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- Sabita Indra Reddy, BRS MLA

TDP aiming at record...

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), has announced that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is targeting record membership enrolment across all seven assembly constituencies in the NTR district. He highlighted that new members, joining by paying a Rs. 100 membership fee, will receive Rs. 5 lakh in accidental insurance coverage. Additionally, the party promises support in health, education, and employment for its members. MP Chinni launched the TDP membership enrolment..



Bomb threats to 4 hotels in ...

Four well-known hotels in Tirupati received bomb threat emails on Saturday, which were later found to be hoaxes by the police. Police officials reported that among the targeted hotels were the Raj Park Hotel and Vicario Hotel, both located within the Alipiri police station limits. The emails warned that bombs had been planted in the hotels, prompting immediate alerts from hotel management to the police. A police team led by DSP Venkata Narayana conducted thorough



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 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-Wurttemberg docked at Mormugao Port. The chancellor, on a three-day..

Bank filling trade... The State Bank of India and the

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...

Naidu: TDP lifted Telugu pride

Calls TDP a 'political university' where many senior leaders have their roots

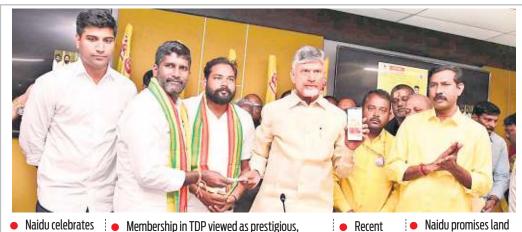
PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister and TDP supremo Chandrababu Naidu stated on Saturday that the global recognition of the Telugu community came only after the formation of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which he termed a "political university." After renewing his membership at

the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Naidu expressed that almost all senior leaders in the two Telugu states have roots in the TDP. Receiving his membership card from State unit president Palla Srinivasa Rao, he said the journey of Telugus can be understood in two phases: before and after the establishment of TDP.

Recalling the contribution of TDP's founder, the late NT Rama Rao, he said, "NTR's vision brought global recognition to Telugu people when he became the Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh." Naidu lauded NTR's message, "society is a temple and people are gods," as an inspiration that continues to guide the party. Through a virtual meeting, Naidu also reached out to console families who had lost members in attacks by YSRCP leaders.

Addressing party workers, Naidu celebrated the launch of the membership drive, calling it a day of pride, as TDP membership has come to represent respect and recog-



• Naidu celebrates the launch of TDP membership drive by renewing his

Late NT Rama Rao, TDP founder, remembered for

during his

tenure.

 TDP prioritises opportunities for educated youth and promotes activists into leadership roles. elevating Telugu

pride worldwide

nition in society. "Carrying a TDP

membership card is seen as presti-

Highlighting TDP's support for the

new policies TDP introduced an including 'Job First,' insurance scheme, offering Rs 5 lakh pension revisions, and free gas cylinder coverage for a Rs 100 scheme starting Deepavali.

with party members gaining respect and

recognition in society.

membership fee. Naidu announces

> downtrodden, Naidu emphasised that the party consistently provides opportunities for educated youth in the Assembly and Parliament. "Our

party has been the only one to conduct special training for activists, striving to groom them as leaders,"

for railway zone, and

housing sites will

soon be allotted to

eligible beneficiaries.

TDP to legally assist

activists with false

with people for

recognition.

cases and encourages

grassroots connection



Six ISKCON members killed as car rams lorry

CM expresses shock and enquires about the incident

PNS ANANTAPUR

In a tragic road accident, six members of ISKCON lost their lives when the car they were travelling in collided with a lorry coming from the opposite direction at Nayanapalli crossroads on the Anantapur-Kadapa highway in Singanamala mandal on Saturday.

According to the police, the deceased were members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) based in Anantapur. They had gone to Tadipatri to participate in the Nagara Sankeerthana programme and were returning home after the event.

The accident occurred when a tyre of their car burst, causing the driver to lose control. The vehicle subsequently collided head-on with a lorry. The deceased have been identified as Santosh, Shanmukh, Venkanna, Sridhar, Prasann, and Venkat. All six were killed instantly.

Local police, assisted by residents, extricated the bodies from the wreckage using a JCB. The incident caused significant traffic disruption on the busy Anantapur-Kadapa highway, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded for several kilometres.

SHARMILA'S JIBE AT JAGAN

Is dragging mom to court 'ghar ghar ki kahani'?

Coming down heavily on YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief YS Iagan Mohan Reddy over his remarks that the rift with his sister YS Sharmila is 'ghar ghar ki kahani' (every household's story), the Andhra Pradesh Congress chief on Saturday sought to know whether dragging a mother to court justifies the phrase.

Addressing a press conference, she said the shares of Saraswati Power and Industries, which Jagan promised to transfer to her at a later date were never attached by the



Enforcement Directorate in the former CM's "quid pro quo" cases and hence could have been transferred long ago.

YSRCP labels Sharmila a political rival

PNS ONGOLE/VISAKHAPATNAM

Former MLA and president of the YSRCP SC Cell, TJR Sudhakar Babu, has stated that while they once held Sharmila in high regard as the daughter of YSR and sister of YS Jagan, her recent actionscal opponents and engaging with media critical of the YSRCP have led them to consider her a political adversary.

Speaking to the media in Ongole, Sudhakar Babu expressed his deep disappointment, saying her recent comments about YS Jagan were disrespectful and demonstrated a disregard for her father's legacy.

Continued on Page 2

Lokesh woos US investors to AP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

developme

nt projects

Rs 4,500 cr

launched,

with full-

Amaravati

starting in

December.

scale

work

worth

Minister for Education, Electronics, and IT, Nara Lokesh, emphasised Andhra Pradesh's potential for rapid growth by harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) opportunities, akin to the advancements seen in Hyderabad and Bengaluru during of the United States, Minister Lokesh is engaging with prominent industrialists to attract investments to the state, showcasing its favourable investment climate and investorfriendly policies.

During a meeting with business leaders in San Francisco, Lokesh highlighted the transformative changes occurring in India and projected significant advancements over the next 25 years.



Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who is currently serving his fourth term with a renewed cabinet, Andhra Pradesh is actively implementing its P-4 policy (public-private-people partnerships) to drive industrial development and alleviate poverty. Lokesh identified key

Under the leadership of Chief investment sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energy, bioenergy, aquaculture, and petrochemicals, which the government is positioning for high growth. As the Education Minister, Lokesh also addressed the reforms aimed at aligning the education sector

SBI and India Exim

India Exim Bank are helping businesses in African countries to



Planning for the Andhra Pradesh Government, Ravuri Vidyullatha, has announced that the AP Development Permission Management System (APDPMS), also known as the Online Building Permission System (OBPS), will be unavailable from October 26, 2024. to November 4, 2024. This temporary outage is due to server migration and data migration issues.

No APDPMS service in AP up to Nov 4

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Director of Town and Country

cants, to take note of the service unavailability and to cooperate with the government during this

Vidyullatha explained that the current system operates on Amazon cloud server space, and plans are in place to transition the servers to the Andhra Pradesh State Data Centre (APSDC) to enhance data security. She urged all members of the public, including LTPs, builders, developers, engineers, and appli-

transition period.

APGENCO, NREDCAP achieve ISO 9001:2015 Certification



PNS VIJAYAWADA

In an important achievement, the Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) and the New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) have completed the ISO Audit and been awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certifi-

Special Chief Secretary for Energy, K Vijayanand, along with KVN Chakradhar Babu, Managing Director of APGENCO and VČ & MD of NREDCAP, and JMD APTRANSCO Kirthi Chekuri, met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

and Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar at the AP Secretariat in Amaravati to discuss this accomplishment.

The Chief Minister praised the relentless efforts of APGENCO and NREDCAP in adopting the ISO 9001:2015 standard, which enhances organizational credibility and reputation, improves operational efficiency, ensures compliance with international standards, provides a competitive advantage, and fosters better risk management and decision-making. This certification reflects the strong commitment of both organizations to quality and



Staff shortage plagues GVMC Ward Secretariats

JAVVADI LAKSHMANA RAO lakshmana123@gmail.com ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

A critical staff shortage is impacting ward secretariats Visakhapatnam.

According to a survey conducted by The Pioneer, a number of empty seats were vacant even at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Originally staffed with nine employees, these secretariats are now struggling to maintain adequate personnel due to a series of resignations and inconsistent atten-

The ward secretariat system, introduced by the previous YSRCP government, established 578 secretariats under the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) to enhance access to essential government services. Residents were assured they could easily apply for birth and death certificates, ration cards, social pensions, housing, and other welfare programmes through these local offices. However, many secretariats

staffing levels, significantly impacting their efficiency and accessibility. Frustration among residents is

are now operating below required tariat for assistance with a birth certificate, but was told the officer was 'out in the field," shared one local. "This happens frequently, and people mounting. "I visited my local secre- are losing confidence in the system."

Each ward secretariat is supposed to be staffed by a team, including an Administration Secretary, Education and Data Processing Secretary, and Welfare and Development Secretary, among others. Initially, the 5,022 appointed

employees worked from 10 a.m. to 5

p.m., but a lack of government over-

sight has led to some employees arriving late or failing to maintain regular hours. Ward secretariat employees are required to be present by 10 a.m., and those needing to leave for official duties must log their departures in a move-

ment register. Nonetheless, inspections have shown that some offices are not opening until as late as 11 am, with only one

Continued on Page 2





Frustration among residents is mounting. "I visited my local secretariat for assistance with a birth certificate, but was told the officer was 'out in the field,'" shared one local. "This happens frequently, and people are losing confidence in the system.

or two staff members present at the official start time



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

▲ 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's yndrome 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 happens to be sharing seat with a fellow chief

minister of the grand old party. Some Bharat Rashtra Samithi folks recalled, noticeably in

mock sympathy, how former chief minister of undivided AP T Anjaiah was publicly insulted by former PM Rajiv Gandhi. For many in Telangana, giving Revanth the short shrift means not giving a damn for Telangana people's self respect!

Young India Skills University a **Ta 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 transparency. The larger questions are:

Staff shortage...

For example, during a visit to

Secretariat No. 149 in

Maddilapalem Pithapuram Colony

at 10:30 am, only the Health

Secretary was on duty. A staff

member noted, "The Admin

Secretary left with attendance

records for the GVMC main office.

Five employees recently resigned,

leaving only four." Similar staffing

shortages were observed at

Secretariat No. 152, where only

five of the expected nine staff

Currently, around 815 Ward

Secretary positions remain

unfilled, prompting neighbouring secretariats to take on addi-

tional responsibilities. "We are

working on solutions, but the

strain on existing resources is sig-

nificant," an official stated. The

urgent need for staffing solutions

and stricter attendance enforce-

Krishna Paksha

Oct 27 05:24 AM

Oct 26 09:45 AM

Oct 27 12:24 PM

to Oct 27 12:24 PM

to Oct 28 03:24 PM

4:17 PM to 5:43 PM

11:59 AM to 1:25 PM

09:24 PM to 11:12 PM

09:44 AM to 11:30 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM

Updated: October 26, 2024 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

Temp: 34°° Humidity: 61%

Sunrise: 6:03 AM

Sunset: 5:39 PM

2:51 PM to 4:17 PM

to Oct 28 07:51 AM

ment is clear.

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham

TODAY

Tithi:

Ekadashi:

Magha:

Nakshatram:

Purva Phalguni:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

members were present.

Continued from Page 1

In a scene that could not have gone unnoticed under media glare, 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 respect, especially on a stage where he acting like this is their only chance in

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 dissentridden 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 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 Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rashtra 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 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 K Venkateshwarlu)

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 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 convenors, was conspicuously absent. With

CPM urges CM to fulfil compensation promise for cement plant workers

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), V. Srinivasa Rao, has called upon Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to ensure the longpending compensation for workers of the ACC Krishna Cement Factory. In a letter to the Chief Minister, Rao reminded him of a previous commitment made by Minister Nara Lokesh to address the grievances of these workers, who have been fighting for justice for cement company were over 32 years

The ACC Krishna Cement Factory was locked out on May 29, 1993, resulting in severe financial hardships for its 333 workers, who have since received neither compensation nor their rightful wages. Tragically, 160 of these workers have passed away over the years, leaving their families in difficult circumstances.

Rao's letter further emphasized the factory's legal struggles. In 2003, the assets of the

acquired at auction by Balabhanu Enterprises and other entities following a ruling by the Kolkata Court. However, these companies have failed to meet the auction conditions, particularly those requiring compensa-Although both the Central Labour Court and the High Court ordered in 2015 that dues, including interest, be disbursed to the workers, no action has been taken to

Naidu: TDP lifted Telugu...

Continued from Page 1

He also reminded the gathering that the TDP pioneered an insurance scheme in the country; currently, a Rs 100 membership provides a claim of Rs 5 lakh. Naidu revealed that some leaders are opting for lifetime membership in TDP and that the party has spent Rs 120 crore on activists, with Rs 102 crore given in insurance payments to 5,113 members. Recalling TDP's pivotal role as strong opposition in Parliament, he said the party has weathered many challenges in its 40-year history.

He urged TDP leaders to uphold the responsibility of handing over the party to future generations. Dismissing remarks about TDP's decline, he said, "Those predicting our end have themselves been proven wrong." Citing recent electoral successes alongside Jana Sena and BJP, he called it a united victory.

Naidu outlined six new policies, including 'Job First,' revised pensions, and a free gas

cylinder scheme beginning from Deepavali. He also noted that the garbage tax, the 217 GO, and the Swarnakara (goldsmith) corporation have been scrapped.

Listing welfare initiatives in recent months, Naidu said Rs 4,500 crore in development projects have been launched in rural areas, and full-scale work in Amaravati will begin in December. He promised the first phase of the Polavaram project's completion within two years and announced industrial corridors in Orvakallu and Kopparthi.

Naidu also informed that land allocation is underway for the railway zone, and housing sites—two cents in urban areas and three cents in rural areas will soon be allotted to eligible beneficiaries. Addressing activists, he pledged to legally address false cases filed against them and encouraged them to connect directly with people rather than frequently reaching out to him. "Only those who work hard will receive due recognition," Naidu concluded.

APGENCO...

Continued from Page 1

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar urged APGENCO and NREDCAP to maintain their systemic and integrated approach to operations to uphold ISO standards and strive for excellence in compliance with international quality benchmarks. The ISO certification team conducted thorough audits of APGENCO's various locations and NRED-CAP projects, assessing their adherence to quality standards and procedures. The ISO 9001:2015 standard outlines requirements for organisations to ensure their products and services meet regulatory demands, focusing on leadership, process approach, employee involvement, continuous improvement, and evidence-

based decision-making. The audit included inspections of Thermal, Hydel, Civil, and Quality Control wings, along with a review of key processes such as Quality Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and vendor evaluations.

MEIL Foundation donates ₹200 cr for Young India Skills University

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a significant move towards empowering the youth, the MEIL Foundation, the CSR arm of Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL), has announced a contribution of ₹200 crore for the establishment of the Young India Skills University (YISU) in Hyderabad. This university, developed in collaboration with the Telangana Government, aims to provide advanced training in skills and entrepreneurship, equipping young individuals with the tools necessary for a brighter future.

he partnership was formalized today as MEIL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with YISU in Hyderabad. The signing ceremony was attended by Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, and University



Vice Chancellor VLVSS Subbarao, underscoring MEIL's commitment to creating world-class facilities at the university.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, and several prominent leaders, including Ministers Sridhar Babu, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and MP Anil Kumar Yadav, were present at the event. MEIL's Managing Director, Krishna Reddy, led the delegation and shared the company's vision for supporting the

youth through this ambitious initiative. Other MEIL directors, including B. Srinivas Reddy, C.H. Subbaiah, P. Ravi Reddy, Doraiah Swami, N. Tirupathi Rao, and Vice President Ramana Rao, also attend-

ed the MoU signing ceremony. In August, Chief Minister Reddy laid the foundation stone for the university on a sprawling 57-acre site at Mir Khan Peta in Kandukuru mandal, just outside Hyderabad. At today's meeting, the Chief Minister commended the MEIL team for their generous

ment's plans to equip the university with advanced classrooms, residential facilities, and other amenities for students. With this commitment, the

MEIL Foundation is paving the way for a university that will uplift the youth, nurture skills, and cultivate a generation ready to lead and innovate. This project represents a meaningful step towards building a brighter, more self-sufficient future for India's young talent. Key facilities at the YISU campus will include an Academic Block, Administrative Block, Library and Computer Hub, Workshops and Laboratory Block, Student Housing and Faculty Housing, Guest Faculty Accommodation, VC and Registrar Residences, Utilities, a 700-seater auditorium, and Conference Rooms,

Ministers, officials attend wedding of DGP's daughter

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Ministers from Andhra Pradesh attended the wedding of Ch. Dwaraka Thirumala Rao, the Director General of Police (DGP) of AP, on Saturday. The ceremony took place at the Citadel Convention Center in Hyderabad, where ministers offered their blessings and warm wishes to the newlywed couple, Gayatri Sonakshi and Ruthvik Sai.

During the event, the ministers also had a courtesy meeting with Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, who was present at the wedding. The gathering included Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad, ministers Vangalapudi Anitha, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, and Anagani Satya Prasad, as well as several MLAs, former Minister Kamineni Srinivas, senior officials, and dignitaries from various departments.



PNS TIRUPATI

TTD EO J. Syamala Rao participated in the Ayudha Pooja conducted by the Transport and Printing Press Wings in Tirupati on Saturday. The EO, along with JEO (H&E) Smt. Goutami and

CVSO Sreedhar were warmly welcomed by GM Transport Sesha Reddy. Following this, a Pooja was performed for the statue of Sri Venkateswara at the TTD Transport facility.

Speaking on the occasion, the EO stated that Ayudha Pooja is celebrated every year with grandeur at TTD Transport, recognising the fleet of vehicles and other machinery. She also appreciated the department's contributions to pilgrim services. Afterwards, she visited the Printing Press building and participated in



the Pooja for replica idols of Srivaru, Sridevi, and Bhudevi. Special Officer of TTD Press, Rama Raju, felicitated the EO and other senior officials and explained the functioning of various machines, including offset printing and binding while showcasing

them to the attendees. All vehicles in the Transport wing were adorned with flowers and festoons, while the printing machinery was decorated for the Pooja at the Press.

DLO Varaprasad Rao, DyEOs Govindarajan, Devendra Babu, Gunabhushan Reddy, Siva Prasad, Chief PRO Dr. T. Ravi, and other Transport and Printing Press officials and staff were also pre-

Malladi flays govt's power tariff policy

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Malladi Vishnu, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Coordinator for the Central Constituency and former MLA, has sharply criticized the coalition government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He accused the government of failing to fulfil its promises and implementing policies a financial the public.

Vishnu claimed that the Chief Minister's administration has been detrimental across various sectors since taking office. He specifically accused Naidu of



backtracking on key com ments, including pledges to avoid increases in electricity tariffs and eliminate true-up charges. In a statement, he revealed that the government is now planning to impose a significant financial

burden of ?6,073 crore through a new "Tariff Adjustment." "Chandrababu promised on

August 2 during the electricity sector review that charges would not increase for the next five years," Vishnu stated. However, he asserts that the government is introduc-ing a policy that will affect approximately 1,46,427 electricity consumers in the Central holds, businesses, and industrial users. He pointed out that the TDP government has frequently altered electricity consumption slabs, leading to higher costs for

Vishnu further alleged that the TDP's approach has financially strained the state's electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), with losses escalating from ?4,315 crore in 2014 to over ?20,000 crore by 2019. He argued that while the YS Jagan government took steps to clear ?43,744 crore in overdue free electricity payments, the current government's policies would xacerbate t lenges. He also recalled the Basheerbagh incident, where he claimed that the then-TDP administration ordered firing on civilians protesting electricity price

Is dragging mom to court...

Continued from Page 1

Both the siblings signed an MoU in 2019 under which Jagan "out of love and affection" would transfer his and his wife's shares of Saraswati Power and Industries through a gift deed to his sister, subject to the outcome of pending cases.

However, Jagan conveying his intention to revoke the MoU, in September moved NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) accusing Sharmila of illegally transferring shares of the firm held by him and his wife Bharathi, in her and his mother Vijayamma's name.

"Jagan Mohan Reddy says this happens in every household, and it is a 'ghar ghar ki kahani'. What is ghar ghar ki kahani? Is dragging a moth- on their children.

er to court a ghar ghar ki kahani? Is it an issue that happens in every household? Don't you have humanity? Don't you have any sentiments?" Sharmila asked with tearful eyes.

of, her mother and many for lowers of her late father.

"What has Jaganmoh She further said despite

holding the MoU for the past five years she never tried to approach any court (for the settlement) or any media house for (publicity) fearing it would tarnish the reputation of Rajasekhar Reddy's family.

Replying to the comments made by YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP and her uncle YV Subba Reddy that the companies in question are owned by Jagan, Sharmila termed it as false and said she was ready to swear on her children.

Sharmila also dared Jagan and Subba Reddy to swear According to her, YSR Congress clinched a huge victory in the 2019 assembly polls due to the hard work of, her mother and many fol-

"What has Jaganmohan Reddy done for his sister? It is not a hard fact that Jagan has done injustice to me and my children. God knows this. Several people know this," a visibly upset Congress leader said.

All the businesses which were established when Rajasekhara Reddy was alive are family assets and Jagan Mohan Reddy is just a "guardian", she said in an open letter on Friday.

Sharmila also stated that her father's intention was for Jagan to divide all the businesses equally among the four grandchildren each of Jagan and Sharmila.

Six ISKCON...

Continued from Page 1

Police faced challenges in regulating traffic during the aftermath.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the car was travelling at high speed to overtake a bus when the tyre burst. The police have registered a case and have sent the bodies to the Government General Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and grief over the incident and enquired with district officials about the accident. He assured support to the bereaved families.

Home Minister V Anitha also conveyed her condolences and promised assistance to the families affected by this tragedy.

YSRCP labels Sharmila a political...

Continued from Page 1

He emphasized that if she continued to oppose Jagan, the party would not remain silent but would firmly stand against her actions.

He noted that while YS Jagan has upheld YSR's ideals, Sharmila's association with the Congress party, which once

legacy. He suggested that her any attempts to weaken him actions seem motivated by a would be met with strong personal desire to undermine resistance from the YSRCP.

YS Jagan for her own gain. Sudhakar Babu stressed that this issue transcends political disagreement; it is about respecting the values of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. He highlighted that YS Jagan continues

jailed Jagan, contradicts YSR's to inspire hope for many, and

In a separate press conference, YSRCP State Women's President and MLC Varudu Kalyani criticized PCC President Sharmila, claiming ter, Sharmila once commandshe has become a puppet of ed respect among YSRCP Chief Minister Chandrababu members and the people of

appointment over Sharmila's collaboration Chandrababu and TDP leaders

in spreading false propaganda against Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. She pointed out that, as YSR's daughter and Jagan's sised respect among YSRCP

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'TDP aiming at record membership in NTR dist'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), has announced that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is targeting record membership enrolment across all seven assembly constituencies in the NTR district. He highlighted that new members, joining by paying a Rs. 100 membership fee, will receive Rs. 5 lakh in accidental insurance coverage. Additionally, the party promises support in health, education, and employment for its mem-

bers.

MP Chinni launched the TDP membership enrolment drive at Paipula Road in Vijayawada Ĉentral and at Chittinagar Centre in Vijayawada West on Saturday, where he presented membership cards to the newly enrolled. The event commenced with tributes to the late former Chief Minister Dr. NTR, with MP Chinni, Central MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, and other



party leaders in attendance. Speaking at the campaign events, Chinni stated that public interest in joining the TDP is strong, as the party has been addressing various issues faced by the people. He expressed the leadership's ambition to achieve the high-

est membership figures in

the NTR district, with a particular focus on Vijayawada Central and West. Chinni encouraged local party leaders to keep up the momentum in the membership drive, which is being facilitated via QR codes, until further directives from the party. Confident in TDP's strengthening presence in Vijayawada, Chinni attributed this to the effective governance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The event also saw participation from former MLC Buddha Venkanna, TDP leader MS Baig, and several other prominent party

MP urges CM to address key issues affecting V'wada



PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the TDP central office on Saturday to discuss pressing issues affecting the residents of Old Rajarajeshwaripet and the development of a logistics park.

During the meeting, Sivanath high-lighted the challenges faced by residents in Old Rajarajeshwaripet, where occupants of Railway Department land have received eviction notices requiring them to vacate within fifteen days. Many residents are anxious about the potential demolition of their homes, which has raised con-

called for immediate intervention from the Chief Minister to halt the eviction process and find a permanent solution for those affected.

Additionally, Sivanath urged the Chief Minister to support the establishment of a logistics park near the Kondapalli railway station. He requested that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) collaborate with APGENCO to transfer the necessary land to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCR-DA), a move that would facilitate the proposed logistics park project. In response, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu assured Sivanath of the government's support and commitment to cerns of public protests. Sivanath resolving these matters promptly.

Importance of cyber security in digital age stressed

The Women's Cell at Andhra Loyola College organised an insightful guest lecture on Cyber Security on the college premises in Vijayawada on Saturday. Inspector Prakash from Machavaram Police Station and Sub-Inspector Valli Padma from the Cyber Crime Police Station attended as guest speakers, educating the female students about cyber law enforcement.

During the lecture, SI Valli



Padma discussed the crucial focus on the rising risks of common cybercrimes like importance of cyber security cyber threats, hacking, and phishing, identity theft, and

in today's digital age, with a data breaches. She outlined

ransomware, explaining their impact on individuals and organisations.

, Γhe session saw enthusiastic participation, with over 250 students attending and engag-ing actively with CI Prakash and SI Padma. Students asked questions about current cybercrimes and ways to protect themselves against these threats. The programme was attended by Women's Cell Coordinator Dr D Tabhita, Dean of Student Activities Dr L Subha, and lecturers Mary Manjula, and Miriyam Kamala, among others.



BJP SC Morcha condemns Rahul's remarks on reservations

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State President of the BJP-affiliated SC Morcha, G. Devanand, has strongly condemned recent remarks by Congress opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of intending to eliminate reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Classes (BC), and minorities.

Addressing the press at the BJP office in Vijayawada on Saturday, Devanand criticised Rahul Gandhi's stance, stating that it reveals a disregard for the rights and welfare of historically marginalised communities who rely on reservation policies. He asserted that such comments pose a threat to the progress and empowerment of

SCs, STs, BCs, and minorities, who depend on these policies for equal opportunities in education, employment, and social upliftment. Devanand reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to safeguarding reserva-tion policies as essential to ensuring social justice and Devanand also noted that

the Congress party has failed to give priority to its own president, Mallikarjun Kharge, pointing to a lack of respect for leadership within the party. He credited Dr B.R. Ambedkar for establishing reservation policies that benefit SCs, STs, BCs, and minorities across the country, and called on Congress leaders to hold Rahul Gandhi accountable for

Govt committed to uplift of tribals: Minister

PNS PARVATHIPURAM

Minister for Women, Child,

and Tribal Welfare, Gummidi Sandhya Rani, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the lives of tribal communities in the Parvathipuram Manyam district. During a recent review meeting, she highlighted the government's focus on addressing critical needs in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. "Our government is dedicated to uplifting tribal students and their families," said Sandhya Rani. To support this, the government has allocated Rs 10 crore to provide essential supplies for hostel residents and has approved increased mess charges, laundry facilities, and improved sanitation in tribal

welfare hostels. A mega teacher-parent meeting is scheduled for November 14 to encourage stronger collaboration between parents, teachers, and officials. "This meeting will address the holistic development of students, covering education, health, and sports, explained Sandhya Rani. She also directed officials to ensure

clean, well-maintained toilets in all hostels and schools.

The minister highlighted the high rates of anaemia among children and pregnant women in tribal areas and emphasized the need for accessible healthcare. "There should be no shortage of doctors, and medical supplies must always be available," she instructed. A new 100-bed government hospital in Saluru is under construction to further support healthcare in the district. Clean drinking water was identified as a top priority, with Sandhya Rani urging officials to expedite the remaining 10% of water supply projects within 30 days, particularly in areas facing

Collector lauds Gurudeva Trust's services

PNS VIZIANAGARAM

District Collector Dr BR Ambedkar underscored the tremendous value of selfless service during his visit to the Sri Gurudeva Charitable Trust in Mangalampalem, Kothavalasa Mandal, on Saturday. He commended the trust's Founder. Jagdish Babu, for his unwaverin need. "The work being done here is invaluable," Dr Ambedkar stated. "Selfless service without any expectation of reward is what truly strengthens our community.

During the visit, the Collector inspected the artificial organs manufacturing center, a 50bed hospital, various depart-



ments of the hospital, and the under-construction cancer hosthrough each section, explaining the services offered. Interacting with patients and individuals seeking artificial limbs, the Collector expressed his appreciation for the trust's efforts. He later distributed artificial organs, hearing aids, and crutches to those in need.

"The Gurudeva Trust is a bea-

con of hope for the disabled and impoverished," Dr Ambedkar noted. "For the past 27 years, Jagdish Babu has shown that exceptional contributions to society require a blend of humanity, patience, and perseverance." Dr. Ambedkar likened community service to a significant vaina, praising those who persist despite obstacles. "Courage is essential in "The number of impoverished, disabled, and ill individuals seek-

tament to its credibility.' In response, Jagdish Babu shared the trust's achievements over the years. "We have provided artificial organs to approxi-

drowned couple

PNS NUZVID

ing help from the trust is a tesmately 250,000 people," he



Cycling tournament for school students gets underway

PNS VIJAYAWADA Kolusu extends aid to kin of Senior General Manager of

Housing and I&PR Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi has provided financial assistance to the family of Konda Rama Rao and Prashanthi, who tragically drowned on Saturday while watering their cattle in a pond in Pothureddypalli village, Nuzvid mandal. On learning about the accident, Minister Parthasarathi expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and offered Rs 25,000 to help with funeral expenses.

Power Grid Corporation of India for the Southern Region K Naga Mohana Rao, has emphasised the importance of continuous effort for students to excel in academics, sports, and life. He highlighted perseverance as essential to success, adding that achievements in sports can propel stu-dents to higher positions in their careers. Rao urged parents and teachers to encourage students in sports alongside academics, noting that accomplishments at state, national, and international levels can open doors to better opportunities in education and employment.

He shared this message at the inauguration of the School Games Under-14, 17, and 19 Boys' and Girls' cycling tournament, held over two days on the six-lane bypass of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in Nunna, Vijayawada Rural Mandal, NTR district. Organised by the School Games Federation Krishna and NTR District units under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) and the School Games Federation of Andhra Pradesh (SGFAP), the event saw the participation of around 300 cyclists from all 13 combined districts of Andhra Pradesh. K. Naga Mohana Rao, Vijayawada Rural ZPTC Member K. Suvarna Raju, and other dignitaries flagged off the tournament. Special traffic arrangements were made by NHAI officials, Megha Engineering Company, and local police to ensure the smooth conduct of the tournament

TWO GOLD MEDALS FOR KRISHNA ON DAY 1

Krishna district cyclists excelled on the first day of the competition, securing two gold medals. V. Vennela clinched gold in the Under-14 Girls' Time Trial category, while K. Charan earned gold in the Boys' category. Additionally, the Krishna district team claimed a silver and a bronze medal, showcasing their talent in this inter-district event.



Vizag hosts Kaushal

1,000 young people are receiving training in more than 20 trades at Kancharapalem ITI," said MP Sribharat during the Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh held at Kancharapalem ITI as part of the nationwide Skill Convocation programme. The event highlighted the achievements of students and the importance of skill development in the region, with prominent leaders Gandi Babji and Duvvarapu Rama Rao in attendance.

During the ceremony, six outstanding students from the ITI were recognised for their excellence in various trades, receiving invitations to Kaushal Bhavan in New Delhi for special acknowledgement. The event also honoured the parents of these talented students, celebrating their unwavering support and encouragement.

Addressing the gathering, MP Sribharat emphasized the significance of the training initiatives at Kancharapalem ITI. He stated, "Skills such as Mechanics (Motor Vehicles), Welding, Carpentry, Plumbing, and Stenography equip the youth to become strong contenders in the job market. It is essential for the skills they acquire to align with market demands, and I believe that with dedication and consistent effort, these students



With the expanding opportu-

nities in various sectors, ITI

graduates will find ample

prospects ahead," he added.

The Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh not only celebrated the achievements of the students but also reinforced the commitment to skill development, ensuring that the youth of Visakhapatnam are wellprepared to meet the demands of the evolving job market. The event marked a significant step towards fostering a skilled workforce, paving the way for a brighter future for the region's young talent.

Differently-abled kids light up Diwali season handmade creations

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In the spirit of Deepavali, Prajwal Vani, a local NGO, is showcasing the extraordinary talents of 35 differently-abled children through their handcrafted 'deepams' 9diyas). This initiative, part of the Visakha Kushi Project, is not only brightening homes but also empowering young lives.
"The idea behind involving

the children in decorating diyas was not only to create something beautiful for Deepavali but also to encourage them to explore their creativity and improve their motor skills," shares KVL Suchitra, founder of Prajwal Vani Welfare Society with The Pioneer. "The process is more than just an artistic endeavor. It is also an empowering expe-

rience for the children. The initiative not only fos-

ters creative expression but also builds vital skills, bringing a sense of pride and achievement to each child. As one child, Lakshmi, shared, "I love painting the diyas. It makes me feel happy and proud." Under this project, children have handcrafted a range of products including candles, deepam candles, and deepams in various shapes and designs. Each item is lovingly hand-painted and decorated by the children, offering unique, heartfelt gifts for the festive season.

Beyond the artistry, the project stands as a step toward self-employment and financial inclusion. The children's efforts are rewarded when proceeds from the sales are presented to their families on Dhanteras, symbolizing a bright moment of contribution and independence.

PNS PARVATHIPURAM

The District Forest Officer, GAP Prasuna, has issued a stern warning to villagers in Parvathipuram district following the sighting of two groups of wild elephants within its boundaries. A herd of seven elephants has been spotted near Dibagudivalasa village in Parvathipuram mandal, while another group of four is roaming near Jamiguda village in Bhamini mandal.

"Villagers are advised to avoid venturing into fields when elephants are nearby,' Prasuna cautioned. "These wild animals can be unpre-

exercise caution in elephantprone areas." She appealed to village leaders, sarpanchs, and local authorities to collaborate with the forest department in spreading awareness. "It's a collective responsibility to protect both humans and wildlife," she emphasized.

Prasuna expressed concern over the growing trend of peo-ple gathering to observe or feed the elephants. "Elephants are wild animals, and their behaviour can be erratic. Any interference with their natural behaviour can lead to dangerous situations," she warned.

to approach or disturb the elephants will be met with strict egal action. These elephants have been inhabiting the region for the past five to six years and are accustomed to the local environment. They often move between villages in search of food and water. Prasuna urged the revenue and police departments to enforce Section 144 in affected villages to restrict movement and minimize the risk of human-elephant conflict. "It's essential for all departments to work together to ensure the rous situations," she warned. safety of both people and The forest department has wildlife," she concluded.







Police host 'Open House' to showcase modern equipment

PNS VIJAYAWADA

To raise public awareness and commemorate Police Martyrs' Week, the District Police organised an 'Open House' at the Police Armed Reserve grounds on Saturday. NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu inaugurated the two-day event, which aims to honour police martyrs and educate citizens about modern policing tools and techniques. The significance of the event was underscored by October 21, a day dedicated to honouring police personnel who lost their lives in the line

The Open House was designed to engage the public, particularly youth and students, by showcasing advanced equipment and methods used to combat cybercrimes, terrorism, and Maoist activities. Various police units, including the OCTOPUS commando team, NDRF, SDRF, city security wing, and fingerprint bureau, set up displays to demonstrate their operations and technological capabili-

sunday pioneer

Visitors were introduced to methods of crime scene evidence collection and the role of fingerprint analysis in investigations, with additional awareness sessions focused on cybercrime prevention. Demonstrations featuring vehicles and equipment, such as water cannons, Vajra riot control vehicles, fire engines, and a mobile command control room, offered a hands-on experience of police resources.
The OCTOPUS team's

bomb disposal units, dog squads, drones, body-worn cameras, and other specialized tools attracted significant interest, especially from students. Practical demonstrations of vehicles, including the Falcon and Vajra, provided insight into crowd management and public safety measures. A dog show emerged as a particular highlight, captivating students while educating them about the diverse operations within the Police department.



CPM protests against additional electricity charge burden

Leaders burn copies of APERC order

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM) Vijayawada city committee staged a protest at Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada on Saturday. The protestors opposed the imposition of an additional electricity charge burden of Rs 6,072 crore on power consumers, termed 'true-up charges'. During burned copies of the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulation Council (APERC) order in a symbolic act of opposition.

Addressing the gathering, CPM State Secretariat member Ch Babu Rao criticised the TDP-led NDA government for failing to deliver on its 'Super Six' promises, despite four months in power in Andhra Pradesh. He

The Red Sanders Anti

Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) seized 26 red sander

logs and arrested four red

sander smugglers at Sanipai village on Bolluvandla road in

Annamayya district.

PNS KADAPA

accused the State government of adding financial burdens on the public instead of offering relief, noting that beyond the current Rs 6,072 crore, an additional Rs 11,000 crore in electricity charges is anticipated, further straining the public. Babu Rao recalled how the previous YSRCP government faced strong public backlash and was eventually ity charge hikes. He warned that the current NDA government could meet the same fate if it continues imposing such charges. Furthermore, he alleged that rather than addressing the irregularities of the YSRCP administration, the NDA government has opted to continue similar policies, leaving the pub-

lic disappointed.

'YSRCP rule indulged in graft over power, coal purchases'

PNS GUNTUR

Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar has blamed the previous YSRCP regime for the increase in power tariffs during its five-year rule, alleging corruption in power and coal purchases.

Speaking to the media in the Secretariat on Saturday, the Energy Minister stated that the imprudent decisions made by the Jagan Reddy-led government resulted in multiple hikes in power tariffs throughout the YSRCP's tenure.

He noted that the previous government, headed by Jagan Reddy, cancelled the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) signed by the then TDP-led government. Ravi Kumar alleged that the YSRCP administration damaged the reputation of AP Genco, which was known for its power generation, by borrowing



loans from private individuals at off to the Tadepalli palace," he high interest rates. "The Jagan claimed. Reddy-led government failed to maintain transparency in

He further alleged that both the then Chief Minister Jagan Reddy and Energy Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy managed not only the electricity purchases but also

the coal procurement in secrecy, leading to a burden of steep power tariff hikes on consumers. Minister Ravi Kumar revealed that electricity charges have been increased nine times in the past five years due to Jagan Mohan Reddy's misguided policies.



Bomb threats to 4 hotels in Tirupati turn out to be hoax

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Four well-known hotels in Tirupati received bomb threat emails on Saturday, which were later found to be hoaxes by the police.

Police officials reported that among the targeted hotels were the Raj Park Hotel and Vicario Hotel, both located within the Alipiri police station limits. The emails warned that bombs had been planted in the hotels, prompting immediate alerts from hotel management to the police.

A police team led by DSP Venkata Narayana conducted thorough inspections of the hotels. Bomb squads and sniffer dogs were deployed, and extensive searches were carried out; however, no explosives or suspicious items were found. Police have since launched an investigation to determine whether the threats were the work of terrorist groups or merely a prank.

This incident follows similar bomb threats on Thursday, when three other hotels in Tirupati received threatening calls.

Tourism Minister flags off bus on spiritual tour

PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

Minister for Tourism Kandula Durgesh, accompanied by MLAs Battula Balaramakrishna and Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy, flagged to the bus meant for spiritual tours at Saraswati

ghat here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, Kandula Durgesh revealed that a one-day spiritual tour package of the combined East Godavari district has been launched under the auspices of APTDC to promote State tourism.

The Tourism Minister said that in spiritual tourism, peo-ple could visit famous temples would come to an end in endeavours began to formulate March 2025 and the new a new tourism policy. The fill-



during the day and return to their homes on the same day. The current tourism policy

power purchases during its five-

year rule. These purchases were

made on a 'quid pro quo' basis,

allowing funds to be siphoned

tourism policy would be unveiled in April 2025, he announced, adding that

develop eco, adventure, wellness and temple tourism in the

considered, he disclosed.

State with the Central government schemes such as Swadeshi Darshan and PRASAD schemes and we hope to achieve successful results by combining all these into tourism circuits," the Tourism Minister asserted.

He highlighted that a Cabinet sub-committee was constituted to develop tourism in the State coordinating the forest, endowment and tourism

ing of vacant direct posts in the Tourism department is being departments. Taking a dig at the erstwhile YSRCP regime, the Tourism Minister deplored "It has been decided to that the tourism sector was ruined during the five years previous government.

Minister Durgesh stated that Rishikonda Beach has been certified as a Blue Fog Beach and Kakinada Beach, Suryalanka Beach, Ramapuram Beach and Maipadu Beach in the Nellore district would be upgraded into Blue Fog Beaches. MLA Adireddy Srinivas and State tourism board member Ganta Swaroop Devi were among those who were present.

Eluru MP Putta appointed member

of Jal Shakti

PNS ELURU

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has been appointed as a member of the consultative committee of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of India has issued an order to this effect. In a statement on Saturday, MP Putta Mahesh Kumar expressed his commitment to securing the necessary funds for the completion of irrigation projects, particularly the Polavaram Irrigation Project, and ensuring drinking water facilities for every household in Andhra Pradesh.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar extended his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chair man of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of JAL Shakti, CR Patil, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Konidala Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh for their support in his appointment. Currently, MP Putta Mahesh Kumar also serves as a member of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Standing

BRS Slams TG 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 openly and attributed it to the Chief Minister's inefficiency. "It's disheartening that the protectors are demanding jus-

tice 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

26 red sanders logs seized, four smugglers arrested

However, the Task Force

personnel chased and appre-

hended them. On the infor-

mation provided by them, the

Task Force team seized 26 red

sanders logs. Suresh Kumar

registered a case and the arrest-

ed smugglers were produced



Home Minister, Sabitha tress 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,

children not recognizing their fathers underscoring the sever-ity 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 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 ser-

Sabitha added, has even led to



K'taka Minister highlights role of coop sector in economic growth

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Karnataka Minister of Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Legislation, HK Patil, emphasized the vital role of the cooperative sector in the country's economic growth and development. He spoke at a congratulatory meeting held for Manam Anjaneyulu, an icon of the cooperative movement and former chairman of the Visakhapatnam Cooperative Bank, at MBVK Bhavan in

Vijayawada on Saturday. As the chief guest of the programme, Minister Patil praised Manam Anjaneyulu for his relentless efforts in advancing the cooperative sector and banks. He noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not been supportive of urban cooperative banks.

He urged all urban cooperative banks in Andhra Pradesh

GITAM's STI Project empowers tribals

to take membership in the National Federation of Cooperative Urban Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB) and called for the establishment of at least 100 more cooperative banks in the state. "A comprehensive plan should be prepared to strengthen the cooperative sector," he advised.

The minister also suggested that loans should be sanctioned to farmers to support their livelihoods. Manam Anjaneyulu added that the primary aim of the cooperative sector is to enhance people's livelihoods, stressing that banks should focus on bringing about societal change rather than pursuing purely business goals. He mentioned that there are currently 45 urban banks operating across the state, with a total of 245



Committee.

4 peddlers arrested

PNS ■ PADERU

The police seized 42 kg of ganja while being transported illegally on two bikes at Chintoor village in the ASR district.

Mothugudem Subinspector Siva Narayana on Saturday said that on a tip-off, a police team conducted a checking of vehicles at the Chintoor near Motugudem police station.

The police found 24 kg of ganja being transported in two motorcycles. The police seized ganja worth Rs 2.10 lakh and arrested four drug ped-dlers. The ganja was being taken to being Hyderabad.

The SI said that the ganja menace is being oppressed with an iron hand in the district and the checking of vehicles is being conducted at various places to curb the transportation through the ASR district.

AP tops in aqua product exports: Tripura Guv

DSP L Balireddy said that the

RSASTF team led by RI

Chiranjeevulu conducted comb-

ing in the forest area. The Task

Force personnel noticed four

persons moving suspiciously in

the forest area. When they were

nearing them, the red sander

smugglers started running away. before the court.

PNS ELURU

Tripura Governor N Indrasena Reddy has announced that Andhra Pradesh has earned a reputation as the leading state in aqua product exports in the country. The Governor made this remark during his visit to an aqua exhibition organized at Gopinathapatnam in Unguturu mandal on Saturday. He noted that Andhra Pradesh, particularly West Godavari district, boasts optimal conditions for aquaculture development.

Indrasena Reddy highlighted that Tripura imports up to 20 lorries of aqua products from Andhra Pradesh every day. He mentioned learning from local aqua farmers about the measures they have implemented to achieve high yields. He expressed optimism about the extensive suitability of land in the district for aquaculture.



The Governor also shared that the Tripura State government is actively promoting the aqua industry by enacting special laws. Despite being a small and hilly region, Tripura engages in aqua cultivation in artificial ponds on less than an acre of land. He acknowledged the state government's efforts to ensure the welfare and safety of aquaculture farmers.

Indrasena Reddy explained that initiatives are being taken to promote the aqua industry through a commercial cooperative approach, encouraging farmers to form groups to cultivate larger areas of land. He added that the prevailing conditions in Andhra Pradesh would be studied to train Tripura's aqua farmers in effective farming practices.



PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

GITAM Deemed University's

Department of Biotechnology

tainable solutions to the challenges faced by these communities," said Dr. I. Sarat Babu, Principal Investigator. "The establishment of STI hubs and modern agricultural techniques are key to achieving long-term socio-economic upliftment.' The project has established four STI Hubs, two in Araku Valley and two in Paderu Mandal, providing training on modern agricultural practices, beekeeping, and entrepreneurship.



"The training we provide is oractical and focused on the local context," said Dr. Raja Phani Pappu, co-investigator. 'We ensure communities can thrive by leveraging available resources and teaching effective marketing strategies." The project emphasizes women and youth empowerment, fostering economic independence and entrepreneurship within the community.

The project's infrastructure includes Honey Processing

Units, Niger Seed Oil Mill Units, Solar-based Cold Storage Units, and Vegetable Processing Units, improving productivity and marketability of local agricultural prod-ucts. Dr. P. Manjushree, coinvestigator, highlighted the importance of community engagement: "We're not only teaching agricultural techniques but also raising awareness about health and nutrition, fundamental to overall well-being.

unwavering support and expressed gratitude to Dr. Konga Gopikrishna from DST-SEED. "The success of this project wouldn't have been possible without consistent encouragement and financial support." As the project progresses, it promises to continue driving positive change through science and technology, creating a self-sustaining,

thriving community.

Dr. I. Sarat Babu acknowl-

edged GITAM Management's

ACROSS THE STATES



Ten hotels in Rajkot receive bomb threats

t 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,



Gujarat man held for giving sensitive info to Pak spy

he 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. Kotiva 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.



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

Borders should not be changed by force: German Chancellor

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 the said. dents 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-Wurttemberg docked at Mormugao Port.

The chancellor, on a threeday 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

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.

thy, sympathy, compassion, tolerance, non-violence, virtuosity, sublimity, religiosity and all these converge in one word,



inclusivity," he added.

the 'Namah Shivaya' Parayan Sharada Peetham as part of their Suvarna Bharati Mahotsava here, Dhankhar

Cosmopolis" as a rare and Addressing the gathering at spectacular event that resonates deeply, engaging the 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 har-

"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 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 convener 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 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, Keiriwal 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 tial" and its officers did not do anything to stop the group of attackers who, he said, belonged

to the BJP's youth wing.

Modi govt systematically throttling MGNREGA: Cong

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday accused the Modi government of "systematically throttling" MGN-REGA, and demanded a hike in its budget as it is the "lifeline" of crores of India's poorest communities.

"MGNREGA - the lifeline of crores of India's poorest communities - is being systematically throttled by the nonbiological PM's government.

"Budget allocations are being cut relentlessly, and wage rates have been stagnant. Now, through an ill-conceived reliance on technology, workers are being denied their right to work and their right to fair payment," Ramesh said in a statement. The Congress leader who



served as the Union rural development minister in the UPA-2 government, said that in January 2024, the rural development ministry mandated the nationwide implementation of Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

To be eligible for ABPS, workers must meet several conditions, including linking Aadhaar to their job card with the name matching in both, and mapping the Aadhaar-seeded bank account with the National Payments Corporation of India, he said.

'Îen months later, we now have data on the catastrophic impact of this policy shift," he

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 Gandhi 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 affi-

davit in the run-

"Sustained attention is cru-



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

"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 unautho-Development rised construction. The registration of unauthorised properties will also be stopped. At the same time, we are also focusing on clearing encroachments," he said.

HOAX BOMB THREATS

Govt issues advisory to social media platforms within stipulated timeline of up

PNS NEW DELHI

Amid a spate of hoax bomb threats to multiple airlines, the IT Ministry has asked social media platforms to observe due diligence obligations and promptly remove or disable access to misinformation within the strict timelines prescribed under IT rules.

The Centre also asserted that apart from removing or disabling access to such misinformation, social media intermediaries have additional liability under the Bharativa Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) to mandatorily report certain offences perceived to be committed by any user of their platform including those with intent to threaten unity, integrity, sovereignty or security of India.

The Government, in an advisory, reminded social media intermediaries that they are obligated under IT rules to

cance as more than 275 flights

The move assumes signifi-



provide information under their control or possession and assist investigative agencies

operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats in the past 12 days.

Most of the threats were issued through social media. On Friday alone, over 25 domestic and international flights operated by Indian carriers received bomb threats. "In addition to the above, the

IT Rules, 2021 obligates the intermediaries to provide information under its control or possession, or assistance to the Government agency which is lawfully authorised for investigative or protective or cyber security activities, for the purposes of verification of identity, or for the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution, of offences under any law for the time being in force, or for cyber security incidents, well within the stipulated timeframes (as soon as possible but not later than 72 hours)," the advisory issued by IT Ministry said.

CENTRE TO STATES

Boost stubble management plans as Delhi air crisis looms

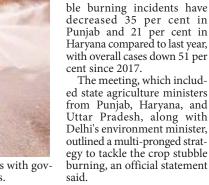
PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday urged states to strengthen implementation of existing microlevel action plans for crop residue management, as authorities race to prevent the annual air quality crisis in the

national capital. In a high-level virtual meeting, co-chaired by Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, states were asked to optimize the use of more than 300,000 crop management machines that have been dis-









Reviving traditional ways of

celebrating, opting for

adopting sustainable

eco-friendly choices and

practices can bring back

associated with Diwali,

writes **DIVYA BHATIA**

e gaiety and meaningfulness

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



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 chemicarrangoli 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

ries." Likewise, Dr P Venkata Krishnar als advises that those with respiratory docas during peak llution hours and

welfare advocate, passionately acou a cracker-free Divali. "Fire ackers never part of our tradition and are courages ackers wer harmful to both animals and human shares, urging people to comfort pet welcome stray animals seeking shelt

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 TORE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF DIWALI

Pakka "Choo nable gifts ing susta duces waste but a

EAT HEALTHY THIS DIWA

nomemade ngredien flavours. Today, howe produced er, mass treats often come liden with sugars and unhealthy additives, which can lead to

ealth risks. Chef Arokiya Doss, labar Coast, ot flavours, but ing for whole grains, alorie den sity." Chef Aditi l nutrition, like ladoos or oth jaggery or dates instead aked gujiyas filled with ut and dry fruits keep the festive spiritalive with less oil, and agi or millet based barfis offer fibre and wholesome

TAKE CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH

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



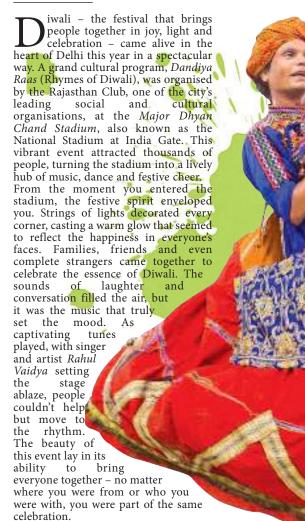




A Night of Dandiya and Festive Cheer

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



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 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. the excitement was infectious, and everyone found themselves joining in the fun.

Beyond the dancing, the

stadium was filled with ne sights and smells of Diwali. Food stalls, with their tempting aromas of traditional sweets and savoury treats, were a the experience as the cultural traditions while providing dancing. It added to the warmth of the evening, as people shared meals and As the night went on, the dancing only

was a shining example of that.
The energy of the crowd, the shared joy of dancing together, and the simple pleasure of being with lamps and fireworks – it lit up with



popular spot throughout the Garg, the head of the Rajasthan Club, night. Whether you were along with General Secretary Sunil grabbing a plate of hot jalebis Prakash, highlighted how the or a bowl of spicy chaat, the organisation, founded 56 years ago in food was as much a part of 1968, has always aimed to carry forward

stories, deepening the sense of seemed to grow more lively. With every community that Diwali always beat and every twirl, the crowd became more in sync, moving as one in 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

part of something bigger than the smiles, laughter and joy of people all came together to create an coming together for a night of unforgettable Diwali experience. Anurag unforgettable celebration.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



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

BY TEAM AGENDA

s 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, rental returns. attractive Additionally, those residing in Dubai can obtain golden visas for their entire families.

Satissh Balyan, CEO of Tesla Properties, emphasised the commitment to companv's 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 ensure appreciation in value. Investors benefit from a tax-free, crime-free, and pollution-free environment, coupled with a stable currency in

Various other developers, including the well-known Dubai-based firm Binghatti, also showcased their projects. Tesla properties team members Pershian 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



COOKING WITH KIDS IS NOT JUST ABOUT INGREDIENTS, RECIPES, AND COOKING. IT'S ABOUT HARNESSING IMAGINATION, EMPOWERMENT, AND CREATIVITY — GUY FIERI



WHOLESOME RECIPES FOR FESTIVE INDULGENCE

TEAM AGENDA

which 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

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.

• 1/2 cup whole blanched almonds

• 1 cup Medjool dates (seeds

• 3 tbsp cacao or Dutch cocoa powder
• ¼ cup desiccated coconut
• 3 tbsp almond butter

butter in a food processor.

SPECIAL COCONUT LADDOO (by Brishti Kumari, on behalf of Chilean

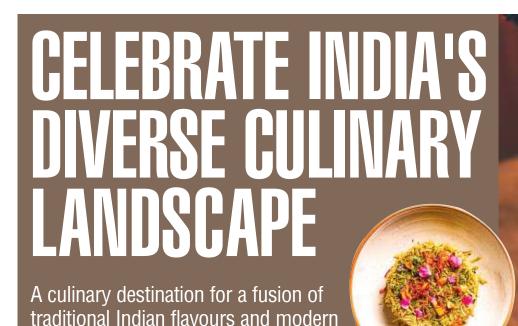
A Diwali classic, these laddoos

get a unique twist with prunes,

(by Australian Almonds)

INGREDIENTS

removed) • 1/3 cup cranberries



dining, says SHARMILA CHAND DYLLL 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

innovation, is perfect for festive

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 IDYLLL 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. The interplay of textures, from polished surfaces to rough finishes, and the warm, earthy tones create an intimate setting ideal for festive

Talking to Namokar Jain, the co-owner of IDYLLL, 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 IDYLLL'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

in<mark>du</mark>lgent 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.

IDYLLL'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 that there's ensures something for every family member to enjoy during the Diwali feast.



ambient setting, and commitment to creating memorable experiences, IDYLLL stands ready to make your Diwali

> extraordinary. "It was our endeavour to create a space that would offer a sense of calm to our diners. We hope our

IDYLLL 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 cofounders of the restaurant. (Sharmila Chand is an Author, Columnist and independent Journalist, who writes on Food,

Travel and Lifestyle)

adding a rich flavour to the traditional coconut and

Prunes)

condensed milk combo. Ingredients • 1 tsp ghee

• 1 cup desiccated coconut • ½ cup condensed milk

• 2 tbsp milk • ¼ tsp cardamom powder

Prunes and chopped pistachios for garnish

■ Heat ghee in a pan, fry the coconut on low heat until lightly

■ Blend almonds, dates, cranberries, cacao, coconut and almond

Roll small portions into balls and coat with chopped or flaked

Refrigerate before serving. For a special touch, drizzle melted dark chocolate and sprinkle it with gold dust.

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 tbsp fresh lime juice

• 3 eggs, separated

¾ cup sugar
2 tsp cardamom powder

• 2 tbsp 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)

• Pistachios, almonds and dried rose petals

■ Mix all glaze ingredients and set aside. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Whis 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 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 tbsp rice (soaked for 2 hours) • 1 litre milk (divided)

• Garnish with more walnuts and serve.

• 1/3 cup sugar and 1 tsp butter (optional)

- Cook soaked rice with ½ cup milk in a pressure cooker for 2
- For caramel, heat sugar with water until golden brown, then stir in
- butter (optional) and 2 thsp warm milk.

 Boil the remaining milk, add the cooked rice, and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in walnuts and caramel.

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! and health-conscious Diwali!

A Taste of Italy at Farmer's Basket

IDYLLL

EXPERIENCE

GOES BEYOND

MERE SUSTENANCE,

OFFERING A HOLISTIC

SENSORY JOURNEY THAT

RESONATES WITH THE JOYOUS

ATMOSPHERE OF DIWALI. FROM

THE MOMENT GUESTS STEP IN,

AMBIANCE THAT PAYS HOMAGE TO

THEY ARE ENVELOPED IN AN

JAIPUR'S CELEBRATORY

STRUCTURES

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



ullman New Delhi Aerocity is a 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 Calvani, renowned for his artistic flair in Italian cooking.

As I stepped into Farmer's Basket, the ambiance 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.

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, texture creamy enveloping the soft

pillows of pasta - truly a dish that lingered in my memory long after the As I savuored 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 highly recommended

for those wishing to indulge in this exquisite gastronomic experience. For an unforgettable evening 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 stateof-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.



VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 27, 2024

IN BRIEF



JK Cement net profit falls to Rs 136 cr

K 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



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

mployees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) logged a 6.8 per cent increase in new enrollments of members to 20.74 lakh under the ESI 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 ESI 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 genderwise 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

o 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

'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 thirdlargest 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 Entrepreneurship is commit-

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 ear-

lier target date of October 31.

Assessment Year 2024-25 (for

furnishing tax returns for fis-

cal 2023-24) is November 15.

Partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said this exten-

sion would not apply to the

Tax Audit Report, transfer

pricing certification in Form

3CEB and other income tax

COME TAX

Nangia Andersen LLP Tax

The new deadline for

PNS NEW DELHI

Govt extends ITR filing deadline

for corporates by 15 days

ted 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 Entrepreneurship, said India's skill ecosystem spans a vast network of 15,000 ITIs that have upheld their credibility

forms like Form 10DA, for which the deadline would

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

"By extending the deadline

to November 15, 2024, tax-

payers and professionals alike

can prioritise accuracy and

compliance without the stress

of last-minute filings amidst

targeted extension seeks to

facilitate compliance during a

peak period while upholding

the timely submission of crit-

Jhunjhunwala said, "This

celebrations," Mohan said.

festive season.

remain October 31, 2024.

"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

Bishal Group

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

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 proper-

AIR INDIA TWEAKS POLICY

Sebi to auction 7 properties of

PNS NEW DELHI

the entity from investors.

The properties will be auc-

tioned 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.

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, İcra Ltd,

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 effi-

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,



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 mber 30, 2024, compared

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,

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.



get single rooms during layovers

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 mem-bers 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-



Under the new policy, cabin crew members will have to share rooms during layovers. However, cabin crew members of ultra-long haul flights layovers as well as during unscheduled layovers in the

flights are those having a duration of 16 hours or more. Air India operates such flights to North Âmerica.

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 mem-

effective from December 1.

The revised policy will be

For domestic layovers, a new support allowance of Rs 1,000 has been introduced.

PNS MUMBAI there is a 0.70 per cent drag on the NIM because of its bal-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

Yes Bank net profit

jumps to Rs 566.59 cr;

eyes MFI buy

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

profit of Rs 228.64 crore in the

advances and the net interest margin inching up to 2.4 per 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

ances 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. From a loan growth per-

spective, the bank grew its corporate loans by over 21 per cent on the back of demand from the mid-corporate segment, but the retail loans were

A senior official explained to reporters that the lack of enthusiasm to grow in the retail segment is due to market-wide issues where it started seeing stress a few quarters back, and also a bias at the bank's end to chase loan growth opportunities more accretive from a return on assets perspective.

The gross non-performing assets ratio improved to 1.6 per cent against 2 per cent a year ago.

The overall provisions excluding tax were down 40 per cent at Rs 297 crore and helped the overall profits.



"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

will get single rooms during event of a flight diversion, as per the internal communica-

Generally, ultra-long haul

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

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

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

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

SBI and India Exim Bank filling trade financing gap in Africa trade financing needs. For **PNS** ■ JOHANNESBURG also offer bilateral lines in the bank guarantee requirements. smaller business, a lot of issues form of trade loans to the The State Bank of India and the look very difficult and insurother major banks present in India Exim Bank are helping mountable and they find the

complexities of the trade world businesses in African countries to fill the gap in trade finance, very bewildering sometimes," the South African heads of the Kumar said. CEO of State Bank of India two organisations told the (SBI) Ashutosh Kumar and India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF) here. Shyamashish Acharva, The event was initiated by Resident Representative at the Consul General of India Johannesburg Representative office of India Exim Bank, Mahesh Kumar who said it is

the first of a series of ongoing engagements with the IEF. "We using their services in dealing did this to assist all companies with import and export trade between India and the African doing trade or some form of other business with India in continent. "SBI is enabling India's foottheir capacity building because generally for bigger businesses print in Africa, playing an they are able to sort out their important role in African trade

both explained the benefits of 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.

our correspondent bank," "SBI's offerings include bilat-Kumar said. eral credit lines to multi-lateral institutions such as Afri-Africa Finance Corporation, and others. We

Indian corporates for their

world.

AMORE IN HYDERABAD

sunday pioneer

aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

hen Via Milano decided to waltz back into Hyderabad's Iubilee 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 minimalistic 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 'Aglio e Olio', a deceptive-ly 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



dream, an invitation to savour charred perfection with friends.

Rotoli di Peperone alla Griglia 'V', a vibrant Italian starter, these grilled bell pepper rolls are gener-ously stuffed with creamy goat cheese and dressed with zucchini stewed in tangy red wine vinegar. 'Rosa di Salmone Affumicato Smoked salmon' was delicately rolled with mascarpone, capers, dill and onion, creating an elegant

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 tradi-tion 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

pations to sample due 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.

GIFT WITH LOVE

This festive season, make your

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

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 3string 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

KARACHI HALWA – CLASSIC **SWEET TREAT**



Category: Confectionery **Meal period:** Lunch/dinner

Preparation time: 10 minutes **Cooking time:**

INGREDIENTS:

• Water: 240 ml • Chopped Nuts/Fruits: As desired

• Cornflour: 120 gm • Ghee: 120 ml • Sugar: 120 gm

- 1. Prepare base: In a thick-bottomed pan, mix cornflour and office 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 DESSER



INGREDIENTS:

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

- 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 kneer to cool completely, then chill in the refrigerator. Serve cold, garnished with additional nuts for a delightful presentation.

LIBRA

Feel open to

pursuing a new

details before

others effectively.

Stay calm amid

pressures, but

address any negative

SAGITTARIUS

criticism may delay

Embrace humour

CAPRICORN

improvement with

Embrace joy and

AQUARIUS

support from friends.

introspection, but avoid

excessive criticism and worry.

health through meditation.

Nurture relationships and prioritise

Focus on self-

and patience. Make

Chauvinism and

your success.

impressions. Spend time with

your new love, rejuvenate with

the first move in a relationship,

and prepare for new challenges

and enjoyable trips ahead.

a vacation, and consult with

your family before making

SCORPIO

workplace

decisions.

attraction but gather

committing. Stay organized at

work and prioritize your future.

Use your reasoning skills to guide

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

DIWALI **SPECIAL**

PRICE

VERDICT

1300 for two

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



ELEVATE YOUR DIWALI STYLE

As we prepare for the vibrant Diwali festivities, what better to your ensemble by ORRA.

DESERVES

BETTER

of sweet and salty goodness.

Price: Rs 524/- onwards





sunlight, or plant food, A

FLOWERS

THAT LAST

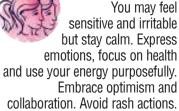
As the festive season

approaches, Rococo is

OVER A YEAR!

redefining the luxury gifting

experience with their unique collection of forever flowersexquisite blooms that last over a vear with no need for water. statement arrangement of 30 lush forever roses in a porcelain vase, this piece transforms any setting with its grandeur, ideal for gifts or as a centerpiece for any luxurious home.



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.



You'll connect with a stimulating partner this week. Embrace humour, be



Stay calm amid Attend important meetings to boost

confidence. Embrace unexpected love. Focus on your studies. Don't let changes mar your confidence.

HOROSCOPE

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

ARIES



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



LEO



VIRGO



workplace pressures.

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.

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

Enhance your Diwali celebrations with the Läderach

INDULGE IN

HAMPERS

FESTIVE LUXURY

WITH EXQUISITE

CHOCOLATE GIFT

GOLD-TONE MEENAKARI JHUMKAS **Imitation Jewellery** Indulge in the timeless

charm of Shagna's goldtone *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.



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

jewellery that perfectly complements your style and

way to celebrate than by adorning yourself with exquisite 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 DIWALI



PINK SEQUIN STRAPLESS DRESS WITH CUTOUTS

Step into the spotlight with stunning Sotbella 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 inTelugu.

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





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VIJAYAWADA, October 27, 2024

the pioneer

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



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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

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here 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

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 vance. 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.

togetherness, a shared memory and the promise of brighter days ahead. Amidst the

powerful reminder that the connections we

cherish with family and friends illuminate

hustle and bustle, Diwali serves as a

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 cos ₹120. These diyas are essential for ev home during Diwali, accompanied by colourful candles and rangoli sticker featuring auspicious symbols like "Shubh

In Chandni Chowk, the lighting options 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 ecofriendly 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

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 divas 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 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 lovefilled 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





OCTOBER

ınday pioneer VIJAYAWADA | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 27, 2024

H MAHIMA CHAUDHRY: H

I AM AN ACTOR, NOT JUST '90s HEROINE

SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

espite 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 per-

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 wav life is.

Śhe had spent the last few days travelling nonstop. She makes sure to explain how she has noticed a significant shift in her fil-mography 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 companv 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

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

her legacy on her own terms

With all of the theoretical questions we were imposing on her, the *Daag* fame is still going strong! "A lot of topics have been covered 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 go in 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 live, muihe 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.



SANJIV KHANNA



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

BOOKING AN UNUSUAL TRANSPORT



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

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



RAANJHAN



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



Andhra Pradesh hosts India's largest drone show at Amaravati 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

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

n 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 vour booty dreams are stuck in a rut and gravity is winning the battle, fear not, science and a little artistic flair have

With Lifts (BBL), augmentathe 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 and longevity in results." He

you

vour back(side). Welcome to the age of the | comes to BBLs. The procedure involves 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

emphasises the

importance of preci-

sion, particularly when it

tions 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

tions, 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

transferring fat from one area of the body

to the buttocks through liposuction, a del-

icate process that demands accuracy to

prevent complications like fat embolism.

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

For him, the process begins long before

skin laxity is an issue, we can remove

surgery. He conducts thorough evalua-

excess skin through gluteoplasty."

We use ultrasound-guided fat injections

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 scarreducing 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.



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.

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

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.

BLOSSOMING

UNDER PRESSURE

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



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 spent a lot of time studying, I could maintain those ranks. However, as I started playing more and more tournaments, I realised that 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.



TOUGH LOVE AND

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

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

sportsperson. My mom was strict and

focused on helping me become a good

BADMINTON

say I was the lazy one.

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. 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.

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.



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

NAVIGATING LIVES AS TWO SPORTSPERSONS UNDER ONE ROOF

Managing life as two sportspersons 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 sportspersons together, our mutual understanding and support have been

dynamics.

other's support system in a highly competitive environment. Initially, our relationship felt quite childish. We were young sportspersons 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 sportspersons.

PULLELA GOPICHAND CONNECTION 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 Raiiv Oeseph 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.

We were fortunate to have a connection in the sports world—Gonichand 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. Gonichand 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 sportspersons 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.



ASTHMA DIAGNOSIS In 2004, I was diagnosed with asthma, which posed a

WHY HYDERABAD STANDS OUT

in India for me. Sure, family is here, but it is not overwhelming with hustle, yet it is not completely laidback either. Hyderabad

There is this incredible urban and rural mix, with people coming from small towns and urban areas alike. When I think of my

strikes that perfect balance. It has grown by leaps and bounds over the last decade, evolving into a proper metro city. You

can find everything here, catering to both worlds—the hustle and bustle of Mumbai and the relaxed lifestyle of Bengaluru.

memories, I remember how we used to travel to Gachibowli back when there was practically nothing there. It was empty,

with only the Academy. We would take city buses because we did not have enough money to afford auto-rickshaws daily;

we used. I stayed in Basheerbagh, and before training moved to LB Stadium, I would take the bus to the Academy. I

those were just too expensive. The city bus fare from Lakdikapul to Gachibowli was only around 10 rupees, so that is what

specifically remember taking the 216 bus from Lakdikapul. Training would usually finish around 8:30 pm and I was so tired

that waiting for the next bus sometimes felt like an eternity. The buses were often so crowded that we would let a few pass

and wait another half an hour for the next one, eventually standing or maybe finding a seat somewhere. I lived through that

grind for about two years, from 2004 to 2005. Looking back, it was a crucial time. There were moments when I felt a bit

more affluent and splurged on an auto, but it was rare. In 2004-2005, I was focused on getting a job with Indian Oil so I

Commonwealth medal. That was a turning point; the government recognised my achievements and I got some financial

not have bought that car or that house. I should have rented and invested the money instead. On hindsight, they were all

support. I could finally buy a house and even a car. Of course, looking back, those were all rather silly investments! I should

could afford an auto. Then, things began to change for me. My first big break came in 2009-2010 when I earned a

Now, as for Hyderabad, it has played a significant role in my journey. I genuinely feel it is the best city

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?" 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.

KNEE INJURY AND OLYMPICS

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. 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 shortlived. 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 **DREAM SHATTERED 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!

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 lifetraining 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.

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.

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

emotional and impulsive purchases!

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?

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!

crucial in navigating those

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