

sunday pioneer

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Democratic India able to feed 800 million people: Jaishankar



5

Roadmap ready to build a VIKSIT BHARAT by 2047: Minister



8

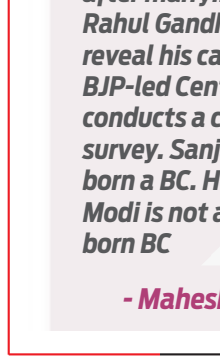
'Staying connected IS KEY to success'



11

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

BJP leaders are speaking badly about Rahul Gandhi's grandfather Feroze Jehangir Gandhi. BJP leaders have forgotten the sacrifices of the Gandhi family. Sonia Gandhi was born in Italy. However, she is now an Indian after marrying Rajiv Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi would reveal his caste if the BJP-led Centre conducts a caste survey. Sanjay was born a BC. However, Modi is not a born BC



P2
- Mahesh Kumar Goud, TPCC chief

DON'T MISS...

Pediatric cancer ward at BIACH&RI

An ultra-modern pediatric cancer ward and ICU were inaugurated by BIACH&RI Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna at Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (BIACH&RI) on World Childhood Cancer Day. As part of the event, BIACH&RI also launched a special cancer care fund to support children in need of cancer treatment. Speaking at the inauguration, Nandamuri Balakrishna emphasised the importance of better healthcare and education for ...

-PAGE: 3

Two officers duped of Rs 4.10 L

Cybercriminals have once again gone on the rampage in Telangana. They swindled two officers of Rs 4.10 lakh in two separate incidents. In the first incident, fraudsters, posing as Anti-Corruption (ACB) officials tricked the Sangam Deputy Tahsildar into transferring 80,000 rupees into the accounts. Taking advantage of the scare created by the ACB raid on a Panchayat Raj Assistant Engineer in the same Mandal earlier, the cybercriminals, claiming to be ACB Deputy Superintendent ...

-PAGE: 4

'Don't make Amritsar deport centre'

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday kept up his attack on the Centre over the landing of US planes carrying illegal Indian immigrants at Amritsar airport and asked it not to make the holy city a 'deport centre'. A second US flight carrying 119 illegal Indian immigrants is slated to land in Amritsar on Saturday night. On February 5, a US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian deportees landed at the Amritsar airport. The chief minister visited the airport on Saturday and said his government...

-PAGE: 5

Modi to address global textile fair

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday address the 'Bharat Text 2025', a global textile fair that seeks to bring together the entire industry value chain. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the 'mega global event', being held from February 14-16, brings together the entire textile value chain ranging from raw materials to finished products including accessories under one roof. Bharat Text is the textile industry's largest and most comprehensive event comprising a mega expo spread across two venues and showcasing the entire textile ecosystem, it added. The event also features a global scale conference with over 70 conference sessions, round-tables, panel discussions, and master classes...

-PAGE: 8



DPRs of new Metro routes to be submitted to Centre soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro Rail Managing Director NVS Reddy announced that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the Metro corridors in Medchal, Shamirpet and Future City will be finalised and submitted to the Centre by March.

Speaking at the Green Telangana Summit 2025, organised by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), he emphasised that Metro expansion aligns with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision to transform Hyderabad into a global city.

Addressing the Green Crusaders event as chief guest, NVS Reddy said Hyderabad Metro's expansion would redefine the city's landscape and contribute to making it a sustainable, eco-friendly urban centre. "The Chief Minister envisions Metro connectivity in all four direc-

tions of the city, and works are progressing rapidly in this direction," he said.

He said that these developments would elevate Hyderabad to international standards, offering superior quality life and promoting green infrastructure. As part of the event, NVS Reddy distributed registration certificates to government and private sector entities who had enrolled as Green Crusaders under IGBC's green initiatives.

IGBC Vice Chairman C. Shekar Reddy, Hyderabad Chairman G. Srinivasa Murthy, CREDAI Hyderabad Chapter Chairman V. Rajasekhar Reddy, along with developers, builders and corporate representatives attended the event. Many stakeholders expressed their commitment to registering under IGBC systems contributing to the Green Hyderabad initiative.

No talks on Cabinet expansion with Rahul: CM

'I didn't criticise Modi personally but I said he is not BC by birth'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"Some may not like me...some may not accept me...but I am doing my job. I gave an assurance to the people on behalf of the Congress. I am answerable to the people if they are not implemented. However, some people are spreading lies about me. Cabinet expansion is not entirely in my hands. I do not care about what they may think. Some people in the TPCC Executive Committee are speculating on Cabinet expansion," Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said.



Sanjay asks Revanth to reveal Rahul's caste

Union MoS for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar raised questions about the caste of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the religion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. He challenged the Congress asking whether they would contest the MLC elec-



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar addressing the media at Tourism Plaza on Saturday

tions treating this issue as a referendum. "Rahul Gandhi's grandfather's name is Feroze Jehangir Gandhi. Rahul Gandhi's mother's religion is Christianity and she belongs to Italy. However, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is criticising

Continued on Page 2

During a chit-chat with journalists on Saturday after meeting with Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that he had explained everything about the caste census held in Telangana to Rahul. The CM said that he had told Rahul that the caste survey was conducted scientifically and that a public meeting would be organised in Telangana and invited Rahul to it. The CM said that he had followed Rahul's directions and that he had discussed mainly caste survey and SC categorisation with Rahul. The CM said the caste census held in Telangana would be a roadmap for

the nation and that the opposition is making a fuss about it wilfully.

"The caste survey was held from the perspective of social welfare and not from a political angle. The opposition is trying to incite people. However, there were no errors in the caste survey," the CM said.

"We are doing the groundwork for social welfare through the caste survey. I will certainly do what Rahul Gandhi says. We conducted the caste census comprehensively. We will do an exercise on how to make the fruits of welfare reach the people by appointing a Commission based on the details got through the caste census," the CM said. He said the government is waiting for the Supreme Court's verdict regarding the MLAs who defected. However, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is speaking as he likes on the issue, he added.

The CM asked KTR to reveal from where Sabitha Indra Reddy, Talasani Srinivas Yadav won elections and in which party's government they had been ministers.

He said that he had never criticised Prime Minister Modi personally. "However, I said Modi is not a BC by birth and so he has no sincerity towards BCs.

Cong misrule pushing TG into water crisis: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao warned that Telangana is heading towards a severe water crisis due to the Congress Government's failures.

Expressing concern over the drastic decline in groundwater levels across the state, he criticised the Congress for dismantling the water conservation efforts established during BRS rule.

Harish said that from 2013 to 2023, groundwater levels in Telangana had increased by 56% under K. Chandrababbar Naidu's leadership. The restoration of over 27,000 lakes through Mission Kakatiya provided irrigation for 15 lakh acres and enhanced water storage capacity by 8.93 TMC. "This ensured stable groundwater reserves, improved irrigation, and strengthened drinking water security. However, after just 14 months of Congress rule the entire system is in disarray," he said.

He pointed out alarming groundwater depletion across the state, with levels dropping by over two meters. "Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri recorded a staggering 2.71-meter drop, and similar declines are evident in Rangareddy, erstwhile Mahbubnagar and other districts," he said.

Harish also criticised the government's negligence in managing the Kaleshwaram Project, leading to the Godavari River drying up for 120 km.

Continued on Page 2

Sravan, Satyavathi lock horns for BRS's MLA quota MLC seat

NAVEENA GHANATE
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

A fierce battle is on in the BRS for the lone MLC seat in the MLA quota, with Sravan Dasoju and Satyavathi Rathod leading the pack. Satyavathi was recently appointed as the party whip, which she sees as a sign of her tenure being renewed.

After nearly 18 years in the opposition without any post, Sravan is waiting to finally break into the Legislative Council. With BC reservation and caste census dominating the political discourse, Sravan a BC leader, could have his moment with the blessings of KCR. Moreover, the

Council needs a strong voice, especially one who is at loggerheads with Revanth Reddy.

Sravan joined the BRS during the Munugode by-election and was promised an MLC seat, only to have his nomination rejected by then-Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan. He went up to Supreme Court to fight his case.

On the other hand, Satyavathi Rathod's stature as a former minister, ex-MLC, and one of the state's senior leaders gives her an advantage. She does not need any elevation, as she will continue to hold a key role in the party regardless of whether she is re-elected or not. It is high time the BRS started a rethink, especially as the Congress

is giving chances to the young, said BRS insiders.

Meanwhile, there are other contenders like Ravinder Singh and Devi Prasad also in the race. What's interesting is that ex-Minister Srinivas Goud, and ex-MLA Balka Suman, are also in the fray, making the competition tougher.

"Both of them lost in the Assembly elections and are brazenly vying for the MLC post. They were rejected by the people," top BRS sources said. Many hopefuls have been making the rounds at KCR's Erravalli residence hoping for a last-minute breakthrough.

Although many influential leaders are lobbying for the post, the final decision rests with KCR.



Will expand irrigated area with minimum outlay: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress Government in Telangana is committed to achieving maximum expansion of irrigated area with minimal expenditure, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said here on Saturday.

Uttam asked officials to prioritise projects that can be completed with the least investment and can irrigate the maximum area.

He said that unlike the BRS Government which spent heavily on irrigation with limited results, the Congress administration aims to irrigate an additional 30 lakh acres by speeding up the execution of pending irrigation projects.

Irrigation Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy was addressing a meeting of senior officials at the Jala Soudha on Saturday held to review the state's irrigation strategy ahead of the 2nd All India State

Water Ministers' Conference 2025, scheduled to be held in Udaipur on February 18 and 19.

The meeting focused on Telangana's priorities in water governance, cost-effective irrigation area expansion, and the completion of pending projects, which will be presented at the national conference.

During the meeting, officials presented updates on major irrigation projects like

Continued on Page 2

OBTUSE ANGLE



Politicians Lost their Voice for Chiranjeevi

It's a curious case of selective outrage. Off-camera, every politician has an opinion on Chiranjeevi's reckless comment about fearing to have a girl child. They shake their heads, condemn it in hushed tones, and throw in a few lines about how regressive it sounds. But the moment a camera rolls? Silence. Not a single leader is willing to call it out. Turns out, Chiranjeevi isn't just a megastar on screen—he's a superstar in political networking too. He keeps in touch with everyone, across parties, across states, making sure no one dares to cross him. One word against him, and the fear is that it might cost them a favor, a connection, or worse, political goodwill. No wonder they're all biting their tongues. But where do all their grand speeches on women empowerment go? What happened to *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*? When it's convenient, they wax eloquent about uplifting women, but when it's time to take a stand, they're suddenly mute spectators. In about 20 days, the same leaders who can't muster a word today will be delivering Women's Day speeches with the same enthusiasm as if this never happened. Hypocrisy, thy name is politics.

Seasoned Journalists on Mute Mode?

Once upon a time, press conferences were battlegrounds, where seasoned journalists fired, pointed questions and wrestled out real responses. Now? It's a masterclass in question-evading, and some in the press gallery are just letting it slide. The veterans, once known for their razor-sharp questioning, seem to have taken a backseat. "What's the point?" they murmur in hushed tones. The speaker, be it a minister or an official, has perfected the art of non-answers—acknowledge, deflect, and move on. "We will take your suggestion into consideration," they say, with a well-rehearsed smile, leaving the room wondering if they were at a press meet or a polite luncheon. For junior reporters, the frustration is real. A well-crafted, newsworthy question lands, only to be met with, "Which organisation are you from?" as if the answer dictates whether the query deserves a response. But the real ones, the hungry ones, aren't laughing. They know a good answer is what makes a good story, and they aren't in the business of collecting pleasantries. So, is the era of tough questioning over? Or is it just a momentary pause before someone decides enough is enough and pushes back? Until then, reporters—junior and senior alike—are left perfecting their poker faces and hoping for a slip-up that turns into tomorrow's headline.

REPORTERS' DIARY

Harish Rao: True Face of Opposition in BRS

T Harish Rao has cracked the code of what being in the opposition truly means—being the voice of the people, not just lamenting electoral losses. While some leaders in BRS are still stuck in the "people made a mistake, they are realizing now" loop, Harish Rao has embraced reality and moved on. He's not whining about the past; he's working for the present. His aides pointed that his phone is constantly buzzing with people sending their grievances. There is no dull day at all. Unlike those blinded by their coteries, Harish has kept his gates wide open, making him the go-to person for real-time issues. Literally any issue, Harish isn't just acknowledging

problems—he's bringing evidence to the table, thanks to the people who trust him to raise their concerns. And let's talk about accessibility. Harish is out there meeting people, speaking to the media, giving interviews. Big or small media organisation, journalists don't have to chase him for a quote; he's right there, responding and engaging. This isn't just opposition politics; this is leadership that commands respect. If BRS wants to remain relevant, it needs more Harish and fewer coteries. Elevation isn't a choice for him—it's a necessity.

Revanth Reddy's Photos Spark Talk: Is It the Camera or the Crisis?

Political circles are buzzing over the latest images of CM Revanth Reddy that have surfaced in the past few weeks. The consensus? He needs a better photographer immediately. The pictures being released are anything but flattering, with the CM looking visibly weak, sleep-deprived, and often caught in awkward, tense poses. The contrast is stark when compared to the carefully curated images of KCR, who always appear in commanding frames, exuding confidence and control. In Revanth Reddy's case, however, the visuals are fueling whispers about whether his appearance is merely a result of bad photography or a reflection of his struggling administration. Even if the photographer is missing the mark, what about those finalizing the images before release? Are they not seeing what everyone else is noticing? In politics, optics matter, and right now, Revanth Reddy's visuals are doing him no favours. If this continues, people might start believing that the chaos in governance is quite literally showing on his face.

Red, Pink, and Yellow: The Politics of Colour

The Congress' famed Red Book seems to have faded into oblivion after coming to power, despite all the dramatic warnings about revenge. Now, the opposition BRS has picked up the same playbook—only in a different shade. At Gandhi Bhavan, the discussion turned colourful on Saturday when BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha reminded the ruling party that they were noting everything down in their Pink Book and that double revenge awaited Congress leaders and officials. The statement, of course, didn't go unnoticed. TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud had a snappy retort: "If Kavitha opens her Pink Book, her reported Kerala scam will also come out." Touché. But the real twist?

When a reporter cheekily asked Goud why he was sporting a Yellow shirt, he played along with a deadpan quip—"I want to get closer to CM Revanth Reddy." If colours reflect moods, it looks like the Congress' Red rage has mellowed, the BRS' Pink fury is rising, and Yellow... well, that's up for interpretation.

BRS Leaders Squirm as Cockfight at farmhouse Steals Spotlight

Just ahead of the crucial BRS executive meeting on February 19, the party is dealing with an unexpected embarrassment—MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy's farmhouse raids over cockfighting. The incident has left BRS circles fuming, with many arguing that this is not in line with Telangana's culture. For a party that prides itself as the flagbearer of Telangana identity, the controversy is proving to be a major headache. What's adding to the frustration is Srinivas Reddy's disappearing act. For 48 hours, he was nowhere to be seen, and when he finally surfaced, his response was lackluster. Party insiders are now whispering that his mentor, ex MP Joganapally Santosh Kumar, may have failed to guide him properly in handling the fallout. And as if that weren't enough, Santosh himself is now drawing flak within the party—for an entirely different reason. His recent tree plantation drive, conducted in the scorching heat, has left some leaders questioning his judgment. With these back-to-back embarrassments, the party high command is in damage control mode. The last thing BRS wants before its big meeting is a debate on whether its leaders are making a mess of their own agenda - be it cultural preservation or environmental consciousness.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu)

Govt gives another chance to take part in caste census

Toll-free helpline for households left out in caste census

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has decided to provide another opportunity to households that were listed but could not be surveyed during the Socio, Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) Survey. Residents who missed the initial enumeration due to reasons like being out of station, or lack of interest can now get their details recorded from February 16 to February 28, 2025. Official estimates indicate that 3,56,323

Residents can call 040-21111111 between 9 am and 5 pm to request an enumerator visit. After call validation, an official will be assigned to conduct the survey at their home

households have not been enumerated in the state. The government has introduced three methods for households to participate in the survey. Residents can call 040-21111111 between 9 am and 5 pm to request an enu-

merator visit. After call validation, an official will be assigned to conduct the survey at their home. Otherwise, citizens can visit their nearest Praja Palana Seva Kendras (PPSK), located at MPDO offices in rural areas

and Ward Offices in urban areas, to complete enumeration with assistance from trained staffers.

Households can also download the survey form from <https://seepcsurvey.cgg.gov.in>, fill and sign it, and submit it at the nearest Praja Palana Seva Kendra.

Collectors and the GHMC Commissioner have been asked to ensure the smooth execution of this process and provide widespread publicity to raise awareness about the available modes of enumeration.



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar participated in a review meeting with CEPI officials on Saturday at Tourism Plaza

Sanjay asks CEPI to submit report on enemy properties

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, issued orders to the officials of the Custodian of Enemy Property in India (CEPI) to finalise the list of enemy properties by March-end. Sanjay directed officials to complete the review of records and the ground survey of enemy properties under the protection of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) by March-end.

Sanjay chaired a meeting on Saturday to review enemy properties in the districts of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Kothagudem and Vikarabad. This is the second review meeting of enemy properties after Sanjay became Union Minister. He also inquired about the progress made after the last review held in November.

The meeting was attended by CEPI officials from Delhi and Mumbai, the Telangana Revenue Principal Secretary and CCLA Naveen Mittal, Sanjay's Secretary Andrea Vamsi, Ranga Reddy Collector

Narayana Reddy and the RDOs of Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Vikarabad. During the meeting, Sanjay initially sought details about enemy properties in Ranga Reddy district, particularly in Kotwal Guda and Miyapur, comprising hundreds of acres. Ranga Reddy Collector Narayana Reddy provided an update on the progress, survey number-wise, noting that some properties had been encroached upon and others were occupied by farmers.

Sanjay emphasised the need to ensure justice for farmers who had held the land for years while simultaneously preventing government land from being grabbed. He asked officials to complete the survey, record verification by the end of March and to submit a report.

In the case of enemy properties in Bakaram, Hyderabad, officials reported that out of the disputed 25,503 square yards, 5,578 square yards are enemy properties, with 20 families currently occupying the land for residential and commercial purposes.

Rahul will reveal his caste if Centre conducts survey: Mahesh



TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rahul Gandhi will definitely reveal his caste if the Centre conducts a caste census across the nation, TPCC Chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud told BJP leaders.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy did not speak anything offensive about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's caste.

"The CM only said that Modi was not born as a BC and so he did nothing for BCs. However, BJP leaders are speaking offensively about Rahul Gandhi's Grandfather Feroz Gandhi. BJP leaders are forgetting the 'sacrifices' of the Gandhi family. People know the caste of Rahul Gandhi. He would reveal his caste if the BJP-led Centre conducts a caste survey," Mahesh said.

He said that Sonia Gandhi was born in Italy. However, she became Indian after marrying Rajiv Gandhi. Sanjay is speaking forgetting the fact that he is

a Union Minister of State. Sanjay should remember that India is a secular country. Modi's Ganshi caste was included in the BCs' list in 1994. Revanth said that Modi was made a BC legally and did nothing for BCs in the last 10 years.

"Sanjay is a born BC. However, Modi is not a born BC. The BJP removed Sanjay from the Telangana BJP President post before the elections even though he had worked hard for his party. The BJP should conduct a caste census along with the population census if it is sincere about BCs. We will introduce a caste census law after the caste survey is over. The BJP-led Centre should help BCs by including the law in the 9th Schedule," Mahesh said.

Responding to a question, he said that Kavitha's Delhi liquor scam was exposed and the Kerala scam is waiting. Nobody knows how many scams will come out if Kavitha opens her Pink Book. Kavitha shouldn't open her Pink Book, he said.

KTR: Plan social service schemes on KCR's B-Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR called upon party activists to organise social service programmes across Telangana on the occasion of party chief KCR's birthday on February 17.

He urged everyone to contribute meaningfully by helping others emphasising that the best way to celebrate the occasion is through service.

KTR suggested organising blood donation camps, distributing fruits and conducting annadanams to help the needy. He encouraged BRS cadres to take up such initiatives as a tribute to KCR's leadership and his commitment to Telangana's development.

The party has planned state-wide activities in line with KCR's vision, with leaders and supporters expected to actively participate in these service-oriented events.

BRS attacks Congress over tribal welfare, podu land

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Satyavathi Rathod and former minister Niranjan Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Congress Government, accusing it of neglecting tribal welfare and rolling back schemes introduced during K. Chandrasekhar Rao's tenure.

The Revanth administration has left tribal communities in distress by refusing to continue welfare schemes, they said. Satyavathi hailed KCR as the modern-day Sevalal citing his contributions to tribal welfare. She credited the

BRS government for providing Rythu Bandhu benefits to farmers cultivating Podu lands and elevating tribal settlements into full-fledged gram panchayats.

"KCR increased reservations for tribals and ensured quality education by establishing 95 tribal residential schools," she said. She challenged Revanth to nominate a tribal leader as an MLC in the Governor's Quota.

Declaring that tribals have been abandoned under Congress rule, she pointed out the absence of allocations for tribal welfare in the state budget.

"Under Mission Bhagiratha, KCR ensured that every tribal hamlet had access to clean drinking water, but now the Congress admin has failed to continue these schemes," she said.

Niranjan also credited KCR for issuing land titles to Podu farmers and extending Rythu Bandhu benefits to them, an initiative that he alleged the Congress has now derailed.

He accused the government of stalling the KCR Kits scheme and claimed that the BRS administration had brought about significant improvements in the lives of tribal people.

Sanjay asks ...

Continued from page 1

Modi in the name of his caste. What would Revanth say about Rahul Gandhi's caste? Is Rahul Gandhi BC or SC or ST? It is not proper for the CM to speak like this," Sanjay said.

He said the CM raised Modi's caste issue to divert public attention from the Congress's six guarantees.

He said that there were discrepancies in the caste census and there is widespread public outrage against the Congress Government for including Muslims in the BC (Backward Classes) list.

He said that to divert public attention, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is making baseless comments about the Prime Minister's caste.

Sanjay clarified that if the Muslim community is included in the BCs' list and if the reservation list is sent to the Centre, there is no question of it being accepted.

"The BJP is against reservation based on religion. If Muslims are included in the BCs' list and sent to the Centre, it will not be accepted. The Congress is deliberately creating drama about this. The public and BC organisations are aware of this. I will try to get the Central nod for the caste survey if the State removes Muslims from the BCs list," he said.

Bhatti offers ...

Continued from page 1

commitment to making the city pollution-free. Bhatti also highlighted plans for the Fourth City, calling it Hyderabad's "Future City" and a global hub. "Policy decisions are being taken to ensure this region faces no hurdles in future," he said.

On the Musi River Rejuvenation Project, Bhatti Vikramarka called it a milestone, stating, "For a decade, people living along Musi suffered due to pollution. The Congress government is committed to transforming it into a fresh-water river and a boon for Hyderabad." He asserted that the project would move forward regardless of obstacles or costs.

The Deputy CM highlighted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu's visit to Davos, which resulted in securing Rs 1.8 lakh crore investments around Hyderabad.

He also announced that Telangana's new energy policy aims to generate 20,000 MW of green power by 2029-30, with an expansion target of 40,000 MW by 2035.

BJP's main rival is AIMIM, says Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said that their main rival is the AIMIM and it always tries to defeat the BJP.

Kishan was speaking while attending the Mahankali Secunderabad District BJP President Bharath Goud's oath-taking ceremony on Saturday.

He said that AIMIM is growing like water under the carpet and it will grow if the BJP fails to be alert.

The AIMIM which has been with the BRS for the last 10 years has now joined hands with the Congress, Kishan said and added that the AIMIM will be there where there is power.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has become a puppet in the hands of the AIMIM and asked party cadres to defang the AIMIM.

Kishan said that states where the BJP is in power are developing rapidly. However, states ruled by the Congress are facing bankruptcy. People are tired of the BRS's 10-year rule and Congress's one-year rule, he added.

He said that only the family can head the Congress while in the BJP anyone can get posts.

"Bharath Goud's father Maisaiah and I have worked together. The party increased security after the firing on Maisaiah, however, Maisaiah was killed by Naxals," he said.

Will expand ...

Continued from page 1

the SLBC (Srisailem Left Bank Canal), Dindi, Palamuru-Rangareddy, Devadula and lift irrigation schemes. Uttam said strict timelines must be set for these projects to ensure that they are completed at the earliest as they are crucial to improving water availability for farmers.

He also stressed the need for better monitoring and accountability in irrigation works, warning that delays and inefficiency would not be tolerated.

The forthcoming conference on irrigation, organised by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, will bring together irrigation ministers of all states, Central policymakers and experts to discuss the strengthening of water governance, optimising water storage infrastructure and improving irrigation efficiency.

Uttam reviewed Telangana's presentation at the conference, which will highlight the state's achievements in transparent governance, digital monitoring of irrigation projects and innovative water management practices.

Cong misrule...

Continued from page 1

"Due to mismanagement, water flow in the Godavari has decreased, and the safety of the Medigadda Barrage and other reservoirs is now at risk," he cautioned.

Blaming the Congress for the collapse of Mission Bhagiratha, he said, "A project that once ensured clean drinking water for Telangana has now completely stalled. People are being forced to rely on borewells again, leading to increased power consumption and higher electricity bills, adding to the financial burden on households."

Harish warned that if the government fails to take immediate steps to conserve water, Telangana will face a severe crisis in the coming months.

"The Congress Government's negligence is undoing years of progress in irrigation and drinking water infrastructure. Reservoir levels are falling rapidly and unless corrective steps are taken, the state will struggle to meet its water needs," he said.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Chaturthi: Feb 15 11:52 PM to Feb 17 02:16 AM

Panchami: Feb 17 02:16 AM to Feb 18 04:53 AM

Nakshatram: Hasta: Feb 16 01:39 AM to Feb 17 04:31 AM

Chitra: Feb 17 04:31 AM to Feb 18 07:35 AM

Rahukalam: 4:48 PM to 6:14 PM

Yamagandam: 12:30 PM to 1:56 PM

Varjyam: 01:32 PM to 03:20 PM

Gulika: 3:22 PM to 4:48 PM

Amritakalam: 09:48 PM to 11:35 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:07 PM to 12:53 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny

Temp: 33°

Humidity: 41%

Sunrise: 6:42 AM

Sunset: 6:18 PM

Updated: February 15, 2025 5:00 PM

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HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 16, 2025

03



CITY EVENTS

BOOK RELEASE

Life of a Karmayogi,
by M Gopalkrishna IAS (Retd)

Venue

IAS Officers Institute,
Begumpet
February 16
(Evening)

Shriram Life Insurance

Hyderabad Runners
Marathon 2025

Venue

University of Hyderabad
6.30 am

T-SAT announces special lessons on 'Beautiful Handwriting'



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Skills, Academic and Training (T-SAT) announced special lessons on 'Beautiful Handwriting' for students and invited nominations from government school teachers.

On Saturday, T-SAT CEO Bodanapalli Venugopal Reddy said that a special live programme on calligraphy, Andamaina Kashi Ratha, will be aired on Sunday, February 16, from 12 pm to 1 pm.

He noted that many students in government and private schools struggle with poor handwriting, which affects their exam performance. To help students, T-SAT will broadcast a special awareness program featuring experienced handwriting experts. Venugopal Reddy also highlighted that T-SAT had previously aired a program on the German language for engineering students studying in Germany.

For inquiries about the calligraphy program, viewers can contact 040-23540326/726 or the toll-free number 18.



Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narasimha speaking at a seminar on Scheduled Castes categorisation in Hyderabad on Saturday

Intellectuals participate in seminar on SC categorisation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

At a seminar organised by the National Forum for Social Justice in Judiciary on Scheduled Castes Classification for Social Justice, Minister for Damodar Raja Narasimha reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to implementing SC categorisation in line with the Supreme Court's directives. The event, hosted by lawyers from the Madiga community, Nagaraju Anjaiah and Praveen, saw participation from Justice Eshwaraiiah, social reformer Visharadhan, and senior advocate Muthayya. Damodar Raja Narasimha highlighted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had already made a statement in the Legislative Assembly affirming the government's decision to implement SC categorisation. Following this, Congress took the lead by forming a cabinet sub-committee under Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy's chairmanship to address the issue. Based on its recommendations, the state government appointed Justice Shameem Akhtar as a one-member commission to study and execute the categorization process using empirical data and a transparent approach.

'Sports essential for holistic development'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao emphasised the importance of integrating sports into the academic curriculum, stating that physical activities are as crucial as education for the development of students.

Addressing the International Conference on Physical Education and Sports at the Vasavi Engineering College in Ibrahim Bagh, he expressed concern over students distancing themselves from physical education.

"In the past, students actively engaged in sports. However, today, they are burdened with books with no evidence of regular physical activity. Many schools lack playgrounds and physical education teachers are not available. If every citizen has to remain strong and mentally resilient, participation in sports must be encouraged from a young age," he said.

He stressed that inculcating an interest in sports during student life helps build mental endurance to withstand challenges.



He assured that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, the state government is prioritizing sports and is committed to making Telangana a key hub of the sector.

"The TG government decided to establish the Young India Sports University in Hyderabad to strengthen India's sports landscape. This will be set up in the Future

City (Fourth City) as part of a dedicated Sports Hub," he said. He added that the university aims to provide training for future Olympic champions.

T-Consult Integrated Health Network launched

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Consult Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala and Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev have joined hands to promote integrative healthcare and medical tourism. The T-Consult Integrated Health Network (TIHN) is gaining global recognition, with Baba Ramdev supporting its mission to combine Ayurveda, naturopathy, homeopathy, allopathy, and holistic wellness. He called this initiative a groundbreaking step toward making India a global leader in healthcare.

During a meeting with T-Consult Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala in Haridwar, Baba Ramdev appreciated the platform for blending ancient healing traditions with modern medical advancements. Baba emphasised



T-Consult Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala with Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev in Haridwar on Saturday

During a meeting with T-Consult Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala in Haridwar, Baba Ramdev appreciated the platform for blending ancient healing traditions with modern medical advancements. Baba emphasised the need for a unified healthcare model that combines preventive and curative approaches, positioning India as a hub for medical tourism and integrative health innovation.

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and integrative health innovation. Meanwhile, Sundeep stated, "Our goal is to create seamless collaboration between modern medicine and traditional healing, ensuring global access to integrated healthcare." He also announced plans to travel across India to engage with traditional experts and expand TIHN's network.

T-Consult's global impact was evident when naturopathy expert Manthena Sathyanarayana Raju's recent health talk was broadcast live in 60 countries across 13 languages, using AI-driven real-time translation. With TIHN now operating in 63 countries, it continues to invite healthcare experts and hospitals to join its mission, strengthening India's healthcare system and medical tourism sector.

Two 'notorious criminals' arrested, 2.3 kg marijuana seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South-East Zone Task Force of Hyderabad Police apprehended two long-time absconding rowdy sheeters on Friday in Chandrayangutta and Madannapet police station limits.

The operation also led to the seizure of 2.3 kg of marijuana and the execution of 10 non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against the accused.

Acting on a tip-off, the Task Force team tracked down and arrested the two notorious criminals. Talha had been evading court trials for several offences, while Anand

Agarwal had been absconding since August 2024 after being involved in an NDPS case under Madannapet PS. Upon arrest, officers found 2.3 kg of ganja in his possession. Both accused were handed over to their respective police stations for judicial proceedings.

The arrests were carried out under the supervision of Inspector S Saidababu, along with Sub-Inspectors Sk. Kaviuddin, M Madhu, and P. Sairam.

The operation also involved PCs K. Durga Prasad and L. Narsing Rao, along with officers from Chandrayangutta and Madannapet PS.

Ultra-modern pediatric cancer ward, ICU at BIACH&RI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An ultra-modern pediatric cancer ward and ICU were inaugurated by BIACH&RI Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna at Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute (BIACH&RI) on World Childhood Cancer Day.

As part of the event, BIACH&RI also launched a special cancer care fund to support children in need of cancer treatment. Speaking at the inauguration, Nandamuri Balakrishna emphasised the importance of better healthcare and education for children.

He noted that when a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family suffers. BIACH&RI, committed to pediatric cancer care, has expanded its ward from 12 to 120 beds. The hospital provides treatments ranging from chemotherapy to



BIACH&RI Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna inaugurating the ultra-modern pediatric cancer ward on the occasion of World Childhood Cancer Day in Hyderabad on Saturday.

advanced bone marrow transplants (BMT), having successfully completed over 200 BMT procedures, the highest in India.

Considering the rising number of cases, Balakrishna announced plans to expand hospital facilities, including a new center in Andhra Pradesh's capital region. He urged donors to contribute to the special cancer care fund, ensuring treatment for underprivileged children.

Meanwhile, Dr Veerendra Patil, Pediatric Oncologist at BIACH&RI, highlighted the significance of World Childhood Cancer Day and its 2025 theme, "Inspiring Action." He stressed the need for collective efforts to support children battling cancer and assured that the hospital's specialized pediatric team is ready to provide care.

Later, Balakrishna distributed gifts to children, interacted with parents, and took photos with them.

EMPOWERING TRIBAL STUDENTS

TGTWREIS Sainik School honored with SKOCH award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TGTWREIS Sainik School, Ashok Nagar, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Award for its outstanding contributions to empowering tribal students and preparing them for leadership roles in the defense sector.

The award was received by TGTWREIS Secretary K Seetha Lakshmi in recognition of the school's groundbreaking initiative, Tribal Roots to Military Boots, aimed at transforming young tribal students into future officers in the Indian Armed Forces.

Acknowledging the honor, Seetha Lakshmi expressed gratitude for the recognition and reaffirmed the institution's mission to break societal barriers and create opportuni-

ties for tribal youth in the defense sector. "We are deeply honoured to receive the SKOCH Award. This recognition strengthens our resolve to continue equipping tribal students with the skills, confidence, and discipline needed to serve the nation with pride," she stated.

The award is a testament to the relentless efforts of the school's faculty and staff, who have been instrumental in providing quality education, rigorous military training, and leadership development for tribal students.

TGTWREIS Sainik School, Ashok Nagar, has emerged as a center of excellence, inspiring young tribal students to pursue ambitious careers and make significant contributions to the nation's security and beyond.

HPV VACCINE DRIVE

Grace Cancer, Infosys Foundations enter into MoU

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana must become a cancer-free state soon, said A Nirmala Kanthi Wesley, TG Director of Women Development and Child Welfare, during the launch of the Human papillomavirus vaccines (HPV) Vaccination Drive on International Child Cancer Day at Hotel Daspalla, on Saturday. The Grace Cancer Foundation and Infosys Foundation signed the MoU in Nirmala's presence to provide 500 free HPV vaccines to underprivileged girls in the city. The MoU was exchanged by Dr Chinnababu Sunkavalli, founder of Grace Cancer Foundation, and Vamshi Muthyapu, Project Manager at Infosys Ltd.

GHMC conducts anti-larval operations in Musi River area

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a major effort to curb the mosquito menace along the Musi River and its surrounding areas, the GHMC Entomology Department conducted intensive anti-larval operations from February 3 to February 14. More than 100 entomology workers were deployed to tackle mosquito larvae, particularly in the water bodies along the river stretch.

As part of the initiative, entomology teams worked daily to remove water

hyacinth from the Musi River between Attapur and Chaderghat Bridge. To eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, approximately 25 knapsack sprayers and five power sprayers were used to apply larvicides such as MLO Oil and Temephos after the hyacinth removal.

The operations were not limited to the river alone but extended to surrounding bastis, colonies, and key historical landmarks, including Osmania Hospital, the High Court, City College, and Salar

Jung Museum. Additionally, teams carried out mosquito control measures in five to six divisions of Goshamahal and Karwan circles, both of which fall within the Musi belt.

GHMC officials stated that the entomology department had worked relentlessly over the past 10 days to ensure effective mosquito control in the affected areas. The civic body assured that such operations will continue periodically to prevent vector-borne diseases and improve public health in Hyderabad.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has announced a temporary disruption in water supply in several areas due to maintenance work at the Kondapaka Pumping Station under Godavari Drinking Water Supply Phase-1. As part of the work, 900 mm diameter valves will be installed on the 3000 mm diameter MS pumping main at the station.

The maintenance will be carried out from 6 am on February 17 to 6

am on February 18, leading to a 24-hour water supply interruption in the following areas:

Affected Areas are: O&M Division-6: SR Nagar, Sanath Nagar, Borabanda, SPR Hills, Erragadda, Banjara Hills, Vengal Rao Nagar, Yellareddyguda, Somajiguda, Fatehnagar.

O&M Division-9: Kukatpally, Bhagyanagar, Vivekananda Nagar, Ellamma Banda, Moosapet, Bharat Nagar, Moti Nagar, Gayatri Nagar, Baba Nagar, KPHB, Balaji Nagar, Hasmathpet.

O&M Division-12: Chintal,

Suchitra, Jeedimetla, Shapur Nagar, Gajulararam, Suraram, Adarsh Nagar, Bhagat Singh Nagar, Jagadgirigutta, Ushodaya.

O&M Division-13: Alwal, Father Balayya Nagar, Venkatapuram, Machabollaram, Defence Colony, Vajpayee Nagar, Yapral, Chanakyapuri, Gautham Nagar, Sainathpuram.

O&M Division-14: Cherlapally, Saibaba Nagar, Radhika.

O&M Division-15: Kondapur, Doons, Madhapur (some areas).

O&M Division-17: Hafeezpet, Miyapur.

O&M Division-21: Kompally, Gundlapochampally, Thumkunta, Jawahar Nagar, Dammaiguda, Nagaram.

O&M Division-22: Nizampet, Bachupally, Pragati Nagar, Gandhi Maisamma, Tellapur, Bollaram.

Transmission Division-4: MES, Trishul Lines, Gunrock, Hakimpet Air Force, Secunderabad Cantonment, Bibinagar AIMS.

RWSS & Teks Areas: Pragunapur (Gajwel), Aleru (Bhuvanagiri), Ghanpur (Medchal/Shamirpet).

Residents in the affected areas are requested to use water.



Private school in the dock for corporal punishment

PNS ■ JANGAON

In a horrific incident, a teacher allegedly beat a student severely at Sri Chaitanya School in Jangaon town. The school had come under severe criticism. Last week, a student filed a complaint at the police station alleging sexual harassment. Even before that incident could be forgotten, another one has come to light. The residents of Jangaon are expressing anger, saying that the district administration is issuing notices without taking any real action.

In another shocking incident at Sri Chaitanya School in Jangaon town, a Class 6 student named Rishi was allegedly severely beaten by a teacher for changing his seating position. The teacher beat him and then confined him in a room for hours, even subjecting him to a treatment with a chemical substance called "Jandu Balm." When the student's parents questioned the school management about the incident, they received a disdainful attitude. The police arrived and pacified the student's parents. But no action was taken.

People warned against feeding monkeys

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

Forest officials have issued a warning against feeding monkeys, which are considered symbols of Lord Hanuman, with fruits, vegetables, bread, and biscuits, as well as capturing and uploading their images on social media. Such activities are illegal under the Forest Act of 1967 and can lead to fines, legal charges, and even imprisonment.

Monkeys typically feed on roots, fruits, and other natural forest resources. However, with the depletion of fruit-bearing trees, their food sources are running out, prompting them to venture into nearby towns and villages in search of food. Some well-meaning individuals, including Hanuman devotees and NGO activists, have been feeding them food such as bananas, cucumbers, tomatoes, and bread, believing it to be an act of compassion. This has led to the monkeys becoming dependent on human-provided food, abandoning their natural hunting instincts.



along roadsides, waiting for food offerings from passersby. Forest officials have identified several locations, such as the Kawwal Tiger Zone, Bhimaram, and Jannaram reserve forests, where

this behavior is common. In towns like Jiapur and Bhimarammandals, monkeys are seen moving in groups, waiting for food from travelers. In some cases, the monkeys accustomed to

getting food rather easily have been forgetting their skill of hunting for food. They were seen sitting on either side of roads in long queues to receive the contributions from the people.

The forest officials have identified the spots where the people often give food to the monkeys in the Kawwal Tiger Zone and in reserve forest areas in Bhimaram and Jannaram. It came to the notice of the officials that some persons have been giving food to the monkeys in Rally forest areas.

In Mancherial and Jannaram route, one can see monkeys moving in groups in Jiapur and Bhimarammandals. In Nirmal and Adilabad routes under Jannaram forest area waiting to receive food from the people. Accustomed to obtaining food from people, the monkeys, more often than not, have been attacking vehicle riders pestering them for food. There were instances of getting crushed under the wheels of the vehicles chasing the vehicles for food.

The forest officials complain of people derailing their livelihood by throwing food at them and causing their death due to traces of pesticides found in vegetables and fruits. To check this habit of people to offer food to simians, the forest officials are going to get tough with such individuals.

People lose faith in Cong govt: Kishan

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Telangana BJP president and Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy said that the BJP will raise the issues of teachers, graduates and unemployed people in the Legislative Council and will protest the failure of the promises made by the Congress government.



Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan participating in election campaign in Nalgonda

On Saturday, he participated in a meet and greet programme with teachers in Nalgonda as part of the MLC election campaign and spoke. The Union Minister said that elections will be held for two teachers and one graduate MLC seats on February 27. He said that the BRS, which is supposed to talk about the issues of teachers, unemployed and graduates, has not mentioned their problems anywhere. He said that the BRS has completely reduced the importance of

the Legislative Council and held meetings with a mantra.

In the past, MLCs used to question the governments. He said that there used to be a situation where everyone was supported. Unfortunately, the importance of the Legislative Council has been reduced in

recent times. The reason for this is the policies of those who salute the Governing Council. He said that the BJP will contest in all three seats.

He said that BRS has faced opposition in 10 years and Congress in one year. He expressed happiness that teachers and employees' associations are voluntarily coming forward and supporting the BJP in the Legislative Council elections.

He said that the Congress party has announced in all its newspapers that it will fill two lakh jobs by date. He said that the unemployed youth are questioning where that job calendar has gone.

He said that the DSC has made a mess there. He was angry that the Congress is acting recklessly in this matter. He said that it does not have the strength and sincerity to implement six guarantees and 420

sub-guarantees.

He said that there is a need to set up PRC for government employees and teachers. He said that the Central government will provide it to the employees one day in advance without delaying it. He said that the government is in a situation where it is not possible to provide retirement benefits. He said that the future of students is in confusion due to non-receipt of fee reimbursement. He said that college managements are putting pressure on the parents of students. He said that Rs 8,000 crores should be given to educational institutions. He said that the government is taking action in a situation where scholarships of SC, ST and BC students cannot be reimbursed. He expressed his concern that suicides have increased in Gurukul schools and that the food they eat is poisonous.



Seethakka performs puja to the tribal deities

PNS ■ AILAPUR

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka on Saturday fulfilled her vows to the deities of Sammakka and Saralamma, Kondayigovindarajulu by taking part in mini Medaramfestival held at Ilapur in Kannaigudemmandal of Mulugu district.

Later talking to media, she said that she sought the blessings of the tribal deities for the people of the state and the people's government headed by A Revanth Reddy. Congress party functionaries, activists and leaders also took part in the celebrations.

CYBERCRIMINALS ON THE RAMPAGE

Two officers duped of Rs 4.10 lakh by fraudsters

PNS ■ WARANGAL/YADADRI BHUVANGIRI

Cybercriminals have once again gone on the rampage in Telangana. They swindled two officers of Rs 4.10 lakh in two separate incidents.

In the first incident, fraudsters, posing as Anti-Corruption (ACB) officials tricked the Sangem Deputy Tahsildar into transferring 80,000 rupees into the accounts.

Taking advantage of the scare created by the ACB raid on a Panchayat

Raj Assistant Engineer in the same Mandal earlier, the cybercriminals, claiming to be ACB Deputy Superintendent of Police, called Mandal Parishad Development Officer Ravinder and Mandal Parishad Officer Komarayya and threatened to arrest them. The cyber fraudsters demanded Rs 2 lakh from them.

Ravinder ignored the threats and hung up the phone. They later called Deputy Tahsildar Srinivas and threatened him as well. Initially, Srinivas fought back and told the swindlers that

he had not committed anything wrong. Later, overcome by fear, Deputy Tahsildar transferred Rs 80,000 via phone payment.

Soon after, Deputy Tahsildar realized he had been cheated and reported the incident to Cybercrime police through the number 1930. The Deputy Tahsildar shared the details of how the cybercriminal contacted him, what threats were made, and how he fell into their trap. He expressed regret, explaining that the money he had saved for his children's school fees had been

taken by cyber criminals.

In the second incident, a fraudster posing as an ACB official swindled the Rajapet Tahsildar Rs 3,30 lakh.

The fraudsters demanded money, accusing the Tahsildar of indulging in corruption and threatened to arrest him. Believing it to be true, Tahsildar, Damodhar, transferred Rs 3,30,000 online to the accounts of the fraudsters.

Damodhar is serving as the Tahsildar of Rajapet in Yadadri District.

On February 9, Damodhar received

a call from an unknown person claiming to be an ACB official. The fraudster told him that they had information about Damodhar and another official being involved in corruption. The fraudster insisted that money be transferred to a bank account, threatening to take action against him if the bribe was not paid to him.

Following this incident, Damodhar's son Rahul filed a complaint with the Rachakonda Cybercrime Police.

The police have registered a case and are investigating.



Official apathy leaves Inter passed students in distress

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

In Nagarkurnool, students are facing difficulties due to the allegedly apathy of the officials of the Board of Intermediate Education.

There has been a printing error with the photos on the intermediate memos, causing problems for the students. Over 60 students who passed their Intermediate in 2024 are facing issues. These students studied at Jyothirao Phule junior Colleges in Uyyalawada and Koderu in the Nagarkurnool district.

In 2024, the students joined higher education in various colleges. However, the original

intermediate memos were submitted, but the photos were printed incorrectly. The delay in rectifying the mistake by the Intermediate Board has left the students in distress. The students' parents filed complaints with officials.

Although parents were assured that the issue would be fixed, even after six months, the mistake had not been corrected, and students continue to face challenges. Students and their parents are demanding that the memos be corrected and issued immediately. Parents threatened to take the issue to higher authorities if the officials failed to do justice to the students.

Sant Sevalal Maharaj birth anniversary celebrated

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Former Shadnagar MLA Chaulapalli Pratap Reddy emphasised the need for tribal people to achieve development in all fields with the blessings of Sri Sant Sevalal Maharaj. He made these remarks during the birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Sant Sevalal Maharaj, which were held at Thatigadda Tanda in Nandigama mandal on Saturday.

Chaulapalli Pratap Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and paid tributes to the portraits of Bhavani Mata and Sant Sevalal Maharaj.

Addressing the gathering, he stated that the teachings and ideals of Sant Sevalal Maharaj serve as a guiding light for societal welfare. He urged everyone to follow in his footsteps and work towards realising his vision for an inclusive and progressive society.

Extending his greetings to the tribal community on the occasion of Sevalal Maharaj



Former Shadnagar MLA Chaulapalli Pratap Reddy paying tributes to Sant Sevalal Maharaj portrait in Shadnagar on Saturday

Jayanti, he highlighted the importance of unity and cultural preservation. Several

dignitaries, including Laxman Nayak, Ramdas Nayak, Bhadru Nayak, Srinu Nayak,

and Tandavasulu, participated in the program, making it a grand celebration.

FORM-C NOTIFICATION													
(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given)													
(See rule 6/12)													
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA													
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT													
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR, HYDERABAD DISTRICT													
Gazette No. Hyd.-HAMIL No. 49													
No. C6/213/2024-LHS (401-425)													
Dated: 14.02.2025													
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Hyderabad District that a total of 522.43 Sq. yds of land is required in Shar-F-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District namely affected under Metro Rail Phase-II, MGBS to Chandrayangutta in Corridor-VI, stretch from Darush shifa.													
Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Shar-E-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District, land measuring more or less 522.43 Sq. yds whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition													
Sl. No.	Sketch No.	Plot No.	Type of Land	Name & Address of person interested	Area in Sq. Yds.	Boundaries	N	S	E	W	Road	Water	Tree
1	401	18-4-585	Owner	1. Lakshmi Jain, 2. Anand Jain S/o Late Karnal Chand Jain W/o Manju Jain	62.82	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
2	402	18-4-586	Owner	1. Lakshmi Jain, 2. Anand Jain S/o Late Karnal Chand Jain W/o Manju Jain	97.94	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
3	403	18-4-587	Owner	1. Shalini Agarwal W/o Durgesh Agarwal, 2. Piyush Agarwal S/o Late Ram Kumar	58.38	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
4	404	18-4-574	Owner	1. Maninder Sarna Jain, 2. Maninder Sarna Jain S/o Late Ranesh Jain Sarna Jain	48.74	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
5	405	18-4-588	Owner	1. Namish Chand W/o Late Manjunath Das W/o	25.55	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
6	406	18-4-589	Owner	1. Shashi Bai S/o Late Ram nivas Sharma	24.85	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
7	407	18-4-581	Owner	1. Sudhi Prakash S/o Late Poonam Chand	22.11	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
8	408	18-4-582	Owner	1. Latha Devi W/o Sudhi Prakash	35.48	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
9	409	18-4-583	Owner	1. Suresh Prakash W/o Suresh Prakash	11.79	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
10	410	18-4-584	Owner	1. Latha Devi W/o Sudhi Prakash, 2. Laxman Prakash W/o Suresh Prakash, 3. Uma Devi W/o Om Prakash	25.88	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
11	411	18-4-585	Owner	1. Shiva Lal Geteml W/o Late Narsing Das W/o	35.31	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
12	412	18-4-86	Owner	1. Bharat Bai W/o K. Jagu Lal	13.23	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
13	413	18-4-83	Owner	1. Pulraj Jain S/o Late- Harshad Jain	25.75	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
14	414	18-4-83	Owner	1. Sri Ram Lakshmi S/o Late- Sureshwarth	35.88	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
15	415	18-4-82	Owner	1. Ramonand Lathya S/o Ramesh Lal, 2. Situ Rani S/o Late Ram Swaroop Lathya	40.11	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
16	420	18-4-84	Owner	1. Viral Kumar Tachani S/o Late Bal Kishan Bhoirwal	3.76	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
17	422	18-4-82	Owner	1. Srinivas P. Loni	15.56	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
18	424	18-4-82	Owner	1. Karal Kishan Navander S/o Bal Kishan	25.44	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-
19	425	18-4-81	Owner	1. Sunil Bhargava S/o Late- Akani Chand Bhargava	8.56	Neighbour	Property	Property	Property	Road	-	-	-

This notification made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Hyderabad District and Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Rail Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector cum appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Rail Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act. Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land ie, sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land/property from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Hyderabad District.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (Sixty days) from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Rail Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad. The personal hearing on the objections so filed will be taken up on 16-04-2025 at 11:00AM in the office of the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Rail Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

Place: Hyderabad
Date: 14-02-2025

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-
Spl.Dy. Collector (LA), Addl. Collector, Collector
HAMIL, Hyderabad. Hyderabad District. Hyderabad District.
DIPR No.689/LA-PP/ADVT/Agency/2024-25

ACROSS THE STATES



Noted Bengali singer Pratul Mukhopadhyay dies at 82

Renowned Bengali singer and songwriter Pratul Mukhopadhyay died on Saturday following a prolonged illness, a senior official of the West Bengal Health Department said. Mukhopadhyay was 82 and is survived by his wife. His mortal remains were accorded full state honours at Rabindra Sadan Cultural Complex in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, before being donated to a hospital. He was known for songs highlighting social issues and singing them without the accompaniment of musical instruments. Condoling Mukhopadhyay's death, Governor C V Ananda Bose said, "We are saddened by the demise of legendary Bengali singer-songwriter Pratul Mukhopadhyay, known for his iconic songs like 'Ami Banglay Gan Gai' and 'Dinga Bhashao Sagore'."



Mentally challenged man lynched by mob

A 36-year-old man, suspected to be mentally challenged, was lynched by a mob after he allegedly beat two people to death in Bihar's Bhagalpur district, police said on Saturday. The incident took place in Makandpur village in Nathnagar police station area on Friday night. A statement issued by the district police said, "According to locals, Chotu Kumar, suspected to be mentally challenged, started beating Rajeev Rai (68), Jai Prakash Ram (65) and three others with a wooden log in the village. While Rajeev Rai died on the spot, Jai Prakash Ram succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The other three are undergoing treatment at the nearest government hospital and their condition is reported to be stable." By the time police reached the spot, locals were beating Chotu Kumar.



CBSE exams for Classes 10, 12 begin, 42 L to take exam

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exams for Classes 10 and 12 began on Saturday, with more than 42 lakh students set to take the tests at over 7,800 centres across the country and abroad. According to board officials, a total of 24.12 lakh Class-10 students will take the test in 84 subjects, while more than 17.88 lakh students will appear in the Class-12 exams across 120 subjects. The exams are scheduled to be conducted at 7,842 centres in India and 26 abroad. On the first day of the exams, the Class 10 students appeared for the English (Communicative) and English (Language and Literature) papers, while the Class-12 students appeared in the Entrepreneurship exam.

Democratic India able to feed 800 million people: Jaishankar

PNS ■ MUNICH

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said since India is a democratic society, it is able to give nutrition support and food to 800 million people.

Speaking on Friday at a panel discussion titled 'Live to Vote Another Day: Fortifying Democratic Resilience' at the Munich Security Conference, Jaishankar made these remarks as a counter to US Senator Elissa Slotkin's remark that democracy "doesn't put food on the table."

"Senator, you said that democracy doesn't put food on your table. Actually... in my part of the world, it (democracy) does. Today, since we are a democratic society, we give nutrition support, and food to 800 million people," Jaishankar said.

"That is a matter of how healthy they are and how full their stomachs are. So, the point I want to make is that different parts of the world are going through different conversations. Please do not



assume that this is a kind of universal phenomenon, it is not," he said.

"There are parts where it is working well. Maybe there are parts where it's not and the parts which are not. I think people need to have honest conversations about why it's not," the External Affairs Minister said.

"But I would argue that to an

extent, as someone dispassionately viewing it, a lot of it is an accumulated problem of the model of globalisation that we have followed for the last 25-30 years. I think a lot of chickens have come home to roost. So, yes there are issues, but from our point of view, let's not make that universal," the External Affairs Minister added.

"Started the #MSC2025

with a panel on 'Live to Vote Another Day: Fortifying Democratic Resilience'. Joined PM @jonasgahrstore, @ElissaSlotkin and @trzaszkowski.

Highlighted India as a democracy that delivers. Differed with the prevailing political pessimism. Spoke my mind on foreign interference," the minister posted on X.

India needs clear vision to produce new tech: Rahul
Says empty words won't work



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said while India has the talent, it needs a strong production base, and not empty words, to build industrial prowess in new technology to give its youth jobs.

In a post on X, Gandhi highlighted how China has started producing drones which are revolutionising warfare across the world, saying India needs to develop a strategy to become competitive in this area.

"Drones have revolutionised warfare, combining batteries, motors and optics to manoeuvre and communicate on the battlefield in unprecedented ways. But drones are not just one technology -- they are bottom-up

innovations produced by a strong industrial system.

"Unfortunately, PM Modi has failed to grasp this. While he delivers 'telemptor' speeches on AI, our competitors are mastering new technologies. India needs a strong production base, not empty words," he said in the post, taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India has immense talent, scale and drive. We must have a clear vision and build real industrial prowess to give our youth jobs and lead India into the future," Gandhi added.

The Congress leader also tagged a nine-minute video on drone technology with the post, saying India has the talent and engineering skills to develop such technology for the future.

Mediation is mode for redressal: CJI
Says not all disputes suited for courtrooms

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna on Saturday said not all disputes are suited for courtrooms and litigations, and asserted that mediation is the mode for redressal as it offers creative solutions and strengthens relationships.

Speaking at the third convocation ceremony of the Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU) in Nagpur, he said each case has to be seen not from the eyes of legal issues but as a human story.

Indian legal aid structure is perhaps the most robust in the world where assistance is given to all the stakeholders, he noted.



'Be smarter than smartphone'
Sadhguru during Pariksha Pe Charcha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Textbooks are not a challenge for intelligence and stress means the brain is not being oiled enough, spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev said, as he shared mantras for playful learning and avoiding stress ahead of exams with students as part of the prime minister's latest 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' episode aired on Saturday.

Sadhguru told students that they have to be smarter than their smartphones. He also shared tips on how to avoid overthinking during a special session of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' -- an annual event in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students appear-

ing for board examinations. In a shift from the traditional town hall format, Modi preferred a more informal setting this time and took students to Delhi's iconic Sunder Nursery for his annual interaction.

Eminent personalities such as boxer MC Mary Kom and Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone have also shared their experiences and knowledge on key aspects of life and learning in different episodes of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'.

Next in the series are Bollywood actors Vikrant Massey and Bhumi Pednekar sharing tips on cultivating positivity, managing negative thoughts, and tackling exam stress with confidence.

UN climate chief calls India 'solar superpower'

Urges it to submit stronger climate action plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

UN climate chief Simon Stiell has called India a "solar superpower" and urged it to develop an ambitious climate plan covering its entire economy, saying that an even stronger embrace of the global clean energy boom will supercharge its economic rise.

Stiell, who is in India to attend the ET Global Business Summit, lauded India's efforts to mitigate climate change, saying that while some governments only talk, "India delivers".

"India is already a solar superpower, one of only four countries to have installed more than 100 gigawatts of solar... Energy access is on the rise with villages across the country electrified by 2018, well ahead of schedule," he said.

"Now there is a real opportunity to take the next step and unleash even bigger benefits for India's 1.4 billion people and economy. India is already headed firmly in this direction, but an even stronger embrace of the global clean energy boom will supercharge India's economic rise," he said.

FORM - C NOTIFICATION
(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given)
(See rule 6/12)

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR, HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

Gazette Hyd.-H.A.M. No.53
No. C6254/2024-RHS 1491-4722
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana Collector, Hyderabad District that a total of 1761.18 Sq.Yds of land is required in Shan-E-Hyderabad Village, Backpura Mandal, Hyderabad District namely affected under Metro Rail Phase-I, MGES to Chandrayanagutta in Condo-VI, stretch from Dandahalla.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Shan-E-Hyderabad Village, Backpura Mandal, Hyderabad District, land measuring more or less 1761.18 Sq.Yds whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	Serial No.	Premises No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Name & Address of person interested	Rough Area	Boundaries				Trees	Structures		
							N	S	E	W				
1	401	19-3-959	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	180.32	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
2	402	19-3-959/595	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	36.78	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
3	403	19-3-957	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	22.51	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
4	404	19-3-958	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	87.88	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
5	405	19-3-1005/1 to 3	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	25.33	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
6	407	19-3-1006 & 1007	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	36.14	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
7	408	19-3-1008	Waf	Waf	CEO, TG IMGF Board	21.53	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
8	409	19-3-1009/10 to 12	Owner	Patta	Shank Karanem S/o Late Shank Yausas	49.55	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
9	400	19-3-1013	Owner	Patta	Shank Karanem S/o Late Shank Yausas	27.67	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
10	401	19-3-1017	Owner	Patta	Shank Karanem S/o Late Shank Yausas	36.95	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
11	402	19-3-1020	Owner	Patta	See Vallabh Technical S/o Late Ratan Lal Technical	127.76	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
12	403	19-3-1023	Owner	Patta	See Vallabh Technical S/o Late Ratan Lal Technical	182.54	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
13	404	19-3-1026	Owner	Patta	Dr. Shreea Prashant W/o Dr. Faraz	61.46	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+2	-
14	405	19-3-1031	Owner	Patta	Arna Begum W/o Late Muhammad Abdul Qader	71.79	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+1	-
15	408	19-3-1034	Owner	Patta	Zaina Fatima W/o Saleh Saqeeb, Shaiker Hassan S/o Late Khaja Hussain	65.13	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	Op-on	-
16	406	19-3-1037	Owner	Patta	Khaja Hussain S/o Late Shaiker Hussain	35	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	Pa-stag	(g)
16	407	19-3-1034	Owner	Patta	1.Muhammed Yaseen, 2.Muhammed Yaqoob All Sons of Late Muhammad Yaseen, 3.Muhammed Adil S/o Late Muhammad Yaseen	79.95	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+1	-
17	408	19-3-1049	Owner	Patta	Sayed Maqsood S/o Late Sayed Ishtiaq	21.3	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+2	-
18	409	19-3-1054	Owner	Patta	Muhammed Sayeed W/o Ayesha	17.76	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G	-
19	470	19-3-1059	Owner	Patta	Mizan Hossain All Bop	153.48	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+1	-
20	471	19-3-1061	Owner	Patta	Syed Mithal Nasir Liddin Jilani S/o Late Syed Ahmed Mohideen Jilani	294.77	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+1	-
21	472	19-3-1064	Owner	Patta	Iliza Mithal All Bop	222.57	Neigh-bour Property	Neigh-bour Property	Road	Neigh-bour Property	-	-	G+3	-

This notification made under the provisions of Section - 11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 33/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Hyderabad District and Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana Collector can appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on each land/property from the date of publication of this notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Hyderabad District.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all persons interested/affected by acquisition by depositing the same, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (Sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the District Collector, Hyderabad District (Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad). The personal hearing on the objections so filed will be taken up on 17-04-2025 at 3:00 PM in the office of the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

Place: Hyderabad
Date: 14-02-2025

Sd/-
Spl. Dy. Collector (L.A.),
H.A.M.L., Hyderabad.

Sd/-
Add. Collector,
Hyderabad District.

Sd/-
Spl. Collector,
Hyderabad District.

DIPR No.693/LA-PP/Advt/Agency/2024-25

'Don't make Amritsar deport centre'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday kept up his attack on the Centre over the landing of US planes carrying illegal Indian immigrants at Amritsar airport and asked it not to make the holy city a "deport centre".

A second US flight carrying 119 illegal Indian immigrants is slated to land in Amritsar on Saturday night. On February 5, a US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian deportees landed at the Amritsar airport.

Mann slams Centre over landing of flights in Punjab



Talking to reporters at the airport, Mann continued his attack on the Centre and said, "Do not make our holy city (Amritsar) a deport centre." "Do not make our holy city (Amritsar) a deport centre."

Delhi from Amritsar in a flight on Sunday morning and then they will be taken to their respective places, Mann said. According to official sources, the second deportation flight from the US is expected to land at Amritsar airport around 10 pm on Saturday.

Talking to reporters at the airport, Mann continued his attack on the Centre and said, "Do not make our holy city (Amritsar) a deport centre." There are many airbases in the country and the flight can be landed at any one of them, the Punjab chief minister said. Asked whether the second

batch of deportees will be in shackles, he said they do not have any information on this. The Centre should have sent its own plane to bring illegal Indian deportees, Mann added. Among the second batch of 119 Indians being deported from the US as part of the Donald Trump administration's promised crackdown on illegal migration, 100 are from Punjab and Haryana alone.

While 67 are from Punjab, 33 are from Haryana, eight from Gujarat, three from Uttar Pradesh, two each from Goa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Illegal call centre busted in Nashik; 7 held

PNS ■ NASHIK

Seven persons, including a woman, were arrested after an illegal call centre cheating citizens of the United States of America was busted in Ashwin Nagar in Nashik, a police official said on Saturday.

The raid on the call centre operating from a bungalow took place on Thursday following a tip-off on January 28, he added.

"The accused used to send notifications, which seemed like they were from authorised software firms, to US citizens about computer viruses. The accused then made them purchase gift vouchers for payment for rectification. Our probe shows they may have cheated 100-150 US citizens of Rs 1.92 crore since December 2023," he said.

Pan-Indian Plates

FACT SHEET
RAAG by Miss Nora
Address : 1st Floor,
R Cube Monad Mall,
Rajouri Garden,
New Delhi
Price for Two:
₹1600 approx

Step into RAAG, where each bite you take, will let you experience original flavours, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

In the heart of *Rajouri Garden*, RAAG orchestrates a dining experience that harmonises India's diverse food heritage with artistry and ambiance. Stepping inside RAAG feels like entering an aesthetic royal world where flavours, soft music, and traditional design comes together as a perfect dining. The menu, inspired by time-honoured recipes and slow-cooked traditions, takes diners on a gastronomic journey across the country. From the rich, aromatic *Ek Taar ki Nihari* to the indulgent *Kaladi Bharwan Gucchi*, every dish tells a story steeped in history.

With a diverse menu of *Chaats, Shorba, Grill and Tandoor, Platters, Main Course, Degh*, and so much more, the restaurant has so much to offer with a literally delicious taste.

If you start from chaats, the beloved street-style delight, *Moradabadi Dal Ki Chaat* is a symphony of textures and flavours. Made with protein-packed tallow-moong dal lentils, this dish is a warm, velvety bowl of comfort, elevated by an array of vibrant toppings. The date-jaggery chutney adds a delicate sweetness, balancing the savoury richness, while the *khas-ta kachori* provides the perfect crunch.

Moving to the vegetarian tasting platter, the appetizers served were just wow in taste where every ingredient's flavour has been differentiated from the other giving a perfect taste. The appetizers in the platter include the *Chenna Dahi Kabab* blending creamy Greek yogurt and ricotta, pan-grilled to golden perfection, *Paneer Tikka* with a smoky finish and stuffed mushroom, *Bharwan Khumb Tikka* showcases teja mirch marinade, cheddar-paneer stuffing. The platter is a must have recommendation.

Beyond the plate, RAAG fascinates with its immersive atmosphere with the striking *Sabyasachi*-designed wallpaper, the gentle strains of the sitar, and a cocktail menu infused with regional spices elevate the eating experience. Signature drinks, like the *Nawabi Sour*, complement the carefully curated flavours, ensuring that every sip and bite resonates with authenticity. At RAAG, dining is a celebration of India's culinary soul with taste that will make you lick your fingers in satisfaction.

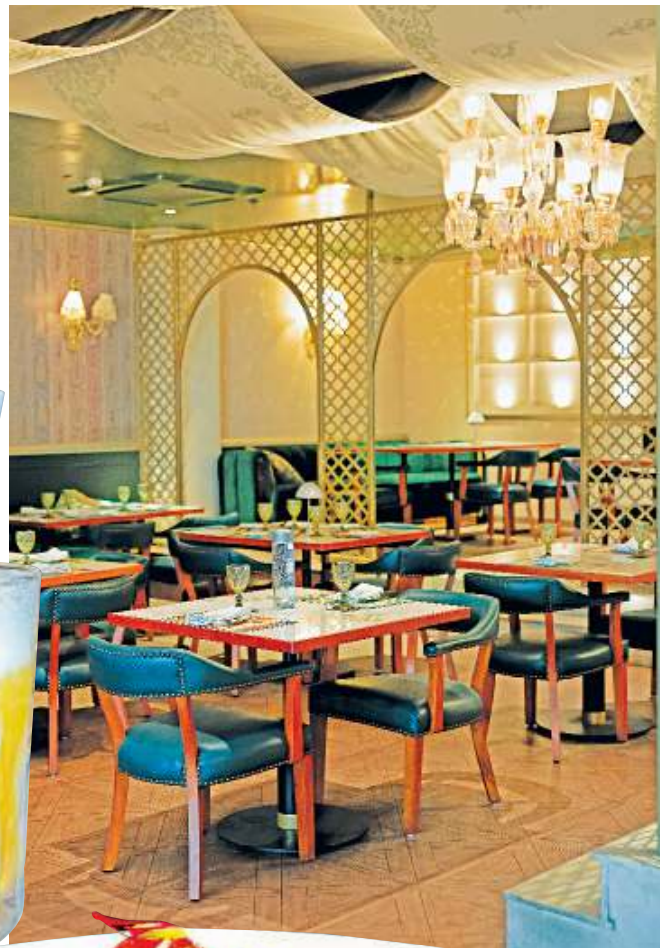


AMRITSARI SERVINGS

From the Amritsari *Kulcha Bar* you can have a *Classic Aloo Pyaaz Kulcha*, taste that directly teleports you to the land of Amritsar with layered Indian flat bread with stuffing of your choice, served with dal makhni, homemade compote and white butter.

SHAKES AND SMOOTHIES

You can go for an *Oreo Caramel Shake* and *Choco Peanut Butter Shake*. Shakes at RAAG break the notion that a milkshake must always be thick, offering a perfect blend of milk and chocolate flavours.



Indulgent Flavours

BY TEAM AGENDA

Food has a magical way of bringing people together. The dessert dishes like *Berry Bliss Cheesecake*, evoke a feeling of satisfaction to your taste buds. Every dish tells a story and satisfies cravings in ways words often fail to capture.

Imagine this, you're sitting at the dining table, the air filled with the warm, inviting aroma of vanilla feels like a hug in every bite. A silky smooth cheesecake layered with a luscious berry glaze, this *Berry Bliss Cheesecake* is a perfect fusion of rich creaminess and tangy berry flavours. Here are the ingredients for a *Berry Bliss Cheesecake*:



INGREDIENTS (SERVES 6-8)

- For the Crust:**
- 1½ cups crushed digestive biscuits or graham crackers; • ¼ cup unsalted butter (melted); • 2 tbsp sugar
- For the Cheesecake Filling:**
- 2 cups cream cheese (softened); • 1 cup heavy cream; • ¾ cup powdered sugar; • 1 tsp vanilla extract;

- 2 tsp cornflour; • ¼ cup milk
- For the Berry Glaze:**
- 1 cup mixed berries (strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries); • ¼ cup sugar; • 1 tbsp lemon juice; • 1 tsp cornflour dissolved in 1 tbsp water
- For Garnish:**
- Fresh berries; • Mint leaves

Method

- Step 1:** • Prepare the Crust
- Mix crushed biscuits, melted butter, and sugar.
 - Press into a greased cake tin and refrigerate for 30 minutes to set.
- Step 2:** • Make the Cheesecake Filling
- Whisk cornflour into milk until smooth.
 - Beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract until creamy.
 - Add heavy cream and beat until smooth.
 - Gently fold in the cornflour mixture.
 - Pour over the prepared crust and refrigerate for 6 hours or overnight until firm.
- Step 3:** Make the Berry Glaze
- Heat berries, sugar, and lemon juice in a saucepan until soft.
 - Add the cornflour mixture and simmer until thickened.
 - Strain for a smoother texture (optional) and let it cool.
- Step 4:** Assemble and Serve
- Pour the berry glaze over the chilled cheesecake.
 - Garnish with fresh berries and mint leaves.
 - Slice and serve cold.



CHEF'S TIPS

- Use full-fat cream cheese for the best texture.
- Allow the cheesecake to set completely for clean slices.
- Straining the berry glaze enhances the smoothness.

This *Berry Bliss Cheesecake* is a showstopper, creamy, fruity and indulgent, making it the ultimate dessert for any celebration!

Young and Rising Stars of Dining

The new generation of restaurateurs are transforming India's dining scene with passion

The restaurant industry has long been a playground for seasoned professionals, but a new wave of young entrepreneurs is rewriting the rules. These are not just ambitious dreamers banking on Instagrammable décor and buzzy themes, they are deeply invested in the food itself. Menu planning, ingredient sourcing, and tastings are their daily bread, and their knowledge surpasses even some chefs I have met.

Take, for instance, Tusheeta Khanna and Anant Bali, the young duo behind *Encanto*, a newly opened Mexican restaurant in Gurgaon. Their passion for authenticity is evident, not just in the food, which is impressive, but in their understanding of every dish, its origins, and the nuances of each ingredient. Too often, I have seen chefs operate with a superficial grasp of their own menu, but these two could school many in the trade.

Then there is Vanshika Wadhwa, carrying forward her family's legacy in the food business. Daughter of renowned restaurateur Vineet Wadhwa of *Fio*, she has launched *Kamei*, an Asian restaurant

that has already won over some of the most discerning food critics. Though I have yet to visit her outlets, the praise from trusted voices makes me confident she is onto something remarkable.

And let us talk about Bhagyesh Tekriwal and Utkarsh Khandelwa, the brains behind *Sorbo*, a Mediterranean restaurant that speaks volumes of their dedication. While not as young as the others, their work reflects the

same meticulous approach, one where the food is the hero, not just the ambience.

Moving beyond the NCR, Jaipur has its own rising star in Sagar Nagpal, the force behind *Swinton House*. Built within an old haveli once owned by a British architect, the restaurant curates a menu inspired by his favourite dishes from around the world. The charm of the setting, combined with a well-thought-out culinary selection, makes it a standout in the Pink City's ever-growing food scene.

Further north, in Mohali, Arpit Singh is making waves with *Prey*, an avant-garde concept built over a dam.

With open-air dining lit by kerosene lamps, the space exudes a dreamy, romantic charm, setting the stage for an unforgettable dining experience. His vision proves that ambience and cuisine can come together to create something truly special.

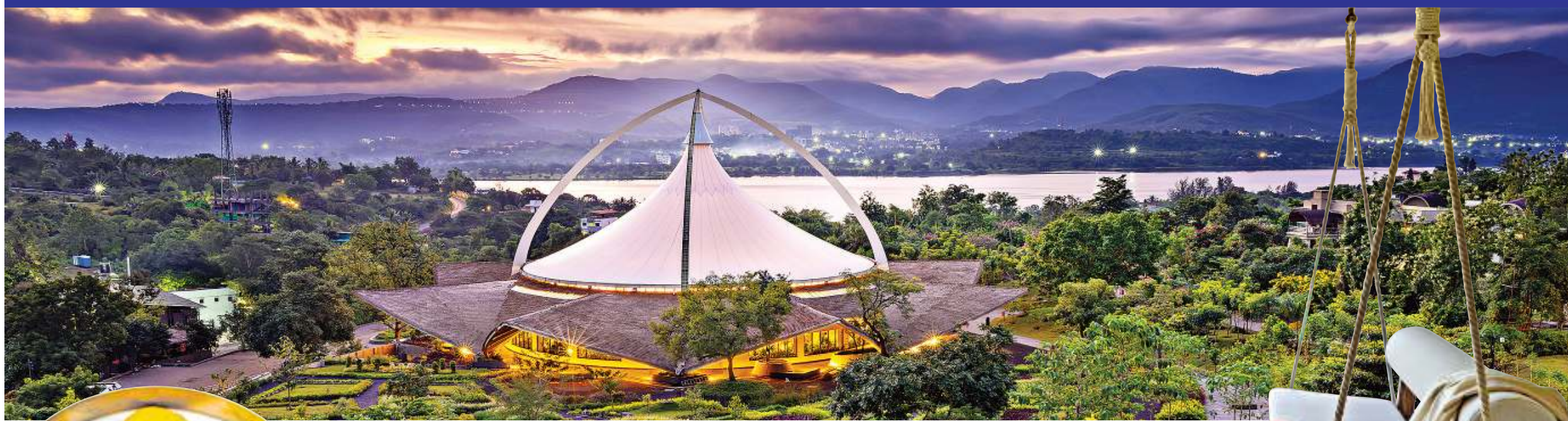
Just today, I met Muskan Katyal, the niece of Porus

Arora, the name behind *Sticky Rice, Enoki*, and more. She is the same age as Tusheeta and Anant and is already making waves with *Mala Project*, a Gurgaon-based restaurant dedicated to the fiery flavours of Chinese Mala cuisine. Her involvement in the project along with Porus and Tanvi Arora is not just token ownership, she is hands-on, ensuring the authenticity of every bite.

If these young restaurateurs are any indication, the future of dining in India is in excellent hands. Their enthusiasm, knowledge, and commitment to quality are setting new standards. This is not just a generational shift, it is a culinary revolution, and I, for one, am eager to see what they cook up next.

—Pawan Soni





RECONNECT WITH YOURSELF

A wellness retreat embracing nature and modern science

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Sahyadri mountains, *Swastik* offers an immersive experience that rejuvenates the mind, body, and soul. Here's a glimpse into this transformative journey that redefines wellness travel.

Wellness today is no longer just a luxury for the affluent or a niche interest for certain travellers. It has become a mainstream pursuit, embraced by individuals from all walks of life. This shift is reflected in the rapidly growing wellness tourism sector, which, according to the Global Wellness Institute, is expected to reach \$1.3 trillion by 2025. Amidst this burgeoning trend, I recently discovered a retreat that perfectly encapsulates the evolution of wellness travel, *Swastik*, a Luxury Wellbeing Sanctuary.

Swastik's Elemental Harmony

- Dhyan Vihar (Space, Akash):** A conical meditation hall promoting self-awareness and stillness.
- Anand Vihar (Fire, Agni):** A transformative space featuring dining, consultation, and performance areas.
- Ayu Vihar (Air, Vayu):** A rejuvenation hub offering therapies to balance body and mind.
- Sukh Vihar (Earth, Bhumi):** Luxurious residential spaces for immersive wellness experiences.
- Ganga Vihar (Water, Jal):** A space dedicated to cleansing and rejuvenation, embodying fluid energy and transformation.



A Journey into the Unknown

As a newcomer to wellness retreats, I wasn't sure what to expect. My understanding of wellness was limited to exercise and meditation, which I had found rather mundane. However, in search of a reset, I embarked on a three-day journey that would challenge my preconceptions in the most delightful way.

Upon our arrival in Pune, we were greeted by a gracious driver who took us on a scenic 1.5-hour drive to the retreat. Having expected bland, restrictive meals, I indulged in a *Vada Pav* before arriving at *Swastik*. But from the moment we stepped onto the property, the experience exceeded all expectations. The resort's design, crafted by TAOSTUDIO, is deeply inspired by the five core elements, Earth, Air, Water, Fire and Space, which form the foundation of its architectural brilliance. The property is structured around five key dimensions of life, Health, Wealth, Love, Bliss and Spirituality, ensuring that nature is woven into every aspect of the experience.



the exhaustion, the tranquillity, or the therapy itself, I drifted into deep, restful sleep almost instantly.

Architectural & Philosophical Vision

Swastik's philosophy is embodied in its logo, a blooming flower representing the four core values of Health, Wealth, Love, and Bliss, all rooted in Spirituality, the central force of its existence. The retreat nurtures the potential of every individual, encouraging personal growth and self-discovery. *Swastik* transformed my perception of wellness. It showed me that wellness is not about rigid discipline but about creating a lifestyle that balances indulgence with mindfulness.

— By Rohit Kaul

Unique Rituals and Therapies

That evening, we experienced *Swastik's* signature sleep ritual. Two therapists arrived at our *Guha* to perform a soothing bedtime routine, applying calming oils, offering a relaxing foot massage, and tucking us in with mindful silence. Whether it was



A TRANSFORMATIVE WELLNESS EXPERIENCE

Our wellness journey began with an assessment by an in-house Ayurvedic doctor, who analysed our doshas (body energies) and recommended therapies to restore balance. The evening's dinner was a revelation. Contrary to my expectations of bland health food, *Swastik's* culinary offerings were a sensory delight. Each meal was a five-course experience, crafted from locally sourced, seasonal ingredients, many of which were grown on-site. Chef Arvind Joshi's thoughtfully curated menu transformed my understanding of healthy eating. It was nourishing, flavourful, and fulfilling without feeling restrictive.



A Retreat in Nature's Embrace

Nestled in the peaceful Peacock Valley, *Swastik* overlooks the backwaters of Khadakwala Lake and the majestic Sinhadri, with the Sahyadri mountain range as its backdrop. Designed to honour nature's rhythms, from sunrise to moonrise, *Swastik* seamlessly integrates spirituality and wellness. The name itself, derived from Sanskrit, combines well, being associated with, symbolising auspiciousness and wellbeing.

Chettinad: Unleashing the Ghosts of Imagination

Though known for its stunning architecture, rich cultural heritage, and unforgettable cuisine, Chettinad hides a deeper mystery, the kind that stirs the imagination

ground spices from a Chettinad kitchen. And so, here I am, in *Chettinad*, on a journey to unravel its mysteries. It is not merely a destination, it is an experience, an ongoing unravelling that draws you in deeper with every step. When speaking of South India, it is impossible to ignore the region's vibrant culture and magnificent architecture. The interplay of bright colours, lush greenery, and the salty air gives this part of India its unique character, attracting visitors from all corners of the globe. One such captivating destination is *Chettinad*, the homeland of the Nattukottai Chettiars (also known as Nagarathars), a prosperous banking and business community. The name "Chettinad" refers to a region comprising 56 villages in the Sivaganga district and 20 in the Pudukottai district. Historically, this area was part of the Ramnad kingdom of Pandya Nadu.

Despite lacking typical tourist attractions like beaches or lofty hill stations, *Chettinad* captivates visitors with its majestic mansions, architectural masterpieces that stand in stark contrast to the arid landscape. These grand homes, some more

than 300 years old, whisper stories of the generations who once lived under their roofs. The *Chettiar* community, originally merchants and traders dealing in salt, gems, textiles and jewellery, controlled much of India's banking economy in the 19th century. Their legacy is written in the stunning mansions that still stand today, some meticulously preserved as heritage properties, while others gradually succumb to the ravages of time.

The Athangudi Palace is one such treasure, showcasing the finest elements of *Chettiar* architecture. For a modest fee of INR 50, visitors can explore its open courtyards, elegant verandahs, and the seamless blend of European and Indian architectural styles. Built in the early 20th century, the palace boasts imported wood, marble, tiles, and mirrors from around the world. Its interiors, maintained with painstaking care, offer a rare glimpse into the grandeur of the Chettiars' past.

For those with a spiritual inclination, *Chettinad* is home to some remarkable temples. A visit here would be incomplete without exploring the *Ariyakudi Thiruvangadamudaiyan Temple*, dedicated to Lord Srinivasa. Built in the 17th



THOUGH THESE VILLAGES MAY BE VACANT NOW, THEY STILL STAND RESILIENT, HOLDING ONTO THE MEMORIES OF A BYGONE ERA

century by Sevugan Chettiar, a devout Saivite, this temple was constructed after the divine Lord Venkateswara appeared to *Chettiar* in a dream, instructing him to build a temple in his village. The temple's Dravidian architecture is awe-inspiring, reflecting the community's deep devotion.

Chettinad also holds its share of ancient fortifications. The Thirumayam Fort, built in 1687 by Raja Raghunatha Thevar of Ramanathapuram, sits atop a hillock. It encompasses temples, caves, a jail, and even a mysterious pond. As my guide, Kavita, excitedly narrated the fort's history, I was particularly drawn to a natural water pond at the summit, whose water level remains unchanged year-round, a phenomenon that adds to the fort's allure. From the highest point, I was rewarded with a stunning 360-degree view of the region, a moment of pure enchantment.

More than the grand mansions, exquisite temples and rich culinary heritage, what truly touched my heart was the warmth of the people. Their genuine smiles and welcoming nature made my journey even more memorable.

— By Divya Bhatia



There is something enchantingly captivating about a place frozen in time. As you wander through the quiet streets of *Chettinad*, its serenity is only disturbed by the soft whispers of the wind and the distant echoes of a long-forgotten past. The grand yet lifeless palaces, beautifully crafted and untouched by time, seem to hold within their walls the secrets of centuries. Even now, these imposing structures stand firm, guarding corridors that once hummed with life. *Chettinad* is a paradox, a land where opulence was once abundant, yet the echoes of that prosperity now linger in a quiet, almost meditative stillness. Unlike the bustling tourist hubs that thrive on their vibrant energy, *Chettinad* flourishes in this exotic calm, where each cracked tile and fading mural speaks of an era long past, brimming with migration, prosperity, and change. Walking through its abandoned villages, you don't just observe history; you feel its pulse in the air, hanging like the intoxicating scent of freshly



IN BRIEF



PM's US visit to strengthen trade, investment ties: CII

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US is a major milestone that will strengthen bilateral trade, investment, defence, and technology partnerships, industry body CII said on Saturday. Welcoming the recently concluded visit, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said it eyes stronger trade and tech ties. CII noted that the wide-ranging joint statement and initiatives announced during the visit under the framework of US-India COMPACT have set a clear forward-looking agenda for India-US relations, creating new opportunities for Indian industry and economic growth. "A new chapter has been added to the India-US partnership, enabling much stronger collaboration in strategic sectors including defence, energy, semiconductors, space and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, advanced materials, and biotechnology."



HP CM approves 25 project proposals of Rs 883 crore

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday approved 25 project proposals for setting up new industrial enterprises and expanding the existing units involving an investment of about Rs 883.36 crore. The projects approved have potential to generate jobs for about 2,830 persons, a release said. While chairing the meeting of the State Single Window Clearance & Monitoring Authority (SSWC&MA), Sukhu said that this shows that the State continues to attract the investment as a most favoured destination. New proposals approved by the Authority include proposals for Bauji Industries for manufacturing of capsules, tablets, liquid etc. and Jai Pali Infra for manufacturing of PUF panel. Rich Printers proposal for manufacturing of corrugated boxes and Richlyns Healthcare for manufacturing of liquid, tablet, capsule, Indo Spirits for manufacturing of IMFL and country liquor and Kaumudhi Textiles Private Limited's for manufacturing of textile fabric towel are also among the projects cleared by the authority.



G Square Realtors strengthen TN footprint

Real estate provider G Square Realtors Pvt Ltd has launched various projects, expanding into the apartment and villa categories in Coimbatore, further strengthening its presence in the Tamil Nadu real estate market, a top official said. In a statement on Saturday, the company said it achieved sales of Rs 110 crore from four new projects, which have a total value of Rs 170 crore. "This marks a significant milestone in the company's expansion across the region further solidifying its leadership in the real estate sector," the city-headquartered company stated. The four newly launched projects include G Square 'Bliss' in Neelembur, G Square 'Woodland' in Ramanathapuram, G Square 'Emerald Enclave' in Pollachi, and G Square 'Urbanise' in Saravanampatti, all in and around Coimbatore. "We are thrilled by the overwhelming response to our development projects in Coimbatore. Achieving Rs 110 crore in sales out of a total project value of Rs 170 crore is a testament to the trust our customers place in G Square," said G Square Realtors Pvt Ltd Managing Director Bala Ramajeyam in the press release.

Roadmap ready to build Viksit Bharat by 2047: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday blamed previous governments for missing the opportunity to develop infrastructure for boosting economic expansion, saying the Modi government has prepared the roadmap to achieve the Viksit Bharat@2047 goal. This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious goal of achieving the target of a fully developed nation in 2047 when the country will be celebrating 100 years of independence.

Speaking at The Times Group's ET NOW Global Business Summit (GBS) 9th Edition, Mandaviya said that many trains (opportunities to push economic growth) came and went but the country was not ready with its luggage and ticket (roadmap for development) at the right time.

The minister, who holds the portfolio of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports, was referring to the absence of a clear-cut roadmap for development, especially infrastructure, commensurate with the need of the hour to keep pace with changing times for achieving high economic growth.



"We are not just talking about a Viksit Bharat we are building it with a clear roadmap. In the past six years, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, and 60 crore Indians now have access to free medical treatment under Ayushman Bharat."

He stated that the Modi government has prepared the roadmap to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat@2047.

"India's economic growth must be deeply rooted in our heritage while embracing innovation. Our ancestors—from the Indus Valley traders to Acharya Chanakya—laid the foundations of self-reliance and entrepreneurship, and those lessons remain as relevant today as ever."

He further stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have revived this spirit through

initiatives like Startup India and Make in India.

"A decade ago, India had just four unicorns; today, we have 118, proving that nurturing talent and innovation can transform our economy," he said, emphasising the importance of blending tradition with modern progress.

"We are not just talking about a Viksit Bharat we are building it with a clear roadmap. In the past six years, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, and 60 crore Indians now have access to free medical treatment under

Ayushman Bharat."

He noted that the job creation has nearly doubled compared to previous governments, and our farmers, businesses, and industries are thriving.

"Unlike in the past, when there was no clear vision, today, we deliver results."

Emphasising the collective effort needed, he said, "If each of us takes a step forward, India moves 140 crore steps ahead. Our nation's future depends on the commitment and responsibility of every Indian. Together, we will achieve the dream of a developed India by 2047."

Govt reviews 21 issues affecting 14 infra projects



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has reviewed as many as 21 issues affecting 14 infrastructure projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan for their redressal, an official statement said on Saturday.

The meeting chaired by DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Bhatia was attended by senior officials from central ministries, state governments, and project proponents.

The meeting, it said, was focused on expediting issue resolution through enhanced

inter-ministerial and state coordination facilitated by the Project Monitoring Group (PMG).

"21 issues across 14 significant projects were reviewed, including four projects under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, with a total cost of all projects exceeding Rs 13,162 crore. Additionally, seven issues pertaining to one private project, valued at Rs 600 crore, were also reviewed," it said.

One of the projects included the Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat.

"Once operational, the park is expected to generate about 81 billion units of clean electricity annually, significantly reducing dependence on fossil fuels," the DPIIT said, adding Reliance Jio's 5G/4G expansion project was also reviewed.

Modi to address global textile fair Bharat Tex today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday address the 'Bharat Tex 2025', a global textile fair that seeks to bring together the entire industry value chain.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the "mega global event", being held from February 14-16, brings together the entire textile value chain ranging from raw materials to finished products including accessories under one roof.

Bharat Tex is the textile industry's largest and most comprehensive event comprising a mega expo spread across two venues and showcasing the entire textile ecosystem, it added.

The event also features a global scale conference with over 70 conference sessions, round-tables, panel discussions, and master classes.

Besides, it will include exhibitions featuring special innova-



tions and startup pavilions. The event will also host a hackathon-based startup pitch fest and innovation fests, tech tanks and design challenges, providing funding opportunities for startups.

The PMO said Bharat Tex 2025 is expected to attract policymakers and global CEOs, over 5,000 exhibitors, 6,000 international buyers from over 120 countries among various other visitors.

USD 500 BN TARGET

Plans for trade pact to help boost exports to US: Exporters



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A target to take bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 and plans to negotiate a bilateral trade agreement will help India boost its exports to the US, say exporters.

The focus on technology, defence, and green energy will particularly benefit India's export sectors and enhance global competitiveness, exporters said.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ashwani Kumar underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral trade by eliminating barriers and streamlining processes.

International trade expert and Hi-Tech Gears Chairman

Deep Kapuria said that the USD 500 billion bilateral trade target is an important outcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-level visit to Washington.

"Since India has surplus in trade with the US, it would bring significant gains to India in terms of enhanced export to the world's largest economy. What is important here is that the two leaders have agreed to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial multi-sector bilateral trade agreement by fall of 2025," he said.

Kapuria added that this decision will give a big boost to US investors who want to relocate to India and also looking for new investment opportunities in India.

Travel advisory major hurdle in attracting foreign investment

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that travel advisory against the northeastern region by several countries is a major challenge in attracting investments, even as the state gears up for a mega business summit here later this month. Sarma said he has requested the countries to view Assam 'in isolation' and not club all the North Eastern states together, with talks underway with Japan and Australia to persuade them to withdraw the adverse advisory.

Addressing a press conference in the run-up to 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit', Sarma said, "Most embassies have marked Assam in 'grey' and

Alleges Assam CM Himanta



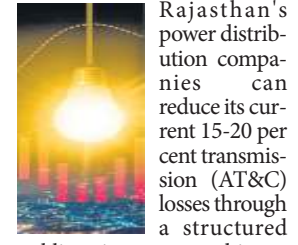
have a statutory warning for its citizens against visiting Assam, as the state is clubbed together as 'North East'. Removing these advisories is the topmost priority for us."

He said countries like Japan and Australia are being persuaded to change this advisory, with a team from the Asian country already here to look into the matter while an Australian delega-

'Raj discoms can cut transmission losses through PPP model'

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan's power distribution companies can reduce its current 15-20 per cent transmission (AT&C) losses through a structured public-private partnership, an expert said on Saturday. Tata Power CEO and MD Praveer Sinha said that the state can take inspiration from Odisha's successful model, which has improved efficiency, reduced losses, and enhanced consumer satisfaction through a structured public-private partnership.



tion is scheduled to reach shortly. There is no adverse situation in Assam, and all stakeholders, including government, media and public, have to be together to drive home this point, he asserted.

"As chief minister of Assam, I cannot influence other states. What I am doing is asking them (foreign nations), to view Assam in isolation," he added.

"To attract foreign investment, the travel advisory has to be withdrawn. And at the same time, we also have to show them our strengths, like skilling options for our human resources, peace and stability – politically, economically and in law and order," he said.

SAIL to set up new rail mill with USD 8 mn investment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

SAIL is bullish on the demand for rails in the country and has decided to set up a new rail mill at an investment of USD 800 million, the company's Chairman Amarendra Prakash said on Saturday.



The company has decided to go ahead with the investment plan despite not having any order indication from its largest buyer Indian Railways, Prakash said at a panel discussion at the Global Business Summit (GBS) in the national capital.

The chairman said such kind of confidence is a result of growth oriented policies of the government.

"Last week, we decided to put up an 800 million USD investment into a mill, because I am confident that railways will go nowhere and they will have to buy from me if I put up a mill. So, I have taken a decision like that. So, that is the kind of confidence that comes

when the policies we know are growth oriented, and they are bound to continue," he said.

Prakash said SAIL had been following up with the Railways for the past seven years for their future demand so accordingly the steel maker can plan rail production.

"I think, last seven years, we have been running after Indian railways, saying, how much rail track will you buy from us? Should we put up a new mill? Should I make an investment into a new mill? We can produce good railways. Will you buy it? They said, I am not going to give you any comfort about what I will buy in the future," the Chairman said.

'MISAPPROPRIATION' OF RS 122 CRORE New India Cooperative Bank's General Manager arrested

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police on Saturday arrested Hitesh Mehta, General Manager and Head of Accounts of the New India Cooperative Bank, for allegedly misappropriating Rs 122 crore from the bank, officials said.

Mehta was placed under arrest by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police after being questioned for more than three hours, an official said.

He was called to record his statement before the probe agency at its south Mumbai office in connection with the case registered against him and



others, he said. Mehta will be produced before a local court on Sunday, the police official added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday superseded the cooperative bank's board for a year and appointed an administrator to manage its affairs. A

day prior to that, it imposed several restrictions on the lender, including on withdrawal of funds by depositors, citing supervisory concerns emanating from the recent material developments in the bank, and to protect the interest of its depositors.

NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
CIN No. U40199TG2008GG034119
TENDER NOTICE No. 26 /2024-25
i) Erection, Testing, and Commissioning of 25 Nos. 33/11KV Out Door Substations with connected 33KV and 11KV lines in TGNPDCL. ii) Establishment of 4 Nos Ground Mounted Solar Photo Voltaic Power Plants of different capacity at various 33/11KV SS in TGNPDCL. For further details visit: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/orj/www.tgnpdcl.com>
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Projects), TGNPDCL, Warangal.

HIMAYATNAGAR BRANCH HYDERABAD
PUBLICATION OF DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002
Sent on 11/02/2025 by Regd. Post to
1. M/s Gokul Brick Industry Represented by Proprietor Mr. D. Srinivasulu S/o. No. 111 and 112, Pudda Ambipet Village, Hayatnagar Revenue Mandal, Rangareddy District, Telangana - 500070.
2. Mr. D. Srinivasulu S/o Narasimha Rao H.No. 3-24, Markatpally village, Markatpally Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana - 508254. 3. Mr. T. Narasimha S/o Buchash Rao H.No. 2-84/A, Markatpally Village, Markatpally Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana - 508254. 4. Smt. D. Padma S/o D. Srinivasulu Rao H.No. 3-24, Markatpally village, Markatpally Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana - 508254. 5. Srs. B. Rameshkrishna S/o B. Geppel Rao H.No. 7-38/A High School Road, Markatpally village, Markatpally Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana - 508254
Subsidiary account with Indian Bank SO29698288 brand Reg.
You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of Rs. 6188286.00 (Rupees Sixty-One Lakh Eighty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty-six Only) with further interest at the agreed rate from 14/02/2025 till date of repayment. The Bank issued notice under the Act on 11/02/2025 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs. 61,78,745.00 (Rupees Sixty-One Lakh Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Only) on or 10/02/2025. The notice was sent to you by Regd post but was returned unclaimed. You are called upon to pay Rs. 6188286.00 (Rupees Sixty-One Lakh Eighty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty-six Only) together with interest from 14/02/2025 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right / remedy available to the Secured Creditor. "We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities".
This Notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Secured Creditor - including its right to proceed with the proceedings presently pending before DRT/IRI of DRT/IRI Court and proceed with the execution of order/ decree obtained to be obtained.
SCHEDULE The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: Mortgaged assets
Property-1: Equitable Mortgage of all that the open house plot, within Survey No. 254/2, comprising total area measuring 600 Sq. Yds or 501.96 Sq. Mts. inside residential zone situated at Block No. 6, residential area, Markatpally Village & Mandal, Nalgonda District in the name of Mr. Dudumela Srinivasulu S/o Narasimha (Sale Deed Doc No. 56672014, SRD Nalgonda) and bounded as follows: North: Land of D. Sahaiah South: Land of Others: East: 20' Wide Road West: 20' Wide Road
Property-2: Equitable Mortgage of all that Property House No.2-64/A in Block No.2, Comprising total measuring area of 71.17 Sq. Yds or 59.50 Sqmts inside residential zone situated at Markatpally Village & Mandal, Nalgonda District in the name of Mr. Talasuri Narasimha S/o Buchash Rao (Sale Deed Doc No. 3420/2009, SRD Nalgonda) and bounded as follows: North: Plot of Vendor South: 8' Wide Road East: 8' Wide Road West: 15' Wide Road
Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER Indian Bank

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Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER Indian Bank

the pioneer agenda

"Spring: a lovely reminder
of how beautiful change
can truly be"

-UNKNOWN



A SKY FULL OF WINGS

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

A world untouched by noise, where only the wings of birds break the silence, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

WHEN THE SKY COMES TO LIFE

Around 11 AM, the sun began to work its magic. The first rays of sunlight began to filter through, slowly dissolving the fog. The *Dhanauri Wetlands* were finally revealed in all their splendour. The lake shimmered under the golden light, mirroring the movements of birds in the sky.

In every direction, life unfolded in the most mesmerising ways. *Baikal teals*, their green and chestnut plumage gleaming, glided effortlessly across the water. *Sarus cranes*, the tallest flying birds in the world, waded gracefully through the shallows, their striking red crowns standing out against the backdrop of endless blue. *White-throated kingfishers*, streaks of electric blue, darted across the surface, their sharp beaks poised for the perfect catch. *Black drongos*, perched high on bare branches, observed their surroundings with quiet confidence.

Then, in the midst of it all, I spotted something that truly captivated me, a *Painted stork* (*Mycteria leucocephala*), standing still in the water, its pink and white plumage vibrant against the reeds. Nearby, an *Ibis* sat motionless, sharing the space with an egret that hovered just above. They did not interact, nor did they compete. They simply coexisted, bound by the same stillness that surrounded them. It was a reminder that nature does not rush, nor does it seek control, simply is.

217

BIRD SPECIES, INCLUDING 150+ SARUS CRANES

At a time when rapid urbanisation threatens natural ecosystems, *Dhanauri Wetlands* stands as a critical stronghold for avian biodiversity. Home to over 150 *Sarus cranes*, the state bird of Uttar Pradesh and sheltering 217 bird species, including 23 endangered and vulnerable ones, this wetland is an ecological necessity.

20,000+

waterfowl, but the push for conservation has yet to gain the urgency it deserves. With habitat loss accelerating, the fate of *Dhanauri* is about the larger battle to protect our natural heritage before it is too late.



There's something deeply soothing about the presence of birds. No matter where you are, the soft flutter of wings or the distant call of a bird can instantly transport you to a place of peace. Birds seem to fill the air with a quiet kind of company that makes you feel connected to the world around you. Unlike most popular nature spots, this wetland remains hidden from the typical tourist routes, untouched and unhurried, just waiting for someone to notice its magic.

I found this solace in the *Dhanauri Wetlands*, near *Thasrana* in *Uttar Pradesh*, a place that feels like a hidden sanctuary untouched by the noise of modern life. Unlike crowded nature reserves, it does not call out for attention. Instead, it waits patiently, its beauty unfolding only for those willing to step into its stillness. It was in this mist-laden landscape that I discovered the true magic of being among birds, where silence speaks, and nature embraces you without asking for anything in return.

A WORLD WRAPPED IN FOG

Arriving early in the morning, I was greeted by a thick blanket of winter fog, softening every outline, blurring the edges of trees, water and distant shapes. It was the kind of silence that didn't feel empty but full - full of life stirring beneath the mist, of whispered movements in the reeds and of birds calling out unseen. The cold air carried distant sounds of wings flapping, making the entire landscape feel like something out of a dream.

At first, I thought the fog would ruin my chance of getting any decent photographs. Everything seemed swallowed up by the mist, with just the faintest shapes of trees and water appearing like ghosts in the haze. But as I stood there, waiting for the fog to clear, I realised that there was a certain calm in it. The mist didn't obscure the beauty of the place, it enhanced it. It gave everything a sense of mystery, as if nature itself was being revealed slowly, almost deliberately.

A FRAGILE HAVEN WORTH PROTECTING

Yet, as untouched as it seems, the *Dhanauri Wetlands* are not invincible. Like many natural spaces, they face growing threats from habitat destruction, pollution and human encroachment. It's easy to assume that places like this will always exist, remaining undisturbed and waiting for the next visitor to discover them. However, the truth is, without conscious effort to protect them, they may not. For those who have ever found comfort in nature, who have stood still just to listen to the world breathe, places like *Dhanauri* are not simply landscapes. They are living sanctuaries, home to thousands of species, each playing its part in the delicate balance of life.

A PLACE THAT DEMANDS NOTHING BUT PRESENCE

One of the most striking things about *Dhanauri Wetlands* is not just its visual beauty but its quietness. In a world constantly buzzing with movement and noise, finding a place that does not demand attention, but instead rewards those who choose to be present, is rare. There were no distractions here, no honking cars, no flashing screens, just the simple, unbroken sounds of water lapping against the shore, wings flapping overhead and birds calling out to one another.

It is a place that does not overwhelm but instead invites you to slow down. Whether you're there to watch the birds, capture the beauty through your camera or just enjoy a moment of peace, it offers more than a pretty sight, it gives you a sense of connection to something much bigger than yourself.

A SANCTUARY ON THE BRINK

The *Dhanauri Wetlands* are at risk, once a sanctuary for birds like the *Sarus Crane* and *Painted Stork*, now threatened by encroachment and neglect. With land repurposed for construction, the ecosystem is shrinking and disrupting its delicate balance. Water pollution and disappearing green buffers worsen the crisis. Without urgent protection, this vital habitat, which supports biodiversity, flood control and climate regulation, may soon be lost, leaving behind only memories of its once-thriving wildlife.



Recognised as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International and extensively studied by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), *Dhanauri* plays a pivotal role in global bird conservation. Each year, between November and March, the wetland transforms into a sanctuary for over 50,000 migratory waterfowl, reinforcing its importance as a breeding and nesting ground



A MOMENT WITH NATURE

At *Dhanauri Wetlands*, you'll find yourself surrounded by the beauty of nature. Expect to spot the striking *Baikal Teal*, the towering *Sarus Crane* and the graceful *White-throated Kingfisher*. The *Black Drongo* and *Citrine Wagtail* add charm to the scenery, while the *Painted Storks* and *Ibis* soar across the sky, truly making you feel one with the wilderness. The *Bull-headed Shrike* perches quietly, surveying the land, while flocks of birds move in perfect harmony, painting the wetlands with life.

The *Sarus Crane*, the world's tallest flying bird, glides through wetlands with elegance, its vivid red head and long legs creating a breathtaking sight in nature's tranquillity

A JOURNEY WORTH TAKING

If you decide to visit, go early in the morning, before the mist lifts completely. Walk quietly along the lake's edge, listen to the calls of unseen birds and let yourself be immersed in the stillness. Watch as the fog dissolves into golden light, revealing a world teeming with life. *Dhanauri Wetlands* is an experience, a reminder that, in the presence of birds, you are never truly alone.



PILGRIMAGE OF THE SOUL:

Finding peace amidst the chaos of Mahakumbh & eternal call of Triveni Sangam

PIONEER EXCLUSIVE

A

fter 144 years, destiny has once again woven a divine tapestry at the Mahakumbh 2025, where the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati calls upon seekers of salvation. By February 14, an astounding 50 crore devotees had immersed themselves in the holy waters, believing that each dip washes away lifetimes of 'karma', paving the path to 'moksha'. It is believed that taking a dip in these holy waters during this auspicious period purifies the soul, washing away sins and offering a chance at spiritual rebirth. The air hums with ancient chants, the scent of incense mingles with the morning mist and the banks of Prayagraj shimmer under the golden sunrise, bearing witness to the largest spiritual gathering in human history. This is more than a festival—it is a cosmic alignment, a moment of divine grace where faith transcends time and millions unite in a single, sacred rhythm of devotion. Our journey to witness and experience this divine congregation was nothing short of an adventure, filled with unexpected challenges, endurance and moments of profound serenity.

TEJAL SINHA
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THE LONG ROAD TO MAHAKUMBH

Our trip to Mahakumbh began on the afternoon of the February 8, as we departed from Hyderabad. The journey stretched endlessly before us, leading us through changing landscapes and states as we made our way toward Prayagraj—the heart of the Mahakumbh. By the time we reached near Rewa, it was around 4 PM. However, fate had

different plans for us, as we found ourselves stuck at a toll gate for nearly 7-8 hours. The wait was frustrating, with no clear answers on when the congestion would clear. Despite the inconvenience, there was a quiet patience among fellow travellers—an unspoken understanding that this journey was one of faith and patience was merely another test. The contrasting weather conditions made the journey even more challenging. The nights were freezing, while the days were scorching hot. Yet, neither extreme could deter the countless devotees walking barefoot, carrying their offerings and making their way toward the Triveni Sangam for the sacred dip. It was awe-inspiring to witness such unwavering faith, where no discomfort could shake their determination.

A NIGHT IN THE CAR AND AN EARLY START

By the time we reached the outskirts of Prayagraj near the Mahakumbh site, it was already 10 PM on February 10. After an exhausting journey by road, we decided to rest, rather than proceeding for the holy dip immediately. Choosing patience over haste, we allowed ourselves a moment of respite, knowing that the spiritual experience

would be even more meaningful when approached with a fresh mind and body. Even within the confines of the vehicle, we could sense the energy of the gathering—a spiritual hum that filled the air. At exactly 3 AM on February 11, we decided to set off. We took an auto from Arail Ghat towards the Mahakumbh grounds, but due to traffic restrictions, the vehicle could only take us a certain distance. From there, we had to walk a few about 4 to 5 kilometers, navigating through the cold, dark streets. Despite the early hour, thousands of pilgrims were already walking beside us, their faces glowing with devotion and anticipation.

THE SEARCH FOR TRIVENI SANGAM

Finding the Triveni Sangam, the most sacred confluence, was far more difficult than expected. Information was sparse and authorities provided conflicting directions, leading to a long and exhausting search. Many devotees, unaware of the exact location, were performing their holy dip at different ghats, mostly in the Ganga, assuming it to be the Sangam or to not walk more, for that matter. We walked over 50,000 steps, moving from one ghat to another, constantly asking for guidance from the people around us. Some directed us one way, only for another person to contradict them. The sheer magnitude of the crowd and the lack of proper signage made the experience frustrating. Finally, after much effort, we reached Ghat Number One—the actual Triveni Sangam—just as the first rays of the sun began to illuminate the sacred waters. What a timing, we reached!

THE HOLY DIP: A MOMENT OF PEACE AMIDST THE CHAOS

Despite the exhaustion and the confusion, the moment we stepped into the sacred waters of the Sangam, it felt as though time had paused. The cool water sent shivers down our spine, but beneath the initial shock was a profound warmth—an inexplicable sense of peace and purity. Around us, devotees chanted prayers, immersed themselves in the water and offered their respects to the sacred rivers, creating an atmosphere of



THINGS TO MAKE A NOTE OF:

- Nights are colder while days are hotter—Make arrangements accordingly
- Don't browse for hotels on the Internet
- Don't believe on all the reels on Facebook and Instagram
- While travelling by road, make sure to carry light snacks and lots and lots of water
- Get your bargaining skills right with your ride from Arail Ghat to Mahakumbh
- Carry a long dupatta or rope and tied to each other
- Don't carry huge luggage to the ghat • Be careful with the vendors.
- Carry your own bottles for the Ganga water
- Wear the most comfy slippers or shoes

were made about missing persons, helping families reunite in the overwhelming crowd. This initiative provided a great sense of relief, ensuring that those separated from their groups could find their way back.

BASIC AMENITIES AND EXORBITANT PRICES

After taking the holy dip, we found designated changing areas for women, which were surprisingly well-maintained and provided much-needed privacy. However, as expected, the public washrooms were not in the best condition. While there was a continuous water supply, hygiene remained a challenge. One of the most common grievances among devotees was the exorbitant pricing of basic necessities. A small water bottle that normally costs Rs 10 was being sold for Rs 15. Similarly, transportation was highly overpriced. Auto-rickshaws and bikes were available to take people from the parking areas to different locations, but the fares were unreasonably high. Renting a bike within the Mahakumbh grounds cost between Rs 600 to Rs 800 for two people and these bikes were restricted to movement only within the premises.

divine serenity. However, the experience was not without its challenges. Even finding a simple bottle of drinking water near the Sangam was difficult, and to our surprise, there were no boats available early in the morning. Before 7:30 AM, the crowd was relatively sparse, but by 10 AM, the place had transformed into a sea of people, with thousands arriving for their turn at the holy dip.

THE MARKETPLACE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we explored the surroundings, we observed various stalls selling religious artifacts, prasad and daily essentials. Continuous announcements were being made, warning pilgrims to be cautious of certain sellers who were overcharging for basic items or for their safety. While the authorities had taken measures to prevent exploitation, some vendors still took advantage of unsuspecting visitors. One of the most well-organised aspects of Mahakumbh was the Lost and Found Center near Ghat Number Six near the Tower. Constant announcements

CONCERNS OVER BOAT SERVICES AND PILGRIMS' STRUGGLES

During a conversation with a vendor near the ghats, we learned that boat services were a major issue. The boats were not being opened at the right time, leading to daily confusion and chaos. Some devotees even got lost or confused about where to perform their rituals, leading to unnecessary inconvenience. This was something we personally experienced too. However, it was a bad luck, boats were available during the afternoon hours.

A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE BEYOND THE STRUGGLES

Despite the logistical challenges, the Mahakumbh was one of our unforgettable experience—one that tested our endurance, patience and faith. It reinforced the belief that spirituality is not always about ease and comfort but about perseverance and devotion in the face of hardships. Mahakumbh is not just a festival; it is a spiritual phenomenon—a gathering of millions who share the same goal: to seek purity, peace and divine blessings. As we left the sacred grounds, weary yet fulfilled, we carried with us the realisation that amidst the chaos, there was an undeniable sense of unity, a thread of faith that connected every single person present. The holy dip, despite all the hardships leading up to it, was a moment of transcendence. The cold water, the chants, the rising sun and the unwavering faith of millions—everything came together to create an experience that was beyond words.



KEEP AN EYE!

The Eyebetes Foundation, led by renowned Mumbai-based eye surgeon Dr. Nishant Kumar (a three-time Guinness Record holder), launched a large-scale charitable health initiative at the Maha Kumbh 2025. This transformative mission is designed to provide life-changing eye care and diabetes screenings to tens of thousands of devotees and frontline personnel attending this sacred event. With a dedicated team of 100 professionals, Eyebetes Foundation aims to offer free vision and diabetes screenings to over 20,000-30,000 pilgrims and over 5,000 uniformed personnel, ensuring that preventable blindness and undiagnosed diabetes do not hinder the lives of those who have embarked on this deeply spiritual journey.



FUR COLLAR KIMONO JACKET

Elevate your style with this impeccably crafted jacket by Uspoloassn.in. Made from fine-quality fabric, it blends sophistication with comfort, making layering effortlessly chic.

Price: INR 5799



SHIMMERS COSMETICS' ARTISTO FALCON HIGH SPEED HAIR DRYER

With an unmatched power of 2400W BLDC motor, this achieves an astonishing 70,000 RPM for unparalleled drying efficiency. Time-Saving Technology: Dries up to 40% faster than conventional dryers, perfect for busy routines.

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WHAT'S NEW

WOMEN BEIGE JACQUARD TOTE BAG

An iconic Marc Jacobs large tote in beige by The Collective, this monogram woven jacquard features signature embroidered namesake branding all-over, a top-zip closure and the essential carryall design. You can carry it by the top handles or use the adjustable, removable crossbody strap for hands-free styling

Price: INR 48,500



CLINIQUE POP LIP + CHEEK OIL IN BLACK HONEY

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LANCÔME'S LA VIE EST BELLE EDP GIFT SET

The gift set contains Lancôme La Vie Est Belle EDP, Lancôme Hypnôse Mascara, and Lancôme La Vie Est Belle Body Lotion. Perfect for a complete beauty experience. Ideal for gifting or personal indulgence. Price: INR 7,600



CHAT-O-CINO

Listened! Mimicked! Now dropping bangers the Raftaar-waaay!

TEJAL SINHA
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A "Aankhon mein hustle hi hustle hai, apni toh mehnat ki nasal hai, humble hai tabhi toh awwal hai, tabhi toh sone ki vassal hai. Upar se upar ka level hai, gaanon mein baatein bhi asal hai."

This powerful caption, attributed to Dilin Nair aka Raftaar—perfectly encapsulates his journey. For fans who have followed his evolution over the years, these words speak to his relentless drive and unwavering work ethic. They capture the essence of an artist who, despite reaching the highest echelons of success, remains grounded in authenticity and humility. Every beat, every lyric and every performance reflects a commitment to realism—a testament to a man who has never lost sight of his roots even as he redefines the boundaries of contemporary music.

But how do we know for sure? Well, spend just a few minutes in conversation with the rap star, and you'll feel it—the infectious energy, the unshakable passion, and a vibe so real, it's impossible to



IN AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH THE PIONEER, RAP SENSATION RAFTAAR DIVES DEEP INTO HIS JOURNEY—FROM MIMICKING EMINEM AND LINKIN PARK TO CRAFTING CHART-TOPPING ORIGINALS. HE TALKS ABOUT HOW LIVE AUDIENCES INFLUENCE HIS MUSIC, WHY AUTHENTICITY IS HIS BIGGEST WEAPON AND TEASES A NEW SONG THAT BREAKS ALL GENRE BARRIERS

miss. From his early days as a dancer on *Dance India Dance*—when he was known as Max—to becoming one of India's most influential rap artists, his journey is a testament to passion, persistence, and a relentless drive for originality. His evolution from uploading rap tracks with Lil Golu and Ikka to winning accolades and commanding the stage with his groundbreaking music reflects a career that's as diverse as it is inspiring. From being a curious listener to becoming a trendsetting artist, his journey was shaped by an early fascination with melodies and an undying passion for originality.

Recalling the moment his musical destiny was set in motion, the *Ghana Kasooti* fame hark back to his early days in this chat with *The Pioneer*. Well, the musical bug etched into him, when he heard of the popular song *Saathiya*, by none-other-than A.R.Rahman and the piano riff on it. "I wanted to play it somehow and that curiosity led me to listen to more songs—paying close attention to them. Then one day, I found a CD with Eminem and Linkin Park on it, and that just pushed me toward my actual choice of music." He realised that this is what he wanted to do. "I kept memorising their songs, and that's where it all landed—just mimicking everybody." What started as an attempt to replicate the music he admired soon evolved into a deep-seated passion for creating something unique. In an industry where trends shift rapidly, Raftaar has distinguished himself by refusing to follow the crowd blindly. "I try to create, not recreate and that helps," the

Yentamma fame emphasised, highlighting his commitment to originality in an ever-evolving musical landscape. For Raftaar, his music is deeply influenced by the energy of live performances. He explains how audience reactions shape his creative process: "I don't think much. By now, we kind of know what they like because we get to be in front of live audiences so many times. You see what parts of the songs they react to more, and once you figure that out, making music that sells is easier."

He is not just a trailblazer in the Indian rap scene but also a dynamic leader who has left a lasting impact beyond music. As a Gang Leader on *MTV Roadies*, he brought his signature energy, strategic thinking, and no-nonsense attitude to the reality show, mentoring contestants with a mix of tough love and motivation. Whether in music or on *Roadies*, he has consistently proven himself as a game-changer, inspiring the next generation to hustle hard and carve their own paths.

The *Baby Marvake Manegi* singers' connection with the audience also fuels his innovation. Oh! Talking of live performances and his connections with his audience, the *Go Pagal* singer has been performing at Royal Stag Boombox' third edition, bringing together artists from diverse genres. Never one to stay confined to a single genre, Raftaar teases an upcoming musical shift. "Yes, definitely. Like I said, I am going to showcase a new song that is totally not my genre, and people are going to love it." His ability to read a crowd has allowed him to shape his music in a way that resonates deeply with listeners. The spontaneous energy of a live performance often plays a crucial role in determining which ideas evolve into full-fledged songs.

"It's like a random thought that came to your head, and you developed it into a song. It is being appreciated by everybody in the audience. It is the best knowledge-



ment of your craft ever, and that just makes you a euphoric man and that's the energy I use."

Beyond beats and rhythms, Raftaar's music is rooted in authenticity and responsibility. The *Morni* star doesn't just create songs; he sees himself as a medium for the unspoken thoughts and emotions of his audience. "Honestly, I speak what I see and I feel that everybody sees what I see—but not everyone talks about it. That's why I feel my job is to be people's voice and become a medium."

He believes that while everyone may perceive the world differently, there is a shared human experience that connects us all.

"I feel that people have a misconception that they are the main character. We all are common characters, and we have a lot in common. Mostly, I bring forth these commonalities, and some are my thoughts, my understanding of experiences in different situations. So, it either gives you a direction or it makes you feel that you want to be like me." Despite having an extensive discography, *Toh Dishoom* star refuses to pick a favorite track. For him, every song is special, a piece of his journey that holds personal meaning.

"All songs for me just like other artists are my babies and I can't choose one. My best work is yet to come. I always believe that I need to put something out there that I am recognised for." His relationship with music goes far beyond commercial success—it is his anchor, his sanctuary, and his greatest source of peace. "It is my sanity, giving me mental peace because I can pay for everything and ensure my parents are fine. I get to do something I love at any point of the day. That is why I love music."

In an industry that constantly shifts, Raftaar remains grounded in his truth. With every beat and every verse, he continues to redefine what it means to be an artist—always authentic, always evolving, and always pushing the boundaries of creativity.

I FEEL THAT PEOPLE HAVE A MISCONCEPTION THAT THEY ARE THE MAIN CHARACTER. WE ALL ARE COMMON CHARACTERS, AND WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. MOSTLY, I BRING FORTH THESE COMMONALITIES AND SOME ARE MY THOUGHTS, MY UNDERSTANDING OF EXPERIENCES IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS

HOROSCOPE

- ARIES** Frustration may arise, but persistence wins. Support may get delayed, yet efforts pay off. Stay creative, clear-minded and humble. Opportunities for love and adventure await you.
- LIBRA** Stay confident, avoid negativity and embrace change. Humour and logic can help your career. Persistence ensures success. Business trips thrive. Guidance requests will keep you fulfilled.
- TAURUS** New project ideas flow and experimentation leads to success. Support from siblings helps. Stay resilient through setbacks. Balance emotions, enjoy life, and seek guidance for security.
- SCORPIO** Hard work pays off, but balance is key. Seek guidance, trust instincts and embrace love. Delays in plans are temporary. Family huddles ensure smoother decisions and relationships.
- GEMINI** Avoid negativity and self-pity. Family happiness thrives with your commitment. Embrace artistic talents and meditation. Seek stability in life. Trust time and advice for the best choices.
- SAGITTARIUS** Rise above frustration; success will come. Siblings reunite and innovation thrives. Stay loyal, trust ethics, and handle hurdles wisely. Embrace the unexpected opportunities for harmony.
- CANCER** Overcome insecurity and fear; stay calm in challenges. Balance work and family. Think before speaking. Communicate well to maintain healthy relationships. Enjoy a break to get recharged.
- CAPRICORN** Stay resilient through setbacks. Seek guidance for security. Family supports you and new connections inspire creativity. Analyze situations wisely for success in work and personal life.
- LEO** Hard work pays off—enjoy wisely. Stay calm in challenges. Nurture relationships and embrace your softer side. Balance career and personal life. Embrace changes and challenges.
- AQUARIUS** Stay open to others' ideas and consult before making final decisions. Humour and patience bring success. Avoid rash changes. Analyze your health for renewed energy and clarity.
- VIRGO** New project ideas arise; stay firm through setbacks. Support from siblings helps. Embrace novelties, trust your ethics, and seek security. Family needs are fulfilled, bringing you relief.
- PISCES** Rely on others when nervousness hits. Self-improvement with support from friends is key. Stay confident and prepared for challenges. Family may resist changes; remain firm regardless.

Zero sugar, zero worries? What diabetics should know about diet sodas

PNS/EXCLUSIVE

For people with diabetes, diet and lifestyle choices are the utmost priority, as they constantly have to keep a check on their blood sugar levels. There is an ongoing debate in the diabetic community about whether the carbonated drinks with zero sugar can be alternatives for regular sugar-loaded sodas. The zero-sugar sodas are advertised as sugar-free, making them a go-to option for weight watchers, but are they really posing no risk to your blood glucose levels?

The answer to this, as with most health-related things, is nuanced. As they contain artificial sweeteners instead of regular blood sugar-spiking sugars, it is an interesting topic for ongoing discussions and research.

Blood sugar is the primary source of energy in one's body. Moving through the bloodstream—it powers the cells, and as it gets used up by the cells to perform different bodily functions, it lowers down. Whereas insulin is like a key that allows the cells to absorb the glucose (blood sugar) and carry out the day-to-day activities. As blood sugar levels increase in the body, the pancreas releases insulin. Any issue in the production of insulin or its efficiency can lead to blood sugar staying in the bloodstream for a long time and causing health problems.

Diabetes is a chronic condition that affects how the body converts food into energy. In diabetic patients, the body either produces insulin in low quantities or does not use insulin optimally. Hence, it becomes crucial to control blood glucose levels in the body by making healthier lifestyle choices.

Diet sodas such as Coke Zero and Pepsi

Zero are so-called "healthy" substitutes for regular the sugar-loaded ones, making them a better option for persons with diabetes also. These sugar-free sodas are mimicked to taste like regular drinks with artificial sweeteners. While they may taste like regular drinks, they do not contain high fructose corn syrup and sucrose. Instead, they are sweetened with artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, acesulfame potassium (Ace-K), and other additives, which provide them with the sweetness of a regular soda. Diet sodas are considered "free foods" as they contain less than 20 calories and 5 grams of carbohydrates, which makes them a perfect choice for those who monitor their carbohydrate intake.

Senior Nutrition, Divya Malik Dhawan from Apollo Spectra Hospital Chirag Enclave, Delhi explains, "The key ingredients of diet sodas are low-calorie sweeteners such as aspartame, which is around 200 times sweeter than sugar. That is why it takes only a small amount of quantity to sweeten the soft drinks. It does not increase sugar levels, making it theoretically safe for a diabetic patient. Similarly, another artificial sweetener, Acesulfame Potassium (Ace-K), is combined with aspartame for stability and sweetness, which is again calorie-free and doesn't increase glucose levels. Another key ingredient is phosphoric acid, which is used for preservation and tartness; it is found in many carbonated drinks. The sudden boost of energy is achieved from caffeine in diet sodas, which impacts blood sugar levels as it stimulates adrenaline release. Next is a caramel food colouring agent, which gives the sodas their dark brown colour." As diet sodas can be taken some times but not to be taken as an option every time during outings or vacations. We must take more green tea, detox water, herbal tea, turmeric milk and ginger honey tea.

Dr. Ankit Patel, General Physician, Apollo Spectra Jaipur emphasises, "Zero

The Pioneer bring a detailed Health Talk this week, with health experts shed light on whether the zero sugar drinks are safe for diabetics. While these sugar-free sodas contain artificial sweeteners that do not directly spike blood sugar, experts caution against excessive consumption due to potential long-term effects

calories soft beverages available in the market do not contain any sugar, they do not lead to the immediate blood sugar spike. Many studies point out that artificial sweeteners have minimal impact on the blood glucose level. However, the other ingredients in it can still affect the spike. Research suggests that frequent consumption of artificial sweeteners can lead to insulin resistance in the long run. The reason for this could be changes in gut microbiota, which can contribute to metabolic issues or altered perception of sweetness, which increases cravings for sugary foods."



As artificial sweeteners do not increase blood sugar levels directly, they can be a part of diabetes-friendly food choices when taken in moderation. Its excessive consumption can lead to other potential health risks, such as weight gain due to increased appetite, heart health risks, metabolic syndrome, dental issues as sodas can erode tooth enamel over time, and disturbed sleep due to its caffeine content.

Dr. Shamkiran, Consultant Pediatric Endocrinology, Endocrinology and Diabetology, SPARSH Hospital, Yeswanthpur, Bangalore says, "To be frank, I would not recommend a person with diabetes to drink diet sodas excessively even if it doesn't increase your blood sugar levels; it is important to understand that managing diabetes is not just about constant worrying about blood sugar control and

worrying about food every time you sit for your lunch or dinner. Instead, inculcate healthy habits, healthy food choices and eat whole food."

Occasional consumption of diet sodas is unlikely to cause any harm to people with diabetes. Moderation is the key; limit the intake to avoid any metabolic or gut health issues. Some people may react differently to artificial sweeteners, so it is advisable to monitor blood sugar levels after consuming diet sodas or any other beverage with artificial sweeteners in it, and if there is any fluctuation, it should be stopped. Other choices of beverages for people with diabetes can be herbal teas, unsweetened beverages, etc.

"Healthy lifestyle choices are a way of managing diabetes. It will also help prevent other problems related to diabetes which affects the kidneys, heart, eyes and brain. Going for walks, planning meals, watching your sugar intake, finding healthy alternatives for sugar-loaded beverages and snacks, getting enough sleep and quitting smoking and alcohol are small changes in your life which leave a lasting impact in not only managing diabetes but also improving your overall health and wellbeing," says Dr. Shamkiran.

People often worry that having diabetes means giving up their favourite foods. But that's not true—you don't have to completely give up on them, just be mindful of your choices. Diabetes can be managed with a balanced diet, portion control, regular exercise and keeping track of your carbohydrate intake, especially high-carb fruits and vegetables. Choose whole grains, fibre-rich foods and lean protein, as they support your glucose levels. Small efforts such as replacing refined sugars with natural alternatives, and incorporating healthy fats, can make a big difference if you have diabetes. Managing diabetes isn't about restriction, it is about making informed choices which help you enjoy your favourite foods with mindfulness.

'STAYING CONNECTED IS KEY TO SUCCESS'



Kollu Ravindra, a veteran politician and the current Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, represents the Machilipatnam constituency. His journey is a testament to hard work, determination and an unwavering commitment to public service. Raised in a large joint family as the youngest of six siblings, Ravindra was showered with love and affection from his family and relatives. Coming from an industrialist background, he seamlessly blended his entrepreneurial instincts with his political aspirations, crediting his political insights to his uncle, former minister Nadakuditi Narsimha Rao and the proprietor of Naveena Engineering Works.

In an insightful interview with *The Pioneer's* C Pradeep Kumar, Ravindra opened up about his journey from businessman to a politician and his vision to transform Machilipatnam into the number one constituency in the State.



EARLY LIFE IN MACHILIPATNAM

I was born in Machilipatnam to Kollu Subba Rao, a businessman and the owner of SVS Engineering Works, a rice mill machinery manufacturing company known for its innovations in the field, and Venkata Soubhagyavathi, a homemaker. I am the youngest of six siblings, with three elder

sisters—Sesha Malleswari, Shoba Rani, and Sudha Rani—and two elder brothers, Venkata Ramana and Krishna Balaji.

MOTHER'S ASPIRATIONS VS FATE

My siblings have always been very affectionate and supportive. My mother had a strong desire for me to become a doctor, as she faced health issues when I was born. However, fate led me to become a businessman and later, a politician. I received my education in Machilipatnam, completing my BA at Nobel College. After a brief gap, I went on to study LLB at Hindu College.

LEARNING BUSINESS FROM FATHER

As a child, Sundays were reserved for sports, and my friends and I would spend the entire day on the playground. On holidays, my father would take us to the factory to help him with various tasks, ensuring we gained hands-on experience in the business world.

INSPIRED BY FATHER

From a young age, I aspired to become a businessman, inspired by my father. Additionally, my uncle, former minister Nadakuditi Narsimha Rao, sparked my interest in politics. I was always diligent in academics, sports and other extracurricular activities. My parents played an essential role in nurturing my growth, providing unwavering support and guidance that helped shape me into the person I am today.

BALANCING BUSINESS & POLITICS

Though I wanted to become a businessman, but over time, I found myself balancing both business and politics. After graduating, I took on my first political role as a ward president in 2000. Following that, I served as the Lions Club president and later became the Telugu Yuvatha Krishna district president in 2007. A pivotal moment in my life came in 2006 when I led a movement against the government's decision to relocate Bandar Port from Machilipatnam. Through perseverance and dedication, I successfully influenced the government to reverse their decision, marking a significant turning point in my political journey.

CALM & COMPOSED LEADER SINCE CHILDHOOD

I have always been a down-to-earth individual with a strong academic track record in school. Naturally calm and composed, I actively participated in sports, and my friends and I shared a close bond, often engaging in playful mischief—but always within limits. I built strong, friendly relationships with my classmates and was known as a go-getter. Even from a young age, I possessed a hidden leadership quality, fueled by a deep desire to uplift the underprivileged.

LOST IN FUN, FOUND IN TROUBLE

I still remember a holiday during my school days when I went out with friends and ended up spending the entire day with them. As it got late and I hadn't returned home, my father and family members became worried and searched for me around the playground and near the lake. When I finally came home, my father was furious. That was the first and last time in my life that he ever lost his temper with me.

CHANDRABABU NAIDU'S SUPPORT

I truly cherish the moment when I was appointed as the youth president of Krishna district, despite facing stiff competition. Later, after winning my first term as an MLA, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu supported me by making me a minister for five years. During a period when I was in the opposition, I was falsely implicated in a murder case, which terrified my entire family. Through it all, Chandrababu stood by us. After my release from jail, he personally called me. I thought my political career was over, but he gave me a ticket and made me a minister for the second time.



SUMMERS FILLED WITH JOY

Every summer during the holidays, all our cousins would visit Uttara Chiruvolu Lanka village in Krishna district, which was my uncle Narsimha Rao's village. Those visits were filled with so much joy, and the memories still stay with me. Interestingly, it also happens to be my wife's native place. We used to play in the fields and farmlands there. After marriage, I continued visiting the village with my children, cherishing the beautiful backdrop.

A BLESSED UNION

I got married on June 30, 1999, to K. Neelima. It was an arranged marriage, and she is my uncle's daughter. Our wedding was a grand celebration, filled with joy and attended by family, friends, and well-wishers who shared in our happiness. We are blessed with two children: my elder son, Puneeth Chandra, an engineering graduate who is planning to pursue higher studies abroad, and my younger son, Naveen Chandra, who is a special child. The support of my wife in raising our children and managing the family is priceless.



LESSONS FROM POLITICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

In politics, one must be prepared to handle pressure, whether in power or in opposition. Before I contested in 2009, I campaigned for my uncle, and through that experience, I learned that understanding the problems of the people and addressing them is the key to handling pressure. After losing in 2009, I went door-to-door across all the villages in the constituency, staying connected with the people. In 2014, I won and was made a minister by CM Chandrababu Naidu.



CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE, DRIVING DEVELOPMENT

From the very beginning of my political journey as a youth president, I made it a priority to connect with the public, understand their problems, and do my best to address and support them. Whenever I visit new places, I explore all possibilities to develop the constituency industrially and create employment opportunities for the youth. Additionally, I frequently visit temples to learn about their history and significance.



FINDING JOY AMIDST BUSY SCHEDULE

As a politician, finding leisure time is a challenge due to the constant demands of public engagement. However, whenever I do get a moment to unwind, I cherish the time spent with my younger son, who is a special child. His presence fills me with joy and awe. Additionally, I make sure to attend to my business during any available free time.

MOMENT OF PRIDE

One of the happiest moments of my life was when I was elected as an MLA for the first time, and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu entrusted me with the responsibility of serving as a minister in 2014, following the bifurcation of the state. Another deeply fulfilling moment was the construction of the Rama temple, a long-awaited dream of both my grandfather and father. When I began the temple construction in 2016, we faced numerous challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and my imprisonment. However, when the statue of Lord Rama was being installed, sudden rainfall occurred, which I truly believed was a miracle—a divine sign and a positive omen from Lord Rama himself.



FACING ADVERSITY

On the flip side, my lowest moment came when a false murder case was filed against me, driven by political vendetta from the previous government. I was imprisoned for 54 days, and the emotional toll it took on my family was immense, as we were unaccustomed to such malicious political tactics. Adding to the grief, shortly after my release, I lost my uncle, Narsimha Rao, which was a personal tragedy that deeply affected me.

MOVEMENT AGAINST CONGRESS...

My inspiration in politics comes from my maternal uncle, Narsimha Rao, who served as a minister from 1999 to 2004. A significant turning point in my political journey came in 2006 when I led a movement against the then Congress government, during CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, to prevent the relocation of Bandar Port from Machilipatnam. On December 15, 2006, the movement forced Rajasekhara Reddy to reverse his decision. Today, the port construction is progressing rapidly, and operations are expected to begin in 2026. This event ignited my deep involvement in politics, fueling my desire to serve the people of Machilipatnam.



UPHOLDING MORALITY & RESPONSIBILITY

I believe that every individual should uphold a moral responsibility towards society and be law-abiding citizens. It is essential to introduce new initiatives that cater to the future needs of the people, in line with the aspirations of CM Chandrababu Naidu.

STRENGTHENING MACHILIPATNAM...

My goal is to strengthen the party within the constituency and transform it into the top-performing constituency in the state, as there are abundant resources for development. Machilipatnam, one of the oldest cities, has seen the influence of the Portuguese, Dutch, and British. It was also home to the second municipality in the state, and I aim to restore its past glory. The construction of Machilipatnam Port is a dream for everyone here, and it is progressing rapidly, presenting significant opportunities for industry, tourism, and showcasing our rich culture and heritage. Many young people are migrating due to a lack of job opportunities. I am committed to supporting people in handicrafts and caste-based professions, creating employment, and working to alleviate poverty. Reviving institutions like Hindu College, Noble College, and National College is also a priority to address local educational needs. Every area within our constituency has its own unique potential, and I am dedicated to exploring and developing it, in line with the CM's vision for a prosperous Swarna Andhra by 2047.



RAPID FIRE

Your nickname : Ravi

Favourite colour: Yellow

Favourite Food: Both veg and non-veg, but I like sweets a lot

Favourite movie: Major Chandrakanth

Favourite holiday: Manginapudi Beach, Machilipatnam

A place you wish to visit: Uttara Chiruvolu Lanka village, Krishna District

Are you religious/spiritual: I am religious and visit temples/churches/mosques

Favourite actor: NT Rama Rao

Inspiration: Uncle Narsimha Rao and Chandrababu Naidu

Driving force: Party workers and quest to do something to the people