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QUOTE OF THE DAY

Revanth is saying he is playing 20-20 match inside but he is playing Tondi (shady) matches, collecting money while breaking promises. KCR, on the other hand, has played Test, One-Day, and T20 – excelling in all formats of governance. No matter where you go in Telangana, people want KCR back. Farmers, daily wage workers, students and employees everyone is fed up with the Congress's failures
-Harish Rao, BRS MLA, Telangana



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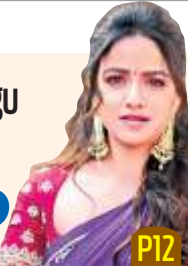
Railway minister lists steps to prevent incidents



PROFIT BOOKING LEADING FIIS TO SELL INDIAN EQUITIES: FM



Producer's veiled criticism of Telugu actresses: Is Baby actress the TARGET?



DON'T MISS... Create awareness on GBS, officials told

District Collector J. Venkata Murali has directed officials to raise awareness about Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and take necessary steps to prevent its spread in the district. The Collector convened a video conference with district and mandal-level officials from the collectorate on Monday. Addressing the meeting, Collector Venkata Murali emphasised the importance of preventing the spread of GBS by educating the public. He urged officials to focus on creating awareness, particularly among students in government and private schools...

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SC reinstates Solan's mayor

The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated Solan Mayor Usha Sharma in her post for the remainder of her tenure while terminating her disqualification in a case of "political goondaism". A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh made its August 20, 2024 order absolute by which it had stayed her disqualification while terminating her removal "a case of male bias". The interim order of August 20, 2024 is made absolute. Any interference with the order will invite consequences," the bench said, as it adjourned...

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Adani pledges Rs 2K cr for setting up schools

Adani group on Monday announced Rs 2,000 crore donation for building at least 20 schools across the country as it continued to reveal details of the Rs 10,000 crore charity committed at the wedding of founder Gautam Adani's younger son. The conglomerate had previously announced Rs 6,000 crore for constructing hospitals and another Rs 2,000 crore for skill development. The Adani Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Gautam Adani-led group, "has collaborated with..."

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India look to continue winning momentum

Their campaign back on track after a jittery start, India will look to continue the winning momentum when they take on Paris Olympics silver medalist Germany in their next men's FIH Pro League match on Tuesday. India had a woeful start to their home leg matches of the Pro League, losing 1-3 to Spain in their opener. But the hosts bounced back strongly to tame Spain 2-0 in the return match on Sunday. With three points from two games, India are currently sitting in eighth place in the standings and will...

-SPORTS



TG plans telemetry to prevent AP from 'over-drawing' water

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed concern over the excess use of Krishna waters by Andhra Pradesh and directed irrigation officials to be more vigilant in monitoring the withdrawals from Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar. He asserted that installing a telemetry system is the only way to prevent Andhra Pradesh from taking more than its allocated share. Officials informed the CM that the AP government had not contributed its share of funds for the system. In response, Revanth ordered Principal Secretary (Irrigation) Rahul Bojja to write to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), confirming that Telangana would pay the entire amount upfront to ensure the immediate installation of the telemetry system. Reiterating that the allocation and monitoring of water usage between the two states is the responsibility of the Central Water Commission, Revanth asked officials to complain to the Centre regarding AP's unilateral shifting of water. He urged the Centre to intervene and prevent Andhra Pradesh from exceeding its allocated water share.

NAIDU'S VISION FOR TEMPLE ECOSYSTEM Self-sustenance, tech integration

AP GOVT TO BUILD VENKATESWARA TEMPLES IN ALL STATE CAPITALS

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Addressing the second edition of the International Temples Convention & Expo (ITCX) 2025 in Tirupati, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu unveiled his vision for a self-sustaining, technology-driven temple ecosystem, blending spirituality with modern governance. He emphasised the importance of preserving temple heritage while integrating technology and fostering economic growth within temple ecosystems. The event saw the participation of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Minister of State for Power and Renewable Energy Sripathi Yesso Naik, TTD Chairman BR Naidu, and ITCX Founder Gireesh Vasudev Kulkarni. Referring to ITCX as the 'Maha Kumbh of temples', CM Naidu highlighted the significance of temple conventions in shaping discussions on temple administration, economic impact, and cultural preservation. He noted that the inaugural ITCX was held in Varanasi, making Tirupati a fitting venue for its second edition. With over 1,500 temples from multiple countries, 685 virtual attendees, 111 speakers, 15 workshops, and 60 stalls, the event marked a milestone in global temple collaboration.

Continued on Page 2



- CM Naidu addresses the ITCX-2025 in Tirupati
- The event sees participation from several prominent leaders, including Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis and Goa CM Pramod Sawant
- Naidu emphasises the evolving role of temples as economic and cultural hubs, with temple-related activities in India valued at Rs 6 lakh crore

- Naidu outlines key reforms for temple security and management, including expanding Trust Boards and creating a dedicated security committee
- Government allocates Rs 134 cr for temple renovations under the Common Good Fund
- Importance of preserving Tirumala's green cover and promoting environmental sustainability stressed
- Naidu reiterates his commitment to zero corruption in temple management and social impact through temples
- Aligning with PM Modi's Vikas Bharat 2047 agenda, Naidu projects India becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2029

Shallow quake jolts NCR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Strong tremors were felt in the national capital and adjoining regions as an earthquake of 4.0 magnitude struck the region early on Monday. There were no immediate reports of any damage or injuries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people in the region to stay calm and follow safety precautions while keeping alert for possible aftershocks. Modi said in a post on X, "Tremors were felt in Delhi and nearby areas. Urging everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions, staying alert for possible aftershocks. Authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation." The epicentre of the quake was in the Jheel Park area of Dhaula Kuan and there were some reports of people hearing a loud sound as the ground shook. The National Center for Seismology said the earthquake struck at a focal depth of five kilometres at 5:36 am.

No need to panic over GBS: I & PR Minister

PNS ■ ELURU

Minister for Housing and I & PR K Parthasarathy has assured the public not to panic over Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and instructed medical officers to ensure the availability of necessary medicines and injections for treatment. Speaking to the media on Monday, the Minister urged medical officials to address public concerns about GBS and provide accurate information regarding the disease. He directed that medicines and injections be made available in all government hospitals in Eluru district and called for emergency medicines to be stocked in cardiology, neurology, and general medicine departments.

Continued on Page 2

Elderly woman dies during treatment

VISAKHAPATNAM: A 63-year-old woman, being treated for suspected Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) at King George Hospital (KGH), died on Monday morning after suffering a sudden heart attack. Renuka Mahanti, from Mallividu village in L. Kota mandal, Vizianagaram district, was admitted to the KGH on February 6. She had shown symptoms of GBS and had a history of diabetes and high blood pressure. Despite these health issues, Renuka's condition had been improving. On Monday morning, during routine rounds, KGH Superintendent Dr. P. Sivananda found Renuka complaining of chest pain. She collapsed shortly after. She was immediately taken to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where an electrocardiogram (ECG) confirmed that she had suffered a heart attack. Despite the doctors' best efforts, Renuka could not be revived. Dr. Sivananda expressed his sadness, saying, "Yesterday, she was talking normally, but today she collapsed in front of me during the morning rounds. It's really unfortunate. It was the heart attack that caused her death, not GBS."

Tuni civic vice-chief poll put off due to lack of quorum

PNS ■ KAKINADA

The election for the Tuni municipal vice-chairman was postponed on Monday amid dramatic developments. The Joint Collector, who was the returning officer, announced that the election for the vice-chairman post had been deferred due to a lack of quorum. The election will now be held on Tuesday, the JC confirmed. Earlier, 10 TDP councillors attended the session to elect the vice-chairman, but the YSRCP councillors abstained. Meanwhile, in protest against the TDP's attempts to secure the vice-chairman post, YSRCP leaders called for a 'Chalo Tuni' protest to be held on Tuesday. YSRCP leader Dadishetti Raja accused TDP leaders of threatening their councillors and claimed that TDP activists attempted to attack him when he visited the municipal office. Dadishetti Raja further alleged that Tuni Rural CI Chenna Keshava Rao had threatened YSRCP councillors who attended the election session. Former minister Kurasala Kannababu condemned the TDP's efforts to win the vice-chairman election through undemocratic means.

Ex-MP gets bail

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

YSRCP leader and former MP Nandigam Suresh surrendered before the Principal Junior Civil Judge in Sattenapalli on Tuesday in connection with a criminal case. The court later granted him bail. In February 2020, a woman named Mandava Mahalakshmi lodged a complaint with the Amaravati police, alleging that Suresh had misbehaved with her. Following this, the police registered a case against him. Suresh appeared before the court on Tuesday in connection with the case. However, the court granted him bail.

Impregnated schoolgirl dies during childbirth

PNS ■ CHITTOOR

A tragic incident has occurred in Chittoor, where a 16-year-old girl died during childbirth. The girl, a Class 10 student from Palamaner, was impregnated by an unidentified person. Sources say that her parents, who work as agricultural labourers, kept the pregnancy hidden due to fear of social stigma. When she went into labour on Saturday night, they took her to the government hospital in Bangarupalyam village. Doctors at the Bangarupalyam hospital reported that the girl was brought unconscious. Due to her critical condition, they referred her to the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Chittoor for specialised treatment. She was admitted to the GGH on Sunday and she gave birth to a baby girl. Sadly, she passed away shortly after delivery, doctors confirmed. The police have registered a case and begun investigations to identify the person responsible for the girl's pregnancy. It is currently unknown who impregnated her.

Lokesh takes holy dip with family

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Amidst the grandeur of the Kumbh Mela, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, along with his spouse, took a holy dip at the sacred Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj on Monday. The couple performed traditional rituals at the Shahi Snan Ghat, offering prayers to 'Ganga Devi' and seeking blessings for the salvation of their ancestors. The Kumbh Mela, revered as the world's largest spiritual congregation, resonated with Vedic chants and the rhythmic echoes of devotional hymns as thousands of pilgrims immersed themselves in the sanctity of the event. Lokesh and his family, deeply engaged in the rituals, also performed 'pinda daan' and donated clothes to Brahmins as part of ancestral offerings, underscoring the festival's essence of devotion and charity. The spiritual immersion of the Lokesh family reflects the enduring faith that binds millions to this centuries-old tradition. The belief that a dip in the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati washes away sins and paves the way for 'moksha' continues to draw devotees from across the country. Following the holy rituals at the Kumbh, the Lokesh couple proceeded to Varanasi to offer prayers at the revered Kashi Vishwanath temple, further deepening their spiritual journey.



BJP tops income list with Rs 4,340.47 cr: ADR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP reported the highest income among national parties in the financial year 2023-24, declaring total earnings of Rs 4,340.47 crore, according to poll rights body ADR. The amount accounted for 74.57 per cent of the total income of six national parties during the period under review, the report by Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said. "The BJP declared a total income of Rs 4,340.473 crore during FY 2023-24 but spent only 50.96 per cent of it, amounting to Rs 2,211.69 crore. The total income of Congress was Rs 1,225.12 crore, while its expenditure for the year was Rs 1,025.25 crore or 83.69 per cent of its total income," the report said. A large portion of the income for national parties came from donations through electoral bonds. While the BJP received the highest amount, securing Rs 1,685.63 crore, the Congress received Rs 828.36 crore, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rs 10.15 crore. Collectively, these three parties raised Rs 2,524.1361 crore - 58.36 per cent of their total income -- through the electoral bond scheme, which the Supreme Court struck down as "unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary" in May last year. As per the data shared by the State Bank of India in response to an RTI application filed by the ADR, Rs 4,507.56 crore worth of electoral bonds were redeemed by various political parties in the 2023-24 fiscal. The national parties accounted for 55.99 per cent -- Rs 2,524.1361 crore -- of this amount. The report said the maximum expenditure by the Congress was made towards election-related expenses, amounting to Rs 619.67 crore, followed by Rs 340.702 crore spent on administrative and general expenses.

In comparison, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) spent Rs 56.29 crore on administrative and general expenses and Rs 47.57 crore on employee costs. Among the national parties, six declared receiving a total of Rs 2,669.87 crore from donations and contributions. The report also noted that out of these six parties, only Congress (Rs 58.56 crore) and CPI(M) (Rs 11.32 crore) declared receiving a total income of Rs 69.88 crore from the sale of coupons. The audit reports of CPI(M), Congress and BJP were submitted with delays ranging from 12 to 66 days. The most common expenditure among national parties was on elections and administrative expenses, the report said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Heart-wrenching

The New Delhi Railway Station stampede exposes administrative lapses and highlights the need for better crowd control

It is as heart-wrenching as it is unfortunate. The stampede at New Delhi Railway station has shocked the capital. At least 18 people, including five children, lost their lives, and over a dozen sustained injuries in a horrific stampede at the Station on Saturday night. The tragedy unfolded on the foot-overbridges connecting platforms 14 and 15, as a sudden surge of passengers waiting to board trains for Prayagraj resulted in a deadly crush. The incident raises critical questions about mismanagement, infrastructural inadequacies and lapses in crowd control that led to the catastrophe. The primary trigger of the incident appears to be a confluence of factors, including excessive passenger load, misleading announcements and poor crowd management. The surge of pilgrims traveling to Prayagraj for the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela significantly increased the footfall at the station. Reports indicate that around 1,500 general tickets were being sold every hour. Sources suggest that a wrong announcement regarding a change of platforms may have led to confusion among passengers.



In the ensuing rush, some individuals slipped while descending the foot-overbridge stairs, triggering widespread panic. Besides, extended waiting periods for departing trains may have resulted in a bottleneck effect. While overcrowding was an expected challenge, poor planning and mismanagement turned it into a disaster. Given the predictable surge of passengers, railway authorities failed to deploy adequate personnel to regulate the movement of people. Despite previous incidents highlighting the risks of overcrowding, no significant upgrades had been made to ensure smoother pedestrian movement. Moreover, the response from railway officials and security personnel was reportedly delayed. A more robust system to alert and manage surging crowds could have prevented the incident from escalating into a full-fledged disaster. Could this have been prevented? Surely. Deployment of additional railway police and personnel during peak travel periods could have averted the disaster. Besides, real-time monitoring of passenger density using surveillance cameras and AI-based crowd control systems could have definitely helped in such situations. This stampede must jolt the authorities from their deep slumber as this is not for the first time such a tragedy has happened. Expansion and widening of foot-overbridges to accommodate high passenger traffic must be done on priority. Clear and accurate digital signage to minimise confusion is also very important. Besides, there must be a system to cap the number of the general tickets issued per hour, especially during mega events. While accountability is being fixed, the focus must remain on implementing long-term solutions to prevent such tragedies in the future. The railway authorities must ensure that infrastructure, security and operational protocols are robust enough to handle high footfall scenarios safely.

Moreover, the response from railway officials and security personnel was reportedly delayed. A more robust system to alert and manage surging crowds could have prevented the incident from escalating into a full-fledged disaster. Could this have been prevented? Surely. Deployment of additional railway police and personnel during peak travel periods could have averted the disaster. Besides, real-time monitoring of passenger density using surveillance cameras and AI-based crowd control systems could have definitely helped in such situations. This stampede must jolt the authorities from their deep slumber as this is not for the first time such a tragedy has happened. Expansion and widening of foot-overbridges to accommodate high passenger traffic must be done on priority. Clear and accurate digital signage to minimise confusion is also very important. Besides, there must be a system to cap the number of the general tickets issued per hour, especially during mega events. While accountability is being fixed, the focus must remain on implementing long-term solutions to prevent such tragedies in the future. The railway authorities must ensure that infrastructure, security and operational protocols are robust enough to handle high footfall scenarios safely.

PICTALK



A flock of ibis flying over a paddy field, in Nagaon

Delhi High Court reinstates fraud claims against Reliance

The Delhi High Court quashes an international arbitration award that had dismissed government claims of 'insidious fraud' and 'unjust enrichment' against Reliance Industries



PRASHANT TEWARI

The resounding victory of the Central Government's legal team, led by the Attorney General of India A.R. Venkatramani reinforced by the active participation of the eminent jurist and the former Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal, under the astute administrative guidance of Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, in the Delhi High Court verdict against Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), has decisively dismantled allegations of favouritism levelled against the Modi government. This landmark ruling categorically refutes opposition claims that the government promotes select business houses, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, fairness, and the rule of law in corporate governance and policy-making. In a landmark judgment dated February 14, 2025, the Delhi High Court delivered a decisive verdict in the case of Union of India vs. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), addressing long-standing allegations of crony capitalism and favouritism towards major industrialists by the current government. This 79-page judgment not only exonerates the government from accusations of bias but also underscores the integrity of India's judicial system and the competence of its political and legal leadership. Background of the Case The dispute centres around the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) executed between the Union of India and Reliance Industries Ltd. in 2000, about the exploration and extraction of natural gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas alleged that RIL had engaged in "unjust enrichment" by extracting and selling gas that had purportedly migrated from fields operated by the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to RIL's adjacent block. The government sought compensation, contending that RIL's actions resulted in significant financial losses to the state exchequer. Details of Judgement The Delhi High Court's single judge judgment in Union of India vs. Reliance Industries Ltd. examined the allegations of unjust enrichment, contractual breaches, and fraud against RIL, ultimately dismissing them due to a lack of concrete evidence. The court upheld the findings of the international arbitration tribunal, reaffirming that RIL operated within the bounds of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and could not be held liable for natural gas migration beyond its control. However, the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court has quashed an arbitral award that had dismissed the Central Government's claims against Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its foreign partners. The government had accused the conglomerate of "insidious fraud" and "unjust enrichment" amounting to over \$1.729 billion by allegedly extracting natural gas from deposits beyond its entitlement. The Bench, comprising Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee, overturned the ruling of a single judge, who had, in May 2022, set aside the Petroleum Ministry's allegations. The court determined that the international arbitration award dated July 24, 2018, which had favoured the RIL-led consortium, was "contrary to public policy" in India. This decision marks a significant legal setback for RIL, as it reinstates the govern-



ment's claims concerning unauthorized gas extraction. The ruling also strengthens the government's position in regulatory disputes within the oil and gas sector. With the arbitral award nullified, the matter may now proceed further in Indian courts, potentially leading to fresh legal battles over financial liabilities and resource allocation in the country's hydrocarbon sector. Beyond the legal nuances, the judgment serves as a crucial precedent for future contracts, emphasizing the importance of precision in drafting and adherence to arbitration mechanisms for dispute resolution. It underscores the independence of the judiciary in adjudicating disputes involving powerful corporate entities and government bodies, dispelling claims of crony capitalism. The case also highlights the competence of the central government's legal representation, particularly the diligence of Attorney General A.R. Venkatramani and Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in defending the government's stance. It further reflects the abysmally woeful performance of the RIL legal team in defending the case. Furthermore, the ruling reassures investors about India's commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that legal processes remain transparent and evidence-driven. By challenging the political narrative of undue favouritism towards industrialists, the judgment reinforces the integrity of India's governance, corporate regulations, and media responsibility in shaping public discourse. Conclusion The Delhi High Court's latest judgment in Union of India vs. Reliance Industries Ltd. is a testament to the robustness of India's legal system and its capacity to adjudicate high-stakes disputes impartially. It dispels allegations of governmental bias towards prominent industrialists, affirming that decisions are grounded in evidence and legal merit. The ruling also underscores the importance of adhering to contractual obligations and the role of arbitration in resolving intricate commercial conflicts. As India continues to navigate its path towards economic growth, this judgment reinforces the principles of fairness, transparency, and the rule of law as cornerstones of its democratic ethos. (The writer is a prominent columnist and Public Policy Expert; the views expressed are personal)



THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS ALLEGED THAT RIL HAD ENGAGED IN 'UNJUST ENRICHMENT' BY EXTRACTING AND SELLING GAS THAT HAD PURPORTEDLY MIGRATED FROM FIELDS OPERATED BY THE STATE-OWNED OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (ONGC) TO RIL'S ADJACENT BLOCK

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US CRITICISES EUROPEAN LEADERS

Madam — At the 61st Munich Security Conference, American Vice President JD Vance left no stone unturned in reprimanding and threatening the European leaders. He has launched a monstrous attack on Europe, in which he has accused its leaders of failing to give free speech, restricting illegal migration, and living in fear of religious ideology. He has put the biggest threat to Europe's security on the European countries themselves. Along with this, he also said that the European countries do not pay the full price for their security. America will no longer provide security to Europe with closed eyes. This simply means that Donald Trump has indicated that if the NATO organisation has to be run, then it will have to be run on Trump's terms, or else America will leave that organisation. America has also indicated that it wants to see Russia back in the G-7 countries' organisation. The White House has already announced that it will impose additional tariffs on goods imported from countries around the world. Now the rest of the world, especially the European Union, will have to decide without any delay how they will learn to live without America. Before America leaves NATO, the campaign to expel it will have to be intensified. Also, every possible help will have to be given to Ukraine to save it from the clutches of Russian terrorism. Because Trump is completely determined to hand over the reins of Ukraine to the Kremlin. **Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur**

HOPES HIGH FOR TROPHY

Madam — This refers to your caption in Sunday Pioneer, "Rohit, Kohli lead Team India for Champions Trophy". Indeed, it was a brilliant century from skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli against Bangladesh in the ICC Champions Trophy opener while I occupied the studio box as a special guest from which I was witnessing the

Stampede at New Delhi Railway Station



The stampede incident at New Delhi Railway Station claimed 15 innocent lives, but it also serves as a warning that the time for change has arrived. Chaos, lack of crowd control and failure of security measures led to this tragedy. It is now essential that we learn from this incident and take steps to prevent such occurrences in the future. This disaster has made it clear that the railway must adopt modern strategies for crowd management and passenger safety. The railway administration should anticipate potential crowds during major events and pilgrimages and make appropriate arrangements in advance. By utilising new technologies, entry and exit points should be better organised to ensure smooth passenger movement. The government has expressed condolences over the incident, and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has ordered a high-level inquiry. However, beyond this, we must take proactive steps with a positive mindset to prioritise passenger safety. By improving traffic management, deploying adequate police forces and making the information system more effective, we can prevent such incidents. **R K Jain | Barwani**

match. The entire box was surrounded by the players' family, and I can see all the cheers in Anushka Sharma and Rohit's wife. The recent rule of restrictions has not permitted the player's family to join them for this tour. When my opinion about Rohit and Virat has been changing while watching them play, there came a strong pat behind my back, which brought me to reality. Oh, it all happened in my dreams that I woke up to my wife's call and went for a quick shower and to get ready to start at my office. Hitman and Kohli thus became the dream object in fans lives, and I am also one among those impacted much by their failures. One hopes that both will come good in the upcoming Champions Trophy. **A P Thiruvadi | Chennai**

MSMES MUST REINVENT TO SHINE

Madam — The US's push for reciprocal tariffs, framed as a 'fair trade' corrective, has sent shockwaves through global markets-but for India's MSMEs

industry, this moment could be less about survival and more about reinvention. Critics argue that this move will spark a trade war, hobbling economic growth and benefiting no one. However, for India's MSME sector, this moment could be a catalyst for transformation. By upgrading to world-class standards at affordable costs, Indian MSMEs can tap into vast export markets and become more competitive, resilient and export-ready. This would require a multi-pronged approach, involving government incentives, technology transfers, and skill development programmes. By doing so, India can turn a potential trade threat into a transformative opportunity, ultimately boosting its economic growth and global trade prospects and proving that even in the midst of tariff wars, MSMEs can shine as stars of innovation and growth. **Shruti Saggur | Pune**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

India advances carbon market reforms following COP 29

India, already a leader in renewable energy, reinforced its commitment to climate action by proposing a unified carbon market

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 24, 2024. While key expectations regarding climate finance remained unmet, significant progress was achieved in carbon market regulations. A landmark agreement on carbon trading rules was reached, aiming to accelerate climate action by enabling countries to meet their emission reduction goals efficiently and cost-effectively. Under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the country initially aimed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity by 33-35% from 2005 levels by 2030, later revising this target to 45% in 2022. India has launched multiple initiatives to combat climate change. On the supply side, renewable energy generation helps mitigate carbon footprints, while demand-side initiatives like Perform-Achieve-Trade (PAT), star labeling, energy conservation building codes, and improved lighting solu-



tions further reinforce India's climate commitments. Existing frameworks, including Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs), serve as a foundation. These were introduced under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 and have been successfully traded on Indian power exchanges. RECs drive renewable energy adoption by allowing obligated entities to purchase either renewable energy or its certificates. One REC equates to 1 MWh of renewable energy generated from sources like solar, wind, hydro, and biogas. This system benefits both electricity generators and buyers, ensuring environmental compliance. Similarly, ESCerts promote energy efficiency by enabling designated energy-intensive

industries to either enhance energy savings or buy corresponding certificates. One ESCert represents a reduction of 1 million tonnes of oil equivalent energy. Currently, 13 key industrial sectors, including aluminum, cement, power distribution, and railways, participate in this program, covering nearly 50% of India's primary energy consumption. Since their inception, RECs and ESCerts have driven significant emissions reductions, saving over 73 million tonnes of CO2 through REC trading and preventing 106 million tonnes of CO2 emissions via ESCerts. Recognizing the need for a unified carbon market, India proposed a comprehensive system merging RECs and ESCerts into a single, internationally aligned framework. The regulatory foundation was set with the amendment of the Energy Conservation Act in January 2023, followed by the notification of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023. The scheme designates the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission as the market regulator and power exchanges as trading plat-

forms, while the Bureau of Energy Efficiency oversees compliance mechanisms. India's carbon market will consist of two segments: a compliance market and an offset market. The compliance market will impose emission caps on obligated entities, allowing overachievers to sell surplus carbon credits to underachievers. The offset market will enable voluntary participation by non-obligated entities aiming to reduce their carbon footprints. Carbon credit certificates will be traded through a regulated bidding process. The transition from existing REC and ESCert markets to a unified carbon trading system is expected to be seamless, given India's well-established power exchanges and transaction mechanisms. With this development, India moves closer to integrating its climate action efforts into global carbon markets, reinforcing its commitment to reducing emissions and achieving long-term sustainability goals. (The writer works with Indian Institute of Management, Sirmaur; views are personal)



ATUL AGRAWAL





FIRST COLUMN

RAISING GEN ALPHA AND GEN BETA

To ensure their well-being, parents must strike a balance between traditional values and modern approaches



SHAINY SHARMA

The 21st century has introduced new challenges and opportunities in parenting. As we raise Generation Alpha (born 2012-2024) and Generation Beta (born 2025-2039), it is crucial to adapt parenting strategies to their digital upbringing, rapid technological advancements and changing societal norms. Ensuring these children grow up healthy, happy, and disciplined requires a balance of traditional values and modern approaches. There is no denying that, unlike previous generations, Generation Alpha and Generation Beta are growing up with easy access to technology, which affects their lifestyle habits.

It is of utmost importance that parents/guardians take proactive steps to ensure their children's well-being such as providing balanced nutrition such as a diet rich in proteins, vitamins, and fibres while limiting processed foods and sugary snacks; reducing screen time and promoting physical activities such as cycling, swimming, and team sports to improve fitness and social skills; setting screen-free bedtime routines to ensure quality sleep, which is crucial for the cognitive and emotional development and encouraging children to spend time offline by engaging in hands-on activities like painting, gardening and DIY projects.

Not only these, but in an era of social media influence and fast-paced lifestyles, parents/guardians need to support their children by creating a strong emotional connection; encouraging resilience and a growth mindset; guiding them in reducing digital overload, and engaging them in mindful activities such as yoga, meditation, journaling, or simple relaxation exercises to help them cope with stress. Above all, what matters the most is the art of discipline. With instant gratification becoming a norm in the digital age,



parents/guardians must realise that these generations will grow up in an AI-driven world, requiring skills beyond academics. Parents/Guardians can help prepare them by encouraging critical thinking and creativity and providing problem-solving challenges, STEM activities, and artistic outlets along with proper guidance on responsible internet usage, cybersecurity, and online ethics followed by developing social skills in a hybrid world. Raising healthy, happy, and disciplined Gen Alpha and Gen Beta children requires a thoughtful blend of love, guidance, and adaptability.

Parents/Guardians must embrace new-age parenting by integrating digital awareness with traditional values while fostering emotional resilience and self-discipline. By prioritising wellbeing, education and strong moral foundations, one can ensure these generations grow into responsible, fulfilled, and future-ready individuals.

Also, by providing proper nutrition, encouraging physical and mental well-being, fostering social skills, and setting positive examples, parents/guardians can create an environment where children thrive for it is aptly said that a happy and healthy child is not just the result of luck but of consistent efforts, care, and understanding from those who nurture them. By promoting healthy habits, setting strong moral foundations, and nurturing adaptability, parents can equip their children for a fast-evolving world. Ultimately, a happy and well-rounded child is shaped not by chance, but by consistent love, guidance, and understanding.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Unlocking nature's secrets: A journey through India's forests

Nature is an open book, rich with stories waiting to be uncovered. There are intricate connections between land, life, and time, write BKP Sinha & Arvind Jha

Nature, in its boundless complexity, holds countless wonders and mysteries. A walk through the forest offers a unique opportunity to engage deeply with the natural world, observing its intricate details and uncovering its hidden stories. Every tree, rock, and animal track contributes to the landscape's rich history, revealing the dynamic processes that have shaped it over time. The towering trees, with their rings cataloguing centuries of climatic shifts and environmental changes, stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time. A noticeable absence of middle-aged trees, for example, often points to a past forest fire. These fires, while natural and sometimes devastating, selectively eliminate younger trees while leaving behind older, more resilient ones. India, with its diverse ecosystems ranging from coastal regions to mountain valleys, offers a unique opportunity to observe the intricate relationships between flora, fauna, and their environment. Even the soil beneath our feet, a mosaic of organic matter, testifies to the endless cycle of life and decay that sustains the ecosystem. The contours of the land, the steepness of slopes, the presence of valleys and ridges – these are not mere accidents of geography. They are the fingerprints of geological forces, millennia in the making. The Himalayas, Western Ghats, and Vindhya ranges are iconic examples of such geological artistry, showcasing the dynamic processes that have shaped the nation's landscape and influenced its biodiversity. The forest is a timeless classroom, where nature's lessons unfold with every step. But to truly unlock these secrets, requires more than a casual glance; it demands a mindful approach and willingness to slow down and truly engage with our surroundings. As you walk through the forest, you'll notice the forest floor is covered with a thick layer of leaves, twigs, and decomposing organic matter.

This layer, known as the leaf litter, plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling and provides a habitat for many small creatures. The type and distribution of vegetation provide insights into the region's climate, soil conditions, and water availability. Lush rainforests, like those in the Western Ghats and Northeast India, thrive in areas with abundant rainfall. These verdant ecosystems boast a rich variety of plant species, from towering trees to intricate understory plants, each adapted to thrive in the humid, water-rich environment. This dense vegetation supports a wide range of wildlife, contributing to the region's biodiversity and ecological stability.

In contrast, the arid deserts of Rajasthan present a landscape where life has remarkably adapted to survive with minimal water. Vegetation here is sparse, but highly specialized, with species like cacti, acacias, and thorny bushes dominating the terrain. These species are equipped with unique adaptations, such as water-storing tissues and deep root systems, allowing them to conserve and access water efficiently and ensuring their survival in such harsh conditions.

The intimate relationship between plants and their environment becomes even more evident when observing specific species in particular areas. For instance, in floodplains, trees such as sycamore, Gular, and ash Gurjan thrive in fertile, wet conditions where water and nutrients



accumulate. On the other hand, the hardy Casuarina is well-suited to coastal environments, where the salty conditions pose a challenge for many other species, including Karanj (Pongamia). Similarly, along riverbanks, trees like Jamun and Arjun flourish in the constantly wet conditions, highlighting how plant life reflects the local ecosystem. Just as plant life reflects environmental conditions, rock formations provide a window into the geological history and processes that have shaped the land. Sedimentary rocks, often rich in marine fossils such as shells, corals, and fish, indicate that the region was once submerged underwater.

These rocks may also display ripple marks or mud cracks, further supporting the presence of ancient water bodies. For example, the fossil-rich Shivalik Hills provide a glimpse into prehistoric times, showcasing the variety of life forms that once thrived in the area. The types of sediment and their layering can also offer insights into past climate conditions, such as periods of drought or heavy rainfall. For instance, fine-grained sediments suggest calm, shallow waters, while coarser sediments point to more turbulent conditions.

Igneous rocks, formed from cooled magma, reveal the area's volcanic history, while metamorphic rocks provide evidence of the intense transformations that occur deep within the Earth. Understanding the geology beneath the surface, which shapes the land, is equally important, and soil reveals much about this. For example, limestone regions, where rock weathering creates caves and stone pillars, typically have alkaline soils high in calcium. Conversely, granite-dominated areas, where rock breakdown leads to acidic soils, often develop wetlands due to poor drainage.

Soil colour offers further clues: Dark brown soil, rich in organic matter, supports diverse ecosystems; grey soil suggests wetter conditions; yellowish soil may indicate nutrient depletion. Dramatic shifts in soil colour often point to human influence. For example, in Karnataka and

Odisha, vibrant red and ochre hues reflect historical iron ore mining. In Rajasthan and Gujarat, white caps on the soil signal high salt levels from over-irrigation. Physical signs in the landscape—such as fissures or cracks in the soil—can indicate instability, caused by factors like erosion, seismic activity, or human intervention.

In hilly regions like the Western Ghats or Himalayas, slipping or bending tree bark may signal shifting ground, a clear indicator of potential soil movement. Recognizing these signs is crucial for the safety of campers and hikers. Water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and wetlands, are vital components of India's ecosystems and are deeply intertwined with the land's geology. Major rivers such as Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Godavari are true lifelines for the nation.

The Ganges River, revered as sacred, flows over 2,500 kilometres across northern India, supporting numerous aquatic and terrestrial species. Its waters irrigate fields that feed millions, and it is a critical source of drinking water for countless communities. Similarly, the Brahmaputra River, originating from the Tibetan Himalayas, meanders through Northeast India, sustaining rich floodplain ecosystems and supplying water for agriculture and hydropower.

The Godavari, often called the "Dakshin Ganga," flows through central India, nourishing one of the largest river basins in the country and supporting diverse habitats. India's wetlands, such as the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, span the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta and are a haven for Bengal tigers, crocodiles, birds, and other wildlife, while its mangroves protect the coastline from storms and floods. As we explore these natural habitats, subtle signs like paw prints, droppings, and other traces offer glimpses into animals' presence and activities.

Each animal leaves a distinct signature reflecting its unique anatomy and behaviour. For example, cats,

with their stealthy grace, leave tracks showcasing the soft pads of their paws, devoid of sharp imprints of their retractable claws, hinting at their elusive nature.

Rabbits, in contrast, leave bounding tracks with hind legs landing ahead of their forelegs, showcasing their hurried movements and vulnerability. Understanding these signs provides deeper insights into wildlife behaviour and habitat preferences. Like us, animals are drawn to places that offer the essentials of life: food, water, and shelter. A patch of trees followed by an open field and a water source, such as a lake or pond, indicates a popular spot for wildlife. However, animals in these areas are often cautious and aware of their surroundings.

They possess an innate ability to detect and avoid human presence long before we notice them, typically only breaking cover to make a quick escape. Birds, in particular, use vocalizations to mark territory and alert others to predators.

For instance, the sudden flight of pigeons on a quiet woodland path can trigger a group warning system, notifying nearby animals—deer, rabbits, and foxes—of a potential threat. Similarly, a chorus of noisy bird calls may indicate a coordinated defence against a predator, such as a crow mobbing an owl. Birds also emit sharp alarm calls, like the high-pitched "seet," specifically designed to warn others of a bird of prey overhead. It is in paying close attention to these subtle cues that we begin to truly understand the richness of the natural world. The next time we find ourselves amidst the whispers of the woods, let us listen closely.

The forest invites us to unlock its wisdom, learn from its resilience, and contribute to its legacy. By embracing the profound lessons found within the diverse elements of the forest, we not only enrich our own lives but also ensure that this invaluable library remains open for generations to come.

(The writers are former principal chief conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views are their own)



THE GANGES RIVER, REVERED AS SACRED, FLOWS OVER 2,500 KILOMETRES ACROSS NORTHERN INDIA, SUPPORTING NUMEROUS AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL SPECIES. ITS WATERS IRRIGATE FIELDS THAT FEED MILLIONS,

The rise of religious realty: How India's infrastructure push is transforming spiritual tourism

This emerging sector is transforming pilgrimage sites with upscale hospitality and commercial developments, meeting the needs of faith-driven travelers

The Indian economy has witnessed a significant push towards infrastructure, real estate and tourism, especially spiritual tourism especially in the 2025-26 Union Budget. The government's focus on urban redevelopment, affordable housing, and tourism-friendly policies has positioned India as a global hotspot for real estate and hospitality investments. Among the most prominent emerging trends is the rise of religious realty—an intersection of real estate, hospitality, and spiritual tourism, where projects are developed to cater to the growing number of pilgrims and faith-driven travellers.

With disposable incomes on the rise due to tax relief measures—such as no income tax



MAYANK JAISWAL

up to Rs 12 lakh under the new tax regime—India's middle class is set to invest more in homeownership and travel. Additionally, the introduction of the Rs 15,000 crore SWAMIH Fund 2 for affordable and mid-income housing will fast-track stalled projects, ensuring homebuyers see the fruition of their investments. Simultaneously, India's hospitality sector is poised for an

exponential rise, with 50 top-tier tourist destinations being developed with state partnerships, reinforcing the nation's status as a must-visit destination for both spiritual and leisure travellers.

The Rise of Religious Realty: A New Era in Development India's spiritual destinations have long been major attractions for domestic and international tourists. However, what was once a fragmented market with limited infrastructure is now being transformed into a sophisticated segment within the hospitality and real estate industries. The religious tourism boom has led to a surge in demand for premium hotels, commercial complexes, and mixed-use developments that cater to both pilgrims and high-end

travellers. The Solitaire Group has been at the forefront of this evolution. Recognising the immense potential in religious realty, it has strategically invested in prime pilgrimage destinations such as Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Haridwar.

Its flagship development in Ayodhya—a luxury Taj hotel in partnership with the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL)—exemplifies its commitment to redefining spiritual tourism. The 300-key Taj Ayodhya, spanning 7.2 acres, will feature high-end villas, luxury accommodations, wellness facilities, and state-of-the-art banqueting spaces to cater to both pilgrims and travellers seeking opulent experiences.

Unlocking the Potential of Tier II and III Cities



The narrative of real estate growth in India is no longer limited to metro cities. Government-backed infrastructure projects, improved regional connectivity under the modified UDAN scheme, and growing investor interest are propelling the development of Tier II and III cities. Cities with religious and cultural significance are seeing an influx of premium residential and commercial projects, as

demand for quality real estate soars. The Solitaire Group has been a pioneer in this domain. Its developments in Prayagraj, including the city's first and largest township, are a testament to its vision of creating world-class urban spaces beyond metro hubs.

Through strategic land acquisitions and partnerships, the Group aims to bridge the infrastructure gap in smaller cities and deliver projects that enhance both living standards and economic prosperity.

Hospitality Meets Spiritual Tourism India's push for religious and spiritual tourism has been backed by key government initiatives, including hotels in pilgrimage hubs being added to the Infrastructure Harmonised Master List (HML), ensuring

easier access to low-cost financing, streamlined e-visa services and visa fee waivers for select international tourists to encourage global arrivals, and MUDRA loans for home-stays to support budget travel and rural tourism.

This structured approach to hospitality growth has enabled developers like the Solitaire Group to envision and execute projects that cater to a diverse range of travellers. The focus remains on integrating world-class amenities into heritage-rich locations while maintaining the cultural and spiritual essence of these sites.

Building a Legacy of Excellence Since its inception in 2005, the Solitaire Group has established itself as a leading player in real estate and hospitali-

ty. From residential developments in emerging urban centres to luxury hotels in religious destinations, its portfolio reflects its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and excellence.

With the Indian government's ambitious push for infrastructure, tourism, and real estate reforms, the opportunities in religious realty are boundless. Indian leading players would continue this transformative journey, crafting spaces that offer both spiritual fulfilment and contemporary luxury. The focus be on delivering exceptional living experiences and fostering economic growth in the communities that are being served.

(The author is the founder and CEO of Solitaire Group. Views expressed are personal)

Producer's veiled criticism of Telugu actresses: Is Baby actress the target?

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On Sunday night, the team of the Tamil film *Dragon* visited Hyderabad for the release of the Telugu version, titled *Return of the Dragon*. Pradeep Ranganathan stars as the lead actor, with Anupama Parameswaran and Kayadu Lohar playing the female leads. Ashwath Marimuthu directs the film. Telugu producer SKN attended the promotional event as one of the chief guests and his controversial comments about Telugu actresses have since gone viral. It seems that the producer's remarks were directed at *Baby* actress Vaishnavi Chaitanya, who worked with SKN in that film. While the producer did not name anyone specifically, Vaishnavi Chaitanya is the latest Telugu actress to have worked with him.

Anupama Parameswaran was absent from the event, while another female actress, Kayadu Lohar, was present. During his speech, SKN said that after the release of *Baby*, they received compliments from Pradeep Ranganathan and Ashwath Marimuthu. "We love non-Telugu-speaking girls so much more than Telugu girls. We realised what happens when we encourage Telugu girls in our films, so my director Sai Rajesh and I decided to encourage non-Telugu girls only," said SKN. He further added that Sai Rajesh had delivered a cult film and helped him become a cult producer.

It appears that the producer's remarks were indirectly aimed at Vaishnavi Chaitanya, especially since he referred to a "cult film," which likely refers to *Baby*. The reasons behind SKN's comments remain unclear, but some speculate it may relate

to the fact that after the success of *Baby*, Sai Rajesh and SKN had announced another project with the same pair—Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya. However, that film never materialised and the same pair is now working with another production house, Sithara Entertainments, on a new project. It's possible that this situation led to SKN's comments, as Vaishnavi may not have provided the necessary dates for his film.

The exact reasons remain unknown, but SKN's controversial statements about Telugu actresses have sparked a wide debate. Interestingly, SKN's other film *Taxiwala*, featuring Vijay Deverakonda, also starred a Telugu actress, Priyanka Jawalkar. *Return of the Dragon* is set to release on February 21.



WE LOVE NON-TELEGU-SPEAKING GIRLS SO MUCH MORE THAN TELUGU GIRLS. WE REALIZED WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ENCOURAGE TELUGU GIRLS IN OUR FILMS, SO MY DIRECTOR SAI RAJESH AND I DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE NON-TELEGU GIRLS ONLY



Thandel earns ₹100 crore: True or hype? Industry weighs in

The Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi starrer *Thandel* was released on February 7. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, the film is produced by Bunny Vas of Geetha Arts and presented by top producer Allu Aravind. The makers released a poster claiming that *Thandel* grossed Rs 100 crore, marking the first time an actor from the Akkineni family has entered the Rs 100 crore club. "We promised, we did it," said Bunny Vas on his social media, sharing the poster celebrating the film's Rs 100 crore milestone. However, this has sparked a heated debate within the industry and trade circles. While *Thandel* is considered a decent hit with good collections in the first three days, its earnings took a significant dip from the fourth day onward, although it is still holding well at the box office. Before the film's release, Bunny Vas promised to deliver Naga Chaitanya's first Rs 100 crore film. As promised, he announced that the film had grossed this amount on Sunday, but some trade analysts argue that the collections being reported

are inflated. The film has been a major disappointment overseas, yet the makers have claimed it has collected worldwide. "By reporting these inflated figures, the producers are inviting unnecessary risk. These statements posted from the official handles of the producer could attract the attention of IT officials," said another producer, who wished to remain anonymous. The film didn't receive rave reviews, with the general consensus being that the talk was average. Some critics felt that the second half of the film dragged on, particularly in the emotional scenes set in the Pakistan jail, where the director failed to deliver the expected emotional depth. The director himself admitted in a latest interview that due to censor issues, he had to remove several scenes, which resulted in less emotional impact. It has become a common practice for filmmakers to add extra crores to the reported collections to create hype around the film and impress the lead actors, said one producer. The announcement of Rs 100 crore collections on the tenth day is seen by trade analysts as premature, further fueling the debate. Sai Pallavi, who is a huge star with a massive fan base in the Telugu states, also contributed to the film's audience, as many fans watched *Thandel* for her.

Ram Charan undergoes look test for Sukumar's next



Ram Charan is currently shooting for his film with director Buchi Babu Sana, having already completed two schedules. Janhvi Kapoor is the female lead in this film. After completing this project, Ram Charan will once again collaborate with top director Sukumar. The film was officially launched some time ago. According to a source, Ram Charan is now undergoing a look test for Sukumar's film.

"Though there is still some time before the new film with Sukumar begins, the director wanted some sketches of Ram Charan with a beard, so they are currently conducting the look test," said a source. Mythri Movie Makers is producing the film, which is tentatively titled *RC17*. Sukumar is planning to make this film on a large scale. "The makers are planning to release the film directly in Hollywood, so they are looking to tie up with a production house there," added the source.

Sukumar is riding high after the success of his recent blockbuster *Pushpa 2* and is now aiming for something even bigger with this Ram Charan film, according to the source. The look test is currently underway and another one will be conducted once Charan removes his beard, the source further revealed.



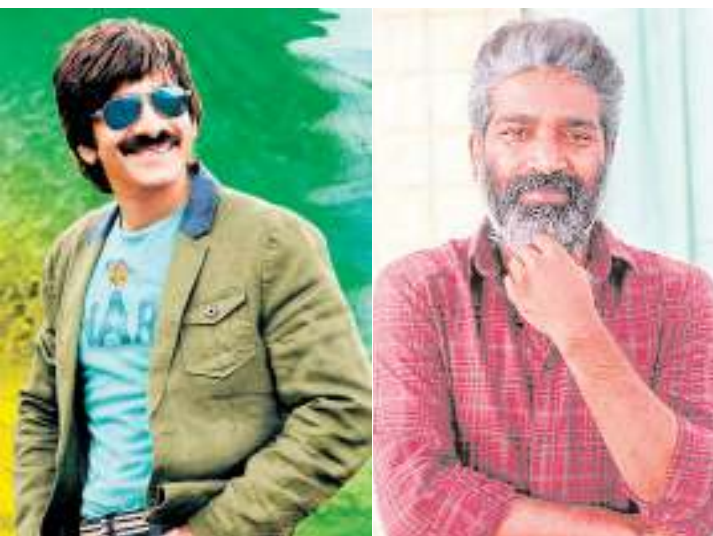
Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara introduction song features Mega Family cameos

Chiranjeevi is currently shooting for the introduction song of his film *Vishwambhara*, directed by Mallidi Vassishtha. The film's shoot is almost complete, with the exception of this introduction song, which is now being filmed in Hyderabad on a specially erected set. In an exciting development, two actors from the Mega family, Sai Dharam Tej and Niharika Konidela, will make cameo appearances in this song.

According to a source, both actors will be seen dancing alongside Chiranjeevi in the song. The lyrics of the song are reportedly centered around Rama, Lakshmana and Bharath, highlighting their bonding. At a particular moment, Sai Dharam Tej and Niharika will make their entry into the frame, as per the source.

Niharika, in a recent social media post, subtly mentioned this shooting. *Vishwambhara* is a fantasy-based film, with Mega Star Chiranjeevi playing the lead role. Bollywood actor Kunal Kapoor will appear as the antagonist.

After many years, MM Keeravani is providing the music for a Chiranjeevi film. Trisha plays the female lead and several other actresses will play key roles in the film. Rao Ramesh, the versatile and talented actor, also has an important role. The teaser of the film was released a few months ago but received a lot of criticism for its use of subpar computer graphics.



Ravi Teja teams up with director Kishore Tirumala for new film

Ravi Teja is currently busy shooting for the film *Mass Jathara*, which is directed by debutant Bhanu Bhogavarapu. The film is set to hit the screens this coming May. Following this, reports suggest that Ravi Teja has joined hands with director Kalyan Shankar of *MAD* fame. Now, according to a source, Ravi Teja is also working with director Kishore Tirumala, known for Nenu Sailaja. Kishore's last film was *Aadavallu Meeku Joharlu*, which was released in 2022. After a long break, Kishore is now collaborating with Ravi Teja for a new project.

The source also revealed that Ravi

Teja initially wanted to work on both films simultaneously, but the Kishore Tirumala film will release first. The producer for this film has not yet been finalised, but the details are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Ravi Teja is pinning his hopes on *Mass Jathara*, as he is in need of a successful break. His last four films were failures at the box office and the actor is looking for a solid hit.

He hopes that debut director Bhanu will provide him with that opportunity. Regardless of the outcome of *Mass Jathara*, Ravi Teja will continue working with directors Kishore Tirumala and Kalyan Shankar for his upcoming projects.

Bhagyashri Borse continues to shine with major film projects in her kitty



Typically, when a female actress makes her debut in a film that flops, filmmakers tend to overlook her for future projects. However, this is not the case for Bhagyashri Borse, who made her debut in *Mr Bachchan* opposite senior actor Ravi Teja. Directed by Harish Shankar, the film was a huge disaster at the box office, but Bhagyashri's performance garnered significant attention and success.

Following the film's release, Bhagyashri quickly signed several projects. She is currently starring opposite Vijay Deverakonda in a film directed by Gowtham Tinnanuri. Additionally, she has been paired with Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan in the film *Kantha*, directed by Selvamani Selvaraj, with Rana Daggubati producing.

With these exciting projects already in her portfolio, Bhagyashri has now landed another prestigious role. According to sources, she has been signed on to star opposite Tamil superstar Suriya in a film directed by Venky Atluri. Sithara Entertainments is producing the film, which will be released in multiple languages. This marks another significant project for Bhagyashri in her growing career.

The actress is also working on another Telugu film with Ram Pothineni, directed by P Mahesh Babu, known for *Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty*. The shooting is currently underway near Rajahmundry. Despite her debut film's failure, Bhagyashri is on a roll with a series of exciting and high-profile projects. It seems she has quickly become one of the most in-demand actresses in the South and it won't be long before she is considered among the top actresses in the industry.