


# sunday pioneer

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**Slum dwellers will 'liberate' Delhi by uprooting 'Aapda' govt: Shah**



**Indian economy likely to be 'A LITTLE weaker' in 2025: IMF**

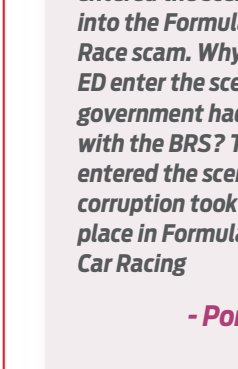


**Durgesh: A combination of PASSION and compassion**



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
The Congress Government will not arrest anyone without a probe. This is known to even Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay. Our government won't arrest without investigation in any case. The ED entered the scene after ACB's entry into the Formula E-Car Race scam. Why did the ED enter the scene if the government had colluded with the BRS? The ED entered the scene as corruption took place in Formula E-Car Racing

**-Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Revenue Minister**



**DON'T MISS...**

**CM pushes for new Osmania hospital**

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday directed officials to make arrangements for laying the foundation stone for the construction of a new building for the state-run Osmania General Hospital (OGH) in Hyderabad by the end of January. The Chief Minister, during a meeting with officials, instructed them to initiate the transfer of land for the proposed hospital site from the police department to the health department. The land is currently under ...

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**Heavy traffic chokes Hyd-Vij highway**

On the occasion of Sankranti festival, people from the city have headed towards the countryside. Due to heavy traffic on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad national highway since Friday night, there is a significant traffic jam at the Panthangi Toll Plaza in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. To manage the traffic congestion, the toll plaza staff and police are making efforts to prevent a complete traffic jam. The Panthangi Toll Plaza has a total of 18 toll booths. Due to the heavy traffic, 10 toll booths ...

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**AAP MLA dies in 'accidental firing'**

AAP leader and Ludhiana West MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi has died of a gunshot injury he sustained while cleaning his licensed pistol, his family said on Saturday. Gogi, who had a passion for vintage cars, was 58 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Joint Commissioner of Police Jaskaran Singh Teja said the bullet pierced Gogi's temple and he was rushed to the Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead. According to his family members and state party chief, Gogi was cleaning his pistol around 11.30 last night ...

-NATION

**Nation to become \$4 trillion economy soon**

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said India's energy security will fuel the country's bid to become a USD 4 trillion economy much earlier than the projected 2027. Puri was addressing a session at the 7th Mangaluru Literary Festival on Saturday. He said the International Monetary Fund has projected India to reach there by 2027. "But if the present trajectory continues, India will arrive there much before that," Puri said. The seventh edition of the festival was inaugurated by legendary Kannada writer S L Bhyrappa at the T M A Pai Auditorium. Following the ...

-MONEY

## CM calls for underground power system for Hyderabad

Directs officials to examine feasibility

JKPNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to conduct a comprehensive study on implementing an underground power cable system in Greater Hyderabad. He asked officials to examine the policies in other countries and submit a report. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of adopting a fully underground cable system within the Outer Ring Road limits of Hyderabad as it would enhance efficiency and reduce things like power theft and outages caused by natural calamities and energy losses. "We must implement the best underground cable system in the country right here in Hyderabad," he said.

Revanth also suggested exploring alternative methods to ensure that all kinds of cables, including power and communication lines, are placed underground. He directed the Excise Department to devise a robust plan to avoid power supply disruptions during next summer.

The directives were issued during a review meeting held at the Integrated Command and Control Centre on Saturday. The Chief



Minister, along with Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, also unveiled the Telangana Clean and Green Energy Policy-2025. Prominent attendees included Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Government Advisor Srinivas Raju, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Special Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Transco CMD Krishna Bhaskar,

Genco CMD Sandeep Sultania, and Singareni CMD Balaram Naik among others.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on power demand projections, highlighting a peak demand of 16,877 MW for the upcoming summer, compared to 15,623 MW last year. The CM instructed them to ensure adequate power for agri-

cultural and residential needs during peak demand periods in March.

He urged proactive measures to address Greater Hyderabad's expanding electricity needs and to implement an alternative feeder system to minimize outages.

Revanth Reddy directed officials to provide free solar electricity and solar pump sets

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Rescuers retrieving bodies of youth from Konda Pochamma Sagar reservoir in Siddipet on Saturday

## Five youth drown in Konda Pochamma reservoir

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Five youths drowned in Konda Pochamma Sagar reservoir in Siddipet district on Saturday. They hailed from Musheerabad in Hyderabad

Seven people from Hyderabad reached the reservoir on Saturday to spend some time. Five of them ventured into the reservoir and drowned. Two others were clicking photographs. The youngsters, who visited the Konda Pochamma temple in the district, reached the reservoir by taking a different route. Outsiders are not allowed entry into the reservoir, they said.

Efforts are on to recover the bod-

ies of the deceased.

The deceased were identified as Dhanush (20), Lohith (17), Dhaneshwar (17), Sahil (19), and Jatin (17). The two youths who survived are Mrugank (17) and MD Ibrahim (17).

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Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed grief over the incident and directed district officials to carry out relief works.

BRS MLA from Siddipet T Harish Rao condoled the deaths and urged the government to take measures to prevent recurrence of such tragedies.

He demanded ex-gratia of Rs 15 each to the kin of the dead.

He said that the untimely death of these young

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## TG rules out hike in beer prices, rejects UBL request

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed with Excise Department officials the liquor supply mechanisms and beer pricing in Telangana.

Stressing the need for transparency, the Chief Minister directed officials to adopt a simplified trade policy and ensure stringent standards in approving new companies for liquor supply. The CM asked officials to issue a notification inviting applications from new companies within a month.

"The selection must be transpar-

ent, focusing on brand quality standards and supply capacity," the Chief Minister emphasized.



Companies applying must submit proposals with brand names, and only those meeting the criteria will be considered.

During the meeting held on Saturday, officials informed the Chief Minister about pressure from United Beverages Company to increase beer prices by 33.1 per cent. The CM firmly stated that the government would not yield to such demands. Instead, he directed officials to study beer prices in neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra before taking a decision.

"The final decision on price hike will be taken based on the recommendations of the Price Fixation Committee, which is headed by a retired

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## Congress govt will not arrest anyone sans probe: Ponguleti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government will not arrest anyone without a probe, Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

He made it clear that the Congress government will not initiate any action against anyone vengefully.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Ponguleti said the law has been taking its own course in the Formula E-Car Racing case. People are watching every word uttered by BRS Working President KT Rama Rao who termed Ponguleti a 'Lottapeesu CM, he said and added, 'Salute to KTR's language'.

"The Congress government will not arrest anyone without

Continued on Page 2



## TGSRTC revises fares for Sankranti special buses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has revised ticket fares for special buses operated during Sankranti. The fares have been adjusted to cover diesel costs and maintenance expenses in line with GO No: 16 issued in 2003.

The TGSRTC clarified that this revision is applicable only for five days during Sankranti. Despite low passenger occupancy in return trips, the corporation ensures that empty buses are brought back and deployed on busy routes to avoid inconvenience to the public.

These buses are then deployed on routes with higher demand. The management emphasized that passengers should avoid unsafe travel in private vehicles and instead opt for the safe services of TGSRTC. It requested those travelling to hometowns for Sankranti to use TGSRTC buses.

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### TEACHERS' MLC ELECTIONS

## Congress may extend support to candidates

Candidate for Graduates MLC election yet to be finalised

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

The Congress may not field candidates in the two Teachers' MLC constituencies but may support the candidates of other teacher unions. However, Congress will seek the support of those unions in Graduates MLC elections as it is fielding its candidate in it.

Elections are being held for two Teachers' Constituencies MLCs in February. They are the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal constituency and the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak constituency.

The Congress is going to field its candidate in the Graduate

Constituency MLC election being held in Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak constituency.

The sitting MLC of this constituency is T. Jeevan Reddy of the Congress. However, the party has not finalised its candidate for the Graduate Constituency MLC election.

The Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Teachers' constituency MLC is United Teachers Forums (UTF) A. Narsi Reddy. The UTF, which is affiliated to the CPM, has announced the name of A. Narsi Reddy as its candidate in the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Teachers' Constituency.

The Progressive Recognised Teachers Union (PRTU) announced

Vanga Mahender Reddy as its candidate in the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Teachers' MLC constituency. The sitting MLC of Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Teachers' MLC constituency is K. Raghotham Reddy of the PRTU.

It is learnt that the Congress may support the UTF and PRTU candidates in the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Teachers' MLC Constituency and in the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Teachers' MLC Constituency respectively.

It is clear after the statement of TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud that the party will field a candidate in

Continued on Page 2

**OBTUSE ANGLE**



## Rs 2026 crore lost in Delhi liquor scam: CAG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nearly Rs 2,026 crore was swindled in the Delhi Excise scam as the liquor excise policy lacked transparency and thrived on illegal decision-making benefitting some favoured licensees, said a Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report whose excerpts came into the public domain on Saturday.

The document of the government's auditor that exposed the liquor scam named, "Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit on



The findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, over the AAP government's liquor police probe has come as a big setback for the ruling AAP ahead of the February 5 Assembly elections, giving fresh ammunition to the Opposition BJP and the Congress who dubbed the scam 'Liquor Gate'

Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi." All accused including ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal and BRS MLC Kavitha are out on bail in the case. The findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish

Chandra Murmu, over the AAP government's liquor police probe has come as a big setback for the ruling AAP ahead of the February 5 Assembly elections, giving fresh ammunition to

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# City Pioneer

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03



Autobiography titled 'UNIKA'

by Ch Vidyasagar Rao, former Governor of Maharashtra

Venue

Grand Ballroom, Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, January 12, 10.30 am

Sankranthi Sambaralu

Venue

The Venue Function Hall, APA Junction, Hyderabad, January 12, 10am to 10pm

## Charlapalli terminal station emerges as new hub for rail travel

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway has transformed Charlapalli Railway Station into an international-standard terminal with an investment of Rs 413 crores, making it the New Hub for Rail travel. The Zone has enhanced passenger amenities and connectivity through consistent efforts, including upgraded road and rail links.

Key Facilities at Charlapalli Station are Booking Counters are now at 6 at the North and South sides, 20 RPF Staff and 17 Ticket Checking, 6 Catering Stalls with High-speed WiFi services. Executive lounges and airport-like sleeping pods. Separate Waiting Halls For male and female passengers. Divyangjan-friendly amenities along with 2,400 sq. meters Parking.

According to SCR, Seventeen train pairs now stop at Charlapalli, while MMTS timings from Ramachandrapuram to Ghatkesar have been adjusted for evening travelers.

To support growing passenger needs, South Central Railway requested Telangana's state government to widen connecting roads near the station and create new routes. Joint inspections and discussions with officials, including GHMC, are ongoing.

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) now operates 146 bus services connecting Charlapalli with Secunderabad, Metro stations, and nearby areas.

## CM pushes for new Osmania hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday directed officials to make arrangements for laying the foundation stone for the construction of a new building for the state-run Osmania General Hospital (OGH) in Hyderabad by the end of January.

The Chief Minister, during a meeting with officials, instructed them to initiate the transfer of land for the proposed hospital site from the police department to the health department.

The land is currently under the jurisdiction of the police department.

He told the officials to take steps to construct the hospital with all modern facilities, an official release said.

He emphasised that the hospital designs should be finalised to prevent any issues arising from future road expansions or flyover constructions. The present OGH is a Nizam-era heritage building. The government has undertaken the construction of a new hospital building as the century-old structure has been deemed unsafe for patients



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at a meeting with officials on Osmania Hospital new buildings in Hyderabad on Saturday

and staff. When the issue came for discussion in the past, doctors across the state have largely supported the construction of a new building for the state-run Osmania General Hospital.

It is felt that it is important for the government to expedite the construction of the new hospital to restore the institution's legacy and bring it into the modern era. The Telangana Government

Doctors Association (TGGDA) recalled that the former chief minister's promise to build twin towers was not fulfilled. The current government's swift decision now is welcome by everyone.

## SCR to operate special trains to clear festival rush

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway (SCR) has implemented special measures to handle the extra passenger rush during Sankranti. To meet the increased travel demand, SCR is operating 366 special trains in January 2025. These trains cater to both reserved and unreserved passengers and are running between destinations in the Telugu states and other popular locations. Additionally, 15 regular trains have been provided with extra coaches. Train No. 20707/20708 (Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express) now operates with 16 coaches from January 13, 2025. Train No. 20833/20834 (Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express) has been upgraded to 20 coaches, adding four more chair car coaches.

Special trains connect destinations like Narsapur, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Srikulam, Tirupati, Jaipur, Gorakhpur, and more. SCR announced that from Charlapalli station in Hyderabad, 61 special trains are running, including 18 Janshadharan trains exclusively with general coaches to Visakhapatnam.

SCR has taken additional measures for smooth operations.



## AIG Hospitals set to induct advanced Proton Beam Therapy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AIG Hospitals is set to invest Rs 800 crore to bring advanced Proton Beam Therapy to South-East Asia. The hospital's board has approved the acquisition of the ProteusONE Proton Therapy System, including DynamicARC technology, from Belgium-based IBA.

This state-of-the-art system, known for its precision, minimises damage to healthy tissues while targeting tumors, making it ideal for treating complex cancers, especially in children and those with tumors near critical organs.

This technology will be part of a new 300-bed Oncology Centre at AIG's Gachibowli campus. The centre aims to deliver comprehensive cancer care on par with global standards and will be the first Proton Therapy Centre in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and the third in India. Chairman of AIG Hospitals, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy emphasised their patient-centric approach, stating that this acquisition represents a transformative step toward cutting-edge cancer treatment.

Meanwhile, Vice Chairman PVS Raju highlighted the hospital's vision of offering world-class cancer care, integrating medical, surgical, and radiation oncology, alongside research and training.

## Reduce water tanker filling time to 5 min: MD Ashok Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In preparation for the summer season, Managing Director Ashok Reddy of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has directed officials to ensure swift and efficient services to consumers. On Saturday, he inspected the Tatikhana section along with water board officials and emphasized the need for proactive measures to reduce delays and pending deliveries.

During the inspection, Ashok Reddy urged officials to devise strategies to minimise waiting periods and pending requests. He stressed that effective implementation of these plans would enable timely

filling time to five minutes, the delivery capacity could be doubled, he said. This would not only cut waiting times and pending deliveries but also ensure timely water supply to the public. Last year, groundwater depletion led to a spike in tanker demand starting in February, peaking in April with a staggering 1.7 lakh tankers being delivered. To avoid a repeat of such challenges, the water board is taking proactive steps to meet anticipated demand.

Currently, the Tatikhana section operates with 20 tankers, delivering approximately 150 trips daily. However, with rising demand, it is estimated that by April, the requirement could increase to 400 trips daily. Ashok Reddy pointed out that the existing filling points at the station take about 15 minutes to fill a single tanker. By optimizing the infrastructure to reduce the

filling time to five minutes, the delivery capacity could be doubled, he said. This would not only cut waiting times and pending deliveries but also ensure timely water supply to the public.

Last year, groundwater depletion led to a spike in tanker demand starting in February, peaking in April with a staggering 1.7 lakh tankers being delivered. To avoid a repeat of such challenges, the water board is taking proactive steps to meet anticipated demand.

The inspection was attended by CGM Prabhu and other senior officials, who pledged their commitment to implementing the necessary measures to provide seamless water supply services.

## Netherlands-based AI-driven company opens Innovation Hub

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting that Hyderabad will be a hub for startups in emerging technologies, Information Technology Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurated the first-ever Netherlands-based AI-driven company Ariqt's Global Innovation Hub (GIC) on the 9th floor of Aurobindo Galaxy on Friday.

The Global Innovation Hub, starting with hiring over 300 engineers in Phase 1, showcases Ariqt's trust in Hyderabad's dynamic ecosystem and skilled talent pool.

Speaking at the inauguration, Minister D Sridhar Babu highlighted Hyderabad's emergence as a hub for Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and Global Innovation Centres (GICs), creating AI-driven jobs. He also announced plans to provide a platform for startups and companies to collaborate with the government and integrate their products into various sectors.



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurating the first-ever Netherlands-based AI-driven company Ariqt's Global Innovation Hub (GIC) in Hyderabad on Friday.

from governance, railways, delivery, and security.

The Minister highlighted Ariqt's work in cybersecurity for the Paris Olympics 2024 and noted the company's advanced AI solutions in fintech, agriculture, sports, cybersecurity, travel, and supply chain. He also announced plans to provide a platform for startups and companies to collaborate with the government and integrate their products into various sectors.

Sridhar Babu concluded by stating, "A futuristic company from the Netherlands is now in Hyderabad," highlighting the state's commitment to driving innovation.

Meanwhile, Ariqt CEO Rupesh Kumar expressed gratitude to the Telangana government, stating that the launch of the Global Innovation Hub in Hyderabad is a major milestone.

## Two nabbed in AC outdoor unit thefts case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bowenpally Police apprehended two individuals involved in multiple thefts of air conditioner outdoor units, recovering stolen property worth Rs 8,00,000.

The arrested are Nanabala Gopi (29s), car driver and Myathari Ananthamma (40) scrap shop owner.

The police recovered stolen property, such as seven air-conditioned compressor units and a vehicle, two tools, which were used in the crimes. The total value of recovered property is Rs 8,00,000.



## Kakatiya Zoo Park welcomes two tigers

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a significant event at Kakatiya Zoo Park, Ministers Ponnampet Prabhakar and Konda Surekha released four species of animals into the park on Saturday. The new additions include two tigers, two bison, a hog deer, and a barking deer, enhancing the park's biodiversity and attraction for visitors.

As part of the occasion, the Ministers also unveiled the Kakatiya Zoo Park brochure, calendar, and official website, marking a step toward modernizing the zoo's outreach and visitor experience.

Additionally, a cultural building was inaugurated within the zoo premises, which is expected to host various events and activities, enriching the visitor experience and promoting local culture.

The programme saw the presence of several dignitaries, including Legislative Council Deputy Mayor Banda Prakash, MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, and Zoo Park Chairman Inagala Venkatrami Reddy.

## RED.Health raises bar for emergency care in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

RED.Health, Asia's only JCI-accredited and India's largest emergency medical response platform, successfully hosted its RED Rapid Response Forum at Hotel B Plus L, Hi-tech City, on Saturday.

Themed "Pre-hospital Excellence: Advancing Emergency Response Efficiency," the event brought together healthcare leaders and experts from top Hyderabad hospitals, including Apollo, KIMS, Care, and AIG, to drive innovation and collaboration in pre-hospital care.

Addressing the Forum, Head of RED Air Ambulance and Senior Programme Manager at RED.Health, Dr Misbahuddin Habeeb delivered the keynote address, highlighting a vision for revolutionising emergency response systems. He emphasised the need for a cohesive, technology-driven approach to improve emergency healthcare standards and ensure timely interventions.

Prashant Agrawal, VP of Hospital Business, stated that Emergencies require precision and speed, but also compassion



Head of RED Air Ambulance and senior programme manager of RED.Health Misbahuddin Habeeb addressing a forum in Hyderabad on Saturday.

and structure. He noted that Forums like this bridge gaps in our healthcare system, promoting excellence in pre-hospital care. Prashant mentioned that Collaboration, technology, and training are key to setting new benchmarks in emergency healthcare.

Meanwhile, Dr Habeeb added that India's emergency medical services face rising expectations alongside rapid advancements.

He noted that platforms like this forum help address challenges and develop actionable strategies. He mentioned that Pre-hospital excellence is not just about faster response but saving lives with dignity and adapting care to individual needs.

# Grand celebrations for Saraswati Antarvahini Pushkaralu: Sridhar Babu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, directed officials to develop the Kaleshwaram Mukteshwar Temple and Pushkar Ghats along the Godavari Sangam as per the standards of pilgrimage sites like Kashi, Haridwar and Prayagraj.

He stressed the importance of making preparations for the Saraswati River Antarvahini Pushkaralu, scheduled from May 15 to May 26, both modern and permanent. Speaking at a high-level meeting held at the Secretariat on Saturday, Sridhar stressed the uniqueness of the Saraswati

Pushkaralu, which is conducted exclusively at the Kaleshwaram Sangam, the sacred confluence of the Godavari, Pranahita and the subterranean Saraswati River.

He urged officials to utilize the Rs 25 crore allocated for Pushkar arrangements effectively, ensuring the global recognition of Kaleshwaram's spiritual significance.

He stressed the need to modernize the bathing ghats, improve sanitation, upgrade roads and speed up projects like the installation of a Saraswati idol, underground drainage systems, and other infrastructure works.

The Minister gave the following directions. Establish a special task force for

Pushkaralu preparations, complete renovations of helipads for helicopter rides, construct an aesthetically pleasing RTC bus station at Kaleshwaram, and install modern streetlights and transformers for which Rs 62 lakh has been released and purchase new generators.

The meeting will also finalise arrangements for the Kumbabhishekam being held from February 7 to February 19 without any shortcomings.

Sridhar Babu emphasized the collaboration of departments like Endowments, Irrigation, Roads and Buildings, Panchayati Raj, Revenue, Tourism, Transco, and RTC to ensure seamless arrangements.

He encouraged officials to appoint reputed consultants for the projects and leave no scope for compromise in the quality of infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Endowments Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaier, Bhupalpally Collector Rahul Sharma, Endowments Commissioner E. Sridhar, Joint Commissioner Ramakrishna Rao, SE Durga Prasad, Tourism MD Prakash, Transco SE Malsur Naik, RWS EE Nirmala, DPO Narayana Rao, Irrigation EE Tirupati, DIPRO Sheelam Srinivasa Rao, Kaleshwaram EO Maruti and Bhupalpally RTC Divisional Manager Indu and others.

## SpinSci health tech announces creation of 1,000 AI jobs in TG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

SpinSci Health Tech India Pvt Ltd, a global leader in digital healthcare solutions, announced plans to create 1,000 high-value AI jobs in Telangana during a press conference on Friday. This expansion highlights the company's commitment to transforming patient engagement, clinical collaboration, and financial services through advanced technology.

SpinSci Technologies, serving over 40 million U.S. patients annually, aims to

leverage Telangana's talent pool and reputation as a global tech hub. The new positions will focus on AI, machine learning, data analytics, and digital health platforms, offering local professionals opportunities to innovate globally.

To drive talent and innovation, SpinSci will collaborate with TiE Global, AI universities, and research institutions. These partnerships aim to create an ecosystem connecting industry, academia, and talent to advance digital

healthcare. CEO Andy Asava expressed excitement about expanding in Telangana, emphasizing its potential to enhance patient care globally. As part of Aldrich Capital Partners, SpinSci benefits from strategic investments supporting Telangana's role as a tech hub.

CEO announced that SpinSci will host an AI Hackathon at T-Hub on 16 January. Participants can register at spinsci.com/ai\_hackathon\_india for a chance to win prizes, including Rs.1 lakh.

## SINGER PAR EXCELLENCE, BUT AWARDS ELUDE HER!

Awards keep eluding even for the most famous. More so, it can be said about the first Telugu playback singer and actor Rao Balasaraswati who strode the South Indian film industry for over three decades and is now leading a peaceful life with her son in



Manikonda, Hyderabad, by crossing the 100-year mark. Her lilting melodies of yesteryears like *Taane Marenaa* (Devadasu), *Dharaniki giri bhaarama* (*Manchi manasuku manchi rojulu*), *Paluka velane Chiluka* (*Shaaakar*) still ring in ears of connoisseurs of film music. Noted playwright Koppurapu Subba Rao gave her the first break with a HMV record

and then came an offer from producer C Pullaiah who gave her the role of Sati Anasuya. She has had singing and acting stints in plenty in Telugu and other South Indian languages. Her playback debut was in the film *Bhagyalakshmi* in 1940 and she had sung over 3,000 songs ever since then.

She had sung two Hindi songs also for the film *Uran Khatola* under the music direction of Naushad in Bombay.

Later, back in the Telugu land, she sang under the music direction of KV Subbaraman, S Rajeswara Rao, KV Mahadevan, Balantrapu Rajani Kanta Rao, MS Viswanath, Pendyala, Ramesh Naidu and others. After

reaching great heights as a playback singer she went into self-proclaimed hibernation due to her marriage with the scion of Kolanka dynasty of East Godavari. Her re-entry into playback singing was with Vijaya Nirmala's *Sangham Chekkina Shilpulu* under the direction of Ramesh Naidu.

Her trials for getting a plot in Film Nagar fell on deaf ears. Former chairmen of AP Film Development Corporation MS Reddy followed by actor Muralimohan were reluctant to offer her a plot as she desired. The promise by the then chief minister NT Rama R to find a suitable post was shortlived due to his ouster. Balasaraswati was however happy that she was honoured with lifetime achievement award by Telugu NRI group called Ajo-Vibho in 1999. It is but apt for the Central and State governments to honour her in her ripe old age with a Padma

award in recognition of her contribution as the first Telugu playback singer.

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





Traffic congestion on Vijaywada-Hyderabad national highway on Saturday

## 'Govt will ensure Rythu Bharosa, new ration to all eligible'

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced on Saturday that four new people-centric welfare programmes will be launched on January 26.

The Minister, along with District Collector Muzammil Khan, inaugurated a residential colony consisting of 80 houses constructed at Mallemadugu in Khammam district and handed over the house titles to the beneficiaries.

During this event, Minister Srinivas Reddy stated that 80 double-bedroom houses were presented to the poor as a Sankranti gift. He mentioned that a year ago, with the blessings of the people, the people's government formed the Indiramma Rajyam, and it took a year to rectify the irregularities that occurred during the previous government's 10 years of rule.

He further assured people that the government would provide Indiramma houses to the

poor. "Indiramma Rajyam means Indiramma Houses," he said, adding that in the coming days, lakhs of beneficiaries would receive Indiramma houses.

The Minister pointed out that the previous government had been negligent in fulfilling the dream of a poor person owning a house in Telangana over the past decade. He mentioned that the Collectors' meeting held under the Chief Minister's chairmanship on Friday discussed various schemes such as Rythu Bharosa, new ration cards, Indiramma houses, and financial assistance for farmworkers. These schemes would be implemented from January 26 for the eligible beneficiaries.

He added that every eligible person would be provided a new ration card. Rs 12,000 would be given to eligible farmers per acre under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, and landless poor families would receive Rs 12,000 annually in two instalments.



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy inspecting the newly constructed double-bedroom housing complex at Mallemadugu under Khammam Urban mandal on Saturday

He also informed that from January 26, Indiramma houses would be allocated, with 3,500 houses being provided to each assembly segment in the first phase. The survey of beneficiaries is 90 per cent complete, and through village committees and

meetings, eligible candidates would be selected and provided houses. In the near future, road and park construction works would begin, and steps would be taken to resolve drainage issues, he added. The Collector said that Rs 2 crore had been sanc-

tioned by the Minister for roads leading to the existing houses, and an Anganwadi centre would be set up by January 20.

Additionally, the Commissioner of Khammam Municipal Corporation, Abhishek Augustya, stated that tenders for the road construction work from the dumping yard to the area estimated at Rs 2 crore, were in the final stage, and the work would commence next week. He also mentioned that a special park for children, an open gym, and a walking track would be set up with an investment of Rs 50 lakh.

Other participants in the event included Khammam RDO Narasimha Rao, Special Officer for Paleru Constituency Ramesh, Housing PD Srinivas Rao, Khammam Urban Tahsildar Ravikumar, relevant officials, 60th Division Corporator Badde Niranjani Kumar, 59th Division Corporator Pattapothula Lalitha Rani, public representatives, and others.

PNS ■ SURYAPET

On the occasion of Sankranti festival, people from the city have headed towards the countryside. Due to heavy traffic on the Vijaywada-Hyderabad national highway since Friday night, there is a significant traffic jam at the Panthangi Toll Plaza in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. To manage the traffic congestion, the toll plaza staff and police are making efforts to prevent a complete traffic jam.

The Panthangi Toll Plaza has a total of 18 toll booths. Due to the heavy traffic, 10 toll booths towards Vijaywada have been opened by the toll authorities.

On regular days, 35,000 to 45,000 vehicles pass through the toll plaza, but on Friday, due to the Sankranti festival, around 55,000 vehicles passed through the toll plaza. They also mentioned that the number of vehicles on the national highway is expected to increase

from Saturday, and police are taking necessary precautions to ensure that commuters don't face any difficulties. Vehicles are passing through the toll plaza at the rate of one vehicle every four seconds, which is about 330 vehicles per minute heading towards Vijaywada.

The roads leading from the capital towards Vijaywada and Guntur have become congested with vehicles. There is a traffic jam at many points on the route, where vehicles lined up for kilometers. Due to delays in FastTag scanning, vehicles are moving slowly.

Vehicles are being directed towards Andhra Pradesh through 12 toll booths.

According to one estimate, on the route from Hyderabad to Vijaywada, around four vehicles per second are passing through. This means approximately 900 vehicles are heading towards Andhra Pradesh every hour.

## Grand welcome accorded to Tushar Gandhi

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The "Bapu Path Satya Shodhan" foot march, which had completed 1,000 kilometres in 100 days, reached its destination at Achampet in the district on Saturday. Former education officer of the undivided Palamuru district, Shivarachak Vijay Kumar, undertook the foot march to spread the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. The march began from Alampur in the Jogulamba district and traversed 1,000 kilometres in 100 days, reaching the Umamaheshwara temple in Achampet constituency.

During this occasion, Arya Vysya members organised a grand welcome for Shivarachak Vijay Kumar. To mark the completion of the march, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Tushar Gandhi arrived in Achampet on Saturday as a special guest to



support the foot march. Tushar Gandhi, along with Vijay Kumar, paid floral tributes to the statues of Gandhiji and Dr BR Ambedkar and reached the Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Temple.

This event saw the participation of various leaders, including MLA Vamsi Krishna, Arya Vysya members, and numerous Gandhiji followers. During the event, MLA Vamsi Krishna emphasised that everyone should follow Gandhi's ideals, saying that

without Gandhiji, the freedom struggle would not have been successful.

After the event, Tushar Gandhi was honoured with a shawl. The programme was attended by senior Congress leaders from Achampet, Garlapati Sudarshan, Sambhu Venkataramana, Mahabooob Ali, Municipal Chairman Garlapati Srinivasulu, and councilors Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Gauri Shankar, Balraj, among others.

## Congress can only protect Adivasis' rights: Komatireddy

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The All India Adivasi Congress, under the guidance of the Congress Party, organised an Orientation Workshop to train and empower Adivasi leaders across the country. Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, addressing the event, paid tribute to the legacies of tribal icons Bira Munda, Komaram Bheem, and Sevalal Maharaj.

The Minister emphasised that Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, is the only political party committed to transforming Adivasis into leaders. Referring to the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which traversed the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, he highlighted how the initiative amplified the voices of marginalised communities.

This workshop, aimed at training 20,000 Adivasi youth across 11 states, focuses on topics like the



Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking at the All India Adivasi Congress meeting in Nalgonda on Saturday

Fifth Schedule, PESA Act, Forest Rights Act, and tribal land rights.

It also addresses issues like the socio-political impact of the RSS in tribal areas.

Minister Venkat Reddy underlined Congress' historic contributions, including key legislation like the Scheduled Tribes and Administration Act, SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, and PESA Act. He noted Congress' efforts to reserve legislative seats for Adivasis and establish the ST Commission to monitor their rights.

Key announcements from the workshop included a government decision to officially observe Komaram Bheem's anniversaries, establish a study circle for tribal students, and clear pending overseas scholarships.

The event marked a significant step in Congress' ongoing mission to strengthen its bond with Adivasis and champion their rights and development.

## Two die, several injured as bus rams lorry

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

In a tragic accident during the festival season, two persons died on the spot and several others were injured when a private bus rammed into lorry in Jachchera town. The accident happened on Bengaluru-Hyderabad national highway.

The bus driver swerved to avoid hitting a car ahead and in the process crashed forcefully into a lorry. As a result, two individuals died on the spot, while others were seriously injured. The injured passengers were taken to the district government hospital by the police who arrived at the scene.

The bus was reportedly carrying about 35 to 40 passengers. Immediately after the accident, passengers managed

to escape through the emergency exit. Meanwhile, the deceased individuals were identified by the police as the bus cleaner and a person named Peer from Kurnool district.

The injured passengers were



promptly taken to nearby hospitals by the police. The accident led to a temporary traffic jam on the National Highway, but authorities were able to clear the congestion. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

## NSUI members attack BRS office in Bhongir

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANGIRI

The activists of National Students' Union of India (NSUI) allegedly vandalised the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party office in Bhuvanagiri. The incident was reportedly in response to alleged derogatory comments made by BRS district president Kancharla Ramakrishna Reddy about Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Following the attack, NSUI members staged a sit-in at the office, warning that such remarks against the Chief Minister would not be tolerated. Videos circulating on social media showed the activists tearing down BRS party banners and damaging furniture. They did not stop there; they also attempted to assault BRS party workers.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao alleged that the attack was carried out unable to counter the issues being raised by the BRS, particularly on the failures of the government in keeping the promises made before the elec-



Damaged furniture which is strewn around in the BRS office after NSUI members attacked the party office in Bhongir on Saturday

tion. Former ministers T Harish Rao and V Prashanth Reddy, party MLC K Kavitha and several other leaders of BRS cautioned the ruling party against resorting to such attacks or else the BRS activists too would retaliate. They accused the

ruling party of practising hooliganism and grooming its youth and student wings for attacks on political rivals.

The BRS party strongly condemned the attack by Congress workers. They stated that the Congress leaders resorted to vio-

lence because they could not bear criticism of Revanth's ineffective administration. The BRS leaders questioned, "If you are unable to handle criticism about your poor governance and incompetence, will you resort to attacks?"

BRS leader E Rakesh Reddy condemned the attack on the BRS district office by Congress NSUI leaders. He questioned, "Is this the work of a student wing of a national party with a history of 100 years?" He further criticised, "Is this what the Congress party teaches student leaders? Is this your culture?"

He also questioned, "If today's student leaders are like this, what will be the future of our country?"

He raised concerns about political student organisations creating violence, engaging in rowdiness, and harassing leaders.

He asked, "Is this the lesson that Congress is teaching the youth leaders? Is this what you intend to teach? Is this the legacy of a national party?" Rakesh Reddy asked

## Uttam promises repairs to Ryalampadu reservoir

PNS ■ GADWAL

The Congress government has approved a proposal to carry out repairs to the Ryalampadu reservoir at an estimated cost of Rs 144 crore. This comes as a major relief to farmers who have long faced challenges due to lack of repairs to reservoir under the previous BRS government. The planned repairs are expected to benefit at least 2 lakh acres of farmland within the reservoir's command area.

The Ryalampadu reservoir, part of the Nettekoppa Lift Irrigation (LI) Scheme, was initially conceived and mostly completed under the Congress-led government in the



undivided Andhra Pradesh. However, following the formation of Telangana and the transition to BRS leadership, only 80 per cent of the project was completed, leaving 20 per cent of necessary work unfinished. The structure of the reservoir has since weakened, with experts recommending the raising of its height, grouting, and other essential repairs. The total cost for these repairs is estimated at Rs 144 crore.

During a recent visit to the Nettekoppa LI project, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy assured farmers that the necessary repairs would be expedited. Officials had identified significant

issues with the reservoir, including leakage and increased seepage, which had rendered it only partially effective. Currently, the reservoir is only able to irrigate 50 per cent of the land within its catchment area, leaving many farmers in distress. The Ryalampadu right canal irrigates about 25,000 acres, while the left canal serves 1.10 lakh acres. As a result, many farmers have been forced to declare a "crop holiday" due to insufficient irrigation.

The assurances made by Uttam Kumar Reddy have rekindled hopes of farmers, who are eagerly awaiting the much-needed repairs to restore full irrigation potential of the reservoir.

## Record silk cocoon production in Mancherial district

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

Mancherial district has achieved a record production of 29.10 lakh tussar silk cocoons, surpassing its target by 5 lakh cocoons. This represents nearly 50 per cent of the total silk cocoon production in Telangana. The high-quality cocoons from the district are in high demand across the country, with traders from various states competing to purchase them.

The district has dedicated 7,000 acres to silk production, and 650 tribal families from

the villages of Chennuru, Kotapalli, Vemanapalli, and Nennela mandals are involved in the cultivation of silkworms. The state government supports these families by providing a 50 per cent subsidy on silkworm eggs. The tribals harvest two crops per year, with annual earnings reaching up to Rs. 1 lakh.

Tussar silkworms thrive in the region's forests, particularly in areas where Nallamaddi (Terminalia elliptica) and Yerumaddi (Terminalia Arjuna) trees grow.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION BY DISTRICT COLLECTOR, WARANGAL											
FORM - VI											
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section - 11(1) of the RFCT in LA R&R Act-2013 r/w Telangana Amendment Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017))											
WARANGAL DISTRICT GAZETTE No. 26/WGL/2024,											
Dated: 27.12.2024.											
(District Collector, Warangal Prods.No.G/1718/2019											
Dated: 25.12.2024.											
Dated: 10.2024.											
Rc.No.B/1199/2022.											
Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Warangal that a total of Ac.04.05 gbs of land is required in the Kolanpalli Village of Rayaparthi Mandal, Warangal District for public purpose namely for D-7L of Noshik/Nain Canal from KM 6.325 to KM 6.750.											
Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Kolanpalli Village of Rayaparthi Mandal, Warangal District land measuring, more or less acres of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition as per Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 in its application to the state of Telangana, since the Government vide GO Ms. No. 63 Irrigation & CADD (L.A. R&R/AZ) Department dated: 29-07-2017 and accordingly hereby, in the public interest J.Chokka Rao (Gadavari Lift Irrigation Projects) exempt from the application of provisions of the Chapter - II and Chapter - III of RFCTLA&R Act, 2013.											
Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in the Kolanpalli Village of Rayaparthi Mandal, Warangal District land measuring, more or less Ac.04.05 gbs of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition.											
SCHEDULE											
Village Kolanpalli, Mandal: Rayaparthi, Dist: Warangal											
Sl. No.	Serial No.	Type of title	Area in acres (Aa-Ga)	Name and Address of person interested	Boundaries	N/S/E/W		Structures, if any			
1	127	Fila Dry	2.25	As per Charnel Record: Guguloth Suresh S/o Manjya Guguloth Anil S/o Yakub Guguloth Marjya W/o Yakub Guguloth Yakub S/o Jethu Guguloth Jinku S/o Dhruv Guguloth Ramesh S/o Jethu Guguloth Anuk S/o Saraju Guguloth Harish S/o Lakshya Guguloth Ravinder S/o Jetham Guguloth Bojya S/o Nemma	-	-	-	-			
				As per Employment: Guguloth Yaku S/o Jetham (1.02)	-	-	-				
				Guguloth Ravinder S/o Jetham (1.25)	-	-	-	02-Born Wells			
2	128	Fila Dry	1.15	As per Charnel Record: Guguloth Ramesh S/o Jethu Guguloth Venkama S/o Rama Guguloth Yakub S/o Jethu Guguloth Madhavi W/o Jinku Guguloth Marjya W/o Yakub	-	-	-				
				As per Employment: Guguloth Yaku S/o Jetham (1.15)	-	-	-	01-Born Well			
Total		04.95									
This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013) read with 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, Warangal & Land Acquisition Officer/ Revenue Divisional Officer, Warangal on any working day during the working hours. The Collector-cum Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Revenue Divisional Officer, Warangal and his staff/worker 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 such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.											
Objections to the Acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within (60) (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the District Collector, Warangal.											
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer/ Revenue Divisional Officer, Warangal		Sd/-Additional Collector, Warangal		Sd/-District Collector Warangal							
DIPR.No.578/LA/PP-Pub/2024-25											

ACROSS THE STATES



**Kerala BJP leader George booked for 'hate speech'**

A case has been registered against BJP leader P C George for allegedly making remarks that could incite religious hatred, police said on Saturday. George, a former MLA, was accused of hate speech against a minority community during a TV discussion held earlier this week, they said. The Erattupetta Police registered a case against the senior BJP leader on Friday based on a complaint filed by Muhammad Shihab, reportedly a representative of the Muslim Youth League Municipal Committee. He was booked under Section 196(1)(a) and Section 299 of the BNS, and Section 120(o) of the Kerala Police Act, police said, adding that further proceedings would be initiated soon. Section 196 of the BNS penalizes actions or speech that promote enmity, hatred, or disharmony between different groups in society, while Section 299 deals with the deliberate and malicious act of insulting the religious beliefs of any class of people in the country.



**Committed to combat escalating drug crisis: Sukhu**

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The NDPS cases have risen by 340 per cent in the past decade from 500 cases in 2012 to 2200 cases in 2023 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act was invoked for the first time in Himachal Pradesh, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Virtually participating in the regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday, he

emphasised on Himachal Pradesh's commitment to combat the escalating drug crisis, a statement issued here said. Asserting that the percentage of cases involving heroin has doubled, rising from 29 per cent in 2020 to 50 per cent in 2024, he said the state legislature has amended Section 37 of the NDPS Act, 1985, to close legal loopholes that allowed habitual offenders to secure bail. The PIT-NDPS Act was invoked for the first time, he said. This act enables the detention of repeat offenders involved in drug trafficking.

**Slum dwellers will 'liberate' Delhi by uprooting 'Aapda' govt: Shah**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Slum dwellers will become "liberators" of Delhi by uprooting the "Aapda" (AAP) government in the upcoming Assembly polls, BJP leader Amit Shah said on Saturday, assuring that no welfare schemes for the poor will be stopped if his party forms government in the city.



Addressing the 'Jhuggi Basti Pradhan Sammelan' at the JLN stadium here, Shah, who is also the Union home minister, promised that every slum dweller will be provided a house if the BJP wins the polls. The elections for 70-member Delhi Assembly polls will be held on February 5 and the votes will be counted on February 8. Shah greeted the gathering on the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya with a loud chant of 'Jai Shri Ram'.

"When we talked of Ram Temple, Kejriwal said toilets need to be constructed, when Article 370 was scrapped, he said people need houses. Modi ji gave toilets as well as houses to the poor people, not Kejriwal," Shah said. Shah charged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has proved to be an "Aapda" (disaster) in its 10 years of rule in Delhi. He slammed AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly betraying the slum dwellers and forcing them to live in pathetic conditions in slums. "The slum dwellers will become the liberators of Delhi and do the work of uprooting the Aapda government," Shah said, citing the shortage of drinking water and sewers, and heaps of garbage in the slum clusters of the city.

**BJP attempting to deceive EC : AAP**

Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday accused the BJP of attempting to deceive the Election Commission by submitting fake voter registration applications in large numbers from the residential addresses of its leaders.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh claimed that dozens of voter registration applications had been filed from single small shops and basements. He also accused the BJP of submitting multiple new voter registration applications using the residential addresses of their leaders.

"This is the reality of the biggest political party in India. This is how Prime Minister Modi's party plans to win the elections," Singh said, listing the names of BJP leaders, including union ministers, for their alleged involvement in the issue.



**Modi to inaugurate Sonamarg tunnel tomorrow**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Sonamarg tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir on January 13. According to an official statement, the entire project, including the 12-km tunnel, has been constructed at a cost of over Rs 2,700 crore. It comprises the Sonamarg main tunnel, an egress tunnel and approach roads. Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, it will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg en route to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche routes, the statement said. In a post on X, Modi echoed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's statement after the latter visited the site to review preparedness for his visit and shared some pictures and videos. Abdullah said, "The inauguration of the Z-morh tunnel will open Sonmarg to tourism all year round, Sonmarg will now be developed as a great ski resort."



**Annamalai questions Naxals surrender policy in Karnataka**

PNS ■ UDUPI (KARNATAKA)

Tamil Nadu BJP President K Annamalai has raised concerns over the Naxal surrender and rehabilitation policy in Karnataka, questioning its effectiveness and transparency. Annamalai, who had served as Superintendent of Police (SP) in Udipi between January 2015 and August 2016 and as SP Chikkamagaluru, considered a hotbed of Naxals in Karnataka, in 2018, had convened a press conference in Udipi on Saturday.

According to him, while the policy aims to reintegrate former Naxals into mainstream society, doubts persist regarding its implementation. He pointed out that surrender and encounter cases have sparked widespread speculation, with many questioning the circumstances under which these events unfolded.

**Punjab: AAP MLA dies in 'accidental firing' from own pistol**

PNS ■ LUDHIANA

AAP leader and Ludhiana West MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi has died of a gunshot injury he sustained while cleaning his licensed pistol, his family said on Saturday. Gogi, who had a passion for vintage cars, was 58 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Joint Commissioner of Police Jaskaran Singh Teja said the bullet pierced Gogi's temple and he was rushed to the Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead.



According to his family members and state party chief, Gogi was cleaning his pistol around 11.30 last night at his residence in Ghumar Mandi here fatally when the bullet got fired accidentally and hit him on his head.

The police said the case is under investigation. Hours before his death, Gogi held a meeting with assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan and AAP MP Balbir Singh Seechewal

over the issue of cleaning of Buddha Nullah (a drain of polluted effluents). Gogi was in the news last year when he demolished the foundation stone of Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project as he was upset over the delay in carrying out the work by the departments concerned. He visited the Prachin Sheelta Mata Mandir in BRS Nagar where a theft had taken place a few days ago and had assured justice in the matter. Gogi's cremation took place at the cremation ground near KVM school in Civil Lines this afternoon with his son Swaraj Singh Bassi lighting the funeral pyre.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Speaker Sandhwan, party MPs Raj Kumar Chhabwal, Seechewal and Sanjeev Arora, and cabinet ministers Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Hardeep Singh Mundian, Lal Chand Kataruchak and Tarunpreet Singh Saund were among those who attended the cremation.



**'Computing, tech advancement core building block for India'**

PNS ■ PUNE

Computing and technological advancement is a core building block for India to become a developed nation by 2047, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav said here on Saturday.

The minister also said C-DAC plays a major role in this regard. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is the premier organisation of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for carrying out research, and development in IT, electronics and associated

areas. Vaishnav launched one VEGA-based SoC ASIC and two DIR V VEGA processor based development boards designed and developed by C-DAC at the event held here.

These are the ARIES ECO and ARIES NOVA development boards and THEJAS64 Indigenous 64-bit SoC, a release said. "ARIES ECO is useful for students, providing a hands-on platform for experimenting with applications like sensor fusion, smart meters, and wearable devices. It offers an easily accessible platform for education, research, and development in the rapidly evolving

field of embedded systems," it said. The THEJAS64 is the first fully indigenous 64-bit VEGA based System-on-Chip (SoC) designed for robust and secure embedded applications, the release added. "Computing and technological development is a core building block for India to become a developed country by 2047, and C-DAC plays a major role in it. A lot of research work in the field of semi-conductors and computing is happening in academic institutions like IIT Madras, IISc Bengaluru, IIT Gandhinagar, among others," Vaishnav said.



**4 Bangladeshis nabbed for illegally entering India**

Four Bangladeshis nationals have been arrested in Tripura's Khowai district for entering India without valid documents, police said on Saturday. An Indian person was also arrested for facilitating the entry of the Bangladeshis. Acting on a tip-off, police nabbed them near Teliamura railway station on Friday night. "During preliminary investigation, the Bangladeshis said they had come from Moulvibazar district and had plans to go to Dharmanagar in North Tripura district in search of work. As all the four persons entered Indian territory without valid documents, they were arrested," Sub-Inspector Kamalendu Dhar told PTI. The arrested Bangladeshis nationals were identified as Moynuddin Miah, Rimon Miah, Rahim Ahmed and Suman Miah. One Indian, identified as Aamir Uddin of Dharmanagar was with the four Bangladesh citizens and was arrested for helping the infiltrators, he said.

**SpaDeX satellites positioned 230 m apart, health status 'normal': ISRO**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The two Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites that the ISRO aims to unite in orbit are currently separated by a distance of 230 m, with their health status deemed 'normal', the space agency said on Saturday.

On Friday evening, the satellites were separated by 1.5 kms. ISRO has said that the distance would be reduced to 500 m by Saturday morning.

In a post on X, ISRO said, "Arrested at Inter Satellite Distance (ISD) of 230 m, all sensors are being evaluated. Spacecraft's health is normal."

The space agency, however, has not committed to a date for conducting the docking experiments, which will bring the

ISRO successfully launched the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission on December 30.

pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, and about 15 minutes after liftoff, the two small spacecraft weighing about 220 kg each were launched into a 475-km circular orbit as intended.

According to ISRO, SpaDeX mission is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission for the demonstration of in-space docking using two small spacecraft that was launched by PSLV. This technology is essential for India's space ambitions such as Indian on Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc.

**In a post on 'X', ISRO said, "Arrested at Inter Satellite Distance (ISD) of 230 m, all sensors are being evaluated. Spacecraft's health is normal"**

The PSLV C60 rocket carrying two small satellites, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), along with 24 payloads, had lifted off from the first launch-



**Time to pursue 'Indian dream': Rajnath**

PNS ■ MEERUT (UP)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that young people today no longer need to go abroad to pursue their dreams as the means and resources to fulfil their aspirations are now available within the country.

Addressing a convocation ceremony at a private university here, he described youths as the nation's heroes and

emphasised that they have the potential to take the country to greater heights. "The country faced numerous challenges after Independence. An atmosphere of despondency prevailed due to various reasons, causing our youths to be afraid of dreaming... They only dreamt of the US, the UK... For decades our youths had to go abroad to fulfil their dreams..."

**'Ram Temple gives hope to suppressed civilisations'**

**UP CM on Ram Lalla idol consecration anniversary**

PNS ■ AYODHYA (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is a reminder to the "suppressed" civilisations and cultures of the world that they can assert their rights democratically and constitutionally. Addressing a programme held on the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol at the temple, Adityanath said not losing patience even after countless sacrifices and going through an 'agnipariksha' (trial by fire) was integral to the Ram Mandir



campaign. The chief minister bowed in front of Ram Lalla's idol, lit a lamp, offered flowers and performed an aarti. He also paid

tributes to the late Ashok Singhal, former working president of the Vishva Hindu Parishad and one of the key architects of the Ram Temple movement.

**Wife can get maintenance from husband even if she doesn't abide by cohabit decree: SC**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant judgement, the Supreme Court has ruled that a woman can be given the right to maintenance from her husband even after she has not complied with the decree to cohabit with her spouse if she has valid and sufficient reason to refuse to live with him.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar settled the legal dispute over the question whether a husband, who secures a decree for restitution of conjugal rights, stands absolved of paying maintenance to his wife by virtue of law if his wife refuses to abide by the said decree and return to



the matrimonial home. The bench said there can be no hard and fast rule in this regard and it must invariably depend on the circumstances of the case. It said the question as to whether non-compliance with a decree for restitution of conjugal rights by a wife would be sufficient in itself to deny her maintenance, owing to Section 125(4) of CrPC has been addressed by several high courts but no consistent view is forthcoming, as their opinions were varied and conflicting.

**It said the question as to whether non-compliance with a decree for restitution of conjugal rights by a wife would be sufficient in itself to deny her maintenance, owing to Section 125(4) of CrPC has been addressed by several high courts but no consistent view is forthcoming, as their opinions were varied and conflicting**

After analysing various judgements of the high courts and the apex court, the bench said, "Thus, the preponderance of judicial thought weighs in favour of upholding the wife's right to maintenance under Section 125 CrPC and the

mere passing of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights at the husband's behest and non-compliance therewith by the wife would not, by itself, be sufficient to attract the disqualification under Section 125(4) CrPC."



PHOTO: PANKAJ KUMAR

# THE SPIRIT OF MAHA KUMBH

The *Maha Kumbh Mela 2025* in Prayagraj is a unique gathering where spirituality, culture and commerce come together, attracting millions from all walks of life to witness this incredible event, writes **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**



The countdown to the *Maha Kumbh 2025* has begun, with Prayagraj transforming into a bustling hub of spirituality, culture, and economic activity. From 13 January to 26 February, the city will host the largest human congregation on earth, drawing an estimated 40 to 45 crore pilgrims. This iconic event, steeped in Hindu tradition and faith, is more than a ritual, it is a celebration of India’s cultural and spiritual essence. The Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati converge, is at the heart of this grand spectacle. Pilgrims believe that a dip in these holy waters during the auspicious period cleanses them of sins and paves the way to salvation. “The Maha Kumbh Mela is not just a religious gathering but a transformative experience,” said Acharya Ramkishore Tiwari, a spiritual leader. “It is where faith meets divinity.” At the heart of this grand celebration lies the belief in spiritual purification. According to Hindu tradition, a dip in the holy confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati during this auspicious period is believed to absolve sins and pave the path to salvation. The origins of the *Kumbh* are steeped in the Puranic tale of the Samudra Manthan, where drops of divine nectar (amrita) spilled at four locations, Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain, sanctifying these sites forever.



**A CITY REBORN**  
The banks of the Ganga and Yamuna have transformed into a temporary city, sprawling across the Sangam area. Colourful tents of all sizes and hues have sprung up, creating an awe-inspiring sight. These tents house spiritual discourses, yoga sessions, cultural programmes, and temporary dwellings for millions of devotees. The air is filled with the aroma of traditional Indian delicacies, as numerous eateries and food stalls cater to the surging crowds. Stalls selling Rudraksha beads, saffron garments, holy books, and souvenirs stretch along the pathways, adding vibrancy to the bustling atmosphere. The iconic Naga Sadhus, covered in ash and wearing Rudraksha beads, take centre stage, drawing devotees and curious onlookers alike. Aghories, known for their intense spiritual practices, are seen meditating near the riverbanks, adding a mystical charm to the gathering. “We are not just preparing for an event; we are crafting an experience that celebrates India’s cultural heritage,” said Divya Prakash Singh, a senior official overseeing the arrangements. “From smart surveillance through 10,000 CCTV cameras to a dedicated mobile app for route and ritual updates, technology is playing a crucial role in ensuring safety and convenience.” “The energy here is contagious,” said Abhilash Narain, a resident of Prayagraj. “You do not have to be Hindu to feel the magic of this gathering.” Among the pilgrims is Rajni Devi, a 62-year-old widow from Rajasthan making her third trip to the Kumbh. “The Kumbh is my escape,” she said. “It’s where I find peace and the courage to face life’s challenges.” Similarly, Sunil Mishra, a young IT professional from Bengaluru, sees the



**ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS**  
Beyond its spiritual significance, the *Maha Kumbh Mela* is a colossal economic engine. The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated a staggering ₹5,600 crore to infrastructure and event management, with the total budget projected at ₹6,382 crore. The local economy thrives on this influx, benefiting small vendors, hoteliers, and service providers alike. “During the Kumbh, my daily earnings triple,” said Shyam Lal, a shopkeeper selling puja items near the ghats. Hotels across Prayagraj are reporting record bookings, with many fully reserved months in advance. “The demand is unprecedented,” said Priya Mehta, the manager of a mid-range hotel in the city. The ripple effect extends beyond Prayagraj. Nearby religious hubs like Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Mathura also see a surge in tourism, creating thousands of new jobs. “The Maha Kumbh 2025 could generate economic activity worth over ₹3 lakh crore,” estimated Awanish Awasthi, advisor to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.



## CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

Hosting an event of this magnitude comes with its share of challenges. Ensuring the availability of clean drinking water, medical aid, and sanitation facilities for millions of pilgrims requires meticulous planning. “The key is vigilance,” said Ramesh Chandra, a senior police officer stationed at the Mela. “We’re deploying over 50,000 security personnel and using AI-enabled systems to manage crowds and prevent untoward incidents.” “The Maha Kumbh is a test of our organisational capabilities,” said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. “We aim to set a global benchmark in event management while preserving the spiritual essence of the gathering.”

## A GLOBAL CELEBRATION

The *Maha Kumbh Mela* is not just a religious event; it is a global celebration of India’s living traditions. Documentary filmmaker Lisa Reynolds, covering the event for an international audience, described it as “a story of humanity in its purest form.” For first-time visitors, the scale of the event is overwhelming. “I’ve never seen anything like this,” said Hiroshi Tanaka, a journalist from Japan. “The blend of chaos and harmony is fascinating. It’s a reflection of India itself.” As the countdown begins, the anticipation surrounding *Maha Kumbh 2025* is palpable. For millions, it is a journey of faith and a reaffirmation of humanity’s enduring spirit. For Prayagraj, it is an opportunity to shine as a beacon of tradition, resilience, and progress. Acharya Ramkishore Tiwari sums it up: “Kumbh is about coming together as one family, transcending divisions and reaffirming our shared humanity.”





MAYFAIR SPRING VALLEY (GUWAHATI, ASSAM)

Located amidst the lush greenery of Guwahati, Mayfair Spring Valley offers a luxurious escape from the city's hustle and bustle. This premium resort is designed to provide guests with ultimate comfort and relaxation, featuring elegantly appointed rooms, a rejuvenating spa, a dedicated kids' play area and top-notch dining experiences. Surrounded by picturesque landscapes, the resort offers serene views of rolling hills and verdant gardens, making it an ideal retreat for nature enthusiasts and luxury seekers alike. Guests can also explore nearby attractions, such as the famous Kamakhya Temple and Brahmaputra Riverfront, ensuring a blend of tranquility and adventure during their stay.



VIVANTA MEGHALAYA (SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA)

Located in the vibrant city of Shillong, Vivanta Meghalaya is known for its proximity to exciting outdoor activities and cultural events. The resort offers 87 elegantly designed rooms and 14 spacious suites, providing comfort and luxury. It serves as a perfect base for exploring the region's natural beauty and music festivals. Known as the 'Abode of Clouds', Meghalaya captivates one and all with its misty hills, living root bridges, and cascading waterfalls amidst lush greenery.

By TEAM AGENDA

Blessed with nature's bounty, Northeast India is a safe haven for many travellers who wish to escape the overcrowded and over-polluted city life from time to time. With the winter season worsening the pollution's threat to healthy living, Northeast India is the best place to take refuge in to revitalise your health and take a step back to recentre within. Here are a few of the many scenic vacation spots that can do just that.



HOTEL CLASSIC GRANDE (IMPHAL, MANIPUR)

A part of the Radisson Individuals group, Hotel Classic Grande provides cosy accommodations in Imphal. With 171 rooms and suites featuring modern amenities, this hotel offers warm hospitality infused with local culture. Guests can enjoy exquisite dining options while taking in views of the Baruni Hill range. Manipur, known as the 'Jewel of India', boasts of the world's only floating lake, 'Loktak Lake' and the serene Keibul Lamjao National Park, home to the endangered Sangai deer. It is also celebrated for its classical dance and handwoven textiles making it a true treasure of the Northeast.

TAKEAWAY

From the serene hills of Shillong and Gangtok to the wildlife-rich Kaziranga and Tawang, these destinations offer both luxury and tranquility. The aforementioned resorts offer that entire one can dream of in a staycation that rejuvenates the mind and soul. Whether you're seeking a luxurious resort or a more rustic retreat, Northeast India provides the perfect haven for anyone looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life and reconnect with nature.



DIPHLU RIVER LODGE (KAZIRANGA, ASSAM)

Situated on the outskirts of Kaziranga National Park, Diphlu River Lodge offers an authentic experience with its rustic ethnic design. The lodge features comfortable accommodations and a range of activities such as bird watching, vehicle safaris, and village treks, making it an excellent choice for nature lovers. A land of rolling tea gardens, the mighty Brahmaputra, and rich wildlife, Assam is brimming with its natural beauty and vibrant cultural heritage.



SUMMIT NORLING RESORT AND SPA (GANGTOK, SIKKIM)

This resort is set in a picturesque location with beautiful gardens and a serene atmosphere. Summit Norling Resort & Spa offers 27 well-appointed rooms, including luxurious chalets with stunning views of the Himalayas. Guests can enjoy various recreational activities and unwind by the pond or around a campfire. A serene paradise, Sikkim is adorned with snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows, and vibrant monasteries, offering breathtaking views and spiritual tranquility.

LUXURIOUS GETAWAYS IN NORTHEAST INDIA

The pressure of waiting for my admission results was becoming unbearable. My friend, Vishesh Shukla, suggested a short trip to Mathura and Vrindavan, known for their spiritual aura and rich heritage. Without much planning, we packed our bags and boarded the Lucknow-Agra Intercity Express in the evening. The train reached Agra late at night, and from there, we caught another train to Mathura. By the time we arrived in Mathura, it was around 1 a.m. A short auto ride costing ₹50 took us to Vrindavan, where we stayed at the Tourist Facilitation Centre. After a long journey, we finally got some rest, excited about the day ahead. In the morning, we checked into a modest hotel that charged ₹1,300 for 24 hours. After freshening up, our first stop was the famous Banke Bihari Temple. The temple's energy and devotion left us amazed. We continued our exploration with visits to the ISKCON Temple, Radha Raman Temple and Nidhivan, each offering a unique spiritual experience. Walking through the streets of Vrindavan, surrounded by the sound of bhajans and the sight of devotees, was truly calming. After a simple lunch at a local eatery, we returned to the hotel for a quick nap. The evening was reserved for the magnificent Prem Mandir, which looked breathtaking under the evening



SOULFUL TRAVEL DIARIES

Mathura's sacred temples, peaceful ghats and lively streets provided the perfect getaway from the stress of admission results, writes MANOJ SINGH NEGI



lights. The intricate architecture and devotional atmosphere made it a highlight of the trip. Dinner was at the newly opened Bikanerwala Restaurant on Chhatikara Road. The delicious food was the perfect end to the day. That night, I received the news I had been eagerly waiting for, I had been admitted to my dream institute, IIMC Dhenkanal! The happiness and relief were indescribable. I couldn't help but thank the positive energy of this spiritual trip for making this moment even more special. The next morning, we visited the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple, the birthplace of Lord Krishna. The early morning peace at the temple was soothing. We also stopped by the Dwarkadhish Temple, which is known for its vibrant morning rituals. The temples of Mathura left a deep impression on us with their history and devotion. After breakfast near Yamuna Ghat, we boarded a bus from Mathura Bus Stand to Tundla. We had a hearty lunch at Tundla before catching the Gomti Express, which took us back to Lucknow. This trip was much more than just a getaway. It gave me the clarity and positivity I needed, along with the joy of achieving my dream. The spiritual vibe of Mathura and Vrindavan, combined with their timeless charm, made it a journey I will never forget.

IN BRIEF



Just Dial Q3 profit up to Rs 131 cr

Just Dial Ltd, a local search engine, has reported 42.7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 131.31 crore for December quarter FY25. It had a net profit of Rs 92.01 crore in the October-December period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Just Dial, now controlled by Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. Revenue from operation was up 8.4 per cent at Rs 287.33 crore in the December quarter. The company "achieved its highest-ever quarterly revenue in Q3 FY25, further solidifying its position as a leader in the digital services," said Just Dial in its earning statement. Total expenses were at Rs 215.57 crore, down 1.55 per cent from the year-ago period. Total income during the quarter under review stood at Rs 364.74 crore, up 7.3 per cent. Commenting on the results, Chief Growth Officer Shwetank Dixit said Just Dial's focus remains on driving top-line growth while maintaining operational efficiency.



School of Design Thinking signs MoU with ICT Academy

The School of Design Thinking promoted by noted industrialist Arun Jain, has signed a memorandum of understanding with ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu towards strengthening design thinking in educational institutions. Jain is the Chairman and Managing Director of city-headquartered Intellect Design Arena Ltd in the city. The partnership between the two entities aims to establish frameworks for cooperative institutional relations to encourage and promote collaboration in the area of design thinking. The MoU was signed in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Udhaynidhi Stalin, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Palanivel Thiaga Rajan at the UImagineTN 2025 event recently held in the city. "Design Thinking holds the transformative potential to reshape not only how we solve problems but also how we unearth new opportunities. Through this partnership, our goal is to nurture a community of students who prioritise human-centred approaches in their thinking," Jain said in a company statement here.



EMA Partners India SME IPO to raise Rs 76 crore

Mumbai-based EMA Partners India on Saturday said it is looking to raise Rs 76 crore on the NSE's Emerge platform through an initial public offering, which will open for public subscription on January 17. The issue with a price band of Rs 117-124 apiece will conclude on January 21. The bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on January 16, the company said in a statement. At the upper end of the price band, the company will raise about Rs 76.01 crore. The shares of the company are proposed to be listed on the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) platform of NSE Emerge. Investors can bid for a minimum of 1,000 shares and in multiples thereof, it added. The initial public offering (IPO) is a fresh issue of up to 53.34 lakh equity shares, aggregating up to Rs 66.14 crore and an offer for sale component of up to 7.96 lakh shares by promoters -- Krishnan Sudarshan and Subramanian Krishnaprakash, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP) filed on January 9.

Indian economy likely to be 'a little weaker' in 2025: IMF

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The Indian economy is expected to be "a little weaker" in 2025 despite steady global growth, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said.

Georgieva also said she expects quite a lot of uncertainty in the world this year mainly around the trade policy of the US.

In her annual media roundtable with a group of reporters on Friday, she said global growth is expected to be steady in 2025, but with regional divergence.

Georgieva said she expects the Indian economy to be a little weaker in 2025. However, she did not explain it any further. The World Economy Outlook update week will have more details about it.

"The US is doing quite a bit better than we expected before, the EU is somewhat stalling, (and) India a little weaker," she said.

Brazil was facing somewhat higher inflation, she said.

In China, the world's second-largest economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was seeing deflationary pressure and ongoing chal-



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lenges with domestic demand, she said.

"Low-income countries, despite all the efforts they are making, are in a position when any new shock can affect them quite negatively," Georgieva said.

"What we expect in 2025 is to have quite a lot of uncertainty, especially in terms of economic policies. Not surprisingly, given the size and role of the US economy, there is keen interest globally in the policy directions of the incoming administration, in particular on tariffs, taxes, deregulation and government efficiency," Georgieva said.

"This uncertainty is particularly high around the path for trade policy going forward, adding to the headwinds facing the global economy, especially for countries and regions that are more integrated in global supply chains, medium-sized economies, (and) Asia as a region," she said.

That uncertainty is actually expressed globally through higher long-term interest rates, even though short-term interest rates have gone down, the IMF Managing Director said.

Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, replacing Joe Biden at the

White House. Trump, 78, has announced plans to impose additional tariffs on countries like China, Canada and Mexico. He has publicly announced the use of tariffs as a key policy tool.

On inflation, the IMF expects global disinflation to continue, Georgieva said.

"As we all recognise, the higher interest rates that were necessary to fight inflation did not push the world economy into recession. They have delivered the desired results. Headline inflation is converging back to target sooner in advanced economies than in emerging markets," she said.

Nation to become \$4 trillion economy much earlier: Puri

PNS ■ MANGALURU

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said India's energy security will fuel the country's bid to become a USD 4 trillion economy much earlier than the projected 2027.

Puri was addressing a session at the 7th Mangaluru Literary Festival on Saturday. He said the International Monetary Fund has projected India to reach there by 2027. "But if the present trajectory continues, India will arrive there much before that," Puri said.

The seventh edition of the festival was inaugurated by legendary Kannada writer S L Bhyrappa at the T M A Pai Auditorium. Following the inauguration, Puri delivered his key note address on India's energy security. According to Puri, there is no shortage of fos-

sil fuel in the world. He said a few oil-producing and exporting countries project the fossil fuels as "short-lived resources" for their own "cartelising motives".

He also said India has ramped up its refinery capacity from 5 million barrels of crude to 5.4 million barrels per day with a scope for increasing the installed capacity to 6-7 million barrels per day shortly. "Our oil diplomacy is also on a high note. Along with traditional markets in the Middle East, India now imports from the US and Surinam apart from Russia. Despite the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) cutting down their production from 1.2 million barrels to 97 million, India's oil imports have remained steady, which is a great achievement in the geopolitical positioning of India," Puri added.

India adds record renewable energy capacity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India logged a record high renewable energy capacity addition of about 30 GW in 2024, more than 113 per cent higher than 13.75 GW recorded in 2023, according to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy data. This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious plan to have 500 GW of renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030.

Besides, India needs to add an average of 50 GW of renewable energy capacity per annum over the next six years to achieve its target. "Exponential growth from 13.75 GW in 2023 to around 30 GW in 2024, resulting in achieving nearly 218 GW now underscores India's growing commitment to clean energy and its progress in building a greener future," New & Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a post on X.

India joins UN committee on big data for official statistics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD), which underscores the country's growing stature in the global statistical community and highlights its commitment to leveraging data and technology for informed decision-making.

The UN-CEBD was created to further investigate the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals.

As part of the committee, India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing Big Data and data science for official statistical purposes, the statement by Ministry of Statistics



and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) said.

India's active engagement in the Committee of Experts will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of the Data Innovation Lab and exploration of alternate data sources such as satellite imagery and machine learning for policy making.

This membership is a strategic opportunity for India to align its domestic advancements in Big Data and data sci-

ence with international goals, showcasing the country's capability to lead transformative initiatives in the data domain. Big Data and advanced data science techniques have the potential to revolutionize the production and dissemination of official statistics.

By integrating non-traditional data sources such as IoT, satellite imagery, and private sector data streams, India aims to modernize its statistical processes, enhance the accuracy of estimates, and enable the timely availability of critical data for policy formulation and governance.

This engagement will also complement India's ongoing efforts to streamline statistical production and drive innovation in data collection, processing, and analysis to reduce the time lag in data availability, the statement said.

GJEPC optimistic about diamond export revival Eyes Bengal's Singur as global jewellery hub

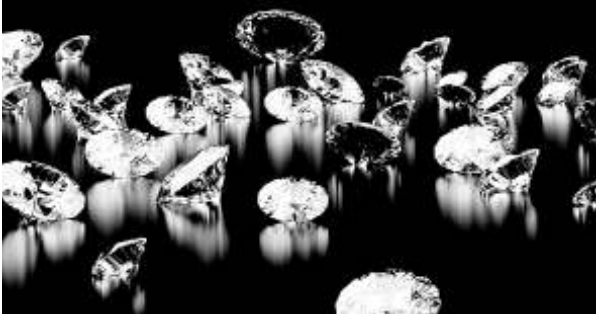
PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) on Saturday reported a 12 per cent jump in gold jewellery exports during the current fiscal, contrasting with a 10 per cent decline in diamond exports over the first nine months.

The apex trade body expressed optimism about a turnaround in diamond exports, particularly in the US, which accounts for nearly half of the total exports.

The exports of cut and polished diamonds between April and November of FY25 dropped by 18.8 per cent to USD 8,980.2 million compared to the same period the previous year. China's sluggish demand remains a concern for diamond exports, officials said on Saturday.

Nonetheless, a five per cent surge in US demand during



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the Thanksgiving festival provided some relief for December month, they said.

"We believe the worst is behind us, with a 10 per cent decline in the first nine months of this fiscal. With the new government in the US under Donald Trump, we are optimistic about a revival in demand and expect 10-15 per cent growth in 2025-26," said GJEPC Chairman Vipul Shah at the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Eastern

Regional Office in Kolkata. Gold jewellery exports benefited from rising gold prices, noted state GJEPC official Pankaj Parekh.

Shah added that the industry, in its pre-budget proposals, has sought an alignment of duty drawbacks for platinum, an emerging precious metal with significant potential.

The GJEPC said it has invested Rs 150 crore in the global generic promotion of diamonds and is also promot-

ing lab-grown diamonds to cater to price-conscious consumers.

Shah also announced plans to establish Singur in West Bengal as a global export hub for fashion and costume jewellery, leveraging its skilled workforce and artisanal heritage.

He also highlighted shifting global trade dynamics, noting that the US is reducing procurement from China.

'No more actions on derivatives on anvil'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The capital markets regulator is not planning any more measures to curb or restrict activity in derivatives, Sebi's Wholetime Member Ananth Narayan said on Saturday.

An expert group under former RBI executive director G Padmanabhan continues to work on bettering the system, and some moves on ease of doing business and better risk management are being mulled, he added.

"At this point in time, there is no thought of Sebi taking any further steps in this particular regard," Narayan said, addressing an event organised by Sebi-promoted NISM here.

He also made it clear that the Sebi is not mulling any steps on "suitability and appropriability", which will determine who can trade in the derivatives market.

It can be noted that in November, Sebi imposed a set of restrictions to curb highly speculative trades in the futures and options market after data pointed out that retail investors lost money in 93 per cent of the trades over the last three years.

Making it clear that Sebi has nothing against derivatives and that they help in price discovery and deepening the market, Narayan assured that the tweaks will be introduced only after consultations.

Some of the measures being discussed within the market regulator include steps to better measure risk in the derivatives market.

"What you need ideally is that the volumes in the cash market should be nice and liquid, and there should be depth in the market. And likewise, the volumes in the derivative market should also have depth, should also have good volumes," he noted.

It is important to make sure that there is some kind of connectivity in the liquidity of the two markets, he said.

"What is very clear to us is the current way of measuring open interest as notional of futures and notional of options is simply not right. It gives a very, very wrong picture, and there is a need to debate how we move forward into a more meaningful metric," he said.

Narayan said the Sebi is also considering linking market-wide position limits to delivery volumes.

Linked to the same, it is considering a revision of index training limits imposed during the COVID pandemic to control volatility, the WTM said.

Sebi is also looking at the question of having indices with futures and options with very high concentrated weightages of some specific stocks from a perspective of ensuring trust in the system, Narayan added.

71.7 pc jump in Indian tourists visit to Malaysia

PNS ■ CHENNAI

A record 71.7 per cent increase in travellers from India to Malaysia was witnessed in 2024, attributed to the rise in flight connectivity between the two nations, Consul General of Malaysia in Chennai, Saravana Kumar Kumaravasagam, said here.

With Malaysia extending the 30-day visa exemption for Indian nationals until December 2026, he described it as a "significant milestone" in enhancing connectivity between India and Malaysia.

"This is a golden opportunity for the people of Tamil Nadu and across India to

explore Malaysia's rich cultural heritage, pristine beaches, and vibrant cities without the hassle of applying for a visa," Kumar said in a press release on Saturday.

As Malaysia remains a key destination for Indian travellers, this extension of the 30-day visa exemption ensures seamless travel, he added. Tourism Malaysia's Chennai Director, Hishamuddin Mustafa, noted that the visa exemption not only simplifies travel but also reaffirms Malaysia's commitment to being a preferred destination for Indian tourists.

"With strategic partner-



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ships and robust promotional campaigns, we aim to showcase Malaysia's unparalleled hospitality, diverse attractions, and hidden gems," Mustafa added.

In 2025, Malaysia has rolled out unique offerings, including Community-Based Tourism, positioning Malaysia as a premier wedding destination, promoting

Malaysia as an education hub, and targeting high-potential customers under the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) segment.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA... E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE... Short Tender Notice No. DB / 244 to 333/2024-25... Dated: 10.01.2025... No. of works (09): Laying of CC Roads. Construction of side drains, under DMFT, SDF and MPLADS Grants in Tandur Division with Total Estimate Cost of Rs.416.00 Lakhs. Schedules will be issue from Date. 15.01.2025 to Date 22.01.2025. For all further details contact Executive Engineer PR Division Tandur. E-MAIL: eeptrandur@gmail.com, Contact Numbers- 9676830666. Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 901-FPC/LAD/DT/1024-25, Date: 15-01-2025 PR Division Tandur.



# agenda

the pioneer

"He was the king amongst the industrialists of India"  
— NARAYANA MURTHY



*"What I would like to do is to leave behind a sustainable entity of a set of companies that operate in an exemplary manner in terms of ethics, values and continue what our ancestors left behind."*

— RATAN NAVAL TATA

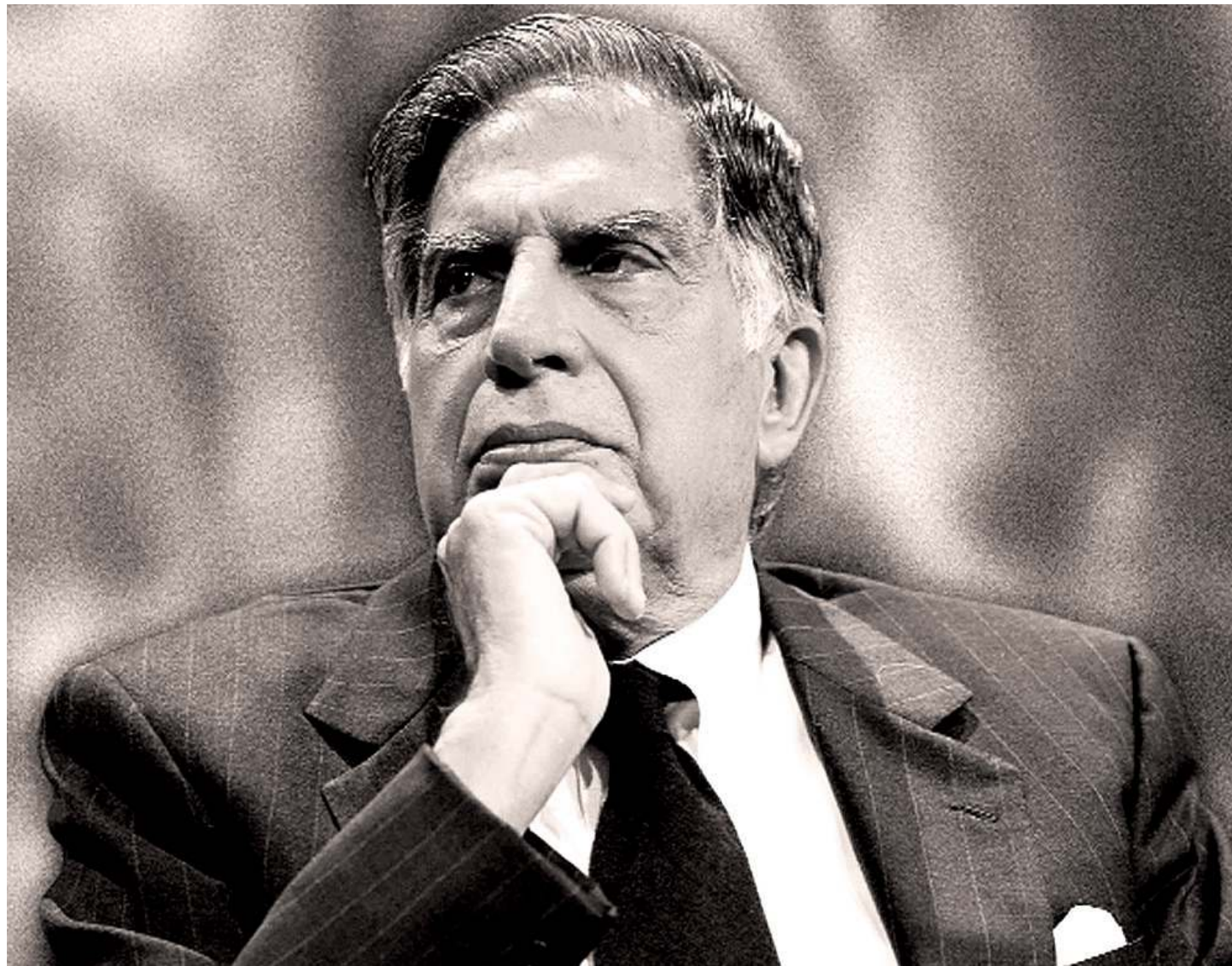
**P**ericles, the monumental Greek politician and statesman during the Golden Age of Athens in his historic Funeral Oration delivered in 431 BC (that is said to have influenced President Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address on 19th November, 1863!), said, "To famous men all the earth is a sepulchre: and their virtues shall be testified not only by inscription on stone at home but in all lands wheresoever in the unwritten record of the mind, which far beyond any monument will remain with all men everlastingly."

On 9th October, 2024, at exactly 11.30 pm IST, the towering 5 feet 10 inches tall Surat born Parsee industrialist-philanthropist Padma Vibhushan Ratan (meaning "precious jewel") Naval Tata, the Chairman Emeritus and the patriarch of the House of Tata, the largest business conglomerate in India (having a staggering annual revenue of over 165 billion US Dollars and encompassing a grand well knit family of over 1 million happy, well cared for and dedicated members worldwide!), breathed his last at the iconic Beach Candy Hospital nestled atop the Arabian Sea facing Cumballa Hill at the age of 86. He had been hospitalised on 7th October, 2024 owing to a critical combination of senescence and hypotension. Ratan held a meager 0.83 % cent stake in Tata Sons and had a net worth of Rs 7,900 crores, according to the Hurun India Rich List 2024. A large part of his wealth-nearly 75 per cent-was tied to his shares in Tata Sons. For Ratan, accolades poured in a torrential stream from across the country and from all corners of the world. In an impassioned eulogy that reflected the melancholy mood of a shattered nation, our Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi tweeted on X - "Shri Ratan Tata was a visionary business leader, a compassionate soul, and an extraordinary human being." On 13th October, 2024, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu in a post on X addressed to his friend Modi, condoled Ratan's death and highlighted his stellar contributions in fostering Israel-India ties, "I and many in Israel mourn the loss of Ratan Naval Tata, a proud son of India and a champion of the friendship between our two countries." In a post on LinkedIn on 14th October, 2024, Padma Bhushan Natarajan Chandrasekaran, (popularly known as "Chandra"), the most worthy successor of Ratan (he effortlessly stepped into Ratan's distinguished shoes and proudly donned his enviable mantle on 12th January, 2017!) and my personal friend for over 15 years since my heady days as a long term Advisor to Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. ("TCS"), the flagship of the prodigious Tata fleet, paid an effusive heartfelt homage to his former boss and mentor, "Anybody who met Mr. Tata came away with a story about his humanity, warmth, and dreams for India. There really was no one like him." Joseph Bitner Wirthlin, the renowned American businessman and religious leader rightly observed, "Some memories are unforgettable, remaining ever vivid and heartwarming!" In a moment of helpless nostalgia, my mind goes back irresistibly to the rather sultry summer day in the year 1986 when I fortuitously met Ratan (he was then the Chairman of Tata Industries and had in that capacity drafted the Tata Strategic Plan) for the very first time within the majestic confines of the Taj Palace Hotel, the only "palace" hotel in the national capital since 1983. Thereafter, I often used to stay at the Taj Mahal Hotel (the second hotel built by the Indian Hotel Company Ltd. ("IHCL") belonging to the Tata group after the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel ("Taj Mahal Palace") in Colaba, Mumbai, in 1903 and popularly known as the Taj Mansingh Hotel because of its strategic location at 1, Mansingh Road), the 5 star-deluxe hotel of 1978 vintage, characterised as the "Epicentre of Delhi".

I used to meet Ratan sporadically in the hotel lobby mostly in the company of its various General Managers and close personal friends belonging to the golden days of the hotel viz. Ravi Dubey, Ronnie Lobo (both Ravi and Ronnie are sadly no more in this world!), and Patu Keshwani or even otherwise. Ratan used to be invariably accompanied by his old faithful, close confidante, trouble shooter and quintessential out and out Taj-Man Devendra Kumar Beri ("DK" to his friends!). Ratan used to mostly stay at a spartan guest house in the Tata Apartments at 23, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi. In those heady days, Uncle PV, who used to live at 9, Motilal Nehru Marg, often dropped by at the famed coffee shop Machan to drink endless cups of freshly brewed sugar free piping hot filter coffee over steamed idlis and vadas soaked in mild sambar. Ratan never missed the opportunity to wish him if he happened to be around in the hotel. He was an indefatigable admirer of Uncle PV! After Uncle PV became the Prime Minister on 21st June, 1991 consequent upon Rajiv Bhai's tragic assassination on 21st May, 1991, and before he moved into Prime Minister House at 7, Race Course Road (renamed Lok Kalyan Marg), a special Suite was booked in the hotel for his family members through the good offices of Ratan, which was guarded round the clock by the Special

# THE SHAH OF THE CORPORATE UNIVERSE

Ratan Naval Tata redefined corporate leadership with vision, ethics, innovation and unparalleled philanthropy, writes **ANOOP BOSE**



Protection Group ("SPG"). Ratan personally saw to it that members of Uncle PV's family were well cared for in the hotel. I had the glorious good fortune of staying with Uncle PV at his residence even prior to his becoming the President of the Indian National Congress and was, naturally, a regular visitor to Suite where I used to meet and interact with Uncle PV's two sons Rajeshwar and Prabhakar under the watchful eyes of the SPG personnel. One of my close friends Prashant Tewari, who used to work very closely with Uncle PV and Hansraj Bhardwaj, (the versatile lawyer and later rose to become India's most famous law minister), both were closely known to Uncle PV's family, used to co-ordinate crucial governance and political issues during the period of most dramatic transformation of the country.

Again, I used to have the opportunity to meet Ratan in the hotel! Ratan used to take a very special interest in the JRD Tata Memorial Lectures. On 19th September, 2008, Somnath Chatterjee, eminent Barrister and the then Speaker of the Lok Sabha and a close personal friend, delivered the 11th JRD Memorial Lecture on "Economic Development and Political Consensus Building" at the Mansingh Hall in the Taj Mansingh. I was a special invitee to the event. After Somnath's lecture, I met Ratan and Somnath at the adjacent Aftab Mahtab, the regal wood and marble panelled venue, over dinner. My old friend Dr. Jamshed Jiji Irani (popularly known as "Doc I"), the honorific Managing Director of Tata Steel, was also there at Ratan's table. The tall and handsome Sanjay "Pole" Singh, Principal Resident Executive and Adviser, Tata Sons, came over to the table unobtrusively and recounted how I had saved Doc I's life by forewarning the Tata Management that some evil people had plotted to attack Doc I with crude bombs in the heart of Jamshedpur with a sinister motive. My last Taj Mansingh encounter with Ratan was just before the outbreak of the Covid epidemic in 2020. I was standing outside one of the hotel lifts when suddenly as if by magic Ratan emerged from the lift along with his old Harvard educated friend Prince Shah Karim al-Husseini, Aga Khan IV (known by his religious

“TO FAMOUS MEN ALL THE EARTH IS A SEPULCHRE: AND THEIR VIRTUES SHALL BE TESTIFIED NOT ONLY BY INSCRIPTION ON STONE AT HOME BUT IN ALL LANDS WHERESOEVER IN THE UNWRITTEN RECORD OF THE MIND, WHICH FAR BEYOND ANY MONUMENT WILL REMAIN WITH ALL MEN EVERLASTINGLY”

title "Maulana Hazar Imam"), the founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network, and DK of course. I wished him and walked with him to his waiting car. He bid me goodbye with a wave of his hand before getting into his car! As a special advisor to the Marathon group of companies, I used to travel every year to Bengaluru to participate in Aero India, the biennial air show and aviation exhibition held by the Ministry of Defence at the Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, along with my illustrious Israeli friend Hezi Bezael, the Chairman of the group, and other top Israeli officials. The 2007 Aero India was a very special event for me as Ratan, who was 69 years old at that time, valiantly reached out for the skies in a

spellbinding saga of high adventure on 8th February, 2007. Clad in a G-Suit, he co-piloted a Lockheed Martin F-16 Falcon multi-role fighter jet in a historic 35 minute sortie. Ratan held licences to fly both jets and helicopters! Upon landing after what Ratan described as an "exhilarating" flight, I heartily congratulated Ratan shortly after he was greeted by my old friend William "Bill" Sebastian Cohen, former US Defense Secretary, Royce Keplinger and other senior Lockheed Martin officials. On 9th February, 2007, a G-Suited Ratan once again took to the skies co-piloting a Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet. I met Ratan shortly after his second flight in the Boeing Pavilion to felicitate him with a small bouquet of pink roses in the august presence of my close friends Thomas "Tom" Reeve Pickering, the former US Ambassador to India and the former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in the Clinton Administration, Dinesh Keskar, the senior Vice President, Sales in Asia-Pacific and India, Anil Srikhanda, India President, and other top officials of Boeing Company. During that visit, I also had the golden opportunity of watching a scintillating aerobatic display by the Hindustan Aeronautical Industries Ltd. manufactured fly-by-wire Light Combat Multi-Role Tejas Aircraft in the distinguished company of Ratan, Arackaparambil Kurien Antony, Union Defence Minister, Indru and Bookanekere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa, Chief Minister, Karnataka, amongst other important dignitaries. Ratan noticed to his enormous delight that I was smartly attired in a royal blue English blazer, grey English flannel trousers, a hand crafted boater hat from the reputed hatters K.R.Snoxell & Sons, Luton, and dazzling gold rimmed Zeiss sun glasses!

On 26th November, 2008, "a date which will live in infamy", Mumbai, the financial capital of India, witnessed a brutal, dastardly terrorist attack orchestrated by the Pakistani sponsored group Lashkar-e-Taiba, when the Indian Home Secretary Madukar Gupta, by an ominous coincidence, was enjoying Pakistan's hospitality in Murree, a mountain resort city close to Islamabad. Ten highly trained and heavily armed terrorists infiltrated the city, having stealthily landed in inflatable speed boats at Macchimar Nagar, in Mumbai's Cuffe Parade neighbourhood, and heinously targeted several meticulously planned locations, including the Taj Mahal Palace. The Indian Government's response to the attack was "pusillanimous", as aptly observed by the Hindustan Times on 26th November, 2008! The attack claimed 166 lives, including 33 at the Taj Mahal Palace, and did not spare even the General Manager of the hotel Karambir Singh Kang's wife Niti and his two young teenage sons Uday and Samar. Gautam Shantilal Adani, the Indian billionaire businessman (who has recently been in the eye of a storm!), by a superb stroke of luck managed to save himself by hiding in the kitchen of the hotel! Defying all odds, it was Ratan who in a truly Churchillian manner valiantly rose to the occasion and provided the much needed leadership to an embattled nation facing an "ordeal of the most grievous kind"! In the face of the attack watched by a shell-shocked nation, Ratan, who was then 70, displayed superhuman courage, resolve and determination. He strode like a colossus and stood like a Rock of Gibraltar at the Colaba end of the Taj Mahal Palace for 3 days, as security forces fiercely battled the terrorists in the Taj Mahal Palace. Everyone became just those inches taller, every back just that much broader, as Ratan's own was. This was undoubtedly Ratan's finest hour when he embodied the will, spirit and grit of our people...indomitable, undaunted, relentless! Ratan was imbued with the extraordinary, nay God given, ability and gift to pick out and support the ideal leader both for the House of Tata as well as the nation...he was the Kingmaker extraordinaire! Ratan backed Modi to the hilt before the General Elections in 2014 and on 19th May, 2014 tweeted on X, "Mr. Modi's landslide victory echoes the people's mandate for strong leadership and clear policies for growth and prosperity for India." On 19th December, 2020 at the ASSOCHAM Foundation Week, Ratan ecstatically heaped praise on Modi for his leadership during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, "I think if we all stand together and follow what you have said, what you have done and what you have shown, we will have a situation where the world will look at us and say this Prime Minister said it could happen and he made it happen."

In January, 2017, Chandra's "mentor, guide and friend" Ratan cherry-picked Chandra to lead Tata Sons as its Chairman, the first non-Tata family member to hold the coveted post! On his appointment as the Chairman of Tata Sons, Chandra said, "I am humbled and honoured to be chosen to lead a truly great institution that occupies a unique position in hearts of the people in India and the world. I am proud to have been part of the Tata family for over 30 years and assuming this position is a great privilege. I want to thank the Tata Sons board and Mr Ratan N Tata for their confidence in me to lead this trusted institution that has a rich heritage." Addressing the annual gala annual event at the National Centre of Performing Arts on the birth anniversary of JRD Tata on 30th July, 2018, Ratan expressed gratification with regard to the direction in which group companies were headed under the leadership of Chandra and said that he was confident that "Tata Group is in safe hands." Yes, only a true leader can identify other true leaders! Both Modi and Chandra have proved to be phenomenal leaders of the 21st Century and have earned international acclaim, respect, adoration and admiration. I have a myriad of friends who knew Ratan intimately and worked with him closely. I am highly emboldened to single out only 5 names viz. Pole, Tanmoy, Raia, Suprakash and Zubin Mehta, the Managing Director of Uniforms Unlimited, Mumbai, who holds a Masters Certification from the internationally reputed Savile Row Academy, London. All of them are unquestionably ad idem about Ratan: "He was a genuinely good, dedicated and large hearted soul filled with the milk of human kindness and our age is hardly fit to understand him."

We should remember the stellar quality of Ratan's character as well as the remarkable range of his achievements. In his love of adventure and his imaginative powers, he was far removed from the modern industrialist-philanthropist. Yet everyone who came in contact with him paid tribute to the unimaginable power of his mind. He had an aptitude for business which raised him far above the ordinary levels of our generation. He had a firmness of spirit which was not often elated by success, seldom downcast by failure and never swayed by panic. He loved life and was perfectly at peace with himself and the world around him. He could be helplessly uproarious. He wanted everyone to be happy. He wanted to taste and try everything that life could offer. Power never corrupted him, nor did success make him conceited, arrogant or pompous. Beyond his reputation as a business magnate and animal lover, Ratan's tenure as Chairman of the Tata Trusts has left an inerasable mark on India's cultural kaleidoscope. The trusts have spearheaded numerous initiatives across healthcare, education, environment and disaster relief and their manifold contributions to art and culture stand out as particularly noteworthy. With no thought of the length of time he might be permitted on Planet Earth, Ratan was concerned solely with the quality of the service he could render to his nation and to humanity.

— The author is an internationally reputed senior lawyer practising in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts and Tribunals in India

# FATEH: SONU SOOD LEADS A GRIPPING CYBER-ACTION SAGA WITH IT'S MISSES HERE AND THERE

TEJAL SINHA  
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**Plot:**

**F**ateh marks Sonu Sood's foray into the action-packed cyber-crime thriller genre, where he plays the titular character, Fateh, a relentless and determined hero who embarks on a mission to track down a notorious hacker. The plot follows Fateh's journey as he uncovers a web of cyber-crimes and exposes the murky underworld of hacking syndicates, all while keeping the audience at the edge of their seats with high-octane action sequences and twists. The story delves into the cyber world, focusing on issues like data theft, online fraud,

**DIRECTOR:** Sonu Sood  
**WRITER:** Sonu Sood and Ankur Pajni  
**PRODUCER:** Sonali Sood and Umesh KR Bansal  
**CAST:** Sonu Sood, Jacqueline Fernandez, Vijay Raaz, Naseeruddin Shah, Dibyendu Bhattacharya  
**RATING:** 3.5/5



striking, drawing comparisons to action franchises like *John Wick*. Sonu Sood's portrayal of a tough, no-nonsense hero is compelling and adds a layer of charisma to the film. The cyber-crime theme is a timely one, giving the film an edge and ensuring it resonates with a modern audience. The film's pacing is another positive; it keeps the energy high throughout, offering little time for the viewer to lose interest. *Fateh* impresses with its gripping storyline, packed with suspense, action and intricate plot developments. The film effectively taps into the current relevance of cyber-crime, making it timely and relatable to today's digital age. The screenplay moves at a brisk pace, maintaining a constant sense of urgency and mystery. While the narrative isn't entirely groundbreaking, it offers enough thrills and surprises to engage the audience, especially those with an interest in the cyber world.

and digital security, against a backdrop of personal vengeance and justice.

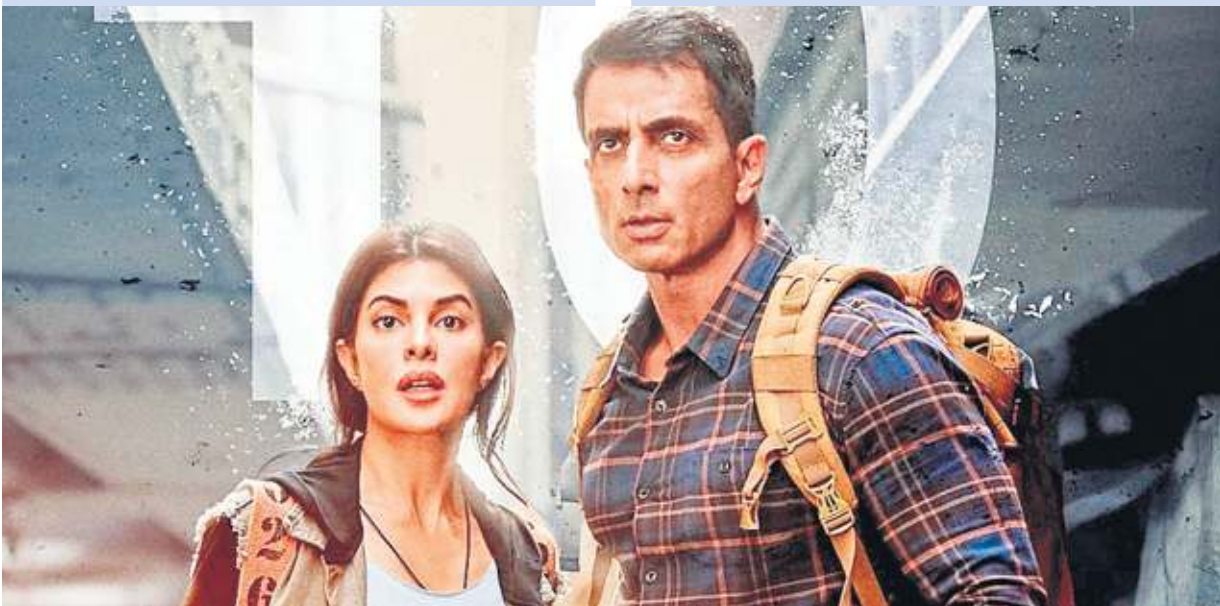
**Highlights:** One of the standout aspects of *Fateh* is its stylish action sequences. The choreography of fight scenes is sharp, dynamic and visually

**Drawbacks:** While *Fateh* certainly packs in the action, its character development could have been deeper. Fateh's backstory and motivations are only lightly touched upon and some secondary characters lack the depth necessary to make their arcs more compelling. The predictability of the plot also means that experienced thriller fans might find some of the twists and turns less surprising. Additionally, while the cyber-crime theme is intriguing, it doesn't always get the full attention it deserves, occasionally being overshadowed by the action sequences. At times, the story feels a bit predictable and may lean too heavily on familiar tropes of the genre. There is also a slight imbalance between action and story depth, with the former often overshadowing character development. Despite this, *Fateh* excels in creating an engaging viewing experience for fans of action thrillers.

**Performances:** Sonu Sood delivers a strong performance as Fateh, embodying the tough yet relatable hero with conviction. His screen presence is commanding, and his physicality adds to the film's intense atmosphere. While his portrayal may not break new ground, Sood's charisma shines through, making him an ideal fit for the role. Naseeruddin Shah plays the role of the kingpin, Reza, delivering a performance that feels disengaged and monotonal, even in the film's final moments when his character faces impending death. Vijay Raaz portrays Satyaprakash, whose digital password is ironically 'Satyameva Jayate,' offering a comedic touch, though the character's depth is lacking. Surprisingly, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, usually a reliable actor, appears shallow as a renegade cop. Sonu Sood, in a pivotal role, primarily communicates through grimaces, with only rare moments of a smile to break his otherwise stiff demeanor. Among the female cast, Jacqueline stands out as Khushi, injecting some life into the film, while Shiv Jyoti Rajput's portrayal of Nimrit is rather forgettable. Krushna Patil's character, Dolly, is underutilized, and her performance is left mostly unexplored.

**Technical Aspects:** The technical aspects of *Fateh* elevate the film's overall experience. Cinematography is sleek and polished, capturing the fast-paced nature of the action sequences while also highlighting the darker, more sinister aspects of the cyber world. The film's editing is tight, ensuring that the narrative stays fast-paced and engaging. The background score complements the high-stakes drama, with intense music adding to the tension in critical moments. The sound design is equally effective, making the action scenes feel dynamic and impactful.

**Verdict:** *Fateh* offers a thrilling, action-packed ride that will appeal to fans of stylish action and cyber-crime thrillers. Sonu Sood's performance and the film's intense action sequences are its strongest assets, while the film's fast pace and intriguing premise keep the audience hooked. While it may not bring anything radically new to the genre, it's an engaging film that succeeds in entertaining its audience. If you enjoy high-energy thrillers with a contemporary setting, *Fateh* is worth watching. However, for those looking for deeper character exploration or a more complex plot, the film may fall short of expectations.



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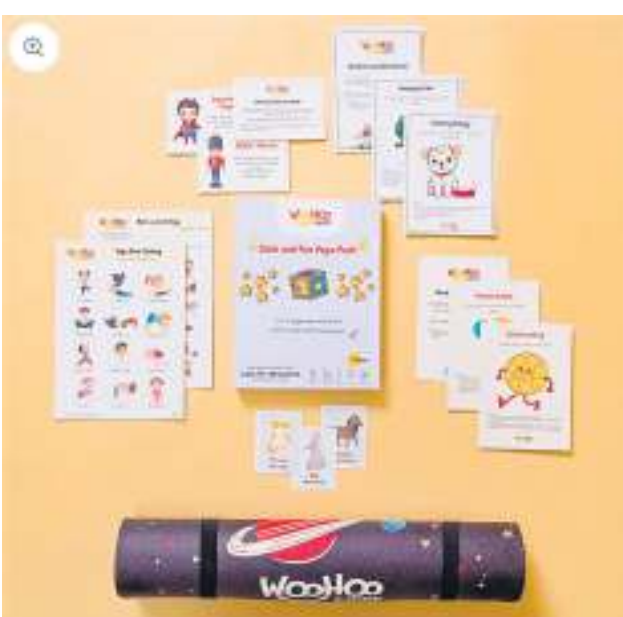
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Stay calm amidst challenges and adjust to changes. Overcome haunting memories and embrace optimism. A new job brings transformation. Responsibilities may distance you from past joys.



**GEMINI**

Avoid overestimating abilities and rash decisions. Communicate openly to resolve conflicts. Postpone changes, prioritize careful planning and embrace independence. Stay calm and thoughtful.



**CANCER**

Balance emotions and ambition while avoiding excessive openness or criticism. Patience and humour earn respect, while optimism and careful planning overcome challenges. Embrace joy and recognition.



**LEO**

Stay persistent in relationships and confident despite setbacks. Balance work and family, as fruitful ventures and favourable signs bring opportunities. Remain ethical and loyal to your loved ones.



**VRIGO**

Embrace unexpected connections and maintain optimism as life shifts. Balance work, family, and emotions. Brilliant insights spark success, while love, support, and small wins pave the way forward.



**LIBRA**

Stay resilient through setbacks and balance work, family, and emotions. Support from siblings and loyalty to others strengthen bonds. Cherish meaningful connections for a fulfilling life.



**SCORPIO**

Enjoy family support and time with children. Balance relationships and responsibilities with humility and flexibility. An unexpected love approach energises you, while reasoning skills aid progress.



**SAGITTARIUS**

Stay persistent despite delays and setbacks. Embrace love, affection, and support to boost confidence. Balance ego with humility, guide others wisely and continue efforts for success and harmony.



**CAPRICORN**

Embrace harmony and joy while overcoming frustrations. Stay focused. Success and recognition await, bringing encouragement. Socialize to uplift your mood and explore meaningful connections.



**AQUARIUS**

Stay cautious and calm, and avoid overestimating abilities. Postpone project changes and address important issues carefully. Embrace new opportunities with optimism, but adapt gradually to the changes.



**PISCES**

Stay open to others' ideas and communicate openly to resolve conflicts. Be cautious with innovations and changes. Take a refreshing break to recharge and embrace new experiences for confidence.

# I LIKE TO TAKE MY TIME CHOOSING PROJECTS

TEJAL SINHA  
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Harleen Sethi has always stood out for her impeccable talent and the meaningful projects she chooses to be a part of. With her refreshing humility and dedication, she has carved a unique space in the industry, delivering performances that resonate with audiences on a deeper level. Sethi has for long been celebrated not just for her talent but also for the thoughtful choices she makes as an artist. Speaking with her feels like stepping into a world of passion and humility. She has once again enraptured hearts with her latest release *Doctors*, a groundbreaking show

exploring the lives of doctors—the *Kohrra* fame sits down to share her thoughts on the journey, the challenges of embodying such a layered role and the gratitude she feels for the opportunities that come her way.

"Thank you for the compliment! You've truly made my day," Harleen begins this chat with warmth. "I feel so blessed and grateful to be doing what I love. It feels amazing to talk about a project that I'm so proud of. As an actor, I strive to make good choices and hearing such appreciation makes everything worthwhile."

Harleen's ability to immerse herself in diverse roles has earned her a special place in

the hearts of audiences. Her latest project, a show centered on the lives of doctors, stands as a testament to her dedication to meaningful storytelling.

Her pride for her latest endeavor is palpable. "This show is so close to my heart. We shot it over a year and a half ago and I recently revisited

over time, she transforms into a true healer and hero. It's an inspiring arc and I feel incredibly honored to bring her to life."

Portraying a doctor required extensive preparation. "From the scripting stage, we had real doctors—Dr. Agni and Dr. Janavi—on set. They helped us understand medical terminology, mannerisms and real-life cases sourced from AIIMS and around the world. We learned everything from how to take a pulse to administering CPR, checking and even the correct way to wash hands. Every detail mattered."

The *Broken But Beautiful* fame also dived deep into the psyche of a doctor. "I attended workshops, read books like *Complications* by Atul Gawande and observed real doctors to understand their mindset. It's not just about physical skills; it's about the emotional toll their work takes. The show offers a unique perspective on the personal and professional challenges they face."

"Every role comes with its own challenges, but professional roles like this are particularly demanding," she explains. "From the outside, it may seem glamorous, but the closer you look, the more you realise how challenging it is. Doctors, for instance, work under immense pressure, with 24/7 responsibilities and constant life-and-death situations. Separating personal life from professional life becomes crucial and mastering that balance is an art."

She recalls a pivotal scene in the series where Nitya experiences her first patient death. "It's a moment of reckoning for her and for me as an actor. Sharath (Ishan) says, 'What you do in this moment will define what kind of doctor you become.' It was incredibly challenging to portray that depth of emotion and responsibility."

Through this project, she developed a profound respect for the medical community. "I've come to understand just how hard doctors work and the immense responsibility they carry. They form their own communities because only they can truly understand the challenges they face. Shooting in real hospitals gave me a glimpse into their world, and it was deeply humbling. Doctors often create a second family among their peers because they spend so much time together. This sense of community and shared purpose is incredibly inspiring."

As she reflects on her journey, the *Gulmohar Grand* fame shares her excitement for the future. "I like to take my time choosing projects. It's important to me that each role challenges me and allows me to break away from my last image. I'm currently reading scripts for next year and I'm excited for what's to come."

Among her upcoming projects, Harleen reveals, "I've worked on a film with Remo D'Souza and Abhishek Bachchan for Amazon Original, which will release next year. I also have a dance sequence in *Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan* with Taapsee Pannu. Additionally, a couple of short films I've done will be doing the international rounds. I've entered the new year with so much hope and gratitude."

Harleen signs off with a message of gratitude: "Every project I do is a labor of love, and it feels wonderful when people connect with it. I hope *Doctors* resonates with audiences and inspires them as much as it inspired me. Here's to a new year filled with stories that move, motivate and make a difference."

Indeed, Harleen Sethi's journey is a testament to the power of passion, resilience, and making meaningful choices—both on and off the screen.



Harleen Sethi, in a heartfelt chat with *The Pioneer*, discusses her upcoming series that dive deep into the world of doctors. She shares her admiration for their dedication, the intense preparation for her role and the transformative journey of her character, Dr Nitya.

the show. Watching it brought back all the emotions, the anxiety, and the hope we felt while making it. It's not just a project; it's a tribute to doctors—especially after what they endured during the COVID-19 pandemic."


She continues, "The show captures the selflessness of doctors. They're there for us 24/7, often putting their own lives at risk. In most movies, we see glimpses of doctors' lives, but this series dives deep into their world, showing that they're human too—prone to mistakes, pressures and challenges. It's something India hasn't seen before. I hope it inspires young minds, much like an army film motivates the youth. It's a celebration of their dedication and resilience."

She plays Dr. Nitya, a character she describes as a heroine in every sense. "Vidya is a superhero, but she's also deeply human. The show unfolds through her eyes, showcasing her journey from revenge to love and redemption. Initially, she carries this heavy baggage of revenge, which drives her to the hospital. But



TRENDING


PERSON PRITISH NANDY




Veteran journalist, poet and filmmaker Pritish Nandy passed away in Mumbai, leaving behind a rich legacy in Indian media and cinema. The news of his death was confirmed by his son.

VIDEO YUZI'S OLD DRUNK VIDEO AMIDST DIVORCE RUMOURS

A viral video showing a visibly unsteady Yuzvendra Chahal being assisted to his car by a friend has resurfaced online, amidst divorce rumours. The video is reportedly from 2023.



MOVIE GAME CHANGER




The much-anticipated Ram Charan and Kiara Advani-starrer *Game Changer* has finally hit the screens and one cannot stop adoring the lead stars.

SONG UYI AMMA



Rasha Thadani's electrifying dance moves in the song *Uyi Amma* from her debut film have set social media ablaze. Her effortless grace and dynamic energy have left fans mesmerized, cementing her as a rising star to watch.

HYDERABAD'S 2ND LARGEST FLYOVER



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Aramghar-Nehru Zoological Park flyover, Hyderabad's second-longest on Monday. As a tribute to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the newly inaugurated flyover has been named in his honour, aiming to improve connectivity and traffic flow in the city.

## Winter woes: How HMPV affects vulnerable populations

PNS| HYDERABAD

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), though lesser-known compared to influenza or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), is a common respiratory pathogen that affects people worldwide, particularly during late winter and early spring. Its symptoms—runny nose, cough, sore throat, fever and in severe cases, wheezing and difficulty breathing—often mimic other respiratory viruses, making it harder to diagnose without specific tests.

As cases of HMPV increase during colder months, experts emphasize the importance of awareness, preventive measures, and supportive care to minimize its impact, especially on vulnerable populations.

Dr. K.P. Balaraj, Consultant, Internal Medicine at SPARSH Hospital, RR Nagar, explains, "HMPV is not a mysterious virus—it's a respiratory pathogen we encounter every year. Most healthy people recover within a week or two, but the virus poses a higher risk for young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems, leading to complications like pneumonia or bronchitis."

**Why HMPV often goes undiagnosed**

HMPV frequently overlaps with flu and RSV infections, which can result in its impact being underestimated. Dr. Balaraj adds, "The reason HMPV seems unfamiliar to many is its overlap with the flu and RSV. Without specific tests, we often attribute its effects to other respiratory illnesses. The absence of a dedicated vaccine or

antiviral treatment for HMPV makes prevention crucial."

Simple preventive measures, such as frequent handwashing, wearing masks in crowded areas, and avoiding close contact with infected individuals, can significantly reduce its spread. Supporting the immune system through a nutrient-rich diet, including foods high in vitamin C, zinc and probiotics, can also aid recovery and boost respiratory health.

**HMPV's impact during winter**

Winter months see a spike in respiratory illnesses, creating an environment where viruses

like HMPV thrive. Cold weather exacerbates pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and chronic bronchitis, making individuals with these conditions more vulnerable.

Dr. Sandeep Katiyar, Senior Consultant, Pulmonology at Apollo Spectra Hospital, Kanpur, warns, "HMPV thrives during colder months when respiratory viruses are at their peak. Confined indoor environments and poor ventilation during winter create ideal conditions for HMPV to spread through respiratory droplets."

He advises those at higher risk, particularly

the elderly and individuals with chronic respiratory conditions, to take proactive measures, including maintaining indoor air quality, wearing masks in crowded spaces, and avoiding close contact with sick individuals. "Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent severe complications, especially in high-risk groups," Dr. Katiyar emphasises.

**Unique risk to children**

Children, especially infants and toddlers, are among the most vulnerable to HMPV due to their developing immune systems and smaller airways, which can make it harder to

cope with the inflammation caused by the virus.

"HMPV is a significant cause of respiratory infections in children," says Dr. Rahul Khanna, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine at Apollo Spectra Hospital, Karol Bagh, Delhi. "This virus often manifests as cold-like symptoms but can progress to more severe conditions like croup, bronchiolitis, or pneumonia, leading to hospitalization. Parents should be cautious if their child develops wheezing, difficulty breathing, or persistent high fever."

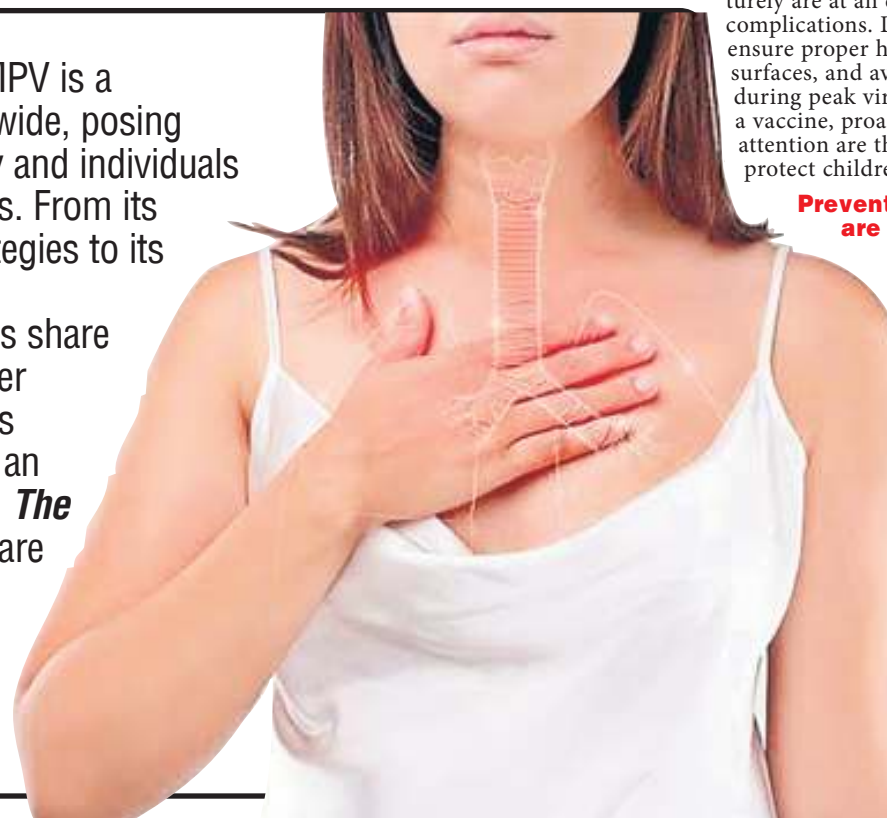
Children with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma, or those born prematurely are at an even greater risk of severe complications. Dr. Khanna advises parents to ensure proper hand hygiene, sanitise toys and surfaces, and avoid crowded public places during peak viral seasons. "In the absence of a vaccine, proactive care and timely medical attention are the most effective strategies to protect children from HMPV," he adds.

**Prevention and awareness are key**

While HMPV may not be as widely discussed as influenza or RSV, its prevalence and impact, particularly on vulnerable populations, highlight the need for greater awareness. Preventive measures, supportive care and early medical intervention can help reduce the risk of severe complications and ensure better outcomes for those affected.

As Dr. Balaraj concludes, "Though HMPV may not be as widely discussed, it is a virus we encounter regularly. Awareness and timely action—through preventive measures and supportive care—are essential in mitigating its effects."

Often overshadowed by influenza and RSV, HMPV is a common cause of respiratory infections worldwide, posing heightened risks for young children, the elderly and individuals with underlying health conditions. From its symptoms and prevention strategies to its seasonal surge and impact on vulnerable groups, the experts share insights to help readers better understand and combat this often-overlooked virus. In an exclusive interaction with *The Pioneer*, leading healthcare experts shed light on Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), a lesser-known yet significant respiratory virus that surfaces during late winter and early spring.





# DURGESH: A COMBINATION OF PASSION AND COMPASSION

**N**oted politician and dynamic leader Kandula Lakshmi Durgesh Prasad, popularly known as Kandula Durgesh, who commands respect across the political fraternity of both Telugu states, is currently serving as Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography. His inspiring journey is a testament to hard work, determination and a deep-rooted passion for public service. Despite his down-to-earth demeanor, Durgesh always harboured a hidden leadership quality, driven by a desire to uplift the underprivileged and address the needs of society. As a Minister, Durgesh is steadfast in his mission to transform Andhra Pradesh into a cultural and tourism hub. In a candid conversation with **The Pioneer's C Pradeep Kumar, Kandula Durgesh** reflected on his inspiring journey from Rajahmundry, overcoming numerous hardships to reach his current role. His story is not just about political success but also about a lifelong commitment to serving people and building a better future for all.

## RAISED WITH DISCIPLINE & VALUES



I was born in Rajahmundry to Meda Venkata Bhojaratnam, a landlord and Padmavathi, a homemaker. Later, I was adopted by my maternal grandmother's sister, Kandula Someswara Rao and Ranganayakamma. I have a brother and three sisters. My brother, Gurudatt, runs an NGO, while my sisters--Meena Kumari is a retired teacher, Subbayamma is a homemaker and Annapurna is an advocate. They have all been very affectionate and supportive of me. My adopted mother was very disciplined and systematic in raising me, instilling values that have shaped my life. I pursued my graduation from VT College in Rajahmundry and later completed my post-graduation at BNR College in Bhimavaram.

## TRADITION OF VISITING JANGAREDDYGUDEM

Every summer during the holidays, all our cousins would visit Jangareddygudem, where my maternal grandfather served as a government doctor. These summer holidays remain some of my fondest memories. We would often visit the fields, play in the borewell water and take baths in the cool, refreshing streams. The visits to the mango, coconut and sweet orange farms were always special. Even after marriage, I continue to visit Jangareddygudem with my children, cherishing the village backdrop and passing on these precious memories.

## HOW PAWAN KALYAN LED ME TO JOIN JANA SENA

I entered politics while pursuing my post-graduation and became actively involved with the Youth Congress. I remained with Congress until 2016. During the tenure of former chief minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy, I served as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) from 2007 to 2013. I briefly joined YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) from 2016 to 2018. In 2018, I was inspired by the vision and dedication of Jana Sena Party chief K Pawan Kalyan to serve the people and address the needs of the underprivileged, which led me to join Jana Sena Party.



## CAUGHT SMOKING, BUT GUIDED WITH WISDOM

An incident from my college days was when I decided to try smoking a cigarette and was caught by my uncle. He reported it to my mother, who, instead of scolding me, guided me with wisdom and understanding. Her approach led to a transformation and since then, I have never touched a cigarette or developed a habit of drinking.



## FROM MONO-ACTING TO POLITICS

From a young age, I always aspired to be a leader, regardless of the field. I excelled in academics, mono-acting, debates, stage dramas and other extra-curricular activities. My parents were incredibly supportive, playing a pivotal role in shaping me into the person I am today. My maternal grandfather, Pothula Veerabhadra Rao, was a former MLA and Municipal Chairman from the Congress party. I strongly believe his influence has played a significant role in shaping my path toward leadership in politics. During my college years, I served as the general secretary of the NSUI Rajahmundry Town Wing and later as the president of the District NSUI in East Godavari. I was also elected unanimously as the Students' Union chairman of VT College, Rajahmundry, a position that remains particularly special to me as a student.

## BUILDING A LIFE TOGETHER

I got married in 1988 to K Usha Rani, in an arranged marriage and she is my aunt's daughter. Our wedding was a grand celebration, marked by joy and attended by family, friends and well-wishers who shared in our happiness. We are blessed with a son and a daughter. My son, Dr K Krishna Teja, is a Neuro Physician and his wife, Dr Susmitha, is a Gynecologist. They have a beautiful daughter, my granddaughter, Aadvika. My daughter, Srirangapriya, is an Engineer and she is married to Eli Satyendra, an Engineer at HCL. My family continues to be my greatest source of strength and pride.



## WIFE HELPED BALANCE MY CAREER AND FAMILY LIFE

For every politician, dedicating time to family is a challenging task and for me, balancing the roles of a politician and businessman has been particularly demanding. While I hold family as my utmost priority, the responsibilities of politics and business often made it difficult to spend as much time with them as I would have liked.

My wife was my pillar of support, managing everything at home, from getting our children ready for school to raising them with care and devotion, all while supporting my career wholeheartedly. Sadly, she did not live to see me take on the role of minister, a position she always encouraged me to aspire to.



## POLITICS—MY PASSION

Politics is not just a career for me; it is my passion. My tagline, 'Politics with Purity', reflects my commitment to serving people with integrity. I firmly believe that a politician should be service-oriented, and this principle drives my work. Through my NGO, Sraavanti, I have undertaken several service-oriented initiatives, including environmental protection, capacity building for the fishing community, and promoting coastal ecology, with a particular focus on mangroves. My dedication to understanding and addressing these issues has taken me to countries in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, where I studied coastal and marine ecology.



## TOURISM AND CULTURE AT THE FOREFRONT

I see immense potential for development in the tourism sector, as Andhra Pradesh is blessed with scenic beauty that promises visitor satisfaction. Culture has always been a subject of great interest to me and I am thrilled to lead the Tourism, Culture and Cinematography departments under the guidance of our visionary leader, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.



## HAPPIEST MOMENT

Not just me, but my entire family was overjoyed when our party's Chief and Deputy Chief Minister, K Pawan Kalyan, recognised my efforts and entrusted me with the responsibility of leading the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Cinematography. It was a proud and unforgettable moment in my life.



## MESSAGE TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Politics can be a meaningful career for those with a genuine intention to serve the people and make a positive impact. It should not be viewed negatively, as it offers a platform to bring about meaningful change through constructive and thoughtful action. With dedication and hard work, one can achieve success in politics while contributing to the betterment of society.

## THE DYNAMIC TRIO

Over the past five years, the state faced challenges due to a lack of proper vision and direction. However, it is now in capable hands under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan dedicated to supporting the poor and needy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi providing comprehensive support. The people hold a strong belief that, under this dynamic trio's leadership, the State will overcome its financial challenges and embark on a path of prosperity and development in the days ahead.

**RAPID FIRE**

**YOUR NICKNAME :** Durgesh  
**Favourite colour:** Navy Blue  
**Favourite Food:** Sambar, Potato Fry  
**Favourite movie:** Rudraveena  
**Favourite holiday:** Maredumilli  
**Are you religious/spiritual:** I am god fearing and spiritual  
**Favourite actor:** Chiranjeevi  
**Inspiration:** Atal Bihari Vajpayee (literary style of presentation)  
**Driving force:** DCM K Pawan Kalyan

## YOUR PLANS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS

As the Tourism Minister, my vision is to elevate Andhra Pradesh to the forefront of tourism, leveraging its vast potential to attract visitors from across the globe. Over the past five years, the Tourism Department has been neglected and I am committed to revitalising it. Additionally, I aim to focus on the Culture Department, preserving and promoting our art, culture and language, showcasing their splendor and elevating them to new heights. My goal is to transform Andhra Pradesh into a tourism hub while driving comprehensive development in the Nidadavolu constituency. One of the pressing issues in Nidadavolu is the scarcity of drinking water, which I pledge to address promptly. Another critical challenge is the hardship faced by farmers due to the flooding of Erra Kaluva. I will ensure that the bunds are strengthened to prevent flooding and safeguard the livelihoods of our farmers. Furthermore, I plan to develop Nidadavolu in alignment with the developmental activities of Rajahmundry. Improving temple tourism will also be a priority, with a particular focus on enhancing facilities at the Kotasattemma Talli temple to attract more tourists and pilgrims. This initiative will be supported under the Akhanda Godavari Central Government Scheme, ensuring sustainable growth and prosperity for the region.



## CHAMPIONING COASTAL PROTECTION

I have also worked to empower fisherfolk by improving their lifestyles and helping them access government schemes. To further contribute to environmental awareness, I authored a Telugu book titled *Kostathira Paryavarana Parirakshana lo Mara-Adavula Patra* (The Role of Mangroves in Coastal Environmental Protection). This work reflects my deep commitment to preserving our environment and fostering sustainable development.

## LOWEST MOMENT

The lowest moments of my life were marked by profound personal loss. Losing my biological father was a deeply painful experience. More recently, I faced immense grief when I lost my wife on January 14, 2024. Just a few months later, in April 2024, on the very day of my nomination for the 2024 general elections, I endured another heartbreaking loss with the passing of my mother.

## PASSIONATE PUBLIC SERVANT

I consider myself a go-getter, someone who connects easily with people and maintains a good rapport with them. My ability to articulate ideas clearly and explain concepts in a way that is easily understood sets me apart. Above all, I value honesty and integrity in everything I do.

