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Poll setbacks made Congress ideologically bankrupt: Nadda

TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE AIMED AT REVOLUTIONISING INFRA

Manchu Lakshmi on her fiery comeback in ADIPARVAM

QUOTE OF THE DAY The caste census is fake and allotting Rs 150 crore for that is a scam. The Congress is doing all this as it fears defeat in local body elections. The Congress Government is adopting delaying tactics citing caste census to avoid conducting local body elections as the people are now serious about its six guarantees and the farm loan waiver scheme -Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister

DON'T MISS... Unhygienic conditions...

The Task Force team of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety inspected food courts in Secunderabad and found unhygienic conditions with rats and cockroaches along with multiple violations.

-PAGE: 3

Clash between Cong activists ...

Tension gripped Dharmaram village following a clash between the supporters of Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha and Parkal Congress MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy on Sunday.

-PAGE: 4

ONGC looks at mini plants to evacuate...

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to set up mini-LNG plants to evacuate natural gas from wells located in areas that are not connected with pipelines.

-PAGE: 8

Historic women's doubles bronze...

India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Table Tennis Championships with three medals, including a historic bronze in the women's doubles, after Ayhika Mukherjee and Smitirha Mukherjee's dream run ended in the semifinals here on Sunday.

-SPORTS

In engineering feat, mechanical SpaceX arms catch Starship rocket booster



PNS ■ WASHINGTON

SpaceX pulled off the boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday, catching the returning booster back at the launch pad with mechanical arms.

A jubilant Elon Musk called it "science fiction without the fiction part". Towering almost 400 feet (121 metres), the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the

southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea.

Continued on Page 5

BRS MLAS DISQUALIFICATION ISSUE

Will there be by-polls or merger?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The disqualification petition issue is in court and BRS leaders are confidently saying that there will certainly be by-polls in the state.

However, BRS leaders are saying that the Congress is violating the Constitution by giving posts to BRS MLAs (MLA Areakapudi Gandhi and MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy) who joined the Congress.

Replying to BRS's allegations, Congress leaders have been asking BRS leaders to reveal whether the

The High Court issued notice to the Telangana Assembly Secretary on September 8 asking the Secretary to place the petitions before the Speaker within four weeks. The Secretary must communicate the schedule of hearings to the High Court's Registrar

constitution had not been violated when the BRS inducted 12 Congress MLAs into it during their rule.

Meanwhile, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said last Friday that some more BRS MLAs

are likely to join the Congress soon. However, it is certain that either the BRS will merge with the CLP or by-polls will be held. Already 10 BRS MLAs have joined the Congress and 16 more BRS MLAs are need-

ed to merge the BRS with the CLP.

Meanwhile, the High Court issued notice to the Telangana Assembly Secretary on September 8 asking the Secretary to place the petitions before the Speaker within four weeks. The Secretary must communicate the schedule of hearings to the High Court's Registrar (Judicial). The Secretary must also submit a status report on the Speaker's schedule to the Judicial Registry within four weeks.

Continued on Page 5

Chief Whip appointed as per Constitution: Sridhar



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Countering the criticism of BRS MLA T. Harish Rao regarding the appointment of Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy, Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said that the Congress government appointed him as the Chief Whip as per the constitution. He said that Harish is habituated to politicizing everything. Sridhar asked Harish to reveal how he when he was Legislative Affairs Minister inducted Congress MLAs into the BRS. Harish did not remember the constitution then, he said. The Council Chairman and Assembly Speaker take decisions only after considering all facts, Sridhar said.

He said the government gave the PAC Chairman post to opposition members as per convention and that the disqualification petition is now in court.

Harish: How can Congress appoint BRS MLC as Chief Whip?

BRS MLA Harish Rao slammed the Congress Government's decision to appoint BRS MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy as the Chief Whip and asked how the Congress can appoint a BRS MLC as its Chief Whip. He expressed surprise over the discrepancy in official records, highlighting that despite an official bulletin on March 15 confirming

Continued on Page 5

'Degree colleges not giving provisional memos to students'

3

KTR: Who is protecting Minister from ED?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Without naming Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, the BRS Working President, KT Rama Rao, asked who is protecting the rich Congress Minister of Telangana from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) although the ED raided him two weeks ago and the Rs 100 crore cash that was seized is being counted.

KTR posted regarding this on Sunday night on his X account saying, "They say that reality is sometimes stranger than fiction and I am compelled to believe it now. A filthy rich congress minister in Telangana gets raided by the Enforcement Directorate two weeks



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that the Congress has no sincerity regarding caste census, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that it is part of the Congress's diver-

sion politics. Congress thoughts are wicked regarding caste census and it is not putting in any effort regarding that, he said and added that the Congress is trying to delay local body elections.

Continued on Page 5



Ex-DU professor Saibaba's body to be donated to hospital, says family

PNS ■ HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

The body of former Delhi University professor and rights activist GN Saibaba who passed away in Hyderabad, will be donated to a hospital as he wished, said a statement issued by his family on Sunday.

Saibaba, 58, was released from the Nagpur Central Jail after 10 years of incarceration after the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court set aside the life sentence given to him by a trial court, in an alleged Maoist links case in which the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was invoked.

Saibaba's body will be kept at his brother's house in Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad, for his relatives, friends and well-wishers to pay homage, on



Monday. Afterwards, his body will be donated to state-run Gandhi Medical College. His eyes have already been donated to LV Prasad Eye Hospital, the family said in a statement.

Continued on Page 5

'200 MW solar power for TG from Gujarat'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 500 MW solar electricity project is going to be completed soon in the Kutch area of Gujarat and 200 MW of that will be supplied to Telangana, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said. He said that Rs 2000 crore can be saved due to this in the next 20 years.

Participating in the Geological Survey India Training Institute (GSITI) rooftop solar power plant installation function held on Sunday, Kishan said that the world should use technology to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

He said that to attain sustainable development goals, the use of



solar power is very important and that there is a need to concentrate on generating power using solar energy to maintain environmental balance.

He said that nations like Russia, China and the US are producing 9 to 14 tons of carbon dioxide per individual on average. However, it is just 1.89 tons in India.

5

Meinhardt issues legal notice to BRS leader Manne Krishank

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Singapore-based firm, Meinhardt, issued a legal notice to BRS social media convener Manne Krishank regarding his allegations concerning the Musi River Development Corporation Project contract of the company and asked him to withdraw his statements on social media. The notice said that Krishank made several false, malicious, politically-motivated, vindictive statements against the company.

The Musi Riverfront Development Project contract was awarded through competitive bidding and the consortium of our client, M/s Cushman & Wakefield (India) Private Limited and Rios Design Studios Pvt. Ltd. was successful on all fronts due to their techni-

cal and financial capabilities. The tender award process was carried out transparently leaving no room for manipulation," the legal notice said. The company in its legal notice said that no case has been filed by the Government of Singapore against Meinhardt. The red warrant referred to was wrongly issued and has been revoked. No such warrant is pending against officials of Meinhardt. There is no debarment of Meinhardt by the Airport Authority of India and that can be verified through their website, it said. Meinhardt asked Krishank to withdraw the defamatory, unfounded and baseless allegation made against Meinhardt on social media, the press and on web portals and issue a written public apology to Meinhardt for damaging its reputation.



FIRST COLUMN

EMOJIS SPEAK WHERE TEXTING FALLS SHORT

Emojis transform otherwise bland exchanges into vibrant and meaningful interactions



ASHA IYER KUMAR

I am a huge fan of emoticons, or emojis, as I prefer to call them. In a new, technically robust world that chooses to conduct most of its private and professional business digitally, the existence of emojis is a lot more valuable than what they seem primary. Emojis fill the gap between one's feelings [thoughts] and words; they arch over the space where misunderstandings breed unintentionally. The trouble with texting is it, more often than not, conveys meanings not meant. The true import of the statements is often dispensed with an unsavoury blandness. Words, for all the power they have, are restricted in their ability to convey true emotions. There is no tone or tenor in a conversation that happens over a typed chat. It is here that the emojis take charge to let people know the precise sentiment behind the words. It's fascinating how something as simple as a tiny, colourful image can carry the weight of an entire conversation.

Emojis have become the silent saviours of our digital dialogues, transforming what could be a dry exchange into something vibrant, relatable and meaningful. I have always believed that words, despite their richness, sometimes falter in delivering the exact shade of sentiment we wish to express. How many times have we sent a message and then wondered; Will they get what I mean? Will they feel my warmth, my concern, or my light-heartedness? Emojis step in at this point, like little emotional cue cards, guiding the recipient towards the intended feeling behind our words.

A simple smiley can transform a blunt response into a kind reassurance. It acts as a gentle nudge, hinting to the reader, "Take it easy; this is friendly." Emojis allow us to soften the blows of formality, sprinkle humour on otherwise serious subjects, or underline the gravity of



what would otherwise seem trivial. Consider this: You've sent a message that says, "Let's talk later." Now, depending on the mood of the person on the other side, it could be read as indifferent, abrupt, or even ominous. But if you add a little smiley at the end, the vibe changes entirely. Suddenly, it sounds casual, almost warm. This is the magic of emojis — they are the unseen bridges in our communication, preventing misunderstandings. They fill in the emotional blanks that text leaves behind. In this world where we don't always get the luxury of hearing someone's voice or seeing their expressions, emojis have quietly become the body language of our conversations. They provide a way to infuse our cold, typed words with a cozy connection. That's where their real value lies, and why I, as someone deeply in love with words and their power, have come to appreciate the humble emoji. Moreover, in a globally connected world where language barriers can stand between intent and interpretation, emojis offer a universal code. A thumbs-up or a heart means the same whether you're in Dubai or Delhi, making them incredibly effective in fostering inclusivity and understanding.

As I continue my writing journey, both in traditional and digital spaces, I find myself more often turning to emojis to complement my words, especially when texting or communicating over social media. They are the small, unspoken allies in my digital interactions, helping me stay connected, relatable, and, most importantly, understood. In a time when misunderstandings are as quick as a keystroke, I've come to appreciate emojis as more than just playful symbols. They are, in many ways, the unsung heroes of modern communication, making sure that what we feel and what we say are in sync. And that's a role too important to ignore.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)

The booklet that redefines Mayawati



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Mayawati is launching a revival effort to reclaim lost ground; she released a 59-page booklet outlining the party's roadmap, while emphasising her 'Iron Lady' image

Facing a steep decline in electoral performance, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), under the leadership of Mayawati, is now pivoting with a new strategy aimed at regaining its lost political ground. The once-formidable party, which made significant strides in the late 1990s and early 2000s by mobilising Dalit and marginalised communities, has been on the back foot in recent elections. With an eye on the upcoming assembly by-elections and the 2027 general elections, the BSP has taken an important step by releasing a 59-page booklet, designed not only to recount its past achievements but also to chart a new course for the future. The release of this booklet is a key part of the BSP's revitalisation plan. It features several statements from Mayawati, emphasising her leadership and vision for the party's future. One of the key aspects of the booklet is Mayawati's self-identification as the "Iron Lady," a term that echoes the strong and uncompromising leadership style often associated with female leaders in global politics, such as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

By using this title, Mayawati seeks to project an image of resilience, firmness and determination, drawing on her previous tenure as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, where she exercised considerable political influence. Mayawati's attempt to invoke historical symbolism is another notable feature of the booklet. She compares herself to Emperor Ashoka, an ancient Indian ruler known for his governance and promotion of social justice. The parallel is clear: like Ashoka, Mayawati aspires to usher in a new era of social welfare and justice for the marginalised sections of society, particularly Dalits. Through this comparison, she hopes to solidify her image as a leader capable of bringing about meaningful social change, positioning herself as a saviour of the oppressed and aligning her leadership with India's rich historical tradition of justice. The use of such symbolic language is not merely rhetorical; it is a calculated effort to energise the party's traditional voter base, which largely consists of Dalits, while also appealing to other communities. The invocation of Emperor Ashoka, a figure revered for his contributions to governance, inclusiveness and justice, allows Mayawati to appeal to a wider electorate that values strong leadership based on social equity and welfare.

By aligning her vision with that of Ashoka, she is reminding voters that her leadership stands for inclusiveness, fair governance and social justice—values that resonate deeply with her core constituency. One of the most significant components of Mayawati's new political strategy is a renewed focus on social engineering, an electoral strategy that had previously yielded considerable success for the BSP. This approach, which played a crucial role in Mayawati's rise to power in 2007, involves forging electoral alliances across caste lines—specifically between Dalits and Brahmins. By uniting these groups, the BSP was able to create a winning formula that resulted in sweeping electoral victories in the mid-2000s.

The booklet highlights the party's intention to revive this strategy, indicating that the BSP aims to once again bring together a broad-based coalition to strengthen its political position. In the booklet, Mayawati makes a strong appeal to Brahmin voters, asserting that their economic and social upliftment can only be achieved under BSP rule. She takes the opportunity to criticise



ONE OF THE PRIMARY OBSTACLES IS THE EROSION OF ITS TRADITIONAL VOTE BANK. THE BSP, WHICH ONCE COMMANDED A SUBSTANTIAL BASE AMONG DALIT VOTERS, HAS SEEN A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THESE VOTES SHIFT TOWARD THE BJP IN RECENT ELECTIONS

rival political parties, including the Samajwadi Party (SP), Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), for neglecting the Brahmin community and failing to address their concerns. By making this overture to Brahmins, Mayawati hopes to recreate the Brahmin-Dalit electoral coalition that had been so successful in the past, particularly in 2007, when this formula helped her ascend to the Chief Minister's office in Uttar Pradesh. This strategy signals that Mayawati is determined to reconstruct a broad-based support structure, aiming to gain a foothold among both upper and lower castes. The outreach to Brahmins is not an entirely new tactic for the BSP. The party had previously established strong support among Brahmin voters, particularly in the mid-2000s, by emphasising the importance of social cohesion and inclusive governance. In many ways, Mayawati's return to this formula reflects her understanding of the changing political dynamics in Uttar Pradesh. She recognises the importance of rebuilding alliances that cross caste lines, particularly as the political landscape in the state continues to evolve. However, the new strategy does not stop with Brahmins. The booklet also directs sharp critiques at Mayawati's political rivals, particularly Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. She targets Gandhi's recent visit to a shoe repair shop, characterising it as "symbolic politics" that does little to address the real issues faced by marginalised communities. In her view, this gesture perpetuates caste-based stereotypes, reinforcing the notion that certain communities, such as Dalits, should be associated with manual labour, including shoe-making. This critique is

aimed at resonating with her core voter base—Dalits—by emphasising her stance against caste-based occupations and promoting a broader vision of social justice. Mayawati also uses the booklet to revisit past political alliances, notably the failed partnership between the BSP and the Samajwadi Party (SP) ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The alliance, once seen as a formidable force capable of challenging the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, ultimately fell apart. In the booklet, Mayawati attributes the breakdown to a lack of communication from Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who, according to her, stopped answering her calls. This communication breakdown, she claims, forced the BSP to withdraw from the alliance—a move she frames as one made out of self-respect. By bringing up the collapse of the alliance, Mayawati seeks to remind voters of her independence and self-reliance as a leader, further distinguishing herself from her political rivals. Despite Mayawati's efforts to reposition the BSP, the party faces significant challenges. One of the primary obstacles is the erosion of its traditional vote bank. The BSP, which once commanded a substantial base among Dalit voters, has seen a significant portion of these votes shift toward the BJP in recent elections. In a notable shift in strategy, Mayawati has announced that the BSP will contest the upcoming by-elections. Historically, the party has refrained from participating in by-polls, preferring to focus its resources on general elections. However, the recent electoral setbacks and the changing political landscape in

Uttar Pradesh have prompted a reassessment of this approach. By contesting the by-elections, Mayawati hopes to reenergise the party's cadre and send a message to her supporters that the BSP is still in the fight. The by-elections offer the BSP an opportunity to test its new strategies and alliances in a smaller electoral context before the next general elections. By doing so, the party can identify its strengths and weaknesses, allowing it to adjust its tactics in preparation for larger electoral battles. Additionally, Mayawati's decision to contest the by-elections is about more than just winning seats—it's also about reinvigorating the party's organisational strength. In recent years, the BSP's grassroots machinery has weakened, with many party workers becoming disillusioned after a series of electoral defeats. By throwing the party into the by-election fray, Mayawati aims to revive its organisational structure and prepare it for future contests. Mayawati's messaging, as outlined in the newly released booklet, signals her determination to reclaim the BSP's former electoral strength.

Through a combination of symbolic language, critiques of her rivals, and a recalibrated strategy, she hopes to reposition the BSP as a force to be reckoned with in Uttar Pradesh politics. The upcoming by-elections will serve as a crucial test for the party's new approach and could determine whether Mayawati is successful in her efforts to revitalise her support base and counter growing competition from both established and emerging political players.

(The writer is an Associate Editor, of The Pioneer; views are personal)

Haryana's election lesson: Why Tejashwi and Akhilesh must shun caste politics

To secure long-term success, they must cater to broader social sentiments as voters increasingly reject traditional caste-based power structures

The recent election results in Haryana have overturned pre-poll predictions and ground reports by YouTubers, sending a clear message for future elections, particularly in key states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. For leaders such as Tejashwi Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav, who belong to the dominant Yadav caste, the outcome holds lessons. Their political scenario mirrors the situation of the Jats in Haryana, where social dynamics are shifting away from dominant caste politics. In this evolving landscape, they face the challenge of addressing broader social sentiments and responding to the concerns of marginalised groups who feel overlooked or disadvantaged in the traditional caste power structures.



AKHILESH SUMAN

In Haryana, the Jats, a politically influential community, faced a consolidation of other social groups against them, as seen in the election results. This trend is significant for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where the dominant OBC groups, particularly the Yadavs, have held power for decades but are now struggling to maintain their influence. The once-powerful Yadav-led governments lost their grip on

power partly because of growing resentment from other communities who felt sidelined. The political history of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is marked by the rise of leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav, who gained initial popularity by championing anti-Congress sentiment and social justice. Their "M-Y equation" (Muslim-Yadav alliance) was a powerful electoral strategy that secured their dominance, but it also instilled fear in other communities. The consolidation of their caste base came at the cost of alienating non-Yadav OBCs, Dalits, and upper castes, creating a sense of marginalisation. Over time, their politics of exclusion backfired, as disillusioned voters began to

seek alternatives, leading to the emergence of leaders like Nitish Kumar in Bihar and the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, who promised clean governance and development for all. The memories of the 1990s and early 2000s, when the Yadav-led administrations were perceived as using caste power to consolidate authority, still linger. While the Yadavs continue to be an important electoral bloc, the rest of society—especially the non-Yadav OBCs, Dalits, and upper castes—often recalls those years as an era of exclusion. The BJP, with its "subaltern Hindutva" narrative, has effectively capitalised on this sentiment, attracting marginalised groups by offering a sense of inclusion and an alternative to Yadav-centric



politics. Akhilesh Yadav, upon coming to power, made efforts to bridge the gap between his caste and others. He distanced himself from the old guard, symbolised by his uncle Shivpal Yadav, who represented the traditional power dynamics of the Samajwadi Party. However, incidents involving unruly behaviour

by some of his caste members toward other communities made it difficult for him to secure a second term. His attempts to modernise and adapt the party's image were undermined by persistent social tensions. Similarly, Tejashwi Yadav faces challenges in Bihar, where his efforts to step out of his father Lalu's shadow have been hampered by his own caste groups' oppressive behaviour toward Dalits and upper castes. His political journey involves grappling with the legacy of Yadav dominance, which is often perceived as being dismissive of other communities' aspirations. To succeed in the future, Tejashwi must navigate these entrenched social dynamics with greater inclusivity. The lesson from Haryana is

clear: caste dominance can become a liability if it alienates other social groups. The Jat experience shows that when other communities consolidate against a dominant caste, it can significantly alter the political landscape. For Akhilesh and Tejashwi, this means urging their caste members to adopt a more accommodative stance, rather than projecting dominance. Effective leadership in this context involves advocating for social harmony and cooperation across different segments. Both Tejashwi and Akhilesh must understand that lasting political success cannot be achieved by relying solely on their traditional caste bases. They need to expand their appeal beyond the Yadavs and reach out to other communi-

ties that have felt marginalised. Their strategy should involve building broader alliances that include marginalised communities, addressing their socio-economic needs, and promoting an inclusive vision of governance. The political landscape in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is undergoing a shift. The BJP's ability to attract non-Yadav OBCs and other marginalised groups has weakened the impact of traditional Yadav-centric politics. Leaders like Tejashwi and Akhilesh must shed the image of their parties as "Yadav-centric" and instead emphasise inclusive governance that addresses the aspirations of all communities. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

'Cringe Binge? We'll take it!' remarks Neelam Kothari

SHIKHA DUGGAL
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The latest season of *Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives*, with its Delhi vs. Mumbai theme, is expected to generate new excitement among viewers. Right now, the well-known actress Neelam Kothari was the one causing all of us to get excited. Undergone a fascinating transformation during the third season, *Ilzaam* fame unloads the gossip exclusively with us!

For instance, when she said—which astounded us, "Although it has been a constant struggle, reinventing myself has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my journey. I had to deal with the highs and lows of the movie business as an actress in the 1980s and 1990s. However, transitioning from Bollywood to the jewellery industry required a significant learning curve. Given that our family has been in the jewellery industry for four generations, it seemed like a logical next step for me. However, managing a company differs greatly from being in the spotlight. All of a sudden, you are in charge of not only the artistic aspects of things but also the technical and administrative ones, such as finding the best stones and making sure every piece satisfies the strictest quality requirements." For Neelam, therefore, breaking into reality TV was a whole new experience. She had to be herself on camera for *Fabulous Lives*, which isn't as easy as playing a character. You reveal aspects of your life that you normally wouldn't, making you more open and vulnerable. She was intimidated by this kind of exposure, but it also made her realise how important sincerity is. If anything, maintaining her identity while juggling this many responsibilities has been the most difficult aspect.

The Hong Kong born goes on, "I believe *Fabulous Lives* portrays a fairly true representation of who I am in real life. My natural tendency has always been to keep to myself, which is why I often come across as reticent on the show. I think you should always observe a situation before you react, but when something is important to me or involves my family, I can be quite direct and assertive. It's that harmony between being easygoing and, when necessary, being forceful, which reflects my true self. I don't hesitate to voice my opinions, but I also pick my battles wisely."

In fact, Neelam Kothari's internal conflict came to the fore in Season 2. Particularly when it comes to intimacy on-screen, she has always been somewhat at ease with her boundaries. When she first started shooting movies, she didn't have to think about it. However, as the entertainment industry developed, authenticity and pushing limits became more important! Her decision to change her mind was ultimately influenced by the encouragement she received from her friends, family and colleagues. They pushed her to venture into new areas while still staying loyal to herself. This was one of those situations when she had to step outside her comfort zone in order to progress. "To put it mildly, it's been a really intriguing experience! Giving away so much of your private life on such a public forum is daunting and exhilarating at the same time. *Fabulous Lives* includes parts of my life that, not even during my Bollywood years, I've actually never discussed before. Though there have been times when I've felt a little vulnerable, I also believe that it's critical for

people to realise that we're all human and that we have the same joys and challenges as everyone else. I definitely make an effort to strike a balance between my personal and professional lives. All in all, though, it's been really fulfilling since it makes it possible for me to interact with others in a manner that I couldn't previously," explains the incredibly elegant woman.

She has also, as everyone knows, been involved in the industry since the 1980s and has seen it change first-hand. Letting us know about some of her biggest changes, *Khudgarz* fame extricates, "Over time, the way that people view Bollywood spouses has drastically changed. There was a notion in the 1980s and 90s that if you were married to someone in the business, you had to step down. However, things are very different now. Women are viewed as strong people in their own right, particularly those in the industry! They each run their own companies, careers and public personas. The popularity of reality TV and social media has also provided us a platform to show off our identities outside of the "wives" category. Respect for women who manage their public lives, careers and families has recently grown. People, in my opinion, are now more open to the notion that you may be a strong, supporting partner in addition to being an independent figure." However, there is also the flip side of it, which says that "signing up for reality TV comes with scrutiny. It is unavoidable. However, I've come to realise not to take things personally. Opinions will always exist and TV portrayals of our lives are frequently overly dramatic. I believe it's critical to maintain perspective and to constantly remind yourself that what you see on television does not always accurately represent who you are. My robust support network keeps me grounded and I can laugh off a lot of the chaos. In the end, all that matters is that you feel at ease in your own skin."

The saga went on when "Addressing topics like menopause and botox on *Fabulous Lives* was a conscious decision because these are conversations many women, especially in our age group, are either hesitant to talk about or feel judged for discussing. Menopause, in particular, is something every woman goes through, yet it's surrounded by this unnecessary stigma as if it's something to be hidden or ashamed of. For me, the motivation to bring these topics to light came from a desire to normalise them and make women feel less alone in their experiences. We are in a society where talking about aging, botox, or menopause is often frowned upon, especially for women in the public eye. But the truth is, these are natural parts of life, and there's no reason why we can't have frank conversations about them. It was crucial to address it on the show with tact and the candour it required. I believe it empowers more women to take charge of their decisions, whether they decide to go with cosmetic treatments or to embrace aging naturally. In any case, it's a private choice that ought to be honoured."

In an amusing note, she also mentioned that she found it interesting that people called the show a "cringe binge" because, at the end of the day, they were still watching it! "The intended tone of *Fabulous Lives* is lighthearted, enjoyable and amusing. It doesn't aspire to be anything different. I recognise that some



WITH HER HONEST REPRESENTATION ON FABULOUS LIVES VS BOLLYWOOD WIVES, NEELAM KOTHARI, THE ACCOMPLISHED ACTRESS WHO IS NOW AN ENTREPRENEUR, IS BREAKING BOUNDARIES AND SMASHING STEREOTYPES. IN AN EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATION WITH THE PIONEER, SHE TALKS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE, HOW BOLLYWOOD HAS CHANGED HOW PEOPLE REGARD WOMEN AND WHY SHE THINKS THIS SEASON OF THE SHOW WILL BE HER MOST MEMORABLE TO YET!

instances may seem excessive to some, but that's what makes them so endearing. We're offering fans a behind-the-scenes peek at our lives, complete with all the glamour, drama and occasionally ridiculous moments. I don't mind labels like "cringe binge" because they typically stem from inquisitiveness or even fondness. We've done our job if viewers are interested in the show, whether it's because they're drawn to the drama or the way of life. It's not supposed to be taken too seriously. Many people find it to be a guilty pleasure and I believe that's part of its appeal!

The actress' candid discussion of the difficulties of going back in front of the camera later in life has sparked candid remarks. Based on the similar first-hand accounts that she gave us, "Taking up coming on-screen again later in life has been thrilling and difficult at the same time. When it comes to age, the entertainment industry can be particularly cruel, especially to women. Actresses had a defined shelf life in the '80s, when I started out. Opportunities would dry up and you were expected to fade into the background beyond a certain age. Fortunately, things are now changing and I'm happy to be a part of it. My personal experiences have given me a fresh outlook, especially giving up acting and concentrating on my jewellery business for a long time. I've come to understand that your career and potential shouldn't be limited by your age. Although there is still a long way to go before the business treats older actresses with respect, I find it encouraging that more and more women are making a comeback to the screen later in life and still attracting notice. My confidence has increased as a result of my personal progress, which has enhanced the satisfaction I get from returning to the screen."

Introducing new characters, particularly those from diverse backgrounds and cities, inevitably brings a refreshing wave of change to the reality TV landscape. This infusion of novelty is precisely what makes reality television so captivating! Neelam Kothari acknowledges that the arrival of fresh faces will undoubtedly disrupt the existing group dynamics, but she also recognises that challenges can be beneficial. And, undoubtedly, being featured on *Fabulous Lives* has increased the visibility of her brand, Neelam Jewels. People are now more interested in learning about her creative process and the backstory of the designs! She has also recently dabbled in more approachable, younger-targeted pret designs that draw inspiration from nature and feature elements like flowers and butterflies. She can now highlight the more whimsical, wearable side of her line while maintaining the timeless elegance for which she is renowned thanks to her appearance on the show. In the end, the show has made it possible for her to relate to new gen of jewellery lovers! She concludes by saying, "I adore *Fabulous Lives* because it tackles real problems that a lot of people can identify with and isn't just about glitter and bling. Divorce, child-rearing difficulties and personal development are all common experiences and I believe it's critical for viewers to understand that life is constantly changing no matter where you are in life. Season 3 will be unlike any other season—I don't want to give anything away just yet. There will be many shocks and it will not be like seasons one and two. It's full of action, dhamaka, soul, tears, laughter and everything you could ever want."

Spices, story & soul

AARTI SREENATH
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Walking into Anthe Kitchen felt like a beautiful step back in time. The moment I entered, I was embraced by an ambience that radiated warmth and nostalgia. It was as if I'd been transported to my grandparents' home, where everything had a story and a sense of belonging. The earthy, retro decor, complete with bronze utensils and vintage wooden chairs reminiscent of the 90s, set the perfect tone for what would be an unforgettable culinary experience. The cozy, rustic charm of the place paired harmoniously with the soul of its cuisine, Andhra food served with pride, authenticity and flair.

The menu was vast and tempting, but a few standout dishes really captured my attention and taste buds. I started with the *Miryala Mamsam Vepudu*, a mutton dish infused with black pepper, which was a sensory delight. The meat was cooked to perfection, juicy, tender and coated in a fiery peppery masala that left a lingering heat. The balance between the bold spiciness and the natural flavour of the mutton was flawless. Every bite was a hit of robust flavours that felt like a celebration of Andhra's spice-heavy tradition. For anyone who loves their meat with a punch, this is a must-try.

Next, the *Miryala Kodi Charu*—a pepper chicken soup—provided a perfect counterbalance. It was warming and full-bodied, with just the right amount of heat. The pepper didn't overpower the dish but rather enhanced the overall depth of the broth, making it comforting yet flavourful. The chicken pieces were tender and the broth was richly seasoned with coriander and black pepper, creating a perfect harmony of flavours that left me craving more.

Under appetizers, I was enchanted by the *Raagi Sangati*, a traditional dish made from finger millet. This dense, earthy dish had a chewy texture and paired beautifully with the tangy and spicy *Natu Kodi Pulusu*, a country chicken curry. The pulusu had a bold, tangy tamarind base, its sharpness cutting through the richness of the raagi, making for a combination that sang of rustic Andhra flavours. The curry, cooked with bone-in chicken, was succulent and packed with robust flavours, making it an absolute star in the lineup of appetizers.

The vegetarian dishes didn't disappoint either. The *Gutti Vankaya Masala* was a revelation. Tiny eggplants stuffed with a spiced peanut filling were



FOOD TO TRY
Miryala Mamsam Vepudu

DECOR
Earthy 90's retro vibe

PRICE
₹1500 for two

VERDICT
★★★★★



cooked until tender in a luscious gravy. The eggplants absorbed the flavours of the spices beautifully, while the nutty richness of the filling made every bite a delight. This dish is a must for any vegetarian food lover—it stands tall next to the meaty heavyweights of the menu.

For mains, the *Konaseema Kodi Pulao* was a treat. The aroma of the fragrant rice, mixed with tender pieces of chicken and an array of spices, filled the air before it even reached the table. The pulao was rich and flavourful without being overly spicy, making it a perfect accompaniment to the intense flavours of the other dishes. Each grain of rice was cooked to perfection and the chicken pieces were soft, succulent, and well-infused with the spices.

To finish off this indulgent feast, I opted for the *Shadud Malai* for dessert. This dessert was an absolute star, stealing the limelight from the savory dishes that preceded it. Creamy, luscious and lightly sweetened, the *Shadud Malai* was the perfect end to a spicy and flavourful meal. The soft, pillowy texture of the malai, with its rich milkiness, was incredibly satisfying, offering a delightful contrast to the boldness of the previous courses.

Beyond the food, the overall dining experience at Anthe Kitchen was fantastic. The restaurant's emphasis on using traditional cooking methods and serving authentic Andhra flavours is commendable. It's a place that clearly takes pride in its culinary heritage, offering a refined yet homey dining experience.

It was more than just a place to eat; it's an experience steeped in nostalgia and flavours that are as bold as they are comforting. If you're looking for an authentic taste of Andhra Pradesh with a side of retro charm, this is the place to be. Whether you're dining with family or simply looking to savour some unforgettable dishes, this restaurant will leave you longing to return.

Feed your follicles with right nutritions

In the world of beauty and wellness, the significance of nutrition often gets overshadowed by the latest hair care products and styling techniques. However, as experts emphasize, nutrition plays a vital role in the health and appearance of your hair.

Connection between nutrition and hair health

"What you eat comes to your hair." This statement reflects the idea that the nutrients we consume significantly affect the strength, shine and overall health of our hair. A well-balanced diet provides the essential vitamins and minerals necessary for hair growth and vitality.

To cultivate healthy hair, Twinkle Deol, the Head of Training and Development, at Cut and Style emphasises the importance of incorporating a variety of foods into one's diet. "I make sure to eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. I also drink plenty of water to keep my hair hydrated and my scalp healthy," she advises.

Key nutrients for hair growth

1. AMINO ACIDS
Amino acids are the building blocks of protein, which is essential for hair structure. Hair is primarily made of a protein called keratin, making amino acids crucial for hair health. Foods rich in amino acids include:

- Fish:** Salmon and mackerel are excellent sources of omega-3 fatty acids, promoting scalp health.
- Meat:** Chicken and beef provide high-quality protein and essential amino acids.
- Eggs:** A complete protein source, eggs also contain biotin, which is vital for hair growth.
- Dairy products:** Yogurt and cheese provide calcium and protein,



contributing to stronger hair.
● Nuts and seeds: Almonds, walnuts and pumpkin seeds are packed with essential fatty acids and protein.

2. PROTEIN
A diet high in protein is critical for maintaining hair strength and preventing breakage. Good protein sources include:
● Beans and lentils: These plant-based proteins are excellent for vegans and vegetarians.
● Dairy products: Milk, cheese, and yogurt are rich in protein and calcium.

3. CALCIUM
Calcium is not only essential for bone health but also plays a role in hair growth. It helps in the proper functioning of hair follicles. Foods rich in calcium include:
● Dairy products: Milk, cheese, and yogurt are excellent sources.

- Dark leafy greens:** Spinach and kale are packed with calcium and other essential nutrients.
- Fortified foods:** Many plant-based milks and cereals are fortified with calcium.
- 4. IRON**
Iron is crucial for delivering oxygen to hair follicles, promoting healthy hair growth. An iron deficiency can lead to hair thinning and loss.

Foods high in iron include:
● Meat: Red meat and poultry are rich sources of heme iron, which is easily absorbed by the body.
● Fish: Salmon and tuna also provide significant iron content.
● Legumes: Lentils and chickpeas are great plant-based sources of iron.
● Fortified foods: Many cereals and bread are fortified with iron.

Role of hydration
While nutrition plays a critical role in hair health, hydration is equally important. Drinking plenty of water is essential for maintaining healthy hair and scalp. Dehydration can lead to

dry, brittle hair that is more prone to breakage. She recommends keeping a water bottle handy and ensuring adequate hydration throughout the day.

Importance of exercise

In addition to a balanced diet and proper hydration, regular exercise can significantly benefit hair health. Exercise promotes blood circulation to the scalp, ensuring that hair follicles receive the nutrients and oxygen they need to thrive. Furthermore, physical activity helps to reduce stress, which can negatively impact hair growth. Twinkle notes, "When you exercise, you also release endorphins, which can help to reduce stress. Stress can damage hair, so it's important to find ways to manage it."

Supplements for healthy hair

For those who may struggle to meet their nutritional needs through diet alone, she suggests considering supplements. She personally takes amino acids, protein, calcium and iron to support her hair health. Supplements can help fill in nutritional gaps and ensure that your body has the necessary building blocks for optimal hair growth.

Creating a balanced diet

To help readers incorporate these essential nutrients into their diets, here's a sample list of foods to include for healthy hair growth:

- Breakfast:** Greek yogurt topped with mixed berries and a sprinkle of chia seeds.
- Lunch:** Grilled chicken salad with mixed greens, cherry tomatoes, avocado, and a lemon-olive oil dressing.
- Snack:** A handful of almonds or a banana with almond butter.
- Dinner:** Baked salmon served with quinoa and steamed broccoli.
- Hydration:** Aim to drink at least 8 glasses of water a day, and consider herbal teas for variety.



Spandana



Pinky Reddy



Ashna



Vijaya

Vaarahi Silks in Jubilee Hills, Check Post Road No: 36, hosted an exclusive unveiling of its newest saree collection. Socialite Pinky Reddy, along with director Spandana, attended the event with their presence, adding elegance and insight to the proceedings. The event was hosted by Ashna Misra Mahendra and Soumya Reddy



BBG (Building Blocks Group) hosted its grand 474th Talent Factory at the prestigious Novotel HICC in Hyderabad, a fitting venue for a night that honoured the exceptional achievements and contributions of BBG associates across various categories, recognising their dedication and hard work.



Philanthropist and style icon Sudha Reddy hosted an exclusive Tiffany & Co. showcase at her private residence in Hyderabad. The intimate gathering featured a curated display of Tiffany's luxurious collection, offering guests a rare, personalised experience. Attended by close friends and family, the evening was a blend of elegance and exclusivity, complemented by gourmet cuisine and a refined ambiance.



PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



In a joyous celebration, Abhishek Singhvi, the newly elected Rajya Sabha MP from Telangana, was felicitated at Renuka Chowdhury's residence in Hyderabad. The event saw Abhishek Singhvi cutting the cake and . Y Rajeev Reddy, Chairman of Country Club, among other dignitaries attending the event.



BRDS Design Exhibition 2024, organised by Bhanwar Rathore Design Studio (BRDS), was held in Hyderabad at the The Platinum Business Hotel. Every year, this exhibition is organised in 12 cities in India- Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore, Kolkata, Jaipur, Lucknow, Bhopal, Nashik and Nagpur.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



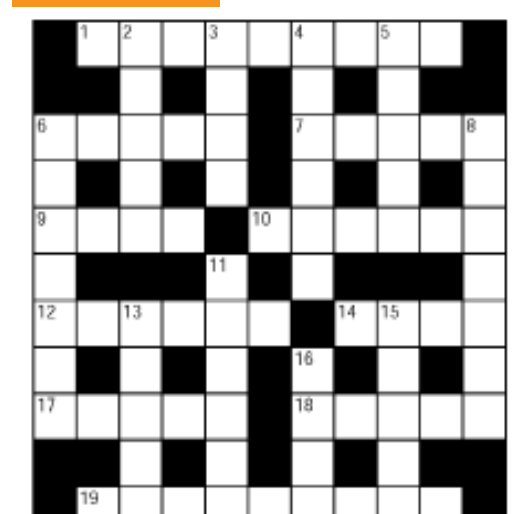
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- 1 All people
- 6 Fixes
- 7 On the way out
- 9 Too
- 10 An underground room
- 12 Class
- 14 A long seat for several people
- 17 Tiny
- 18 Unlocks
- 19 Replying

DOWN

- 5 A dentist's machine
- 6 A disease with spots
- 8 People from Germany
- 11 Come next
- 13 Madrid is the capital of this country
- 15 Sea
- 16 Having very little money



MANCHU LAKSHMI ON HER FIERY COMEBACK IN ADIPARVAM

Manchu Lakshmi, a name synonymous with talent, determination and compassion, bares her heart in an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*. As *Adiparvam* prepares to hit theatres, she discusses her journey, creative choices and unwavering commitment to empowering women

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Fierce and powerful aptly describes Manchu Lakshmi's upcoming character in her much-anticipated *Adiparvam*. Well, her birthday this year had gotten much better and special with the release of her poster, making fans wait with bated breath.

As you look back at her journey, she has had an extensive career in the film industry. She believes it too because she loves it when people believe she's had a big career. "Although I feel like I have a very niche career in ways that I still feel every movie that I do feels like the first time," affirms the *Kadal* fame in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*. "I would say my journey has just begun."

With every project, she's always on the go to bring out something new and diverse with her characters; yet again, it is with *Adiparvam* that she's looking forward to. Though this film marks her return to the silver screens after a hiatus of two years, the *Lakshmi Bomb* star believes, "I really don't look at myself as taking a hiatus because I'm on television; I'm doing OTT. I'm doing other things. So, movies are just incidental if they happen. It's not like I want to stop or start or do anything like that."

Now that her li'l one is 10 years old, she's

kept on starting to work on and on. Getting back to *Adiparvam*, she brings in a revelation to us: "I have 7 different looks and 7 different get-ups in *Adiparvam*." This was something she felt was challenging to take it up, where she looks young and old at the same time. "My character starts from a young age," she tells about her character in the upcoming film, which is a revenge mystical drama. As the story progresses, so does her character. "Then it gets into her character getting older and will she avenge her revenge?" the *Pitta Kathalu* star says, intriguing us to know in detail and head towards the theatre to get to know it.

"You have to really sit with the director when you prepare for any role; how are they seeing you?" says the *Anaganaga O Dheerudu* fame. Reason being: "I am from the interior parts of Rayalaseema, so there is a different kind of slang, language and that is very pertaining to that particular area."

Thus, understanding the process by working extensively with the director, the different looks for her to deliver, looking young to old, or the kind of clothes she wears. "Everything goes into playing in preparing that I have prepared for this role. I hope I have delivered."

Also a producer, the *Dongaata* lead com producer believes, "When stories come to you and you feel like nobody else can tell these stories other than you, that motivates me to be a pro-

ducer. I love the stories I put together."

Not only has she been into the filmy world, but she has also put in her human side with her philanthropic efforts for the betterment of society. With great regards and love, she tells us, "I believe that if in this human life, God has given you, it is your prerogative to make sure one other person has the same."

Diverging a little towards the happenings in the industry, the Hema Committee for that matter, or in the dance choreographers case, lifestyle has just not been fair for women and several actresses coming up and speaking out. Opining on this, she points out, "Why, just during the Hema Committee, we are talking about life not being fair for women? Period. I hope we continue to find the voice and continue to speak up about things that are not right; keep the dialogue going and not shut it down. At least the women who lent their voices are not silenced. It is the job of a man to hit on you. It is also your job to know if that is coming from the right place or wrong. It takes two hands to clap, but when a person is in position and power, you can easily use that to suppress the other. You always have to know how to navigate yourself through life. There is no one right or wrong way. I think every workspace has to put stricter rules so women can speak up if a rule is not being followed. I'm never going to let somebody dim my light because that's the fight I've taken up

on this life. I think in the Telugu film industry, a lot of women have come together to really hold the space for other women and we have been addressing everything that comes to the producer council. There are strong women who are leading the women's wing of the Telugu industry. But do you think we are doing enough and can we be doing more? I absolutely think so."

Well, one thing about our interviewee is that she is one headstrong person. How does she keep it? "Fake it till you make it," gushes the *Yakshini* actress because, she says, you don't have an answer for everything in your life. And it's then you will find your answers because you are staying true to yourself. But, "If you're going to wait for the rest of your life to get answers, to find your strength, that's a long way and then you're not going to make it that long."

Heading towards the end of this insightful chat with the *Gundello Godari* actress, she tells us about her project-choosing process: "I always look at it as an audience and how interesting it is for me to do it. That's what really motivates me to take up a project. I just finished a series on Amazon. I've just signed something for Netflix and then of course there's *Adiparvam* releasing on the 31st."

“I'M NEVER GOING TO LET SOMEBODY DIM MY LIGHT BECAUSE THAT'S THE FIGHT I'VE TAKEN UP ON THIS LIFE. I THINK IN THE TELUGU FILM INDUSTRY, A LOT OF WOMEN HAVE COME TOGETHER TO REALLY HOLD THE SPACE FOR OTHER WOMEN AND WE HAVE BEEN ADDRESSING EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO THE PRODUCER COUNCIL.”



Allu Arjun's Nandyal visit takes centre stage in *Unstoppable Season 4*

It's official now. Season 4 of the popular talk show *Unstoppable* on Aha OTT will begin streaming from October 24. The host, Nandamuri Balakrishna, released a promo for the upcoming season on Sunday. While the celebrity guest list hasn't been officially revealed, the animation promo depicted Balakrishna as a superhero. According to our sources, Balakrishna has already completed two episodes, one featuring Malayalam actor Dulquer Salmaan and the other with Icon Star Allu Arjun.

Our reliable source reveals that in the episode with Allu Arjun, Balakrishna posed a direct question about Arjun's controversial visit to Nandyal during an election campaign. In response, Allu Arjun offered a diplomatic explanation, stating, "I've regularly visited many friends in the past, including my friend Shilpa

Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy, and this visit was blown out of proportion."

Interestingly, the source also noted that Balakrishna supported Allu Arjun's visit to Nandyal, expressing, "What's wrong in your visit?" This exchange touches on a sensitive issue, as Allu Arjun's visit has led to distance between him and the Mega Family, with him missing from many family events. Moreover, since the visit, Mega Fans have been trolling him, and some Jana Sena supporters have openly stated that they plan to target Allu Arjun's upcoming film *Pushpa 2*.

While the show starts streaming on October 24, it remains undecided which episode will air first. If Allu Arjun's episode is the debut, it could stir controversy and potentially reignite tensions between Mega Fans and Allu Arjun's supporters.

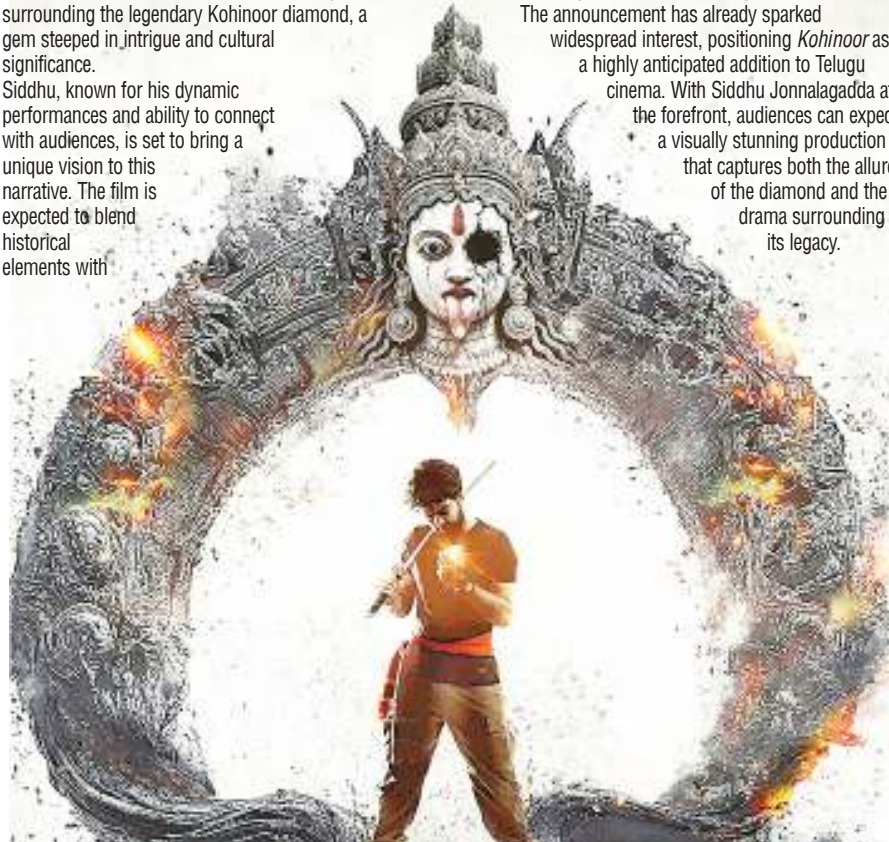
Siddhu aims hat-trick with Sitara Entertainment

Star Boy Siddhu Jonnalagadda has officially unveiled an ambitious project titled *Kohinoor*, in collaboration with Sitara Entertainments. This cinematic venture aims to delve into the rich and tumultuous history surrounding the legendary Kohinoor diamond, a gem steeped in intrigue and cultural significance.

Siddhu, known for his dynamic performances and ability to connect with audiences, is set to bring a unique vision to this narrative. The film is expected to blend historical elements with

gripping storytelling, creating a cinematic experience that resonates with viewers. As excitement builds, fans and industry insiders alike are eager to see how this iconic diamond's story will unfold on the big screen.

The announcement has already sparked widespread interest, positioning *Kohinoor* as a highly anticipated addition to Telugu cinema. With Siddhu Jonnalagadda at the forefront, audiences can expect a visually stunning production that captures both the allure of the diamond and the drama surrounding its legacy.



It's official: Nara Rohit gets engaged to his forever after!

Actor Nara Rohit got officially engaged to his long-time friend and co-star from *Prathinidhi 2*, Sireesha Lella, on Sunday. Reports had been circulating about his engagement and the couple finally made it official at a private ceremony in Hyderabad. Nara Rohit is the nephew of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The event was kept low-profile, with no media presence allowed inside.

According to sources, Nara Bhuvaneshwari, the Chief Minister's wife, personally oversaw the arrangements for the event. The engagement was attended by several celebrities, including members of both the Nandamuri and Nara families. Nara Rohit's cousin, Minister Nara Lokesh, along with his wife Nara Brahmani, was also present. It is reported that Nara Lokesh, along with his mother, warmly received the guests and ensured everything went smoothly. Rohit and Sireesha have known each other for a long time, and their relationship blossomed while working together on *Prathinidhi 2*, which was released in May this year, just before the elections. Sireesha had been pursuing her education in Australia before making her acting debut with this film. Sources suggest that their wedding will take place soon.

Nara Rohit, who debuted with *Baanam* in 2009, is known for his versatility in films like *Solo*, *Rowdy Fellow*, *Jyo Achyutananda*, *Asura*, and *Saarocharu*. After taking a long break following the release of *Veera Bhoga Vasantharayalu* in 2018, Rohit is set to make a comeback with *Sundarakanda*, which is slated for release soon. Though *Prathinidhi 2* was released earlier this year with election-related themes, it did not perform well at the box office.



PAWAN KALYAN HITS HIGH NOTES:

Turns singer for *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*



The much-awaited *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* starring Pawan Kalyan is nearing completion, with the makers confirming that part one will wrap up by November 10. A fresh schedule kicks off on Monday, October 14, in Vijayawada with a special ceremony. The shoot recently resumed after a long break, featuring action scenes choreographed by Hollywood director Nick Powell with over 400-500 artistes and Pawan Kalyan. In exciting news for fans, the first song from the film, sung by Pawan Kalyan himself, will be released soon! Bollywood actor Bobby Deol plays a key role, while Nidhi Agerwal stars as the leading lady.

While Krish directed the initial parts, the film's reins have now been taken over by director Jyothi Krishna, with Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani scoring the music. Produced by A Dayakar Rao, the film is set to release on March 28, 2025, in multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi and Kannada.

"We're aiming for a December 20 release," said producer Sivalenka. "The shooting wraps in September and post-production is underway. We'll complete censor formalities soon and bring audiences a delightful comedy just in time for the Christmas season." He promises *Sarangapani Jathakam* will be a memorable comedy for their banner.

PRABHAS' DEBUT FILM *EESWAR* SET FOR RE-RELEASE ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Actor Prabhas, one of the biggest stars in Indian cinema, is all set to relive his early days with the re-release of his debut film *Eeswar* on October 23, in celebration of his birthday. Directed by Jayanth C Paranjani and produced by K Ashok, this film is being re-released by Lakshmi Narasimha Movies. Tollywood has seen a surge in successful re-releases, with some even grossing as much as new films and the makers of *Eeswar* hope to replicate that success at the box office. The newly released trailer, featuring iconic mass dialogues by Prabhas, has already struck a chord with audiences, serving as a nostalgic re-introduction to the star. With fans known for celebrating re-releases like festivals, this 4K re-release of *Eeswar* will allow them to relish Prabhas' early charm, further amplifying the pan-Indian stardom he enjoys today.



A CHRISTMAS COMEDY TREAT BEFORE SANKRANTHI!

With *Game Changer* postponed to Sankranti, filmmakers are adjusting their release calendars. Director Indraganti Mohanakrishna and actor Priyadarshi are teaming up for *Sarangapani Jathakam*, produced by Sivalenka Krishna Prasad, which is now set to release on December 20, 2024.

Priyadarshi stars as Sarangapani, with Roopa Koduvayur in the lead. This marks the third collaboration between Indraganti and Prasad, following *Gentleman* and *Sammohanam*.



STANDALONE

Akinenni Nagarjuna and Mega star Chiranjeevi were invited to the Devi Navratri festival at the residence of S. Kalyanaraman, MD of Kalyan Jewellers.

After Paris high, India look to continue momentum at home

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The absence of the Paris Olympic medallists notwithstanding, hosts India will not be short on firepower when they compete in the season-ending World Cup Final, starting here from Tuesday, with Rhythm Sangwan headlining a 23-member squad. The Paris Olympics medallists automatically qualify for the tournament, but Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale, who won the bronze, have opted to skip the event to be staged at the Dr. Karni Singh Range. Besides Rhythm, rising stars such as Ganemat Sekhon (women's skeet) and Sonam Maskar (women's 10m air rifle) will look to excel in the tournament, having earned their spots based on world rankings. The Indian squad features nine athletes from the 2024 Paris Olympics, including Arjun Babuta (men's 10m air rifle), Anish Bhanwala (men's 25m rapid fire pistol).

Rhythm will compete in both the women's 10m air pistol and 25m pistol events. The other Olympians in the squad include Mairaj Ahmad Khan (men's skeet), Divyansh Singh Panwar (men's 10m air rifle), and Chain Singh (men's 50m rifle 3 positions). Also ready to shoot in the World Cup Final are Arjun Singh Cheema (men's 10m air pistol), Vijayveer Sidhu (men's 25m rapid fire pistol), Anantjeet Singh Narukha (men's skeet), Maheshwari Chauhan (women's skeet), Rajeshwari Kumari (women's trap) and Shreyasi Singh (women's trap). All these shooters competed in the Paris Games. There are four finals lined up on each of the three competition days in this traditional ISSF season-ending showdown between the best in the world. Due to host country norms, a minimum of two Indian shooters will be in action in each of the 12 individual Olympic events on the roster. Action begins on Tuesday with the 10m air rifle women being the first final on the schedule, followed by



the men's final. The 10m air pistol men and women's finals are also lined up on day one. All the finals will be preceded by qualification rounds. 131 of the world's top shooters from 37 countries including multiple reigning Olympic champions participate in the competition which will determine the year's best performers in each of the 12 individual Olympic events. The world's top six athletes of the combined six ISSF World Cup stages held throughout year, along with Paris Olympic medallists, defending ISSF World Cup Final champions and reigning world champions have achieved direct qualification in each of the 12 events. Three events men's 10m air pistol, men's trap and women's 25m pistol will see all three Paris Olympic medallists compete for the top prize of 5000 euros. All reigning champions from the previous year in Doha will also be there to defend their titles. President of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF),

Luciano Rossi, who is in the capital to attend the tournament, hailed India's role in the growth of the sport. "We're excited to be in India for the ISSF World Cup Final, one of the most dedicated shooting sport nations in the world," said Rossi. "After a successful season for our athletes and a wonderful Olympic Games in Paris, this is the perfect opportunity for all to finish the season on a high," he added. National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) secretary general K Sultan Singh said, "Shooting sport has been witnessing huge rise in popularity and passion amongst the youth, women and specially abled athletes in the country which can be gauged by the laurels which has been achieved at the Olympics, Paralympics and continental championships." "We wish all the participants the very best and immensely thank the ISSF and the government of India for all their support in hosting and organising the ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi."



Historic women's doubles bronze at Asian TT Championships

India clinches three medals

PTI ■ ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Table Tennis Championships with three medals, including a historic bronze in the women's doubles, after Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee's dream run ended in the semifinals here on Sunday. The world No. 15 pair, who stunned the reigning world champions from China en route to a bronze at the Asian Games last year, fell to Japan's Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara, 4-11 9-11 8-11 in under 30 minutes in their last-four clash.

Prior to that, the Indian duo had defeated South Korea's Kim Nayeong and Lee Eunhye in the quarterfinals to secure India's first-ever women's doubles medal at the Asian meet. The Indian women's team had earlier clinched a historic bronze in the team event. The trio of Manika Batra, Ayhika Mukherjee, and Sutirtha Mukherjee secured the country's first-ever medal in the women's team category since the competition began in 1972, though they eventually lost 1-3 to Japan in the semifinals. In the men's category, India secured another bronze, their

third straight in the tournament, after the team of Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai fell 0-3 to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. In men's singles, Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals. World No. 60 Thakkar, who had earlier shocked world No. 14 Jang Wooin of South Korea, was defeated by Hong Kong's Baldwin Chan, 4-11 4-11 8-11. Meanwhile, Manush put up a tough fight against Lin Yun-Ju of Chinese Taipei and took two games before narrowly losing 8-11 5-11 11-7 11-6 12-14.

We could have scored more: Farukh Choudhary

PTI ■ NAM DINH (VIETNAM)

Returning to action after three years, midfielder Farukh Choudhary feels they could have scored another goal as India had to settle for a 1-1 draw against hosts Vietnam in an international friendly here. Manolo Marquez's selection of Farukh had raised eyebrows but the midfielder, who was sidelined for three years, struck a second-half goal to level things for India after Vi Hao Bui had given the hosts a 38th minute lead. "Personally, I feel great. I've not been a part of the national team for a long time, but this is where I wanted to be. I worked hard at my clubs and I knew in my heart that I deserved to be here," Farukh said. The last time Farukh turned out for India, he created an assist against



Nepal, in October 2021, in a 1-0 victory in Male. But an unfortunate knee injury meant that he had to start from square one on his way back to the national team.

"I'm glad that I could make a difference for the team, but I feel that we could have scored another," he said. "But everyone played well together as a team. Gurpreet (Singh Saandhu) and

Anwar (Ali) also had exceptional games in defence, which is why we got this score." In what was a game of two halves, India heaved an almighty effort for most parts of the second half, and perhaps were a bit disappointed that they could not find the winning goal. However, the head coach remains positive about his side's display as his search of a first win in charge of India continues. "In the first half, it was practically all Vietnam. Then we discussed at half time how we have enough quality to play, and finally, we started executing our plans in the second," said Marquez. "Sure, Vietnam could have scored in the last minutes when we were tired, but we could have scored too with our chance. But overall, I am satisfied with this. It was a friendly game, after all."

Djokovic, Sinner reach Shanghai Masters final, Sabalenka rallies over Gauff at Wuhan

AP ■ SHANGHAI

Novak Djokovic overcame physical discomfort to beat Taylor Fritz 6-4 7-6 (6) and move closer to a 100th career title and a record-extending fifth at the Shanghai Masters. By also reaching the final on Saturday night, top-ranked Jannik Sinner ensured he will be the ATP year-end No. 1 and the first Italian to achieve that feat. "I've won many titles, had great battles and great performances," the 37-year-old Djokovic said. "I did come here definitely with a vision and a desire to get to the final and fight for a 100th title. I get that chance against the best player in the world, and let's see what happens." Fellow great Roger Federer has 103 titles and Jimmy Connors leads men with 109 in the Open era. Top-ranked Jannik Sinner will chase his seventh ATP title of the year after beating Tomas Machac 6-4 7-5. Djokovic improved to 10-0 in career matches against Fritz, who blew a 5-3 lead in the

second-set tiebreaker and a set point at 6-5 up. Djokovic was clearly struggling for mobility and balance with his left knee heavily strapped. "It always takes it out of me, these kinds of battles, but particularly towards the end of the tournament," Djokovic said. "At this stage of my career, I'm doing my best to recover and I had some issues here and there on the court, physically." But US Open runner-up Fritz could not take advantage. He lost a long rally at 6-6 and succumbed on the first match point when Djokovic stabbed a volley at the net and the American flicked it just long at full stretch. Djokovic leads 4-3 overall against Sinner, who has won the last two - including in the Australian Open semifinals. Earlier, Sinner weathered a nearly two-hour baseline storm from No. 33-ranked Machac, who beat No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz in the quarterfinals. The Italian has a shot at his third Masters title in 2024 following victories in Miami and Cincinnati, to go with his



wins at the Australian Open and U.S. Open. "I just tried to stay there every point, to see what was going to happen," Sinner said. "Just playing every point with the maximum intensity I could, so I'm very happy about that. I'm happy to be back in a final again. "I'm just looking forward to (the final), to try to find a solution somehow ... And hopefully it's going to win the match." Sinner fired 10 aces

and 28 winners, against only seven unforced errors, in a characteristically efficient performance for his 64th match win this year. WUHAN OPEN: Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka rallied from a slow start to beat an in-form Coco Gauff 1-6 6-4 6-4 in the semifinals to advance to her third straight Wuhan final and preserve her perfect record at the tournament. Sabalenka will face seventh-

ranked Zheng Qinwen in the final. The Paris Olympics champion beat No. 51-ranked Wang Xinyu 6-3 6-4. Sabalenka will be bidding for her fourth title of the season, which includes the Australian Open and US Open. The Belarusian's 16th straight victory at Wuhan ended Gauff's own recent win streak at nine, including the China Open title last week. But it looked anything but certain for Sabalenka as she crashed 6-1 in the opening set. "In the first set she was just crushing it," Sabalenka said. "Whatever she was doing, everything was flying in. Everything was so aggressive. I didn't have much opportunities." In a fight between the last two US Open champions, Gauff led by a break early in the second but Sabalenka responded to pull level at 4-4 and saved a break point on serve to take a 5-4 lead. Serving to stay in the set, Gauff was broken as Sabalenka hit a lunging forehand volley to force a deciding set.

Ronaldo scores again in Nations League win for Perfect Portugal

AP ■ BARCELONA

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his record-extending 133rd international goal to keep Portugal perfect in the Nations League with a 3-1 win over Poland, and Spain struck late to edge Denmark 1-0. The 39-year-old superstar was there to put in the rebound after Rafael Leão's shot hit the post in the 37th minute on Saturday. That made it 2-0 following Bernardo Silva's opener in Warsaw in the 26th. After failing to find the net in his five appearances at this summer's European Championship - with Portugal exiting in the quarterfinals - Ronaldo has scored in three straight Nations League matches, including in wins over Croatia - his 900th career goal - and Scotland last month. Portugal coach Roberto Martinez replaced Ronaldo with Diogo Jota with just under half an hour to play. Midfielder Piotr Zielinski halved the deficit in the 78th

for the hosts, only for Southampton defender Jan Bednarek to score an own-goal with two minutes left. Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski started alongside Karol Swiderski but the Polish attacking pair couldn't find their way past the Portuguese defense. "We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," Martinez said. "Also, I am satisfied how Renato Veiga and Rúben Dias performed against one of the best in the world (in Lewandowski)." Portugal leads Group A1 with nine points from three games. Second-place Croatia has six points after it came back to beat Scotland 2-1 in Zagreb with the visitors having an equalizer deep into second-half stoppage time ruled out by VAR. Poland has three points, and Scotland zero. Scotland's Ryan Christie opened for the Scots and their under-fire manager Steve Clarke in the 33rd. Igor



Matanovic leveled three minutes later and Andrej Kramaric completed the fightback in the 70th. Scotland had the ball in the net right at the end with substitute Che Adams involved but VAR confirmed it was offside. Zubimendi shines in Rodri's spot. Martín Zubimendi helped Spain crack Denmark's defense as the holding midfielder starred in place of injured Rodri. The Real Sociedad player unleashed a powerful volley in the 79th to smash a rebound from outside the area past Kasper Schmeichel, who got his hand on the ball but couldn't keep it out. Zubimendi had impressed in the final of Euro 2024 when he replaced Rodri for the second half of Spain's 2-1 win over England. Rodri seriously injured his right knee and required surgery on his ACL while playing for Manchester City last month. "Martín is a treasure" Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "I suppose with his goal he

will get more attention, but his play, the fact that he's got a computer in his brain, means we are privileged to have him at a time when Rodri will be out for a while." Spain was also missing Nico Williams and Dani Olmo, two more players who excelled at the Euros, who are sidelined with minor injuries. Spain, the defending Nations League champion, has seven points in Group A4 after three games. Denmark has six points, and Serbia has four after beating the pointless Switzerland 2-0. The Swiss didn't help their cause with an own-goal by Nico Elvedi right before the interval. Aleksandar Mitrovic doubled the lead for Serbia with a solo effort in the 61st, and Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic saved a penalty taken by Brel Embolo. Wins for Kosovo, Romania Kosovo won 2-1 at Lithuania in League C, while Romania thumped Cyprus 3-0, Northern Ireland drew 0-0 at Belarus, and Bulgaria was held 0-0 at home by Luxembourg.