

# sunday pioneer

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Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

**EAM hails military and diplomacy for India-China pact**



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**'Govt committed to PROVIDE future-ready skills training'**



8

**Beating asthma to BECOME a breathtaking shuttler**



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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer

**Families of police personnel are protesting due to the Chief Minister's failure in managing home affairs. Due to the lack of Home Minister, constables are unable to share their woes. Protesting in uniform is unprecedented in Telangana**



- Sabita, BRS MLA P2

**DON'T MISS...**

**IKP Knowledge Park to set up ...**

Driving Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Internet of Things (IoT) innovations in drug discovery, biotechnology, agriculture, environmental sustainability, and engineering with 140 startups and 420 startup founders, IKP Knowledge Park (IKP) from Genome Valley begins the 18th edition of the International Knowledge Millennium Conference (IKMC) 2024 at Novotel HICC on Saturday. When asked, the Chairman and CEO of IKP Knowledge Park ...

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**Dead insect found in beer bottle**

A man who just wanted to enjoy a cold beer had a bitter experience. Before opening the beer bottle, he decided to take a look inside the bottle, only to find something shocking. His mind went blank when he discovered insect remnants in the beer. He recorded a video of the insect and posted it on social media, which has now gone viral. So, where did this incident happen? Some drink regularly, and whenever friends or relatives gather, they tend to have a drinking session. In this ...

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**Borders should not be changed by...**

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday said borders should not be changed by "war or force", and Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses the biggest threat to international peace today as "it is about changing borders". Inviolability of national borders is the basis for peace, he said, interacting with the students of Birla Institute of Technology And Science (BITS) Pilani at Vasco during a visit to Goa during which he also visited the German Naval ship FGS Baden-Wuerttemberg docked at Mormugao Port. The chancellor, on a three-day...

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**SBI and India Exim Bank filling trade...**

The State Bank of India and the India Exim Bank are helping businesses in African countries to fill the gap in trade finance, the South African heads of the two organisations told the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF) here. The event was initiated by Consul General of India Mahesh Kumar who said it is the first of a series of ongoing engagements with the IEF. "We did this to assist all companies doing trade or some form of other business with India in their capacity building because generally for bigger businesses they are able to sort out their trade financing needs. For smaller business, a lot of issues look very difficult and insurmountable and they find the complexities of the trade world very bewildering sometimes." Kumar...

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**KALESHWARAM PROJECT**

**Floods estimation went wrong, admits CE**

**Names Harish as Irrigation Minister**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Engineer Sudhakar Reddy appeared before the Kaleshwaram Commission on Saturday to answer questions about the tender invitation process and technical decisions in the multi-crore Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, particularly connected to the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

The Commission, chaired by Justice PC Ghose, has been investigating the procedural and finan-

cial aspects of the project. However, the commission questioned the oversight on flood estimations, which Sudhakar admitted had led to block damages due to underestimating flood speed.

A significant moment arose during the session when the commission asked who held the position of Irrigation Minister at the time of project approval. Sudhakar Reddy named Harish Rao, adding weight to the scrutiny over the project's oversight.

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**Loans of 4 lakh more farmers will be waived after Diwali: Seethakka**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The loans of four lakh more farmers will be waived after Diwali, Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka said.

Addressing the gathering at a programme held in Mahbubabad on Saturday, Seethakka said the government had waived farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh taken by 25 lakh farmers and the remaining would be waived after Diwali.

She said the government will give land title deeds to tribal farmers in all agency areas and that farmers should not go after brokers.

Seethakka said the government will provide a toll-free phone number which can be used by the public to inform the authorities about drinking water problems.



**Indiramma houses, one DA for employees for Diwali**

**Cabinet clears initiatives in housing, Metro expansion, employee benefits**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet has announced initiatives on housing, infrastructure, government employee welfare and the development of education. The Cabinet's plans and the implementation of social welfare schemes will impact sectors across the state.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

chaired the Cabinet meeting and later Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Ponnam Prabhakar briefed the media.

The Cabinet approved under the Indiramma Housing Programme, 3,500 houses which will be allocated in each constituency, prioritizing the poorest who are selected through Grama Sabhas.

Continued on Page 5

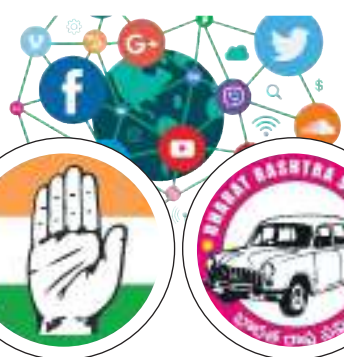
**BRS social media attacks choking Congress leaders**

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

It seems that Congress leaders including the Chief Minister and his Ministers are getting choked by the BRS's aggressive social media attack. The BRS's social media wing is succeeding in harassing Congress leaders and trapping them in controversies.

Instead of countering the BRS's social media attack using Congress's social media team, Congress leaders are trying to counter the BRS's social media attack through press conferences.

Some outbursts of Congress lead-



ers have benefited the BRS in a big way. Besides using social media, BRS leaders KTR and Harish Rao are continuing their verbal attacks on the Congress

government and leaders. However, Congress leaders have failed to appropriately counter the BRS's social media attack as well as the criticism of its leaders.

Congress leaders Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka, Forest and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and leaders like TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy and others have drawn flak on BRS's social media platforms.

After undergoing BRS's social media attack, Minister Seethakka raised the BRS's trolling against her in the Assembly.

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**PCB official turns threat to TG's pharma sector**

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's pharmaceutical sector, a cornerstone of the state's economy, is reportedly facing problems as allegations have surfaced about a Pollution Control Board (PCB) official exercising unchecked power.

Top government sources said the official who has held his post for around four years, allegedly ignored orders from Minister Konda Surekha and senior officials,

leading to a reported climate of unease among pharmaceutical investors.

Industry representatives voiced their concerns to Surekha, who reportedly appealed to both the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary, describing the alleged misconduct and its repercussions on Telangana's pharma industry.

In her letter, Surekha reportedly stressed not only the lack of accounta-



integrity, stressing how the current atmosphere could damage the

state's reputation as a pharmaceutical hub.

Licence renewals for pharmaceutical companies, sources claim, have also reportedly been entangled in corruption.

Industry insiders claim that the official, with substantial connections among pharmaceutical and industrial business owners, has established a practice of "pay-to-comply" in industrial areas like Patancheru, Katedhan, Choutuppal, Sangareddy and Jeedimetla.

"Companies reportedly face penalties and notices if they do not

**App for selecting Indiramma house beneficiaries: Ponguleti**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government has prepared a special app for selecting Indiramma house beneficiaries, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said on Saturday.

Revealing that he had suggested some changes to the app after examining it, he said the app would come into use next week. He said the selection of beneficiaries will be done transparently through the app. The app will have a Telugu version also for people living in rural areas.

The selection of beneficiaries for Indiramma houses would be done regardless of political parties, regions and recommendations, he said.

**'10 years' jail very less for KCR & KTR'**

- People want action against KCR's corruption
- I am waiting for Ponguleti's 'bombs'
- Some more BRS MLAs, leaders in touch with Congress
- Phone tapping serious matter

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reiterating that he is waiting for Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's political bombs, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the people of Telangana are awaiting action against former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's corruption.

"KCR and KTR should be sentenced not to just two or three years' jail. Even 10 years imprisonment is less for their corruption. What is the Kaleshwaram scam? Why was it necessary to spend so much money on that? Irregularities took place in power purchases too. Now power is available at lower prices. The Congress government has no intention to hike power charges," he said.

Speaking during a chit-chat with journalists in New Delhi on Saturday, Mahesh said that



inductions have not stopped. He said that some BRS MLAs and leaders are ready to join the Congress. BRS leaders who are close to KTR are in touch with the Congress, he said.

Phone tapping is a serious matter and the government will not allow anyone to escape in the drug case. BRS leaders are saying that Congress leaders are in touch with them only to protect their leaders, Mahesh said.

There are some technical issues. So the party did not announce their induction officially, he said. He said that the Chief Minister's Office has issued orders to probe the murder of MLC T. Jeevan Reddy's close associate. He said that the state's revenue has not fallen and that it is the same as in the past.

Mahesh made it clear that they are not trying to weaken any case. The probe will continue in cases

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**OBTUSE ANGLE**

LET'S WALK TOGETHER. SURE

CHINA LAC INDIA

INDIA & CHINA AGREE TO JOINT PATROLLING



# TG CM snubbed at Wayanad: Throwback to Anjaiah incident that deeply hurt Telugus

In a scene that could not have gone unnoticed under media glare, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy did not take centre stage during the public meeting that followed All India Congress Committee leader Priyanka Gandhi's nomination process in Wayanad. The arrangement, or rather the lack of it, was hard to ignore. Revanth, who had gone along with the Deputy CM, was seated in a corner, separated from the Gandhi family by three other attendees. When the Gandhis walked in, followed by Karnataka CM, it was Siddaramaiah who got the pride of place, considering he was seated between Sonia and Priyanka. Revanth may have gone there to reflect his 'proximity' to the Congress brass, but his detractors see it as another instance of 'kitne paas, kitne door' syndrome that some politicians grin and bear. The TG CM missed making it up during the photo-op that followed. For, the optics were soured by an awkward photo of Sonia Gandhi with Revanth, which did not exactly project the former's warmth. Political derision apart, the sentiment on the ground in Telangana is one of deep resentment. Many feel that their elected CM deserves respect, especially on a stage where he happens to be sharing seat with a fellow chief minister of the grand old party. Some Bharat Rashtira Samithi folks recalled,

transparency. The larger questions are: Will it insulate YISU from controversy? Is it enough for opposition members to pledge support to YISU in the Assembly? Amidst all this, can YISU dodge the drama in the long run?

## The outcry of Young Turks in Cong: 'Our future is at stake'

Amid perceptions that the Congress is losing ground in Telangana and that some veterans in TPCC feel let down by the attitudes of those currently calling the shots, a wave of concern seems to be sweeping through the ranks of young Congress leaders in the state. With fire in their belly and determined to ensure their future is bright, many of these Young Turks are speaking up, while hoping that the party's current rule will steer clear of controversies and scams that could blight their political journey ahead. In the words of one young legislator, "This isn't just a one-time opportunity for us. Politics is a long road, and we are looking at the next decades, not just today." Behind closed doors, the younger leaders are reportedly voicing their displeasure over the attitudes of certain leaders within the party. "Some are

venors, was conspicuously absent. With thousands of followers and a reputation that even BRS does not take lightly, Sama's omission is puzzling to party circles and party watchers. He is followed, among others, by none other than Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Twitter, a distinction not shared by anyone present on stage, including Congress's official social media convener. As for the reasons for his absence, there are whispers that he was not invited to the event. This is typical of the Congress, whose dissent-ridden internal dynamics overshadow focus on a dependable digital strategy. The aftermath was telling: despite the gathering of social media operatives, the party's online presence failed to see any real momentum. With their top social media figure left out, the Congress may have missed an opportunity to strengthen its digital avatar, leaving its social media efforts lackluster amid online narratives that can make or break public perception about the party.

## 'The only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance'

Language has been defined as the medium through which one mind speaks to another. Nelson Mandela has said insightfully: "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head; if

# REPORTERS' DIARY

acting like this is their only chance in government, going all-out as if there's no tomorrow," one insider murmured. Their underlying fear: such a mindset could lead to decisions and deals that spark controversy, potentially creating a storm that might overshadow the fresh, progressive face of the party that these young leaders are striving to build. The younger brigade seems united on one point: they want a clean tenure, free of scandals, with an eye on future generations and the party's eventual legacy. With the stakes high, they hope the senior leaders take note, allowing this generation to make its mark without letting it bogged down by the weight of scandal or regrets.

## Congress snubs its star social media warrior

In a curious twist, the Congress recently concluded a key meeting for its social media warriors to boost its online presence, but snubbed Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, TPCC Media and Communications Chairman—the only person best fitted among the present lot to bolster the party's digital presence. Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, whose popularity on Twitter and Instagram outshines that of even official social media con-

you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart". When opposing minds converse, picking holes in the language used seems inevitable. Recently Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president KT Rama Rao's PRO suggested to the Congress government's Chief Public Relations Officer to "learn English first" before posting something on social media platforms. In response to the CPRO's post in social media, KTR's PRO gave this bit of advice in a popular WhatsApp group. Although the CPRO did not respond to the unsolicited advice, some of the members of the WhatsApp group took objection to the choice of words used by KTR's PRO while criticizing the CPRO's language. As the hot discussion went on and on, the admin of the WhatsApp group chose to remove KTR's PRO and certain others from the group. A senior journo, heaving a sigh of relief, used two quotes to put the record straight: "Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom" (a quote attributed to English philosopher Roger Bacon), but "The only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance" (as per eminent scientist Albert Einstein).

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate and R Venkateshwarlu)

## Young India Skills University a la PM CARES Fund?

The larger the corpus with huge funding from multiple sources, the greater is the transparency required in the operations of the institution using it to keep off prying eyes. No wonder, there is no check on the vicious chatter around Young India Skills University (YISU) lately. With heavyweight contributions, including a staggering Rs.200 crore from MEIL and another Rs 100 cr from the Adani Group, it is hard not to raise an eyebrow. And, if industrialist Anand Mahindra's role as Chairman was supposed to keep whispers at bay, it seems to have done the opposite. BRS circles are all abuzz, hinting that YISU might just be shaping up to be the next 'PM CARES Fund' and drawing parallels to how the Opposition once alleged that the Narendra Modi government used it to sway influence. The Public-Private Partnership model of YISU might ensure

# Some good news will be heard in Dec: Mahesh

- Cabinet expansion in the hands of AICC and CM
- Adani gave donations like other individuals
- Public meeting on BCs' caste census; Kharge, Rahul special guests

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that some good news will be heard in December, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Cabinet expansion is in the hands of the high command and the Chief Minister.

He said that anyone can give donations to the government and in the same manner Adani also donated money.



Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Saturday, Mahesh said the 2029 LS elections would be the final for the Congress and the party aims to come to power in the state and

at the Centre. The party will focus on all constituencies, he said.

Mahesh said that MLC Teenmar Mallanna was deviating in some way on the BCs

issue. "AICC in-charge General Secretary Deepadas Munshi and I held talks with Teenmar Mallanna and everything would be settled soon," Mahesh said.

The party is thinking of conducting a meeting on the BC caste census in November and has invited top AICC leaders Mallikarjuna Kharge and Rahul Gandhi as special guests, the TPCC chief said.

Mahesh said the court's decision was final regarding defections. He said the party had inducted Jagtial BRS MLA Sanjay Kumar only after explaining the matter to MLC T. Jeevan Reddy and added that the party will stand by Jeevan.

## BRS MLAs joined Congress to protect their illegal assets: Madhu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud said that BRS MLAs joined the Congress only to protect their illegally earned assets and not due to any regard for the Congress.

The TRS MLAs who joined the Congress have no faith in the party's ideals, he added.

Speaking to the media after consulting Maru Ganga Reddy's family on Saturday along with MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, Government Whips Adhuri Laxman Kumar and

Adi Srinivas, Madhu said that it is sad that the police said that old rivalry is behind the murder of Ganga Reddy instead of investigating the case thoroughly.

He said the party lost a good activist due to police negligence although Ganga Reddy had informed the police that he faced a threat to his life.

Expressing deep dissatisfaction over the police's attitude, Madhu warned the police that they must remember that the BRS government is gone and now the admin is run by the Congress.

## We lost self-confidence due to induction of defectors: Jeevan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy said that Congress leaders lost their self-confidence due to the induction of defectors into the party. He said the party inducted BRS's Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar without telling him and giving him even minimum information. "In the process, I lost my

close associate Maru Ganga Reddy," he said. On Saturday, Jeevan Reddy and TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud consoled the bereaved family of Maru Ganga Reddy.

Later, speaking to the media, Jeevan said the Congress had inducted BRS MLAs by going against the party's ideals.

## BRS slams CM on handling police issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former ministers and BRS leaders voiced dissatisfaction over the Chief Minister's handling of police issues, which has led to the families of constables taking to the streets.

BRS MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy expressed concern over police families protesting openly and attributed it to the Chief Minister's inefficiency.

"It's disheartening that the protectors are demanding justice on the roads," Sabitha remarked, noting that such a scenario has never been seen in TG. She asked whether this was the 'praja palana' that Revanth had promised.

The absence of a dedicated Home Minister, Sabitha argued, has exacerbated distress among constables. "They are left with no choice but to stage dharna in uniform," she emphasised.

She criticized the government's silence, stating,

"Revanth must honour his word to the police and restore the previous structure, allowing them to spend four days with their families every 18 days."

This lack of family time, Sabitha added, has even led to children not recognizing their fathers underscoring the severity of the issue faced by police families.

BRS MLA Sunita Lakshma Reddy echoed similar sentiments, noting that it was the first time in independent India that the police were compelled to hold protests for their rights.

"Policemen are being asked to perform tasks around the house, which is unfortunate," she stated.

MLC Vani Devi joined in, deeply disturbed by the developments within the police department. She asked the CM to address the grievances of the police as the well-being of police families directly impacts their service.

## Who is saving SEBI chief, asks Congress

## Rahul flags stock market risks to small investors



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday intensified its offensive against SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, asking what was keeping her from appearing before a parliamentary panel.

Shortly after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in an Instagram video, flagged "risks to billions of retail investors in the stock market", the party posed three questions on Puri, who skipped a recent appearance before the Public Accounts Committee by citing a last-minute emergency.

"Why is Madhabi Buch reluctant to answer questions before the Public Accounts

Committee (PAC) of Parliament? Who is behind the plan to protect her from being answerable to the PAC? Is there a well-thought-out conspiracy to risk the hard-earned investments of crores of small-medium investors and benefit Modi ji's dear friend Adani?" the Congress media department chairman Pawan Khera asked in a statement.

Gandhi earlier posted a video of Instagram in which he is heard speaking to Khera on the phone and urging him to devise innovative ways of cautioning retail investors against "the space of risk", a term he used for the Indian stock markets.

## TGERC chief unveils Telangana Talli statue amid controversy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a symbolic move amid the ongoing debate regarding modifications to the Telangana Talli statue, Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC) Chairman Tanniru Sri Ranga Rao inaugurated the statue at the commission's office. The event sparked renewed interest, especially as the commission's tenure is set to conclude on October 29.

The TGERC and the Congress-led state government have been at odds over various issues, with tensions reportedly escalating in recent months. The inauguration of the Telangana Talli statue draped in pink saree, which holds significant cultural and political value, comes at a



time when the government is reviewing all aspects of Telangana's symbolism, sparking divided opinions across political lines.

With the Commission's term nearing its end, a new commission will be appointed. The event has not only highlighted the ongoing disagreements between the regulatory body and the government but also placed a spotlight on the symbolic gestures tied to Telangana's identity.

## Victims knock on ED doors, accuse Amoy Kumar of stealing Rs 30,000 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Members of the Shankarpally Plot Owners Association in Vattinagulapally have approached the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with allegations of a massive land scam

involving senior IAS officer Amoy Kumar.

The Association, representing nearly 3,300 plot owners, has accused the official of using the Dharani portal to manipulate land records, allegedly resulting in illegal

registrations worth an estimated Rs 30,000 crore.

According to the complaint lodged with ED officials on Saturday, the victims claim that 200 acres were unlawfully registered by manipulating the portal. They allege that plots were

converted into acres, cross-registrations were conducted and documents were fabricated overnight. The complainants say that despite owning their lands for up to 40 years, eviction attempts were made against them with police assistance.

## GST classical example of cooperative federalism: CJI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India was a "classical example of cooperative federalism," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said here on Saturday.

The courts have, over the last few decades, evolved a robust framework on federalism to ensure that the states' rights are protected, he said, speaking on 'Understanding Federalism



and Its Potential' at the inaugural annual lecture series

organized by the Marathi daily 'Loksatta'.

Federalism, for Indians, is not a "monolithic concept" but has multiple facets, the CJI said. Cooperative federalism is a system of governance where the Centre and the states work together to "iron out differences to achieve the common goal of development," he said.

The dialogue between the Union government and the states must be placed on "two

ends of the spectrum," Chandrachud said, adding that at one end are collaborative discussions that cooperative federalism fosters, while "interstitial contestation" between the states and the Union are at the other end.

"Both forms of dialogue are equally important for federalism and for our nation to flourish, and what better example (one can think of) than the introduction of the GST," the CJI added.

## TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Tithi:	
Ekadashi:	Oct 27 05:24 AM to Oct 28 07:51 AM
Nakshatram:	
Magha:	Oct 26 09:45 AM to Oct 27 12:24 PM
Purva Phalguni:	Oct 27 12:24 PM to Oct 28 03:24 PM
Rahukalam:	4:17 PM to 5:43 PM
Yamagandam:	11:59 AM to 1:25 PM
Variyam:	09:24 PM to 11:12 PM
Gulika:	2:51 PM to 4:17 PM
Amritakalam:	09:44 AM to 11:30 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:37 AM to 12:22 PM

## HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny  
Temp: 31°C  
Humidity: 56%  
Sunrise: 6:13 AM  
Sunset: 5:47 PM  
Updated: October 26, 2024 5:00 PM

## Sabarimala pilgrims allowed to carry coconuts in cabin baggage in flights

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pilgrims going to Sabarimala temple in Kerala will be allowed to carry coconuts in the cabin baggage of flights till January 20, 2025, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Saturday.

The two-month-long Sabarimala pilgrimage season will start in mid-November.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has given permission to pilgrims to carry coconuts in their cabin baggage for a limited period.

Under existing norms, coconuts are not permitted in the cabin baggage on the grounds that they are flammable.

Naidu on Saturday said that to facilitate the ease of travel for Sabarimala pilgrims, an exemption has been given for "carrying coconuts in 'Irumudi' as cabin baggage during the Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage period".

The order will be in effect until January 20, 2025, with all necessary security checks in place, he said in a post on X.



## At least 115 dead and missing in massive flooding, landslides in Philippines

PNS ■ TALISAY

The number of dead and missing in massive flooding and landslides wrought by Tropical Storm Trami in the Philippines has exceeded 100 and the president said Saturday that many areas remained isolated with people in need of rescue.

Trami blew away from the northwestern Philippines on Friday, leaving at least 81 people dead and 34 others missing in one of the Southeast Asian archipelago's deadliest and most destructive storms so far this year, the government's disaster-response agency said. The death toll was expected to rise as reports come in from previously isolated areas.

## 'Mischievous provocation & political propaganda'

PNS ■ UNITED NATIONS

India slammed Pakistan's "mischievous provocation" and "political propaganda" during a Security Council meeting on women, peace and security, saying the condition of women belonging to minority communities, notably Hindus, Sikhs and Christians in the country remains deplorable.

"It is despicable yet entirely predictable that one delegation has chosen to indulge in mischievous provocation based on their tried and tested tactic of spreading misinformation and disinformation," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador P Harish said in the UNSC on Friday. Harish delivered India's statement at the UNSC Open Debate on 'Women Building Peace in a Changing Environment'.

In a strong Right of Reply to

## India slams Pakistan at UNSC



Pakistan, which again raked the issue of Kashmir at the debate, Harish said, "It's completely misplaced to indulge in such political propaganda at this important annual debate." "We are well aware that the condition of women belonging to minority communities, notably Hindus, Sikhs and Christians in that country,

remains deplorable," he said. Harish added that an estimated thousand women of these minority communities, as per data of Pakistan's Human Rights Commission, are subject to "abduction, forced religious conversions and forced marriages every year. Anyway, I could go on, but I'll end here."

At the debate, India reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Harish stressed that sustainable peace requires women's full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation at all levels of decision-making including politics, governance, institution-building, rule of law, the security sector, and economic recovery. "Needless to say that economic and social well-being of the population in general and women in particular are integral to sustainable peace. Highlighting the significant strides in implementing the WPS agenda, Harish said that as the fifth-largest troop contributor, India deployed the first-ever all-female Formed Police Unit to Liberia in 2007, setting a precedent in UN peacekeeping. "Their work garnered tremendous appreciation within Liberia and in the UN," he said.



## CITY EVENTS

### Toxic

By Abhishek Upmanyu

### Venue

Shilpakala Vedika  
November 2

### Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes tour.

### Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre  
November 8

### 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

### Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider.in and paytm.

### Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

## Minister conducts surprise inspection at MNJ Cancer Hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After the conclusion of the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at MNJ Institute, Minister for Medical, Health and Family Welfare Damodar Raja Narasimha conducted a surprise inspection at the MNJ Cancer Hospital on Saturday.

Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha inspected all departments at MNJ Cancer Hospital, reviewing each section on the ground level.

During the field visit, he examined the pathology labs, CT scan, MRI scan, mammogram, patient care units, bone scan, ultrasound sections, and care units. The Minister sought information from Hospital Director Dr Srinivasulu about the utilisation of these facilities.

He also inquired about the daily patient count, the services provided to cancer patients, and consulted with doctors, nursing staff, and hospital personnel to understand the amenities and support available.

# City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 27, 2024

03

## IKP Knowledge Park to set up more science parks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Driving Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Internet of Things (IoT) innovations in drug discovery, biotechnology, agriculture, environmental sustainability, and engineering with 140 startups and 420 startup founders, IKP Knowledge Park (IKP) from Genome Valley begins the 18th edition of the International Knowledge Millennium Conference (IKMC) 2024 at Novotel HICC on Saturday.

When asked, the Chairman and CEO of IKP Knowledge Park, Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, emphasised that the IKP Knowledge Park is a research and incubator centre that has supported over 1,800 startups and 50 innovations from 102 cities and towns in the country over the last 25 years. She noted a significant rise in innovations this year, especially in the medical and diagnostics ecosystem.

Deepanwita also mentioned that AI-based startups, along with ML and IoT, have made notable advancements this year. She highlighted that they



Chairman and CEO of IKP Knowledge Park Deepanwita Chattopadhyay interacting with the representatives Startups at the IKMC 2024 Millennium Conference in Hyderabad on Saturday.

are awarding over 50 startups and 5 growth companies with extreme success, each having Rs. 500 crore revenue. She emphasised that this year's theme is "IKP@25: An Epic Rhapsody & the Next Symphony," with a vision for the next 25 years and added such visionary sessions will be conducted on Sunday.

Chattopadhyay added that the vision includes establishing

more science parks in other states and globally and said that Telangana's expansion is yet to be planned with the state government. She mentioned that Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu will inaugurate a building and the CXO Conclave at Genome Valley on Monday. She concluded by saying that instead of just one Biocon, the country should aim 10 Biocons.

Many young innovators visited the stalls where startups explained their products, and as part of the celebrations, IKP will invest up to Rs 150 lakh in two startups through the IKP Future Forward Fund, with selections made through pitches, and will award Rs 5 lakh each to 10 deserving young entrepreneurs under 25 through the IKP Future Stars award.

## Street play to raise awareness on cybercrime

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On Saturday, the Hyderabad City Police and the Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) organised a street theater performance at a local mall to raise awareness about cybercrime.

Members of the Darpan Theatre group performed skits illustrating various types of cybercrimes, incorporating rapped Hindi songs accompanied by a Tabla to highlight issues related to investment fraud, e-commerce scams, and more. The overarching message urged the public to remain vigilant and protect their personal information, particularly OTPs.

Geeta Koti, Joint Secretary of HCSC, stated, "It's essential for everyone to understand cyber security. Today's street play was part of our awareness initiative, engaging the community in a creative way. We will hold another performance at IMAX on November 2."

Geeta emphasised the importance of public education on cyber security, noting, "Last year, we hosted a Hack Summit that received a positive response, inspiring us to organize another one this November. This summit will cover necessary precautions for ensuring cyber safety."

The upcoming summit will feature panel discussions with experts from various industries, including film and technology, and is open to the public for education and engagement. Shalini, a homemaker and a victim of a cyber scam, shared her experience with The Pioneer: "I received a fraudulent call on my landline claiming to be from BSNL, saying I needed to pay Rs 25,000 to collect a five lakh insurance amount. I believed it was genuine due to my recent family circumstances. After consulting with relatives, I discovered there was no insurance, confirming it was a scam."

## BEST VOTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

### EC invites nominations from media

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

District Election Officer and GHMC Commissioner Ilambarti announced that the Election Commission of India has invited nominations for the 2024 Best Voter Awareness Campaign Award, aimed at recognising the most impactful efforts to raise voter awareness and encourage voter participation in democracy.

These awards will be presented in four categories: Print Media, Television, Radio, and Online and Social

Media. Commissioner Ilambarti emphasised that the awards aim to acknowledge media organisations that have excelled in promoting voter rights awareness and election technology.

The awards will be presented on National Voters' Day, January 25, 2025.

Entries will be evaluated based on campaign quality, accuracy, public knowledge impact, dissemination of correct information, and any special articles or discussions. Participating media houses must submit a sum-

mary of their campaign, along with authentic copies of published or broadcasted news and other promotional activities. Submissions must reach Rajesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary (Communication), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001, by December 10, 2024. Nominations may also be sent via email to media-division@eci.gov.in, with English translations attached if the content is in any other language.

## Govt teacher donates wife's body to hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A government teacher dedicates his wife's dead body to a private medical college in Sangareddy for research and study purposes for medical students.

S Chandraiah, Social Study teacher at Government Boys' High School at Hathnoor Mandal of Sangareddy district reads about donating people dead bodies after death to medical students and has interacted with few students studying Medicine on how difficult it is for them to find bodies and mostly they get from Sri Lanka.

This encouraged him that if a body can be useful for students after death that is a great cause.

Working for All India Samata Sainik Dal (SSD) he began creating awareness on donating the bodies.

Speaking with The Pioneer Chandraiah said "In recent weeks I fell sick and was admitted in a private hospital but my wife who was in good health felt worried about husband and with only fever symptoms she slept and did not wake up the next day."

According to his teaching he donated her body to MNR private hospital for student studying and research.



## DUMPING CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS IN PUBLIC SPACES HYDRAA intensifies action against builders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

HYDRAA, marked its hundredth day on Sunday, continuing its mission to protect the city's lakes, canals, footpaths, and government lands from encroachment. Formed with the goal of enhancing urban living standards, HYDRAA expressed gratitude for the media's support in its efforts to rejuvenate Hyderabad's water bodies.

However, HYDRAA's Commissioner AV Ranganath recently announced that misleading information from certain media outlets and social media influencers is undermining the government's objectives. The commissioner has clarified that HYDRAA only demolishes unauthorised constructions that violate public land and waterbody boundaries and does not target buildings with valid government permits.

HYDRAA's actions focus on removing unauthorised structures that encroach upon lakes and lands using falsified survey information to obtain permissions. When a struc-

ture is demolished, the responsibility for clearing the debris lies with the builder. Failure to do so results in HYDRAA taking legal action against the concerned individuals. Notices have already been issued to several builders, with some complying by clearing their debris, while others have neglected their responsibilities.

In some cases, builders have removed valuable materials from the sites but left the construction debris, neglecting their duty to restore the land to its original condition. The HYDRAA has taken a firm stance on this practice, emphasizing that builders are accountable for the complete cleanup of the sites post-demolition.

For instance, in the case of Errakunta Lake within the Nizampet municipality, false information was used to show incorrect survey numbers as private land (survey number 134), leading to the unauthorised construction of three five-storey buildings within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) area on survey num-

bers 48 and 49. HYDRAA demolished these structures on August 14, and the irrigation department subsequently filed a case against builder Sudhakar Reddy at the Budhupally Police Station (FIR 811/2024, dated August 20). HYDRAA also issued notices to the builder, demanding the removal of the debris.

In cases where builders abandon construction waste, HYDRAA has initiated a tender process to clear the debris and remove any remaining metal structures from the demolished sites. Proceeds from the sale of the recovered materials are deducted from the overall cleanup costs, which the responsible builders must pay.

HYDRAA is committed to addressing the city's traffic and flood challenges, especially in vulnerable areas. Its ongoing actions include on-ground inspections and taking necessary steps to prevent future flood risks, aiming to ensure safer and more sustainable urban spaces for Hyderabad's residents.

## City Police Commissioner Anand flags off 'Pink Defender' Walkathon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Emphasising that breast cancer affects not just women but their entire families, said City Police Commissioner CV Anand. He flagged off the 'Pink Defender' Walkathon organised by Apollo Cancer Centre at KBR Park on Saturday.

Addressing the Walkathon, Anand highlighted the crucial role men can play in promoting breast health. He stressed the need to support self-breast examinations and early detection for better treatment outcomes. "Initiatives like #TalkPink and #PinkDefenderWalkathon help break the silence and rally behind our loved ones," he said, stressing the importance of collective responsibility in



City Police Commissioner CV Anand flagging off the 'Pink Defender' Walkathon in Hyderabad Saturday.

healthcare.

The event aimed to highlight men's critical role in supporting the fight against breast cancer, advocating for early detec-

tion, and encouraging conversations around breast health. This Walkathon was part of ACC's larger #TalkPink campaign, designed to raise

awareness and break the stigma surrounding breast cancer.

The campaign seeks to ignite meaningful discussions across families, workplaces, and communities, challenging the silence and stigma surrounding breast cancer. By creating collaboration between men and women, the initiative aims for a future where breast cancer claims no lives.

Meanwhile, Dr Vijay Anand Reddy, Director of Apollo Cancer Centre, Hyderabad, said, Breast cancer is a leading cause of death among women, so raising awareness and promoting early screening are crucial; we are proud to organize events like the #PinkDefenderWalkathon to advocate for women and ensure this message reaches every household.

## State-level consultation on rights of sex workers held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's Legal Services Authority and NGO SAATHI organised a State-level consultation on the rights of sex workers, COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) CBO Strengthening, and Legal Literacy on Saturday at MCRHRDI at Jubilee Hills.

The event was inaugurated by Justice Sujoy Paul, High Court judge, and Telangana, and Executive Chairman, Telangana State Legal Services Authority.

The consultation aimed to discuss: The Supreme Court judgment on May 19, 2022, in Budhadev Karmaskar vs. State of West Bengal regarding the rights of sex workers.

The role of judiciary and law enforcement in



High Court judge Justice Sujoy Paul at Telangana Legal Services Authority meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday

showing that sex workers are also members of society.

Meanwhile, Member Secretary of the Legal Services Authority, Ch Panchakshari highlighted the rights and services available to sex workers and encouraged them to seek a dignified life and necessary support.

upholding the judgment and the government obligations to protect and rehabilitate sex workers was discussed.

Justice Sujoy Paul emphasised that sex workers deserve equal rights and should not face discrimination. He shared a story about Lord Gautama Buddha accepting an invitation from Amrapali, a sex worker,

## A RARE HONOUR FOR POETS FROM ONE OF THEIR KIND

Ahead of the conferment of Rottamakurevu Kavitva Awards this year, it is time to revisit the accomplishments of poet Yakoob, who is the moving spirit behind these honours for men of letters.

Yakoob, a well-known name in the world of Telugu literature, is a poet, researcher, writer and singer by choice and a retired Telugu professor. Born in a remote village, Rottamakurevu in Khammam district, Yakoob gave expression to his anguish, angst, frustration, feelings and emotions through the medium of poetry and became popular on the Telugu literary scene. Yakoob's first anthology, Pravahinche gnaapakam published in 1992, earned widespread accolades and has already gone through two reprints. His next collection of

poems, Sarihaddu rekha, comprising more than a 100 poems, was published in 2002. In the year 2009, the publication of Yakoob's next anthology, Yedategani prayaanam, marked another milestone in his literary career.

Yakoob's early poems were translated into English and published under

As the founder of Kavisangamam and Rottamakurevu Poetrystspace Foundation (RRPF), Yakoob has been honouring poets with three awards since 2014 every year under the name Rottamakurevu Kavitva Awards, named after his native village and his own passion. One award is named

Ravindra Bharati Conference Hall on October 27 at 6 pm.

## BHIMANNA PURASKAR AWARDED TO PARVATHESAM

Prominent litterateur, broadcaster and public figure Voleti Parvathesam was honoured with the title Bhimanna Puraskar to mark the 114th birth anniversary of the great poet Padma Bhushan Dr Boyi Bhimanna under the aegis of Bhimanna Sahiti Nidhi and Kalanilayam at Tyagaraya Ganasabha on October 24. It is another feather in the poetic cap of Parvathesam.

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



the title Arc of Unrest in the year 2000. He has edited 12 books and has seven books to his credit, of which three are anthologies of his verses, while the others fall under the domain of literary criticism. Yakoob's poems have been translated into Hindi, English, Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada. He has been the recipient of several awards and honours over the years.

after his father Shaik Mohammad Mia, the second one after KL Narasimha Rao, who he says has given him a direction in life and the third one after his father-in-law Puritipati Ramireddy. This year the awards will be conferred on poets Enugu Narasimha Reddy, Aruna Naradabhatla, Thanda Harish Goud and Landa Sambamurthy. The award function is scheduled at





## Anganwadi centers in Jangaon to get facelift

PNS ■ JANAGOAN

Efforts to give facelift to Anganwadi Centres in Jangaon district are gaining momentum. The officials are implementing special measures to enhance the appearance of these centres, allocating Rs 1 lakh to each facility. This initiative aims to transform the Anganwadi Centres into pre-primary schools.

The district has a total of 695 Anganwadi Centres, with 23,456 children enrolled—9,806 of whom are aged 3 to 6 years, while 13,816 are between seven months and three years old. Currently, 223 of these centres operate from their own buildings,

with the remainder situated in rented or free accommodations.

The development plan focuses on the 223 Anganwadi Centres that have their own premises. Each centre will receive Rs 1 lakh for improvements, with allocations of Rs 40,000 for painting, Rs 36,000 for toilet construction, and Rs 17,000 for drinking water facilities.

In the first phase, 33 centres have been selected for this enhancement project. Wall painting, featuring vibrant images, has already been completed, while work on installing drinking water and toilet facilities is ongoing. After the initial phase is completed, more centres will be identified

for further development based on instructions from senior authorities.

The renovations are being carried out under the supervision of the Panchayat Raj Department, with furniture supplies being managed by the directorate, as confirmed by District Welfare Officer Florence. She stated that the goal is to provide a comprehensive upgrade to the first 33 centres and ensure they receive a modern, corporate look.

Efforts are under way to provide drinking water and toilets in them. The 223 Anganwadi Centres having their own buildings would be lent the corporate look, she said without mincing words.



Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan with party's Telangana State unit president Kommineni Vikas in New Delhi

## Chirag Paswan stresses need for LJP's expansion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chirag Paswan, the national president of Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP), emphasised the need for continuous efforts to expand the party for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities across the country. He made these remarks during a meeting with LJP Telangana State unit president Kommineni Vikas in New Delhi.

During the meeting, they decided to strengthen the party adequately to contest in the upcoming local body elections in the State. Paswan assured Vikas that he would work towards providing opportunities for party workers and leaders in the government.

They discussed the efforts needed to politically empower Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities in the southern states and ensure they receive their fair share of representation. Paswan suggested integrating SCs, STs, and minorities in Telangana and establishing party committees at the grassroots.

Vikas briefed him about the party's structure and upcoming programmes in Telangana and mentioned plans to organise a state-level workers' conference soon. The two leaders engaged in a comprehensive discussion about southern politics for nearly an hour, with Paswan expressing satisfaction regarding the party's expansion efforts in Telangana.



Police, students and college staff at anti-drug campaign at Vivekananda Degree College in Chevella on Saturday

## Students cautioned against falling prey to drugs



Police, students and college staff at anti-drug campaign at Vivekananda Degree College in Chevella on Saturday

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

An anti-drug awareness programme was held at Vivekananda Junior and Degree College in Chevella, aimed at educating students about the dangers of drug abuse and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Organised under the leadership of College Principal C Jaipal Reddy and Chevella Circle Inspector Bhupal Sridhar, the programme featured Hyderabad Narcotics Deputy Superintendent of Police Harish Chandra Reddy as the chief guest.

Addressing the students, Harish Chandra Reddy emphasised the importance of avoiding harmful habits that

could damage their futures. He cautioned students against falling into drug use, stressing that addiction can take hold quickly and derail their lives. "Youth are the future of our society," he remarked, "and it is crucial for them to uphold strong values and contribute positively to the nation."

In addition, students were briefed on safe driving practices, including the importance of following traffic rules and avoiding driving without a license. DSP Reddy concluded by calling on students and the public to support police efforts in promoting community well-being, emphasizing that a healthy society begins with a healthy family.

## Dead insect found in beer bottle

PNS ■ VIKARABAD

A man who just wanted to enjoy a cold beer had a bitter experience. Before opening the beer bottle, he decided to take a look inside the bottle, only to find something shocking. His mind went blank when he discovered insect remnants in the beer. He recorded a video of the insect and posted it on social media, which has now gone viral. So, where did this incident happen?



Upon returning home to drink, one of them noticed something unusual in the beer bottle. Curious, he looked inside and found a dead insect. The sight of the insect remnants in the beer bottle shocked both of them.

When they pointed out the issue to the wine shop owner, he tried to evade responsibility, claiming that the insect must have come from the company and that they were not at fault. This only increased Lakshminath Reddy's

Some drink regularly, and whenever friends or relatives gather, they tend to have a drinking session. In this case, two individuals decided to throw a drinking party. They went to a nearby wine shop and purchased alcohol and beers worth around Rs 4,000.

anger, leading him to record a video of the beer bottle containing the insect and post it online. Now that the video has gone viral, netizens are expressing their outrage. After watching this video, many are feeling apprehensive about consuming alcohol.

## A string of thefts sparks panic among people

PNS ■ NIRMAL

A string of thefts in the district is triggering panic in the district. Chain snatchings and burglaries in temples and shops are reported day in and day out. The people are accusing the police of turning a blind eye to the incidents of burglaries and chain snatching. Valuable items were stolen from a shop behind the Chitaly bus stand. The sale of banned gutka continues unabated. There seems to be no progress in the investigation into the incidents of burglaries despite the police registering cases, it is said.

A string of chain thefts and temple burglaries continues in the district for

several months. In areas like Bhainsa, Vanalpad, and Nirmal, chain snatching has been reported over the past three months. People expressed their frustration as there was no progress in the investigation or arrest of the culprits. In the past, there was an incident in Nirmal town where a woman was caught stealing a chain. Residents detained her and handed her over to the police. The police then issued press releases claiming, "We caught her," yet in reality, they had not been able to apprehend the actual thieves.

People, especially women, are afraid to walk alone on the streets. Moreover, recent thefts at major temples in the district remain unsolved.

## Cybercriminal makes 'nude call' to official

PNS ■ JANGAON

The cybercriminals are not sparing anyone, right from elected people's representatives, common man and government officials.

In a latest development, a woman called up a Collectorate official on Friday through video call. Later, she disrobed herself. Immediately afterwards, cybercriminals started blackmailing him demanding payment of Rs 35,000. As the video call has been turning into a nude call, the officials immediately cut off the call.

A cybercriminal, claiming himself to be a cybercrime police official, in his follow-up call threatened him that his voice was recorded and it was uploaded into YouTube and demanded the officials to pay him Rs 35,000.

As his colleagues cautioned him, the official cut off the phone call. The official lodged a complaint with the local police.

## Funeral of Padma Shri awardee Kanaka Raju held with State honours

PNS ■ KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD

The funeral of Padma Shri awardee and Gussadi dance maestro Kanaka Raju was held with State honours in Marlavai village under Jainoor mandal on Saturday.

MLAs Vedma Boju and Kova Lakshmi, along with Collector Venkatesh Dotre and Superintendent of Police DV Srinivas Rao, paid their respects by placing wreaths.

Police fired four rounds in the air as a mark of respect for the departed soul. Many tribal people attended the ceremony, sharing heartfelt memories of the Gussadi dance master.

Kanaka Raju, who passed away due to illness at the age of 83, is survived by his wife, eight daughters, and four sons. He was honoured with the Padma Shri, the

country's fourth-highest civilian award in 2021 for his exceptional contributions to Gussadi, a traditional dance form.

Former Chief Minister K Chandrababbarao recognized his work with a financial award of Rs 1 crore.

Beginning his journey in Gussadi dance at just eight

years old, Kanaka Raju dedicated himself to teaching the art to eager learners and served as the chief dance master at the School of Gussadi in Adilabad.

He captured the nation's imagination when he performed in front of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1982.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

TENDER NOTICE NIT No.14/ECC-2/UP/LGH/MC/2024-25 Dt: 26.10.2024

Name of the Work: For 1 Work "Engaging of JCB and labour for clearing of Hindu Graveyard at PAT Colony, Street No. 1, Habsguda in Ward No. 8-Habsguda, Uppal Circle-2, GHMC." Estimate Amount: Rs. 0.85 Lakhs, Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 28-10-2024 @ 12:00 PM, Name & Address Officer: V. Harial, Executive Engineer, Uppal Div.2, GHMC. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer Circle-2, Uppal, GHMC. R.O.No: 583-PP/C/L-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt: 26-10-2024

**HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Amrampet, Hyderabad-500038.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

No.094372BPH/MDA/RO/AGH/1/2024

It is to inform that, M/s. Madhava Brinivasa Builders have filed an application for Addition/Alteration to Building Permission approved vide File No.010882BPH/MDA/2244/GH/2022 on Plot Nos. 78 & 79 in Sy.No.420 situated at Ramplaly(V), Keerasara(M), Medchal- Malkajgiri District to an extent of 446.09 Sq. Mtrs. for internal charges.

Therefore, the Plot owners / Purchasers / Agreement holders of approved Building Permission on Plot Nos. 78 & 79 in Sy.No.420 situated at Ramplaly(V), Keerasara(M), Medchal- Malkajgiri District to an extent of 446.09 Sq. Mtrs. may file their objections/suggestions in writing if any within (15) days to this office from the date of Publication of this notice with regard to the changes made to earlier approved Building Permission. If no objections / suggestions are received within the stipulated period, the request of the applicant for approval of Revision of approved Building Permission on Plot Nos. 78 & 79 in Sy.No.420 situated at Ramplaly(V), Keerasara(M), Medchal- Malkajgiri District to an extent of 446.09 Sq. Mtrs. will be considered based on the material papers available with this office.

For Metropolitan Commissioner: Director-(Planning), HMDA. D.P.R. R.O. No.: 583-PP/C/L-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**QUOTATION NOTICE**

Lr. No. 48/DD/SLP/2024-25 Dt: 26.10.2024

Sealed quotations are invited for the supply of the following plants for Development of various greenery works in Sarilingampally Zone, GHMC which are to be received from 26.10.2024 16.30AM to 01.11.2024 by 01.00 PM in the Office of the Dy. Director, Urban Biodiversity Wing, Sarilingampally Zone, GHMC. The Bid opening will be on 01.11.2024 at 02.00 PM.

Sr.	Name of the plant with bag size	Rate per
1	Darshilabam 15'x13' bag size	
2	Syzygium 13'x13' bag size	
3	Phoenix 13'x13'	
4	Onoclea Malabarica 13'x13'	
5	Song of India 13'x13'	
6	Raphe palm 13'x13'	
7	Heritiera peltata, Nandivarthanas, Gulstheera, Red Iron, Newlans red & white, Annona lasa, Mandarans, Tecoma gaudichowii red, orange and pink, Jatropha red, Onoclea Malabarica Colours red and white 8'x10' bag size	
8	Munaya paniculata, Euphorbia millo, Yellow Desmodium, Vico rosea, Rangona creeper, Orange Rangona creeper, Pink Almonds creeper, Yellow Almonds creeper, Pink rose 8'x10' bag size	
9	China focus multi-headed balla topology 25x25 bag size	
10	Phodina 21x21 bag size	
11	Ancora palms 15x15 bag size	
12	Heliconia lady diana 13x13 bag size	
13	Golden Bamboo 13x13 bag size	
14	Shelera alata 13x13 bag size	
15	Tecoma capensis new that variety (Red Pink yellow) 8x10 bag size	
16	Angelica 8x10 bag size	
17	Kaestneria 8x10 bag size	
18	Plumbago 8x10 bag size	
19	Thunbergia ereda 8x10 bag size	
20	Nicotiana 8x10 bag size	
21	Inamra, Eranthis-gold 8x10 bag size	
22	Pendens, Spierilly 8x10 bag size	
23	Clusia grass, Ocimum rubra 8x10 bag size	
24	Clusia rosea 21x21 bag size	
25	Hibiscus siliques 21x21 bag size	

R.O.No: 094372BPH/MDA/RO/AGH/1/2024-25, Dt: 26-10-2024

Sd/- Director, Urban Biodiversity Wing, GHMC

## Custard apple farming a lucrative option for farmers

PNS ■ MEDAK

In Medak district during the monsoon season, rural labourers collect custard apples from the forest and fields to sell to traders, thus earning a livelihood. Custard apples are gathered not only from Ramayampet and Nizampet mandals in Medak district but also from Kamareddy district. These fruits are carefully transported to Nizampet mandal for sale to traders. Some of the custard apples bought from labourers are then sent to Maharashtra. Farmers mention that as soon as the season arrives, they go to the fields early in the morning to collect the fruits from the trees. Traders buy each bundle for prices ranging from Rs 400 to Rs 600, providing good employment for the labourers during the rainy season.



Available abundantly during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in the rainy season, custard apples are packed with nutritional value. They are called nutrient-rich due to their content of vitamins and minerals. Experts highlight the presence of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, iron, potassium, and magnesium in abundance.

Apart from the fruit, the leaves, bark, and other parts of the tree are also used for medicinal purposes.

Meanwhile, in Siddipet district, Singireddy Kishoreddy, a farmer from Paaturu village in Gajwel constituency, is cultivating a custard apple orchard on his five acres of agricultural land in Srigiripalli. Krishna Reddy states that cus-

tard apple cultivation is a profitable venture, yielding two harvests per year, and there is no fear of labour shortages. He also mentions that while cultivating the crop, intercropping with vegetables like tomatoes and beans can be done. He explains that this crop yields twice a year and requires water primarily in the initial two years. Custard apples have numerous nutritional benefits, and there is good demand for them in the market. This crop provides not only good opportunities for farmers but also for small traders, offering a delicious and healthy option for consumers.

Custard apple cultivation requires minimal investment, making it suitable for farmers with limited resources. The crop can be harvested within five years of planting. Custard apples can be considered the "apple of the poor."

If farmers cultivate this crop, traders would come directly to purchase from their fields, and no special permissions from forest officials are needed, highlighting its profitability for farmers and strong market demand, according to farmers.

An anti-drug awareness programme was held at Vivekananda Junior and Degree College in Chevella, aimed at educating students about the dangers of drug abuse and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Organised under the leadership of College Principal C Jaipal Reddy and Chevella Circle Inspector Bhupal Sridhar, the programme featured Hyderabad Narcotics Deputy Superintendent of Police Harish Chandra Reddy as the chief guest.

Addressing the students, Harish Chandra Reddy emphasised the importance of avoiding harmful habits that

could damage their futures. He cautioned students against falling into drug use, stressing that addiction can take hold quickly and derail their lives. "Youth are the future of our society," he remarked, "and it is crucial for them to uphold strong values and contribute positively to the nation."

In addition, students were briefed on safe driving practices, including the importance of following traffic rules and avoiding driving without a license. DSP Reddy concluded by calling on students and the public to support police efforts in promoting community well-being, emphasizing that a healthy society begins with a healthy family.

## 30 monkey carcasses found near Vemulawada

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Nearly 30 monkeys were found dead in Rajanna Sircilla district of Telangana, police said on Saturday.

The 30 carcasses were found on the outskirts of Nampalli village under Vemulawada Police limits on Friday and they were shifted to a veterinary hospital for post-mortem, a police official said.

The reason for the death of monkeys would be known after the post-mortem report is received, he said, adding that CCTV footage in the area is being verified to ascertain the facts of the tragedy.

A case under relevant sections of BNS was registered.



Congress MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy and party leaders participating in Musri river awareness campaign at Pillaiaipally on Saturday

## Musri awareness campaign launched

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI DISTRICT

The Congress leaders on Saturday participated in an awareness programme in Pillaiaipally, focusing on the Musri River's rejuvenation. The awareness journey began from Bhudan Pochampally to Makta, with farmers, women, and activists participating together. Lok Sabha member Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy, local MLA K Anil Kumar Reddy, and Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresh participated in the rally over the Musri Bridge.

During the event, Kiran Kumar Reddy said that former chief minister K Chandrababbarao had allegedly ordered the construction of Kaleshwaram project without proper DPRs, leading the state into debt. He mentioned that the government aimed to revitalise the Musri River through a public-private partnership, planning to construct shopping malls along both banks of the river.

He criticised opposition parties for spreading misinformation on social media, claiming they are exploiting the people's suffering for

political gain. The government is committed to addressing the sewage problems affecting residents along the Musri River and promised to provide double-bedroom houses to those living in unhygienic conditions.

He noted that Central Ministers like Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay seemed to be using political rhetoric in Delhi rather than addressing local issues.

He expressed hope that with the Musri River's revitalisation, Hyderabad could transform into a city like Seoul.

## 'Encourage oil palm cultivation'

PNS ■ SIDDIPEET

District Collector Manu Chaudhary on Saturday Directed Agriculture and Horticulture officials to focus on encouraging farmers to cultivate oil palm. He emphasised the importance of identifying potential oil palm farmers and overseeing key aspects such as planting saplings, managing fertilisers and pests, raising intercrops,

and harvesting fruits. At a review meeting with officials, the Collector urged officials to educate farmers about oil palm cultivation, subsidies the government is offering, and incentives from the district rural development agency. He stressed the need for officials to address any challenges in oil palm farming.

Manu Chaudhary called for a coordinated approach, encouraging officials to pre-

pare a schedule for outreach to farmers and to hold awareness programs at Rytu Vedikas every month. He instructed them to collaborate with mandal-level counterparts and organise meetings with district officials across all districts.

He highlighted the goal of making Telangana a sought-after destination for farmers interested in oil palm cultivation.

He warned that stern action would be taken against any officials neglecting their duties and requested monthly progress reports on intercrops in oil palm gardens.

District Rural Development Official Jayadev Arya, District Agriculture Official Radhika, Horticulture Official Suvarna, Agricultural Scientist Subba Rao, and other mandal-level officials were present.



ACROSS THE STATES



Ten hotels in Rajkot receive bomb threats

At least ten hotels in Gujarat's Rajkot city received bomb threat emails on Saturday, which turned out to be a hoax, police said. The hotels received emails around 12.45 pm, prompting the police to search these premises thoroughly with the bomb disposal squad (BDS), said police inspector SM Jadeja of the Special Operations Group (SOG). He said the sender of the threat email, identifying himself as Kan Den, claimed that he had planted bombs in 10 hotels, and they would go off in a few hours. "However, nothing suspicious was found after a search operation that lasted nearly five hours," Jadeja said. The search concluded around 6 pm, he said, adding that a probe is underway to trace the sender. I placed bombs in every location of your hotel. The bombs will go off in a few hours. Many innocent lives will be lost today. Hurry up and evacuate the hotel," the email stated.



Clerk booked for siphoning off Rs 1.3 crore in Thane

Police have booked a 50-year-old woman for allegedly embezzling about Rs 1.3 crore from a credit cooperative society in Thane, an official said on Saturday. The woman, who worked as the chief clerk at 'Lokmata Savitribai Phule Mahila Path Sanstha', allegedly siphoned off the money between 2016 and 2019, the official said citing the FIR. Police have not identified the woman. She is accused of manipulating the credit society's records, creating fake entries and facilitating loans in her and her relatives' names with bogus documents, causing the organisation a loss of about Rs 1.3 crore, said the official from Kalwa police station. The funds were then reportedly diverted for her personal use, he added.



Gujarat man held for giving sensitive info to Pak spy

The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad arrested a Porbandar resident for allegedly sharing sensitive information about Indian Coast Guard vessels to a Pakistani agent posing as a Mumbai-based woman, an official said on Saturday. Accused Pankaj Kotiya was lured by the Pakistani agent, who using the alias 'Riya', to share information about ICG vessels and its jetty at Porbandar. ATS Superintendent of Police K Siddharth said, Kotiya, a casual labourer at the jetty, came in contact with 'Riya' on Facebook eight months ago and had been in touch since, he said. 'Riya' told Kotiya she worked with the Indian Navy and was based in Mumbai, the official added. The Whatsapp number on which he shared sensitive information about location and other details of ICG ships and the jetty has been traced to Pakistan, the SP said. Over the past eight months, Kotiya was paid Rs 26,000 in instalments through UPI for such information, Siddharth said. Kotiya and 'Riya' have been charged under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections for waging war against the government of India as well as criminal conspiracy, the ATS said.

'10 years' jail very less ..

Continued from page 1  
government is reviewing both HYDRAA and the Musi Project. There would be action without doing injustice to the poor and the middle class," he said.  
The government will spare houses which have permission. However, some have come forward voluntarily to vacate their houses in the Musi area, he said.  
Mahesh said that the HYDRAA demolitions and the Musi Project would not have any effect on Congress's prospects in the GHMC elections.  
Responding to the Konda Surekha issue, he said that Surekha should not have mentioned names during her criticism. It is not proper for her to speak like that. However, Surekha spoke like that as the BRS had leaked her old video and had trolled her, Mahesh added.



EAM hails military and diplomacy for India-China pact

PNS ■ PUNE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday credited the breakthrough agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control to the military which worked in "very very unimaginable" conditions and deft diplomacy.  
Responding to a question during an interaction with students in Pune, Jaishankar said it is still a bit early for normalisation of relations which will naturally take time to rebuild a degree of trust and willingness to work together.  
He said that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Xi Jinping at Kazan in Russia for the BRICS sum-

mit, it was decided that the foreign ministers and National Security Advisors of the two countries would meet and see

**If today we have reached where we have... One is because of the very determined effort on our part to stand our ground and make our point**

how to move forward. "If today we have reached where we have...One is because

of the very determined effort on our part to stand our ground and make our point. The military was there (at LAC) in very very unimaginable conditions to defend the country, and the military did its part and diplomacy did its part," Jaishankar said.  
Over the decade, India improved its infrastructure. Part of the problem is that in the earlier years, the border infrastructure was really neglected, he added.  
"Today we have put in five times more resources annually than there used to be a decade ago which is showing results and enabling the military to actually be effectively deployed. The combination of these (factors) has led to where it is," he said.

Borders should not be changed by force: German Chancellor

PNS ■ PANAJI

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday said borders should not be changed by "war or force", and Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses the biggest threat to international peace today as "it is about changing borders".  
Inviolability of national borders is the basis for peace, he said, interacting with the students of Birla Institute of Technology And Science (BITS) Pilani at Vasco during a visit to Goa during which he also visited the German Naval ship FGS Baden-Wuerttemberg docked at Mormugao Port.  
The chancellor, on a three-day visit to India, referred to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war while replying to a question.  
"Coming back to the crisis and conflicts that we are seeing, the biggest threat that is today happening to international security and peace is the



war for aggression that Russia started against Ukraine.  
"This is because of one single aspect of this attack," he said, adding, "It is about changing borders. And the agreement that we had in the United Nations and in many other regional agreements on peace and security, for instance also for Europe, is that never borders should be changed by war and force, again."  
"This is the basis for peace,

if you are a small country," Scholz said.  
The German Chancellor recalled that a Kenyan ambassador to the United Nations once said in the Security Council that the borders of African countries were drawn by officials of colonial powers, and "if we would all try to find the right border and are going to war, we will have hundred years of war in Africa".

India needs revolutionary growth to become developed economy: ISRO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India must undergo a revolutionary transformation to rise as a developed economy, said ISRO Chairman S. Somanathan, stressing the importance of technological advancements and product development to drive economic growth.  
He also praised tech mogul Elon Musk for his innovative



work in the space sector, noting that Musk's achievements have inspired global efforts, including those within ISRO. Somanathan made these

remarks while addressing students at the 13th convocation ceremony of the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Delhi here on Saturday.  
If India aspires to become the third, second, or even the first-largest global economy, a revolutionary change is needed. Growth will not be driven by trade and resources alone.

Inequities have no place in a society ruled by dharma: Dhankhar

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said dharma is the most fundamental concept of Indian culture, guiding all aspects of life and that inequities have no place in a society governed by dharma.  
Dharam represents both the path, the passage as also the destination and the goal, applying to all spheres of existence including divine beings and serves as a practical rather than utopian ideal for righteous living, he said.  
"Sanatana stands for empathy, sympathy, compassion, tolerance, non-violence, virtuosity, sublimity, religiosity and all these converge in one word,



inclusivity," he added.  
Addressing the gathering at the 'Namah Shivaya' Parayan organised by Sringeri Sri Sharada Peetham as part of their Suvarna Bharati Mahotsava here, Dhankhar described "Mantra

Cosmopolis" as a rare and spectacular event that resonates deeply, engaging the mind, heart, and soul, with everyone in harmony.  
He emphasised that Vedic chanting, one of humanity's most ancient and continuous

oral traditions, serves as a living link to our ancestor's profound spiritual wisdom. The precise rhythms, intonations, and vibrations of these sacred mantras create a powerful resonance that brings mental peace and environmental harmony.  
"The systematic structure of Vedic verses and the intricate recitation rules reflect the scientific sophistication of ancient scholars. This tradition, preserved without written records, demonstrates the remarkable capacity of Indian culture to transmit knowledge orally across generations, with each syllable meticulously articulated in mathematical harmony," he stated.

AAP alleges 'conspiracy' to kill Kejriwal

Says BJP will be responsible if anything happens to him

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday alleged a "deep conspiracy" to eliminate its convenor Arvind Kejriwal and warned that the BJP will be responsible if anything happens to him.  
AAP leaders on Friday claimed Kejriwal was attacked by "BJP goons" during his 'padyatra' campaign in west Delhi's Vikaspuri.  
In a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh charged, "Police complicity in the incident clearly shows a deep conspiracy to kill Kejriwal. The BJP has become an enemy of his life."  
No immediate reaction was available from the police or the



BJP over Singh's allegations.  
The AAP leader, however, said that despite the Vikaspuri incident, Kejriwal will continue to undertake 'padyatra' campaign as per the schedule.  
When asked why the AAP has not filed any complaint in the incident, Singh said that the incident wouldn't have happened if the police were "impartial" and its officers did not do anything to stop the group of attackers who, he said, belonged to the BJP's youth wing.

BRS social media attacks..

Continued from page 1

Surekha's counter against the BRS's social media trolling went to court. The court criticised Surekha's criticism and asked her to stop criticising BRS Working President KTR. The court has not responded to the criminal defamation petition of film actor Akkineni Nagarjuna against Surekha.  
The BRS social media wing is making Congress leaders respond to their posts instead of the criticism of BRS leaders.  
One Congress leader said the Congress social media team is unable to match the BRS's social media wing. "I don't know whether it is because the party is in power or due to some other reason," he said.  
However, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said on Thursday that the Congress social media team is working democratically unlike the BRS's social media wing.  
He also said the BRS is running its social media handle from Dubai and Singapore and so the police could not

catch them.  
The latest victim of the BRS's social media attack is TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy. The BRS social media said that Jagga Reddy had verbally attacked Sangareddy Collector Valluru Kranthi.  
However, Jagga Reddy told the media that he did not criticise the current Collector but had pulled up the former Collector who was a man.  
He angrily asked BRS leaders KTR and Harish Rao to run their social media handles from Hyderabad if they had the guts instead of running them from foreign countries.  
Jagga Reddy issued a statement on Saturday that he will pay flight charges if anyone can bring the BRS's social media warriors to India from abroad. He also warned that he will issue legal notices if anyone posts lies on social media. The BRS social media team has succeeded in hounding Congress leaders and Congress leaders are now choking on the trolls posted by the BRS on social media.

Floods estimation..

Continued from page 1

During the hearing, Sudhakar Reddy disclosed that the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the barrages had been awarded to WAPCOS on nomination basis.  
He admitted that substantial documents about the Medigadda Barrage had been submitted without adequate inspection, a point that raised concerns among commission members.  
He also confirmed that funds were allocated as per DPR guidelines, particularly for cofferdam construction. In response to the commission's questions on design consultations, Sudhakar said that L&T was consulted during the finalization of the Medigadda barrage design. This consultation, he explained, was part of the process to ensure the project's structural soundness.  
He also revealed that Kaleswaram Corporation, the body responsible for the project's execution, currently lacks a steady income stream, which has impacted its financial sustainability.

BJP accuses Priyanka of not disclosing full info about her, Vadra's assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of "non-disclosure of essential information" regarding her and her husband Robert Vadra's assets in her affidavit to contest the Lok Sabha bypoll from Kerala's Wayanad.  
BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that the BJP is in violation of the Supreme Court's directive to poll candidates to make a full disclosure of their, their spouse's

and dependents' assets. "The Supreme Court order is binding on all citizens. The Gandhi family is not above law. There can be only one outcome. If somebody furnishes wrong information in the affidavit, they have no right to contest elections," Bhatia told reporters here. The date for a scrutiny of the nominations by poll officials is October 28 and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been targeting the Congress general secretary over her affidavit in the run-up.



Will demolish unauthorised buildings in Bengaluru: DK

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said the drive to demolish unauthorised and dilapidated buildings was underway in Bengaluru.  
Shivakumar, who holds the Bengaluru development portfolio, said the registration of unauthorised properties will be halted and encroachments will be removed.  
Further, more powers will be given to civic agencies and planning bodies.  
"We have decided to stop unauthorised construction of buildings. The previous government had curtailed the powers of officials to take action against unauthorised construction," the Deputy CM told reporters here.  
"Our government has decided to give powers to BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), BDA (Bangalore Development Authority) and BMRDA (Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority) to stop unauthorised construction. The registration of unauthorised properties will also be stopped. At the same time, we are also focusing on clearing encroachments," he said.

Congress facing ...

Continued from page 1

only to pocket commissions. He questioned the motives behind awarding contracts to companies like Mega Engineering which were condemned earlier by Revanth and to Raghava linked to Minister Ponguleti.  
"When Telangana is witnessing protests across regions from Adilabad to Alampur, Congress ministers are going

on pleasure trips. Only when one faces darkness will one value light," he said. He accused the Congress of focusing solely on personal gain with leaders enriching themselves while Telangana's revenues declined. "Congress leaders seem intent on amassing wealth rather than addressing the state's needs," KTR said. He added that using the Telangana government's helicopter for Congress's election

campaigns in other states is a clear case of abuse of power.  
KTR called upon Kodangal residents to unite and kick out the Congress in the upcoming local elections. Meanwhile, Kodangal's former Congress MPP Dayakar Reddy and the BSP's Assembly candidate Narmada formally joined the BRS along with around 100 other Congress activists hailing from Kodangal at KTR's residence in Hyderabad.

Indiramma houses..

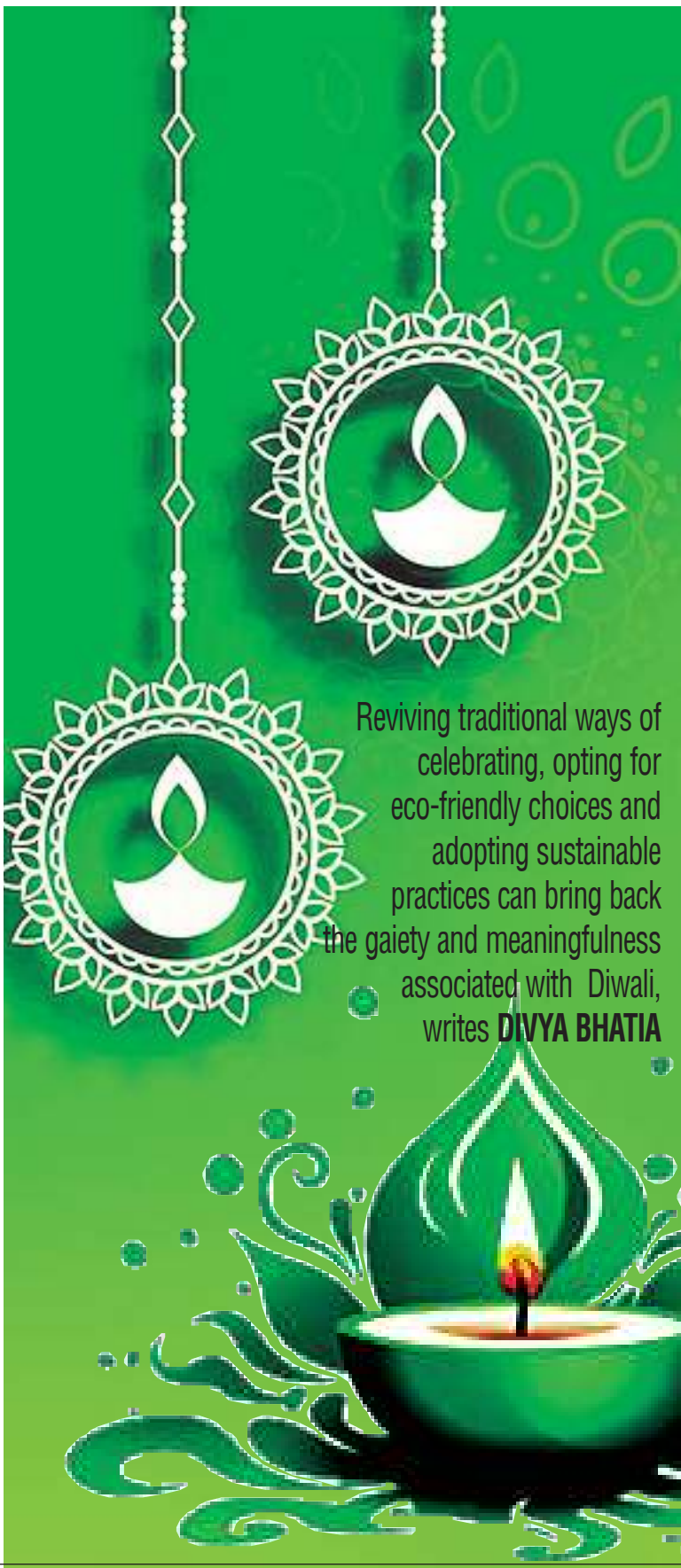
Continued from page 1

This initiative, scheduled for implementation one or two days after Diwali, aims to ensure that housing benefits reach those most in need.  
The Cabinet also announced the release of one Dearness Allowance (DA) instalment for government employees, aimed at offsetting inflation and supporting employees during Diwali.  
The Cabinet addressed pending issues under GO: 317, particularly those concerning spousal transfers, health-related cases and mutual transfers. Other issues of GO: 317 are slated for consideration in the upcoming legislature session with plans to submit unresolved matters including GO: 46 to the Centre for review.  
A key Cabinet decision mandates completing the caste census by November 30, reinforcing the government's commitment to consider caste-based data for

social welfare policies. A substantial proposal was approved for the Hyderabad Metro Rail's second phase. The expansion, spanning 76.4 km and costing Rs 24,269 crore will connect routes like Nagole to Shamshabad, Raidurgam to Kokapet and LB Nagar to Hayath Nagar. This proposal to be executed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, will be submitted to the Centre for approval. The Cabinet also emphasised expanding road connectivity with a Rs 25,000 crore investment to build 16,000 km of new and renewed roads across Telangana. This includes a proposed four-lane highway linking all district headquarters to Hyderabad.  
The project, planned in the erstwhile 10 districts, will involve a dedicated committee of engineers to study and draft detailed project reports based on best practices in force in other states.



WHEN YOU RECOGNISE THE FESTIVE AND THE STILL MOMENTS AS MOMENTS OF PRAYER, THEN YOU GRADUALLY REALISE THAT TO PRAY IS TO LIVE  
— JHENRI NOUWEN



Reviving traditional ways of celebrating, opting for eco-friendly choices and adopting sustainable practices can bring back the gaiety and meaningfulness associated with Diwali, writes **DIVYA BHATIA**

# GO GREEN THIS DIWALI

Diwali, the festival of lights, is one of the most anticipated and cherished celebrations in India. Traditionally, Diwali has been a time for family gatherings, sharing sweets, lighting oil lamps (diyas) and engaging in heartfelt festivities. However, in recent years, the essence of Diwali has been overshadowed by excessive noise, air pollution and a culture of pomp and show. Remember the days when Diwali was celebrated with genuine joy - families dressed in new clothes, shared homemade sweets, and children delighted in simple fireworks like chakris and phuljharis? But today, Diwali has become a commercial spectacle, where promotions overshadow tradition.

## THE NEED FOR HEALTHIER CELEBRATION

During Diwali, health concerns often spike due to increased air pollution, skin allergies and burn injuries, largely from firecrackers and chemical-based rangoli colours. *Dr Vaibhav Kubal*, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine at Holy Family Hospital, notes, "Every year, we see a noticeable increase in hospital admissions, especially due to respiratory issues and firecracker-related injuries." Likewise, *Dr P Venkata Krishnan* from Artemis Hospitals advises that those with respiratory conditions stay indoors during peak pollution hours and use air purifiers. Advocating for animal safety, *Tarunjeet Patten*, an animal welfare advocate, passionately encourages a cracker-free Diwali. "Firecrackers were never part of our tradition and are harmful to both animals and humans," she shares, urging people to comfort pets and welcome stray animals seeking shelter.

## THE DIFFERENCE GREEN CRACKERS CAN MAKE

Green crackers offer a viable alternative to conventional firecrackers. Developed with a reduced chemical composition, these eco-friendly options are designed to produce less smoke, lower noise levels, and minimise harmful emissions. Unlike traditional crackers, which release high levels of pollutants such as carbon dioxide, sulphur oxides, and nitrogen oxides, green crackers contain non-toxic materials that



THE JOY CAME FROM TOGETHERNESS, NOT FIRECRACKERS OR EXTRAVAGANT DISPLAYS. TODAY, MANY SEND WHATSAPP MESSAGES INSTEAD OF VISITING LOVED ONES, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES HAVE REPLACED PERSONAL CONNECTION. REVIVING OLD CUSTOMS LIKE LIGHTING DIYAS TOGETHER AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY CAN RESTORE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF DIWALI

## EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE GIFT-GIVING

Diwali is traditionally marked by gift exchanges as a gesture of goodwill. To help conserve the environment, opting for sustainable, eco-friendly gifts can make a big difference. Instead of plastic-wrapped sweets or mass-produced decorations, choose alternatives like reusable jute bags, handmade products, plantable stationery, bamboo decor, artisanal candles, or potted plants. *Pronay Pasricha*, Brand Head of Pakka Limited suggests opting for gifts that offer genuine value and support the environment, such as reusable cloth bags, stainless steel bottles, or items made from agri-residue. "Choosing sustainable gifts not only reduces waste but also reflects a deeper commitment to the planet," says Pasricha.

## EAT HEALTHY THIS DIWALI

Diwali sweets once captured the festive spirit with a blend of wholesome, homemade ingredients and traditional flavours. Today, however, mass-produced treats often come laden with sugars and unhealthy additives, which can lead to

increased health risks. *Chef Arokiya Doss*, Head Chef at The Malabar Coast, highlights the importance of mindful ingredient choices, saying, "Festive food tempts us with indulgent flavours, but balancing these with wholesome options is entirely possible. Opting for whole grains, legumes, and fresh vegetables adds fibre and reduces calorie density." *Chef Aditi Dixit* from CYK Hospitalities recommends sweets that bring both indulgence and nutrition, like ladoos or halwas made with jaggery, or dates instead of refined sugar. Baked gurias filled with coconut and dry fruits keep the festive spirit alive with less oil, and ragi or millet-based barfis offer fibre and wholesome ingredients.

## TAKE CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Diwali offers the comforting sense that some things remain unchanged. Talking about handling this mental burden, *Jasneet Kaur*, CB-Founder & CEO of Unfazed Therapy Solutions, shared, "While it's natural to miss loved ones, taking time to appreciate what we have can uplift our mood. Finding ways to celebrate meaningfully, even through community activities or volunteering, can restore a sense of purpose."



## A Night of Dandiya and Festive Cheer

This Diwali, Rajasthan Club brought the festive spirit to life with Dandiya Raas: Rhymes of Diwali at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, featuring music, dance and vibrant celebrations.

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Diwali - the festival that brings people together in joy, light and celebration - came alive in the heart of Delhi this year in a spectacular way. A grand cultural program, *Dandiya Raas* (Rhymes of Diwali), was organised by the Rajasthan Club, one of the city's leading social and cultural organisations, at the *Major Dhyan Chand Stadium*, also known as the National Stadium at India Gate. This vibrant event attracted thousands of people, turning the stadium into a lively hub of music, dance and festive cheer. From the moment you entered the stadium, the festive spirit enveloped you. Strings of lights decorated every corner, casting a warm glow that seemed to reflect the happiness in everyone's faces. Families, friends and even complete strangers came together to celebrate the essence of Diwali. The sounds of laughter and conversation filled the air, but it was the music that truly set the mood. As captivating tunes played, with singer and artist *Rahul Vaidya* setting the stage ablaze, people couldn't help but move to the rhythm. The beauty of this event lay in its ability to bring everyone together - no matter where you were from or who you were with, you were part of the same celebration. *Dandiya Raas* is more than just a dance;



it's a cherished tradition. Dressed in colourful ethnic wear, people of all ages twirled and clashed their Dandiya sticks in perfect harmony. There was a certain joy in the simplicity of it all. The bright colours of lehengas and kurtas, the clatter of sticks, and the smiles on people's faces created an atmosphere that was truly unforgettable. It didn't matter if you were an expert or a first-timer; the excitement was infectious, and everyone found themselves joining in the fun.

Beyond the dancing, the stadium was filled with the sights and smells of Diwali. Food stalls, with their tempting aromas of traditional sweets and savoury treats, were a popular spot throughout the night. Whether you were grabbing a plate of *hot jalebis* or a *bowl of spicy chaat*, the food was as much a part of the experience as the dancing. It added to the warmth of the evening, as people shared meals and stories, deepening the sense of community that Diwali always brings. What made this night truly magical was the feeling of unity. Diwali is a festival that symbolises the victory of light over darkness, and this event was a shining example of that. The energy of the crowd, the shared joy of dancing together, and the simple pleasure of being part of something bigger than yourself all came together to create an unforgettable Diwali experience. *Anurag*



*Garg*, the head of the Rajasthan Club, along with General Secretary *Sunil Prakash*, highlighted how the organisation, founded 56 years ago in 1968, has always aimed to carry forward cultural traditions while providing healthy entertainment to the community. As the night went on, the dancing only seemed to grow more lively. With every beat and every twirl, the crowd became more in sync, moving as one in celebration. It was a reminder of the beauty of togetherness and how, in moments like these, the true essence of Diwali shines through. Everyone left the event with full hearts, knowing that this night had captured the true spirit of the festival. This Diwali, Delhi didn't just light up with lamps and fireworks - it lit up with the smiles, laughter and joy of people coming together for a night of unforgettable celebration.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



## Dubai's Real Estate Boosting India's Tourism Industry This Diwali

BY TEAM AGENDA

As Dubai's real estate market reaches new heights, the benefits are spilling over to India's tourism sector. Real estate companies from Dubai are organising major events across various regions in India, leading to significant growth in both the hotel and tourism industries. A notable real estate event was hosted by *Tesla Properties*, a renowned Dubai-based company, at the *Royal Plaza Hotel in Connaught Place, Delhi*. Esteemed developers from Dubai showcased their projects and provided investors with comprehensive information on the advantages of investing in Dubai's real estate, which offers freehold ownership, excellent profitability, and attractive rental returns. Additionally, those residing in Dubai can obtain golden visas for their entire families. *Satish Balyan*, CEO of *Tesla Properties*, emphasised the company's commitment to contributing to India's development while residing in Dubai. "Delhi holds a special place in our hearts, which is why we choose it for our Dubai property events," he stated. He further explained that their team comprises citizens from various countries, whom they bring

to India to promote tourism and familiarise them with the local cuisine and culture. Interactions with Indian attendees help enhance the country's positive image globally. During the event, *Tesla Properties* experts highlighted how Indian investors can secure substantial returns by investing in Dubai. They addressed all real estate needs for individuals looking to start businesses, both residential and commercial. Moreover, the property management services offered ensure excellent appreciation in value. Investors benefit from a tax-free, crime-free, and pollution-free environment, coupled with a stable currency in Dubai. Various other developers, including the well-known Dubai-based firm *Binghatti*, also showcased their projects. *Tesla Properties* team members Persian from Iran savored the rich flavours of Indian cuisine, while *Marta from Poland* was left craving more after trying the local dish "soya chaap" in Connaught Place. The events in Dubai's real estate sector are consistently providing profits to India's aviation, food, hotel, and tourism industries, contributing to the nation's goal of achieving a five trillion-dollar economy.



# CELEBRATE INDIA'S DIVERSE CULINARY LANDSCAPE

A culinary destination for a fusion of traditional Indian flavours and modern innovation, is perfect for festive dining, says **SHARMILA CHAND**

IDYLL known for serving Regional Indian plates & craft cocktails in its most rustic, nostalgic & idyllic state, presents a unique dining concept that celebrates the essence of India's rich culinary heritage. The restaurant's menu, inspired by the diverse flavours of Rajasthan, Kashmir, Lucknow, Orissa, and Maharashtra, perfectly complements the festive spirit of Diwali. Each dish is a testament to the restaurant's commitment to honouring traditional recipes while infusing them with contemporary flair. The IDYLL experience goes beyond mere sustenance, offering a holistic sensory journey that resonates with the joyous atmosphere of Diwali. From the moment guests step in, they are enveloped in an ambience that pays homage to Jaipur's celebratory structures. The interplay of textures, from polished surfaces to rough finishes, and the warm, earthy tones create an intimate setting ideal for festive gatherings.

Talking to **Namokar Jain**, the co-owner of IDYLL, I got to understand the philosophy that drives their innovative approach to Indian cuisine, as he explains their logo and what it stands for. "The five circles in the logo are reminiscent of the rings of a tree trunk. They symbolise the depth and richness of our commitment to reconnecting with tradition through food and beverages. Just as the ageing process of a tea trunk is slow and steady, so is our approach to crafting the perfect dining experience." He continues to explain, "At the heart of IDYLL's appeal is a reflective insight into the depth of Indian cuisine. Drawing inspiration from the age-old technique of fermentation, the menu offers a range of gut-friendly delights that are perfect for the

**THE IDYLL EXPERIENCE GOES BEYOND MERE SUSTENANCE, OFFERING A HOLISTIC SENSORY JOURNEY THAT RESONATES WITH THE JOYOUS ATMOSPHERE OF DIWALI. FROM THE MOMENT GUESTS STEP IN, THEY ARE ENVELOPED IN AN AMBIANCE THAT PAYS HOMAGE TO JAIPUR'S CELEBRATORY STRUCTURES**



indulgent Diwali season. From tangy handcrafted pickles to complex kombuchas, every dish and drink is designed to please both the palate and the gut."

## FESTIVE AMBIENCE

The restaurant's two-level layout provides versatile spaces for different types of Diwali celebrations. The lower level offers an intimate fine dining experience, while the upper floor houses a vibrant cocktail room. Here, an open circular island bar becomes the epicentre of festivity, serving meticulously crafted cocktails that incorporate regional Indian ingredients, perfectly complementing the celebratory mood of Diwali.

IDYLL's commitment to nostalgia and tradition makes it an excellent choice for multi-generational Diwali gatherings. The culinary team, led by expert chefs, has infused the menu with their childhood favourites, creating dishes that evoke fond memories while offering a fresh, modern twist. This blend of the familiar and the innovative ensures that there's something for every family member to enjoy during the Diwali feast.



## TO CONCLUDE

IDYLL offers a dining experience that honours tradition while embracing the new. With its thoughtfully crafted menu, ambient setting, and commitment to creating memorable experiences, IDYLL stands ready to make your Diwali celebration in Bangalore truly extraordinary. "It was our endeavour to create a space that would offer a sense of calm to our diners. We hope our IDYLL is that space - rustic and nostalgic, offering a holistic sensory experience! Echoing a story of tradition, innovation, and passion," quip **Namokar Jain** and **Jai Sharma**, the co-founders of the restaurant. (*Sharmila Chand is an Author, Columnist and independent Journalist, who writes on Food, Travel and Lifestyle*)

## A HEALTHY DIWALI!

# WHOLESOME RECIPES FOR FESTIVE INDULGENCE

TEAM AGENDA

With Diwali approaching, it's the perfect time to enjoy homemade treats that are both delicious and healthier. This festive season, why not try recipes that bring a balance of taste and wellness to your table? Here are four simple and flavourful dishes that will brighten your celebrations and keep the indulgence guilt-free.

## ALMOND DATE CHOCOLATE BALLS

(by Australian Almonds)

These Almond, Date and Cranberry Balls are a perfect energy-boosting snack. Easy to prepare, they're rich in nutrients, with a festive touch of dark chocolate and edible gold dust.

### INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup whole blanched almonds
- 1 cup Medjool dates (seeds removed)
- 1/3 cup cranberries
- 3 tsp cacao or Dutch cocoa powder
- ¼ cup desiccated coconut
- 3 tsp almond butter

### Method

- Blend almonds, dates, cranberries, cacao, coconut and almond butter in a food processor.
- Roll small portions into balls and coat with chopped or flaked almonds.
- Refrigerate before serving. For a special touch, drizzle melted dark chocolate and sprinkle it with gold dust.



## SPECIAL COCONUT LADDOO

(by Bristhi Kumari, on behalf of Chilean Prunes)

A Diwali classic, these laddoos get a unique twist with prunes, adding a rich flavour to the traditional coconut and condensed milk combo.

### Ingredients

- 1 tsp ghee
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- ½ cup condensed milk
- 2 tsp milk
- ¼ tsp cardamom powder
- Prunes and chopped pistachios for garnish

### Method

- Heat ghee in a pan, fry the coconut on low heat until lightly coloured.
- Add condensed milk, 2 tsp milk and cardamom powder, and mix well.
- Shape the mixture into small balls, placing a prune in the centre.
- Refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving.



## PISTACHIO BAKLAVA CAKE

(by Chef Najmieh Batmanglij, on behalf of American Pistachio Growers)

This cake is a delightful fusion of Baklava and cake, combining the flavours of pistachio, cardamom, and rose water for a unique Diwali dessert.

### Ingredients: Glaze

- 1 cup honey
- ¼ cup rose water
- Zest of 1 orange
- 2 tsp fresh lime juice

### Cake

- 3 eggs, separated
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 tsp cardamom powder
- 2 tsp rose water
- ½ cup milk (or almond milk) and ½ cup oil
- 1 cup flour (with 1½ tsp baking powder)
- 1½ cups ground pistachios
- 1 apple, peeled, cored and chopped (optional)

### Garnish

- Pistachios, almonds and dried rose petals

### Method

- Mix all glaze ingredients and set aside. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Whisk egg yolks and sugar until creamy, add cardamom, rose water, milk, and oil. Fold in flour, pistachios, and apple.
- Whip egg whites to soft peaks and fold into the batter.
- Bake for 40-45 minutes, then pour half the glaze over the cake. Garnish with pistachios, almonds, and dried rose petals.



## CARAMEL WALNUT KHEER

(by Chile Walnuts)

A rich and creamy kheer with a caramel twist, this dish is the perfect blend of traditional and modern flavours, enhanced with crunchy Chilean walnuts.

### Ingredients

- 7-8 Chilean walnuts (roughly broken) + 3-4 for garnish
- 3 tsp rice (soaked for 2 hours)
- 1 litre milk (divided)
- 1/3 cup sugar and 1 tsp butter (optional)
- Water

### Method

- Cook soaked rice with ½ cup milk in a pressure cooker for 2 whistles.
- For caramel, heat sugar with water until golden brown, then stir in butter (optional) and 2 tsp warm milk.
- Boil the remaining milk, add the cooked rice, and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in walnuts and caramel.
- Garnish with more walnuts and serve.



These festive recipes not only bring vibrant flavours to your Diwali celebrations but also add a healthy twist to traditional treats. By incorporating wholesome ingredients like almonds, prunes and walnuts, you can enjoy the best of both worlds - delicious sweets and mindful indulgence. So, light up your home with joy and fill your table with these delightful dishes that everyone will love, guilt-free. Wishing you a bright, flavourful and health-conscious Diwali!

# A Taste of Italy at Farmer's Basket

Chef Francesco Calvani showcased his finest creations at Farmer's Basket in Pullman. **GYANESHWAR DAYAL** describes the authentic Italian dishes as simply irresistible



Pullman New Delhi Aerocity is a culinary gem that recently unveiled an exclusive Italian pop-up that promises to whisk guests away to Italy through the exquisite flavours of its cuisine. The hotel's all-day dining restaurant, **Farmer's Basket at Pluck**, welcomes the esteemed **Chef Francesco Calvani**, renowned for his artistic flair in Italian cooking.

As I stepped into **Farmer's Basket**, the ambience was inviting, infused with a warmth that hinted at the culinary delights to come. The collaboration with **Chef Calvani** is a testament to **Pullman's** commitment to offering memorable dining experiences, and I was eager to see how his mastery would shine through in the menu. **Chef Francesco Calvani**, a distinguished graduate of **Le Cordon Bleu**, possesses an impressive background in both Italian and French cuisines. His culinary journey began at the renowned **Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen** in London, where he honed his skills and developed a passion for creating unforgettable dishes. Known for his dedication to quality ingredients and an elegant culinary style, **Chef Calvani's** approach is rooted in the belief that great ingredients can transform any dish into a masterpiece.

During my visit, I had the pleasure of sampling a signature menu which was specially curated for the dinner buffet and the exclusive Sunday Brunch, both showcasing **Chef Calvani's** culinary expertise. The dinner buffet was a lavish spread, featuring highlights such as **Corn Fed Chicken with Mixed Bell Peppers**,

**Porcini Mushrooms Risotto**, and the classic **Spaghetti Alla Carbonara**. Each dish was a celebration of authentic Italian flavours, infused with **Chef Calvani's** unique twists that elevated the dining experience to new heights. One standout was the **Pistachio Crusted Tuna Fillet**, perfectly seared and complemented by a delicate sauce that highlighted the fish's natural flavours. **The Walnut and Gorgonzola Gnocchi** was another revelation, with its rich, creamy texture enveloping the soft pillows of pasta - truly a dish that lingered in my memory long after the meal.

As I savoured each bite, it became evident that **Chef Calvani's** philosophy of using the finest ingredients

was at the heart of this dining experience. The attention to detail and the passion infused into every dish were palpable, making this not just a meal but a journey through the diverse landscapes of Italy. The exclusive pop-up at **Farmer's Basket** is not merely about dining; it is a celebration of Italian culture and culinary tradition. Reservations are highly recommended for those wishing to indulge in this exquisite gastronomic experience.

For an unforgettable evening that transports you to the heart of Italy, visit **Farmer's Basket at Pluck, Pullman New Delhi Aerocity**. Reserve your and prepare to embark on a

culinary adventure that showcases the very best of Italian cuisine. Strategically located near IGI Airport and the bustling business hubs of Gurgaon and New Delhi, **Pullman New Delhi Aerocity** stands as a stylish and modern destination. Combined together with **Novotel Aerocity** as a part of the same complex, the hotel boasts of 670 elegantly appointed rooms and suites, along with a state-of-the-art convention space featuring 13 meeting rooms and one of the largest ballrooms in the Delhi NCR region.

With six innovative dining outlets, the hotel draws on international and local culinary specialties, ensuring that every meal is a celebration. Leisure facilities, including a spa, a fully-equipped health club, and an outdoor swimming pool, complete the experience, making it a true sanctuary for both business and leisure travellers.





IN BRIEF



**JK Cement net profit falls to Rs 136 cr**

JK Cement Ltd on Saturday reported a 22.52 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 136.15 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024. The company had posted a profit of Rs 175.73 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from JK Cement. Its revenue from operations slipped 7 per cent to Rs 2,560.12 crore during the quarter under review. It was Rs 2,752.77 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. JK Cement's total expenses rose marginally to Rs 2,545.25 crore in the September quarter. The total income of JK Cement, which includes other income, declined 6.62 per cent to Rs 2,597.90 crore in Q2 FY25. JK Cement has an installed Grey Cement capacity of 24 MTPA. It is one of the leading manufacturers of white cement, globally, with a total white cement capacity of 1.20 MTPA and wall putty capacity of 1.2MTPA.



**ESIC adds 20.74 L members; net additions up by 6.8pc**

Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) logged a 6.8 per cent increase in new enrollments of members to 20.74 lakh under the ESIC Scheme in August 2024 compared to the year-ago period. ESIC had added 19.42 lakh new members in August 2023, a labour ministry statement said. According to the statement, the provisional payroll data of ESIC reveals that 20.74 lakh new employees have been added in the month of August 2024. As many as 28,917 new establishments have been brought under the social security ambit of the ESIC Scheme in the month of August 2024 thus ensuring social security to more workers. The data showed that of the total members added during the month, 9.89 lakh employees amounting to around 47.68 per cent of the total registrations belong to the age group of up to 25 years. Also, the gender-wise analysis of the payroll data indicates that net enrolment of female members was 4.14 lakh in August 2024.



**Rajasthan starts new scheme to attract investment**

To promote private investment, the Rajasthan government has introduced the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024 to offer increased financial incentives to a wider range of sectors. The new flagship scheme, which has been launched ahead of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024, improves upon RIPS 2022 by encompassing a wider range of sectors and offering increased financial incentives to support the establishment and operation of industries within these areas, an official release said. RIPS 2024 expands its focus to include new sunrise sectors and manufacturing and services thrust sectors, while also enhancing incentives for tourism businesses, IT/ITES companies, and women-led startups, Principal Secretary (Industries) Ajitabh Sharma said. In addition to the existing sunrise sectors in the previous policy, RIPS 2024 has added a series of new sectors on the sunrise sectors' list.

**'Govt committed to provide future-ready skills training'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that the government is committed to providing future-ready, globally relevant skills training, with India's policies centred on empowering youth, a release said on Saturday.

In a written message to the Skill Convocation Ceremony 'Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh', he expressed optimism that India's young professionals will make a lasting impact on the global workforce and play a critical role in its journey to becoming the world's third-largest economy.

India is increasingly recognized globally as a powerhouse of skilled talent due to the expertise and scale of its young workforce, Modi said.

"The Prime Minister assured that with India's policies centred on empowering youth, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is committed to providing future-ready, globally relevant skill training," an official statement said.



He further emphasized the vital role of skilled youth as India's greatest strength and the essential contributor to the nation's growth.

In his address, Jayant Chaudhary, Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, said India's skill ecosystem spans a vast network of 15,000 ITIs that have upheld their credibility over the years.

"Through the collaborative efforts of our directorates and state governments, we have established a robust assessment system empowering students to shape their future vision," said the minister. He pointed out that this year, for the first time in Union Budget's history, ITI (industrial training institutes) improvement has been prioritized, aligning this initiative closely with the government's transformative vision for India.

**Govt extends ITR filing deadline for corporates by 15 days**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The income tax department on Saturday extended the deadline for filing income tax returns by corporates by 15 days till November 15 for assessment year 2024-25.

In a circular, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the deadline will be extended from the earlier target date of October 31.

The new deadline for Assessment Year 2024-25 (for furnishing tax returns for fiscal 2023-24) is November 15.

Nangia Andersen LLP Tax Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said this extension would not apply to the Tax Audit Report, transfer pricing certification in Form 3CEB and other income tax forms like Form 10DA, for which the deadline would remain October 31, 2024.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the CBDT's decision to extend the deadline for filing income tax returns for AY 2024-25, though not accompanied by an official explanation, seems aligned with the upcoming festive season.

"By extending the deadline to November 15, 2024, taxpayers and professionals alike can prioritise accuracy and compliance without the stress of last-minute filings amidst celebrations," Mohan said.

Jhunjhunwala said, "This targeted extension seeks to facilitate compliance during a peak period while upholding the timely submission of crit-



**Sebi to auction 7 properties of Bishal Group**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has said that it will auction seven properties belonging to Bishal Group of Companies on December 10 to recover money illegally collected by the entity from investors.

The properties will be auctioned at a reserve price of a little over Rs 15.47 crore, according to a public notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

These properties are flats, land and buildings, land parcels, and plots located in West Bengal. Sebi has invited bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against Bishal Abasan India Ltd, Bishal Distillers Ltd, Bishal Agri-Bio Industries Ltd, Bishal Horticulture and Animal Projects Ltd and their promoters/directors (collectively referred to as Bishal Group). The regulator said the auction will be conducted on December 10 from 11 am to 1 pm. Adroit Technical Services has been appointed by the markets watchdog to assist it in the sale of properties.

**'Proper road infra, skilled workforce key challenges for logistics industry'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lack of proper road infrastructure, land availability for warehousing and skilled workforce shortages are some of the key challenges being faced by the logistics industry, according to experts.

Warehousing needs land availability in and around metropolitan cities as a pick-up in economic activities is creating demand for logistics, Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said.

Besides, the warehousing sector in India is highly fragmented, with many small and unorganised players, leading to inefficiencies, lack of standardisation, and limited scalability, he added.

The lack of proper road infrastructure and congestion causing delays impact the supply chain efficiency, Srikumar Krishnamurthy, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings, Icria Ltd, said.



Some of the near-term headwinds are the inability to increase freight rates amid competitive pressures, an inflationary environment and relatively sticky diesel prices, he noted.

BookMyCargo founder JD Yadav said the logistics industry is facing the issue of rising costs, skilled labour shortages, regulatory pressures, and supply chain disruptions.

These challenges are pushing logistics firms to balance cost management, workforce, and technology investment to maintain competitiveness. "By working collaboratively with the government on these initiatives, the logistics industry can overcome its current challenges, ensuring a more resilient, efficient, and sustainable future," he said.

Sharing his outlook on the logistics industry for H2 FY25, Sood said the second-half prospects should witness improvement over the first half as per our assessment. A surge in online retail, especially during the festive season, has significantly boosted last-mile delivery infrastructure.

Yadav said supply chain resilience will be a key focus, with companies diversifying suppliers and investing in flexible operations.

Technology adoption (automation, AI, IoT) will also increase to help counter rising labour costs and improve efficiency, he added.

**REC Q2 net profit grows to Rs 4,037 crore**

Loan disbursement at Rs 47,303 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned REC Ltd on Saturday posted around 7 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 4,037.72 crore for the September 2024 quarter, mainly on the back of higher income.

Its consolidated net profit stood at Rs 3,789.90 crore in the quarter ended September 2023, a BSE filing showed.

The total income rose to Rs 13,706.31 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 11,684.89 crore a year ago.

The board also approved the second interim dividend of Rs 4 per equity share of Rs 10 each for 2024-25. The record date for the interim dividend is November 18.

The interim dividend will be paid on or before November 22, 2024.

In a separate statement, the company said, "Owing to growth in all the verticals, resetting of interest rates on



loan assets and effective management of finance cost, REC is able to maintain its spreads and NIMs (Net Interest Margin) resulting in H1 PAT of Rs 7,448 crore."

The earnings per share (EPS) for the period ended September 30, 2024, accelerated to Rs 28.28 per share (annualised Rs 56.56) per share against Rs 25.57 per share (annualised Rs 51.14) as of September 2023.

Its net worth has grown to Rs 72,893 crore as of September 30, 2024, compared

to Rs 63,117 crore as of September 30, 2023, registering an increase of 15 per cent year-on-year.

The loan book has maintained its growth trajectory and increased by 15.2 per cent to Rs 5.46 lakh crore from Rs 4.74 lakh crore as of September 30, 2023.

The net credit-impaired assets reduced to 0.88 per cent from 0.96 per cent a year ago, with a provision coverage ratio of 65.12 per cent on NPA assets as of September 30, 2024.

**Special drive against substandard helmets**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has ordered district officials to crack down on manufacturers and sellers of non-ISI certified helmets, following concerns over road safety and substandard protective gear flooding the market. The government has cancelled or allowed to expire 162 helmet manufacturing licences to date, while authorities have conducted 27 raids targeting violations of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) regulations, the consumer affairs ministry said on Saturday.

"Helmets save lives, but only if they are of good quality," Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said. "This initiative is crucial in removing unsafe helmets from the market."

**AIR INDIA TWEAKS POLICY**

**Ultra long haul flights' cabin crew to get single rooms during layovers**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Vistara merger, Air India has finalised a revised policy for cabin crew members wherein layover allowances have been hiked and members will have to share rooms during layovers except for cabin executives, and those operating ultra-long haul flights.

The revised policy has been prepared after taking into consideration the feedback of cabin crew members. Earlier, the policy had proposed room sharing for cabin crew members irrespective of whether the flight is normal, long haul or ultra long haul.

The allowance for international layovers will be increased from USD 85-135 per layover night from USD 75-100, according to an internal communication of the air-



line. Under the new policy, cabin crew members will have to share rooms during layovers.

However, cabin crew members of ultra-long haul flights will get single rooms during layovers as well as during unscheduled layovers in the event of a flight diversion, as per the internal communication.

Generally, ultra-long haul flights are those having a duration of 16 hours or more. Air India operates such flights to North America.

Cabin executives, who are senior members with around 8 years of flying experience, will also get single rooms during layovers.

These executives are trained to handle security and emergency situations, including administering first aid to passengers. Traditionally, all Air India cabin crew members had separate rooms for stay during layovers. Air India and Vistara together will have a staff strength of around 25,000. Out of them, there will be about 12,000 cabin crew members.

The revised policy will be effective from December 1. For domestic layovers, a new support allowance of Rs 1,000 has been introduced.

The TAP provides support through credit enhancement to trade instruments, thereby enhancing the capacity of commercial banks to support cross-border trade transactions involving untapped markets where trade lines are constrained or where the potential has not been harnessed," Acharya said.

**Yes Bank net profit jumps to Rs 566.59 cr; eyes MFI buy**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank reported a 147 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 566.59 crore for the September 2024 quarter, helped mainly by a reduction in provisioning.

The city-headquartered lender had reported a net profit of Rs 228.64 crore in the year-ago period, while the same in the preceding June quarter stood at Rs 516 crore.

The core net interest income increased 14.3 per cent to Rs 2,200 crore for the reporting quarter on the back of a 12.4 per cent growth in overall advances and the net interest margin inching up to 2.4 per cent. The non-interest income

grew 16.3 per cent to Rs 1,407 crore during the quarter. The overall deposits came at 18 per cent, bucking an industry-wide trend of it falling short of credit growth.

The bank is targeting a 17-18 per cent deposit growth and 13-14 per cent in advances in FY25, its chief executive and managing director Prashant Kumar said.

A senior bank official said there is a 0.70 per cent drag on the NIM because of its balances in the rural infrastructure development fund (RIDF), but the outlook on NIM is "positive" because it has not had any shortfall on the priority sector lending front in the first half of FY25, and gradually the RIDF balances will go down.

**SBI and India Exim Bank filling trade financing gap in Africa**

PNS ■ JOHANNESBURG

The State Bank of India and the India Exim Bank are helping businesses in African countries to fill the gap in trade finance, the South African heads of the two organisations told the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF) here.

The event was initiated by Consul General of India Mahesh Kumar who said it is the first of a series of ongoing engagements with the IEF. "We did this to assist all companies doing trade or some form of other business with India in their capacity building because generally for bigger businesses they are able to sort out their

trade financing needs. For smaller business, a lot of issues look very difficult and insurmountable and they find the complexities of the trade world very bewildering sometimes," Kumar said.

CEO of State Bank of India (SBI) Ashutosh Kumar and Shyamashish Acharya, Resident Representative at the Johannesburg Representative office of India Exim Bank, both explained the benefits of using their services in dealing with import and export trade between India and the African continent.

"SBI is enabling India's footprint in Africa, playing an important role in African trade



by way of funding to South African banks through syndications," Kumar said, adding that the bank had invested fresh capital and retained its earnings for the last 27 years in

South Africa.

"SBI's offerings include bilateral credit lines to multi-lateral institutions such as Afri-Exim, Africa Finance Corporation, and others. We

also offer bilateral lines in the form of trade loans to the other major banks present in African countries," Kumar said.

The CEO said such funding indirectly reaches smaller corporates in the African nations whereas direct reach would have been difficult.

"With various Indian corporates participating in the bid bonds in various project in Africa, we have ensured to establish reach in majority of the African nations through our correspondent bank," Kumar said.

He said that SBI now caters to more than 40 nations on the African continent to help Indian corporates for their

bank guarantee requirements. Acharya shared how a trade facilitation initiative called Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) to contribute to reduction in the trade finance gap had integrated India's economic engagement with its partner countries in a post-Covid world.

"The TAP provides support through credit enhancement to trade instruments, thereby enhancing the capacity of commercial banks to support cross-border trade transactions involving untapped markets where trade lines are constrained or where the potential has not been harnessed," Acharya said.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
 EE-Div16/IEE/Divn.16/(SB2)/GHMC  
 NIT No. 30/Div-16/Engg-Div-16/SB2/GHMC/2024, Dt. 25-10-2024  
 Name of the work: Clearing of jungle trees in Amberpet Circle-16, Seoundersabai Zone, GHMC  
 TOTAL Tender Amount: Rs. 1.96 Lakhs SI. No. 1 Start Date: 28-10-2024 From 3:00 PM. Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid: 29/10/2024 at 3:00 PM. Sri K. Ramesh Babu, Executive Engineer, Division-16, Circle-16, Amberpet Sub-Div. GHMC Cell: 639923591/879374055 Address of the Concerned Executive Engineer, Div-16, SB2, GHMC Amds, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Further details can be seen at E-Procurement www.tender.telangana.gov.in  
 R.D. No. 58/2-PPCLADVT/1024-25, Dt. 25-10-2024

**NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
 CIN No. U40109TG2000SGC034119  
 Short Tender Notice No. 60/2024-25 of SE/OP/Peddapally, Specification Nos. 58/2024-25 of SE/OP/PDPL  
 Sealed Tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors for "Estimate proposal for Erection of Interlink line between 33/11KV Vedurkuta SS to 33/11KV Teekunta SS in Julapalli Section of Dharmam Sub Division of Peddapally operation circle, Peddapally (S-0142-12-01-03-02-001)". The details of works can be obtained from our website www.tgnpdcl.com  
 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Operation, Peddapally.  
 Short Tender Notice No. 61/2024-25 (as per ROR point no.14 SC, reserved). Specification Nos. 14/2024-25 of DEE/OP/Peddapally  
 Sealed Tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors for "Estimate proposal for erection of 4.20KM Interlinking line to provide alternate supply to 33/11KV Kolhar SS from 33KV Julapally feeder entering from 13203KV Sagarmpally SS in Dharmam section of Dharmam Sub Division of operation Division, Peddapally (S-0142-12-01-03-01-001)". The details of works can be obtained from our website www.tgnpdcl.com  
 Sd/- Divisional Engineer Elect., Operation, TGNPDCL, Peddapally.  
 R.D. No. 58/2-PPCLADVT/1024-25, Dt. 25-10-2024



"O Goddess Maa Lakshmi,  
you are aware of  
everything; you bestow  
blessing upon all and  
defend us from the evils"



As we illuminate our homes with lights and laughter, let us also extend our warmth to those who may feel isolated. This Diwali, let us celebrate not only the joy of togetherness but also the resilience of the human spirit, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

## DIWALI FESTIVAL THAT UNITES HEARTS AND HOMES

Where there is light, there is life." This sentiment resonates deeply during Diwali, a festival that holds unparalleled significance in the hearts of millions, especially in India. As homes begin to sparkle with twinkling lights and the scent of sweets fills the air, Diwali transforms into so much more than just a holiday. It becomes a celebration of life, love and togetherness, reuniting families eagerly awaiting the return of their loved ones. The festivities start with Dhanteras, the day dedicated to wealth and prosperity, when people purchase new items, often precious metals, to bring good fortune. This year, after much speculation and confusion about the dates, Diwali will be celebrated on the 31st of October. The thrill of homecoming resonates throughout the country, as people prepare to light up their homes and hearts. Each diya lit represents a moment of togetherness, a shared memory and the promise of brighter days ahead. Amidst the hustle and bustle, Diwali serves as a powerful reminder that the connections we cherish with family and friends illuminate our lives like nothing else. For many, Diwali is the one time in the year where homecoming is guaranteed. Students travel back from distant universities, workers journey long hours to be with their families and travel tickets are secured well in advance. In hostels, laughter and conversation fade as students depart, while homes come alive with the buzz of preparations, cleaning and decorating. The excitement of being together during this time makes the festival unforgettable.

### DIWALI'S SPIRITUAL ESSENCE

Diwali, rooted in deep spiritual and religious traditions, marks Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana, symbolising the triumph of light over darkness. The festival also honours Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. Devotees seek their blessings for prosperity and joy. A key Diwali ritual is Lakshmi Puja, held on Amavasya, the new moon night. Families clean their homes, light diyas and offer prayers to welcome the Goddess. A clean, well-lit home is believed to attract her blessings for a prosperous year ahead.

### A MONTH OF CLEANING AND SHOPPING

The excitement for Diwali builds up weeks, even months, in advance. The first step towards celebrating the festival is the traditional cleaning, known as Diwali safai. Families deep-clean their homes, shops, and offices, as it is believed that cleanliness is essential for welcoming Goddess Lakshmi. This act of cleaning is not just about tidying up; it symbolises getting rid of negativity and making space for positivity, peace and prosperity. From dusting the furniture to repainting the walls, no task is left undone. Many also take the time to paint their houses, creating a fresh and inviting environment. Once the cleaning is complete, the shopping begins. Markets and shopping centres come alive with eager customers, browsing through colourful clothes, decorations, gifts, and sweets. The atmosphere is vibrant, filled with laughter and chatter, as families prepare to celebrate this joyous occasion together, ensuring that their homes are not just clean but also adorned with love and warmth. The spirit of Diwali resonates through the bustling crowds, as everyone eagerly gathers items to make their homes shine bright during this special festival.

### CHANDNI CHOWK: THE HEART OF DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

As Diwali approaches, Delhi's famous Chandni Chowk becomes a lively and colourful marketplace filled with excitement. The narrow streets are bustling with people looking for lights and



decorations to brighten their homes for the festival of lights. The energy is visible, with every corner filled with the sounds of bargaining, laughter and excitement. Upon entering Chandni Chowk, visitors are greeted by rows of vendors showcasing beautifully painted diyas. Classic red diyas are available in sets of six for just ₹60, while glittery designs in sets of twelve cost ₹120. These diyas are essential for every home during Diwali, accompanied by colourful candles and rangoli stickers featuring auspicious symbols like 'Shubh Laabh'. In Chandni Chowk, the lighting options are endless. You can find warm yellow lights that create a cosy atmosphere or bright, multi-colored LED strings. Prices start as low as ₹80 for simple string lights and can go up to ₹300 or more for elaborate pieces. Many shoppers enjoy video calling family members to show them different lighting options, making sure everyone is involved in the preparations, even if they're far away. This year, a unique find in Chandni Chowk is the water diya, which lights up when you pour water into it. These creative diyas are

not only beautiful but also practical, adding a modern touch to traditional Diwali decorations. Vendors promote these eco-friendly options, encouraging customers to use them year after year. Chandni Chowk is always busy, but during Diwali, it truly comes alive. Shops and corners burst with colours and lights. Vendors and shoppers alike share in the excitement. The crowded streets, lively sounds and delicious smells make it a unique, festive experience. This is what makes Diwali in Chandni Chowk so special - it's a time of togetherness and joy as families, friends and even strangers come together to celebrate the festival of lights. Each diya tells a story of hope and every smile shared adds to the festive spirit of Diwali.

### THE ARTISTRY OF DIWALI

The streets of Chandni Chowk shimmer with vibrant lights and colours, but it was in Uttam Nagar that I discovered the heart and soul behind Diwali, the artisans whose hands craft the beloved diyas that illuminate homes each year. Among them

was Suresh, a warm-hearted artist who welcomed me into his place, where the air was rich with the earthy scent of clay, a scent that spoke of history and tradition. My grandparents started making diyas from scratch," he shared, his eyes sparkling with pride and a hint of nostalgia. "We've kept this tradition alive and it feels like a true blessing that the diyas we create will light up homes. Each diya carries a piece of our heart and our family's legacy." His words resonated deeply, reminding me that these diyas are more than just decorations, they are symbols of love, hope and the warmth of family gatherings. As I watched Suresh skillfully shape each diya, I felt the passion and devotion radiating from his every move. He and his family create thousands of these beautiful diyas daily, pouring their hearts into each piece. For them, Diwali is not just about making money; it's about spreading joy and contributing to the happiness of families celebrating together. Witnessing their craftsmanship was a humbling experience. The red diyas, adorned with intricate designs, symbolise the very essence of Diwali. The warmth of their hospitality and the richness of their tradition illuminated my understanding of Diwali. This festival is not just about the lights; it's about the hearts and souls that create them, the love they pour into each diya and the joy they bring to countless homes filled with laughter and celebration. As Diwali approaches, let us honour artists like Suresh, whose selfless dedication ensures that the spirit of the festival shines brightly, lighting up not just their own homes but thousands of others, filling them with hope, love, and the promise of togetherness.

### SPREADING LIGHT AND KINDNESS

With Diwali just around the corner, the vibrant festivities stir a mix of emotions. For many, it's a time of joy, family reunions and shared traditions. Yet, there are those among us who find themselves away from home, whether due to work commitments, distance or other circumstances. To those individuals, remember: it's okay to feel a sense of longing during this time. Your feelings are valid and you are not alone. While the lights may not shine in the familiar corners of your childhood home, the spirit of Diwali can still flicker brightly within your heart. This festival is about more than just being physically present; it's a celebration of love, hope and the connections we share, no matter the distance. You can still find joy in the little things, perhaps by lighting a diya in your own space, reaching out to loved ones through video calls or even creating new traditions with friends and colleagues who are nearby.

As we prepare for the celebrations, it's essential to remember the well-being of our furry companions, both at home and on the streets. The loud noises of fireworks can be distressing for pets and street animals alike. Let us ensure a safe Diwali for them by creating quiet spaces away from the sounds of firecrackers. A comforting environment can help ease their anxiety and allow them to feel secure during the festivities. For those who are able to gather with family and friends, let us not forget those who are unable to join in the celebrations. A simple gesture, a call, a message or even a small gift - can make a world of difference to someone feeling isolated this Diwali. As we light up our homes with lights and laughter, let's also shine on the hearts of those who may feel left out. This Diwali, let us embrace the spirit of kindness and generosity, extending our hearts to those in need, whether human or animal. It's a time to celebrate not just the joy of togetherness but also the resilience of the human spirit. Wishing you all a safe, joyful and love-filled Diwali!

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATIONS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER THE WELL-BEING OF OUR FURRY COMPANIONS, BOTH AT HOME AND ON THE STREETS. THE LOUD NOISES OF FIREWORKS CAN BE DISTRESSING FOR PETS AND STREET ANIMALS ALIKE. LET US ENSURE A SAFE DIWALI FOR THEM BY CREATING QUIET SPACES AWAY FROM THE SOUNDS OF FIRECRACKERS

THE FESTIVITIES START WITH DHANTERAS, THE DAY DEDICATED TO WEALTH AND PROSPERITY, WHEN PEOPLE PURCHASE NEW ITEMS, OFTEN PRECIOUS METALS, TO BRING GOOD FORTUNE. THIS YEAR, AFTER MUCH SPECULATION AND CONFUSION ABOUT THE DATES, DIWALI WILL BE CELEBRATED ON THE 31ST OF OCTOBER





# AMORE IN HYDERABAD

AARTI SREENATH  
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When Via Milano decided to waltz back into Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills, they didn't just open their doors; they opened a portal. One step in and you're transported from the busy streets of Jubilee Hills straight to a cozy corner somewhere between Florence and Milan, where indulgence is an art form, and every bite whispers the language of amore.

The theme of bottle green and gold was as comforting as a slow sunset over the Tuscan countryside. Chandeliers cast a soft, warm glow over wooden furniture that balanced rustic charm with minimalist chic, while natural light from large windows streamed in, offering diners a glimpse of the world outside without a sense of urgency. Intimate, warm, and elegantly laid-back, it's ambiance is the perfect prelude to the culinary affair that awaits.

You don't just eat at Via Milano; you take a journey through Italy. Here, chefs take pride in crafting everything in-house: no shortcuts, no preservatives, just love and authenticity. This commitment to freshness is perhaps most evident in their 'Aglie e Olio', a deceptively simple dish where al dente spaghetti meets perfectly sautéed garlic and a kiss of olive oil. It's a dish that owner Roger confessed he could "literally eat every day" and I can see why. Whether enjoyed vegetarian or with chicken and mushroom, the flavours come alive in an unpretentious harmony.

The 'Chicken Scallopini', thin slices of tender chicken bathed in a delicate white wine and mushroom sauce, served alongside creamy mashed potatoes, was another personal favourite. If you're in a sharing mood (or just feeling particularly indulgent), the 'Mixed Grill Platter', laden with chicken, lamb and beef, is a carnivore's



## 'FORK'LORE



**FOOD TO TRY**  
Pane Aglio e Formaggio, Gelato and Sorbet



**DECOR**  
A cozy, well-lit modern dining with warm white lighting



**PRICE**  
1300 for two



**VERDICT**  
★★★★★



dish that's light yet bursting with flavour. 'Fritto Misto' for seafood lovers, this dish was a light yet crispy treat.

'Capesante D'Orate and Profumo di Limone' tender sea scallops are seared to perfection and finished in a lemon butter sauce.

Their menu reads like a love letter to Italy. From the 'Pane Aglio e Formaggio'—fresh garlic ciabatta topped with mozzarella, parmesan and cherry tomatoes—to the 'Crostini con Burrata', which takes the toast game to a whole new level with creamy burrata and a burst of spiced citrus marmalade, every dish speaks of the chef's intent to respect tradition while embracing a touch of modernity.

It's an unspoken rule that no Italian meal is complete without dessert. The Tiramisu, the layers of mascarpone so fluffy you might as well be eating a cloud, paired with the bold undertones of espresso, is the kind of dessert that makes you close your eyes and whisper a quiet "mamma mia." My personal favourite were the Gelato and sorbet.

Speaking with Roger, the man behind Via Milano, I could sense his passion, not just for food but for bringing a piece of Italy to Indian diners. "We don't want to change the taste," he told me. "If it's Italian, it has to be Italian." If you're a true foodie (or even just someone who appreciates good dining), October might be the best time to visit. It's grand opening specials promise exclusive dining packages, including tasting menus that allow patrons to sample the very best of what this new gem has to offer.

When asked to describe it in three words, Roger said, "Modern, fresh and clean, cozy laid back." After dining there, I'd add a few more intimate, authentic and worth every bite.

Whether you find yourself cozying up with a creamy risotto or sharing stories over a platter of antipasti.

## KHOPRA PAK – TRADITIONAL INDIAN DELIGHT

### INGREDIENTS:

- Saffron: 3 strands • Water: 40 ml • Sugar: 50 gm • Mawa (Khoya): 150 gm
- Coconut Powder: 50 gm • Dry Fruits (chopped): 10 gm • Dried Rose Petals: 2 gm

### METHOD:

- 1. Prepare sugar syrup:** Take a heavy-bottom pan and combine water, sugar, and saffron. Heat the mixture on medium flame, stirring occasionally. Continue cooking until the syrup reaches the 3-string consistency (thick and sticky).
- 2. Incorporate mawa:** Add mawa to the syrup and stir well. Cook until the mixture turns into a smooth, thick paste.
- 3. Add coconut powder:** Gradually add the coconut powder in small batches, mixing thoroughly each time. Remove the pan from heat once all the coconut powder is incorporated.



**Category:** Confectionery.  
**Meal period:** Lunch/dinner  
**Preparation time:** 10 minutes.  
**Cooking time:** 30 minutes  
**Finishing time:** 4 hours

- 4. Shape mixture:** Grease a tin or flat tray with ghee. Pour the prepared mixture into the tin and spread it evenly.
- 5. Garnish:** Sprinkle the top with chopped dry fruits and a few dried rose petals for a fragrant, decorative touch.

**6. Set and serve:** Let the 'Khopra Pak' cool completely for around 4 hours. Once firm, cut into small squares or diamonds and serve.

## KARACHI HALWA – CLASSIC SWEET TREAT



### Category:

Confectionery

### Meal period:

Lunch/dinner

### Preparation time:

10 minutes

### Cooking time:

25 minutes

### INGREDIENTS:

- Cornflour: 120 gm • Ghee: 120 ml • Sugar: 120 gm
- Water: 240 ml • Chopped Nuts/Fruits: As desired

### METHOD:

- 1. Prepare base:** In a thick-bottomed pan, mix cornflour and ghee over low heat. Stir continuously until the mixture turns brown.
- 2. Add sugar syrup:** In the same pan, add sugar and water. Mix well until the ingredients blend smoothly.
- 3. Cook mixture:** Continue cooking on low flame until the mixture thickens and becomes glossy and transparent. This ensures the halwa achieves the desired texture.
- 4. Enhance with nuts/fruits:** Remove the pan from heat and stir in chopped nuts or dried fruits as per your preference.
- 5. Set and serve:** Pour the halwa mixture into a greased tray and allow it to cool. Once set, cut into desired shapes.
- 6. Enjoy:** Serve and savor the delicious Karachi Halwa – perfect for festivals or a sweet indulgence!

## GULAB KI KHEER – FRAGRANT INDIAN DESSERT

**Category:** Indian Confectionery  
**Meal Period:** Lunch/Dinner  
**Preparation Time:** 5 minutes  
**Cooking Time:** 25 minutes



### INGREDIENTS:

- Rose Petals: 10 gm • Milk: 500 ml • Sugar: 15 gm
- Gulkand (Rose Preserve): 7 gm
- Almond Flakes: 3 gm • Crushed Cashews: 3 gm

### METHOD:

- 1. Prepare the rose petals:** Rinse the rose petals thoroughly and pat them dry. Set aside.
- 2. Boil the milk:** In a heavy-bottomed pan, pour the milk and bring it to a boil over medium heat.
- 3. Infuse with rose petals:** Add the rose petals to the boiling milk and let it simmer until the milk reduces to half its original volume.
- 4. Sweeten the kheer:** Add sugar and gulkand to the reduced milk. Stir well to blend the flavors.
- 5. Finish cooking:** Bring the mixture to a boil once again. Turn off the heat and stir in the almond flakes and crushed cashews.
- 6. Cool and serve:** Allow the kheer to cool completely, then chill in the refrigerator. Serve cold, garnished with additional nuts for a delightful presentation.

Attributes: Mordhwaj Singh Chandrawat, chef & food influencer, Belle Patisserie

## DIWALI SPECIAL

As Diwali approaches, it's time to light up hearts and homes with gifts that go beyond the usual sweets and candles! This festive season, why not add a dash of creativity to your gifting list? Move over traditional treats and embrace unique surprises that bring a smile to every face and light up their faces too.



### DIWALI DESERVES BETTER

Bored with gifting the usual basket of assorted dry fruits and traditional sweets to your loved ones? This Diwali, elevate your celebrations with the innovative and unique Pataka Popcorn Range by 4700BC, the ultimate gourmet snacking brand. It combines irresistible flavours like chocolate, caramel and cheese, creating a delightful blend of sweet and salty goodness.

Price: Rs 524/- onwards



### GIFT WITH LOVE

This festive season, make your gifting truly special with VAHDAM India's newly launched most exquisite gift set. Perfect for elevating any Diwali celebration, it captures the essence of the season—spreading warmth, gratitude and the joy of giving in every beautifully curated hamper.

Price: INR 2599

### ELEVATE YOUR DIWALI STYLE

As we prepare for the vibrant Diwali festivities, what better way to celebrate than by adorning yourself with exquisite jewellery that perfectly complements your style and captures the spirit of the season? Experience the allure of perfectly coordinated jewellery sets that effortlessly elevate your festive look. The matching sets have been meticulously curated to harmonise with your style, adding a touch of sophistication to your ensemble by ORRA.

PRICE ON REQUEST



### PINK SEQUIN STRAPLESS DRESS WITH CUTOUTS

Step into the spotlight with stunning Sobella sequined strapless evening dress! Featuring chic cut-out details on the sides, it exudes glamour. With an elegant ankle-length silhouette, this dress is perfect for evening soirées and parties, ensuring you dazzle with every step.

Price: 5999/-

### CELEBRATE THIS FESTIVE SEASON WITH SEAGRAM'S LIMITED EDITION PACKS

As we step into the festive season, a time for togetherness and celebration, Seagram's 100 Pipers presents The Legacy Project Limited Edition Packs—a tribute to India's rich cultural heritage through the art of calligraphy. This year's exclusive range celebrating another artform, calligraphy, brought to life through the beauty of five distinct Indian scripts—Bengali, Devanagari, Gurmukhi, Telugu and Kannada—making it the perfect addition to your festive gatherings. RINGS OF EVOLUTION (Telugu calligraphy) conveys the wisdom of nurturing nature for future generations, brought to life through calligraphy in Telugu.



### ENDLESS NEW WAYS TO CELEBRATE FESTIVE SEASON

New beginnings call for delicious new experiences. Usher in Diwali with a truly Indian chocolate experience, rooted in the flavours, the collective celebrations and the craftsmanship of India. Presenting the Manam Chocolate - Diwali Edition 2024, a delightful selection of Indian craft chocolate, carefully curated to capture the essence of our festive season. Indulgent bonbons, ganache-filled palettes and creamy truffles crafted with fine flavour chocolate, promise to elevate your festive gifting, while sweet and savoury chocolate snacks make perfect accompaniments at your taash parties and intimate gatherings, and freshly baked dessert boxes complement Diwali dinners.

### CELEBRATE DIWALI WITH KIKO MILANO COLLECTION

This Diwali, embrace the spirit of celebration with Kiko Milano's Hydra Pro Matte face moisturiser, coloured lip balm and lip plumper in transparent. Crafted to nourish and enhance, these essentials offer a radiant glow and irresistibly soft lips, making them perfect for festive gatherings.



## HOROSCOPE



### ARIES

Your impulsiveness and search for excitement may hinder your harmony. Family disputes may arise from miscommunication. Seriousness in love may delay finding a romantic partner.



### TAURUS

Manage expectations from siblings to avoid disappointment. Stay calm under pressure and support your children. Your patience, care and encouragement will bring you acceptance.



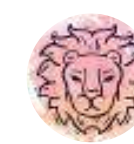
### GEMINI

You may feel sensitive and irritable but stay calm. Express emotions, focus on health and use your energy purposefully. Embrace optimism and collaboration. Avoid rash actions.



### CANCER

Embrace life's ups and downs. Stay charming, ambitious, and optimistic. Clear misunderstandings in love and stay positive. Short trips succeed, and newfound freedom builds confidence.



### LEO

You'll connect with a stimulating partner this week. Embrace humour, be gentle in relationships, and seek time with loved ones. Balance loyalty with boundaries to avoid embarrassment.



### VIRGO

Stay calm amid workplace pressures. Attend important meetings to boost confidence. Embrace unexpected love. Focus on your studies. Don't let changes mar your confidence.



### LIBRA

Feel open to pursuing a new attraction but gather details before committing. Stay organized at work and prioritize your future. Use your reasoning skills to guide others effectively.



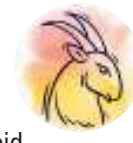
### SCORPIO

Stay calm amid workplace pressures, but address any negative impressions. Spend time with your new love, rejuvenate with a vacation, and consult with your family before making decisions.



### SAGITTARIUS

Chauvinism and criticism may delay your success. Embrace humour and patience. Make the first move in a relationship, and prepare for new challenges and enjoyable trips ahead.



### CAPRICORN

Focus on self-improvement with support from friends. Embrace joy and introspection, but avoid excessive criticism and worry. Nurture relationships and prioritise health through meditation.



### AQUARIUS

Stay calm amid workplace pressures and balance personal and professional obligations. There is a chance for rejuvenation and growth. Avoid monotony and maintain discipline for success.



### PISCES

Embrace joy and introspection to rise above stress. Seek support to boost confidence. Help children with practical advice, and enjoy upcoming trips and new job challenges.

## INDULGE IN FESTIVE LUXURY WITH EXQUISITE CHOCOLATE GIFT HAMPERS

Enhance your Diwali celebrations with the Läderach Garnet Diwali gift box, thoughtfully designed to capture the essence of togetherness and tradition. The hamper includes a set of card deck curated specially for the festive season. The assortment includes assorted pralines & truffles, assorted frisch Schoggi, popcorn, assorted tart, napolitans and two deck of cards which makes for the perfect gift.

## GOLD-TONE MEENAKARI JHUMKAS



Imitation Jewellery Indulge in the timeless charm of Shagna's gold-tone meenakari jhumkas, meticulously crafted on brass material. The vibrant hues of meenakari add a pop of colour, perfect for any party or wedding season. Complete your Diwali look with these stunning gold-plated earrings, exuding elegance and charm.

Price: 699/-



CHAT-O-CINO

MAHIMA CHAUDHRY:

# I AM AN ACTOR, NOT JUST '90s HEROINE

SHIKHA DUGGAL  
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Despite facing unthinkable challenges, actress Mahima has come out stronger, bolder and more radiant than before. Her experience has served as evidence of the resiliency, optimism and bravery of the human spirit. Every obstacle surmounted, every treatment received and every difficult day triumphed over serves as a badge of honour and a reminder that she is, in fact, a warrior. Her story serves as an inspiration to others, a ray of hope during the darkest hours and a reminder that life is beautiful, fleeting and valuable. She is a champion, a thriver and a bright example of what it is to live life to the fullest! Now that she is back in the spotlight, audiences were enthralled by her ability, passion and resolve as she inspired a new generation with her fortitude and tenacity. This is one of the most emotional and exclusive interviews with none other than Mahima Chaudhary, who debuted with Shah Rukh Khan in *Pardes*. Back then, the movie was a huge hit!

"For *The Signature*, we included my own stories into the character because, as I remember, Anupam Kher didn't know I had cancer when he sought me for the part! He adds, 'Oh, so we will continue to shoot with you and with just the way you are,' as soon as I calmly break the news to him. He stated, 'I have come to draw strength from you!' In order to portray authenticity on screen, he was certain that he wanted to film with me during the treatment," Mahima said in the conversation with *The Pioneer*.

"I remember being on the sets of Kangana Ranaut's *Emergency*—and as we all know, Anupam Kher and the late Satish Kaushik were dear friends," *Pardes* fame says, who was quite keen to share this anecdote with us. "I also have close friendships with both of them. My one-liner for the film was well appreciated by Satish Kaushik, who sadly passed away a month later. Let me simply state to the readers that I really did not want to seem like this on screen during my treatment. I was so confused! I simply lacked confidence in myself, even if Anupam Kher was persuading me every day. *Mai bina baal ke 500 picture kar chuka hoon, tum kyun nahi kar sakti?* he remarks. He did not want me to rely on my appearance! It had nothing to do with appearances; all he wanted was for me to evoke strong feelings in the audience. I wanted to wear my wig even though I was finally persuaded."

However, Mahima's decision to appear without the wig made the following day's events on the sets of *The Signature* much more poignant. Without it, she was doing just fine—completely fine. She was swollen and without eyebrows on the first day, which was the worst physical space of her life and she was pretty terrified to see herself on the monitor again because she was taking a lot of medication. "It might be the worst time for an actress to work on a movie. Anupam wanted me to trust him, so he didn't let me see the shots. I gave up gradually. I also recall asking my makeup artist to slightly contour my head and he did, although he was not sure why. Even he was surprised when I told him that I would administer the remaining shots without the wig because he simply did not anticipate this happening! During *The Signature*'s journey, he became emotional. Perhaps that's just the way life is."

She had spent the last few days travelling nonstop. She makes sure to explain how she has noticed a significant shift in her filmography during this interview from Ludhiana. She used to be complimented on how well they remembered her for a specific scene, but now it was the other way around. It was all about individuals approaching her and sharing their own experiences as cancer survivors! "When I normally do films, I get very different reactions. Hearing and seeing how individuals are discussing difficulties makes me happy! With me, they were offloading. Anupam Kher was really kind to me as well! After Kangana Ranaut learned about it, she offered me a role in her own movie, *Emergency*. Sanjay Mishra then contacted us and we collaborated on another movie. When Karan Johar's production company called, they were certain they wanted me to play Suniel Shetty's opposite. The amount of support I was receiving from my film industry astounded me. I had no idea how loved I was!"

The famous movie star from *Dil Hai Tumharaa* has now let

**From the silver screen darling of the 90s to a fierce warrior battling life's toughest challenges, Mahima Chaudhry's journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Once hailed for her beauty and grace in films like *Pardes*, she now stands as a symbol of strength, defying every stereotype about aging heroines. Cancer survivor, actress, mother—Mahima is proving that reinvention is not just about returning to the limelight, but about rewriting the narrative. As she says herself, she's not just a 90s heroine; she's an actor, real and redefining her legacy on her own terms**

go of all her inhibitions. Now, she receives reassurance at every turn in her life! She also gave us the following viewpoint: "You know what's the most positive thing right now? I was a little bewildered, vulnerable and relying only on what other people thought was right. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I visited Karan Johar's production company later and discovered that half of the crew was women. I had never seen this as an actress from the 1990s before in my life," she shared. That essentially made her very happy. Her entire life, she had only ever seen men doing makeup; now, the roles had been reversed. She even spotted a woman who designed the set! Additionally, she saw the type of scripts being written, the language being utilised and the manner in which an actress is directed in the modern era. She also saw a significant shift in the type of entourage that each actor brought, which included a large number of staff members. She chuckled, feeling like a lone ranger.

With all of the theoretical questions we were imposing on her, the *Daag* fame is still going strong! "A lot of topics have been explored in my most recent film, such as the significance of health insurance," she stated. "In some way, this conversation transports me back to the 1990s, when I was one of the most well-liked and well-known faces. Additionally, I had a tragic car accident during the peak of my career, which left me with physical injury. A picture of me was

featured on the cover of a magazine, which publicly criticised my accident and called me a "scarface." Back then, the journalism industry was incredibly cruel—these journalists were doing what modern-day "trollers" do. Thank heavens, I can choose whether or not to join the paparazzi today!"

She doesn't feel pressured to be a certain size or to look a certain way as she does today. She is certain! In that sense, if readers notice, even her return is rather unusual. She should have ideally followed a six-month exercise regimen, used numerous face treatments, glowing her face and did something with her hair, but she turned that strange return into her greatest strength. Instead of being a heroine, she wants to stay an actor! "There is only positivism and no resilience. I have my negative thoughts and that's just okay! When I doubt myself, my sister always tries to cajole me. However, the fact that Anupam Kher cries just as much as I do makes me very pleased these days! *Kis liye, mujhe naam kaamana hai? Yaad nahi rakhta koi apka naam*. My only concern is what I will leave behind for my daughter; I want her to have a positive disposition." With a boom, the actress Mahima Chaudhary concludes the interview.



TRENDING

SANJIV KHANNA



Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed the next Chief Justice of India by President of India Droupadi Murmu after Chief Justice DY Chandrachud named him his successor.

PERSON

BOOKING AN UNUSUAL TRANSPORT

VIDEO



A fascinating video circulating on Instagram shows two women stuck in a desert in Dubai, desperately seeking rescue. In a bizarre twist, one of them opened her Uber app, only to find an unexpected ride option: a camel.

AMARAN

MOVIE

The highly anticipated trailer for *Amaran*, a biographical action war film directed by Rajkumar Periasamy, was released on October 23, offering audiences a glimpse into an emotional and action-packed narrative.



RAANJHAN

SONG



The sizzling chemistry between Kriti Sanon and Shaheer Sheikh has set the screen on fire. The song's lyrics and soothing music wonderfully reflect the agony and desire that come after a breakup.

AMARAVATI DRONE SUMMIT 2024

PICTURE



Andhra Pradesh hosts India's largest drone show at Amravati Drone Summit 2024, setting 5 Guinness World Records with 5,500 drones, including a stunning display of the national flag, mesmerizing thousands along Krishna River.

## SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL BUTT LIFT

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In a world obsessed with "having it all," it turns out we're quite literally aiming for well, all the curves. From squats at the gym to the elusive search for the perfect pair of jeans, the quest for the ideal derriere is a tale as old as time or at least as old as Instagram. But if your booty dreams are stuck in a rut and gravity is winning the battle, fear not, science and a little artistic flair have

your back(side). Welcome to the age of the butt lift, where expert surgeons aren't just lifting spirits, they're lifting posteriors with precision and pizzazz. Whether you're looking for a subtle perk or a full-on transformation, these modern-day sculptors are here to tell you that a better behind is just a consultation away. But remember, it's not just about the lift; it's about the lifestyle, the commitment and the perfect fit. Because in the world of bootylicious dreams, not all glutes are created equal!

At CK Birla Hospital, Dr. Anmol Chugh, Lead Consultant in Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery, has honed his skills for over a decade. Specialising in buttock procedures, his repertoire includes Brazilian Butt Lifts (BBL), augmentations with implants and gluteoplasties. For him, no two procedures are alike. "The key to a successful butt lift lies in understanding each patient's unique anatomy," he explains. "My goal is to enhance their natural curves while ensuring safety and longevity in results." He emphasises the importance of precision, particularly when it

comes to BBLs. The procedure involves transferring fat from one area of the body to the buttocks through liposuction, a delicate process that demands accuracy to prevent complications like fat embolism.

"We use ultrasound-guided fat injections to make sure the fat is placed safely, minimising any risks," he says. His careful attention to detail ensures not just a more contoured shape but also a natural look that stands the test of time. "For patients with less fat, buttock augmentation with implants is a great alternative. And when skin laxity is an issue, we can remove excess skin through gluteoplasty."

For him, the process begins long before surgery. He conducts thorough evaluations, assessing factors like skin quality, fat distribution and the patient's overall health. "I also consider their lifestyle habits," he adds. "It's important to set realistic expectations, helping patients understand the limitations and potential of the procedure." Not all patients, however, are ready for surgery, which is where non-invasive techniques come into play. At Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, Dr. Shishir Agrawal, Director of Plastic, Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery, offers subtle enhancement through dermal fillers and radiofrequency treatments. These methods, while less dramatic than surgery, can still provide a significant lift, giving patients a natural look with minimal downtime. "During consultations, I focus on understanding my patient's goals," he shares. "Non-surgical treatments are perfect for those seeking gradual, natural improvement." For example, fillers like Sculptra stimulate collagen production, creating volume over time. "The results aren't immediate, but they build gradually over months and with proper maintenance, they can last up to two years," he explains. He is meticulous in educating his patients about the science behind each option. "Radiofrequency helps tighten the

skin by stimulating collagen, but it requires regular sessions to maintain the effect," he says. "Many people think that one treatment will give them permanent results, but it's a process." These procedures are low-risk but require commitment to maintain their effectiveness. "The results are subtle but definitely noticeable. We keep everything looking natural."

While the procedure itself is critical, post-operative care is just as important for optimal results. Dr. Vijay Singhal, Senior Consultant in Dermatology at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, highlights the role skin plays in the healing process. "Patients often experience swelling, bruising, or even changes in skin texture after a butt lift," he says, adding that proper care can make all the difference. "Compression garments help manage swelling and reduce the accumulation of fluids, while scar-reducing creams can keep scarring to a minimum." He also emphasises the significance of skin elasticity in determining the procedure's outcome. "Patients with good skin elasticity tend to have smoother results, as their skin adapts better to the new contours," he explains. "For those with looser skin, I recommend complementary treatments like radiofrequency or laser therapy post-surgery to enhance the final look."

The post-surgery journey doesn't end there. Maintaining the lifted shape requires dedication. "Healthy lifestyle habits are crucial," he advises. "A diet rich in proteins and antioxidants, staying hydrated and regular strength training, especially for the glutes, are essential to preserve the results." He also stresses sun protection, as UV exposure can darken scars and slow the healing process. "Use sunscreen with at least SPF 30 once the area is ready for direct sun exposure," he recommends. In the end, whether surgical or non-surgical, the butt lift is more than just a trend.



FYI

With the rise of butt lift procedures, expert surgeons are transforming posteriors with precision and flair. From subtle enhancements to full-on transformations, the options are endless. Join us on a journey to explore the art and science of butt lifts, where individualised care and realistic expectations come together to create a more confident you



**P**arupalli Kashyap's badminton journey is a smash hit in every sense, an inspiring tale that could rival the plot of a Tollywood blockbuster. Deeply rooted in Telugu culture, this ace shuttler has turned personal hurdles into high-flying victories, proving that the only thing more potent than a well-placed smash is unyielding determination. He was diagnosed with asthma in his adolescence. When people thought he would toss in the towel, this would-be Olympian grabbed his racquet and doubled down on his game of life with a double dose of tenacity. His Olympic debut was nothing short of sensational, as he became the first Indian male player to soar to the quarterfinals in men's singles at the London Olympics—sending shockwaves through the badminton community and leaving his competitors gasping for breath. Then came the 2014 Commonwealth Games, where he did not just play, but performed a badminton symphony; clinching the gold medal in men's singles and breaking a 32-year drought for India in this category. Talk about a comeback! With a string of honours that includes victories at the Syed Modi International, the Austrian International Challenge, and the Indonesia International Challenge, the best ranked world no 6 champion is more than just a player: he's a phenomenon. Awarded the Arjuna Award in 2012, his accolades are as impressive as his gameplay. In a conversation with *The Pioneer's* Aarti Sreenath, he shares the high points of his journey as a shuttler, mirroring the power of grit and the undying spirit of a Telugu warrior, smashing through a procession of barriers, one shuttlecock at a time.



# Beating asthma to become a breathtaking shuttler



## FATHER'S TRANSFERS SHAPED HIS CHILDHOOD

I would not say I was an introvert; at home, I was all over the place during my childhood. My dad had a transferable job in the pharma industry, due to which he was always on the move, taking up new roles every time he relocated. I was born in Mumbai and then we initially stayed in Hyderabad. From there, we moved to Kanpur and after a while, we headed back to Hyderabad. I spent a few years in Bengaluru, but my schooling for third and fourth grade was in Nigeria! After that, I was back in Hyderabad for grades 4 to 7 and then moved to Bengaluru again for grades 8 to 10. By the time I was 15 or 16, I was back in Hyderabad. My fondest childhood memories are a mix of fun, pressure and growth. Like many, I enjoyed playing cricket on the streets and I loved going to school. I was good at academics and thrived on the grind my mom put me through. She made sure I studied early in the mornings, revising everything I needed to. Those early days were filled with the joy of learning and the thrill of training.



## TOUGH LOVE AND BADMINTON

My childhood was shaped by a relaxed approach at home. Since my dad was always busy with his work, my mom used to take care of me largely and she played a crucial role in my life. An athlete herself, she pushed me into badminton, wanting me to become a sports person. My mom was strict and focused on helping me become a good player—not necessarily to achieve big results but to compete. I, on the other hand, was laidback and did not care much about the pressures of competition. I guess you could say I was the lazy one.

## BLOSSOMING UNDER PRESSURE

My time at the training center with my initial coaches, RF Sir and Govardhan Sir, was significant. I remember the excitement of preparing for state and district tournaments across (undivided) Andhra Pradesh and travelling to various places for taking part in competitions. Back then, I was not very good at competing—I was scared, really scared of losing. I often found myself thinking about what my mom would say if I did not perform well. I was not mentally prepared for the pressure; I enjoyed training, but when it came to matches, I lacked that killer instinct. That sense of competition developed slowly, especially as I grew older. It was not until I was around 17 or 18 and had a coach who taught me how to prepare for matches that I started to feel the weight of competition. It was also around that time when the reality hit me—there was no money at home and I needed to secure a job to sustain my badminton journey. The pressure and crunch time brought a pivotal change in my life and career.



## ENGINEERING DREAMS VS. BADMINTON SCHEMES

Up until the eighth standard, I was one of the toppers, often ranking in the top 1, 2, or 3. I was not absolutely brilliant, but I was doing well compared to my friends. I found that if I spent a lot of time studying, I could maintain those ranks. However, as I started playing more and more tournaments, I realised that I could not juggle academics and sports effectively. While some of my colleagues managed to excel in both—becoming engineers as well as national champions—I quickly realised that I had to make a choice.



## FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS

I completed my Intermediate studies in Hyderabad, focusing on Maths, Physics and Chemistry (MPC). I would say I was decent—got average to above average marks. However, when it came to the engineering entrance exams, I was completely unprepared and that hit me hard. I started feeling like I had missed the mark. At that moment, I realised that I might be closer to a significant goal in badminton, especially since I had been the runner-up in the junior national championships the previous year. I thought to myself, "Maybe this is what I should pursue". During the counselling session, when my name came up in the sports quota line, things took a dramatic turn. The college I was being offered—Sreeni B College—was not appealing to me. I knew that Gopichand was starting an academy nearby in Gachibowli and I felt it would be a waste of money and time to go through with this engineering seat. So, I turned to my mom and said, "I can't do this". She was taken aback. We had spent over an hour in that line and now I was telling her I wanted to back out. "What am I supposed to tell your dad?" she asked, visibly stressed. I told her, "You manage it; I don't know. Just give me a year. If I don't progress, I can always pursue B.Com. I'll figure it out from there". By that time, I was acutely aware of our financial struggles. There was no money—zero. We had been in a good financial position before, but my dad had made some unfortunate decisions regarding savings and investments. With that realisation, I knew I had to make a choice. I saw a potential path through badminton; if I pushed a little harder, I might land a job in sports. Luckily, things began to fall into place when Gopichand opened his academy. He hired an excellent coach who supported me both physically and mentally. That year also saw me diagnosed with asthma, but with the right guidance, I was able to manage it.



## HARSH REALITY OF SPORTS ECONOMICS

This became especially clear during my engineering entrance examination. Even though I was dedicated to badminton, I was not yet a national champion. At that stage, junior national champions could secure jobs, while even being second place would not guarantee any offers unless you were in the top five at the senior level. This realisation came to a head in 2004, after I finished my 11th and 12th grades. I had to decide whether to fully commit to badminton or pursue engineering.

## HOW INDIAN OIL BECAME HIS SAFETY NET

In 2004 and 2005, everything changed for the better. I physically improved, started winning tournaments and eventually made it to the senior circuit, being placed in the top 3 or 4. I secured a job with Indian Oil. I am still with them. I have to mention how grateful I am to the PSU companies like Indian Oil; they played a pivotal role in shaping my career. They provided me with a stable job and supported me through tough times, including injuries. Joining Indian Oil allowed me to sort out my career while also supporting my family. I was not saving much; whatever I earned went toward my tournaments and household expenses. From 2004-2005 onward, I was balancing my responsibilities at home while also focusing on my career in badminton, which has been an incredibly fulfilling journey.



## LOVE AT FIRST SERVE WITH SAINA NEHWAL

Oh, the memories from my marriage with Saina are really special. Our journey together began back in 2004-2005, which was a pivotal time for both of us as we were both focused on our badminton careers. At that time, she was just my girlfriend, and we quickly became each other's support system in a highly competitive environment. Initially, our relationship felt quite childish. We were young sports persons who shared a deep bond as friends, navigating the challenges of our sport together. I found it difficult to connect with my male colleagues since they were also competitors and I think Saina felt the same way. She did not have many close friendships either; so, we often confided in each other. Our connection deepened as we travelled together for tournaments, which allowed us to share our experiences and support one another. We trained side by side and celebrated each other's achievements. During those years, I realised how valuable it was to have someone who understood the pressures of being an athlete. After a long relationship, we decided to get married in 2018. By then, it felt like a natural progression. We had been through so much together—sharing our aspirations, struggles, and victories. Our bond had grown strong and I knew we could build a future together as both partners and sports persons.

## NAVIGATING LIVES AS TWO SPORTSPERSONS UNDER ONE ROOF

Managing life as two sports persons under one roof has its own unique challenges and rewards. Both Saina and I are quite strict with our routines. This means there is a shared discipline in our household. However, it can be tough at times because our lives revolve around badminton—literally all the time. In the beginning, we both loved being so immersed in the sport. But sometimes it feels a bit overwhelming. Saina has achieved immense success and while that is incredibly inspiring, it has not always been easy for me. I found my success a bit later and, to be honest, I have always felt like I was in her shadow. There have been moments when I wished I could achieve as much as she has and while jealousy is a normal feeling, I have learned not to dwell on it. Instead, I try to use those feelings as motivation to push myself harder in training. We both understand each other deeply, which helps a lot. If one of us is having a rough day or mood is off, we can sense it right away. Even the slightest change in tone can be a signal that something is not right. A simple conversation often helps us get back on track. We motivate each other, whether it is pushing to hit the gym or encouraging each other through tough training sessions. So, while it is not always easy being two competitive sports persons together, our mutual understanding and support have been crucial in navigating those dynamics.

## ASTHMA DIAGNOSIS

In 2004, I was diagnosed with asthma, which posed a significant hurdle to my badminton aspirations. Initially, it was quite alarming for me. I remember thinking, "Oh no, what does this mean for my career? Am I going to struggle to breathe during matches? Is my life at risk?" I had little understanding of asthma at the time, and the diagnosis felt overwhelming. But I refused to let it define my journey. With the help of my doctors, I began to adapt my training regimen. They educated me about asthma, teaching me how to manage it effectively. I learned to monitor my breathing and recognise triggers, which became crucial for my training and competition. Integrating breathing exercises and proper warm-ups into my routine helped me cope with the condition. I also focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, which included conditioning my body to be more resilient.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES JOURNEY

Winning the gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow was not just a personal achievement; it was a historic milestone for Indian badminton. My journey to that moment was paved with challenges and emotions that I can still vividly recall. Reflecting back, my first significant outing was at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, where I earned a bronze medal after a tough semi-final match against Rajiv Desepph from England. I remember the intensity of that encounter and the disappointment of not advancing to the final. Fast forward to 2014 and I found myself facing Rajiv again in the semi-finals. The stakes were high and the pressure was palpable. I was on the verge of losing, but somehow, I managed to pull through from a tough situation. Those semi-finals are always daunting; knowing that a victory guarantees a medal while a loss leads to the pressure of a bronze medal match shortly after, adds to the intensity of the competition. The next day, I stepped onto the court for the final, which was equally challenging and intense. It was not my best performance, but I held my ground and ultimately clinched the gold. The relief that washed over me was indescribable. Winning that medal felt like the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice.

## PULLELA GOPICHAND CONNECTION

We were fortunate to have a connection in the sports world—Gopichand was a tenant in one of our flats. Through my mom's connection with his parents, I often visited their place and marvelled at his trophies and national championships. He was already a national champion by then and seeing all his achievements inspired me. Eventually, he invited me to join his badminton center in Hyderabad. But shortly after, he moved to Bengaluru for a training camp to prepare for the national championship. Even though his parents were still in Hyderabad, he rarely came back because Bengaluru became his training base. I am excited about my future in the sport; for, as a player working with Gopichand has been an instrumental part of my career, shaping not only my skills but also my mindset. His influence has been nothing short of transformative. He fundamentally changed the culture at the training center, instilling a sense of belief in us that we were meant to achieve greatness on the world stage. Gopichand consistently emphasized that India is a strong country with immense potential, and he challenged us to aim for bigger things. Gopi created an environment that allowed sports persons to develop and thrive, even in a country like India, which does not have a robust sporting culture. He navigated the bureaucratic and political hurdles to set up a proper system and it is fortunate that someone believed in him and his vision. He managed to secure land from (then Chief Minister) Chandrababu Naidu, which was crucial for establishing the Academy.

## REAL WINS IN BADMINTON TRAVEL

When I think about my international travels, I would say every experience was memorable. I had a fantastic group of players around me, but many of them became coaches and stepped away from playing, which I really miss. The entire journey is what I cherish most. The results and achievements might seem few, even for the best players, but the journey itself is incredibly rewarding. Traveling with the team, experiencing the grind of training and simply sharing those moments together was special. We often explored the cities we visited, even if it was just briefly. Our schedule typically revolved around hotel and stadium life—training or competing and not much else. Sometimes we only had a day to see the city and we were usually too tired to do much more than take in one or two sights. But it was the camaraderie with my fellow players that stood out. I was fortunate to have my then-girlfriend Saina with me throughout most of my travels and later, my wife.

### KNEE INJURY AND OLYMPICS DREAM SHATTERED

In 2016, I was world number six when a knee injury struck, forcing me to undergo surgery and miss the Olympics. Later, I was again close to qualifying, but the unexpected lockdown hit and my performance suffered. I fell short of meeting the qualification criteria, which was disheartening. Yet, despite these setbacks, I embraced the journey. Competing has always been my passion, and the values I have learned from my experiences since 2005 are invaluable.

## CHERISHED MOMENTS

When I think back on my time competing for India, there have been definitely cherished moments that stand out. Over the years, I played so many tournaments and while I had my share of wins, I can count the significant victories on my fingers. Winning the Lucknow tournament a couple of times, earning Commonwealth medals and making it to the Olympics were among those highlights. I won once and that was something I had wished for deeply. Those five or six defining moments brought me immense happiness, no doubt. But on hindsight, I realise those moments were fleeting. You win, celebrate and then that evening, you are feeling okay, but by the next day, you are back on the road travelling home. Two days later, it is time to train again. Suddenly, you are the defending champion gearing up for another tournament. If you lose that one, the disappointment feels just as heavy as if you had not won the week before. The joy of victory can be incredibly short-lived. What I found lasting joy in were the small, daily victories. Each time my coach acknowledged my hard work in training, that felt rewarding.

## LOVE AFFAIR WITH FOOTBALL

I do have interests beyond badminton; football, for one. I'm a big fan of Manchester United and closely follow the Premier League. I keep an eye on La Liga as well, constantly checking results and following emerging talents. I do play football, but I have not had much time to do so, especially after the knee injury. Different muscles are at work and I realised that playing football at a competitive level is not quite the same as badminton; there is no relaxed approach when I try to play like I do in my main sport. I am part of a fantasy league with about 20 to 25 badminton players, which keeps us in touch with football. Most of my friends are also into playing FIFA on their consoles, but I have never been a video game fan—just not something I have gotten into. But football? That is definitely a sport I follow closely!

## RAPID FIRE

### What's your favourite holiday destination?

Oh, we have just started traveling again in the last year and a half. I really enjoyed our trip to America, but I have to say Rome was a standout for me.

### A city you wish to visit?

Right now, I am dreaming about a proper road trip across Spain. I also want to experience Ibiza. I am a festival and party freak and I imagine not sleeping for 3-4 days while partying would be an incredible experience.

### Are you religious?

I do believe in God and some sort of supreme power, but I would not call myself very religious. I follow my coach's teachings and have practiced some yoga nidras. I have not delved deeply into spirituality, so I cannot comment much on it.

### Are you a foodie? If yes, what is your favourite dish?

Home-cooked Andhra dishes are my favorite. When I go out, I order a variety of dishes, but I would not really call myself a foodie. Lately, I have been strict about my diet

because I am trying to avoid putting on weight, so my choices are a bit limited.

### What is your favourite colour?

Blue!

### Your idol in the sports world?

There was no particular idol I would say. Growing up my biggest idol was Gopi, who was like a national champion in front of my eyes. I idolized him and took his advice very seriously—almost like a second parent!