

sunday pioneer

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The trio that struck GOLD in Tollywood




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QUOTE OF THE DAY

The pioneer

There is hope and admiration for the TDP in Telangana. It is great that without having a single MLA in Telangana, the membership is 1.60 lakh. Earlier, the membership was 4 lakh even though the party had 23 MLAs then. This proves that the people of Telangana love for the TDP



- Nara Lokesh, Minister AP Govt

DON'T MISS...

RPF plans digital reach with AI

The South Central Railways (SCR) Railway Protection Force (RPF) effectively uses social media to enhance security, inclusivity, and public awareness. In the digital age, platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube have become vital tools for the RPF to create trust, amplify awareness campaigns, and promote participatory safety practices. Social media helps the RPF connect with passengers, enabling two-way ...

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Farmer ends life at bank

In a heartbreaking incident, a farmer took his own life due to alleged harassment of bank officials. The 60-year-old farmer, Jadav Devarav, from Renuvada village, went to the bank to deal with the issues caused by the bank officials. Unable to bear the hardships and the humiliation faced in the village in front of his family members, the farmer consumed pesticide and committed suicide, which is deeply tragic, said Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar. The farmer took his own life by consuming ...

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India joins mega wargame La Perouse

The Indian Navy is participating in a mega wargame along with naval forces from eight nations including the US and France against the backdrop of increasingly fractious geopolitical environment and China's military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific. The naval exercise 'La Perouse' is underway in the straits between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as well as Malacca, Sunda and Lombok. These straits are largely considered as very crucial for global maritime trade. The nine-day exercise that began on January 16 aims to enhance cooperation among ...

-NATION

Power supply in rural areas improved

Power supply to rural areas has improved significantly by 9 hours and in urban areas by 1.4 hours over the last decade, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal has said. The minister at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Power on Thursday discussed the implementation of revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS), an official release said. In the meeting, the minister pointed out that over the past decade, power availability in the urban areas has improved from 22 hours to 23.4 hours, while in rural areas, it has increased significantly from 12.5 hours to 22.4 hours, the Power ...

-MONEY

Gaddar Film Awards launch on Ugadi day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has decided to institute the Gaddar Telangana Film Awards, which will be distributed annually from this year's Ugadi. A meeting with the Gaddar Film Awards Committee was held at the Secretariat on Saturday.

The awards will cover categories like feature films, children's films and books on Telugu cinema. Winners will receive cash prizes along with certificates of appreciation. The committee also decided to finalize the logo for the awards soon.

The meeting was attended by TFDC Chairman Dil Raju, MD Dr Harish, ED Kishore Babu, Committee Chairman B. Narsing Rao, and members Jayasudha, Tammareddy Bharadwaj, Harish Shankar, Vandemataram Srinivas, Gummadi Vennela, Allani Sridhar and Venu.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy CM Bhatti emphasized the importance of recognizing the best Telugu films which

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Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka along with FDC Chairman Dil Raju at a meeting held at Secretariat regarding Gaddar Awards on Saturday



CM Revanth Reddy met Singapore Minister Grace Fu Hai Yien along with Minister Sridhar Babu and officials

'TG rising unstoppable'

CM: Hyderabad to be new Data Centres capital of India

STT Global Data Centres signs MoU, to invest Rs 3,500 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

STT Global Data Centres India Private Limited (STT GDC India), a leading provider of data centre solutions, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the TG to establish a state-of-the-art data centre campus at Meerkhanpet in the Mucherla region of Hyderabad.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the Industries, ITE&C & Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, TGIC VC&MD Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, and Mr Bruno Lopez,

the Group CEO of ST Telemidia Global Data Centres (STT GDC), at the STT GDC office in Singapore.

The upcoming state-of-the-art AI-ready data centre campus will feature cutting-edge

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CM explores investment partnerships with Singapore

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy led the Telangana Rising delegation to meet Grace Fu Hai Yien, the Singapore Minister for Sustainability and Environment and the in-charge Minister of Trade. The two sides held talks on partnerships in many areas.

The delegation, including IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, and officials showcased the unmatched investment opportunities in Telangana in several areas, including urban planning and infrastructure, water management, skills development, sports, semi-conductors, manufacturing, environment and sustainability sciences and technology.

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Is BJP trying to send Chiranjeevi to Rajya Sabha?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's moves are giving scope for speculations that film actor-politician Chiranjeevi may be sent to the Rajya Sabha by the party using the eminent personalities' quota.

Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy did not condemn the question of journalists whether Chiranjeevi is joining the BJP. Moreover, Kishan said that Chiranjeevi and he have good relations. Chiranjeevi will come without opposing his invitation, he said and added that the journals had asked a question like an AK-47 bullet.

"I have good relations with Chiranjeevi. We both treat each other like family members. The BJP has good relations with cine personalities. In the past, Krishnam Raju,

Narash and several others were with the party. Some became Union Ministers too," Kishan said.

The speculations increased after Chiranjeevi attended Sankranti celebrations at Kishan's residence in Delhi in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest. It is learnt that the BJP has formulated a strategy to strengthen itself in Andhra Pradesh and as part of it the party may send Chiranjeevi to the Rajya Sabha.

However, whether Chiranjeevi would accept the BJP's offer or not is a different matter as his brother AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has his own party named Jana Sena. There are speculations that the BJP may send Chiranjeevi to the Rajya Sabha using the President's

Continued on Page 2

TDP to announce its plans in Telangana soon: Lokesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's son and TDP Minister Nara Lokesh said the party is discussing restructuring of its unit in Telangana.

He said the party will announce its future moves and launch party programmes in Telangana soon.

Paying tributes to former Chief Minister NTR on his 29th death anniversary on Saturday at the NTR Garden in Hyderabad, Lokesh said that there is admiration for the party in Telangana. He said that 1.60 lakh people have taken the TDP's active membership in Telangana.

He said that it is great that without having a single MLA in Telangana the party's membership is 1.60 lakh. Earlier, the TDP had a



NTR's daughter Bhuvaneshwari, grandson and AP Minister Nara Lokesh and other TDP leaders paying tributes at NTR garden in Hyderabad on Saturday

membership of four lakhs even though the party had 23 MLAs then. People are taking TDP membership in Telangana voluntarily even though the party has no MLAs. This

proves that the people of Telangana like the TDP, he said. Speculations are rife that the BJP, TDP and the Jana Sena may join hands in Telangana too.

BJP not against freebies, says Kishan

Asserts the party will contest local body elections alone

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

The BJP is not against 'freebies.' However, the freebies should match the state's revenue or else the state would go bankrupt, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.

The BJP has announced freebies in Delhi like a monthly allowance of Rs 2,500 for women under the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana,' and Rs 21,000 and six nutrition kits for all pregnant women under the 'Chief Minister Matritva Suraksha Yojana' etc.

Kishan criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for claiming that his



government is implementing the six guarantees successfully. Nobody believes Revanth Reddy's statements in Delhi, he added.

He said the BJP is not against the Musi Project. "The Musi Project should be executed. However, the

BJP demands that it should be executed without demolishing the houses of the poor. The Centre would also extend cooperation," he added.

During a chat with journalists on Saturday, Kishan said that the Congress Government does not have money to pay salaries to its employees. He said the state has been facing a funds crunch for the last seven months and as a result, there are no streetlights. The Congress Government diverted revenue from beer and brandy sales and one can understand the Congress Government's working style in Telangana.

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'No benefits only curbs on poor'

Harish slams govt for unjust cuts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the state government accusing it of failing to deliver on its promises and implementing welfare schemes with unjust cuts.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has prioritised imposing restrictions instead of providing benefits to the poor, he said a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan here on Friday. He said that although the government announced the launch of new welfare schemes on January 26, the intent appears more on limiting access rather than benefiting the needy.

"Revanth promised prosperity



but has delivered betrayal. None of the six guarantees, from Mahalakshmi to Cheyutha, have been fully implemented," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Ration card distribution to continue: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that the distribution of ration cards in the state will be an ongoing process until every eligible person is covered. The government is committed to ensuring that no eligible individual is left out of the scheme.

He emphasized that those whose names are missing from the current list of ration card beneficiaries



need not worry. "The process of including names is based on data from the caste census, socio-economic survey and previous ration cards. Those who have not been included can reapply during the upcoming gram sabhas," he said.

He reiterated that every eligible individual who applies will be issued a ration card without fail. "There is no need for panic. Our government's goal is to ensure ration cards reach every deserving household in the state," he added.

OBTUSE ANGLE



TGSRTC Board approves new bus depots, stations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana RTC Board, at its meeting held on Saturday at the RTC Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad, approved key projects for the construction of new bus depots, and stations and the expansion of existing facilities across the state. These decisions aim to enhance the transportation infrastructure and cater to growing passenger demand under schemes like Mahalakshmi.

new bus depot at Peddapalli, Peddapalli district.



Rs 6.28 crore sanctioned for constructing bus depot in

Eturunagaram Mulugu district.

Rs 511 crore earmarked for a new bus station in Mulugu, Mulugu district.

Rs 3.75 crore allocated for a new bus station in Huzurnagar, Suryapet district.

Rs 10 crore approved for a modern bus station at Madhira, Khammam district.

Rs 51 lakh sanctioned for a new bus station in Mangapet, Mulugu district.

Continued on Page 2

RG KAR VERDICT Court: Roy guilty of rape-murder of medic

PNS ■ KOLKATA

A Kolkata court on Saturday found Sanjay Roy guilty of raping and murdering an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a heinous crime that ignited nationwide outrage and led to prolonged protests.

The SealDAH court, where Roy's trial was held, will announce his sentence on Monday, Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das said.

The verdict was delivered nearly two months after the in-camera trial began in November 2024, and 162



Sanjay Roy

days after the brutal crime on August 9, 2024. Roy, arrested a day after the crime, was found guilty under Sections 64 (rape), 66 (punishment for causing death), and 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

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KTR's Formula E Legal Tussle Hits a BJP Speed Bump

The Delhi judicial corridors have become the unexpected pit stop for KTR's Formula E race, with whippers suggesting BJP's fingerprints all over the scene. From the lawyer representing the state government to the judge assigned to the case, both reportedly share a history of prominence during Narendra Modi's tenure as Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Interestingly, this isn't the first time the same judge has come into play. During Kavitha's previous legal battle on Liquor Scam, their involvement left her camp far from pleased. With memories of that outcome looming large, KTR seems to have made a calculated move to withdraw the petition, sidestepping what many predicted would be an uphill battle. While Congress has stayed on the sidelines of this saga, the BJP's behind-the-scenes role has become the talk of the town. Whether it's strategy or sheer coincidence, KTR's retreat has sparked chatter about the state's legal fights being tangled in a web of political influence.

REPORTERS' DIARY

Seethakka's Tribal Glam Sparks BRS Gossip

Minister Seethakka turned heads with her vibrant tribal attire at a recent event, pairing it with a striking waistband and an array of jewellery. While many admired her stunning look, it didn't take long for BRS supporters to latch onto the glittering accessories. They wasted no time pointing out the contrast between her style and the Chief Minister's earlier remarks that a "normal Telangana woman doesn't wear jewellery"—a statement famously linked to the decision to strip Telangana Talli of her ornaments. The whispers quickly turned into a buzz: "If Telangana Talli couldn't keep her jewellery, how can a minister flaunt it?" chuckled one BRS loyalist. Seethakka, however, seemed

However, one of the reporters commented after the chat that the Union Minister G Kishan Reddy should conduct chitchat with an agenda or else Kishan Reddy should face the questions posed by the scribes and answer to them whatever they may be instead of insulting them.

Kishan Reddy seeks blessings of media

Telangana BJP president and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy, who almost insulted one of the scribes who attended his chitchat on Saturday for asking a question regarding BRS working president KTR's criticism on BJP and Congress, sought the blessings of the Media. Kishan Reddy literally appealed to the scribes to give adequate

unfazed, carrying her regal tribal aesthetic with confidence. As the gossip circles lit up, some wondered whether this was style, symbolism, or simply a jab at the CM's stance. Either way, it seems Seethakka knows how to keep everyone talking.

Scribes question on KTR irks Kishan Reddy

Telangana BJP president and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy irked over scribes in the chitchat conducted on Saturday when one of the scribes asked a question about BRS working President KT Ramarao's criticism that the BJP and BRS are one. Kishan Reddy responded to the question seriously terming KTR as a waste one and the question is also a waste one. Kishan Reddy said that the question is trying to prove that the BJP leaders also waste one. Kishan Reddy also suggested the scribes to put those who criticize in this manner. However, Kishan Reddy acted smartly and did not react straightly when the scribes tried to remind the BJP leaders' criticism against BRS and Congress parties that they are one.

space instead of publishing his news in the third page amidst scribes' laughter. Kishan Reddy lamented that the media is giving top priority to the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy publishing his news banner everyday. He said that the same media is not giving priority to his news though he is striving hard for the sake of development of Telangana. Kishan Reddy also gave an example that the media published as a banner item when CM said that the Metro Rail will be expanded up to Medchal. However, the same media did not give the same priority when he announced Komuravelli Railway Station. Kishan Reddy replied to the question of the scribes that "all most all parties have their own newspapers and why not BJP is not launching its own newspaper", that the party discussed this with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on setting up of newspapers for the party. He said that PM Modi opposed the idea of setting up newspapers on behalf of the BJP. However, the party will extend its support to the newspapers launched by third parties and support the BJP. Kishan Reddy said appealing to the media to give adequate space for his news.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu)

Eatala eligible for TG BJP president post: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said that Malkajigiri MP Eatala Rajender has eligibility to compete for the post of Telangana BJP President as per the BJP's rules.

He said that there is no need for an RSS background and that if a person has an active membership of the party or if he had contested twice on a BJP symbol he can run for the Telangana BJP President post.

He said that Eatala Rajender had contested more than two

times on a BJP symbol and that he is eligible for join the race for the Telangana BJP President post. He said that Eatala had contested the Huzurabad by-poll, the 2023 TG Assembly and Parliament elections and so he is eligible for the post.

There is no condition that leaders who joined from other parties are ineligible, he added.

Addressing journalists on Saturday at the State BJP office, Kishan said that the high command will decide the party president. He said the party

would announce the new Telangana BJP President after a week.

Kishan also said that they had fielded good candidates in the MLC elections and that Malka Komuraiah is not a corporate person. Komuraiah has been providing education to the poor while setting up educational institutions.

Replying to another question, he said that selection of candidates is the party's prerogative and that parties field candidates who have winning chances.

SC: Resolve differences over V-C appointments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has asked the Tamil Nadu government and the governor to resolve the issue of appointment of vice-chancellors in universities.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said it will intervene if the MK Stalin-led government and Governor RN Ravi fail to resolve the differences by the next date of hearing on January 22.

"By the next date, if it is resolved well and good. Otherwise, we will resolve it," the bench said in an oral observation.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging the governor's actions on clearance of bills passed by the state assembly, appointment of ministers in the cabinet, and approval for search committees to recommend vice-chancellors in state universities.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Tamil Nadu governor, told the court that there is stalemate in appointments.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the state government, said the state be allowed to bring the new developments on record.

Kavitha demands grand commemoration of Dasharathi centenary

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha has called for a grand commemoration of the centenary year of renowned poet freedom fighter Dasharathi Krishnamacharyulu and urged the Telangana Government to scale up its moves to honour his legacy.

In a letter to Tourism Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao, Kavitha emphasized that organising these celebrations is the government's moral responsibility to preserve the state's cultural heritage.

Highlighting Dasharathi's contributions, Kavitha said that his poetry was deeply intertwined with Telangana's socio-political struggles. Despite the government's announcement of year-long centenary celebrations from July 22, 2024, she expressed disappointment over the lack of progress in realising these plans.

Kavitha proposed several measures to scale up the cele-

brations like transforming the old jail in Nizamabad, where Dasharathi was imprisoned, into a major tourist site with urgent repairs and additional facilities, organising state-wide events including at schools to inspire the young with Dasharathi's life and works, installing a statue of Dasharathi at a prominent place in Hyderabad, establishing a memorial garden in his birthplace, Chinna Gudooru in Mahabubad district and constructing a new building for the Dasharathi Library in Chinna Gudooru and publishing his literary works for wider public access.

Kavitha also urged the government to ensure that the centenary celebrations culminate in a grand ceremony, reflecting Telangana's cultural identity. She highlighted the need for these events to serve as an inspiration for future generations, preserving Dasharathi's spirit of resistance.

Drawing attention to the historical significance of Dasharathi's writings, Kavitha stressed his contributions to Telangana's cultural and political identity, quoting his famous lines that symbolize the state's resilience.

She also pointed out that the Telangana government had officially recognised Dasharathi's legacy by celebrating his birth anniversary annually since 2015 and instituting the "Dasharathi Sahitya Puraskar." However, she noted a decline in activities aligned with his centenary celebrations.

In her letter, Kavitha reiterated the importance of honouring Dasharathi's legacy with a comprehensive approach.

"This is a historical opportunity to showcase the honour of Telangana and ensure that Dasharathi's contributions remain etched in the state's memory," she wrote, urging the government to act swiftly to realise these plans.

BRS trying to mislead people on Rythu Bharosa: Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress MLAs lashed out at BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's criticism of Congress policies at Shabad on Friday. The MLAs said that BRS leaders are trying to mislead people during local body elections in the name of the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy said that KTR should stop speaking lies. KTR would lose his political existence if he spoke cheaply, Manohar said.

Parigi MLA Rammohan Reddy challenged KTR to a debate village-wise on the farm loan waiver scheme. He asked KTR whether the government giving Rs 21,000 crore for waiving farm loans is true or not. Is allotting Rs 294 crore for waiving farm loans in Parigi false, he said.

'TG rising ...

Continued from page 1

technologies with a targeted capacity of up to 100 MW, along with ample scalability for future growth, making it one of the largest data centre projects in the country.

With an investment of up to Rs 3,500 crore, the project reaffirms STT GDC India's commitment to supporting India's digital transformation and highlights Telangana's solidification as a preferred destination for global technology infrastructure. Welcoming the decision, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy garu said, "I congratulate STT Global for taking this decision. Hyderabad will soon emerge as the capital of data centres."

Bruno Lopez, the President and Group CEO, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres, said, "We are honoured to work with the Government of Telangana to increase our presence in this

dynamic state. With its progressive policies, strong infrastructure and dedication to promoting technological innovation, Telangana has continuously displayed leadership in long-term digital initiatives. This collaboration demonstrates our common goal of promoting economic expansion, generating employment and constructing a sustainable digital future." Welcoming the decision, D. Sridhar Babu garu, IT Minister expressed confidence in Hyderabad's emergence as a major data hub for the world.

"Telangana Rising is clearly unstoppable now. STT GDC's decision to invest in Telangana is a testament to the state's robust ecosystem and forward-thinking policies. We are confident that Hyderabad will play a significant role in the ongoing AI-led digital transformation across the globe."

Is BJP ...

Continued from page 1

Quota if Chiranjeevi did not accept Rajya Sabha membership from the BJP's quota.

However, one political analyst ruled out these speculations saying that if Chiranjeevi accepts the Rajya Sabha seat then his brother Pawan Kalyan will face trouble as his party, Jana Sena, is slowly gaining ground in AP although the Jana Sena is an alliance partner of the BJP and the TDP.

Once Praja Rajyam Party chief Chiranjeevi decides to go to Rajya Sabha from any political party then it will trouble him in terms of credibility. If Chiranjeevi, who is busy with the film Vishwambhara, goes in the President quota, then it will be a different thing, political analysts said.

Congress govt responsible for farmer's suicide: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao expressed deep anguish over the tragic suicide of Jadhav Deva Rao, a farmer who hails from Saidapur in the Bela Mandal of Adilabad district.

Unable to bear the burden of unpaid loans, Deva Rao consumed pesticide at the very bank where he had a loan in his name, leading to his untimely death. KTR said that this incident highlights the immense agony the farmer endured due to the unfulfilled promises of the Congress Government, particularly its failure to waive farm loans.

"The Congress government's deceptive policies and neglect of farmers are the primary reasons for this tragedy. Farmers who lived with dignity for a decade under the BRS, are now being pushed into

despair and suicides by the Congress administration. Despite the increasing number of farmer suicides this heartless government remains indifferent," he said.

He accused the Chief Minister of breaking his promise to waive loans up to ₹2 lakh of all farmers. He said that betrayal directly caused Deva Rao's death. "This is not a suicide; it is a murder committed by the Revanth-led government. The farmers of Telangana view it as such," KTR remarked.

Demanding accountability, KTR requested permission to file a murder case against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the government which is responsible for this negligence. He also demanded immediate compensation of ₹20 lakh as ex-gratia to Nagoro's family and support for their rehabilitation.

Highlighting the larger issue, KTR

called on the government to urgently waive all outstanding farm loans to prevent further distress among farmers. He emphasized the government's responsibility to ensure that such tragic incidents are not repeated.

"Once a frontrunner in agricultural production, Telangana is now leading in farmer suicides under Congress' misrule. This is a clear testament to the incompetence of the current administration," KTR said.

In an emotional appeal to farmers, KTR said, "Dear farmers, please do not end lives. Instead, let us stand united against this deceitful Congress government. Let us fight until their promises are fulfilled and compel the Chief Minister to act. Suicides are not the solution to your problems; together, we can demand justice and a better future."

Top maoist ...

Continued from page 1

Six months ago, Damodar was appointed as the Secretary of the Telangana Maoist Committee. He was also in charge of Maoist action teams and was involved in planning and executing several major operations. Damodar's death is seen as a significant setback to Maoist operations in the region, given his extensive involvement and leadership within the organization.

Gaddar Film...

Continued from page 1

promote national unity, cultural harmony and human values showcasing technical skills. He stated that the awards aim to encourage filmmakers to create socially conscious cinema.

He said the government intends to make the awards a prestigious event of national repute. The committee also

discussed the logo, guidelines and rules for the awards. Bhatti highlighted the need to design the logo in a way that enhances the legacy of the cultural icon, Gaddar.

"Hyderabad will be developed into a global destination for filmmaking. The BRS admin neglected the film industry, but under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, the current government is committed to the development of the industry," he added.

Court: Roy ...

Continued from page 1

Section 103(1) carries a possible punishment of death or life imprisonment.

The judge stated that Roy was found guilty of sexually assaulting the doctor and strangling her to death, and that the CBI had proven all the charges against him.

Das noted that Roy had entered the hospital around 4 am and attacked the on-duty doctor while she was asleep in the seminar room of the hospital.

CM explores ...

Continued from page 1

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy that Singapore would consider his invitation to partner with Telangana a reality. She was particularly keen on Net Zero Future City, Musi project, water management and the sustainability plans of Telangana. Both agreed to work together closely, including identifying special teams to explore joint projects, systemic sharing of learning from Singapore for India's youngest state, and making rapid progress and impact on the ground in joint projects.

BJP not against ...

Continued from page 1

He said that HYDRAA is not a new idea. "Does it become a new law just because the name changed? It was there earlier too and according to that action will be taken if water bodies are occupied," he said.

Criticising the Congress Government, Kishan said that the Centre had given Rs 1250 crore for the Metro's first phase. However, AIMIM objected to the Metro route from Afzal Gunj to the Old City. The AIMIM changed its stance now and has asked the government to lay the Metro rail. The Centre will give funds for the same, he said. Making it clear that the Congress is an adversary of the BJP, Kishan said the BJP will fight local body elections alone and will contest all posts. He said that he is confident that the party will win a majority of the seats in the local elections.

The public will listen to only the BJP's voice in the local body elections as the BRS kept bills pending and diverted Gram Panchayat funds, he said and added that the Congress is deceiving the people in the same way after coming to

power.

He said that the BJP's organizational election process started 50 days ago after Parliament elections. So the party failed to concentrate on some of its programmes.

"The appointment of around 650 mandal committees is now over. The party gave priority to women presidents of mandals and around 50 per cent of those elected as mandal presidents are BCS. The party is implementing 33 per cent reservations also. Organizational elections would be held every three years. The election of district presidents used to be held directly in the past. However, this time it is not like that. The party placed an age condition for the mandal president post and so many young people were elected as mandal presidents," Kishan said.

He said the Centre is ready to cooperate to complete the Textile Park, but the state government is not allocating land for it. The state is not handing over 211 acres for the Tribal University. The media should consider the Centre's projects in the state like the RRR, Kishan added.

TGSRTC Board ...

Continued from page 1

- Rs. 95 lakh allocated for the expansion of the bus station in Manthani, Peddapalli district.
- Rs 17.95 crore approved for modern bus station at Kodad in Suryapet district.
- Rs. 3.95 crore sanctioned for modern bus station at Kaleshwaram, Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, keeping in view the upcoming Saraswathi Pushkaralu.

Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar emphasized the government's commitment to expanding the state's transport infrastructure. He noted that the Mahalakshmi scheme has significantly increased passenger traffic in RTC buses, necessitating the construction of new stations and the expansion of existing ones.

"We are taking steps to ensure no transportation difficulties arise for the people of Telangana. Along with procuring new buses, we are focused on providing state-of-the-art facilities for passengers," Prabhakar said. He directed RTC officials to complete the approved projects at the earliest. The minister reiterated the government's plans to upgrade all 97 existing depots and bus stations while establishing new ones to meet growing demands. These efforts are in line with the state's vision to improve public transport accessibility and convenience for all citizens.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi:
 Pancharami: Jan 18 05:30 AM to Jan 19 07:31 AM
 Shashthi: Jan 19 07:31 AM to Jan 20 09:58 AM
Nakshatram:
 Uttara Phalguni: Jan 18 02:51 PM to Jan 19 05:30 PM
 Hasta: Jan 19 05:30 PM to Jan 20 08:30 PM
Rahukalam: 4:37 PM to 6:00 PM
Yamagandam: 12:26 PM to 1:50 PM
Varjyam: 02:57 AM to 04:45 AM
Gulika: 3:13 PM to 4:37 PM
Amritakalam: 09:30 AM to 11:17 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:04 PM to 12:49 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 48%
Sunrise: 6:60 AM
Sunset: 6:04 PM
Updated: January 18, 2025 5:00 PM

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City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | JANUARY 19, 2025

03



CITY EVENTS

Sid Sriram live concert

Venue
Boulder Hills,
Hyderabad
February 15, 5 pm
onwards

Pottery Workshop at Heart Cup Coffee

Venue
Heart Cup Coffee,
Gachibowli, Hyderabad
January 19, 2 pm

GHMC introduces Jatayu for efficient waste collection

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has unveiled Jatayu, an innovative vacuum-operated machine designed to collect and dispose of light-weight dry waste.

It is a contactless litter picking, powerful vacuum-operated garbage collection machine that can collect waste from all commonly dirty & littered public areas of roads.

People stuck mid-air on swing ride

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

People on an amusement ride faced tense moments after it halted due to a technical malfunction, leaving them suspended mid-air for a few minutes at the annual 'Numaish' exhibition here.

The incident occurred on January 16, when 10-12 people aboard the 'Ranger' swing ride got stuck for nearly 10 minutes until technicians fixed a malfunction related to the battery and its bearing, an organiser of the ride said.

The ride was temporarily halted due to a battery malfunction. Once the battery was replaced, the ride resumed, an official of the exhibition society said on Saturday.

A video circulated on social media showed technicians carrying out repairs on the ride.

The ride organiser told media that the ride undergoes thorough checks daily before it is started for passengers. The technical issue was resolved, and the ride began functioning again, he added.



City set for transformation with underground power cable network

TGSPDCL to call for EoI for the project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has initiated a groundbreaking project to replace overhead power lines with underground (UG) cables across Greater Hyderabad. This ambitious initiative aligns with the vision of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Musharrarf Faruqi.

The shift to UG cabling aims to enhance the city's power network reliability, bolster public safety, improve operational efficiency, and elevate Hyderabad's aesthetic appeal. "This initiative will not only address safety concerns but also help position Hyderabad as a global city," stated the TGSPDCL Chairman.

To support the implementation of this project, TGSPDCL has begun identifying competent parties with proven expertise in underground cabling in large cities or internationally. The DIS-



For representation purpose

COM has issued an Expression of Interest (EOI), encouraging interested firms to participate. Detailed information is available on their official website, tgsouthernpower.org.

Hyderabad's existing power infrastructure under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) jurisdiction is extensive, comprising 498 33/11 KV substations, 1,280 kilometers of 33 KV underground cables, and 3,725 kilometers of 33 KV overhead lines. The network also includes 1,022 power transformers, 957 kilometers of 11 KV underground cables, 21,643 kilometers of 11 KV overhead lines, 1,50,992 distribution transformers, and 58,271 intermediate poles.

This UG cabling project represents a significant step towards modernizing Hyderabad's power infrastructure and reflects the city's commitment to sustainable and efficient urban development.



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi inspecting colonies in city, along with corporators Kalpana Reddy and Mohammed Rashid, and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on Saturday

Mayor promises push for infrastructure development in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi toured several colonies in Venkateswara Nagar and Sheikh Pet divisions, accompanied by corporators Kalpana Reddy and Mohammed Rashid, and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on Saturday. The visit aimed to inspect ongoing infrastructure projects and address public concerns.

The Mayor reviewed box drain construction on a 25-kilometre canal, costing Rs 30 crores, from TRS Bhavan to Banjara Lake. She instructed officials to lay drinking water pipelines alongside the drain to avoid future road digging. Emphasising minimal disruption, she urged residents to cooperate with the work.

MLA Nagender assured residents that their homes would remain unaffected and promised further inspections for a proposed multi-purpose hall in Pratap Nagar. Residents also requested cement concrete roads to replace unrepared internal roads dug up for water pipelines. Meanwhile, Manne Kavitha Reddy confirmed that MLA Nagender will lay the foundation stone next Monday following fund approval.

In Pratap Nagar, garbage clearance was ordered, and fines for littering were mandated. Two-wheelers abandoned in vacant spaces were also removed. The Mayor, along with Corporator Rashid, continued inspections in other colonies, addressing sewage and road issues.

At ParaMount Colony, Vijayalakshmi directed officials to draft proposals for cement concrete road construction to address flooding caused by low-lying areas. Similar issues were noted in Aditya Nagar Road and Rahul Colony, where stagnant sewage water in storm drains was causing difficulties for residents.

The Mayor stressed the importance of addressing infrastructure concerns quickly to improve quality of life of people.

Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association unveils diary

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad district unit of the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association (TNGO) unveiled its new diary for the year at a ceremony held on Saturday at the Collectorate in Lakdikapul. Anudeep Durishetty, District Collector, participated as the chief guest and officially launched the diary.

Speaking on the occasion, Anudeep extended New Year greetings to the members and employees of the TNGO. He emphasised the pivotal role of government employees in ensuring the success of government policies and initiatives. "Without their active participation, it is impossible to implement government programs effectively. Every employee must perform their duties diligently to uphold the government's reputation," he said, assuring the association of the administration's support for its members.

Addressing the gathering as a guest of honor, TNGO State President Eluri Srinivasa Rao expressed his satisfaction over the resurgence of unions' prominence after a decade. He underlined the importance of government employees and their unions in governance and administrative efficiency. Srinivasa Rao pledged to fight relentlessly for employees' rights and requested the Collector to allocate land for the construction of a TNGO Hyderabad office.

The event also witnessed the felicitation of Anudeep Durishetty with a shawl and memento. Several TNGO members were honored for their contributions during the ceremony.

The program was chaired by TNGO Hyderabad District President MB Krishna Yadav and attended by Associate President Ashanna, General Secretary Mohammed Abdul Khader, Vice President Anjula Reddy, TNGO Central Association General Secretary Satyanarayana, and several other members.

Five-day National Karate Championship kicks off in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Five-day National Karate Championship 2025 has begun at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, with over 1,200 participants from 25 states and countries like the US, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, and Russia.

This event marks the 50th anniversary of the Japan Karate Association (JKA) and is being hosted by JKA Telangana for the first time in South India. Imura Shihan (8th Dan) inaugurated the championship on Saturday, joined by Taniyama Shihan, Hirayama Shihan, Anand Ratna Shihan, and Heros Sensei, all senior instructors from JKA.

Sensei Rapolu Sudarshan shared that the event includes competitions for participants aged 8-72, along with diploma exams (Black Belt 1-6), international grading, referee, and instructor exams conducted by Japanese and American experts.

The championship runs from January 18-22, 2025, featuring individual and team events like Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring). Training programs led by prominent Japanese instructors are also part of the schedule.

RPF plans to expand its digital reach with AI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railways (SCR) Railway Protection Force (RPF) effectively uses social media to enhance security, inclusivity, and public awareness. In the digital age, platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube have become vital tools for the RPF to create trust, amplify awareness campaigns, and promote participatory safety practices.

Social media helps the RPF connect with passengers, enabling two-way communication.

Passengers can report grievances, seek help, and receive updates in real-time. This approach builds accountability and transparency while making the RPF more accessible, especially for vulnerable groups like women and children.

The RPF is raising awareness through Initiatives like Operation Meri Saheli (supporting women travelers) and Operation AAHT (against human trafficking) use social media for storytelling and education. These campaigns encourage public vigilance, turning passengers into active contributors to safety.



RPF personnel using social media platforms to help passengers in Hyderabad

By sharing stories of bravery and compassion, the RPF builds emotional connections and challenges stereotypes. Posts showcasing women officers highlight gender inclusivity and inspire societal change.

Social media is integral to the RPF's crime prevention strategies, providing updates on threats and disruptions while using digital tools to monitor potential risks. During emergencies, passengers also contribute real-time

information, driving collaboration.

The RPF promotes digital literacy by simplifying processes and creating multilingual content, ensuring accessibility for all passengers.

With a Future Vision, the RPF plans to expand its digital reach with AI, immersive storytelling, and regional content. Social media enables the RPF to transform law enforcement into a citizen-focused, inclusive service.

House sales in Hyderabad see 14% dip

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Housing sales in Hyderabad dropped 14 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), and new launches decreased by 6 per cent, according to a report by PropTiger.com. In the period from October to December 2024, housing sales in India's top 8 markets fell 26% compared to the same quarter in 2023. This drop was mainly due to state elections in

Maharashtra and Haryana, affecting three of the cities, and high property prices.

Sales decreased across most cities, except Delhi NCR, which saw growth. New launches were also down by 33% year-on-year (YoY), with a slowdown in project approvals due to elections. Hyderabad, in particular, saw a sharp decline in launches down at 66% Year-over-year (YoY).

Food 4 Thought Foundation organises Lit Festival 2025 in City

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Food 4 Thought Foundation in collaboration with Cyient Foundation, Monocept Consulting, and Emesco Books organised the 7th India Reading Olympiad (IRO) Lit Festival 2025 at Cyient's Manikonda Campus on Saturday.

As part of the festival, the 2nd India Reading Decathlon was held as a quiz competition featuring 12 schools nationwide. Students competed in 10 challenging rounds, answering 200 questions over 8 hours, to crown the next Reading Champion of India.

Food 4 Thought Foundation, a nonprofit promoting reading habits among youth, partnered with Cyient Foundation to

emphasise literacy and education. President and CFO of Cyient, Prabhakar Atla stated, "Education is key to societal progress. Through initiatives like the Reading Decathlon, we aim to rekindle the joy of reading and empower future generations."

Co-Founder of Food 4 Thought Foundation, Shefali Rao highlighted their vision of "Ghar Ghar Pustakalaya" (Library in Every Home), emphasizing that a nation's progress is measured by its culture of learning, not just economic growth. The festival also included interactive activities like an Author's Corner, Kids Activity Zone, Storytelling Sessions, and cozy book nooks, creating an engaging experience for all ages.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Authority (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath conducted a field inspection of encroachments on temple lands at Jagadgirigutta in Quthbullapur constituency on Saturday, following complaints from locals. The visit primarily focused on the lands belonging to the Govindarajula Swamy temple, including its pond and surrounding areas, which are allegedly being encroached upon.

The commissioner reviewed videos provided by the temple priest Narahari, highlighting the encroachments. Locals also pointed out illegal occupations of the nearby Parki Cheruvu. The commissioner inspected the Jagadgirigutta temple complex and its lands and confirmed that HYDRAA will not intervene in constructions made before July 2024 but will take strict action

CHANGE OF NAMES AND ADDITION OF SYNONYMS

BC commission to study all submissions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The deadline for submitting objections regarding the change of names and addition of synonyms for eight BC castes ended on January 18. The Telangana BC Commission, which issued a notification on January 3, had allotted 15 days for the submission of objections. A significant response was witnessed as over 500 objections and appeals were received at the Commission's office in Khairatabad.

Representatives of various caste communities actively participated, submitting affidavits to present

their objections and appeals. The BC Commission assured that all submissions would be thoroughly examined to make decisions that reflect societal progress while preserving the cultural essence of Telangana's castes. It emphasized its aim to eliminate derogatory caste names to prevent any sense of inferiority among students, youth, and employees of these communities.

The "Bhuniwa" caste representatives appealed for the removal of district restrictions on their classification. Similarly, members of the "Dhangar" caste, traditionally engaged in sheep and goat rearing

in the erstwhile Adilabad district, requested inclusion in the BC list.

The discussions involved BC Commission Chairman G Niranjan, members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Suresh, Balalashmi Ranga, Satish Kumar, Special Officer Lakshminarayana, and Research Officer. The caste associations actively engaged in these discussions to convey their concerns and suggestions. The Commission is expected to announce its decisions soon, considering the submitted objections and appeals to ensure fairness and inclusivity in the changes to caste classifications.

'One Station One Product Stall' allotted to transgender community

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the Ministry of Railways' "One Station One Product" (OSOP) initiative, South Central Railways has allotted a stall and trolley stand to the transgender community at the Charlapalli Terminal Station. The stall features handmade products such as snacks, jute bags, and soaps, crafted by transgender entrepreneurs.

Jasmine, a transgender entrepreneur, expressed gratitude for this opportunity, highlighting how it promotes visibility and inclusion. She shared that the stall allows them to showcase their skills and interact with the public, breaking stereotypes. Alongside her snacks, other community members contribute unique handmade jute bags and soaps.

This initiative supports marginalised groups by promoting local products and generating income. Introduced in the 2022-23 Union Budget, OSOP has set up 223 stalls across 205 railway stations in the South Central Railway zone.



'One Station One Product Stall' allotted to transgender community

SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain emphasised their commitment to equality and praised the transgender community's involvement in this progressive initiative.

ENCROACHMENT ON TEMPLE LANDS

HYDRAA Commissioner conducting inspection in Jagadgirigutta

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath conducting inspection in Jagadgirigutta on Saturday

against encroachments that occurred after this date.

The Commissioner took a serious view of caste-based organisations allegedly misusing temple lands for personal gains and selling plots illegally. He assured locals that HYDRAA would employ tools like Google Maps to identify encroachments post-July 2024, issue notices to violators, and register non-bailable cases. HYDRAA's police station is set to

commence operations within 15 days to streamline such actions.

Commissioner Ranganath also stated that HYDRAA would report negligence by local officials to the government. A meeting with locals concerning temple and cheruvu encroachments is scheduled for Wednesday at the HYDRAA office, where the public is encouraged to present relevant documents.

The Commissioner proposed

the formation of two committees: one for protecting temple lands and another for safeguarding Parki Cheruvu. He urged locals to collaborate with officials and include him in the WhatsApp groups for effective communication.

During his visit, the Commissioner was briefed that the Jagadgirigutta temple complex spans 14.10 acres, while Parki Cheruvu covers over 66 acres. He promised a survey by the Survey of India to demarcate and protect government lands.

Locals expressed satisfaction with HYDRAA's proactive measures and appreciated the commissioner for his commitment to addressing encroachments. Special prayers were conducted by the temple priests, blessing the commissioner for his efforts.

HYDRAA's inspection was supported by officials from revenue, irrigation, endowments departments, and local police, ensuring a comprehensive approach to reclaiming encroached lands.



Applications invited for free training through BC Study Circle

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The BC Welfare Department and BC Study Circle-Khammam have invited applications for free training in RRB, SSC, and Banking Recruitment Foundation courses. According to the announcement by Khammam District Collector Muzammil Khan, this training is available for eligible candidates.

Candidates who have completed their degree and belong to BC, SC, ST, and OBC categories and reside in Khammam district are eligible for this training.

The annual income of the parents can be up to Rs. 1.50 lakh for rural areas and Rs. 2 lakh for urban areas. Interested candidates can apply online from January 20 to February 9 through the website <http://tgbstudycircles.cgg.gov.in>. The training will commence from February 15 and will last for four months.

Large tracts of land found ineligible for Rythu Bharosa

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANGIRI

A recent government survey aimed at identifying lands ineligible for input subsidies under the Rythu Bharosa scheme has uncovered discrepancies in land usage. Over the course of two days, officials visited more than 150 villages and found that owners of 6,000 acres of land, previously benefiting from the Rythu Bandhu scheme, were receiving subsidies for land that are not cultivable lands. They are hillocks and the lands being used for real-estate ventures.

In the Bhoodan Pochampally mandal alone, officials identified 300 acres of such land, which is ineligible for subsidy under Rythu Bharosa. The survey findings led to the immediate removal of these lands from the Rythu Bharosa data, a similar programme introduced by the Congress government.

District officials are optimistic that by January 24, a clearer picture will emerge regarding the extent of ineligible lands that had previously benefited from the Rythu Bandhu scheme without being cultivated. The total landholding in the district



For representation purpose only

is estimated at 8 lakh acres, with over 6 lakh acres being cultivable.

In the 2023 Yasangi (rabi) season, a total of 2,48,536 farmers received Rs 5,000 per acre for 5,87,360 acres under Rythu Bandhu, amounting to a disbursement of Rs 293.68 crore. However, following the Congress government's decision to conduct a survey, the focus shifted to ensuring that subsidies are provided only to

lands where crops are actively grown.

According to the Agriculture Department, crops are raised in just 4.50 lakh acres, yet subsidies had been disbursed for 6 lakh acres. The new survey also identified hillocks, real estate ventures, and farmhouses previously included in the Rythu Bandhu list.

In the district, real estate development has been widespread, with pro-

motors selling small plots of land, marketed with promises of subsidy benefits for agricultural land. These lands, often sold in units like five or ten guntas, are also being excluded from the list.

Revenue surveyors and agriculture department staff are working together to ensure that only eligible agricultural lands are part of the Rythu Bharosa scheme moving forward.

Surekha accuses BRS of spreading misinformation

PNS ■ SIDDIPT

Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha said that due to indiscriminate loans raised by the previous BRS government, there has been difficulty in repaying them. She criticised the previous government for not delivering justice to the people. Regarding loan waiver, she said opposition parties are making baseless allegations, and she accused KTR of making false statements on loan waiver.

Minister Surekha laid the foundation for cement concrete road works in Ensanpalle under Siddipet Urban Mandal, and later released irrigation water through the left canal of the Ranganayaka Sagar reservoir in Chinnakodur Mandal. She mentioned that irrigation water from Sagar would reach Siddipet



Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha laying the foundation for CC road in Siddipet district on Saturday

and Rajanna Sircilla districts.

She expressed that she was appointed as the in-charge Minister for the district by the Chief Minister. She said that Chief Minister A Revenath Reddy is a great leader. She emphasised that even in areas where Congress candidates lost, developmental works have been taken up.

Chintala Ravinder Yadav elected as chief of ABYM

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The Akhila Bharata Yadav Mahasabha (ABYM) has elected Chintala Ravinder Yadav as the new President of Telangana State during its national executive meeting held on January 13 in Jaipur. Chintala Ravinder Yadav, a prominent youth leader known for his relentless efforts towards the welfare and development of the Yadav community, was felicitated in Hyderabad by key leaders and members of the Mahasabha.

The felicitation ceremony, organised at his residence in Hyderabad, was led by Nadikooda Raghunath Yadav, general secretary of the Akhila Bharata Yadava Mahasabha, Rangareddy District. The event was attended by the president of



Telangana State Akhila Bharata Yadav Mahasabha, Chintala Ravinder Yadav being felicitated at a grand ceremony in Shadnagar on Saturday

Shadnagar Municipality and Taluka, along with presidents from six mandals. Chintala Ravinder Yadav was honored with a shawl and flower bouquets in recognition of his dedication and leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghunath Yadav expressed his joy at having an educated and dynamic leader like Chintala

Ravinder Yadav at the helm. He highlighted Chintala's efforts in uniting the Yadav community and emphasized the importance of education, economic development, and political representation for the community. Raghunath also urged the Yadavs to work collectively to strengthen their presence in the upcoming local body elections in Telangana.

Forest Department establishes base camp at Kunavaram

PNS ■ BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUDEM

The Forest Department has set up a base camp-style forest station at Kunavaram in the Manuguru forest range on an experimental basis to enhance forest protection efforts. Additionally, forest authorities are actively scouting for an appropriate location to establish another base camp in Gondigudem, located in the Aswapuram mandal.

This move is part of a broader strategy to establish base camps in expansive forest areas. Notably, the department is seeking to bolster security in regions that have witnessed increased threats to forest personnel.

A tragic reminder of the risks occurred on November 22 in 2022, when a forest officer was killed in a clash with Podu farmers in the Chundrugonda reserve forest, part of the Aswapuram range.

The district's forests span an area of 1,013,460 hectares. In a comparison to other states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Jharkhand, where special forest stations are already operational, the local forest personnel in these regions use fire arms, walkie-talkies, and wireless sets to carry out their duties more effectively.

Previously, the BRS government had invited proposals to set up such forest stations in the Kinnerasani Reserve Forest and in the forest ranges of Paloncha, Aswapuram, Charla, and Manuguru.

These proposals, aimed at preventing attacks by Podu farmers and timber smugglers, were ultimately shelved. Prior to 1993, the Forest Department operated its own stations, but due to the Naxalite threat, officers were required to surrender their weapons, shifting to unarmed patrols.

Given the escalating attacks

from Podu farmers and timber smugglers, the re-establishment of forest stations has once again become a priority. These base camps are designed to curb forest land encroachments, assist in conserving wildlife, and prevent poaching, particularly of rare species. Additionally, the camps will be equipped with fire blowers to help combat forest fires, a recurring challenge during the summer months.

Krishna Goud, the Divisional Forest Officer of the Bhadradi-Kothagudem range, acknowledged that while the state government has yet to approve the earlier proposals for forest stations, the Forest Department has moved forward with plans to establish base camps in Kunavaram and Gondigudem.

These efforts are crucial to safeguarding the region's valuable forest resources and protecting the personnel dedicated to their conservation.

Two die in accident involving two private buses

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Two persons died in a horrific road accident occurred on Saturday morning on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway in Suryapet district. The accident took place near the SV Engineering College on NH 65 at Suryapet.

A private bus traveling ahead was hit from behind by another private travels bus.

According to the details, the driver of the private bus, which was traveling from Guntur to Hyderabad, applied brakes suddenly due to speed breakers near the SV Engineering College. Another private bus coming from behind at high speed crashed into the bus which came to a halt. The vehicle skidded off the road. As a result, the front window of the bus was shattered, and the cleaner, Sai, who was sitting at the front of the bus, was thrown out of the bus due to the impact. He fell under the front wheels of the bus and



Ill-fated bus

died on the spot. Additionally, a passenger named Pasha, traveling on the bus, died of a heart attack due to the shock from the accident.

Five passengers suffered injuries in the accident. The Suryapet town police were informed of the incident. The injured were rushed to the Suryapet Government General Hospital. To avoid traffic disruption, the police cleared the bus that was obstructing the road, helped traffic resume. A case has been registered based on the complaint.

108 ambulance staff administer CPR, save baby

PNS ■ MEDAK

In Medak, the 108 ambulance staff demonstrated the crucial importance of timely medical intervention during emergencies. A newborn at the Medak government hospital developed breathing difficulties shortly after birth.

Acting on the doctors' advice, the baby was promptly transferred to Hyderabad in an ambulance. During the journey, the baby's heart stopped.

In a quick response, pilot Naveen and Emergency Medical Technician Raju immediately administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), successfully reviving the infant. They continued to transport the baby to the hospital, where the child is now recovering under medical care.

The baby's family, along with many others, expressed their gratitude for the swift and life-saving actions taken by the 108 ambulance team.



108 ambulance staff member administering CPR to baby in ambulance on Saturday

Radiology exam paper is same as the one from Nov 2023

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In postgraduate diagnostic radiology examinations, the negligence of officials at Kaloji Narayana Rao Health University has once again come to light. The question paper of January 16 turned out to be an exact copy of an earlier test in November 2023. It is noteworthy that the same code number from the previous paper was also used.

Students were shocked when the same paper was repeated. Previously, there were allegations that questions not included in the syllabus appeared in the MBBS annual examinations, particularly in Biochemistry Paper 1 and Paper 2 for first-year students.

Recently, the same old paper was given again for the Radiology Diagnostic 3 examination, highlighting the negligence. Question papers are supposed to be checked by experts for all types of annual university examinations. Along with the Controller of Examinations, the moderator of the respective subject should thoroughly review the question paper at least an hour before the examination, ideally by 8 a.m. if the exam is to be held at 9 a.m.

The paper should then be sent to all medical colleges of the university online, 15 minutes before the examination is scheduled to begin. However, Kaloji University has failed to follow this procedure properly, leading to criticism that the university's reputation is at stake.

Race for posts hots up in Congress party

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

The race for posts has hotted up in the district. It has led to a growing competition among Congress leaders for posts. Several leaders are making intense efforts to contest in the upcoming local body elections, believing that being in the ruling party will work in their favor. In some areas, party MLAs and chairpersons are facing difficulties with some other leaders making persistent attempts to secure nominated posts.

Competition for posts within the Congress party has increased, with leaders trying to meet Ministers and make efforts for posts in the local bodies. Leaders are also vying for nominated posts, even as they prepare for elections. Some are asking for nominated posts if reservations in local body

elections come in the way of their contesting the elections. They are intensifying their efforts from now on, with some leaders working closely with MLAs and conducting programmes while also preparing to complete their work in various villages and mandals before the elections, seeking votes based on the work they have done.

In the upcoming elections, both senior leaders and youth are gearing up to contest, and this is expected to create difficulties for the senior leaders. Additionally, those who have joined the party from other parties ahead of the elections are also trying to secure posts, creating a competitive environment in all constituencies.

The struggle is intensifying between those who have been loyal to the party for years and those who have joined just

before the elections. In some constituencies where there are no MLAs, leaders have formed rival groups. Some leaders are planning to spend large amounts of money in areas where they intend to contest.

The Congress leaders are aiming for posts like sarpanch, MPTC member, ZPTC member, councillors, and corporators. Some leaders are seeking nominations for women from their families if they are not able to secure post themselves. The youth within the party, including those who have worked with the NSUI and Youth Congress, are also gearing up for local body elections.

Those who joined Congress from other parties after enjoying posts in BRS and other parties during the last election are also trying again. Senior leaders within Congress are asking for opportunities, claiming that

those who have been with the party since its inception should be given the chance to contest this time. The PCC president, Mahesh Kumar Goud, has announced that seat allocations will be made based on surveys and that those who have worked hard for the party for ten years will be given proper opportunities.

Where MLAs are present, internal conflicts are relatively fewer, but in areas where there are no MLAs, internal disputes are more prevalent. Through constituency in-charges and other leaders, efforts are being made within the party to ensure that all schemes reach beneficiaries and that work is done effectively at the village and mandal levels. Leaders are preparing their factions and strengthening their cadres to get ready for the upcoming elections.

Promoter of app due investors of huge money

PNS ■ SIDDIPT

In a shocking incident, hundreds of people were deceived in Cherial mandal in the district after luring investing investors to invest in an app called Costa, promising high returns in a short period of time.

The app promised daily returns when users bought items like fruits, ice creams, and milkshakes, leading many innocent people to invest. For a few days, the investors saw money being credited to their accounts, which encouraged them to invest larger sums. However, after a few days, when

the payments stopped coming, they realised they had been scammed. The victims are now in distress.

In several villages under Cherial mandal, hundreds of people had fallen victim to the scam after investing large amounts in the Costa app, hoping high profits.

Cherial Circle Inspector Srinivas warned the public against investing in such fraudulent online apps promising high returns.

He assured that legal action would be taken against anyone who conned the people on the pretext of high returns.



Farmer Jadav Devarav



Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar explaining the circumstances leading to the suicide by the farmer at the bank in Adilabad on Saturday

Farmer ends life at bank after 'humiliation by bank staff'

PNS ■ ADILABAD

In a heartbreaking incident, a farmer took his own life due to alleged harassment of bank officials.

The 60-year-old farmer, Jadav Devarav, from Renuguda village, went to the bank to deal with the issues caused by the bank officials. Unable to bear the hardships and the humiliation faced in the village in front of his family members, the farmer consumed pesticide and committed suicide, which is deeply tragic, said Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar.

The farmer took his own life by consuming an unidentified pesticide on Saturday at the ICICI Bank in Adilabad town. Leaders of various parties from Bela Mandal and family members staged a protest in front of the bank.

Upon receiving the news, the local MLA visited the bank and spoke with the family members and bank officials. The MLA explained

that the farmer had mortgaged his land in the ICICI Bank and took a loan of Rs 4 lakh. He had been repaying the loan in instalments every six months. However, due to poor harvests this time, there was a delay of two months in repaying. The bank officials had frequently visited his home, pressuring him to repay the loan, which caused him great distress. The farmer, unable to bear this mental agony, consumed pesticide and committed suicide.

While big businessmen with billions in debt are not served notices, the bankers were demanding that the farmer sell his mortgaged land, which could fetch Rs 50 lakh to clear the Rs 4 lakh loan. He pointed out that it was wrong to humiliate the farmer over such a small amount. He emphasised that the farmer's death was a result of the bank officials' harassment.

Tension prevailed in the district following the death of the farmer by suicide.

Drone used to transport TB patient's sample to lab

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Medical officials in Addagudur mandal in Nalgonda district, are leveraging technology to provide timely assistance to patients. On Friday, they used a drone to transport samples from TB patients in Gattusingaram mandal to the Ramannapet government hospital.

Mandal Medical Officer Bharat Kumar explained that the journey from Addagudur to Ramannapet typically takes one hour and twenty minutes by vehicle, but with the drone, it only took 30 minutes. A total of 11 samples were collected and sent from the village.

The drone service is being utilised to collect blood samples from patients in remote areas and deliver them to laboratories quickly, ensuring that patients receive prompt



Drone being deployed transport TB patient's

treatment. Public Health Nurse Sharada, Supervisor Sarojana, and ASHA workers were also involved in the initiative.

ACROSS THE STATES



Himachal IG convicted in custodial death case

A Special CBI court here on Saturday convicted the Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police and seven other policemen in the custodial death of an accused in the gang rape and murder of a minor girl in Himachal Pradesh's Kotkhai in 2017. The court of special judge Alka Malik will pronounce the quantum of punishment on January 27. The CBI court convicted IG Zahur Haider Zaidi, the then deputy superintendent of police Manoj Joshi, then Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh, then Assistant SI Deep Chand Sharma, then head constable Mohan Lal, Surat Singh, Rafee Mohammad and then constable Ranjit Sateta. The court acquitted the then Superintendent of Police DW Negi, his counsel Rabintra Pandit said. The accused have been convicted under various sections, including 302 (murder) read with 120-B, 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession), 348 (wrongful confinement to extract confession) and 195 (giving false evidence) of the Indian Penal Code, said CBI public prosecutor Amit Jindal.



Man poisons wife and son to death, survives suicide bid

A 45-year-old man on Saturday poisoned his wife and minor son to death before attempting suicide in Maharashtra's Pune district due to alleged harassment by moneylenders, an official said. While the man, Vaibhav Hande from the Chikhali area, is being treated in a hospital, police have booked four persons, identified as Santosh Kadam, Surekha Kadam, Santosh Pawar and Javed Khan, in connection with the deaths, the official said. In his complaint, Vaibhav said he gave sleeping pills to his wife Shubhangi Hande, 36, and their 9-year-old son Dhanraj in the morning, resulting in their death. Vaibhav then tried to hang himself from a ceiling fan in their flat. On Friday night, Vaibhav had sent a note on the mobile phone of his 14-year-old son, whom he had sent to his relative's place in Mumbai, detailing his plan.



Curbs on flight operations at Delhi airport

Delhi airport operator DIAL on Saturday said there will be no flight arrivals and departures between 10.20 am and 12.45 pm for the next eight days till January 26 in view of the Republic Day week. Indra Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is the country's busiest airport and handles around 1,300 flight movements daily. Details about the impact of the curbs on the earlier scheduled flights of various airlines could not be immediately ascertained. "As per the NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued for Republic Day week from 19th to 26th Jan 2025, no flights would be arriving or departing from Delhi Airport between 10:20 AM to 12:45 PM IST," DIAL said in a post on X. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) also advised passengers to check with the airlines concerned for the updated flight information.

'Will bolster economic activities'

PM distributes over 65 lakh SVAMITVA property cards



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. The prime minister virtually addressed the event and also interacted with some beneficiaries. He also said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance". The property cards are being

distributed to beneficiaries across more than 50,000 villages in 10 states -- Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Modi said the scheme will help people get loans and benefits of other government schemes. "Around 2.24 crore beneficiaries in villages will now have SVAMITVA property cards after 65 lakh cards are



distributed today," the prime minister said. "Property rights are a major challenge across the world. Years ago, the United Nations had held a study, which revealed people did not have legal documents for property rights in several countries. The UN has said property rights are important for poverty alleviation," he said. Modi said an eminent economist had opined that property in villages is a "dead capital" because people cannot do anything with it, and it can't help increase their income. "India was also impacted by

this challenge. People in villages have property worth lakhs of crores (of rupees), but they did not have papers for it. There were disputes, properties were snatched, and even banks did not provide loans over it," he said. "The prime minister emphasized that no sensitive government could leave its villagers in such distress. "Previous governments should have taken steps to do something about it but nothing much was done," he said. Modi said Dalits, backward classes and tribals were the worst affected by this.

CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATIONS

India, US seal pact to enhance cooperation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days before it hands over power to President-elect Donald Trump, the Biden administration signed a pact with New Delhi that provides for boosting cooperation in combating cybercrime and related challenges such as terror financing and violent extremism. The agreement on cybercrime investigations, signed in Washington on Friday, allows the agencies concerned of the two countries to step up the level of cooperation with respect to cyber threat intelligence and digital forensics, according to an Indian readout. It is the second such move in the last few days by the outgoing Biden administration that reflected the overall upward trajectory of relations between the two nations. The US on Wednesday removed restrictions on three Indian nuclear entities --

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Indra Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR) and the Indian Rare Earths (IRE). The lifting of the restrictions



is aimed at implementation of the historic India-US civil nuclear deal sealed around 16 years ago. The Memorandum of Understanding or MoU on cybercrime investigations was signed by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra and Acting US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Kristie Canegallo. "Cybercrime has intricate linkages with the common security challenges faced by

India and the US such as terrorism and violent extremism, terror financing, drug trafficking, organised crime, human trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering and transportation security," the MEA said in the readout. "The MoU on cybercrime investigations will enable further strengthening of India-US security cooperation, as part of our comprehensive and global strategic partnership," it said. From New Delhi, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Union Home Ministry will be responsible for execution of the MoU, the MEA said. From the US side, it will be the Department of Homeland Security, and its constituent agencies -- the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Homeland Security Investigations Cyber Crimes Center (C3) which are tasked to execute the pact.

ATTACK ON SAIF ALI KHAN
Suspect detained at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh



PNS ■ DURG

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) detained a suspect in the case of knife attack on actor Saif Ali Khan from a train at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh on Saturday afternoon, an official said. The man, identified as Aakash Kailash Kannoja (31), was traveling by Jnaneshwari Express which runs between Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) to Kolkata Shalimar, the RPF official said.

45% of population covered under Ayushman Bharat: Nadda

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

'Ayushman Bharat' has brought 6 crore citizens aged 70 and above under it, and the Centre's flagship health insurance programme now covers over 45 per cent of India's population, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said here Saturday. The Union Cabinet in October last year approved health coverage to all citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). "Under Modi 3.0, we have added 6 crore people above 70 under Ayushman Bharat. Now,

more than 62 crore people, or over 45 per cent of India's population, are covered, not in health insurance but under a 'health assurance' scheme with an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh," he said. Speaking at the 'IIMA Healthcare Summit 2025' organised at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, he called the scheme a game changer and said it has benefited more than 4.2 crore citizens. "These are poor people -- rickshaw pullers, street vendors, bus drivers, conductors, lift men, security guards, barbers, shoemakers -- who perhaps would never have thought about caring for their health," Nadda said.

Modi wanted to throw away Constitution, but ended up bowing before it: Rahul

PNS ■ PATNA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had harboured a wish to "throw away" the Constitution, but ended up bowing before it after the BJP's below-expectation performance in the Lok Sabha polls. The Leader of the Opposition made the charge at a 'Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan' here while mimicking the PM, evoking peals of laughter from the crowds. Holding a copy of the Constitution close to his head, Gandhi said, "When Modiji entered Parliament after winning a third term, he did like

this. He wanted to throw the Constitution away. But our concerted fight made him give up his boast of a 400-plus seat win for the BJP." Notably, remarks by a few BJP leaders that the



Constitution might be "changed" if the party won more than 400 seats in the 543-strong Lok Sabha were latched on by the opposition INDIA bloc, led by Congress, in last year's general elections.



Congress's new HQ narrates tale of 139-yr history

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior leaders who left the Congress and even mounted stinging attacks on it find a place in the pictorial representation of the party's history spread across the five storeys of its new 9A Kotla Road office. Ahead of a media tour of the office, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken Saturday told reporters at the first press conference at the Indra Gandhi Bhawan that the building was built at an estimated cost of Rs 200-225 crore with some dues still left to be paid to Larsen and Toubro (L&T) construction company. The Congress headquarters was inaugurated on Wednesday, as the grand old party turned a page in its history after operating from its iconic 24, Akbar Road premises for the last 47 years. Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi inaugurated the plush building in the presence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, among other

of the party's 139-year-old history with its walls adorning pictures from the freedom struggle to the party's governance achievements. From VP Singh to Ghulam Nabi Azad and from Suresh Pachouri to Rita Bahuguna Joshi, many leaders who left the party, including some who joined the BJP, and made stinging attacks on the party, find a place in the slew of photographs and pictorial representation of the party's history adorning the walls of the new office. As one enters the building, the wall in front adorns the pictures of the party's first president W C Benerjee and current chief Kharge. A striking picture on the ground floor is that of Sonia Gandhi leading a march with the likes of Pachouri, Joshi and P Sudhakar Reddy, all now in the BJP, accompanying her. Also there in the photograph is Ashok Tanwar, who left the Congress for the BJP, but returned to the party fold last year. In another epic picture, Rajiv Gandhi, when he was prime minister, is seen flanked Gandhi is flanked by

The Congress headquarters was inaugurated on Wednesday, as the grand old party turned a page in its history after operating from its iconic 24, Akbar Road premises for the last 47 years

senior leaders. "Today we will introduce you to a temple of democracy - Indra Gandhi Bhawan, the headquarters of the largest opposition party of the country at present," Maken told the press conference along with AICC general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh and party's media and publicity department head Pawan Kherra. "The government of India allotted this land to us on November 19, 2007. Its foundation stone was laid in 2009 and finally we received the 'completion cum occupancy certificate' on January 14, 2025, while it was inaugurated on January 15," he said. Indra Gandhi Bhawan, designed by Hafeez Contractor, narrates the tale

Manmohan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and VP Singh (who all became prime ministers) and K R Narayanan (who became president later). On the fourth floor, which showcases the party's history from 2014-2023, a picture from 2019 adorns the wall in which Azad is seen standing with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, taken at Rajghat during a protest against CAA and NRC. Another interesting photo that adorns the walls on the fourth floor is of Sonia Gandhi and then president Sitaram Kesari during a campaign rally in Rohtak in January 1998. A few months later Kesari was forced out and Gandhi took over as party chief.



Clash of farmers on India-Bangla border resolved
Situation under control, says BSF

PNS ■ MALDA (WB)

Tension erupted on the India-Bangladesh border on Saturday morning near a BSF border outpost after an altercation between farmers from both countries escalated into a brief clash, the paramilitary force said. However, prompt intervention by the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) ensured that the situation was swiftly brought under control, a BSF statement said. According to the BSF, the incident occurred around 11:45 am when Indian farmers working near the international border accused Bangladeshi farmers of stealing crops.



The verbal argument quickly spiraled, with farmers from both sides gathering in large numbers, hurling abuses, and pelting stones at one another. In a statement, the BSF said, "The situation was immediately brought under control fol-

lowing timely intervention by BSF and BGB personnel. Farmers from both sides were dispersed and sent back to their respective territories. There have been no reports of injuries in the incident." The BSF further emphasized the importance of avoiding such disputes and advised Indian farmers to report any farming-related issues along the border directly to BSF personnel. "We have requested Indian farmers to maintain calm and refrain from getting involved in border disputes. Necessary measures will be taken in case of any grievances," the statement added. The BGB also played a crucial role in managing the situation on their side of the border. By late afternoon, some Bangladeshi nationals were seen within 50-75 metres of the international boundary, but they were reportedly dissuaded by BGB personnel, preventing further escalation.

India joins mega naval wargame La Perouse

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is participating in a mega wargame along with naval forces from eight nations including the US and France against the backdrop of increasingly fractious geopolitical environment and China's military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific. The naval exercise 'La Perouse' is underway in the straits between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as well as Malacca, Sunda and Lombok. These straits are largely considered as very crucial for global maritime trade. The nine-day exercise that began on January 16 aims to enhance cooperation among the participating nations in areas of maritime surveillance, interdiction operations, air operations and information sharing. French Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led

by nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, is the mainstay of the mega exercise. India's indigenously designed and built



guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai is part of the exercise, according to the Indian Navy. Besides, India, the US and France, naval

forces from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and the UK are participating in the exercise. "The exercise provides an opportunity for like-minded navies to develop closer links in planning, coordination and information sharing for enhanced tactical interoperability," the Indian Navy said on Saturday. "The exercise will witness complex and advanced multi-domain exercises including surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air-defence, cross deck landings and tactical manoeuvres, as also the constabulary missions such as VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) operations," it said in a statement. The Indian Navy's participation in the exercise showcases the high levels of synergy, coordination and interoperability between the like-minded navies and their commitment to a rules-based international order in the maritime domain, it added.



In Sandburgs you will find yourself immersed in an ambiance that feels straight out of America when they serve. The menu is crafted to teleport you to the street style of USA with their presentation, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



SLICE OF AMERICA ON YOUR PLATE

When you step into Sandburgs, you're instantly transported to the bustling streets of America usually you might have seen in the web series. From the rustic interiors to the vibrant menu, every corner exudes classic American charm. And the food? It's a culinary celebration of comfort and indulgence. Here's a deep dive into the unforgettable experience that Sandburgs offers.



lovers. This unique offering combines marinated cottage cheese with fresh veggies like onion, tomato, and capsicum. The *SB special mint mayo* and *tandoori sauce* elevate the flavours, creating a blend of smoky, tangy, and herby notes in every bite. The warm, crisp bread completes the sandwich, making it a satisfying meal on its own. Other options you could explore in the Sandwiches category are *Peri Peri Cottage press Sandwich*, *Classic Pollo press Sandwich*, *North Pollo Press Sandwich* which are like awesome for the fast food lovers.

BURGERS THAT SPEAK TO YOUR SOUL: The *Garden Dreams Burger* is a masterpiece that deserves a standing ovation. The handmade veggie patty is perfectly crisp on the outside and tender within, paired with fresh lettuce, juicy tomato, and a generous dollop of homemade harissa mayo that gives the burger a delightful kick. The caramelised onions and melted cheddar cheese add layers of sweet and savoury goodness, all nestled in a soft, freshly toasted bun.

SANDWICHES THAT STEAL THE SHOW: The *Tandoori Cottage Press Sandwich* is a revelation for sandwich

CHEESINESS YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO: Cheese lovers, unite! The *Grilled Cheese* is a triple-threat of mozzarella, parmesan, and cheddar cheeses melted



to perfection. The caramelised onions tucked inside add a hint of sweetness that balances the richness of the cheeses. Toasted in freshly baked milk bread, it's a nostalgic nod to classic American comfort food, oozing with gooey goodness. You could also satisfy your taste buds by ordering *Shroom & Cheese* with assorted mushroom ragu with caramelised onion, mozzarella and parmesan cheese toasted in a freshly baked milk bread, *Ham & cheese* with premium pork ham with sharp cheddar cheese and golden fried egg toasted in a freshly baked milk bread.

SIDES THAT COMPLEMENT THE FEAST: What's an American-style meal without crispy potato fries? Sandburgs' fries are golden perfection, crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. The variety of dips, including the *Cheese Garlic Dip* and the *tangy BBQ Dip*, allow you to customise your experience. The *Spicy Dip* is a personal favourite, adding just the right amount of heat to the crispy fries.

COOL DRINKS AND COFFEE: The

beverages menu is equally impressive. The *Hazelnut Iced Latte* offers a smooth blend of nutty and creamy flavours, served over ice, making it a refreshing pick-me-up. The *Lemon Iced Tea* is a zesty and revitalising drink, perfect for pairing with the heavy-duty burgers and sandwiches. You could also try *Sundaes - Hot Chocolate Sundae* and *Salted Caramel Sundae* if you are an ice cream fan.

DESSERTS AND BEYOND: Although I didn't try the sundaes this time, their presence on the menu promises a classic American diner experience. The range of beverages, from *Coffee on the Rocks* to *Nice and Warm drinks*, ensures there's something for every palate. Sandburgs deliver taste but on the promise of a true American-style dining experience. The presentation, flavours, and overall vibe make it a must-visit for anyone craving hearty comfort food. From the meticulous plating to the authentic taste, Sandburgs takes you on a culinary journey straight to the heart of America, one delicious bite at a time.



FACT SHEET

Restaurant Name: Sandburgs
Place: Unit 4/E-14, Upper Ground Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi (outlets in Gurgaon as well)
Price for 1: ₹700 approx

Revolutionising Dining Experiences

Japonico: Discover the joy of great food and creative flavours

FOODFREAK



Pawan Soni
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



In a culinary world where new menus often blur into monotony, Japonico on Golf Course Road stands out as a beacon of creativity and authenticity. This is a place where innovation meets artistry, delivering a dining experience that surprises and delights even the most seasoned food enthusiasts. With a view of the bustling metro line on the golf course road, Japonico's interiors are a visual treat. The layout is thoughtfully divided: one side features a live wood Robata grill and family-style seating, while the other, overlooking the bar, offers a more high-energy vibe. Striking design elements, live projections on flowing water and giant pots, create a serene yet vibrant ambience. Subtle lighting is balanced by strategically placed spotlights, ensuring that every dish's presentation shines as brightly as its flavours.

A COCKTAIL JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER: The experience begins with the drinks. *The Legacy*, a gin- and vodka-based martini, exemplifies the bar's mastery. Served with tobiko caviar, pickled radish, and an olive, each element adds depth: the tobiko bursts with wasabi and truffle notes, the radish enhances passion fruit flavours, and the olive ties it back to the martini's classic essence. Japonico's mixology programme promises a standard that few can match. **CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS:** The meal starts strong with the *Mushroom Salad*, a delightful medley of textures and flavours. Crisp and dehydrated shitake mushrooms pair beautifully with iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, mizuna, cucumber and avocado, all elevated by a gomae dressing. The *Rocky Shrimp Tempura*, spiced with togarashi and creamy mayo, may not break new ground, but its flawless execution ensures it's devoured in no time. The dim sum, crafted with precision, leaves no room for leftovers. The star of the meal, however, is the *Atlantic Crab and Aji Chili Taco*. The sweetness of crab meat meets the heat of chilli and the crunch of a

perfectly crisp taco shell, all brightened by a hint of lemon. It's so irresistibly good, you might not want to share. If you're a crab lover, this dish alone is worth the visit.

From the Robata grill comes another standout: the Australian Lamb Cutlet, marinated in gochujang sauce for 24 hours. The result is tender, flavourful meat that melts in your mouth, delivering smoky richness with every bite. **THE TEAM BEHIND THE MAGIC:** Great food and drinks require a great team, and Japonico is no exception. Restaurateur Sahil Sambhi, who I awarded the Best Restaurateur title in the 11th season of The Big F Awards, has honed his craft over the years, evolving from a nightlife innovator to a culinary trailblazer. Known for award-winning ventures like *Bawri* and *VietNom*, Sambhi's passion for innovation and excellence shines through in Japonico. At his side are talented mixologists Chirag Pal and Jeet Rana, and Chef Roberto Blondi, who brings Michelin-starred expertise to the table. Together, they've crafted a restaurant that's as much about the experience as it is about the cuisine.

SETTING A NEW STANDARD: As the first major restaurant launch of 2025, Japonico has raised the bar for the industry. It's not just a place to eat; it's a statement of what dining should aspire to be. Judging by the weekday crowd, diners agree, this is a benchmark that will be hard to beat.

FACT SHEET

RATINGS (Out of 5)
Food: 4.75 | **Drinks:** 4.75 | **Ambience:** 5.0 | **Service:** 4.5 | **Overall:** 4.75
Address: Japonico, 2nd Floor, Tower D, Vipul Tech Square, Golf Course Rd, near Sector 42-43, Sector 43, Gurugram
Phone: 9948000039

From Mangalore to Delhi's Table

By **TEAM AGENDA**

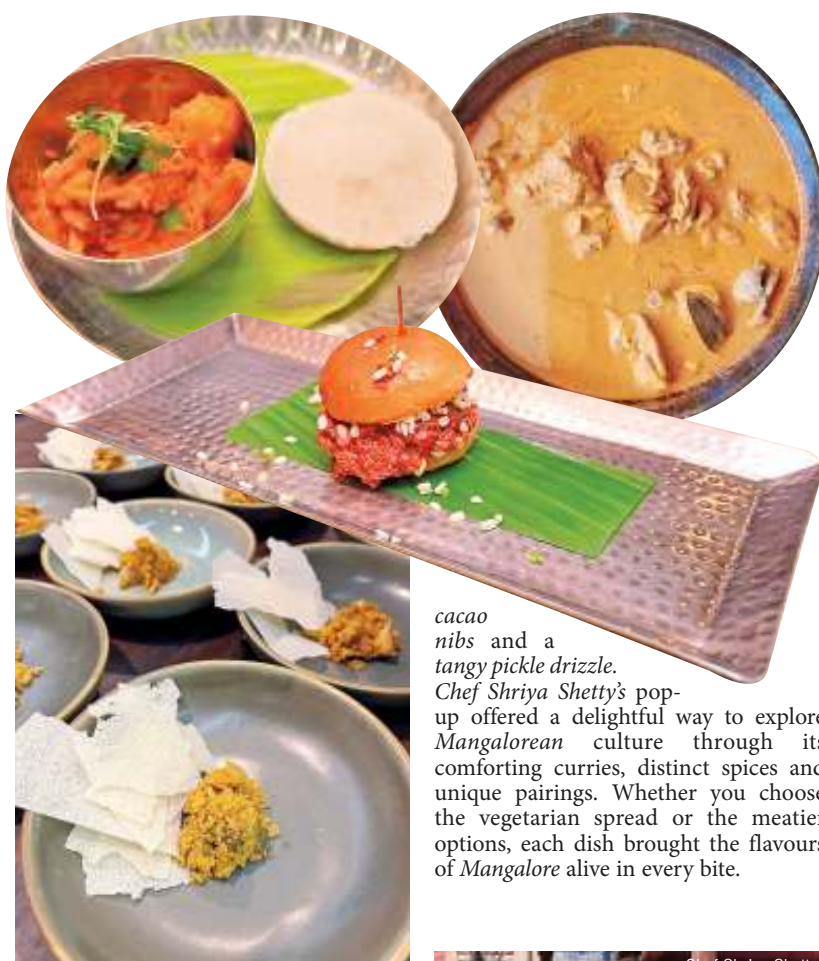
Food has an uncanny way of transporting us. A single bite can take us to a vibrant street, a quiet kitchen or even the shores of a distant coast. At *Chor Bizarre Chef Shriya Shetty's* Mangalorean pop-up did exactly that, bringing the soothing flavours of Mangalore to the heart of Delhi.

The vegetarian journey began with *THINDI*, the *Jowar Tartlet* filled with *red amaranth* cooked in *coconut milk* and topped with *bajeel* (tempered beaten rice). This delicate appetiser was a celebration of earthy, creamy flavours and contrasting textures.

KUNDAPUR featured the *7-Hour Mushroom Ghee Roast*, served in *Bombay pao* with *ridge gourd tzatziki*, *pomegranate* and *cilantro*. The slow-cooked mushrooms were rich and spiced, beautifully balanced by the refreshing tzatziki.

The *BAFAT* offering, *Mangalorean Sweet Potato Bafath*, came with *sannas* and *tamarind reduction*. This dish delivered a balance of sweetness and tanginess, made complete by the softness of the sannas.

The vegetarian *MAINS*, served *thali-style*, included *Kori Roti*, *Peas* and *Potato Gassi*, *Red Amaranth Raita*, *Ridge Gourd Chutney*, *Raw Banana* and *Carrot*



cacao nibs and a *tangy pickle drizzle*. Chef Shriya Shetty's pop-up offered a delightful way to explore Mangalorean culture through its comforting curries, distinct spices and unique pairings. Whether you choose the vegetarian spread or the meatier options, each dish brought the flavours of Mangalore alive in every bite.

Chef Shriya Shetty

FACT SHEET

Date & Time: January 19th, 2025
Lunch: 12pm & 2pm
Dinner: 7pm & 9:30pm
Price: Veg ₹1,300 (All Inclusive), Non veg ₹1,600 (All Inclusive)
Address: Broadway, 4/15 A, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi, 110012

ESSENCE OF



The Brahmaputra Carnival celebrates the Assamese heritage, and culinary delights, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



Northeast India, a treasure of cultural diversity and natural beauty, is a region where traditions and modernity coexist in harmony. Among its enchanting states, Assam stands out with its lush tea gardens, lively festivals, and the mighty Brahmaputra River. Assam is all alive with the *Brahmaputra Carnival*, a grand celebration that promises to showcase the region's rich heritage, arts, and cuisine. Set against the stunning backdrop of the majestic river, the carnival features cultural performances, adventure sports, food festivals, and more. It's a unique opportunity to experience the soul of Assam like never before.

A fun carnival that looks like a colourful masterpiece made from Assamese soul, river breezes, and sunshine. On the banks of the majestic Brahmaputra River, Assam culture is celebrated at the *Brahmaputra Carnival*. The river itself is serving as the stage for this festival, which is organised by the Assam Government and is a symphony of culture, adventure, and unadulterated delight.

To make your experience even more fun and adventurous is *The Lachit Ghat* is the site of the *Brahmaputra Carnival*, and *Sandbar Island* serves as the *Tent City* during the event. It takes 15 to 20 minutes by speed boat from the *Lachit Ghat* to *Sandbar Island*, and the journey is visually stunning. If you're considering a trip to the northeast, the sunny and windy weather is ideal for a getaway.

A RETREAT ON THE RIVER: Currently being held on the *Lachit Ghat*,



the carnival pulsates with energy, yet maintains a serene undercurrent. The *Brahmaputra*, ever unpredictable, adds a touch of wildness to the festivities, reminding us of the raw power of nature. It's a retreat for the soul, where the peace of the river's embrace melds perfectly with the excitement of adventure.

GLAMPING IN STYLE: The festival provides a luxurious glamping experience with three categories of tents

namely the *Royal Tents*, *Premium Tents*, and *Deluxe Tents*. All of the three options offer you a comfortable and stylish retreat, complete with modern amenities and breathtaking river views that would blow away your mind. Also, one would enjoy the foggy views as soon as you get up and look outside of your tents. The foggy layers engulfing the *Brahmaputra River* will want you to have a cup of tea or coffee with those views and chills. You would also experience the open-air cinema magic



at *Brahmaputra Carnival Tent City*. Movies, fresh air, and unforgettable moments await you. The main part of the stay is the hospitality provided at your new home. The hospitality by *Gias* and his team of boys at the *Tent City* would truly make you comfortable and at home providing everything handy and in need.

ADVENTURES ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA: For the adrenaline junkies, the *Brahmaputra* is



an irresistible playground. At the *Sandbar Island* you would experience the speedboat rides cut through the water like a knife, while kayaking and jet skiing offer a more intimate encounter with the river's currents with your own rapid and water fun. For those seeking a true test of courage, bungee jumping provides an exhilarating leap of faith. And let's not forget the thrill of *ATV rides* and the exhilarating descent on the river rapids during a white-water rafting expedition. This is not the end. You could also experience the *hot air balloon* rides up into the sky for beautiful views, *beach volleyball*, *beach cricket*, *archery*, *river rafting* and *water roller*. These adventures offer a unique perspective on the Brahmaputra, allowing you to experience its power and beauty firsthand. At the *Lachit Ghat*, you would experience *Archery*, *River Rafting*, *Water Roller*, *Speed boat*, *Kayaking*, *ATV*, *Bungee Ejection*, *Mechanical Bull Ride*, *Bungee Trampoline*, *Air Gun Shooting*, *Zip Line*, *Rope Course* and *Zorbing*. All this will keep you hooked to the carnival and not wanting to leave it. Take note that the water activities do not take place after the dark due to safety reasons.

A CULTURAL VIBE: Beyond the thrills, the *Brahmaputra Carnival* is a celebration of Assamese culture. You would see vibrant performances of traditional dances like *Bihu*, *Satriya Nritya*, *Bagurumba*, *Bhortal*, and *Ojapali* showcasing the region's rich heritage. Apart from the dance culture you could get stalls at the *Lachit Ghat* to buy the Assam specialties like the printed *Gamucha*, *Mekhela Chador* for women and the *Dhoti-gamosa* for men.



The *Brahmaputra Carnival* also takes you through the musical ears of Assam as bands perform in the concerts in the evening at the *Lachit Ghat*. On the 31st January the *Carnival* will be graced by the melodic singing of the famous singer *Papon*, on 19th February it will be rocked by *Kanawz & Company*.

THE TRADITIONAL TASTE: At the *Brahmaputra Carnival* you can indulge in local delicacies that savour the flavours of authentic Assamese cuisine. The carnival has food stalls with authentic Assamese touch. You would see *chicken momos*, *chicken vodka momos*, *prawns*, *silkworms* and so much more that would satisfy your mouth watery taste buds.

A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER: The *Brahmaputra Carnival* is more than just a festival; it's an invitation to experience the soul of Assam. It's a chance to connect with nature, have some adventure, and discover the magic of a land where the river dictates the rhythm of life. So, pack your bags guys, and prepare to be swept away by the essence of the *Brahmaputra Carnival*.



IN BRIEF



Cummins Group launches HELM engine platform

Power Solution Technology provider Cummins on Saturday launched its next-generation HELM engine platforms at Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. HELM (Higher Efficiency, Lower emissions, Multiple fuels) platforms deliver advanced internal combustion engine technology with fuel-type flexibility, enabling customers to choose from advanced diesel, natural gas or hydrogen variants to meet their diverse operational needs and sustainability goals, the company said. It "represents the company's forward-thinking approach to engine technology, prioritising performance, efficiency, and sustainability," said Cummins Group in India. Besides, it also unveiled a BSVI-ready L10 engine, part of Cummins' 10-litre HELM platform and the base for future BSVII and Euro 7 capable products. The company also introduced the B6.7N natural gas engine, enabling the transition of heavy-duty vehicles to CNG/LNG.



Man Industries India board approves plan to raise Rs 300 cr

Man Industries India on Saturday said its board has approved a plan to raise Rs 300 crore and appointed Sandeep Kumar as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The company plans to raise up to Rs 300 crore through issuance of equity shares, convertible shares warrants through preferential issue, qualified institution placement (QIP), rights issue or a combination thereof. Man Industries India said in an exchange filing. The board, at its meeting on Saturday, also approved the appointment of Sandeep Kumar as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Key Managerial Personnel with effect from January 18, 2025. In his earlier stints, Kumar has worked with Welspun Global Brands Limited and Raymond Group in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer and Director (Finance), respectively, and others. MAN Industries (India) is one of the largest players in LSAW (longitudinal submerged arc welded) pipes, spirally welded pipes and coating systems.



RBL net profit plummets on reverses from MFI loans

RBL Bank's net profit plummeted to Rs 47 crore in the December quarter of 2024-25 from Rs 245 crore in the year-ago period as the microloan portfolio came to bite. The city-based private sector lender, which has had difficult few quarters due to higher credit costs, reported a net profit of Rs 231 crore in the preceding September quarter. Its core net interest income grew by 3 per cent to Rs 1,585 crore, while the other income grew 38 per cent to Rs 1,073 crore aided by a stake sale in the NBFC DAM Capital. The bank's chief executive and managing director R Subramaniam said the net interest margin declined to 4.90 per cent from 5.52 per cent in the year-ago period, and 0.40 per cent of the impact came from the microfinance exposures. The slippages on the MFI book zoomed to Rs 535 crore as against the usual Rs 125-150 crore range due to a host of issues in the history including over-leverage of borrowers.

'India emerging as major pole in world economy'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Asserting that India is emerging as a major pole in world economy, Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Saturday said his country was trying to contribute to the semiconductor ecosystem and the air connectivity sector. "India aspires to be a pole in its own right, in a multipolar world that is true geopolitically, but it is also true economically. India is emerging as a major pole of the global economy. India is a nation with which we would like to collaborate," he said, while briefing the media at the end of his two-day tour to Odisha.



sees how it can contribute to the ecosystem and is also looking at new generation industrial parks, particularly Sembcorp is very actively exploring possible sites for development of new industrial parks." Shanmugaratnam said both countries are also working very hard on skilling, which is a major factor to secure the future for India. "As Singapore has some experience in the field, it intended to be a player in developing India's skill ecosystem," he said.

"Because of its demographics, its own development processes, and significant potential in its export economy, India is a nation that Singapore would likely collaborate with," he added. Stating that "India's priorities and Singapore's priorities are also very similar," the President added, "According to the priorities established under the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, the two governments are working together to develop the semiconductor ecosystem in India. Singapore

and wind energy, and it is going to be a significant green ammonia producer. So, Singapore is keen to engage with India in the development of these sectors and also the green corridor leading to Southeast Asia, which may take more time but is a very important aspiration," the President said.

Stating that "connectivity is the key," he said, "During my meetings with the leadership in India, we shared our keenness to expand the air service agreement, which was revised for the last time about 10 years ago."

Expansion of the air service

and wind energy, and it is going to be a significant green ammonia producer. So, Singapore is keen to engage with India in the development of these sectors and also the green corridor leading to Southeast Asia, which may take more time but is a very important aspiration," the President said.

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Expansion of the air service

Hrithik rents out office space for Rs 5.62 lakh per month

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan has rented out his premium commercial property at Rs 5.62 lakh per month, real estate consultant Square Yards said. In a statement on Saturday, Square Yards said it has reviewed the property registration documents.

"Hrithik Roshan has given on rent his premium commercial property, securing a monthly rental income of Rs 5,62,000," the consultant said. The commercial property is located in Lotus Corporate Park project developed by Lotus Developers at Goregaon, Mumbai. Spanning 27.55 acres, this ready-to-move-in project offers modern office spaces. As per the IGR registration documents, the commercial space given on rent by the actor measures 2,727 square feet.

The transaction includes a stamp duty payment of Rs 88,000 and a registration fee of Rs 1,000, the statement said.

Automobile industry will be number one in world in next 5 years: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's automobile industry will be number one in the world in the next five years, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday, highlighting that the industry has created 4.5 crore jobs till now, the highest in the country.

(Rs 22 lakh crore). Gadkari further said when he took charge of the transport ministry in 2014, the size of the automobile industry was Rs 7.5 lakh crore and today its size is Rs 22 lakh crore.

According to the minister, the automobile industry has

Addressing a Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) event, the road transport and highways minister further said demand of Indian automobile products is very high globally. "The size of Indian automobile industry is now Rs 22 lakh crore. I am confident that within five years, the Indian automobile industry will be number one in the world," he said.



Presently, size of the US automobile industry is Rs 78 lakh crore, followed by China (Rs 47 lakh crore) and India

created 4.5 crore jobs till now -- the highest in the country.

"This is the automobile industry, which is giving maximum revenue as a part of GST to the state government and Bharat Sarkar," he added.

The minister pointed out that out of all two-wheelers motorcycles manufactured in India, 50 per cent are exported.

SML Isuzu bullish on govt schemes for biz growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commercial vehicle maker SML Isuzu has forayed into the electric vehicle business with the launch of Hiroi.ev platform for commercial buses that are expected to be rolled out in the April-June quarter this year, a senior company official said.

While admitting the continuing dominance of diesel, petrol, CNG-based vehicles, the company expects the government's sustainability targets and programmes to push demand for EV buses and bring down cost of production with large volumes. "As we introduced our first ever EV bus, I think technology is available and we are ready for implementation. We think this is the right time to roll out EVs.

"India is one of the most

promising markets in the world. Indian government plans for 30 per cent EV penetration in total sales by 2030 will provide us strong support for growth in EV buses," SML Isuzu, MD and CEO, Junya Yamanishi said at Bharat Mobility Global Expo.

The company's Hiroi.ev bus platform has been designed for intra and inter-city transportation. However, the company will initially target intra-city projects.

"We are mainly looking for government procurement for EV buses, especially for intra-city projects. Hiroi.ev buses can be charged within 2-3 hours and they can run for around 200 kilometres on a single charge," SML Isuzu, Chief General Manager for marketing, Prashant Kumar said.

Power availability improved in rural areas, says Manohar Lal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power supply to rural areas has improved significantly by 9 hours and in urban areas by 1.4 hours over the last decade, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal has said.

The minister at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Power on Thursday discussed the implementation of revamped distribution sector scheme (RDSS), an official release said.

In the meeting, the minister pointed out that over the past decade, power availability in the urban areas has improved from 22 hours to 23.4 hours, while in rural areas, it has increased significantly from 12.5 hours to 22.4 hours, the Power Ministry said in the release.

On RDSS Scheme, the Minister said that smart meters benefit both consumers and distribution companies by reducing billing errors, enhancing energy efficiency, and providing greater convenience for users.

The ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has also undertaken several measures to alleviate the difficulties consumers faced while



installing roof top systems (RTS) under PM Surya Ghar, Lal said. "These measures include waiving the requirement for Technical Feasibility Study for connections up to 10 kW, implementing deemed load enhancement for RTS installations up to 10 kW, etc," he said. As per official data, around 7.3 million smart prepaid meters have been installed till November 29 in various states under the RDSS scheme. It also showed that there were 'nil' installations in 11 states and two Union Territories.

Around 25 crore smart prepaid metres are to be installed by March 2025 under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), launched in July 2021, at an outlay of Rs 3.3 lakh crore. So far, works worth Rs 1.12 lakh cr have been awarded which are under different stages of implementation. Till date about 11.5 cr Smart Consumer meters, 45 lakh DT meters or Distribution Transformer meter and 1.70 lakh feeder meters have been awarded and are under installation.

EPFO SIMPLIFIES NORMS

Members can change personal details, transfer EPF online

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 7.6 crore members of retirement fund body EPFO can now change personal details like name and date of birth online without any verification by the employer or approval by EPFO with the rollout of a new facility on Saturday.

Besides, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) members with e-KYC EPF accounts (Aadhaar seeded) can file their EPF transfer claims online with Aadhaar OTP (one time password) directly without any need for intervention of the employer.

Union Labour & Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced the two new services on Saturday.

The minister said around 27 per cent of grievances filed by members are related to member profile/KYC issues



and that would see a significant drop after the rollout of the facility. He also stated that large employers having a huge workload of such requests will also benefit.

The minister stated that the EPFO has simplified the process of joint declaration on the EPFO portal by allowing employees to self-correct most common errors in personal details like name, date of

required in such cases, the minister informed.

If the UAN was issued prior to October 1, 2017, the employer can correct details without the EPFO's approval.

Requirement of supporting document has also been simplified for such cases.

Only where UAN is not linked with Aadhaar, any correction would have to be submitted physically to employer and after verification forwarded to EPFO for approval, he explained.

UAN registration is done by employer for the employee at the time of joining. For many employees, mistakes were committed by employers in recording father/spouse name, marital status, nationality and service details during the registration process or later.

In order to correct these errors, the employee had to make a request online with supporting documents.

No supporting document is

MARITIME INDIA CONFERENCE

Stakeholders to discuss biz opportunities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 7,500 stakeholders from 11 countries such as the US, the UAE, Singapore and Norway will participate in the Maritime India Conference next week to discuss business opportunities in the domestic ports and shipping sector.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal will address the event, organiser FICCI said in a statement. Participants from countries like the US, the UAE, Norway, Singapore, South Korea and

Sweden will take part in the three-day summit, FICCI said. Besides, delegates from the Netherlands, Argentina, Belgium, Denmark and Italy will also share views at the conference which begins on January 22 in Mumbai.

"The conference will address six strategic themes critical to India's maritime future.

Central to the agenda is the transformation of ports through smart technologies and sustainable practices, complemented by initiatives to accelerate the maritime sector's decarbonisation," the statement said.

'Sales of homes decline 14 pc to 38,626 units in 7 cities'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sales of apartments, costing less than Rs 50 lakh each, fell 14 per cent to 38,626 units in 2024 across seven major cities on lesser launches of affordable housing projects and rising prices, according to JLL India.

Real estate consultant JLL India data showed that sales of apartments across seven major cities during 2024 witnessed sustained growth, reaching a record-high volume of 3,02,867 units, up 11 per cent from 2,71,818 units in the preceding year.

The seven cities are Mumbai (including Mumbai

city, Mumbai suburbs, Thane city, and Navi Mumbai), Delhi-NCR (including Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Sohna), Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata.

The data includes only apartments. Rowhouses, villas, and plotted developments are excluded from the JLL India analysis.

Among different price categories, sales of apartments costing less than Rs 50 lakh each fell to 38,626 units from 45,160 units.

In the Rs 50 lakh-1 crore price category, the sales of apartments were almost flat



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at 1,02,886 units last year against 1,02,685 units in the preceding year. The demand for apart-

ments priced Rs 1 crore and above remained strong last year. In the Rs 1-3 crore category,

the sales of apartments rose 18 per cent to 1,19,990 units from 1,01,451 units. JLL data showed that sales

in the Rs 3-5 crore category surged 86 per cent to 25,833 units from 13,881 units.

In the above Rs 5 crore category, the sales shot up 80 per cent to 15,532 units during 2024 from 8,641 units in the preceding year.

On the outlook for the current year, JLL said the housing market is expected to exhibit a strong performance amid rising urbanisation levels, infrastructure developments and rising demand for premium homes driven by changing lifestyle preferences of consumers and higher disposable income levels.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE Dt. 17.01.2025
 No. of works: 1 Work, Name of the Work: Construction of CC pavement at Km 6/193- 6/237 (Balance reach) on Chayala - Munugode road (Urmasa Village Portion) in Nalgonda District. Total ECW Value: Rs. 3.87 Lakhs. Download of Tender Document and Submission of Bid Document: 21.01.2025 @ 3.30 P.M. to 27.01.2025 @ 3.30 P.M., Technical Bid Opening Date: 27.01.2025 @ 3.30 P.M. Price Bid Opening Date: 28.01.2025 @ 3.30 P.M., Tender Documents will be available in e-procurement market place in between 21.01.2025 to 28.01.2025. Validity of the tender will be 071 days from the date of publishing of the tender Details can be seen by login into www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Self-Executive Engineer, (R&B) District Office: Nalgonda. R.O.No: 8262-PPCLADVT/1/2024-25, Dt: 18-01-2025

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Dt. 18.01.2025
 No. of works: 1 Work, Name of the Work: Engaging of open lorry/DCM for lifting of trimmed branches/ Green wastage in all Circles of Channarayana Zone, GHMC for period of 6 months for the year 2024-25. Estt. Cost: Rs. 66.50 Lakhs. Download Start Date & Time: 20.01.2025 at 11:30A.M., Last Date & Time Receipt of Bids: 22.01.2025 at 11:30A.M., Name & Address Officer, Cell No.: ZCTO, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph No: 6663833866. For further details can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://www.tender.e-procurement.gov.in>. Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. R.O.No: 8262-PPCLADVT/1/2024-25, Dt: 18-01-2025 Sd/- ZCTO, CRZ, GHMC.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA (INSURANCE MEDICAL SERVICES)
ESI HOSPITAL: SANATHNAGAR (LOCATED AT NACHARAM), HYDERABAD
e-TENDER NOTICE Dt: 15.01.2025
 e-Tenders in Double bid system are invited from manufacturers/Authorized dealers/ Distributors for the supply of Medical equipments below 1 lakh to ESI Hospital, Sanathnagar (Located at Nacharam), Hyderabad. If manufacturer/authorized dealer/distributor would like to participate in the bids local supplier shall be allowed for consideration. Detailed information regarding the items, application/ tender forms, EMD details, Specifications, terms and conditions can be downloaded from the following websites: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 16.01.2025. The interested bidders shall submit their tenders only online mode at the e-procurement portal <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Last Date and Time for submissions of Tender: 27.01.2025 (2:00 pm). Sd/- R.O.No: 8262-PPCLADVT/1/2024-25, Dt: 18-01-2025 Medical Superintendent

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"
— Eleanor Roosevelt



A real-life action hero

From Bollywood star to philanthropic icon, Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is a classic example of perseverance and resilience, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

@SonuSood who plays Villain in South and Bollywood, but he did such a thing in this tragedy that he is the biggest hero in my eyes. On a social platform like Twitter, by taking the details of the workers, they are arranging buses and transporting them to the own village.: Md Shahnawaz Alam @alamktr00

Md Shahnawaz Alam was not the only person praising Sonu Sood for helping migrants reach their homes during Covid when lockdown was suddenly announced and people were stuck across the country. It was crazy time. No one knew what was in store and how pandemic would unfold. It was particularly hard on migrant workers with meagre resources walked endless journey to their hometowns. In this situation Sonu Sood, a known name in Bollywood for playing mean villain came forward to help people and making arrangements for traveling to these workers. The twitter was abuzz with people asking 'Sonu bhaiya' help and getting it. His twitter handle became a virtual helpline. Tweets like these flooded his social media handle. And he ready came for help. Genuinely. It was a gesture people reciprocated with warmth and Sonu Sood became a household name. It was indeed a turning point in the life and career of the star. And since then he did not look back. Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is a testament to resilience, hard work, and the power of perseverance. From humble beginnings to becoming a household name, Sonu's story is not just about acting but also about his extraordinary contributions to society through his philanthropic efforts. His rise to fame and his journey of selfless giving have made him one of the most admired figures in India, both on and off the screen. Born on July 30, 1973, in Moga, Punjab, Sonu Sood was not always destined for the glitz and glamour of Bollywood. Growing up in a middle-class family, Sonu's early life was filled with academic aspirations. He completed his engineering degree from the Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering in Nagpur. However, despite his technical background, his heart was always inclined towards acting. Sonu moved to Mumbai with dreams of making it in Bollywood. Like many aspiring actors, his journey was not without struggle. He started his career with small roles and often faced rejection. His initial years in the industry were difficult, and he struggled to find a breakthrough. He appeared in a variety of roles, including in films like Kahan Hai Tu (1999) and Shaheed-E-Azam (2002). These films, although not major hits, helped Sonu gain experience and sharpen his acting skills. Sonu Sood's breakthrough came with the film Yuva (2004), directed by Mani Ratnam. Playing the character of a strong-willed, determined man, Sonu's performance was well-received. This marked the beginning of his rise in the industry. His portrayal of negative roles in films like Aashiq Banaya Aapne (2005) and Dabangg (2010) further solidified his presence in Bollywood. In Dabangg,

his character, Chhedi Singh, was menacing, and his performance opposite Salman Khan earned him widespread acclaim. The turning point in his career came when Sonu Sood was offered roles that showcased his versatility. Whether as the villain or a complex character with shades of Gray, Sonu's consistent hard work and dedication to his craft saw him rise through the ranks of Bollywood's A-list stars. His powerful performances in films like Jodha Akbar (2008), Simmba (2018), and Raju Chacha (2000) earned him several awards and nominations. What sets Sonu apart is his ability to evolve with the changing dynamics of the film industry. He has played a range of characters, from a villain to a hero, from action-packed roles to romantic parts. His commitment to delivering quality performances, regardless of the scale of the film, has made him a dependable actor in Bollywood. While Sonu Sood's acting career has been remarkable, his philanthropic work during the COVID-19 pandemic made him a true hero in the eyes of millions. When the pandemic caused widespread suffering across the globe, Sonu didn't just stay confined to his home; he became the guiding light for thousands of people in need. Sonu's philanthropic efforts began when he started helping migrant workers stuck in different parts of India due to the lockdown. With his own funds and resources, Sonu arranged transportation for thousands of migrant workers to return to their homes, despite facing logistical hurdles and government restrictions. His initiative gained massive media attention, with people praising him for his quick and effective response to the crisis. In addition to helping migrant workers, Sonu Sood extended his support to the medical sector by arranging hospital beds, oxygen supplies, and treatment for those suffering from COVID-19. He provided financial aid to families who had lost their loved ones during the pandemic and launched multiple campaigns to help students, farmers, and the underprivileged access education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Through his organisation, the Sood Charity Foundation, Sonu has continued his philanthropic efforts, focusing on education, healthcare, and helping the underprivileged. He believes in the power of education and aims to provide quality education to children who do not have access to it. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, and he has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious International Humanitarian Award in recognition of his selfless work. Sonu Sood's success in Bollywood is a result of his unwavering dedication and hard work. He didn't come from a film family and had no Godfather when he reached Mumbai from his hometown Moga with just Rs 5000 in his pocket. He worked his way up to build his career from the ground up. His perseverance is a reflection of his commitment to his craft and his belief that success comes with consistent effort. What sets Sonu apart from many others in the industry is his work ethic and focus. He has worked in several regional film industries, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi cinema, which allowed him to understand the nuances of different audiences and cultures. This versatility has been key to his success, as he is equally comfortable playing a hero or villain in different languages and genres. In an industry where many actors rely on luck or industry connections to secure their place, Sonu has demonstrated that talent, dedication, and hard work are the true pillars of success. His journey is an inspiration to aspiring actors and those who believe in the power of perseverance. Sonu Sood has not only made a place for himself in Bollywood but has also become a hero for countless people across the country. His legacy, both as an actor and philanthropist, will continue to inspire generations to come.



ACTING COMES NATURALLY TO ME: SONU SOOD

Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is an incredible narrative of success, struggle and humanity. From a young man with dreams of becoming an actor to a respected figure in the Indian film industry, Sonu's dedication to his craft and his selfless philanthropic work makes him an iconic figure in India today. He was in Delhi at the premier of his latest offering 'Fateh' an action-packed film dealing with cybercrime. Sonu Sood talked to Gyaneshwar Dayal, about his acting, social responsibilities and future plans.

Could you tell us what scripts draw your attention?
I like to do the films which are close to common man, about his life and problems. Recently I did Fateh which deals with the cybercrimes which has become a menace in the country and people should know about it. So I thought why not make a film which would indeed not only entertain but also inform people about the dangers lurking in the digital domain. So I prefer films which are entertaining but also create awareness and talk about people's issues

You are known for action. Do you like action roles?
Yes of course. In my films people get to see a lot of action sequences which are world class and are at par with Hollywood films. We can say that we make action sequences which are world class and perfectly choreographed. Fateh is case in point.



How do you prepare for a role in a film?
Well acting comes naturally to me. I have always loved acting and so when I hear a character in the film I get the idea how to go about it. I can switch on and off between the roles and that is really important because Bollywood works like that. Yes, understanding of the role must be there so that you can do justice to it.

You do a lot of philanthropic work. So what you prefer action for the people in their dire times or action on the screen?
See, life is more than just lights camera action. When there are no lights or camera action continues in the real life. It is a great feeling when you can help someone in need when there is no light no camera. It is important to be sympathetic and have empathy, because cinema is one aspect of life not the other way round.

You have portrayed a range of roles, both positive and negative. Which type do you prefer, and why?
That's correct I accept all types of roles I think I can do justice to. But now on I want to do positive roles. I love playing positive roles and that is the kind roles I would be doing now on.

UNBRIDLED EMOTIONS; AZAAD GALLOPS INTO HEARTS

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Plot

Azaad follows the inspiring journey of a young boy and his unbreakable bond with a spirited horse named Azaad. Set against the backdrop of rebellion and personal struggles, the film explores themes of freedom, courage, and emotional resilience. The story intricately weaves moments of heart-break, adventure, and familial love as the characters navigate through challenges to find redemption and purpose.

Analysis

Director Abhishek Kapoor delivers an emotionally resonant narrative that balances drama with exhilarating action. The film's central theme of liberation—both personal and societal—is compelling, though the storytelling occasionally relies on familiar tropes. The deep emotional connection between the protagonist and Azaad forms the heart of the movie, leaving a lasting impression.

Highlights

The emotional core of Azaad lies in the powerful bond between the young protagonist and his horse, Azaad. This heartfelt relationship drives the narrative, creating moments that deeply resonate with the audience. The film skillfully blends an engaging storyline with gripping moments of adventure and heartfelt drama. The compelling themes of resilience, freedom, and self-discovery give the film a universal appeal, making it an impactful and memorable watch. These emotional layers ensure Azaad leaves a lasting impression on viewers.

Drawbacks

While Azaad delivers an emotionally gripping story, it isn't without its flaws. The screenplay, at times, falls into predictable pat-



REVIEW

DIRECTOR: Abhishek Kapoor

PRODUCER: Pragya Yadav and Ronnie Screwvala

CAST: Ajay Devgn, Diana Penty, Aman Devgan, Rasha Thadani, Mohit Malik, Piyush Mishra

RATING: 4/5

terns, making certain plot points feel familiar and less impactful. Some subplots are underdeveloped, leaving a few character arcs and themes unexplored, which might leave viewers wanting more depth. Additionally, the pacing of the narrative occasionally feels uneven, with moments of emotional intensity interrupted by slower segments that could have been tightened. These elements slightly detract from the overall immersive experience, though they don't overshadow the film's strengths.

Performances

Ajay Devgn delivers a powerful and nuanced performance, anchoring the film with his commanding presence and emotional depth. His portrayal adds gravitas to the story, especially in pivotal moments. Rasha Thadani and Aman Devgan, in their debut roles, showcase remarkable sincerity and charm, effectively bringing their characters to life with natural emotional resonance. Their performances add warmth and authenticity to the narrative, making their journey believable and engaging. Diana Penty offers a measured and grounded performance, bringing emotional stability to the ensemble, complementing the film's overall tone.

Technical Aspects

The film excels technically, with breathtaking cinematography and well-executed action sequences. The sound design and music score amplify the emotional resonance, creating an immersive experience. Abhishek Kapoor's direction is solid, though tighter editing could have improved the pacing.

Verdict

Azaad is an emotionally charged and visually captivating film that resonates with themes of freedom, love, and courage. Despite minor flaws, the heartfelt performances and engaging narrative make it a rewarding cinematic experience for audiences of all ages.

KIKO MILANO INTRODUCES NEW BROW ESSENTIALS

Elevate your brow game with the latest launches from Kiko Milano introducing the eyebrow coloured fibers mascara, a multitasking marvel that adds volume, tames and sets your brows in place with a natural long-lasting finish. Pair it with the eyebrow sculpt automatic pencil, designed for precision shaping and effortless definition now available in a range of universally flattering shades. Together, they deliver perfectly groomed, expressive brows for every look from soft and subtle to bold and dramatic.

WHAT'S NEW

TRANSFORM YOUR LIVING SPACE WITH HANDCRAFTED LUXURY FURNITURE THIS NEW SEASON!

As we step into the new year, it's time to give our homes a makeover that it truly deserves. At Wootique, they have handpicked statement pieces designed to breathe life into your home. Let this be the year your home tells a story of comfort, uniqueness and luxury.

Price: On request



CELEBRATION OF TECHNICOLOUR ELEGANCE

Kumari Fine Jewellery is thrilled to announce the launch of its latest collection, Hues That Girl, a vibrant tribute to individuality and artistic expression. Inspired by the mantra to "colour outside the box," the collection blends timeless diamonds with bold hues to embody the technicolor beauty of life. Each piece reflects the multifaceted spirit of the modern woman, celebrating her boldness, creativity and elegance.



FOR A GLOWY-HYDRATING SKIN

Birla Ayurveda Kumkumadi Oil is a luxurious Ayurvedic facial oil formulated with a blend of natural herbs and oils designed to enhance skin health and radiance. Inspired by ancient Ayurvedic wisdom, this oil is particularly renowned for its ability to improve complexion, reduce blemishes, and impart a healthy glow.



FIXDERMA LAUNCHES ADVANCED LIP CARE SOLUTIONS

After the remarkable success of shadow lip shield, Fixderma recognised the growing need for concern based formulations along with advanced SPF 50 protection & hydration for lips. To cater to this trend, it announced the expansion of its lip balms category with two exciting new launches - Fixderma Brightening Lip Balm SPF 50+ & Fixderma Tinted Lip Balm SPF 50+ to deliver not only superior hydration & sun protection but delivering the wow factor in the form of lip care. To top it, they come in delicious strawberry & coconut flavours.



STARRY NIGHT

House Of Makeup announced the launch of its highly anticipated new highlighter "Starry Night." This liquid highlighter has a unique formula: it's made with luminescent pearls and easy-glide technology that impart a radiant finish. It is designed to complement a wide range of Indian skin tones and is priced at Rs. 799 only.



HOROSCOPE



ARIES

There will be challenges, humour, and enthusiasm. Stay patient and hopeful as success and appreciation await. Avoid loose talks; trust your ethics and embrace new opportunities.



TAURUS

Face challenges calmly and rely on trusted support. Introspect to bring joy amid stress. Open communication will resolve the conflicts. Your hard work and care will bring victory and solace.



GEMINI

Embrace joy and introspection while treading carefully with changes. Patience and innovation will help you thrive. Consult loved ones before making key decisions. Success will find you.



CANCER

Stay strong through setbacks; success is near. Support from siblings and their love will bring you joy. Seek guidance for clarity. Fulfill your family's needs and trust your inner voice.



LEO

Focus on relationships and career growth with patience and loyalty. Avoid ego clashes, embrace forgiveness, and maintain optimism. Your persistence will lead to eventual success.



VRIGO

Exciting partnerships and projects await. Balance relationships with patience and avoid excessive criticism. Focus on personal growth and family, and seek motivation for greater fulfillment.



LIBRA

Stay resilient despite setbacks. Strengthen family bonds and protect loved ones. Trust your ethics, and unexpected love brings joy. Sharp reasoning aids business success.



SCORPIO

Stay persistent in relationships. Manage stress gently and remain optimistic. Family support brings strength; forgive others to earn respect. Business trips and new job opportunities await.



SAGITTARIUS

Embrace unexpected connections and seek family bonding. Avoid criticism and impulsiveness. Your loyalty and good nature will help you overcome challenges and build stronger bonds.



CAPRICORN

Stay generous and committed to family. Overcome confidence setbacks and illusions. Trust your ethics and partner for lasting joy. Recognition for your efforts will bring rewards and joy.



AQUARIUS

Face challenges with care. Embrace change. Avoid emotional blowups and seek innovation. There will be joy and growth, overcoming stress and separation with newfound confidence.



PISCES

Stay calm and thoughtful to avoid mistakes. Patience and commitment will help overcome challenges. Postpone changes, support family, and enjoy success. New experiences await.

'THE TRUE ESSENCE OF SA RE GA MA PA IS ABOUT MUSIC, NOT DRAMA'

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

SP Sailaja, a name synonymous with soul-stirring melodies and unparalleled versatility, has long been a fixture in the Indian music industry. With an impressive career spanning decades, she has captured the hearts of millions with her seamless ability to traverse diverse musical genres, from classical to contemporary. As a judge in the 16th edition of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Telugu, she nurtured budding talent, imparting wisdom drawn from her extensive experience. Her profound understanding of music, coupled with her nurturing spirit, positions her as a guiding force for the future of the Indian music industry.

EXCLUSIVE

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW:

You have been an integral part of the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa journey for 16 seasons. How do you perceive your role in shaping not just the contestants' journey, but also the legacy of the show?

SP Sailaja: It's truly been a mutual experience for me. Over the years, I've learned a lot, and I see the quality of the show improving with each season. The enthusiasm of the contestants keeps growing, and it's beautiful to witness their passion. Though the show is demanding, it's a celebration of music, and it serves as a great platform for aspiring singers. Every season is a new chapter, full of emotions, drama, and, most importantly, music.

With contestants divided into Village Vocals, City Classics, and Metro Melodies, how do you approach assessing such diverse musical styles?

SP Sailaja: These categories are merely names. We don't



restrict the contestants to specific genres. Village contestants may sing fast songs, and city contestants may perform folk songs. Ultimately, the goal is to allow everyone to showcase their abilities across different styles. We judge their versatility based on their performance, regardless of the category.

Over the years, you've witnessed the evolution of Indian music. What differences do you see in the aspirations and preparations of today's contestants compared to previous generations?

SP Sailaja: The potential of singers remains the same, but times have changed. In the past, classical songs were the way to display one's talent. Today, there's more flexibility; contestants often perform modern songs due to the changing trends in media. While classical and folk songs are still essential, the current generation leans towards contemporary styles, which has its advantages and challenges. It's difficult to find contestants who can balance both old and new, but it's crucial for their growth.

Music is rooted in tradition while embracing contemporary elements. How do you encourage contestants to honor their roots while pushing them to innovate?

SP Sailaja: I always tell contestants to practice all forms of music—classical, folk, semi-classical, and modern. You must be prepared for any challenge that comes your way, whether it's a classical song or a new-age number. The stage is just the beginning, and they must keep learning and evolving. I emphasize that this is not the end of their journey; it's a stepping stone to greater opportunities. I encourage them to keep working hard and to never give up.

As a judge, how do you ensure your feedback aligns with the contestants' individuality and potential to succeed in the broader music industry?

SP Sailaja: We come from a time when platforms like this didn't exist, so the opportunities today are remarkable. Contestants get exposure not just in films, but also through concerts and bands. I remind them to enjoy the process, as this stage is a great chance to showcase their talent.

My advice is always to give their best and stay true to themselves. I believe that a positive attitude and hard work will take them far.

You're known for your versatility as a singer. How do you handle providing constructive feedback that resonates with budding talent?

SP Sailaja: The early stages are challenging. The key is listening carefully and offering detailed feedback. I encourage contestants to pay attention to nuances in songs—expressions and emotions are vital. I often ask them to immerse themselves in the mood of the song to convey the right emotions. Versatility comes naturally when you understand the essence of the song and express it authentically.

In today's digital era, where music is consumed globally, how do shows like Sa Re Ga Ma Pa prepare contestants for international stages?

SP Sailaja: Many contestants are now working with their own bands, producing albums, and getting opportunities at an international level. It's an exciting time for the music industry. While global recognition takes hard work, shows like Sa Re Ga Ma Pa provide a platform for singers to hone their craft. With the right preparation and exposure, they are equipped to make an impact on the international stage.

Reality TV is often criticized for prioritizing drama over talent. How does Sa Re Ga Ma Pa stay focused on nurturing raw talent?

SP Sailaja: Initially, the show was purely about music, with little drama. Over time, the audience's appetite for drama has grown, but we always try to keep the focus on the music. Of course, emotions are part of the journey, but drama shouldn't overshadow the talent. The true aim is to celebrate the singers' abilities while keeping the atmosphere enjoyable and positive.

Music competitions can be life-changing. Can you share a memorable moment from your own musical journey that influences how you guide and evaluate budding talent?

SP Sailaja: There have been many moments that stand out. One that comes to mind is a contestant from the USA who initially doubted his ability to fit in. But over the course of a few episodes, he gained confidence, and it was amazing to watch his transformation. Another memorable contestant, he was an introverted boy who struggled with personal issues. We encouraged him, and he gradually began to come out of his shell. It's these kinds of moments that remind me how powerful music can be in shaping lives.

WHILE CLASSICAL AND FOLK SONGS ARE STILL ESSENTIAL, THE CURRENT GENERATION LEANS TOWARDS CONTEMPORARY STYLES, WHICH HAS ITS ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES. IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND CONTESTANTS WHO CAN BALANCE BOTH OLD AND NEW, BUT IT'S CRUCIAL FOR THEIR GROWTH.

TRENDING

PERSON

SAIF ALI KHAN



In a shocking incident that took place in the early hours of January 16, Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan was stabbed multiple times by an intruder who barged into his Mumbai residence. The attack occurred at around 2:30 AM, when the assailant, whose identity remains unknown, reportedly entered the actor's home.

ACCUSED CAPTURED IN CCTV

The video footage of the accused, who stabbed actor Saif Ali Khan, shows the suspect, a man in his late 30s or early 40s, fleeing the building around 2:33 AM. The man, dressed in a brown collared T-shirt and red scarf.



VIDEO

MOVIE

PAATAL LOK SEASON 2



Paatal Lok Season 2 premiered on Amazon Prime Video on January 17, 2025, continuing the gripping crime thriller with Inspector Hathiram Chaudhary, portrayed by Jaideep Ahlawat, as he delves into a complex murder investigation in Nagaland.

HOOKSTEP HOOKAH BAR

SONG



Sunny Leone's collaboration with ace choreographer and film director Prabhudeva, has left fans eagerly awaiting the release, making it one of the most talked-about tracks of the year. Get ready to witness this dynamic duo as they redefine screen magic with their irresistible dance moves and electrifying presence.

NASA SHARES PHOTO OF BIRD STARING AT CAMERA



PICTURE

NASA shared a post which featured a stunning close-up of a sandhill crane staring at the camera with its wide open eyes.

Brain's immune defense system may hold clues to Schizophrenia

A team of Singaporean researchers have identified that changes in the immune system are linked to schizophrenia and potential resistance to treatments. The reasons behind schizophrenia -- a psychotic disorder affecting around 24 million people worldwide and 1 in 116 individuals in Singapore -- continue to be unknown.

The study, published in the journal Brain, Behaviour and Immunity, adds to a growing body of research suggesting that immune system dysregulation may be behind the development of the mental disorder.

Moreover, not all patients with schizophrenia respond to standard antipsychotic drugs. Around one in three individuals worldwide diagnosed with schizophrenia are treatment-resistant.

This means they do not achieve remission of symptoms, such as hallucinations and delusions, despite treatment.

Using changes in immune cell populations the team from Singapore's National Healthcare Group (NHG) and Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A*STAR) predicted potential treatment resistance to help initiate the most appropriate treatment sooner.

"Our goal was to identify immune cell changes that could potentially be used to predict treatment resistance, allowing for earlier and more targeted interventions such as initiating clozapine treatment sooner for better clinical outcomes," said Dr. Li Yanhui, lead author, NHG Psychiatry Resident at NHG. Clozapine is currently the only psychiatric medicine indicated for treating treatment-resistant schizophrenia.

For the study, the team analysed blood samples of 196 healthy participants and individuals with schizophrenia with varying degrees of treatment resistance. They identified and compared 66 immune cell populations in the blood of 147 people with schizophrenia and 49 healthy individ-

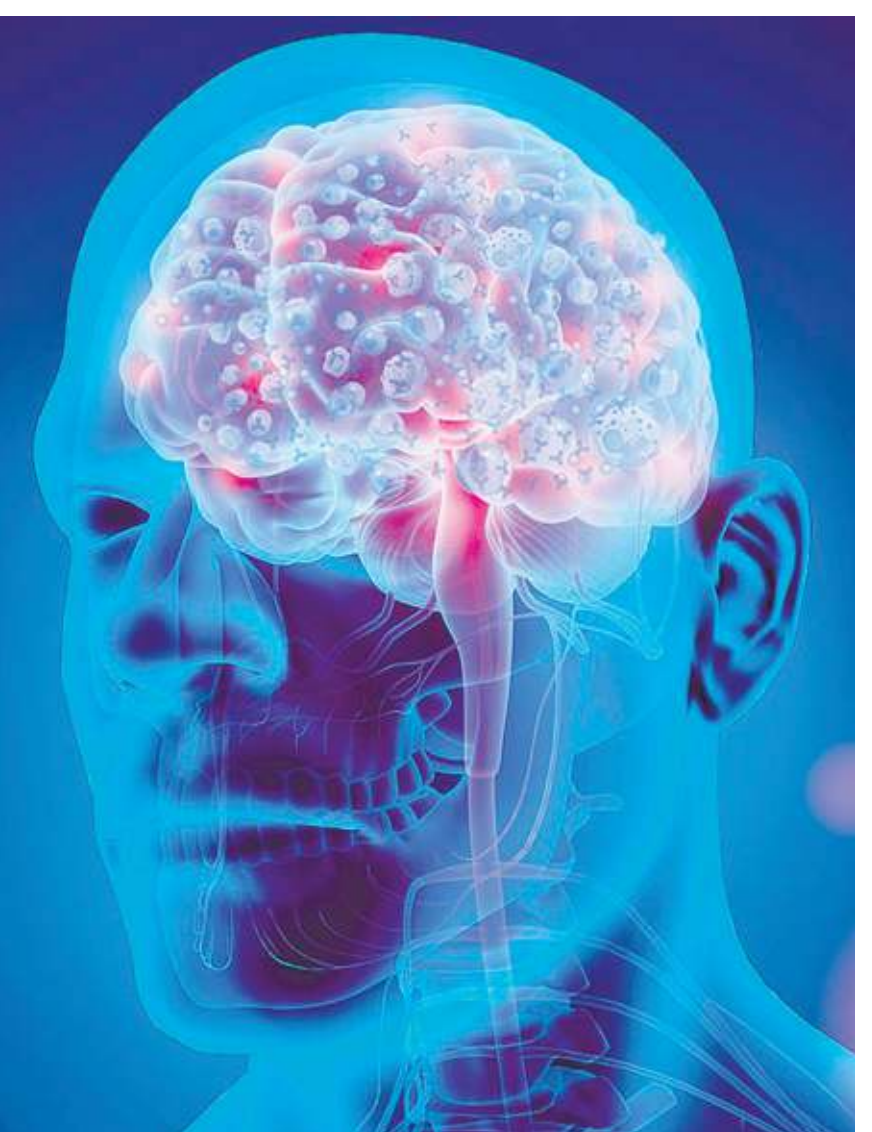
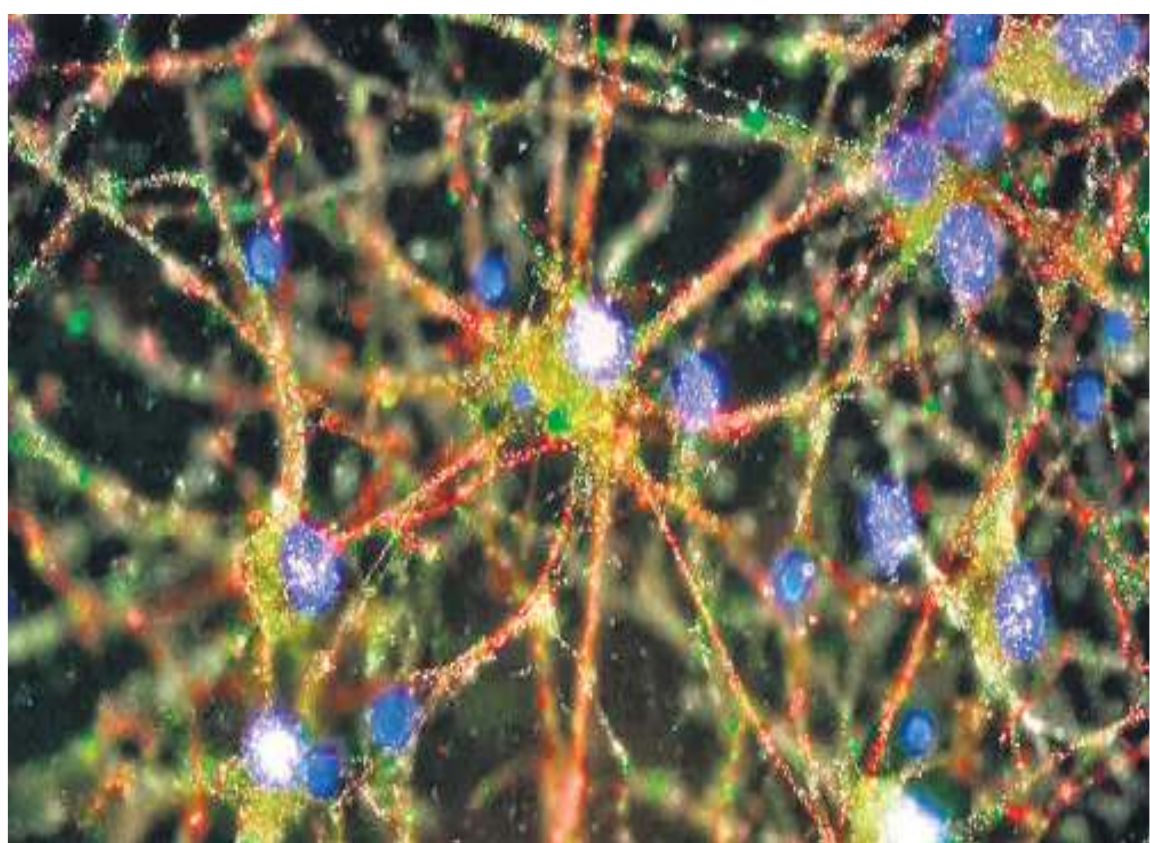
uals to explore the immune cell populations associated with the disorder and treatment resistance.

The results showed significant differences in certain immune cell populations between healthy individuals and people with schizophrenia.

Further, those changes in immune cell

populations also correlate with how resistant a patient with schizophrenia might be to treatment.

The findings offer hope for early identification of patients likely to be treatment-resistant. It will also enable clinicians to select more effective treatment strategies to achieve better outcomes.





CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

I was the younger one in my family. So, I was pampered a lot. I studied at Taluka School, Tenali, till Class XII. Krishna and Hanumantha Rao, my elder brothers, also studied there. I was a calm person from my younger days and I was interested in sports. I used to play Volleyball and Basketball at school. Cricket was not very popular at that time, so I was interested in athletics. After I completed my school in Tenali, I shifted to Madras for my Degree. As my brother Krishna was already in films there, I used to stay with him and completed my degree. Our native village is Burripalem. Doctor Vasireddy Ramesh, Kothagudem, is my classmate and is still in touch with me.



BONDING OF GHATTAMANENI BROTHERS

The trio that struck gold in Tollywood

They are the three men army for Tollywood, taking it to newer heights with every turn of its prolonged journey. Before the advent of Ghattamaneni brothers, NTR brothers were known for the knack of film-making and taking the industry forward on a disciplined path and enriching it. And come seventies started Ghattamaneni era. The brothers trio took the industry by storm and took it to hitherto unforeseen heights. The successful trio includes superstar Krishna and producers G Hanumantha Rao and our man of the day now, the only surviving of the brothers **G Adishesahagiri Rao**, who narrates the trio's success story to **Suresh Kavirayani** of *The Pioneer*.

Adishesahagiri Rao is the younger brother of Superstar Krishna and at a very young age entered into the film industry as a producer. After Krishna achieved stardom, he started the production house Padmalaya Movies, where his two younger brothers Adishesahagiri Rao and Hanumantha Rao, supported him. These two brothers were the main pillars for Krishna in his long journey as an actor, producer and director. They produced some of the sensational films like the first cowboy film in India, 'Mosagallaki Mosagadu', historical one 'Alluri Seetharamaraju', also produced blockbuster Hindi films. Here Seshagiri Rao recalls his association with his brother Krishna, first film producer, and shares many of his thoughts.



ALLU ARAVIND, MY COLLEGE MATE

I completed my degree from Govt Arts College, Chennai. Producer Allu Aravind was my college mate in Chennai. When I was in college, my brother became a star after his second film 'Gudachari 116'. Though I was studying in college, I observed my brother as an actor and also meeting film people at that time. I also used to manage the house and financial issues.



FIRST FILM AS PRODUCER

My brother Krishna established himself as a star within a short time. At that time NT Rama Rao and Akkineni Nageswara Rao made films and my brother wanted to make a film with high budget, high technical values and also in colour. My brother started the Padmalaya Movies, and our first film was 'Agni Pariksha' (1970). At that time I was hardly 20 years old when I was turned a producer for that film. Varaprasada Rao was the director for this film. It was not a big commercial success, but I learnt a lot from the director like script-writing, story, budget, sets, combination scenes and many other things related to films. My other brother Hanumantha Rao was a government employee. So he joined us only from the second film.



MEMORABLE MULTI-STARRER WITH NTR

Krishna wanted to make a film with NTR. NTR openly announced his next film was with Krishna and that's how 'Devudu Chesina Manushulu' got off. Hanumantha Rao provided the story and we shot the film in Bengaluru, Mysore and the climax in Machilipatnam. We planned with a natural crowd and also roped in people from Vijayawada, who were popular for dappu music, especially for Dasara festival. NTR advised us that it is not possible with huge crowds, so suggested shooting in a studio, but Hanumantha Rao said it is possible. Seven days shoot was done in Machilipatnam and I asked Rama Rao where to accommodate him. He then told me, 'You are all coming to my native place and you are asking for my accommodation. No, you tell me the shooting place and time, I will be there.' He stayed in his own village Nimmakuru all the days of shooting. While shooting, we planned his birthday in a big way. But Rama Rao did not agree to it and asked all the units to come to his native place for lunch and celebrate there. He arranged great hospitality to every unit member and it's one of the memorable ones for us. The film was completed and released on August 9, 1973. It was another blockbuster from our production house.

NICKNAME, MARRIAGE AND STUDIO

My brother Krishna used to call me Bangari. Wherever I was, Annayya called me by the nickname and some close people also called me by the same name.

I married a girl who is a relative of our family. She is from our village only. Even Hanumantha Rao's wife is also from the same village. Krishna's wife Indira Devi was from a nearby village. My marriage was in 1972 before the release of 'Pandanti Kapuram'. I have a son Raghav who settled in real estate. Hanumantha Rao's sons are making TV serials. Mahesh Babu is continuing Krishna's legacy and he is now the super-star of Telugu cinema. Initially, we wanted to plan a studio near Vijayawada and even the government allotted land to us. But the industry is developing in Hyderabad with NTR and ANR building studios there. So we built Padmalaya studio in Hyderabad in 1984. The first film shot in the studio was Hindi film 'Shakti'.



HISTORIC ALLURI SEETHARAMARAJU

After that we wanted to produce a landmark film for our brother's 100th film. Then we thought of the story of Alluri Seetharamaraju and we started work on it. We wanted to take the characterization of Alluri and added a few cinematic scenes. Actually, Seetha's character is not there in the original life, but we added it for the film. We started searching for his stories from Nazar's Burrakatha, historical background, books, facts and fiction. We prepared a story. NTR advises us not to make the film as he wanted to do it. My brother told him that if he is ready to make a film on Alluri, we will drop it. But he didn't want to do it immediately, so we proceeded with our film. Nearly 300 artistes camped at Chintapalli. My mother was hospitalised, after the opening shot director Ramachandra Rao fell sick, my brother Hanumantha Rao was also hospitalised and he needed a surgery. So we stopped for one day and the entire unit asked Krishna to direct the film. But on the cards we kept V Ramachandra Rao's name as director. KSR Das worked as second unit director as he composed the action scenes. SV Ranga Rao was not well, so we roped in Balayya. Satyanarayana didn't act as he felt that NTR may get angry. Prabhakar Reddy was roped in his place. There are many actors in that film including Manjula, Jayanthi, Rajasree, Kantha Rao, Balayya, Prabhakar Reddy, Gummadi, Rajababu, Jaggaiah, KV Chalam and many others. After release, it was a sensational success.



FIRST SILVER JUBILEE FILM, FAMILY DRAMA

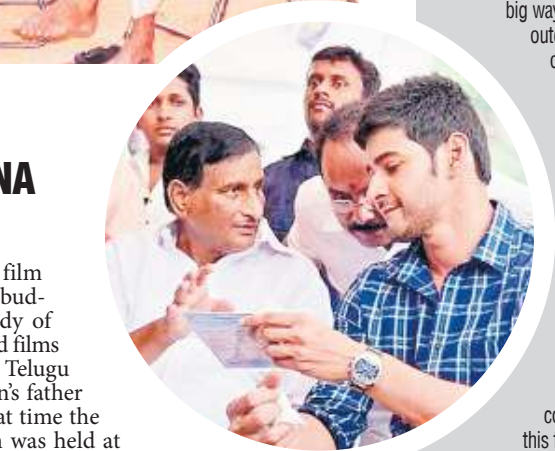
With 'Mosagallaki Mosagadu' we missed the family audience. So we decided to do a film with that genre. My brother Hanumantha Rao, resigned from his government job and joined our film production. He was very good at stories and screenplay and that's how we started 'Pandanti Kapuram' (1972). His name also appeared for the first time as a producer with that film. The inspiration for this family drama was the Hollywood film 'The Visit' and the Hindi film 'Do Raaste'. It had a big star cast like SV Ranga Rao, Prabhakar Reddy, Gummadi, Devika, B Saroja Devi with Krishna and Vijaya Nirmala as lead pair. Jamuna played an important role in it. Initially, we wanted to cast Bhanumanthi, but somehow she didn't do it. Jamuna was a very popular lead actress at that time, but there was a negative shade too, but she accepted it and got a very good name. There was a big talk at that time that Bhanumanthi is making a film with the same story, so we completed it within a month. This film was a silver jubilee hit. NT Rama Rao the chief guest for the 100 days function.



SIMHASANAM, INSPIRATION FROM GONA GANNAREDDY

Krishna wanted to direct a film. So we planned a huge film 'Simhasanam'. He played dual roles in it and it was a big budget film. The story was inspired by Gona Gannareddy of Kakatiya dynasty. We made sets inspired from Hollywood films based on Roman stories. Mandakani was introduced to Telugu as the female lead and also Amjad Khan. Ajay Devgan's father Veeru Devgan worked as action choreographer. At that time the film screened six shows a day. The 100 days function was held at Chennai and the city was filled with Krishna's fans who came on hundreds of buses from Andhra Pradesh.

The present trend is completely different and the producer is a mere cashier. So, I stopped making films. I am in touch with many people and even younger generation people come and take my advice. Aswini Dutt, Allu Aravind, Suresh Babu and Nagarajuna are also in touch with me. I update myself with the latest technology in cinema.



THE FIRST COWBOY FILM IN INDIA

The idea of 'Mosagallaki Mosagadu' came from my brother Krishna. My brother became popular with James Bond films like 'Goodachari 116' and 'James Bond 777' and others. In Chennai, Hollywood films like 'Meekanna's Gold', 'Good Bad and Ugly' were screened successfully. With those films as inspiration, my brother decided to make an action film with cowboy backdrop. I went to scout the location at Bikaner. We couldn't put a lot of money at that time, because there was a constraint on budget. We planned in a big way with colour and shooting outdoors. The distributors gave only half of the money for this film.

For 'Mosagallaki Mosagadu' my other brother Hanumantha Rao took leave and joined the production. Popular producer Chakrapani was my father's friend and he encouraged my brother Krishna. Every day he used to come to our sets and after seeing the costumes, he commented, 'who will watch this film?' Immediately, my brother Hanumantha Rao replied, the way you are coming for the last few days, the audience will also come to theatres. Arudra was the writer and KSR Das directed the film which was shot in Bikaner and Shimla and because of the budget constraints, only Krishna, Vijaya Nirmala, Nagabushanam and Jyothi Lakshmi travelled on flight and all the other actors travelled by train. Today, the producer is like a cashier, but at that time producer's involvement was a lot in filmmaking. We needed a desert so we went to Rajasthan and used the local forts and other locations for the film with Rs 7 lakh and it was a huge success. We completed the film in 35 days. The film screened for film people in Chennai, but many gave negative reviews. NT Rama Rao also watched the film and told Krishna that family audiences may not watch this film. But the film was a big hit and it was the first cowboy film in India. The film was dubbed into many other Indian languages. We approached the Russian Embassy and got people's help to dub the film into Russian and likewise the British Embassy to dub it into English. The film was a big hit in Hindi, Tamil, Bengali and other languages too.

