

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The pioneer  
**KTR and Harish Rao are competing with each other to occupy KCR's place. KTR and Harish Rao are not doing anything for the people except conducting press conferences to get photos published in newspapers. The BRS is not a political party. The BRS means KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish and Santhosh. KTR, Harish, Kavitha and Santhosh functioned with the objective of looting. The KCR family should release a white paper on their assets before and after 2014**  
— Kadiam Srihari, Station Ghanpur MLA P4

**'India does not believe in 'taken-for-granted' relations'**  
6

**FINMIN SEEKS EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS**  
8

**Ananya awaits her big commercial SUCCESS**  
P12

**DON'T MISS...**  
**Rich tributes paid to police martyrs...**

Minister for Social Welfare, Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy, and SP AR Damodhar paid tributes to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day, remembering the supreme sacrifices made by security personnel to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and maintain law and order. The Police Commemoration Day ceremony took place at the police parade ground, where the Minister and the SP honoured the martyrs by placing wreaths at the police memorial. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy...

**25 teams of NDRF on standby in...**

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has kept 14 teams in West Bengal and 11 teams in Odisha on standby for deployment in the wake of an impending cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal which is likely to make a landfall between Puri and Sagar Island on Thursday, a government statement said Monday. In a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review preparedness for the impending cyclone on Monday, Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan was also informed...

**When scammers cloned Mittal's...**

Scammers often use AI voice clones to con commoners to transfer money or disclose financial information but it's rare when they try to impersonate a billionaire. This is exactly what scammers tried to do by cloning telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's voice to scam his executive in Dubai to transfer money. Fortunately, the executive was smart enough to realise Mittal won't ask for such a huge money transfer and the scam was stopped in its tracks. On Monday, speaking at the NDTV World...

**Pressure on Siraj after only 19...**

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma believes in consistency when it comes to team selection but he will have to take a leap of faith to retain speedster Mohammed Siraj in the playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand considering his poor run in home conditions. The match starts in Pune from October 24 and inclusion of spin bowler all-rounder Washington Sundar as the fifth slow bowler is an indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit might go for the jugular on a spin-friendly track...



**Rs 11,000 crore HUDCO loan for Amaravati works**

Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana announced that the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has agreed to provide a loan of Rs 11,000 crore for the construction of Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. The minister, accompanied by Special Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Singhal, held discussions with HUDCO officials during a visit to New Delhi on Monday. They met with HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kul Shrestha and HUDCO Vijayawada Regional Chief B.S.N. Murthy. Minister Narayana presented the government's vision for the construction of Amaravati to the HUDCO officials. Satisfied with the government's plans, the HUDCO CMD approved the loan of Rs 11,000 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region

Development Authority (APCRDA) for the project. The minister stated that the government, after coming to power, has been focused on securing funds for the capital's development. The estimated cost for completing Phase-1 of Amaravati's construction is Rs 26,000 crore. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have already agreed to provide Rs 15,000 crore in loans, and with HUDCO's additional Rs 11,000 crore, the capital works will progress rapidly, he said. Minister Narayana further explained that following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's relaunch of the Amaravati project, several banks and financial institutions have shown interest in supporting the construction of the world-class capital. The government is committed to adhering to a fixed timeline for completing buildings and essential infrastructure in the capital. Continued on Page 2

**AP police a brand: CM ANNOUNCES RS 20 CR ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR COPS' WELFARE**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu paid homage to police martyrs, honouring their sacrifices, and announced a Rs 20 crore annual allocation for the welfare of police personnel on Monday. Speaking at the Police Commemoration Day event at the Indra Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada, the Chief Minister praised the police forces for their relentless efforts. He highlighted that the police work tirelessly, 24 hours a day, without rest, to ensure the safety of the public. "Andhra Pradesh police is a brand and has a proud history of suppressing factionalism, rowdiness, and Naxalism in the State," said Chandrababu Naidu. He also promised to further strengthen the police system, stating that Rs 100 crore had been released for the department over the last four months. He criticised the previous government, pointing out that while the former Chief Minister spent Rs 12 crore on fencing his house, he failed to release Rs 10 crore for fingerprint identification technology. Chandrababu noted that despite spending Rs 700 crore on survey stations, the former regime did not allocate Rs 10 crore for installing CCTV cameras, and bills worth Rs 763 crore were left pending. Continued on Page 2



- Naidu pays tribute to police martyrs during the Police Commemoration Day event in Vijayawada.
- Praises the police for working tirelessly, ensuring public safety 24/7.
- Criticises the previous government for not funding police infrastructure like fingerprint tech and CCTV cameras.
- Announces that 6,100 vacant constable posts will be filled soon.
- Promises modern technology and updated equipment for the police force.
- Clears over Rs 100 crore in pending bills, including Central Government's Rs 61 crore share.
- Emphasises the need to address rising cybercrime with advanced technology.
- Assures that the government would firmly support the police against forces trying to destabilise the system.

**'AP govt keen on housing for poor'**

Housing and I & PR Minister K Parthasarathi said that the Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to providing pucca houses to all eligible households within the next five years. A two-day regional workshop and capacity-building programme for the Awaas+ 2024 App, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Gramin, commenced in Guntur on Monday. Speaking at the event, the minister said the State will leverage the PMAY Gramin 2.0 scheme to identify all eligible households in rural areas and ensure they receive sanctions under the programme. He mentioned that while the state could only secure sanctions for 2.46 lakh houses under PMAY Gramin 1.0, it successfully received approvals for 21 lakh houses under the PMAY Urban 1.0 scheme. Continued on Page 2



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**300 sale deeds of assets seized by ED**

The Enforcement Directorate Monday said it has seized more than 300 sale deeds of properties acquired by former YSRCP MP M V V Satyanarayana and some others, apart from 'benami' land passbooks, following raids against them in an Andhra Pradesh government land grab case. The federal agency conducted searches against the former legislator and an auditor, Gannamaneni Venkateswara Rao, on October 19 at five locations in Visakhapatnam. Continued on Page 2

**'Deepam' from Diwali**

**CM Naidu says 3 LPG cylinders will be supplied to eligible households per annum**

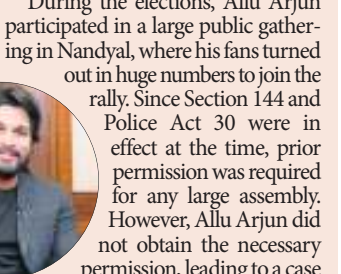
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced that free cooking gas cylinders will be supplied to all eligible women across the State, starting from October 31, to mark the Deepavali festival. The Chief Minister held a meeting at the State Secretariat on Monday with Minister for Civil Supplies, Nandendla Manohar, officials from the Civil Supplies Department, and representatives from Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation. The meeting focused on finalising guidelines for implementing the 'Deepam' scheme. Despite financial constraints, the State government is committed to implementing welfare schemes that benefit the people, especially the poor, Naidu said. Continued on Page 2

**Low pressure area to intensify into cyclonic storm by tomorrow**

The India Meteorological Department on Monday said a new low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal, and is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 23. According to the weather department, the low pressure formed over east-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman Sea around 5:30 am on Monday, influenced by Sunday's upper air cyclonic circulation over north Andaman Sea and adjoining east-central and southeast part of the sea.

**Actor Allu Arjun files quash petition**

Tollywood star Allu Arjun filed a quash petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday, seeking to have a case filed against him during the 2024 general elections in Andhra Pradesh dismissed. The case was registered in May when the actor visited Nandyal town to support YSRCP candidate Shilpa Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy, during a time when Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Police Act 30 were in force. The court has admitted the petition and is expected to take it up for hearing on Tuesday. During the elections, Allu Arjun participated in a large public gathering in Nandyal, where his fans turned out in huge numbers to join the rally. Since Section 144 and Police Act 30 were in effect at the time, prior permission was required for any large assembly. However, Allu Arjun did not obtain the necessary permission, leading to a case being filed against him for violating the Model Code of Conduct and attending gatherings without approval. According to reports, Allu Arjun was accused of allowing a large public gathering at Shilpa Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy's house, resulting in a breach of the code of conduct.



**Dy CM consoles kin of diarrhoea victims**

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Rural Development and Rural Water Supply, Pawan Kalyan, visited Gurla village on Monday to offer condolences to families who recently lost loved ones due to diarrhoea linked to polluted water. The outbreak has devastated nearly 140 households, resulting in the heart-breaking loss of seven lives. Expressing his deep sorrow during the visit, Pawan Kalyan stressed the government's commitment to delivering the highest quality medical care for those affected. "I wanted to ensure that those affected are receiving the best possible care," he said, following a tour of the local Gurla Hospital where he engaged with medical staff about the patients' conditions. His visit underscored the urgency of addressing the ongoing health crisis, demonstrating his dedication to the community's well-being. Before meeting with the bereaved families, Pawan Kalyan convened discussions with relevant officials to investigate the source of the water contamination. Continued on Page 2



**Drone Policy within a month**

Secretary (Political) to the Government of Andhra Pradesh (Political), S Suresh Kumar, announced that two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) will be signed during the Drone Conference set to commence on Tuesday, October 22. Addressing the media on Monday alongside K Dinesh Kumar, MD, AP Drones Corporation, Suresh Kumar provided details about the "Amaravati Drone Summit - 2024" during a briefing at the state secretariat. He stated that an agreement has been reached with the Quality Council of India, and the Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation will soon be recognised as a certified agency. The corporation will undertake various initiatives, including drone pilot training. "We are set to enter into a knowledge partnership with IIT Tirupati. Several companies have expressed interest in signing MoUs, and after careful evaluation, we will proceed with the process. Additionally, a concept paper outlining the strategy framework for the drone ecosystem will be released during the conference and distributed to attendees. After reviewing the feedback, we plan to finalise the drone policy within a month," Suresh Kumar said. He further highlighted that Tuesday's event will be one of the largest drone showcases in the country, featuring 5,500 drones. The drone show will take place at Punnami Ghat, near the Krishna River in Vijayawada, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, accompanied by cultural programmes.



**AP competes with developed nations: Lokesh**

Minister for Education, Information Technology (IT), and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, stated on Monday that the Andhra Pradesh government is competing not only with other Indian states but also with developed nations in the IT and Electronics sectors. Lokesh made this observation during a meeting with representatives of the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by ICEA Chairman, Pankaj Mahindroo. Lokesh explained in detail the initiatives being taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government to transform the state into an electronics hub, taking advantage of its favourable environment. He informed the gathering that the State government has established a task force comprising renowned industrialists to regularly discuss challenges faced by the industry and the necessary steps to address them. He highlighted that the IT and Electronics sector will play a crucial role in Andhra Pradesh over the next five years, with plans to create 20 lakh jobs for the youth. A customised policy will soon be introduced to facilitate this growth. Lokesh also emphasised that Andhra Pradesh is adopting one of the most industry-friendly policies and creating an ecosystem that is conducive to all industries. The State is progressing with its "Speed-of-Doing Business" approach, he said, adding that Anantapur and Kurnool districts will be developed as centres for the automobile and electronics industries and that the government is focusing on developing Amaravati along the lines of Washington, D.C. in the United States.



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Andhra Pradesh is advancing rapidly under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, now serving his fourth term. Lokesh assured the attendees that the State is ready to provide various incentives for those with viable proposals to set up industries. He also announced that Visakhapatnam is being developed as the IT powerhouse and the capital for Artificial Intelligence (AI), while Tirupati will be developed as the electronics hub. Lokesh called for the cooperation of industrialists to achieve these goals. He further mentioned that Anantapur and Kurnool districts will be developed as centres for the automobile and electronics industries and that the government is focusing on developing Amaravati along the lines of Washington, D.C. in the United States.



# Homage paid to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has stated that the sacrifices of the police officials who lost their lives while ensuring the safety of citizens and maintaining law and order are unforgettable. "It is impossible to imagine what kind of conditions would prevail in present society if there were no police," he said.

As part of the Police Commemoration Day observance held on Monday, tributes were paid to the police martyrs from Krishna district. Minister Kollu Ravindra along with Krishna District Superintendent of Police (SP) R Gangadhara Rao paid homage to them at the Police Parade Grounds in Machilipatnam.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the efforts, dedication and commitment of the police personnel towards maintaining law and order and safeguarding the country's interests are immeasurable. The government is ready to strengthen the State Police Department and wishes to implement people-friendly policing in the State, he added.

Minister Ravindra further alleged that the State's image was ruined due to some police officers' actions.

However, his government would make the department hold their heads high, he added.

SP R Gangadhara Rao said that at least 216 policemen were martyred during 2023-24 while on duty across the country, 10 of whom in Krishna district. He said that they will always be remembered for their extraordinary courage.

Later, the police organised a rally from the parade grounds to Lakshmi Talkies Centre, which was flagged off by Kollu Ravindra. Ravindra donated Rs.50,000 to the Krishna District Police Welfare Fund. Jana Sena leader Bandi Rama Krishna, DRO K Chandra Sekhar Rao, RDO K Swathi and others were present.



Minister Kollu Ravindra and SP R Gangadhara Rao paying tributes to police martyrs on the occasion of the Police Commemoration Day at the Police Parade Grounds in Machilipatnam on Monday



Minister Kollu Ravindra presenting a cheque to Krishna District SP R Gangadhara Rao in Machilipatnam on Monday



## GVMC fully prepared for cyclone threat: Commissioner

Depression in Bay of Bengal expected to intensify into a cyclone by Wednesday

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is fully geared up to tackle the impending cyclone, announced Commissioner Dr P Sampath Kumar in a press release on Monday. The depression in the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a cyclone by Wednesday. "The GVMC is equipped to provide essential services to the public in the event of any threat," Dr Sampath Kumar stated. He urged residents of the hilly and inland areas of the city to remain vigilant as the low pressure may intensify into a storm.

In a coordinated effort, District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad has directed GVMC machinery to be on standby to address the potential threat of the cyclone through teleconference. To safeguard those affected by the cyclone, the GVMC has established rehabilitation centers. Dr Sampath Kumar highlighted the increased risk of falling trees due to the storm, explaining, "We have prepared vehicles, tree-cutting machines, and personnel to ensure timely removal of any hazards." Additionally, he noted that authorities have been advised to take necessary precautions against the potential for strong winds to down electricity poles.

## HONOURING THE DESIGNER OF NATIONAL FLAG



# Machilipatnam Medical College named after Pingali Venkaiah

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State government has renamed the Government Medical College in Machilipatnam as Sri Pingali Venkaiah Government Medical College. The Medical College is named after Pingali Venkaiah, the freedom fighter and designer of the Indian flag, recognising his significant contributions to the nation. The renaming fulfils a long-held aspiration to celebrate his legacy.

On a Monday, the official order G.O.Ms.No.132 was issued by the Special Chief Secretary for Health, Medical, and Family Welfare, MT Krishna Babu. Prior to this decision, the Health, Medical

and Family Welfare Department received two proposals requesting to change the name of the Machilipatnam Government Medical College to Sri Pingali Venkaiah Government Medical College. The Director of Medical Education and the Krishna District Collector sent two separate proposals recently in this regard.

After considering these proposals, the government took the decision. He directed the Director of Medical Education, Vijayawada, to take necessary action.

Meanwhile, Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashoury thanked the government and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

He said that he strived to release funds for the construction of the Medical College in Machilipatnam from the Union government by conducting meetings with the Union Health Minister several times.

Further, he said that he had requested the previous government to rename the Medical College, which the government ignored.

He took the issue to the notice of CM Chandrababu Naidu while he participated in the 'Swachhtha Hi Seva' programme in Machilipatnam on October 2.

Soon after receiving the request, the government renamed the Medical College, he explained.



## Student attacks college official with knife

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

An intermediate first-year student has attacked an administrative officer with a knife. His condition is reported to be critical.

The incident took place on Sunday night during a routine bag inspection at a local college. According to the Tiruchanoor police, an administrative officer of a private college, N Venkataramana (52), who hails from Adasupalli in Somala mandal of Punganur, was conducting a routine check of students' belongings when he discovered a knife in one of the bags. When Venkataramana questioned the boy about why he had brought the knife, the boy reportedly attacked the officer, stabbing him in the neck. Venkataramana sustained severe injuries and was rushed to Ruia Hospital in Tirupati by the staff members.

## Drunk man kills wife

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A man brutally murdered his wife under the influence of alcohol in Vijayawada on Monday. According to the police, the incident occurred in Kamsalipeta, where Sheikh Nagina (32) and her husband Baji were residing. Nagina worked as a labourer in a tiffin centre. Baji's alcohol addiction often led to arguments and quarrels between the couple.

# Ayyanna Patrudu lays stone for road works

### Says he secured Rs 40 crore for Narsipatnam constituency in 100 days

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu participated in the Pallo Panduga programme on Monday, where he laid the foundation stone for road works worth Rs 40 lakh.

During his address at the festival, Ayyanna Patrudu highlighted his achievements in the Narsipatnam constituency. "In just 100 days, I have secured Rs 40 crore for the Narsipatnam constituency. Of that, Rs 14 crore has been allocated to Natavaram mandal." He emphasised the importance of timely investments in infrastructure to foster growth and improve residents' quality of life.

Ayyanna Patrudu didn't hold back in criticising the previous MLA, saying, "The former MLA claimed to have brought crores to the constituency, yet they couldn't even allocate Rs 3 lakh to repair the Tandava gate. We've completed the repairs with Rs 5 lakh, and we'll



install new gates once the crop season starts." He also accused former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of misconduct. "Jagan Mohan Reddy looted the State's sand, but in this con-

stituency, it was the former MLA and his followers."

The Speaker extended an invitation to Jagan. "I invite Jagan Mohan Reddy to the next Assembly session. Let's meet

face-to-face. He avoids the Assembly because he fears having to salute me."

Ayyanna Patrudu also addressed illegal sand mining, revealing, "Illegal sand mining

in Gummadigonda and Allipudi resulted in Rs 2 crore being looted. We seized 48,000 metric tonnes of illegal sand in Narsipatnam and imposed Rs 18 crore in fines, all due to the actions of the former MLA."

"We will give opportunities to those who work hard. Those who disrupt progress won't be given any chance," he added. He reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling promises made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, particularly regarding the Tandava Lift Irrigation Project under Polavaram, estimated at Rs 2,900 crore. "I will ensure its completion in the coming days and repay the trust of the constituency's people. I won't deceive them."

Ayyanna Patrudu reaffirmed his dedication to infrastructure development. "I am working to provide essential infrastructure to villages in every possible way." RDO VV Ramana and other leaders from Natavaram mandal were also present.

## Liberal arts: A cornerstone of 21st-Century education: Expert

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As India's higher education landscape undergoes rapid transformation, the importance of liberal arts education is experiencing a remarkable resurgence, particularly in the 21st century. This was the key message delivered by Dr. Ratheesh Kumar, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), during a thought-provoking lecture at GITAM Deemed to be University.

Dr. Kumar's talk, titled "Critical Pedagogy and Interdisciplinarity: Reflections on Practice," was organized by the GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences and highlighted the critical role of liberal arts in promoting a holistic approach to education.

"Liberal arts education, which encompasses a broad range of subjects, including the humanities, social sciences,



and natural sciences, plays a vital role in promoting critical thinking and creativity," said Dr. Kumar. "It provides a well-rounded intellectual foundation, moving away from a narrow focus on specialization." He emphasized that modern education systems increasingly recognize the value of interdisciplinary learning. "Education should not be limited to a single field of specialization. Instead, it should encourage an interdisciplinary approach that allows for more comprehensive learning," he added.

# Moolapeta greenfield port construction resumes

### Project poised to become a catalyst for economic development in the area

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM

In a move that promises to transform the fortunes of a long-neglected region, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu has announced the resumption of construction work on the long-awaited Moolapeta Greenfield Port. This ambitious project, a dream long cherished by the local population, is poised to become a catalyst for economic development in the area. The Minister, accompanied by District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar and District SP K.V. Maheswara Reddy, oversaw the commencement of construction and inspected the ongoing works. "We are on track to open the port with at least one operational berth by June 12, 2025," Atchannaaidu declared, highlighting the project's rapid progress.



Addressing the deep-rooted concerns of local migration, the Minister emphasised the

region's historical struggle with unemployment. "This port will change the narrative," he

asserted. "With industrial and tourism development on the horizon, there will be ample

opportunities for local residents." The Minister also revealed ongoing discussions with the central government to optimize the use of salt lands in the region. He urged Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu to consider establishing an oil refinery, a move that would further accelerate the region's growth.

The strategic connection between the Moolapeta Greenfield Port and the Bhogapuram International Airport was another key highlight. Atchannaaidu explained that the completion of both projects, along with the connecting infrastructure, would position the area as a hub for industrial, tourism, and township development. To bolster job creation and support the local community, the Minister announced plans for MSME parks, hotels, fishing harbors,

and fish landing centers. He also assured residents of Moolapeta and Vishnu Chakra villages that the R&R colony with modern amenities would be built to replace their existing villages.

"This project is more than just infrastructure; it's a beacon of hope for a region that has been underserved for far too long," Atchannaaidu stated. "We are committed to ensuring that the benefits of this development reach every corner of the community." Vishwa Samudra Engineering Pvt Ltd, the project's managing director, Dr. Anil Yendluri, reported substantial progress in the construction work. He highlighted the completion of the North Breakwater and a significant portion of the South Breakwater, as well as the production of concrete blocks and the ongoing general cargo berth fillings.













# SKY FORCE TAKES FLIGHT THIS REPUBLIC DAY

Producer Dinesh Vijan, fresh off a string of hits with *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Ulha Jiya*, *Munjya* and *Stree 2*, is gearing up to release his next big projects, *Chhaava* and *Sky Force*.

While *Chhaava* lands in theatres on December 6, 2024, his highly anticipated aerial entertainer *Sky Force*, starring Akshay Kumar, Sara Ali Khan, Veer and Nimrat Kaur, will hit screens during the Republic Day 2025 weekend.

According to a source, "Dinesh Vijan, Amar Kaushik and the team believe that *Sky Force* is a perfect fit for the Republic Day period. It's packed with action, drama, emotions, thrills and a strong patriotic theme. Set against the backdrop of India's first airstrike on Pakistan, the film has shaped up very well."

Early reports have been very positive and the team is confident that *Sky Force* will hit the mark. "The VFX, crafted by the National and Oscar Award-

winning company DNEG, is exceptional. The film boasts breathtaking aerial visuals and captures the emotions surrounding India's first surgical strike with precision. The on-screen chemistry between Akshay Kumar and Veer is expected to be a standout and audiences are in for a treat with how Akshay is portrayed in the film," the source added. *Sky Force* marks Veer's big Bollywood debut, as he shares screen space with Akshay Kumar, making for an exciting new pairing.

While the film will release on January 24, 2025, the trailer is slated for a grand launch during the Christmas 2024 holiday season. "It's going to be a month-long campaign, with the trailer setting the tone for *Sky Force*'s powerful arrival," adds the source.



# what's brewing?

## Echoing ancient tale of honour & duty with *Vanvaas*

With blockbusters like *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*, *Apne and Gadar 2*, Zee Studios and Anil Sharma have created a phenomenon of success. Bringing yet another cinematic marvel, they made a grand announcement on Dussehra of their next project, titled *Vanvaas*. Now, without any delay, they have revealed the release date of this riveting tale, which is all set to hit theaters on December 20th. *Vanvaas* will be an intriguing story that explores a timeless theme, echoing an ancient tale where duty, honor and the consequences of one's actions shape the course of lives. Amid the rising anticipation for the film, the makers have finally confirmed the release date. The film is slated for a December 20th release, promising to end the year on a high note. Taking to their social media, the makers announced the release date and wrote, "Iss Christmas, apno ko pehchaniye. Anil Sharma, brings to you his next emotional rollercoaster ride! #Vanvaas releasing 20th December, in cinemas near you."

Bringing yet another masterpiece from *Gadar* director Anil Sharma, *Vanvaas* guarantees a compelling and gripping narrative. The film will star Nana Patekar and *Gadar 2* fame Utkarsh Sharma. Written, produced and directed by Anil Sharma, *Vanvaas* will be a Zee Studios worldwide release.



## GO NONI GO SET FOR ITS PREMIERE AT JIO MAMI

Get ready to experience a heartwarming, laughter-filled journey as *Go Noni Go* makes its Gala premiere at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival on October 23rd. Directed by maverick director Sonal Dabral, this vibrant film is set to captivate audiences with its endearing story, showcasing humour, romance and the beauty of second chances in life.

Presented by Applause Entertainment, *Go Noni Go* is an Ellipsis Entertainment production in association with *Mrs. Funnybones* movies (Twinkle Khanna). Adapted from the original short story *Salaam Noni Appa* by Twinkle Khanna, *Go Noni Go* follows Noni, an introverted woman, as she navigates an unexpected romance with her younger, married yoga instructor, sparking laughter, tension and heartfelt moments. Against all odds, and breaking all the rules, will love take over?

With a stellar cast that includes Dimple Kapadia, Manav Kaul, Ayesha Raza, Athiya Shetty, *Go Noni Go* is a lively rom-com that promises to leave you smiling, laughing, and rooting for love at any stage of life. The Gala premiere is all set to be held on Wednesday.



## Ali-Richa champion girls' self-defense with Jiu Jitsu patrons

In a unique way to spread empowerment, Richa and Ali reached out to NGO Mukkamaar, which teaches girls self-defense, and organised a Jiu Jitsu workshop conducted by world champion in Jiu Jitsu, Andressa Citra and Lucas Valente.

*MukkaMaar Girls*, started by actor Ishita Sharma, is a NGO that has been teaching girls to assert their agency - whether through martial arts training and athletics.

Richa Chadha says, "Self-defense isn't just about fighting back; it's about building confidence, resilience and awareness. And when we learnt that Andressa would be interested, we put together this unique one day workshop."

To this, Ali Fazal added, "I have been training in Jiu Jitsu and having the *Mukkamaar*



children meet with Andressa, meant that they'd have such a solid role model, in terms of what they can become. Especially for the young girls to meet a world champ and learn from her one-on-one, even if it was for a few hours, is so inspiring and fantastic for them."

Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha have long been advocates for gender equality and social justice. They recently celebrated the birth of their daughter by gifting the media sweets and also by planting trees in their individual names in drought-affected areas, via the Nabhangan Foundation.

## Biggest deals, biggest drama with *Million Dollar Listing India*



Sony LIV unveils the trailer for *Million Dollar Listing India*, bringing the excitement of luxury real estate from October 25. Featuring six charismatic realtors, this series dives into India's most exclusive homes and the fierce competition pursued to sell them.

Produced by Banijay Asia and licensed by NBCUniversal Formats, this Indian edition of the two-time Emmy-nominated global hit offers a glimpse into the high-stakes world of luxury property deals, intense negotiations and jaw-dropping properties. Buckle up for drama, big numbers and relentless rivalries in this must-watch show.

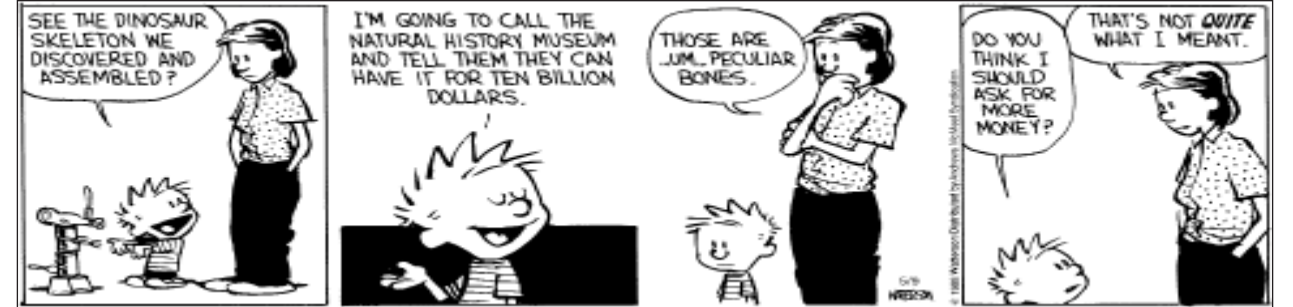
Join realtors Hem Batra, Ankush Sanyal, Navdeep Khanuja, Deepti Mallik, Karuna Gidwani and Prajesh Bhatia as they go head-to-head, tackling impossible client demands and fierce rivals in Delhi's elite real estate market.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



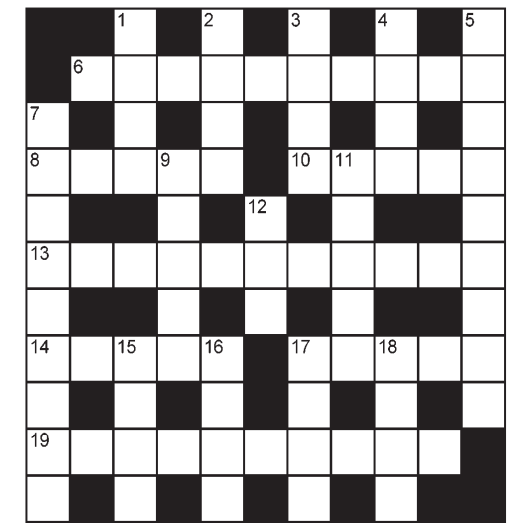
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

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

### ACROSS

- Broken down; not working properly (3,2,5)
- A word for a taxi driver
- A sung musical drama
- Saying you are sorry
- Light soft modelling wood
- Part of a poem or song
- Follows seventeenth

### DOWN

- A round underground part of some plants
- A small type of horse
- A toy that spins around a held string (2-2)
- The part along the side or end
- Three-sided figures
- A way of cooking eggs

SOLUTION

S	T	A	R	T	S	I	D	O	
L	U	S	R	I	C	A	G	E	
K	U	N	A	M	T				
I	S	R	A	E	L	I	E		
O	T	U	L	D	N				
X	I	G	N	O	R	E			
Y	M	H	W	P	C				
G	H	E	S	T	H	A	L	L	
E	A	V	E	R	A				
N	I	N	E	P	A	S	T	R	I

## BREAKING BARRIERS IN CLASSICAL DANCE

Embodying the soul of Mohiniyattam, **Gopika Varma's** pursuit of this classical dance is marked by an insatiable curiosity, passion and dedication to unravelling the hidden layers of stories, emotions and cultural significance. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, renowned Mohiniyattam exponent delves into the intricacies of her artistic journey, where dance becomes a profound exploration of the soul

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**G**opika Varma's pursuit of Mohiniyattam is a journey steeped in curiosity and passion, where dance becomes a living, breathing dialogue with history and mythology. Her search isn't confined to perfecting a graceful step or mastering a delicate expression; it's about uncovering the hidden layers of stories, emotions and cultural significance that lie beneath each performance. She constantly seeks more—more knowledge, more understanding and more connection. Whether she's collaborating with scholars, experimenting with new interpretations, or blending ancient tales with contemporary relevance, her artistic path is one of endless discovery, where every performance is not just an expression of dance but a profound exploration of the soul of Mohiniyattam.

In the world of classical Indian dance, she resonates with grace, storytelling and an undying dedication to her art form, Mohiniyattam. Reflecting on her journey, she describes it as a continuous learning process, one that blends tradition with modernity, demanding both passion and discipline. "It's very important for me that we announce and explain what I've choreographed at the beginning of every performance," she shares, emphasising the need for clarity in storytelling. For her, performing, feels like returning to her artistic roots. "Dancing is beautiful—there's a unique energy here. The staging, the audience, the backstage, everything is wonderful. And Shovana ji's festival, in particular, brings out the best audience," she says, praising the festival's impact on the city's cultural scene.

Her Mohiniyattam performances have always placed a strong emphasis on *abhinaya* (expressive storytelling), which she considers the soul of this classical dance form. "In Mohiniyattam, while footwork is important, the focus is on *abhinaya*—and that too, mature *abhinaya*. Only through refined expressions can we tell stories that resonate," she explains. Her recent performance at the *Spandan* festival showcased the stories of three strong women from the *Mahabharata*, characters that she believes continue to live among us today. "Draupadi is a powerful figure. Her life wasn't designed by her own desires; she lived for others, for *dharma*. In many ways, women today still live lives that aren't designed by them, much like Draupadi."

Reflecting on the evolution of the dance world, Gopika acknowledges how the digital age has transformed not just the way we teach and perform but also how classical dance forms like Mohiniyattam reach a broader audience. "The digital age has been a beautiful moment for us, especially when it comes to sharing classical dance styles. Online performances, teachings, and discussions have bridged the gap between distances. It's important, though, to use these resources wisely, ensuring the art's essence is preserved." Her journey with Mohiniyattam hasn't been easy, especially when she first arrived in Chennai. "When I came to Chennai, Mohiniyattam was practically nonexistent. It was a rare form to see, but now I have over 200 dancers performing in the city." The pride she feels for reviving the art form in Chennai is palpable, especially when she recalls receiving the state award from J Jayalalithaa, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. "Receiving that honour from someone who understood and had learned both Mohiniyattam and Bharatanatyam was a great moment for me, particularly as a non-Tamil artist."

As she shares her experiences, it's clear that her art is deeply personal. "When you dance, especially when you embody a character, it always reflects your own mindset. I can't perform something that doesn't resonate with me. It won't feel personal, and the performance won't connect with the audience. To be successful, there has to be a reflection of yourself in your art." For her, learning from maestros has been key to her growth. "When you train with maestros, you don't just learn the dance; you learn everything—the backstage, the management, the intricacies of every moment. It's like working with a great lawyer. There's a big difference between learning from a good teacher and a maestro. That experience is invaluable."

Despite her success, she continues to learn and evolve, which in turn inspires her students. "It's important that we keep upgrading ourselves to inspire the next generation. Mohiniyattam is a relatively young art form, revived only about 250 years ago. So it's vital to give it as much exposure as possible by presenting strong characters at major festivals."

Even during the pandemic, she found ways to keep the art alive. "We had online performances, classes and discussions. The distance between us reduced, but we had to make sure we used the resources well." For her, storytelling remains at the heart of Mohiniyattam. "We have to read, understand, and constantly be in touch with scholars to make sure the stories we tell reach the audience. Not every story does, but it's our responsibility to ensure they do." Through her performances, teachings and endless dedication to the dance, Gopika Varma continues to breathe life into the ancient stories of Mohiniyattam, ensuring they resonate with today's audiences.



## Sports drinks after short training? More harm than help!

**S**ports drinks are often marketed as a quick way to replenish electrolytes and energy lost during exercise. However, they aren't always the best option after short training or competition sessions.

Here are a few reasons why:

### EXCESS SUGAR

Sports drinks typically contain high amounts of sugar. After short sessions, the body does not need the excess sugar, which can lead to unnecessary calorie intake and may contribute to weight gain over time.

### ADDED CALORIES

For brief workouts (less than an hour), water is usually sufficient for rehydration. Consuming sports drinks adds unnecessary calories without significant benefit, especially when the exercise wasn't intense enough to burn many calories.

### ELECTROLYTE LEVELS

Short training sessions generally do not deplete electrolytes significantly. The sodium, potassium, and other electrolytes in sports drinks are designed for longer, intense sessions where sweat loss is substantial. For most people, typical diet intake is sufficient to replenish these electrolytes after a brief workout.

### DENTAL HEALTH

The sugar and acidity in sports drinks can contribute to dental problems, including tooth decay and enamel erosion. Regular consumption, particularly when it's not needed, may increase this risk.

### HYDRATION NEEDS

For moderate activities lasting less than 60 minutes, plain water is typically adequate for rehydration. Drinking water is the healthiest way to maintain fluid balance without the added sugars and artificial ingredients found in many sports drinks.

### ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS

Many sports drinks contain artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives, which provide no nutritional benefit and may not be ideal for those seeking a clean, healthy recovery option. Over time, the consumption of these additives can have unknown or potentially negative long-term effects on health.

### LACK OF NUTRIENT REPLENISHMENT

Sports drinks lack important nutrients like vitamins, minerals, and protein, which are crucial for muscle recovery and repair. After a short workout, it's better to focus on a balanced meal with essential nutrients rather than sugary drinks that offer minimal post-exercise recovery support.

### INCREASE IN INSULIN LEVELS

Consuming a sports drink that is high in sugar post-workout can cause a rapid spike in blood sugar levels, leading to an insulin surge. For people looking to maintain steady energy levels and metabolic balance, this sudden rise and fall of blood sugar might hinder recovery rather than aid it.

(The author, Dr Aabid Amin, is the Medical Director and Consultant Internal Medicine of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.)

## Transforming Kartik Aaryan from flab to fab

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, **Tridev Pandey**, the mastermind behind Bollywood's most stunning transformations, reveals the secrets behind his success, his approach to fitness and his unwavering commitment to shaping India's sports and fitness landscape

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**A** simple journey that began with playing basketball on the national level, Tridev Pandey's life took an unexpected turn when a knee injury forced him to give up basketball, a sport he had excelled in, earning three national-level medals.

Determined to stay in the sports arena, Pandey turned to boxing, a passion he had nurtured since his school days. Under the guidance of renowned coach Chote Lal Yadav, Pandey's boxing journey began, yielding gold medals in state and regional tournaments and eventually landing him a spot in the India camp. However, a nationwide ban on boxing due to administrative issues left Pandey uncertain about his future. It was during this challenging period that he discovered his true calling—coaching. With the encouragement of a fellow boxer, Pandey decided to pursue coaching, and his life changed forever.

And now here he is, 10 years later, working with several celebrities to transform



into the unbelievable. Who did he first start working with, you wonder? Well, it was the extremely talented Sanya Malhotra.

A remarkable work that has currently made him the talk-of-the-town is the mind-boggling transformation of Kartik Aaryan for *Chandu Champion*. We hark back to how it all happened and he shares, "I got a call from the production house of *Chandu Champion* that we are making a film like this, where the lead actor is supposed to play a boxer and they asked me to send my resume."

Right from Slow Cheeta, Vikrant Massey, to his coaching with Sanya, he shared all of it, and post that, he got a call from the team asking how much time is it going to take for the training since they had to make a proper boxing movie. "I later got to know that I had to train Kartik Aaryan and transform him into an athlete. It was not just for the sake of showing the audience but as a proper boxer. When I met Kabir sir, I assured him that whatever sessions I would take for the training, I didn't want anyone else to body dub on his behalf but teach him boxing completely. Thanks to Kartik bhai that he took it seriously. In fact, he used to also send me videos about how we can try the training." Not just the training, but fitness was something that they were keen on with the push-ups, pull-ups, headstands and all of it.

They had no big goals but the small ones. But how? It was post-Freddy that he had to begin transforming into *Chandu Champion*. While back then, he was of 90 kg, he shares, "We wanted to start with 85 kg first. We had to look into what all we are supposed to do and how much intake of calories is required. I did not really want to exhaust him since the beginning; he was also shooting for

*Satyaprem Ki Katha*. He used to not get proper time because he was shooting for 12 hours straight. The time was a challenge and then the injuries because your body is not recovering completely, not getting a proper 8 hours of sleep, so we really had to be alert about the techniques we wanted to learn. We used the AM/PM routine. Then, of course, I was maintaining the discipline, but slowly things came in track. We are proud that without any steroids or injections, we came up with this body. It was a result of pure hard work."

While in Kartik Aaryan's case, it was much clear that he had to do all of it for the role; on the other hand, he was working with Shweta Tripathi Sharma, with whom the goal was to get fit. "She hadn't done any training or any such sort of thing earlier. She just wanted to workout and that's how we began the training. Simultaneously, *Mirzapur 3's* shooting was also supposed to start where she had to use a gun and do some actions. That's how we began and you can see the result. As compared to Golu in Season 1 and Season 3, we made a strict diet and heavy lifting. Her weight is about 48 and she was lifting a 50-55 kg deadlift and 40 kg squats. It was not that the story wanted Golu to look in a certain way. It was all her wish to do all of it that could be visible on-screen with her confidence."

While he continues to train Kartik Aaryan, Shweta Tripathi, Shivani Raghuvanshi and Sanya Malhotra on a regular basis, he is also working on a Dharma project. As Pandey looks to the future, his goal remains clear: to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of his clients and contributing to the growth of Indian sports and fitness.

# NEW ZEALAND WHITE FERNS SPLIT \$ 2.3 MILLION AFTER WINNING T20 WORLD CUP

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Members of the New Zealand White Ferns cricket team which beat South Africa by 32 runs in the final of the women's Twenty20 World Cup in Dubai on Sunday will split prize money of around USD 2.3 million. That works out at around USD 155,000 or NZD 256,000 per team member, a life-changing windfall for players who for years have struggled for years to achieve financial parity with their male counterparts. New Zealand's first-ever victory in the World Cup of cricket's shortest format was a massive surprise. The White Ferns had lost 10 consecutive T20 matches before beating South Africa in a warm-up match. That pre-tournament success proved a turning point for New Zealand who beat India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, losing only to Australia on the way to the semifinals. South Africa ousted six-time champion Australia in a massive upset in the semi in which New Zealand beat the West Indies. New Zealand made 158-5, batting first in the final, helped by Suzy Bates who made 32, Amelia Kerr who made 43 and Brooke Halliday who made 38. Kerr then took 3-24 and Rosemary Mair 3-25 as New Zealand restricted South Africa to



126-9. "Pretty unbelievable to be honest," Mair said. "Coming into the tournament all the odds were against us so for the group to bounce back like they have is unbelievable. "We just care so much about each

other. We've been through a lot of lows in the last 18 months, and we've just stuck by each other and kept working hard for each other." Captain Sophie Devine was leading the New Zealand team for the last time. She and Bates have played in

all nine T20 World Cups since the first in 2009. New Zealand reached the final of the first two tournaments in 2009 and 2010, losing to Australia on both occasions. "This means everything to us," Bates said. "When you play team sport,

you want to be a world champion. "We've fought our way back to the top. (Devie) has been so outstanding leading this team... So calm and believing in us. We'll probably have a cuddle for even longer later because there's been some dark times that only the people in the (locker room) understand." New Zealand was coached to victory by Australian Ben Sawyer and former Black Caps batters Dean Brownlie and Craig McMillan. The White Ferns' success was praised Monday by New Zealand Sports Minister Chris Bishop. It came at the end of a weekend in which New Zealand also retained sailing's America's Cup and in which the New Zealand men's cricket team beat India in a test in India for the first time in 36 years. "And then to round out a truly amazing sporting weekend, at 3am Monday morning (NZT) the White Ferns, led by Sophie Devine, stepped up to face South Africa in the women's T20 World Cup final in Dubai and absolutely smashed it, bringing home their first World Cup since the One Day International in 2000," Bishop said. "Amelia Kerr's 43 runs off 38 balls and then taking 3 wickets for 24 set our team up for their magnificent performance."



## I am pain-free, need to play domestic cricket to make strong case for Australia tour: Mohammed Shami

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami on Monday declared himself pain-free but insisted on proving his fitness in domestic cricket by playing at least "one or two" games to make a strong case for selection for the marquee tour of Australia starting next month. Shami, who has not played since the ODI World Cup final last November, bowled full tilt in the nets after India's opening Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru on Sunday. This was a few days after skipper Rohit Sharma revealed that he had swelling in his knees which has affected his rehabilitation from an ankle injury sustained last year. "I am very happy with how I bowled yesterday. I was bowling from half run-up before that because I didn't want to take too much load. But yesterday, I decided to go full tilt, and I bowled at a 100 per cent," the 34-year-old told reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by Eugenix Hair Sciences. "The result was good. I am 100 per cent pain-free. Everyone has been wondering for a long time about whether I will make it for the Australia series but it is still some time away." India are expected to leave for Australia two weeks before the series opener in Perth beginning November 22, leaving Shami just about enough time to feature in two Ranji games for Bengal. Bengal take on Kerala at home from October 26 before travelling to Bengaluru to face Karnataka from November 6. Is he ready for Bengal's next game?

"The only thing on my mind is to ensure that I am fit and how strong I can be for the Australia series. I can see what kind of attack we need in Australia." INJURIES TEACH YOU PATIENCE: Shami was forced out of action for more than a year after suffering a knee injury during the 2015 ODI World Cup. The 34-year-old is now in a similar phase and he feels injuries only make you stronger. "2015 also I was away for that long. Injury teaches you to fight against yourself, you have to keep frustration at bay, focus on fitness and game. It is difficult to get back on track after an injury. "Injuries teach you patience and add purity to your game. After your comeback the main thing is if you can maintain your fitness. Yes rhythm is important but your skills won't leave you. "You need to fight for regaining fitness," said Shami, who has taken 229 wickets in 64 Tests and 195 wickets in 101 ODIs. While he was recovering from his ankle injury, India were able to end their ICC trophy drought in the Caribbean. Did Shami, who was the standout bowler for India in the ODI World Cup at home last year, miss being part of the triumphant T20 World Cup squad? "It depends on luck as well. I feel one should not be disappointed as you gave your best for the country. You can't fight your luck. If you get injured there is nothing you can do about it," he said. India have already started preparing the next line of pacers though the likes of Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj still have a lot of cricket left in them. Asked about his thoughts on the transition, Shami had only one advice for the next generation of fast bowlers. "It is a circle and will keep going on. Whether it is Mayank Yadav, Akash Deep Mukesh Kumar, Harshit Rana, I would only advise them to talk at length with the seniors in the nets, that teaches you a lot. "Last 8 to 10 years, we have bowled as a unit. Before that, we never had 140 plus pacers playing at the same time. "From those to the ones on the bench also bowl at 145kmph. So opponents don't get to relax and that creates fear. We all have different skills and that is what we have shown at home and overseas conditions." Can India win their third series in a row in Australia? "The conditions suit us. All our fast bowlers are different type and if we get bounce it only makes us better. Batters need to score a bit, rest we will manage (laughs)," Shami added.

## Mumbai cruise to nine-wicket win over Maharashtra to earn full points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Defending champions Mumbai got their Ranji Trophy campaign back on track with an emphatic nine-wicket win over Maharashtra in their second group A league game here on Monday, offsetting the heavy loss to Baroda in the opening game. Needing 74 to win, Mumbai went into the final day at 13 for no loss.

While Ayush Mhatre's (15) dismissal robbed them off a bonus point, Prithvi Shaw (39 not out off 36 balls) and Hardik Tamore (21 not out off 26 balls) earned six points for the team in just 13.3 overs. This was after the 42-time champions lost to Baroda by 84 runs in the opening Ranji Trophy fixture but in the second match at the BKC ground, Mumbai excelled in all departments of the game. The match was won and lost on the first day itself when Mumbai bowled out Maharashtra for 126 in their first innings and then rode on 17-year-old Mhatre's smashing 176 and Shreyas Iyer's belligerent 142 to score 441.

While Maharashtra fared much better in the second innings with centuries from Ruturaj Gaikwad and veteran Ankit Bawne, apart from a 98 from former India U-19 batter Sachin Dhas, the damage was already done.

### BRIEF SCORES

**In Mumbai:** Maharashtra 126 and 388. Mumbai 442 & (Target 74) 75/1 (Prithvi Shaw 39 not out). Points: Mumbai 6; Maharashtra 0.  
**In Shillong:** Tripura 1st Innings 377/8. Meghalaya 222 and 138. Tripura won by an innings and 17 runs.

## Pressure on Siraj after only 19 wickets from 13 Tests in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma believes in consistency when it comes to team selection but he will have to take a leap of faith to retain speedster Mohammed Siraj in the playing eleven for the second Test against New Zealand considering his poor run in home conditions. The match starts in Pune from October 24 and inclusion of spin bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar as the fifth slow bowler is an indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and Rohit might go for the jugular on a spin-friendly track.

The 30-year-old Hyderabad batsman has so far taken 80 wickets in 30 Test matches but 61 of those scalps have come in 17 away Test matches in three of the SENA countries (South Africa, England, Australia). Only 19 wickets after bowling 192.2 overs in 13 home Tests are figures that imply that Siraj has struggled in sub-continental conditions unlike



Jasprit Bumrah and Indore and Delhi where he got to bowl only 10 and six overs respectively. But what has been disappointing is that the last seven home Tests have yielded only 12 wickets for him which is less than two per match. Also, he hasn't been

consistent enough to get initial breakthroughs leaving Bumrah with all the heavy-lifting to do with the new ball. PTI spoke to a coach, who has worked extensively with some of the current national team bowlers, and he thinks that Siraj's length is erroneous for Indian conditions. He explained the technical flaw that has cropped up in his bowling. "If you see Siraj's record, he has five-wicket hauls in Australia and South Africa where there is more bounce. The six to eight metre length away from the batter is considered to be ideal Test match length. But it varies from country to country depending on the bounce," the coach, who was a top domestic performer during his time, told PTI on condition of anonymity. "The ideal length in Australia is eight metres, it is around six metres in England and on low bounce Indian wickets, it is 6.5 metres. If you pitch it around 6.5 metres and get

movement, you are in business for both outside edge, bowled and leg before. "Siraj is bowling around eight metre length and in India with that length, you can't hit top of off (stump). He isn't pitching it up enough," he further explained. However, the coach is confident that once Siraj goes Down Under, for the five-match series starting November 22, he will again find his mojo as the length. Which he is hitting here, will work like magic in those conditions. "When you are hitting eight metre length on Indian tracks which are devoid of pace, the batter has more time to gauge the line and it becomes hittable. "I am not sure how effective he will be in Pune or Mumbai although latter was the only venue where he looked menacing against New Zealand in 2021. Problem is when you play white ball, this back of length in Indian conditions can still fetch you wickets," he reasoned.

## Reports say hockey set to be axed from 2026 Glasgow CWG; CGF, FIH mum

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Hockey is set to be axed from the 2026 Commonwealth Games as the host city of Glasgow looks to cut costs, several media reports here stated but both the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) remained tight-lipped on the matter. Hockey has featured in each CWG since making its debut in 1998, but according to reports here, the Glasgow Games organisers want to drop it from the schedule along with net ball and road racing to ensure a trimmed programme that would be easy on the budget. Scotland stepped in to save the 2026

Games after the Australian state of Victoria pulled out due to rising costs. The schedule is due to be unveiled on Tuesday. When reached out by PTI, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) declined comment till the roster was officially out. "In a couple of days, the situation will be clear - you will get the information accordingly. From our side, until there is any official communication from CGF, we are not in a position to provide you any comment," an official said. The CGF also gave a similar response. "The sports programme for the 2026 Commonwealth Games will be confirmed tomorrow," read a statement from the body when it was approached for a clarification on the media reports.



Hockey's probable omission could also be down to the fact that the Games, to be held from July 23 to August 2, are being organised close to the World Cup that is scheduled two weeks later from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands. To cut costs, the Glasgow Games organisers have reduced the number of

sporting disciplines from 19 (in 2022 Birmingham) to 10 with only four proposed venues - Commonwealth Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre and Scottish Events Campus. None of these venues have a hockey turf. Hockey's exclusion from the Games would be a major blow for India as their men's team is a three-time silver-winner and two-time bronze-medallist in the sport. The women have won three medals, including a gold in the 2000 edition. The biggest hit would be to Australia, which has won the men's gold for a record seven times and the women's top honours in four editions.

## Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's ACL game moved amid Iran security fears

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Cristiano Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's AFC Champions League Elite game with Esteghlal of Tehran on Tuesday will be as closely watched in India as it is in Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement released last Tuesday that Esteghlal had to move its home fixture with Al-Nassr to the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai due to the security situation in Iran. The decision was greeted by surprise in India as, on Oct. 7, the AFC ruled that Mohun Bagan Super Giants of Kolkata had been "considered to have withdrawn" from the second tier AFC Champions League Two for refusing to travel to Iran to play its Oct. 2 fixture against Tractor SC in the northwestern city of Tabriz. It is not only Al-Nassr's game that has been relocated. Tractor's home game against Ravshan of Tajikistan, scheduled for

Wednesday, has been switched to become an away tie. Iran's national team also had to move its Oct. 15 World Cup qualifier against Qatar to Dubai. "... (Mohun Bagan) notes that the AFC has indeed recognised the volatility of the situation in Iran and as such, has rescheduled or shifted venues for several games," a spokesperson for Mohun Bagan told Associated Press, adding that the confederation had taken the same geopolitical instability into account that the club had. "Failing to apply the same standard to Mohun Bagan would result in unequal treatment by the AFC." According to the spokesperson, Mohun Bagan had made a request to the AFC that the game's date or venue be changed before it decided not to travel. "We consistently communicated concerns about the volatile and unsafe conditions in and around Iran, particularly regarding the safety of players and staff," the official added.



The Indian Super League club said that it had appealed the decision to the relevant AFC committee and hoped to be reinstated into the tournament. The AFC did not reply to an invitation to comment. Al-Nassr has four points from the first two games and can take a big step towards the second round with a win. The revamped tournament now consists of two groups of 12 - divided into west and east geographic zones - with the top eight from each advancing to the Round of 16. Nassr is going well in the Saudi Pro League with a 97th minute penalty from Ronaldo giving the team a 2-1 win over Al-Shabab on Friday to stay in third place. "There are a lot of games at the moment and it is not easy," said Stefano Pioli, Al-Nassr's coach. "We will do our best to maintain our performances in the Asian Champions League." Saudi Arabia has three of the four top teams in Group A. Al-Hilal is

first and the four-time winner meets defending champion Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates and could welcome Neymar back to action after a year out through injury. Jeddah club Al-Ahli also has maximum points and travels to Qatar to face Al-Rayyan. FRONT RUNNERS MEET IN EASTERN ZONE: In the eastern zone the top two meet. Gwangju FC of South Korea is making its first ever appearance in Asian competition and is the only team with two wins from two. It takes on Johor Darul Ta'zim of Malaysia. Australia's Central Coast Mariners has lost both games so far and head to China to take on Shanghai Port, coached by former Australian international Kevin Muscat, also seeking a first win. Last season's defeated finalist Yokohama F. Marinos also travels to China and meets Shandong Tiashan while three-time winner Pohang Steelers of South Korea faces Thailand's Buriram United.

'TELUGU AMMAYI' ANANYA NAGALLA IS RECEIVING ACCLAIM FOR HER PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED ROLES AND IS NOW AIMING FOR A BIG COMMERCIAL SUCCESS WITH HER UPCOMING FILM *POTTEL*. SHE SHARES HER JOURNEY INTO FILMS AND MUCH MORE

## ANANYA AWAITS HER BIG COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

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Ananya Nagalla left her job at an MNC to enter the film industry. She initially thought she would land some cute roles, but her experience turned out quite different. "When I entered the industry, I didn't have maturity. But once my debut film *Mallesham* happened, people saw me in a different light. Maybe they thought I was suited for mature roles, so they started offering me those kinds of roles. I feel happy that I connected with different sections of the audience, especially when they think of performance-oriented actresses. So, I am happy with what I am doing right now," said Ananya Nagalla.

The actress has been receiving more village-backdrop characters and even in *Pottel*, she is portraying a similar role. She plays a young mother living in a village. "When the director narrated this role, I had done a web series with a similar character, so I thought it was repetitive. But the two directors' thought processes were not alike, so when the shooting began, I found that this role was completely different. The film has a good story and concept and not only my role, but every character in this film is going to be highlighted," said Ananya.

The actress expressed that she is not concerned about playing a mother role again, as her focus is on being an actor. "I never felt that way because I wanted to be an actor. Some may enter the industry wanting to do glamorous roles, but I stepped in because I wanted to be a good actor," she explained. Perhaps the filmmakers noticed her in *Mallesham*, where she played a village girl with a Telangana backdrop. "In this film too, it relates closely to my first film, so they did a look test and tried a different approach. More than my look, I feel that the colour grading has given more depth to the film," she added.

Ananya mentioned that she didn't do any

homework or research for this role. "Whatever director Sahith told me, I simply followed him and did what he wanted. I didn't do any homework. My first scene is with Ajay, where he kicks me in the stomach! You can see it in the trailer too. It was a serious moment in the film, but while the director was preparing to shoot, I was playing with the kid," she recalls. She added that director came to her a few times, asking if she could remember her dialogues. "I told him not to worry about it. When the shot was ready, I did it and the director was very happy," said Ananya. After that scene, the director never came to her with concerns about dialogues or anything else, as he became fully confident in her abilities.

The film's story revolves around a father struggling to provide a good education for his daughter. Reflecting on the current education system, Ananya shared her views. "Nowadays, education feels like a business because of the high fees. People from the lower-middle class are losing interest in sending their children to school, opting instead to earn a few thousand rupees when they go to work. After this film, I hope people understand how someone struggles to ensure their child is educated. Some people don't know the value of education; we need to create awareness," she said.

Ananya stated that she has no regrets at the moment. "When I entered the industry, I did a film, and then the pandemic struck. The success vanished with Covid and I had to stay at home because there was no work. At that time, I felt bad," she said. She added that later, work began to come in continuously. "But now, frankly speaking, I haven't had any commercial success," admitted Ananya.

Ananya is currently receiving three to four scripts and is selecting projects that interest her. "I am not sitting idle now as I am working continuously," she said. She added that she is not concerned with competition, as

she is not in that mindset. She shared that while she doesn't receive great support from her parents, they haven't discouraged her either. "I love acting, so they didn't say 'no,' but they haven't fully supported me either, as they didn't particularly like it. However, whenever I go out, they say, 'take care of yourself, be careful,'" she said about her parents. The actress expressed her hope that her mother will be pleased after the release of *Pottel*. "After *Pottel* releases, my mother should feel proud after seeing my performance. She will definitely say that her daughter did a good film," she said.

Speaking about Telugu girls in the industry, she noted it is only about 30 percent. "If you look at the Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada industries, they choose local girls 70 percent of the time and they give outsiders a chance only 30 percent of the time. But here in the Telugu industry, they give 80 percent of the opportunities to outsiders and only 20 percent to Telugu girls," said Ananya. Discussing her upcoming projects, she mentioned that she has signed a film titled *Kathakali* with director Satish Vegesna. She also has two other projects, *Srikakulam Sherlock Holmes* and a comedy film *Lechindi Mahila Lokam*.



### PRABHAS' 'KING OF SWAG' AVATAR CREATES ONLINE FRENZY

Rebel Star fans are eagerly anticipating updates from the highly anticipated film *The Raja Saab*, directed by the talented Maruthi and starring Prabhas. On Monday, the makers announced that they would release an update in celebration of Prabhas's birthday on Wednesday. The *Raja Saab* is produced by TG Vishwaprasad under the People Media Factory banner. As Maruthi ventures into the romantic horror genre—a first for Prabhas—curiosity about the film is growing. In the poster released during the update announcement, Prabhas looks ultra-stylish. His new look and makeover for *The Raja Saab* promise to be refreshing. The shooting of *Raja Saab* is currently in its final stages.

### Saloni's new look for *Matka* is out!

Varun Tej is starring in a period drama titled *Matka*, alongside Meenakshi Chaudhary and Nora Fatehi. The film is directed by Karuna Kumar of *Palasa* fame and its story is set in the 1980s, primarily in Visakhapatnam. The filmmakers constructed the famous Poorna Market set specifically for this film. Until now, they had kept the character of Salloni under wraps, but on Monday, they revealed her look. Salloni rose to fame after the success of *Maryada Ramanna*, directed by Rajamouli many years ago. After that film, she appeared in a few more projects before taking a long break due to a lack of good opportunities. Now, she is making a comeback with *Matka* and her look is generating interest. She appears in a saree, embodying the style of a woman from the 80s. Despite there being two other female leads, Salloni's role in the film seems to be significant. Vijayender Reddy Teegala and Rajini Talluri are producing this film, which is set to release on November 14.

## 'Samudrudu depicts struggles of fishermen'

Director Nagesh Naradasi is helming a film titled *Samudrudu*; as the title suggests, it centers on the lives of fishermen. "I depicted the struggles and lives of fishermen in this film, but I didn't approach it like a documentary. I added all the commercial elements and blended them with the fishermen's stories," said director Nagesh. Senior actor Suman plays a pivotal role in this film, alongside lead actors Ramakanth, Avantika and Bhanusree.

"When the fishermen ventured deep into the sea, their struggles and what happened to them afterward, every detail is portrayed intensely in this film," explained the director. He also praised lead actor Ramakanth for his performance. Produced by B Kishan, the film is scheduled for release on October 25.

The pre-release event was held recently, where Suman commended the director. "After *Annamayya* and *Sriramadasi*, I didn't want to take on mythological roles, but director Nagesh Naradasi came to me with a mythological film *Satyanarayana Swami* which I liked and took part in. Now, the same director has brought a different concept with *Samudrudu* about fishermen and I played an important role in it," said Suman. He expressed confidence that this film will be a great success.



## 'Pasupu Danchatam' ritual marks beginning of Sobhita-Naga's wedding

The marriage of Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala is the subject of much discussion in the town. On October 21, the actor from *Made in Heaven* posted images from 'Pasupu Danchatam', a traditional Telugu pre-wedding ritual symbolising the start of wedding celebrations. Shortly after Sobhita posted the

pictures, numerous fans started wondering about their wedding date. The pair became engaged in a private ceremony on August 8 of this year.

Sobhita Dhulipala posted photos from the 'Pasupu Danchatam' ceremony held at her residence on Monday. She donned a pink-orange saree adorned with a border of gold and green for the ceremony. The women in her family are all around her.

Sharing the photos, she wrote, "Godhuma Raayi Pasupu danchatam. And so it begins! (sic)."

"Pasupu Danchatam, also called 'Pasupu Kottadam', is a ritual practiced in Telugu traditions. During the ceremony, turmeric is crushed using the traditional method, which involves a stone grinder. It is the same as the haldi ceremony.



## Akash Puri launches *Taskarinchuta*

The movie *Taskarinchuta*, featuring Sunny as the lead, was launched on Monday. Produced by Shake Afrin under the Rachel Pictures banner, this crime comedy thriller is directed by Shivaprasad Chaluvaadi. The event was held at Ramanaidu Studios in Hyderabad, with young hero Akash Puri and producer Bellamkonda Suresh as special guests.

During the ceremony, Akash Puri presented the script and switched on the camera, followed by the movie's poster launch. Producer Bellamkonda Suresh clapped for the muhurtham scene.

Akash Puri said: "The title poster of *Taskarinchuta* looks great. Congratulations to Sunny for

his introduction as a hero. I wish the entire movie team all the best and hope the film achieves great success."

Meanwhile, Sunny expressed his gratitude to Akash Puri for attending the launch event. "We are making a good effort with this project, which will be a crime comedy. We will make a film that everyone will enjoy."

Director Shivaprasad at the event stated, "We are set to create *Taskarinchuta* as a fresh crime comedy thriller. Regular shooting will begin on the 15th of next month, and we are working on a unique presentation. Well-known artists will be part of our film, and their details will be revealed soon."



## JITHENDER REDDY ALL SET TO HIT THEATRES THIS NOVEMBER

After a long hiatus, director Virinchi Varma is returning with a film titled *Jithender Reddy*. He previously directed *Uyyala Jampala* with Raj Tarun and later *Majnu* with Nani. Both films performed well, but Virinchi Varma did not direct any further films for a considerable time. Now, after a lengthy break, he is back with *Jithender Reddy* starring Rakesh Varre in the lead role. The makers have announced that they are planning to release the film on November 8.

The story of *Jithender Reddy* is inspired by real incidents that took place in Jagtial during the 1980s. The film is produced by Muduganti Ravinder Reddy. The promotional videos of the film have been intriguing, generating curiosity. The movie portrays *Jithender Reddy's* struggles with Naxalites and his fight for public issues since his college days. The trailer also depicts his entry into politics and interactions with a senior political leader who was the chief minister at the time. Vaishali Raj, Riya Suman, Subbaraju and Ravi Prakash play significant roles in the film.

