatment comes with its own nutritional challenges. "High-protein foods like eggs, legumes and lean meats aid in tissue repair and energy recovery," she says. Ginger and peppermint are natural remedies for nausea, while small, frequent meals ease digestive strain. Antioxidant-rich foods like berries, spinach and nuts help combat oxidative stress from chemotherapy. Probiotics such as yogurt and kefir support gut health, which is often disrupted during treatment. "Hydration is crucial," she adds, suggesting soups, smoothies and herbal teas as easy-to-consume options. From a nutritional standpoint, alcohol and smoking exacerbate the risk of stomach cancer. "Alcohol irritates the stomach lining and amplifies the carcinogenic effects of nitrosamines in smoked and processed foods," Paliwal explains. Smoking not only reduces stomach acid production disrupting digestion, but also decreases the bioavailability of nutrients like vitamin C, further compounding the risk. "Quitting both habits and adopting a nutrient-rich diet is crucial to reduce gastric damage and overall cancer risk," she emphasises. Fasting and detox diets are often touted as miracle solutions, but their role in stomach cancer prevention or management is limited. "While intermittent fasting may reduce inflammation and support cellular repair, extreme fasting or detox diets can deprive the body of essential nutrients," Paliwal warns

For those managing stomach cancer, nutritional stability is key. "Malnutrition can worsen outcomes, so rather than restrictive diets, focus on a balanced diet rich in antioxidants, whole foods, and adequate hydration," she suggests. Always consult a healthcare professional before making significant dietary changes. Your plate is a powerful tool in the fight against stomach cancer.

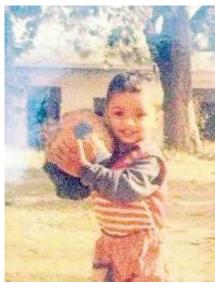
Meanwhile, according to Dr. Aravind Badiger, Technical Director, BDR Pharmaceuticals, as the urbanisation accelerates, so do sedentary lifestyles. Long working hours, limited physical activity and growing reliance on fast and processed foods have become common, particularly in urban areas. "These foods are often high in refined sugars, unhealthy fats and preservatives, all of which are linked to cancer due to their carcinogenic potential," notes Dr. Badiger. Modern, fast-paced lifestyles come with a toll-chronic stress. Beyond its psychological impact, stress triggers physiological changes like increased inflammation and weakened immunity, both of which can contribute to cancer development. "Stress often drives unhealthy coping mechanisms like overeating or consuming convenience foods, which are low in nutritional value and high in cancer risks," says Dr. Badiger. "Routine screenings and preventive checkups are scarce, leading to late-stage diagnoses and poorer outcomes," Dr. Badiger emphasises. The rise in stomach cancer in India underscores the urgent need to address modern lifestyle habits, dietary practices, and chronic stress.. "By adopting healthier choices and fostering awareness, we can reduce the burden of stomach cancer and improve quality of life," concludes Dr. Badiger.



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## hyderabad 12

# **A STANDOUT**



#### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS In Badminton

For me, badminton wasn't always about a career path or an ambitious goal; it was more of a family inheritance, passed down by my father. Dad used to play badminton. In my growing hears, I would play, not so much to secure a future in sports, but to secure a spot on my classmates' radar. Upon winning tournament after tournament, my photographs would show up in the papers, giving me the perfect excuse to flaunt a bit. It was fun back then (laughs). After that, I developed an interest in the sport and began playing with Dad whenever he went out to play with his pals. I attended a summer camp for the first time when I was ten years old and I picked up the fundamentals quickly. I was able to participate in tournaments over the first six months, which provided me the courage to continue playing the game.

### **MY FATHER IS MY MENTOR**

Since there wasn't much exposure when I was growing up in Thiruvananthapuram, I didn't have any role models. However, my dad used to send me a lot of CDs when I was a kid so I could watch the best musicians. I used to imitate those early role models, such as Indonesian Taufiq Hidayat. Apart from that, everything was patterned after my dad's ways because, to me, he was the only person who had any knowledge of badminton at that time. Aside from that, I had no idea what was going on in the nation, and until I was around 15 or 16, I had no idea who Pullela Gopichand and Prakash Padukone were. My father, throughout his 20 years in the Air Force, maintained a pretty strict lifestyle. Since teaching discipline can be very difficult and is



simpler if one learns by observing others, I could learn a lot from him. And my father would just advise me to avoid cheating. He would warn me that cheating wouldn't benefit me in the long term and would simply make me happy for a short time. You will always be exposed if you cheat a few months or years later. I've always been able to do it since I was younger.

### **HIS UNFULFILLED CRICKET DREAM**

But I wasn't just limited to one court. I was the quintessential sports enthusiast. Cricket almost stole my heart. If I hadn't played badminton, I'd probably be a bowler by now. Outdoors was my natural habitat, always out of the house, always swinging a bat or a racquet and never the 'good kid' sitting obediently indoors.

### **HISTORIC THOMAS CUP WIN!**

For me, the Thomas Cup holds an irreplaceable spot in my heart. Reflecting on my journey, I rank my tournaments not by medals or prestige but by the pure, unfiltered joy they brought me. And nothing quite measured up to the thrill of winning the Thomas Cup with my teammates. No one thought India could win a team event. People used to say, 'India doesn't play as a team.' Proving everyone wrong that day-that wa

## SHIFT FROM SCHOOL TO OPEN LEARNING

My schooling had its moment in the sun until my ninth grade. But as my interest in the game deepened and I moved to Hyderabad to train, it became clear that juggling textbooks and shuttlecocks wasn't going to be sustainable. By 11th grade, I transitioned to open schooling -- a practical solution for a young athlete balancing sport and studies, though academics weren't exactly on the podium at this point.

# SHUTTLER

In the high-flying, feather-light world of Indian badminton, H S Prannoy stands out as a player to watch and celebrate. Born Haseena Sunil Kumar in Thiruvananthapuram, he not only battled his way to a career-high ranking of World No. 6 in 2023 but has shown resilience through ups and downs on the international stage. With a career punctuated by some thrilling wins and a fair share of heartbreaks, the champion has emerged as one of India's steadiest hands in badminton. In a conversation with Aarti Sreenath of The Pioneer, he shares how he tasted success quite early on, first making waves with a silver at the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics and more recently with bronze medals at the 2023 World Championships and 2022 Asian Games. But his journey has been as much about grit as glory: for every victory, there's been a setback, including an injury-ridden phase that saw him clawing his way back to form. Now training at the Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad, he is gearing up for yet another challenge on the horizon: the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where he's primed to carry India's hopes once again.

### WEATHERING STORMS

As for those teenage challenges; injuries and setbacks impacted me differently at each stage of my career. At 18, every injury felt like a personal tragedy; I was restless, with a singular drive to bounce back and play. But by my mid-20s, wisdom began to set in: 'treatment, discipline, patience' -they became my tools as much as my racquet. And now, as a veteran of the court in my late 20s, I embraced the rollercoaster of professional sports with maturity. In sports, downfalls are

more frequent than success stories and you have to be prepared to come back swinging each time. For me, the journey through the ups and downs of badminton has been one of constant evolution. When I first faced setbacks in my late teens, every injury felt like a crisis. At 18 or 19, patience wasn't my strong suit. The restless urge to recover quickly and return to the game often clouded my judgment, leaving me grappling with the uncertainty of how to handle the lows. At that age, you don't know what to do; you're just

## **HIS DAILY GRIND**

Even though the excitement of childhood blurs into a haze, I can fondly recall the thrill of state tournaments. National tournaments? Those were tough. But state tournaments were a blast! Winning those gave you bragging rights. Yet, it was never just about fun; it was laying the groundwork for the rigorous routine that now defines my life. Fast forward to today, my days are finely tuned for peak perfor-mance. A typical morning starts at 7:00, followed by a rigorous prep and training session from 9 to nearly noon. Then, after a break for lunch, I am back on the court by 3:30 for another round, often stretching, treating injuries and prepping until evening. Evenings are my only real down-time, as the rest of my schedule is packed with training, recovery and travel. I get the most 'free' time when I am on the road for tournaments. A few hours of training mean I can recharge mentally before hit-ting the court. I should be completely happy with what I accomplished after I retire from the sport. I've tried everything for that reason, including physiotherapists, trainers, mental health specialists, dietitians and breathing exercises. You don't know what's best for you, so I keep trying all those things. One thing may occasionally be the one that works for you.



### **CHERISHED FAMILY CONNECTIONS**

For me, family is an anchor, despite the distance my career demands. I share a close, albeit unconventional, bond with my elder sister. She's completely different, no interest in sports. Though our lives rarely intersect, we maintain a unique connection, mostly through my niece, who brings me daily joy as a 'constant conversation' and a perfect stress buster. Off the court, I am as down-to-earth as they come. My off-duty days in Hyderabad are spent enjoying movies, chilling at cafes over coffee, or grabbing the rare chance for a holiday.

one of my best moments.



### **OLYMPICS HEARTBREAK**

Yet, like any athlete, my journey hasn't been without heartbreak. As for the most crushing blow, it was catching chikungunya just 20 days before the Paris Olympics - an event for which I had trained my entire life. It was brutal. To have worked so hard for years and then have something like that happen; it's hard to absorb. But instead of letting it break me, I channelled that disappointment as fuel. I told myself, I needed that redemption. During the 2018 World Championships, I received a diagnosis of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) - a chronic condition that manifests as inflammation of the vocal cords, chest and abdominal pain and heartburn. The same problem hindered my training and performance in 2019-2020, but I bounced back from it and the COVID-19 aftereffects to gradually and steadily reclaim my position in the top men's singles rankings.

### **LEARNING FROM A SLIP**

I had a lot going on in my thoughts at the time I slipped, so it was challenging. I was down 4-11 and things were not going well to start. I was a little bewildered for the next five to ten minutes. Which motions should I stay away from? Will it be a terrible experience? I quickly realised that things might not get too bad because I didn't twist my ankle. I felt like I kind of slipped and that jerk happened behind my ankle and Achilles. After the slip, I didn't want the team to think that this match is gone. I was more worried about the game than I was about getting hurt. I needed to give the painkiller time to start working because I knew the agony was there. Being in the finals of such a significant event made me aware of how huge this could get. Some lunges were very difficult and it goes without saying that jumping behind was difficult as well. After that, I believe I gained some insight into what I could do differently. At the beginning of the game, I was playing pretty quickly, but after the slip, I decided to try playing more slowly due to the movements. I felt that my opponent was uncomfortable when I played slowly, so I thought it would assist me today. That day, the injury sort of provided me that chance. I would say that the 2018 Commonwealth Games were one of the most difficult days for me. When I finished without a medal after losing two matches in a single day, I can vividly recall that day; I was simply lost. At that point, Bhaiya gave me a call and I believe we chatted for almost three hours at the food court. You have made the effort that you truly need to, he remarked. Simply put, sometimes the victory arrives when you least expect it and not when you wish for it. Because you fervently hoped that you would receive this medal, but you never did. Many factors led to your encounter with Lee Chong Wei at the semifinals. Sometimes, people are unaware of how remarkable he is.

However, until you give someone that chance, you won't know.

### **RELOCATING TO HYDERABAD FOR STARDOM**

My love for badminton transformed into a serious pursuit when I was about 16 or 17 years -- an age when dreams often feel bigger than reality. It was then that I had a talk with my parents. I wasn't great at it then, but I wasn't bad either. I knew I could get better. With that fond hope, I packed my bags and moved to Hyderabad for what I thought would be a two-year trial. As it turned out, I wasn't just 'not bad'; I was set on the path to become one of India's badminton stars.

## SECRETS TO MANAGING SUCCESS AND STRESS

I credit Hyderabad's renowned Gopichand Academy, which shaped me into the player I am today. Like anyone navigating a demanding career, I rely on stress relievers to recharge. Music, catching up with friends and exploring new places help me decompress. Especially now, at 28-29, you don't always want excitement. Sometimes you just want to sit, talk and unwind.



### VICTORIES AND DEFEATS ARE EQUAL TEACHERS

By my mid-20s though, experience began to temper that impatience. With a bit more maturity under my belt, I learned that bouncing back meant more than simply rushing to the court. Rehab routines, precise recovery strategies and a clearer understanding of my physical limits started to become part of my toolkit. I was still itching to get back to the game, but now I understood the importance of doing it right, of preparing myself to return stronger rather than sooner. But it was in my late 20s that I had come to see the sport in its truest light. By 28 or 29, you're mature enough to know that this is just how life works in sports. I learned to accept that while the highs are exhilarating, they're rare -- a moment in the spotlight amid long stretches spent under the radar. In the world of competitive sports, triumphs are fleeting, and the grind can often be relentless. You might win a big tournament once in a year or two, but most of the time, you're behind the scenes, working hard, staying steady. For me, the lows have become as much a part of the game as the victories and I have come to appreciate the journey itself, the rhythm of wins and losses, and finding purpose in perseverance.

### **CREDITS SAINA NEHWAL AND PV SINDHU FOR BADMINTON'S RISE**

In my opinion, badminton has changed significantly over the past ten or so years. And since I believe they were the flag bearers, I would like to thank Saina (Nehwal) and PV (Sindhu). Saina, in particular, in my opinion, made the sport more well-known in the beginning when she sort of won those large medals that no one else could at the time. Furthermore, I believe that Sindhu was able to regularly execute performances after that. This, in my opinion, caused a significant shift in perception, particularly within the system, as people began to believe that badminton as a sport could actually accomplish this. Due to all of these two's significant victories, there was a lot of assistance in badminton. And to be honest, I believe that's why we've received a lot of support over the past 10 years, particularly from the government and other corporations. There is a lot of belief that there is potential in the sport for us to compete and win medals in the Olympics and the World Championship.

### **RAPID FIRE**

Describe yourself: Hard worker Favorite travel spot: Turkey Next travel spot on wishlist: New York Favourite colour: Blue Favourite cuisine: Japanese Sports idol: Messi Biggest fear: Fear of losing Life mantra: Just go with the flow Five-year vision: Playing the sport I love