

sunday pioneer

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'Vocal for local' campaign bearing fruit: Modi



Make Govt's annual ACCOUNTS more user-friendly



Rao Ramesh—the MASTER of versatility



QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer

The BJP will win in South India too in the next elections. There is no need for the BJP to use delimitation to stay in power. First of all, the government has to conduct a census and then the delimitation process will be done. Prime Minister Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah did not say that LS seats will decrease in South India if delimitation is done



- G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Coal

DON'T MISS...

'TG aims to become a \$1 T economy'

Telangana is growing as fast as the national average or even faster. Our software exports prove this. While the national growth rate was 8%, Telangana recorded 17.98%, said IT Minister D Sridhar Babu at the FTCCI - Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce GrowthX 2025 Summit. The ICT Committee of FTCCI organised the "Go Digital, Grow Business" summit at HICC Novotel on Saturday. Addressing the summit, Sridhar Babu ...

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Woman dancer dies by suicide

A 24-year-old woman dancer tragically died, reportedly by suicide, on Saturday after hanging herself from a ceiling fan at Ponnekal under Khammam rural mandal. Kavaya Kalyani, a resident of Bank Colony, had been living with Abhi, also known as Abhilash, from Ponnekal for the past five years. The couple had previously participated in the well-known TV dance reality show 'Dhee,' where they allegedly developed feelings for one another. Before taking her life, Kalyani recorded ...

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'Stalin spreading 'imaginary fears'

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai on Saturday said his party would not take part in the March 5 all-party meeting on the delimitation exercise and blamed Chief Minister M K Stalin for attempting to spread "imaginary fears" over the matter. Writing to Stalin, Annamalai said his party firmly believed that he has misconstrued the delimitation exercise and has convened the all party meeting to "spread your imaginary fears and deliberately lie about it," even before any official statement was ...

-NATION

Viksit Bharat'2047 a realisable ambition

The 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya on Saturday said India's aim to become a developed nation by 2047 is a "realisable ambition" for which the country's per-capita income needs to grow at 7.3 per cent in dollar terms to USD 14,000 over the next 24 years. India's per-capita income, in 2023-24 dollar terms, is about USD 2,570, which is very low compared to countries like South Korea, Taiwan, United States, and other European nations. Speaking at the 49th Civil Accounts Day, Panagariya said with the existing technology, coupled with reasonable capital accumulation and skill acquisition, India has "enormous room" for "catching up" with the per-capita income of developed nations ...

-MONEY

WOMEN'S DAY

Govt to unveil new welfare schemes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government is gearing up to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8 with a grand event at Parade Grounds, where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will launch new schemes aimed at empowering women.

The Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, conducted a high-level review meeting on Saturday at the secretariat to finalise the arrangements.

The event, which will witness a gathering of one lakh women, will highlight Telangana's strides in women's empowerment and economic independence. The Chief Minister, along with the Deputy

CM and other Ministers, will participate in the celebrations, where many schemes will be rolled out. One of the major announcements includes the launch of solar power plants in all districts, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy virtually inaugurating 64 MW solar plants in 32 districts.



As part of the Self-Help Group (SHG) initiatives, the government has also signed agreements to procure buses through women's groups and lease them to the TSRTC. In the first phase, the Chief Minister will flag off 50 buses under this scheme.

Furthering economic opportunities, the government is in talks with major oil companies like BPCL, HPCL and IOCL to facilitate the establishment of petrol stations operated

Continued on Page 2

CM vows crackdown on illegal sand & mineral mining

Sand stock points at three Hyderabad locations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued a stern warning to those engaging in illegal mining and sand smuggling and declared that the admin will tackle violators with an iron fist.

Chairing a review meeting on the Mining Department at the ICCO on Saturday, the Chief Minister emphasised that strict action against illegal mining is the only way to boost state revenue and prevent unauthorised exploitation of natural resources. During the meeting, officials presented a report on measures taken last month to curb illegal sand transportation and to increase revenue.

The Chief Minister directed them to ensure that all sand required for government projects, including those under Irrigation, R&B, and Panchayat Raj departments, is supplied exclusively through the



Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TGMDC).

The CM said that big construction companies should also procure sand solely through the TGMDC so that government-regulated prices would prevent consumers from

turning to illegal sources.

Given the high demand for sand in Hyderabad and surrounding areas, Revanth ordered the establishment of sand stock points at three key locations around the city to cater to small scale buyers.

Continued on Page 2

CM pushes for ITI upgrade

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday reviewed the progress of the Labour Department, directing officials to expedite the transformation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) across the State. The Chief Minister instructed that each Assembly constituency should have at least one ATC, ensuring both upgradation of existing ITIs and the establishment of new ATCs in areas without ITI facilities.

Officials were asked to set up these centres in Assembly headquarters or

Continued on Page 2

Govt clears Khasim Nagar Lift Irrigation Scheme

Expected to address water scarcity in the region

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has approved the Khasim Nagar Lift Irrigation Scheme which provides irrigation for 4,000 acres spread across six villages and 13 tribal hamlets in Wanaparthy Assembly constituency.

The approval issued under Memo No: 1712/Projects-II/A2/2025 on March 1, follows a representation from Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman G. Chinna Reddy.

The lift irrigation scheme which forms part of the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Project, is expected to address the water scarcity problem farmers face in this region. Due to the region's elevated



topography, direct water supply from existing irrigation sources like the Kalwakurthy Project was not feasible. The new scheme, sanctioned by Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy, will provide water to Khasim Nagar, Jayanna Thirumalapuram, Munnar, Appayipalli, Dattayipalli, and Anjanagiri villages and 13 tribal hamlets.

Congress suspends MLC Mallanna

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress suspended its MLC Chinthapandu Naveen aka Theenmar Mallanna from the party on Saturday. TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee Chairman Dr G. Chinna Reddy issued orders regarding this.

"The Disciplinary Action Committee of the TPCC served a show-cause notice on you (Theenmar Mallanna) on February 5, for engaging in anti-party activities and asked you to submit your explanation on or before February 12. But the DAC has not received your explanation so far and you are continuing your tirade against the Congress. So the Disciplinary Action Committee has decided to suspend you from the Congress due to your anti-party activities," the order said.

Continued on Page 2

No need for delimitation to stay in power: Kishan

'Will scrap 4% Muslim quota in AP'

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



Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy addressing the media at State BJP office on Saturday

The BJP will win in South India too in the next elections, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said. There is no need for the BJP to use delimitation to remain in power, he added.

He made it clear that South Indian states would not suffer injustice due to delimitation. The BJP or Prime Minister Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah have not said that LS seats will decrease in South India if delimitation is done, Kishan added.

"Why is the CM speaking like that as the delimitation process has not started. First of all, the government

has to conduct a census and only then delimitation will be done," he said. He also made it clear that the BJP will certainly abolish the four per cent reservations for Muslims in Andhra Pradesh if it comes to power on its own.

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Debts, suicides, crime rate rising in Telangana, says KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



BRS Working President KTR said that Telangana is witnessing a rise in debts, crime rate and suicides.

"The real estate industry has gone down in Shankarpally. I too have land there in Janwada. HYDRAA is kept for me it seems, let him demolish," he said.

KTR launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress leadership ridiculing the party's Telangana in-charge Meenakshi for asking leaders not to carry bags. Speaking at an event, where former MPP Govardhan Reddy and 500 BJP and Congress workers joined the BRS, KTR said it was ironic that

Continued on Page 2

4 trapped men located, Jupally puts survival chance at 1%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rescue operations at the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel continued on Saturday with the authorities deploying cutting-edge technology and expert teams to locate and rescue the eight workers trapped in the tunnel since February 22.

The project, originally designed to supply irrigation and drinking water to the fluoride-affected areas of erstwhile Nalgonda, is now witnessing a rescue mission involving state and Central agencies. Addressing the media at the JP Camp Office, Minister Jupally said that Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) helped to locate four of the missing workers, and excavation is in progress.

"Rescue efforts are expected to conclude by Sunday evening. Initial signs indicate traces of the remaining four workers near the tunnel boring machine," he revealed. The Minister put the chances

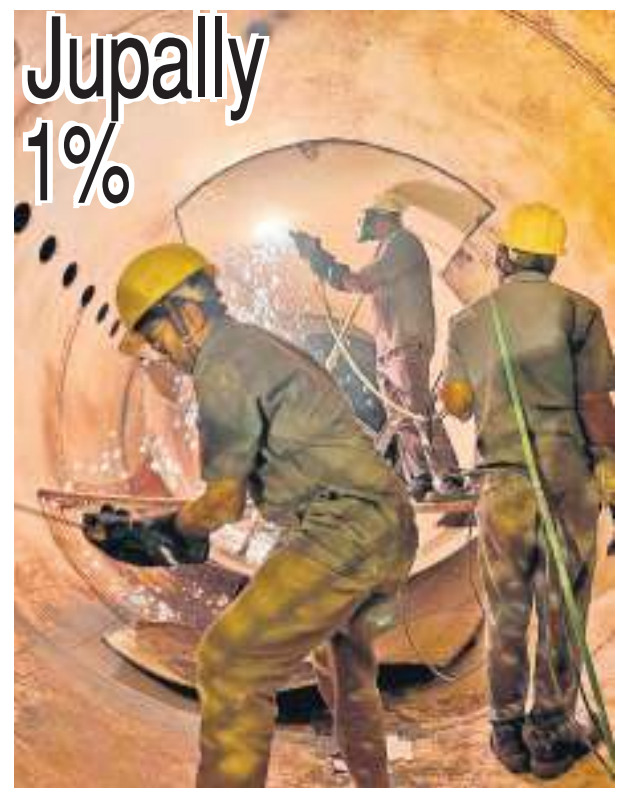
of their survival at "one per cent" and hoped that they would be extricated by Sunday evening.

Asked about the condition of the four whose whereabouts were found, he recalled that he had said on the first day itself that the chances of survival of the trapped persons were remote.

The state government, in coordination with the Centre, has mobilised 18 organisations, 54 officials and over 700 personnel to carry out the complex rescue operation. Advanced technology, including Aqua-Eye, Proboscop and GPR has been deployed to detect anomalies in the tunnel and trace the missing workers. Rescue operations are being carried out round-the-clock in three shifts.

The authorities have intensified steps to remove the debris with teams from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), SCCL Rescue, NDRF, SDRF, GIS and the National

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OBTUSE ANGLE



Warmer than usual March ahead

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to experience a warmer than usual March with a good number of heat wave days, the weather office said on Friday, signalling the start of summer across the country.

Addressing a virtual press conference, D Sivandanda Pai, a senior weather scientist at the India Meteorological Department, said monthly maximum temperatures for March are likely to be above normal over most parts of the country, except some southernmost parts of Peninsular India.



Weather office forecasts heatwaves

Pai said below normal maximum temperatures were likely in the southern peninsular region. The prediction for a warmer March comes as the country experienced the warmest February since 1901 with mean temperature of 22.04 degrees Celsius, which was 1.34 degrees above the normal of 20.70 degrees.

Asked about the impact of the warm weather conditions on the rabi crop, Pai said as per his discussions with the experts from the Agriculture ministry nearly 60 per cent of wheat grown in the country was a heat resistant variety.

RAMZAN begins today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ramzan will begin on Sunday in India as the crescent moon marking the start of the fasting month was not sighted anywhere in the country on Friday.

Shahi Imam of Chandni Chowk's Fatehpuri Mosque Maulana Mufti Mukarram Ahmed said Delhi-NCR was cloudy since morning, due to which the moon was not visible here.

Foreigners Unimpressed with Amaravati and fourth city

Foreign delegates keeping an eye on developments in Telugu states aren't exactly thrilled about Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati or Telangana's much-hyped fourth city or Future City. The sentiment isn't negative, but it's far from positive either. The hesitation? A simple lack of trust in whether anything concrete will actually happen. A top Consulate official didn't mince words - "these have largely been on paper." And that pretty much sums up the scepticism surrounding these grand urban dreams. The message is clear: if both governments don't get serious about building infrastructure in the next couple of years, these projects will become nothing more than a closed chapter in history. Hype can only go so far; eventually, the world needs to see bulldozers, cranes, and actual development - not just PowerPoint presentations and fancy proposals.

(JSP) supporters uneasy. The discomfort isn't just about words—it's about what they imply. His earlier statement, expressing a desire for Naidu to continue as CM for another ten years, had already set off murmurs. But now, with his unwavering commitment to the alliance, JSP members are starting to wonder—what exactly is their role in this grand plan? "Are we just here to ensure Naidu remains CM?" is the question many JSP supporters are now asking. The growing fear is that their party, instead of emerging as a strong force, may end up playing second fiddle to TDP indefinitely. As Pawan Kalyan's stance becomes clearer, so do the concerns about JSP's future.

Meenakshi's simplicity clashes with Cong leaders' showmanship

Meenakshi Natarajan, the newly appointed AICC in charge for Telangana, wasted no time in making her style of functioning clear - she stands for simplicity, not spectacle. Right from the start, she informed TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud that there should be no grand welcome on her arrival. No fan-

'Jai Jagat' or 'Jai Jagan'? slogan turns into BRS trolling fodder

Communication experts often talk about 'noise' - anything that disrupts the transmission of a message. Sometimes, that noise is literal; other times, it's political. On February 28, when newly appointed AICC in-charge for Telangana, Meenakshi Natarajan, arrived in Hyderabad, a classic case of 'noise' turned into a full-blown trolling session. The chaos began when TRICOR chairman Bellaiah Naik Tejavath wrapped up his speech with the Congress slogan 'Jai Jagat'. But BRS social media warriors insisted he had said 'Jai Jagan', leading to a storm of posts mocking Congress, suggesting its own leaders had forgotten CM A Revanth Reddy's name. Congress beat reporters rushed to Gandhi Bhavan's CPRO room to get Bellaiah Naik's reaction. His response? A mix of amusement and frustration. "I am happy that BRS is making the 'Jai Jagat' slogan famous," he remarked, attempting to brush off the distortion. As the trolling escalated, Bellaiah Naik was forced to issue a clarification, explaining that 'Jai Jagat' is an old Congress slogan - a Sanskrit phrase meaning

"Victory to the World," and Congress has a long history with impactful slogans—from 'Bharat Chhodo' against the British to 'Bharat Jodo' in Udaipur. But, as Naik himself pointed out, "Sometimes people hear 'Rama' as a curse word." Moral of the story? Politicians need to be careful with their words—but perhaps even more careful with their listeners.

Kavitha stays on the ground, no gimmicks needed

While most BRS leaders are still figuring out their next moves, Kavitha is already on the ground. Over the last fortnight, she was on the go, moving from Nagarkurnool to Siddipet, Sircilla to Mahabubabad, and Nalgonda, meeting karyakartas and supporters, with or without media attention. This isn't just about optics. She visited a party worker who was beaten up, helped set up a Xerox shop for a follower, and even checked in on a Jagruthi leader nursing a fractured bone. Temples, Weddings, local meetings, small gatherings - she's showing up where it matters. "We will fight it out in public," she said after coming out of jail, and she's proving it with action. While others wait for the tide to turn, Kavitha is making sure she's seen, heard, and remembered. Reporters shared that she is making time to talk after press meetings with district reporters and also giving her own number to be in touch on peoples issues. This is so unlike leaders - about whose teams, the less said, the better.

(Naveena Ghanate, Dr Venkateswarlu Kolishetty, C Pradeep Kumar)

Warangal airport must be modelled after Kerala's CIAL: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed the progress of the Mannoor Airport in Warangal and asked officials to speed up land acquisition and finalise designs to ensure seamless development of the new facility.

Emphasising the strategic importance of the project, he suggested that the airport should be modelled after the

During the review meeting held on Saturday, officials briefed the Chief Minister on the current status of land acquisition and pending works

Kochi Airport (CIAL), ensuring continuous activity beyond just flight operations.

During the review meeting held on Saturday, officials briefed the Chief Minister on the current status of land acquisition and pending works. The CM asked them to fast-track land acquisition and ensure that all clearances are obtained fast.

He asserted that the airport should be developed as a key asset for Warangal, a rapidly growing city, and must be

equipped to support regular flights along with other aviation-related activities.

The Chief Minister also directed officials to regularly review the project and submit monthly progress reports to the government. Stressing the need for a comprehensive vision, he said the airport's design should attract economic activity and enhance connectivity for the region.

Palm oil bunch price reaches Rs 20871 per ton: Minister

The govt's goal is to make oil palm cultivation profitable by providing high prices to farmers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government is giving top priority to the agriculture sector and keeping in mind the need for crop rotation and the demand for cooking oils in the State, the government has decided to take up oil palm cultivation in the State on a large scale, said Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

The farmers are expressing happiness as the price of oil palm was Rs 13135 per tonne in February last year and has increased to Rs 20871 this month. The Minister said that farmers should come forward for oil palm cultivation keeping in mind the increasing prices. He said that the government's goal is to make oil palm cultivation profitable by providing higher prices to oil palm farmers.

The price of oil palm kernels is fixed every month by the OilFed based on the oil recovery percentage in their processing mills and the selling price of crude palm oil. However, due to the installa-

tion of new machines with new technology and modernisation of existing machines in the oil palm factories in Apparaopet and Aswaraopet run by the Telangana OilFed, the oil recovery percentage (OER) from oil palm kernels has increased from 19.02 per cent to 19.42 per cent per tonne, and farmers are expressing happiness over the increase in the price of oil palm kernels per tonne, the Minister said.

The price of oil palm kernels fixed in the Telangana state has to be paid in Andhra Pradesh as well, which is benefiting the palm oil farmers there. The Minister said that the oil palm companies in Andhra Pradesh have set up some brokers and are trying to tarnish the image of Telangana OilFed through them, and despite all their efforts, Telangana OilFed is working for the welfare of the farmers and increasing the oil recovery percentage and receiving the favors of the oil palm farmers.

Congress stands for empowering women: Mahesh



TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud participated in the program of distributing sewing machines to women on Saturday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that women have a big place in Indiramma's kingdom and that Congress rule provides for women's empowerment.

Speaking at a function held at the Gandhi Bhavan, Mahesh said the BRS government did not give priority to women.

Within 48 hours of coming to power in Telangana, the Congress provided free bus travel on TGSRTC buses for women as part of the 'Mahalakshmi' scheme on Sonia Gandhi's birthday, he said.

"Women are saving around

Rs 6,000 crore with the free bus travel facility. The government is spending Rs 300 crore for the free bus travel facility. The government is providing 200 units of free electricity under the Gruha Jyoti scheme, benefiting about 50 lakh families," Mahesh said.

"The party that introduced the Women's Bill is the Congress. As per Rahul Gandhi's idea, Revanth and a team of ministers conducted a caste survey. The government will set up solar power plants with a capacity of 4,000 MW through women's groups. The government is providing gas cylinders at a subsidised price of Rs 500," he said.

REPORTERS' DIARY

KCR listens, but his social media army prefers to attack

In a recent BRS meeting, KCR made it clear - he is open to feedback and willing to make course corrections. He even held a lengthy session to hear out grievances, signalling that he understood the need for introspection. But while the boss seems to have gotten the message, his social media warriors clearly haven't. The announcement of an airport for Warangal had BRS supporters celebrating, but the mood soured quickly. Excitement turned into frustration as many started questioning why BRS hadn't delivered for Warangal when it had the chance. The organic social media warriors - the ones who had stood by BRS without expecting anything - began asking the tough questions. That was enough for them to be attacked by the usual suspects. Things got so messy that even MLC contested candidate A Rakesh Reddy had to delete his celebratory tweet, where he was conveniently poking at past governments for Warangal's neglect. Perhaps he realized that finger-pointing doesn't work when your own party is in power. Sensing the heat, he later posted a video trying to explain. Maybe it's time the social media loudmouths took a lesson from KCR himself - attacking critics won't fix what went wrong. Listening might.

JSP cadre uneasy as Pawan Kalyan pitches 15-Yr alliance

Pawan Kalyan's recent remarks about the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance lasting for the next 15 years have ruffled feathers within his own party. While he heaped praises on Chandrababu Naidu and emphasized coalition unity in the assembly, his declaration that the NDA alliance would rule uninterrupted for over a decade has left many Jana Sena Party

fare, no hungama. After reaching Hyderabad, she reinforced her stance, making it clear that flattery and theatrics wouldn't work on her. "No leader should try to get in my eyes," she remarked bluntly, instructing that no one should come to receive her at the railway station, no one should carry her bags, and if she needed help, she would ask for it herself. She even set the tone for accessibility, stating that party workers could call her directly if they had any problems, and if she missed a call, she would get back to them later. Despite her no-nonsense approach, some Congress leaders couldn't resist indulging in their usual pageantry. Hyderabad Central DCC president Dr. C Rohin Reddy, Kukatpally constituency in-charge Bandi Ramesh, and a few others went ahead and installed massive flexes and cutouts welcoming her directly defying TPCC chief's instructions. Rohin Reddy even placed them in his Amberpet constituency and at key locations leading to Gandhi Bhavan, making it clear that old habits die hard. One Congress leader quipped that their actions made psychologist Susan Jeffers' famous words - "Feel the fear and do it anyway". Another, however, dismissed the notion of fear, saying they simply did what they wanted, enjoying the "freedom" Congress allows. Clearly, while Meenakshi Natarajan is here to enforce discipline, Congress leaders aren't ready to part with their love for grand gestures just yet.

(Naveena Ghanate, Dr Venkateswarlu Kolishetty, C Pradeep Kumar)

Sanjay blasts govt for holding exams during lunchtime

'Is the exam timetable being changed arbitrarily for Ramadan'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government's decision to conduct 10th grade pre-final exams from March 6 between 12:15 pm and 3:15 pm due to Ramadan is unreasonable, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said.

That is the time when students, teachers and everyone else have lunch. Conducting exams at this time will cause dif-

iculties for students. The government has already exempted Muslims from duties after 4 pm during Ramadan. School hours are from 9:15 am to 4:15 pm. Why are exams being scheduled at odd hours in the name of Ramadan causing hardships to students? Is it fair to trouble all students just to appease one section?" Sanjay said.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Sanjay said that when organisations like Tablighi

Jamaat, which are banned in foreign countries, hold meetings in our state, government funds are being spent on them.

"Special exemptions are given for Ramadan duties. Gifts are distributed for Ramadan. Free accommodation and transport facilities are provided for travel to Mecca. But why are no such exemptions given to Ayyappa, Bhavani and Hanuman devotees? No special funds are allocated for Hindu festivals.

Instead, numerous restrictions are imposed under various regulations. Is this what the Congress calls equality? Does the Congress government consider Hindus so insignificant? This approach is highly objectionable," Sanjay said.

He said the state government must immediately withdraw the circular and revise the 10th-grade pre-final exam timetable to ensure no inconvenience to students and teachers.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Mar 02 12:09 AM to Mar 02 09:02 PM

Chaturthi: Mar 02 09:02 PM to Mar 03 06:02 PM

Nakshatram:

Uttara Bhadrapada: Mar 01 11:22 AM to Mar 02 08:59 AM

Revati: Mar 02 08:59 AM to Mar 03 06:39 AM

Rahukalam: 4:51 PM to 6:19 PM

Yamagandam: 12:28 PM to 1:56 PM

Varjyam: 07:49 PM to 09:15 PM

Gulika: 3:23 PM to 4:51 PM

Amritakalam: 04:29 AM to 05:55 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:04 PM to 12:51 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 34°C

Humidity: 44%

Sunrise: 6:34 AM

Sunset: 6:23 PM

Updated: March 1, 2025 5:00 PM

Govt to unveil ...

Continued from page 1

by women SHGs in all the 32 districts, replicating the successful model in Narayanpet.

Women's Day celebrations will also include the distribution of interest-free loan cheques to Self-Help Groups and insurance claims worth Rs 40 crore to the families of 400 women SHG members who lost their lives in accidents last year. The government will also initiate the recruitment process to appoint around 14,000 Anganwadi teachers and helpers.

A key highlight of the event will be the release of the Indira Mahila Shakti-2025 policy, which aims to redefine women's welfare and empowerment strategies in the state.

The government is also considering providing subsidised auto-ricks to women who have undergone free driving training under state-run programmes.

Congress suspends ...

Continued from page 1

Reacting to the suspension of Theenmar Mallanna, TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said, "The party will not remain silent if anyone crosses its lines. We warned Mallanna many times. The AICC views seriously the tearing up of copies of the BC caste census. Mallanna's comments are wrong. We will not spare anyone if party lines are crossed."

However, Theenmar Mallanna's team reacted to Mallanna's suspension saying, "I will show how the tiger will hunt after coming out from its cage."

CM pushes ...

Continued from page 1

urban areas to maximise accessibility for students and workers. During the review, the Chief Minister was briefed on the staffing requirements and infrastructure development needed to strengthen skill training institutes. He assured that the government is ready to provide necessary funds for the immediate establishment of ATCs and emphasised the importance of recruiting skilled faculty to run these centres efficiently.

Revanth Reddy also directed officials to conduct a detailed study on the proposed Gig and Platform Workers Act, which the State plans to introduce soon. The Act is expected to provide legal protection and social security benefits to workers in the gig economy, such as those employed by app-based service platforms.

CM vows ...

Continued from page 1

He also inquired about pending fines on mineral quarries and instructed officials to speed up policy decisions to resolve outstanding issues.

The Chief Minister directed officials to immediately invite tenders for the long-delayed auction of minor mineral blocks to bring transparency to the mining sector. He stressed the importance of ensuring fair, legal distribution of resources and maintaining environmental safeguards.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, TGMDC Chairman Anil Kumar, Infrastructure Advisor Srinivasa Raju, CM's Principal Secretary V. Seshadri, Secretary Manik Raj, State Mines Department Director K. Shashanka, Mines Department Secretary N. Sridhar, and TGMDC MD Sushil Kumar.

4 trapped men ...

Continued from page 1

Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) playing key roles. The HYDRAA, the Army, the Navy and companies like L&T, Navayuga, Mega and Robinson have also pitched in.

Arvind Kumar, overseeing the operation, confirmed that the removal of soil, mud, and concrete debris is being carried out under expert supervision, while broken equipment inside the tunnel is being cut using gas cutters. A second Ultrathermic Cutting Machine (UTC) has been acquired from the South Central Railway (SCR) enabling dual operations.

Manual silt removal is being conducted in three shifts, with 120 personnel working per shift. Two Bobcat units from the Army have also been deployed inside the tunnel. The conveyor belt is being prepared to transport debris out of the accident site. Meanwhile, specialists are analysing surface disturbances detected by GPR devices to pinpoint exact locations for excavation.

Debts, suicides, ...

Continued from page 1

Congress leaders are talking about bag-carrying when Revanth's entire political history revolved around it. "Revanth first carried bags for Chandrababu Naidu, and now he is doing the same for the Congress high command. The only thing he knows is carrying bags, not governance," KTR said.

He accused the Congress government of financial mismanagement, stating that while former Chief Minister KCR took loans to create wealth and distribute it among the people, Revanth had borrowed Rs 1.5 lakh crore in just a year with nothing to show for it.

KTR did not hold back his criticism and said that Telangana's resources were being looted and sent to Rahul Gandhi's accounts.

He said the state was peaceful under KCR's rule, but had now collapsed under Congress misrule. Listing a series of recent failures, he pointed to the SLBC tunnel tragedy, the Pedda Vagu breach, and the submergence of the Vattam pump house as examples of the Congress government's inefficiency.

Mocking Revanth Reddy's promise of direct cash transfers by January 26, KTR said not even a single rupee had been deposited into people's accounts.

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City Pioneer

sunday pioneer

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | MARCH 2, 2025

03



CITY EVENTS

Walkathon

Geological Survey of India to organize the event as a part of its 175th Foundation Day Celebrations.

Venue

Sanjeevaiah Children's Park, Necklace Road
March 2, at 8.00 am

EK Nayi Muskaan

Himalaya Wellness and Smile Train NGO, present an initiative dedicated to creating brighter futures by supporting cleft lip surgeries among children

Venue

ITC Kohenu, Plot No.5, Survey No. 83/1, Madhapur, Opp. Inorbit Mall, Hitec City
March 2, 10:30 am

Mindspace Eco Run

A marathon promoting fitness and sustainability featuring 21KM, 10KM, and 5KM races for participants aged 8 and above

Venue

Mindspace Madhapur,
March 2, 7 am

RECORDS 17.98% GROWTH IN SOFTWARE EXPORTS

TG aims to become a \$1 Trillion economy, says IT Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"Telangana is growing as fast as the national average or even faster. Our software exports prove this. While the national growth rate was 8%, Telangana recorded 17.98%, said IT Minister D Sridhar Babu at the FTCCI - Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce GrowthX 2025 Summit.

The ICT Committee of FTCCI organised the "Go Digital, Grow Business" summit at HICC Novotel on Saturday.

Addressing the summit, Sridhar Babu emphasised the rapid pace of digital innovation and the need for industries to adapt it. He noted that MSMEs and SMEs face challenges such as limited capital, fear of change and lack of awareness. Without adopting new technologies, they risk losing competitiveness.

The Minister announced that the government aims to make Telangana a \$1 trillion economy



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, along with Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan lighting the lamp at GrowthX 2025 Summit on Saturday

and will work with FTCCI to support industry growth. He emphasised the importance of AI in improving efficiency and profitability. He also noted that the recent Global AI Summit was a

step toward integrating AI into Telangana's growth trajectory.

Meanwhile, Special Chief Secretary to the IT Department, Jayesh Ranjan, stated that 40% of India's new tech jobs come from Telangana. He highlighted the state's strong IT growth, evolving beyond IT services.

Jayesh Ranjan noted that over the past 10 to 15 years, IT services' share in software exports has dropped to 30%, while non-IT services now contribute 70%. The biggest driver of this growth has been Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with over 70 multinational corporations (MNCs) choosing Hyderabad.

He also mentioned that Amazon Alexa, Google Maps and cloud development work heavily in Hyderabad, making it a hub for IT product development.

Over 450 participants, including decision-makers, CXOs, FTCCI members, IT professionals, policymakers, investors and startups attended the summit.



Sundeep Kumar Makhthala, Chairman of T-Consult, unveiling a commemorative poster at T-Hub in Hyderabad on Saturday

T-Consult partners with GITEX Asia, GITEX Europe

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Consult has been named the official community partner for two major tech events in 2025: GITEX Asia (April 23-25, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore) and GITEX Europe (May 21-23, Messe Berlin, Germany).

To mark this partnership, Sundeep Kumar Makhthala, Chairman of T-Consult, unveiled a commemorative poster at the T-Hub. He highlighted the unique opportunities these events offer for startups, innovators and investors to connect with global tech leaders and explore new markets.

GITEX Asia 2025 will bring together 1,000+ global enterprises and startups and attract 25,000+ tech buyers from over 120 countries. Key sectors include AI, cybersecurity, health tech and fintech.

GITEX Europe 2025 will showcase Europe's \$3 trillion tech industry, with 2,500+ exhibitors, including 1,000 startups. It will serve as a hub for industry leaders to drive innovation.

Sundeep urged startups and investors to seize this opportunity. Interested participants can contact T-Consult at 8019577575. This partnership reinforces T-Consult's dedication to driving global tech growth.

Curb orders imposed near Intermediate exam centres

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate has imposed prohibitory orders around all intermediate public examination centres to ensure a peaceful and fair examination process.

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty has issued the directive under Section 163 of the BNSS, banning the assembly of five or more persons within a 200-meter radius of examination centres from March 5 to March 25.

Additionally, all photocopy (Xerox) and internet centres within a 100-meter radius of the exam centres will remain closed during this period to prevent any potential misuse of technology for malpractices.

The order exempts police officers on duty, military personnel, home guards, flying squads from the education department and funeral processions. Any violation of the prohibitory order will lead to legal action under relevant sections of the law. The Cyberabad Police have urged students, parents and the general public to cooperate with the measures to ensure a smooth and secure examination process. The order has been widely publicised to ensure compliance and prevent disruptions.

Hyd Collector directs officials for smooth conduct of SSC exams

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad District Collector Anudeep Durishetty has instructed officials to ensure smooth arrangements for the Class 10 SSC public exams.

At a review meeting with officials from education, revenue, police, medical, and postal departments on Saturday, he stated that 77,701 students will appear for the exams from March 21 to April 4 at 358 centres from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The Collector noted that each centre will have sitting squads, chief superintendents and departmental officers, with route officers assigned to 28 routes. Officials will receive training and the use of mobile phones and electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited. Xerox centres near exam venues must remain closed during exam hours.



Hyderabad District Collector Anudeep Durishetty at a review meeting with officials from education department on Saturday

Anudeep directed officials to ensure proper sanitation, drinking water and uninterrupted power supply. Question papers will be transported in government vehicles with police escort. Two police constables will be stationed at each centre to manage security and traffic.

Students can bring only admit cards, hall tickets, pens

and papers. CCTV cameras must be monitored regularly and strict measures will prevent malpractice. ORS packets should be available in first-aid kits and ASHA workers will be present.

Special buses have been arranged for students. The Collector emphasised that students must reach the centres on

time, and all measures should be taken for a fair exam process.

The meeting was attended by DRO E Venkatachari, DEO R Rohini, DMHO Dr Venkat Reddy, Additional DCP Ravinder Reddy, Power ADE Prarthana, Deputy RM Bheem Reddy, Supervisor Zaheeruddin, along with other officials and staff.

GHMC transfers 139 sanitary jawans after five years

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued transfer orders to 139 sanitary jawans, reallocating them to different circles across the city. The decision, signed by GHMC Commissioner, aims to streamline sanitation services while addressing workforce imbalances in various municipal divisions.

According to the official directive, GHMC employs a total of 269 sanitary jawans, of whom 139 had been stationed in the same circles for over five years. Responding to requests from these personnel, the administration has transferred them to preferred nearby circles, ensuring minimal disruption to their daily routines. The move is also intended to balance workforce distribution, as some circles had excess staff



while others faced shortages. Officials confirmed that the transfers have been executed across 30 circles and were approved in coordination with the respective Deputy Commissioners and Zonal Commissioners.

The GHMC maintains that

this reshuffling will enhance efficiency in sanitation operations and ensure better service delivery in urban hygiene management.

The implementation will be closely monitored to ensure a smooth transition for the transferred jawans.

Drone ban ahead of Vice-President's visit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate has imposed a ban on the flying of remotely controlled drones, para-gliders and micro-light aircraft over RGIA and Shamshabad police station limits in view of the Vice-

President of India's visit. The order, issued by Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, will be in force on March 2, 2025.

Citing a memorandum from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the order highlights the potential threat from terrorist and anti-social elements

using aerial platforms to carry out attacks. It also notes the increasing trend of drones being used for event coverage, including live telecasts and photography, necessitating strict control measures.

As per the directive, flying of such aerial platforms are already prohibited within a 5-

km radius of the State Secretariat and 2 km around strategic vital installations. The public has been warned that violating the ban will be punishable under relevant sections of the law. The order has been issued under Section 163 of the BNSS and will be enforced strictly.

DCA cracks down on 14 blood centres, quack clinics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA) Telangana has conducted a special drive targeting blood centres, illegal medical practitioners and misleading drug advertisements, leading to multiple seizures and legal actions.

As part of its February inspections, the DCA examined 28 blood centres to ensure compliance with regulations regarding blood testing, storage conditions, and processing charges. Violations were detected at 14 centres, with strict action initiated against four. Officials emphasised the importance of stringent screening for transmissible diseases like HIV and Hepatitis, underscoring the need for blood banks to maintain the highest safety standards.

During a raid in Begumpet village in Siddipet district, DCA officials shut down an illegal clinic operated by an unqualified practitioner. The raid led to the seizure of 14 varieties of medicines, including antibiotics and analgesics, stocked without a drug license. Authorities warned that indiscriminate antibiotic sales by unqualified individuals could contribute to antimicrobial resistance, posing a serious public health threat.

In a separate action in Malakpet, officials seized Dawafer-X Tablets, falsely marketed as nutraceuticals despite being classified as a drug under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, with offenders facing imprisonment of up to five years. It urged the public to report any illegal drug manufacturing or misleading advertisements through its toll-free number.

Additionally, 11 drug products were seized across multiple locations for making misleading medical claims in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. These included unverified claims related to menstrual disorders, heart disease, diabetes, rheumatism, and eye infections. DCA has warned manufacturers and distributors against promoting medicines with unsubstantiated therapeutic benefits.

The agency reiterated that stocking or selling drugs without a valid licence is punishable under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, with offenders facing imprisonment of up to five years. It urged the public to report any illegal drug manufacturing or misleading advertisements through its toll-free number.

'Women writers play vital role in guiding society'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Literary Conference, organised jointly by Telangana Language and Culture department, Aksharayan, Seethas Charitable Trust and Abhigna Bharati Organisation, commenced with grandeur at Ravindra Bharati. The event opened with a session featuring presentations by contemporary women writers on a vital role in guiding society and lauded the felicitation of 20 families on this platform, celebrating three generations of literary contributions within the same art form. The event captivated the audience with a parody by Aruna Subbarao, songs by Bhoo Devi and an instrumental performance by Jayasurya's ensemble from Ahata Sangeetalayam, adding a cultural essence to the literary gathering.

from mothers to children and survives primarily because of them. He commended Aksharayan for uniting 1,500 women writers and contributing significantly to social causes.

Highlighting the role of women writers as torchbearers, he recalled past conferences on AIDS awareness, consumer rights and environmental sustainability, noting their impact. He stressed that women writers play a vital role in guiding society and lauded the felicitation of 20 families on this platform, celebrating three generations of literary contributions within the same art form. The event captivated the audience with a parody by Aruna Subbarao, songs by Bhoo Devi and an instrumental performance by Jayasurya's ensemble from Ahata Sangeetalayam, adding a cultural essence to the literary gathering.



Panel members of women entrepreneurs at WISE 2025 in Hyderabad on Saturday

Sustainability, circular economy for rural entrepreneurs discussed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sustainability and the circular economy for rural entrepreneurship were discussed on the second day of the Women's International Summit on Entrepreneurship (WISE) 2025, held on Saturday. Organised by the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE) at the Engineering Staff College of India, the event provided insights, hands-on learning and networking opportunities for women-led enterprises to grow globally.

The theme, 'Innovation,

Sustainability, and Cross-Border Collaboration,' emphasised eco-friendly practices, technology adoption, and global partnerships to support women entrepreneurs.

Sessions included student interactions with international speakers, panel discussions and knowledge-sharing on business growth and global markets. The Circular Economy - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Redesign session, moderated by Nidhi Toshniwal, featured industry experts discussing sustainable business models.

The Global to Rural -

Learnings & Technology Transfer panel focused on bridging global advancements and rural entrepreneurship. The gearing up 'small and medium enterprises' - SME's for global supply chains session explored strategies for integrating small businesses into global markets.

The Innovative and Sustainable Startups session highlighted emerging entrepreneurs making an impact. The day concluded with an inspiring talk by Master Chef Shipra Khanna, who shared her entrepreneurial journey, motivating women to pursue business success.



2 youngsters drown in Manjeera river

PNS ■ MEDAK

A tragic incident occurred during a pilgrimage to Edupayala, as two devotees from Hyderabad drowned in the Manjeera River at Pothamsettipally in Medak district.

The deceased, Krishna (20) and Shama (12), both residents of Indira Nagar, Hyderabad, had travelled with their friends to offer prayers at the Sri Vanadurga Bhavani Temple. While at the temple, they decided to venture into the river for a swim.

Unfortunately, Krishna and Shama drowned, while locals managed to rescue two of their friends. The bodies were later retrieved and taken to the government hospital in Medak for postmortem.

Maize farmers protest against 'poor-quality' seeds

The ryots have decided to represent to the government seeking stringent action against seed companies

PNS ■ MULUGU

Seed companies have allegedly deceived farmers with false promises. The managers and agents of some companies misled maize farmers by advertising that they would get 3 to 5 tonnes per acre. However, during harvest time, the yield was so low that farmers are now facing losses.

Across two mandals, a total of 4,000 acres was covered by maize seeds, but have resulted in no significant yield, causing up to Rs 1 crore loss to farmers. Without providing the promised seeds, the company agents, the farmers alleged, took them for a ride. Even though the agents had no direct involvement, they acted as middlemen, sending these farmers to the companies. While the companies



A farmer showing failed maize crop at Venkatapuram in Mulugu district

promised to pay Rs 30,000 per tonne, the yield was extremely disappointing. As a result, farmers are incurring losses of up to Rs. 1 lakh per acre, farmers explained. Despite the crop period ending,

the expected yield is nowhere to be seen, leaving maize farmers disheartened. The lack of supervision from the Agricultural Department officials, coupled with the alleged deceit of companies and agents, has

turned the situation into a curse for farmers.

The experiment by maize seed companies has failed, leaving farmers suffering financially. The Agricultural Department is nowhere to be found. Some seed companies are encouraging maize cultivation by assuring farmers of good yields and prices, yet in the two mandals, three major maize seed companies have failed to deliver.

Agents and organizers had guaranteed farmers a yield of 3 to 5 tons per acre depending on the seeds, along with a promise of Rs 30,000 a tonne. However, by the end of the crop period, not even one tonne of yield was achieved. As a result, farmers have lost not only their investments but also their whole year's toil went in vain.

Woman dancer records selfie video before ending life

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

A 24-year-old woman dancer tragically died, reportedly by suicide, on Saturday after hanging herself from a ceiling fan at Ponnekal under Khammam rural mandal.

Kavya Kalyani, a resident of Bank Colony, had been living with Abhi, also known as Abhilash, from Ponnekal for the past five years. The couple had previously participated in the well-known TV dance reality show 'Dhee', where they allegedly developed feelings for one another. Before taking her life, Kalyani recorded a selfie video in which she expressed her intention to end her life, attributing her decision to her relationship with Abhi.

In the video, she mentioned that Abhi had professed his love for her and invited her to live with him. "I'm sorry, amma, I am dying. After five years together, Abhi has chosen to marry another woman and has asked me to leave his home," she stated.

The incident happened in the lim-



Kavya Kalyani with Abhilash (file photo)

its of Two-Town police station. Kalyani's family members, seeking justice for her, protested at the mortuary of the Government General Hospital where her body was sent for post-mortem. Reports indicated that Abhilash has surrendered to the police and is currently in custody of the Two-Town police.

BJP leaders visit SLBC tunnel, reviews situation

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

BJP leader and MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy inspected the site of the SLBC (Srisailem Left Bank Canal) incident. BJP leader and MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, along with BJP MLAs, inspected the SLBC tunnel. Afterward, Maheshwar Reddy conducted a review with the authorities concerned to gather details about the incident.

He stated that the state government was responsible for the deaths of these workers, calling it a clear case of murder by the state government. He questioned why Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had not visited the site even a



week after the incident occurred.

He criticised the ministers for merely visiting the area like tourists and leaving without taking any concrete action.

Collector's voice message inspires class 10 students

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

With Class 10 board exams approaching, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector M Hanumanth Rao has sent an encouraging voice message to instill confidence among students. The message, which was simultaneously sent at 7 pm, reached 5,125 students studying in 192 government schools across the district.

Emphasising the importance of self-belief, the Collector advised students to approach examinations with confidence and avoid any negativity. Stressing the need for a well-planned revision strategy, the message reassured students that disciplined preparation would ensure success. "Plan



M Hanumanth Rao

your revision effectively, allocate time wisely, and stay focused. With proper effort, you will achieve excellent results," the Collector assured. Addressing concerns of students who struggle with retention, the message encouraged them to cultivate a positive

mindset. "Anything done with focus and interest will be remembered. Avoid negative thoughts, stay committed, and you will recall everything you have studied," the Collector advised.

The message also highlighted the importance of health during exam preparation, urging students to maintain proper sleep schedules and consume nutritious food. "Do not neglect your health. Get enough sleep and eat well while studying," the Collector suggested.

Concluding the message with words of encouragement, the Collector urged students to approach learning with passion rather than pressure, ensuring they achieve their best possible results.

Guru Nanak Institutions students secured runner-up position

EV GO-KART DESIGN CHALLENGE

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Mechanical Engineering students from Guru Nanak Institutions (GNI) have brought laurels to their institution by securing the runner-up position in the Electric Vehicle (EV) category at the 12th National Level EV Go-Kart Design Challenge, organised by ISNEE Motor Sports in Uttar Pradesh. The prestigious competition was held at the KARI Motor Speedway, Coimbatore, from February 19 to 28, 2025, witnessing participation from 80 leading engineering colleges across India.

The GNI team's EV Go-



Guru Nanak Institutions students at 12th national level go-kart design challenge in Uttar Pradesh

Kart stood out as a remarkable feat of engineering, featuring cutting-edge technology and innovation. The key highlights

of their design included a 4.8 kW high-performance motor controller powered by an advanced lithium-ion battery pack (BMS Model - JK-B1A24515P, 64V, 75Ah), a strategically designed accumulator (LFIC6908) with 100 cells in parallel, providing 32V and 15Ah, and a top speed of approximately 100 km/h with an impressive range of 90-100 km per charge.

The vehicle's lightweight 128 kg structure, regenerative braking system, and eco-friendly materials enhanced its efficiency, while a full recharge time of just 5 hours ensured sustained endurance on the track.



A new sniffer dog joins ranks to sniff out explosives

PNS ■ ADILABAD

After undergoing strict training in Hyderabad's Moinsab for several months, the newly inducted dog, Tango, arrived here on Saturday.

The dog was introduced to the District Superintendent of Police Gause Alam, and other personnel at the district police headquarters.

The addition of this new dog, Tango, is a welcome development, as it will play a key role in strengthening the district's internal security by contributing to the dog squad team.

Tango is the Labrador Retriever, is part of a team of eight dogs that will help detect explosives, identify criminals, and locate narcotics. The dog squad will be crucial for security operations in Adilabad district.

Specifically, this dog will assist in detecting various explosives, including TNT, RDX, PEK, safety fuses, Cordex, ammonium nitrate, Gelatin sticks, as well as advanced weapons like IEDs and bombs.

Woman dies in childbirth; relatives attack hospital

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Irate relatives of a woman, who died in childbirth, attacked a private hospital and ransacked it Pothireddyapalle junction in Sangareddy town.

Relatives alleged that the death was caused due to the negligence of the doctors. The relatives gathered in large numbers in front of the hospital and staged a protest.

The deceased, Mahanand, was from Madri village in Kohir mandal. On Friday, after delivering a baby at Neelam Hospital in Zaheerabad, she experienced excessive bleeding, and at around 3 am, she was



Relatives of woman, who died in childbirth, attacking a private hospital in Sangareddy on Saturday

brought to private hospital in Sangareddy for treatment. During the treatment, the woman suddenly developed

chest pain and passed away, the doctors claimed.

However, when questioned about the delay in treatment, as they had initially said treatment was being administered, only to later claim she passed away after more than four hours, the doctor left without providing an explanation.

Following this, the deceased's relatives staged a protest in front of Wellness Hospital, accusing the doctor of negligence. The doctor allegedly responded negligently, saying that the death was not caused by them and that the family could do whatever they wanted.

Huge gates erected 25 years ago on police station road removed

PNS ■ MULUGU

Officials removed the huge gates erected on the main road in front of the police station in Eturnagaram mandal of Mulugu district. The gates were erected 25 years ago when the Naxalite movement was at its height. In 2001, Maoists attacked the police station with tractor bombs. Since then, for security reasons, police higher-ups had installed large gates on the road to prevent vehicles from passing through. In 2011, with the opening of National



Highway 163 and the increase in heavy vehicles, including sand lorries, heading towards Chhattisgarh, the road leading to Eturnagaram village was dam-

aged, leading to accidents. As a result, officials on Saturday now removed the gates on the police station road and made the way clear for vehicles to pass.

Leopard creating panic among villagers in Medak district

PNS ■ MEDAK

The presence of a leopard has been creating panic among people at Ramayampet in Medak district. Farmers and local people for the past week are too scared to venture out after sunset.

Near the Survaikunta area, along the 44th national highway, the leopard has been roaming around agricultural fields, attacking and killing livestock and dogs.

Forest officials immediately responded to the incident and identified leopard pugmarks at the site.

CCTV cameras were set up in the area where the attacks occurred.

On Friday night, forest and police officials, along with farmers, took special mea-



Leopard's pugmarks

sures to drive the leopard back into the forest. They are using firecrackers and loudspeakers to issue warnings in the area where the leopard has been spotted.

Forest Range Officer Vidyasagar advised farmers not to go alone to agricultural fields at night and, in case of emergencies, to go in groups and return home quickly.

He also mentioned that, due to the forested nature of the area and the presence of water, there are suspicions that the leopard frequently roams the region.

He assured that special efforts would be made to drive the leopard back into the forest within a week, urging farmers not to worry.

Vidyasagar, who met with villagers on Friday night, explained that the dumping of municipal waste, including chicken waste, was attracting the leopard to the forest's edge.

Woman's body found in well

PNS ■ VEMULAWADA

At the Chekkapalli Road area of Vemulawada town in Rajanna Sircilla district, a body of a married woman was found in a well. The police, with the assistance of the Fire Service personnel, retrieved the body of the woman, identified as M Pallavi, a resident of Achannapalli village. Pallavi had been married to Shivudu, a resident of Vemulawada town, about three years ago. Relatives of Pallavi alleged that she was frequently subjected to harassment and torture by Shivudu and his family members. They also claimed that Pallavi had previously attempted suicide, and the police have registered a case and are investigating further.

SECUNDERABAD BRANCH
261 Karan Centre, S D Road, SECUNDERABAD - 500 003
Ph. No. 27819293 / 27844452

APPENDIX IV (Rule 8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank, SECUNDERABAD Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(1)(c) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 12.12.2024 calling upon the Borrowers: 1. M/s. Sri Grace Technologies Private Limited Represented by its Directors Mr. R. Shyam Sundar Mr. Aruna Vekalabharanam Regd. Of: 2-2-208/12, 406 Sri Anita Apartments Durgabai Deshmukh Colony Baghampet Hyderabad-500013; 2. Mr. Renuchintala Shyam Sundar S/Chennuchintala Shashara Rama Rao 2-2-20/13/12, 406 Sri Anita Apartments Durgabai Deshmukh Colony Baghampet Hyderabad-500013; 3. Mrs. Aruna Vekalabharanam W/o Sarath Vekalabharanam Flat No 515, Krishna Block, Chandra Chandra Apartment VST X Road, Vidyanagar Hyderabad-500044; 4. The estate of deceased Gaurang Mr. Shrikaparam Yadaviah (deceased on 05.11.2021) represented by legal heir viz: -a. Spouse & Legal heir: Mrs. S.Ratha and w/o Late S. Yashiah, Flat No.317, Ganga Block, Chandra Chandra Apartment, Opp VST, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad. Daughter & Legal heir: Ms. Aruna Vekalabharanam W/o Sarath Vekalabharanam Flat No 515, Krishna Block, Chandra Chandra Apartment VST X Road, Vidyanagar Hyderabad-500044 And Others. With our SECUNDERABAD Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice bearing No.4135.044 (Rupees Forty One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Four only) together with interest thereon from 12.12.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The amount due as on 24.02.2025 is Rs. 39,89,849/- with further interest costs, other charges and expenses thereon. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the 25th day of FEBRUARY of the year 2025.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, SECUNDERABAD Branch for an amount of Rs.39,89,849/- as on 24.02.2025 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon. "We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed thereunder which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities."

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property: I. All that the Flat No.405 on 4th Floor addressing with Plot No.405 on 4th Floor addressing with Plot area of 965.00 Sq. ft. (including car parking) situated in "SRI ANITA APARTMENT" along with proportionate undivided share of land 50.00 Sq.yds out of 1200.00 Sq.yds in premises bearing Municipal House No.2-2-20/12, Durgabai Deshmukh Colony, Baghampet, Hyderabad, Telangana owned by Mr. Renuchintala Shyam Sundar bounded by: North: Corridor, Staircase & Flat No.406, South: Duct & Flat No.402, East: Open to Sky, West: Flat No.403.

Property: II. All that the Flat No.405 on 4th Floor addressing with Plot area of 945.00 Sq. ft. and Car parking No. 5 area of 50.00 Sq. ft. (including common area) along with an undivided share of land addressing 16.00 Sq.yds or 15.04 Sq.yds (out of 800.00 Sq.yds) on Plot No.388 & 389 in Survey No.1009 in M.C.K Block No.31 of "Pranitha Residency" Situated at Kakapally Village and Municipality, Bolampet Mandal, Rang Reddy District, Telangana owned by Mr. S. Yashiah and Mrs. Aruna V bounded by: North: Open to Sky, South: Corridor, East: Open to Sky, West: Stair case and Open to Sky.

Date: 25.02.2025
Place: Secunderabad
Sd-Authorised Officer,
Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES



Bangla woman sent to jail for illegal stay

A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has convicted a 36-year-old Bangladeshi woman for illegally staying in India and sentenced her to imprisonment for 14 months and 28 days. In the order of February 27, a copy of which was made available on Saturday, Additional Sessions Judge Vasudha L. Bhosale also directed that the woman, Taniya Yunus Shaikh, who has already spent the duration of the sentence in jail, be deported. During the trial, Additional Public Prosecutor R. P. Patil told the court that Shaikh was found to be living in Mira Road (East), on the outskirts of Mumbai, without a valid passport or visa. The court noted that the burden of proof, as per the Foreigners Act, lies upon the accused to establish their nationality. "The accused has no permanent or temporary address in India and failed to provide any valid proof of Indian nationality."



Goa Carnival begins with float parade

The popular Goa Carnival began here on Saturday in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who said the four-day long event showcases the state's culture and helps to attract tourists. The Carnival began with the float parade along the banks of Mandovi river here in the presence of the CM, tourism minister Rohan Khaunte, Corporation of City of Panaji Mayor Rohit Monserratte and actor Varsha Usgaonkar. The parade was led by the float of 'King Momo'. Cleven Fernandes, who has been selected as King Momo by the tourism department this year, read out the decree of eat, drink and be merry. He also urged people to enjoy with responsibility. "Goa's culture is showcased through the Carnival's float parade. These festivals help in attracting tourists. The Goa government is working to boost tourism," Sawant said.



Himachal to provide free coaching for 6,800 students

Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday launched the 'Mere Shahar Ke 100 Ratna' programme, an initiative aimed at providing free coaching for various competitive examinations to 6,800 students across Himachal Pradesh. Under this programme, CRACK Academy will offer free coaching to 100 meritorious students from each Assembly constituency, with an estimated investment of Rs 34 crore. To ensure a fair selection process, tests will be conducted in schools and colleges of each constituency, where students from Class VI and above can participate. The top 100 students from each constituency will receive free coaching, while the next 200 students will be given a 75 per cent concession and the following 500 students will receive a 50 per cent concession.

'Vocal for local' campaign bearing fruit: Modi

Says India now emerging as factory of world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that his 'vocal for local' campaign is bearing fruit as Indian products are going global and making their presence felt across the world.

Speaking at the NXT conclave where the 'NewsX World' channel was launched, Modi also said that India was becoming the land of infinite innovations, finding affordable solutions and offering them to the world. "The world is keenly watching 21st-century India. People from around the globe want to visit and understand India," Modi said.

He said that the country was now emerging as a manufacturing hub and a "factory of the world".

"For decades, the world referred to India as their back office. Now, India is becoming the new factory of the world. We are no longer just a work-



force but instead becoming a world force," Modi said.

The prime minister said that India's rising defence products showcase the strength of its engineering and technology to the world.

"From electronics to the automobile sector, the world has witnessed India's scale and capability. India is not only providing products to the world but is also becoming a trusted and reliable partner in the global supply chain," Modi said.

embraced across the world.

The prime minister said India should be presented to the world as it is, without any bias. "We do not need any make-up," he said, adding that real stories from the country should reach the world in its true form.

He said India was the land that gave the world the concept of zero and was now becoming the land of infinite innovations.

"India is not only innovating but also 'Indovating', meaning innovating the Indian way," Modi said. He added that India was creating solutions that were affordable, accessible, and adaptable, and offering them to the world without gatekeeping.

"When the world needed a secure and cost-effective digital payment system, India developed the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system. Today, countries like France, UAE, and Singapore are integrating UPI into their financial ecosystems," he said.



Aiming to bring normalcy in Manipur, asserts Amit Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed security forces to ensure free movement of people on all routes in Manipur from March 8 and also called for strict action against those creating obstructions.

The direction was given here by Shah at a high-level meeting where the security situation of Manipur was discussed. The order bears significance as travel through the areas inhabited by Imphal valley-based Meiteis and neighbouring hills based Kukis was totally prohibited since ethnic violence broke out between the two communities in May 2023.

While Kukis travel mostly through Mizoram to go outside the state, the Meiteis don't go to the hills dominated by the Kukis.

This confidence building step came 10 days after Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla ordered those holding illegal and looted arms to surrender before the security posts.

Chairing the review meeting, Shah also said the Centre remains fully committed to restoring lasting peace in the state and is providing all necessary assistance in this regard.

The home minister directed that free movement of people should be ensured on all roads of Manipur from March 8, according to an official statement.

'Stalin spreading 'imaginary fears' on delimitation'

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai on Saturday said his party would not take part in the March 5 all-party meeting on the delimitation exercise and blamed Chief Minister M K Stalin for attempting to spread "imaginary fears" over the matter.

Writing to Stalin, Annamalai said his party firmly believed that he has misconstrued the delimitation exercise and has convened the all party meeting to "spread your imaginary fears and deliberately lie about it," even before any offi-



cial statement was made.

Pointing to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that no state would be "undermined," and that the exercise shall be on a pro rata basis, the Tamil Nadu BJP chief told Stalin: "You must understand that the announcement for the delimitation exer-

cise will be made at an appropriate time by the delimitation commission and it is disheartening to notice that you have still not learnt lessons from the lies you spread when one nation one election was announced and later when those got debunked."

Annamalai said that the INDIA bloc's campaign line had been "Jitne Abadhi Utmi Haq," and (Rights proportional to the population) in 2023 and PM Narendra Modi had hit back saying it would hurt the southern states which effectively implemented population control measures.

Shivakumar's visit to Sadhguru's event divides K'taka Congress

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The controversy over Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's visit to Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev's Isha yoga centre in Tamil Nadu for Mahashivaratri celebrations has refused to die down with leaders in the state Congress unit sharply divided over the issue.

Cooperative Minister K N Rajanna questioned the justification behind Shivakumar sharing the stage with those who have been critical of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. "Sadhguru had himself said he does not know Rahul Gandhi. Isn't it? He

(Shivakumar) knows better than me what people speak about our leader Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha. Let him answer how justified it is to share stage with such people," Rajanna told media in Hassan.

However, former MP D K Suresh backed his brother, saying Shivakumar has always kept the party informed before attending any event.

"Whenever Shivakumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi he informed the party high command. He had even informed the high command about attending Isha Foundation's Maha Shivaratri event," Suresh told reporters here.



'Cinema may have role in violence in society'

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Minister Suresh Gopi on Saturday conceded that cinema may have a role in the violence occurring in society, but it cannot be said that movies were the source of the same.

Gopi, the Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Tourism, said that people watching a film should not merely see it, they need to understand it.

The minister, who is also an actor, said that he cannot say violence be not depicted in movies or it be reduced, but the people need to understand that what is being shown is "not for entertainment and they need to learn from it that such acts are not good".

"Don't just see the film, understand the film," he added. Gopi was responding to queries from reporters here on the role of cinema in the instances of violence in society. Earlier this week, senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala had said that Malayalam action movies like RDX and Marco are in a big way "encouraging people, especially youngsters, to become violent". Gopi also said that every child born into a family is an asset for the nation and everyone, including the political parties, government and the people, should work together to ensure they all have good physical and mental health and can realise their full potential.

"Each child is born into the family called nation. None of them should be lost," he said in an apparent reference to the death of a schoolboy due to injuries suffered in a clash between students near a private tuition centre in Kozhikode.



Two Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

PNS ■ SUKMA

Two Naxalites, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Saturday, a police official said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said 67 hardcore Naxalites have been neutralised in the last 60 days in the state's Bastar range and called the achievement proof of the courage and commitment of the security personnel. The gunfight broke out around 9 am in the forest of Gundrajgudem village under the Kistaram police station area when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said.

'Question of reverting to ballot paper out of your scope'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The question of reverting to ballot papers does not fall under the ambit of the mandate of a joint committee of Parliament examining the two bills on simultaneous polls, the Union law ministry is learnt to have said.

Going back to the ballot paper system was a "suggestion" made by some of the members of the joint committee, and the law ministry was to respond to it in writing.

While the ministry's Legislative Department gave elaborate responses to a variety of questions posed to it by the committee, it did not give a direct reply on the suggestion on the ballot paper system.

The ministry is learnt to have said it was "out of scope" of the parliamentary panel to make a suggestion on the use of the ballot paper system, according to sources.

Whether to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) or ballot papers for casting votes is not the subject the panel is examining, they underlined.

Law Ministry to Parl panel on ONOE



The committee is mandated to examine the bills on simultaneous polls -- the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill -- and give its report on whether they are sound enough for the purpose or need changes, the sources said.

While the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill lays down a legal framework to

Parliament that it does not favour returning to the ballot paper system and the Supreme Court too has weighed in favour of using EVMs.

The top court recently rejected pleas for reviving paper ballots, holding that suspicions regarding tampering of voting machines were "unfounded".

The sources said that while the ministry answered some of the questions, some others were sent to the Election Commission for a calibrated response.

The ministry has also told the committee that holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies is not undemocratic and does not hurt the federal structure.

It is learnt to have asserted that elections were held simultaneously in the past before the cycle was broken due to various reasons, including the imposition of President's rule in some states.

Following the adoption of the Constitution, elections to the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies were conducted.

hold the Lok Sabha and assembly polls together, the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill seeks to align the terms of legislative assemblies of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir for the purpose of holding joint elections.

Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir are the three union territories with legislative assemblies.

The government has on multiple occasions told

UTTARAKHAND AVALANCHE

Four die, search on for five labourers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Fifty workers have been pulled out of snow from the site of an avalanche-hit BRO camp in the Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, but four of them died on Saturday as rescuers raced against time to save the remaining five.

The avalanche hit the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp between Mana and Badrinath between 5:30 am and 6 am on Friday, burying 55 workers inside eight containers and a shed, according to the



Army. Thirty-three of them were rescued by Friday night. Rain and snowfall hampered the rescue efforts on Friday and the operation was suspended as the night fell.

As the weather cleared up on Saturday morning, the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel based in Mana resumed the rescue operation, District Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said. Six helicopters, including three of the Indian Army Aviation, two of the IAF and one civil copter hired

by the Army, are engaged in the rescue operations, an Army spokesperson said.

"Fifty labourers have been rescued out of which, unfortunately, four injured have been confirmed as fatal casualties while the search for the remaining five is underway," the Army spokesperson said.

The injured were being prioritised for evacuation, he said.

Sources said that two of the rescued workers have been taken to AIIMS-Rishikesh for advanced treatment.

No fuel for overage vehicles after March 31, says Delhi govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government announced on Saturday that from April 1, fuel pumps in the city will not provide petrol and diesel to vehicles older than 15 and 10 years, respectively.

Fuel pumps would be equipped with devices to identify overage vehicles and restrict fuel supply to them, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said after a high-level meeting with officials to discuss anti-pollution measures.

The move aims to curb

vehicular emissions and combat air pollution in the city, which remains a persistent challenge for the residents.

Talking to reporters, the minister said the Delhi government would inform the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas about the decision and the ministry would, in turn, notify the fuel pump owners. The city has more than 425 petrol-diesel stations.

"We are setting up gadgets at our petrol pumps that will identify vehicles older than 15 years. They will not be provided fuel," Sirsa said.

A senior official of the Delhi government told PTI that diesel-run vehicles older than 10 years will also be denied fuel after March 31.

According to rough estimates, there are around 55 lakh overage vehicles, 66 per cent of which are two-wheelers and 54 per cent four-wheelers, the officer said.

The government also plans to phase out nearly 90 per cent of CNG-driven public transport buses in Delhi by December 2025, replacing them with electric buses to promote cleaner and more sustainable transport.



Two Decades of Sizzling Success

Kylin reflects on a journey of gastronomic excellence and countless memories within its walls, writes ABHI SINGHAL

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

DUMPLINGS

The Mixed Vegetable variety of *Kylin's Signature Dumplings*, dipped in Szechuan Chilli Oil, is just like an edible poem, a spicy ballet of flavours that lingers even after the final bite. Think of the delicate, silky wrappers that are individually expertly made to hold a variety of crisp, fresh veggies.

FACT SHEET

Outlets in Delhi/NCR: Noida, Aerocity, Vasant Kunj
Cost for two: 2500 + taxes (exclusive of drinks)
Operational time: 12pm to 11:30 pm

Two decades. A score of years. However you phrase it, *Kylin* has marked a monumental milestone, an authentication to its reign as an Asian dining in India. From its humble beginnings as a single *Delhi* outlet, it's blossomed into a culinary empire, now boasting eight vibrant locations across six bustling cities. But beyond the numbers, beyond the expansion, lies a story woven with the threads of flavour, innovation, and cherished memories.

Stepping into a *Kylin* restaurant is an experience in itself. It's not just a meal, it's a journey. You're enveloped in an atmosphere that seamlessly blends the time-honoured traditions of Asian cuisine with a distinctly modern, sophisticated flair. Think sleek, contemporary design, inviting spaces, and a palpable buzz of excitement. Whether you're seeking a romantic dinner, a lively gathering with friends, or simply a moment of culinary indulgence, *Kylin* offers a sanctuary for every occasion.

And what a menu it is. From *Signature Bowls* from Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, and so much more, *Kylin* is a place of flavours,

meticulously crafted to tempt the palate. You can always go for the *Chilli Oil Dim Sums*, a fiery dance of textures and tastes, or the comforting warmth of a *Hot Stone Bowl*. Their *Veg Tempura Sushi*, a delicate balance of crispy and fresh and is an example to their commitment to innovation. This constant evolution, this refusal to rest on laurels, is what has kept *Kylin* at the forefront of the dining scene for two decades.

It's not just the food that shines. *Kylin* was the first Asian brand in India to truly embrace the art of the cocktail. Their bar, a vibrant hub of creativity, offers a curated menu of concoctions that perfectly complement the culinary offerings. Each sip is a masterpiece, designed to elevate your dining experience to new heights.

So, if you're a seasoned foodie or seeking a memorable meal, *Kylin* welcomes you. It's a place where there is both sweet and savoury are offered and where every visit is a celebration. Twenty years on, and *Kylin* continues to set the standard, proving that culinary excellence, like a fine wine that only improves with age. You can visit anytime, and experience the legacy for yourself.

THE PERFECT ENDING

Kylin's desserts are a sweet symphony. There are *Fried Ice Cream Spring Rolls*,

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION

Directly from China's heart, *Kylin's Hot Stone Bowl* deserves your undivided attention. Choose your canvas: *silken tofu*, *tender chicken*, or *rich lamb*. Then, select your grain: *sticky rice*, *fun noodles*, or *healthy quinoa*. Finally, paint it with your preferred *sauce* - the sharp bite of black pepper, the aromatic punch of hot basil, or the fiery allure of chilli garlic. Each bowl is cooked with a medley of mushrooms, peppers, and water chestnuts. For *tofu* lovers, edamame adds a delightful twist.

Spiced to Perfection



BY TEAM AGENDA

Aromatic, rich and bursting with flavour, *Hyderabadi Veg Biryani* is a classic dish that brings together fragrant basmati rice, perfectly spiced vegetables and delicate layers of saffron and herbs. This traditional recipe ensures each grain of rice is infused with the essence of whole spices and slow-cooked for the perfect dum biryani experience. Serve it with raita or mirchi ka salan for a truly authentic meal.

By Executive Chef Sanjay Kumar, The Tivoli Hotel, Chhattarpur

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|--|
| RICE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 cups basmati rice (soaked) ● 6 cups water, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp lemon juice ● 2 bay leaves, 3 green cardamoms, 4 cloves, 1-inch cinnamon stick, 1 star anise, 1 black cardamom | VEGGIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ½ cup each: carrots, beans, peas, potatoes, cauliflower ● ½ cup paneer (optional) |
|-------------|---|----------------|--|



MASALA:

- 3 tbsp oil, 2 tbsp ghee, 2 onions (sliced)
 - 2 tbsp ginger-garlic paste, 2 green chillies (slit), 2 tomatoes (chopped)
 - ½ cup curd, ½ tsp turmeric, 1 tsp red chilli powder, 1 tsp coriander powder
 - 1 tbsp biryani masala, ½ tsp garam masala, ½ cup mint and coriander leaves
 - ¼ tsp saffron in ¼ cup warm milk
- Layering:
- ½ cup fried onions, 2 tsp ghee, and saffron milk
 - ½ tsp rose water, ½ tsp kewra water

METHOD

Cook Rice: Boil water with spices, salt, and lemon juice. Add rice, cook till 70% done, then drain.
Prepare Masala: Sauté onions in oil and ghee. Set half aside. Add ginger-garlic paste, chillies, tomatoes, spices, curd, and vegetables. Cook until soft. Stir in mint and coriander.
Layer: In a pan, layer rice, masala, fried onions, saffron milk, rose and kewra water, and ghee. Repeat.

CHEF'S TIPS

- Maintain a rice-to-water ratio of 1:3 for perfect texture.
- Adding a few drops of ghee before serving enhances the aroma.
- Use a heavy-bottomed pan to prevent the biryani from burning at the base.
- For an extra smoky flavour, place a hot charcoal piece in a bowl, pour a

This *Hyderabadi Veg Biryani* is a royal treat that captures the essence of authentic Mughlai cuisine. Enjoy it as a centrepiece for festive occasions or a comforting week-



Exquisite Culinary & Artistic Haven

Arts Room offers an unparalleled gastronomic experience with its elegant Parisian-inspired ambiance, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL

Situated in Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, *Arts Room* by *Ambrosia Hospitality* is a distinguished new gem in the city's thriving culinary landscape. This global cuisine restaurant, envisioned by Navneet and Randeep Bajaj, is a seamless blend of culinary artistry, sophisticated ambiance, and immersive sensory experiences.

Arts Room offers a dining experience that is nothing short of extraordinary.

Stepping into the *Arts Room* is akin to entering a Parisian courtyard infused with the charm of a classical French living room. The thoughtfully curated decor, adorned with Indian artwork from *Pristine Contemporary*, sets the stage for an atmosphere that is

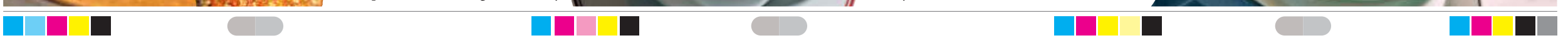
both luxurious and inviting.

The menu at *Arts Room* is a testament to culinary excellence, celebrating global flavours with an emphasis on locally sourced, high-quality ingredients. Diners are treated to a diverse selection of dishes, each reflecting a perfect balance of tradition and innovation. Signature offerings such as the *Chicken Teeka Masala*, prepared with *Layla's roast chicken* and *velvety tomato cream sauce*, and the indulgent *lobster and Caviar*, featuring *Andaman lobster* paired with *cognac* and *Osetra caviar*, exemplify the restaurant's commitment to reimagining global classics with a contemporary Indian twist. *The Crunchy Pork Belly* with *Shillong roast dip* and *Tajin seasoning*, and the refreshing *Yellowtail Ceviche* with coconut and guava accents, further showcase the chef's creative ingenuity.

Arts Room also caters to a variety of dietary preferences with a well-curated selection of vegan-friendly

and gluten-free options. The breakfast menu adds another dimension to the dining experience, allowing guests to enjoy an elegant morning meal in a setting that is as serene as it is sophisticated.

Beyond its exceptional cuisine, *Arts Room's* cocktail program is a work of art in itself. Under the expert guidance of bar veteran *Kamal Kohli*, the beverage menu draws inspiration from iconic artists and their masterpieces. *The Two Fridas*, inspired by *Frida Kahlo's* celebrated painting, features hemp seed-infused tequila blended with watermelon and chili saccharum, delivering a drink as vibrant as its muse. *The Goan Rains*, a kokum-based tequila concoction, pays homage to *F.N. Souza's* depiction of monsoon-soaked Goa, while *the La Guernica*, a whisky-based cocktail with dark chocolate and Mexican chili, honors *Picasso's* legendary anti-





Despite its beauty, Mauritius honours its painful history of slavery annually on Abolition Day



As I dived into an ambitious itinerary on my fourth visit to Mauritius, checking into the breathtaking island's luxury hotels, savouring world-class gastronomy, and admiring its storied landscapes, beaches, lagoons and reefs, I also had a rare chance this time to reflect on the country's early beginnings, marked by suffering and social upheaval.

In fact, it is impossible to understand Mauritian history, dominated by the Arabs, Dutch, English and French, without delving into its past of slavery. Located on the east coast of Africa, 702 miles east of Madagascar, the island traces its provenance to its discovery by Arabs and Malays in 1507. The Portuguese arrived in 1510, bestowing upon it the moniker 'Cirné'. By 1598, the Dutch wrested control of the island, renaming it 'Maurice' after their head of state, the Prince of Orange and Count of Nassau.

Mauritius' magnetic draw among rapacious foreign invaders was hardly surprising, given its plentiful natural resources and breathtaking beauty. No wonder Mark Twain famously said that Mauritius was "created first and then Heaven copied after it!" However, slave trading marked its ugly presence on the island in the 1640s when the Dutch ushered in the first lot of slaves.

Between the 16th and 19th centuries, some 27 million Africans were forced onto ships and transported across the Atlantic to work on lush Mauritian sugarcane fields. By the 17th century, the country was teeming with slaves from Madagascar, Africa, India and Java, who worked in Dickensian conditions, abused and exploited.

However, after centuries of slavery and international resistance, in

1834, the British Empire proclaimed the abolition of the slave trade following the passage of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. On 1st February 1835, Mauritius was declared free of slavery. Planters were compensated with two million pounds for their slave loss, and eventually, Mauritius gained independence in 1968.

To commemorate the abolition of slavery, celebrated as 'Abolition Day', the island nation organises a series of activities each year. This year, which marked the 190th anniversary of the practice, was

both a poignant and joyous occasion, as dignitaries acknowledged the island's fraught past and the sacrifices made by its people.

At the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Le Morne Brabant, a towering mountain serving as a powerful symbol of the struggle against slavery and the enduring impact of this dark period on the island's societies, I watched a moving wreath-laying ceremony conducted by Mauritian Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, attended by international delegates, celebrities and

global media.

In his address, Dr Ramgoolam highlighted the significance of honouring the abolition of slavery, emphasising the need to remember history, promote social justice and strengthen national unity. "This commemoration is not just about remembering our history; it is a call to action to ensure that the values of freedom, dignity, solidarity and justice continue to guide our nation," he said. The island's legacy of slavery and its lasting impact, he added, remained one of the most painful chapters of history.

At Aapravasi Ghat, another UNESCO Heritage Site and an immigration depot in Port Louis, where thousands of Indian slaves landed in the nineteenth century, another poignant celebration took place. A symbol of Indo-Mauritian ties, the depot includes a rice store, a military hospital complex, a civil hospital and a museum. It also records Mahatma Gandhi's work on the abolition of slavery and his visit to Mauritius in 1901 on his way back to India from South Africa.

The ceremony at Aapravasi Ghat was marked by the presence of international dignitaries, top ministers, renowned human rights advocates, activists and international media. This offered me a deep dive into Mauritius' fraught past and what shapes it today.

Next, I attended a thought-provoking conference, Routes of Enslaved Peoples: Resistance, Liberty and Heritage Project, which acknowledged the com-

THE HEARTFELT HONOUR

With several misty eyes among the assembled guests, the event also served as a catharsis for the descendants of slaves, whose ancestors played a pivotal role in Mauritius' nation-building. As I mingled with them, listening to their forefathers' tales of remarkable fortitude, I could not help but be moved by the fact that many of them today occupy positions of power as ministers and top bureaucrats, a development only an inclusive nation like Mauritius could have fostered. Populated by Indians, Creoles, Africans and Dutch, the country today resembles a colourful mosaic of nationalities, forming a progressive nation.



memoration of 190 years of slavery in Mauritius. Premised on the theme Resistance, Liberty, Heritage in the Western Indian Ocean, it was held at the University of Mauritius in Réduit, the island's first university. International delegates and authors listened in rapt attention to Mauritian President Dharambeer Gohul, who shared that the occasion "marks a pivotal moment in our ongoing journey to understand, reconcile and learn from shared histories of slavery and its enduring legacy".

At the Pamplemousses Slave Heritage Trail, another heritage site, descendants of indentured slaves gathered to pay tribute to their ancestors. Stephan Karghoo, Director at the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture in Mauritius, noted that Abolition Day celebrates the nation's ancestors in the most meaningful way.

— By Neeta Lal

History in Every Wave

Couple Getaways for Adrenaline Junkies



For couples who want more than just a quiet dinner or a lazy beach day, adventure can be the perfect way to bond. Facing challenges together, feeling the thrill, and creating unforgettable memories make for a different kind of romance. Whether it's diving into the ocean, climbing mountains, or flying through the sky, adventure travel brings couples closer in the most exciting ways.

Ride the Rapids Together

White-water rafting is a great way to test teamwork and have fun. Couples can brave the thrilling rapids of the Zambezi River in Africa or enjoy the stunning scenery of Costa Rica's Pacuare River. In India, Rishikesh offers an exciting rafting experience on the Ganges, where couples can paddle through the waves and admire the surrounding mountains.

Dive into a New World

Scuba diving is a magical experience for couples who love the ocean. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Thailand's Similan Islands, and Mexico's cenotes offer incredible underwater adventures. In India, the Andaman Islands provide crystal-clear waters and colourful marine life, perfect for a diving trip together.

Fly High with Paragliding

Few experiences match the thrill of paragliding over breathtaking landscapes. Couples can fly over the Swiss Alps, the beaches of Oludeniz in Turkey, or the hills of Nepal. In India, Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh is a world-famous spot for paragliding, where couples can glide through the air and take in stunning views.

Hike to Breathtaking Views

Hiking is a wonderful way for couples to bond while enjoying nature. Famous trails like the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, Mount Kilimanjaro, and Patagonia's Torres del Paine offer unforgettable experiences. In India, the Valley of Flowers trek in Uttarakhand is a beautiful and romantic hike filled with colourful blooms and fresh mountain air.

TAKE A ROMANTIC ROAD TRIP

A road trip lets couples explore new places at their own pace. Iceland's Ring Road, New Zealand's South Island and the American Southwest have stunning scenic routes. In India, a road trip through Ladakh's mountains and high-altitude passes is a thrilling and romantic journey.

— By Jatinder Paul Singh, Co-founder and CEO, Viacation

Go on a Wild Safari
Seeing wild animals in their natural habitat is an exciting and romantic experience. Couples can go on safari in Tanzania's Serengeti or camp under the stars in Botswana. In India, Ranthambore National Park is great for spotting tigers, while Jim Corbett National Park offers wildlife experiences.

Experience the Magic of Snow
Snowmobiling in Lapland, dog sledding in Alaska, or watching the Northern Lights in Finland are great options. In India, Gulmarg in Jammu & Kashmir offers skiing and snowboarding.



Dawn in the Mountains

In the sacred hours of a Mussoorie morning, tears of joy kissed my cheeks as consciousness gently returned after eight hours of profound sleep. The embrace of the "Queen of Hills" welcomed me back, not just to physical awareness, but to a deeper awakening that only these majestic mountains could inspire. Two thousand meters closer to heaven, I felt the weight of mundane existence lifting from my shoulders. My training hostel window framed a masterpiece that no artist could replicate. The ethereal blue light, nature's most delicate performer, danced across the vast canvas of sky. Each molecule of pristine mountain air seemed to carry fragments of ancient wisdom, painting the firmament in hues that deepened at the zenith and softened towards the horizon, like emotions that grow more profound as they reach the heart.

The sun, that eternal poet, orchestrated a magnificent performance through centuries-old branches. Delicate shadows strolled across my bedspread, each movement telling stories of time immemorial. My typically bustling mind discovered a stillness that mirrored the crystal-clear mountain air. Thoughts, usually racing like mountain streams, settled into a peaceful pool of clarity. Stepping out into the embrace of the morning, each

breath became a prayer of gratitude. The mountain path unfurled before me like a ribbon of possibilities, winding three kilometers through veils of mountain mist.

In this morning theatre, a moment of divine Connection unfolded as several cows blessed me with their presence. Their eyes held the wisdom of ages, reflecting a gentleness that spoke of unconditional giving. When my empty pockets whispered regret, modern technology offered salvation through a simple QR code. Time surrendered its linear march in these precious moments of connection, allowing eternity to peek through the veil of ordinary existence.

The morning's gifts continued to unfold as two langurs graced the scene, their regal presence demanding to be captured through my phone's lens. As I shared offerings with them, more emerged from the misty shadows like spirits of the forest.

This morning in Mussoorie was more than a series of moments; it was a reunion with a forgotten part of myself. In the embrace of the Himalayas, where heaven touches earth, I rediscovered the profound Truth that We are Connected - humans, animals, mountains, and sky - in an eternal dance of being.

— By Dr Tanu Jain



IN BRIEF



NLC India secures wind power project from SJVN

State-owned NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) on Saturday said it has bagged a contract from SJVN Ltd to develop and operate a 200 MW wind power project. The project was secured through an e-reverse auction at a tariff of Rs 3.74 per kWh. "The project is set to generate 526 MU of clean green power each year offsetting an equivalent amount of greenhouse gas emissions," a company statement said. The company has a target to achieve 10 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030. "Winning this 200 MW wind project further strengthens our commitment to sustainable and clean energy solutions... Our investments in renewable energy will play a crucial role in strengthening India's green economy and meeting global climate commitments," Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, Chairman & Managing Director, NLC India Ltd said.



NTPC Group achieves fastest 400 BU power generation

State-run power giant NTPC on Saturday said the group has achieved its fastest-ever generation of 400 Billion Units (BU) on March 1, 2025, in the FY24-25. This milestone was achieved in just 335 days, 12 days earlier as compared to the last financial year, a company statement said. In FY23-24, the company had crossed 400 BU generation on 13th March 2024. NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated power utility, contributes one-fourth of the country's power requirements. It has an installed capacity of over 77 GW, with an additional capacity of 29.5 GW under construction, including 9.6 GW of renewable energy capacity. The company is committed to achieving 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032. Along with power generation, NTPC has ventured into various new business areas, including e-mobility, battery storage, pumped hydro storage, waste-to-energy, nuclear power, and green hydrogen solutions.



98.18 pc of Rs 2000 notes returned, says RBI

The Reserve Bank on Saturday said 98.18 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, and only Rs 6,471 crore worth such notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, declined to Rs 6,471 crore at the close of business on February 28, 2025, RBI said. "Thus, 98.18 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, has since been returned," it said in a statement. The facility for deposit and/or exchange of the Rs 2000 banknotes was available at all bank branches till October 7, 2023. However, this facility is still available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank.

India, EU discuss efforts to accelerate FTA talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With India and the EU setting the year-end deadline to conclude a free trade agreement, teams from both sides held discussions on Saturday to accelerate efforts towards a balanced and mutually beneficial pact.

The meeting was held between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic in Mumbai along with officials from both sides.

"Our discussions focused on accelerating efforts towards a balanced and mutually beneficial free trade agreement. Looking forward to deepening economic ties and fostering a prosperous India-EU partnership," Goyal said in a post on X.

On February 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen agreed to seal a much-awaited free trade deal by this year amid rising concerns over US President Donald Trump's policy on tariffs.

The two sides are scheduled to hold the tenth round of negotiations for the FTA from March 10-14 in Brussels.

Further strengthening of economic ties between the two is crucial in light of the threat from



US President Donald Trump to impose higher tariffs. In the current uncertain global economic situation, India is the fastest-growing major economy. It is projected to grow at 6.4 per cent in 2024-25.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation EU bloc resumed the negotiations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets.

Besides demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles, the EU wants tax reduction in wines, spirits and a strong intellectual property regime.

Indian goods' exports to the EU, such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, will become more competitive if the pact is concluded successfully.

India is also seeking data security status for the IT sector. The lack of this status has prevented the flow of sensitive information to India, a big deal for its IT industry.

India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was USD 137.41 billion in 2023-24 (exports USD 75.92 billion, imports USD 61.48 billion), making it the largest

trading partner of India for goods. The EU market accounts for about 17 per cent of India's total exports, while the EU's exports to India make up 9 per cent of its total exports.

In addition, the bilateral trade in services, in 2023, between India and the EU was estimated at USD 51.45 billion.

The agreement is aimed at further boosting bilateral trade and investments between the two. The two sides are negotiating a free trade agreement, an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications (GIs).



India to remain fastest growing major economy: IMF

PNS ■ NEW YORK

Multilateral financing agency International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that India will retain its position as the fastest-growing major economy by clocking a GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in 2025-26, on the back of robust private investment and macroeconomic stability.

India's strong economic performance, the IMF said, provides an opportunity for the country to advance critical and challenging structural reforms to realise the ambition of becoming an advanced economy by 2047. "Real GDP is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2024-25 and 2025-26, supported by robust growth in private consumption on the back of sustained macroeconomic and financial stability. According to the second

advance estimate released by the Indian government, the country's economy is expected to clock a growth rate of 6.5 per cent during 2024-25. "Headline inflation is expected to converge to target as food price shocks wane," the IMF said after Article IV consultations with India.

The IMF statement also underlined the need for deeper implementation of structural reforms to boost private investment and employment, and push growth.

"...comprehensive structural reforms are crucial to create high-quality jobs, invigorate investment, and unleash higher potential growth. Efforts should focus on implementing labour market reforms, strengthening human capital, and supporting greater participation of women in the labour force," it added.

Make Govt's annual accounts more user-friendly

FM Sitharaman urges civil accounts officers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday asked civil accounts services officials to work towards making the government's annual accounts more approachable and user-friendly.

Addressing the 49th Civil Accounts Day event here, Sitharaman lauded the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officers, led by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) for the "silent technological revolution" in which states are finding a lot more ease of operation and ease of getting their government business done by adopting the public financial



management system (PFMS). "I would also like you to examine, in consultation with the CAG, whether it would be possible to make the annual accounts more approachable and user-friendly and allow cit-

izens to analyse easily and generate customisable and simpler reports," Sitharaman said.

She said that since a lot of digital integration has already taken place with the states, more research can be carried out based on the data set available with the CGA. "If you're able to make the report a lot more user-friendly, that itself can generate a lot of interest in the work that you do," the Minister said.

Sitharaman also asked both the Expenditure Department and the CGA to ensure that the SNA Sparsh is smoothly rolled out for all schemes in the upcoming financial year.

GST collections rise 9 pc to Rs 1.84 lakh crore

Indicate economic revival, say experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gross GST collections rose by 9.1 per cent to about Rs 1.84 lakh crore in February, boosted by domestic consumption and indicating potential economic revival.

As per the official data released on Saturday, on a gross basis, mop up from Central GST stood at Rs 35,204 crore, State GST at Rs 43,704 crore, Integrated GST at Rs 90,870 crore and compensation cess of Rs 13,868 crore.

GST revenues from domestic transactions jumped 10.2 per cent to Rs 1.42 lakh crore while that from imports grew 5.4 per cent to Rs 41,702 crore during February.



Total refunds issued during February were Rs 20,889 crore, a 17.3 per cent increase over the year-ago period. Net GST collections during February 2025 grew 8.1 per cent to about Rs 1.63 lakh crore. Gross and net GST revenues in February 2024 were Rs 1.68 lakh crore and Rs 1.50 lakh crore, respectively.

The gross GST collections in February 2025, at Rs 1.84 lakh

crore are, however, lower than Rs 1.96 lakh crore collected in January 2025.

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the robust GST collection figures indicate that the Indian economy is withstanding global economic challenges.

"The consistent rise in domestic GST revenue compared to import-related collections points to the effective implementation of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat policies.

"Furthermore, the government's increased disbursement of domestic and export refunds, including those related to inverted duty structures, demonstrates its commitment to easing working capital pressures on businesses," Agarwal said.

Google building digital agri stack for India: official

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Global tech giant Google is building a digital agri-stack using satellite imagery and has started with a base layer that will help identify farm boundaries, a senior official said on Saturday.

Data and analysis of this base layer of the stack can be used in a slew of applications like bettering the subsidy payments, farm insurance or farm loans, Manish Gupta, a senior director at Google DeepMind said.

"...we have built the first such model that using satellite imagery analysis can now start to identify field boundaries based on usage pattern start to identify what crops are being



grown and so on," Gupta said, speaking at the Mumbai Tech Week here.

The model has taken inspiration from UIDAI's Aadhar, ascribing a unique ID to each farm and is intended to act as a base layer of the "digital agri

stack", he said. Gupta said it is upon the startups and other agri-tech players to build solutions which will provide loan crop insurance and also subsidies using the data churned out by the platform.

Honda Cars India sales drop 21 pc



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) on Saturday reported a 21 per cent decline in total sales at 10,323 units in February as compared to 13,078 units in the same month last year.

Domestic sales at 5,616 units and exports were at 4,707 units in the month of February 2025, HCIL said in a statement.

The company had registered 7,142 units in domestic sales and exported 5,936 units in February 2024, it added.

"The market conditions have been challenging for the auto industry where we saw reduced momentum in car registrations and difficulties in creating fresh demand during Feb as compared to last year," HCIL Vice President, Marketing & Sales Kunal Behl said.

The company's recent launches of all-new Amaze and special editions of Elevate Black and City Apex with good response from market have helped it to create new excitement in products and sustain sales in this tough period, he added.



Pandey promises focus on transparency, teamwork

Takes charge as Sebi chief

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Seasoned bureaucrat Tuhin Kant Pandey assumed charge as Sebi Chairman on Saturday, promising focus on transparency and teamwork. Pandey, formerly the Finance Secretary, termed Sebi as a "robust market institution" which has been built over the years by successive leaders.

Declining to outline his exact agenda or style of working, the successor to Madhabi Puri Buch, said he will not comment on anyone.

Buch, who had faced a slew of allegations of impropriety during the final few months of her term, was not present when Pandey arrived at the Sebi headquarters in the Bandra Kurla Complex business district. She is reportedly unwilling and down with a COVID infec-

tion. "Sebi is a very robust market institution, it has been built over the years with successive leaders and will continue," the 59-year-old Pandey told reporters.

The new chairman outlined his objectives, calling out the four Ts-- trust, transparency, teamwork, and technology-- as his key focus areas.

"I think these four elements make us (Sebi) distinctive, and we have created one, and we will continue to create one of the best market institutions in the world," he added.

He said Sebi is a great institution and the team led by him will continue to work towards its growth. It can be noted that in the last few months, there has been some unprecedented activity at Sebi, where a large section of its employees protested against the management.

Viksit Bharat'2047 a realisable ambition: Panagariya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stresses per capita income needs to grow at 7.3%

The 16th Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya on Saturday said India's aim to become a developed nation by 2047 is a "realisable ambition" for which the country's per-capita income needs to grow at 7.3 per cent in dollar terms to USD 14,000 over the next 24 years.

India's per-capita income, in 2023-24 dollar terms, is about USD 2,570, which is very low compared to countries like South Korea, Taiwan, United States, and other European nations.

Speaking at the 49th Civil Accounts Day, Panagariya said with the existing technology, coupled with reasonable capital accumulation and skill acquisition, India has "enormous room" for "catching up" with the per-capita income of developed

nations and meet World Bank's definition of USD 14,005 per capita income annually. "Today, our per capita income in dollars is about USD 2,500. To get to USD 14,000 in 24 years or by 2047-48, what growth rate do I need for per capita income?... my per capita income from 2023-24 onward has to grow annually at 7.3 per cent," Panagariya said.

He further said that as per the estimates by the United Nations, population in India would grow 0.6 per cent by 2050. This would mean that to achieve that 7.3 per cent growth in per capita income, India's GDP will have to grow at 7.9 per cent during the next 24 years.



"Today, our per capita income in dollars is about USD 2,500. To get to USD 14,000 in 24 years or by 2047-48, what growth rate do I need for per capita income?... my per capita income from 2023-24 onward has to grow annually at 7.3 per cent," Panagariya said

lar terms) for the last 21 years was at 7.8 per cent... To get from 7.8 per cent (GDP growth) to 7.9 per cent is entirely feasible. Our prospect of Viksit Bharat is a real-

isable ambition," Panagariya said. He further said that India needs to carry out necessary reforms, which will facilitate the emergence of the labour-

intensive industry on a larger scale so as to create good jobs for the masses.

"If you see, there are good jobs certainly for the very highly skilled. We have the pharmaceutical industry, machinery industry. These are all, you know, for engineers for talented engineers, etc. You got the jobs. But when it comes to the masses, I think, you know, there is a jobs issue," Panagariya noted.

To a question on whether time is ripe for India to move towards capital account convertibility, Panagariya said India has been managing exchange rate and that has served the country well. "I am more conservative on this. I would rather go slow on that one... So I will still wait for quite a while, actually, for our per capita income to rise to at least 8,000-10,000 US dollars," he said.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE
 NIT No. 29/EE/DIV-19/SLP/2024-25 Date: 01.03.2025
 No. of works: (10) Nos. Civil Works, Estimate Amount: Rs. 46.75 lakhs, Start Date/ Download End Date & time: 03.03.2025 @ 2.00 PM / 10.03.2025 Upto 2.00 PM
 Only Name & Address of the Officer: Executive Engineer, Division- 19, GHMC, Sir U. Raj Kumar, 99635-50654. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer
 R.O.No: 18771-PNCLADVT/2024-25, DL 01-03-2025 DIV-19, (SLP),GHMC

the pioneer agenda

"Life is too short to drive boring cars"
—ELVIS PRESLEY



VINTAGE CARS: THE ROYAL TOUCH

The erstwhile Maharajas of India had a deep fascination with luxury cars, particularly Rolls-Royce, which symbolised their opulence, status and power. During the early 20th century, Indian royalty became one of the biggest patrons of Rolls-Royce, commissioning custom-built models adorned with gold, ivory and exquisite embellishments. It is estimated that more than half of the Rolls-Royce cars produced in the world during that era were made for Indian Maharajas. These cars were not just transport; they showcased wealth, used in ceremonies, hunting, and even garbage collection.

THE TIMELESS CHARM OF

Vintage Cars

The passion for vintage cars in India is no longer limited to a select few; it has evolved into a nationwide obsession, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**, captured by **PANKAJ KUMAR**



THE RIGOROUS JUDGING PROCESS WAS LED BY A DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL PANEL FEATURING VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE EXPERTS SUCH AS CHRISTIAN KRAMER, WHITNEY OVERCKER, SHINICHI EKKO, ALEX VON MOZER AND ALLAN WINN.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF OLD CARS

- Contrary to popular perception not all cars are vintage cars. Old cars are classified into different categories based on the era of their manufacture, reflecting historical and technological advancements in automobile design. Here's a rundown of the key classifications:
- VETERAN CARS (PRE-1905)**
 - Also known as the Brass Era or Pioneer Era cars.
 - Characterized by hand-built craftsmanship, steam, electric, and early gasoline engines.
 - Example: 1886 Benz Patent-Motorwagen, the first car by Karl Benz.
 - EDWARDIAN CARS (1905-1918)**
 - Named after King Edward VII's reign in Britain.
 - Marked by improvements in internal combustion engines, the introduction of the steering wheel (replacing tillers), and mass production.
 - Example: Ford Model T (1908), which revolutionized the automobile industry with assembly line production.
 - VINTAGE CARS (1919-1930)**
 - Cars produced between World War I and the Great Depression.
 - More advanced engineering, stronger steel chassis, and luxurious coachbuilding.
 - Example: Rolls-Royce Phantom I (1925), Bugatti Type 35.
 - PRE-WAR CARS (1931-1945)**
 - Includes both Depression-Era Cars and World War II Vehicles.
 - Innovations like independent suspension, hydraulic brakes, and streamlined designs.
 - Example: Cadillac V16, Mercedes-Benz 540K, Volkswagen Beetle (designed in the late 1930s).
 - POST-WAR CLASSIC CARS (1946-1959)**
 - The post-WWII era saw major automotive growth with more stylish designs, tailfins, and the introduction of muscle cars.
 - Examples: Chevrolet Bel Air, Jaguar XK120, Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing.
 - CLASSIC CARS (1960-1979)**
 - Covers muscle cars, early supercars, and the transition to modern engineering.
 - Examples: Ford Mustang (1964), Porsche 911 (1964), Lamborghini Miura (1966).
 - MODERN CLASSICS OR YOUNGTIMERS (1980-1999)**
 - These are not officially vintage yet but are recognized as emerging classics.
 - Includes early supercars, high-performance sedans, and experimental designs.
 - Examples: Ferrari F40 (1987), McLaren F1 (1992), BMW E30 M3.
- Each of these categories reflects the evolving design, engineering, and cultural significance of automobiles throughout history.

THE 21 GUN SALUTE: CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

To honour vintage cars, numerous rallies are organised across the country throughout the year, with some gaining increasing popularity. One such event is the 21 Gun Salute. The heart of New Delhi witnessed an extraordinary spectacle as the 11th edition of the 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance. A breathtaking parade of over 125 rare vintage cars and 50 vintage motorcycles, capturing the essence of India's rich motoring history. The event featured an impressive lineup of iconic vehicles, including the 1939 Delahaye, the 1903 De Dion Bouton—one of the oldest cars in the concours—the 1917 Ford Model T Roadster and the regal 1935 Cadillac Fleetwood. The three day event concluded at the Leela Ambience, Gurugram. The coveted Best of Show award was claimed by the majestic 1922 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost of Mayurbhanj princely state, owned by Dhanraj Gidwani since 1992. Gidwani remarked, "All the cars in this event are special and priceless." The 1935 Buick 90L (ex-Ayodhya), owned by Diljit Titus, secured first prize in the Post-War American Coupe category.

Tarun Thakral, Founder and Managing Trustee of the Heritage Transport Museum.



A GROWING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

This event is a tribute to India's motoring legacy. Besides the sentimental value, vintage cars have also emerged as lucrative investments. As the demand for well-maintained classics rises, so does their market value. Collectors are willing to pay a premium for rare models, and auctions have seen skyrocketing prices for pristine examples. Owning a vintage car is now seen not only as a passion project but also as a valuable asset that appreciates over time.

Love for Vintage cars is no less than a romance of a lifetime. The person who falls for the beauty and demeanour of these old ladies has a love of a lifetime. For the uninitiated, recall Farhan Akhtar of the iconic Bollywood movie Zindagi namilegidobara who goes nuts just seeing these old cars in bright colours of red and sky blue. From the stunning curves of a 1929 Rolls-Royce Phantom II to the bold presence of a 1954 Chevrolet Bel Air, these 'old ladies' have a charm that is unmatched. Over the past few decades, the passion for vintage cars has seen a remarkable surge in India, with collectors and enthusiasts taking this love to new heights. For many vintage car enthusiasts, the fascination goes beyond aesthetics. These cars represent a bygone era of luxury, precision engineering and hand-crafted beauty. Owning and restoring a vintage car is akin to preserving a piece of history, with each vehicle carrying a unique story. Be it the grandeur of a Buick Super Eight or the timeless appeal of a Hindustan Landmaster, vintage cars have a soul that resonates deeply with collectors.

The Growth of Vintage Car Culture in India
In recent years, India has witnessed a rising trend in vintage car appreciation. What was once a niche hobby has now turned into a thriving community of collectors, restorers, and automobile historians. Vintage car rallies, exhibitions, and heritage drives have become a common sight in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Hyderabad. Events such as the 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally and the Cartier Concours d'Elegance have provided a platform for enthusiasts to showcase their prized possessions. Moreover, social media has played a crucial role in connecting vintage car lovers across the country.

Challenges and Triumphs of Restoration
Unlike modern vehicles with readily available spare parts, vintage cars often require extensive research and sourcing of original components. In India, restorers and mechanics specialising in vintage cars have become increasingly sought after. Cities like Chennai and Pune have seen the rise of skilled craftsmen who can meticulously rebuild engines, repair bodywork and replicate period-correct interiors. Interestingly enough the earlier cars were made of wood and a metal sheet was plastered over it to give a metallic look. Besides their spoke wheels and their carriage style gave them a majestic look. Many of these cars are painstakingly restored and are at display in Heritage Transport Museum in Delhi NCR. "Restoring old cars is like preserving a piece of history. It's a meticulous process to bring them back to their original glory," says Tarun Thakral, whose passion brought the Heritage Transport Museum to life. Despite the challenges, the joy of seeing a beautifully restored classic on the road is unparalleled.

Preserving Automotive Heritage
With the growing interest in vintage cars, there is also a renewed focus on preserving India's automotive heritage. Museums and private collectors are working to document and showcase the evolution of automobiles in India. Efforts are being made to protect historically significant vehicles from being scrapped or lost to time. Vintage car clubs, restoration garages and automobile historians are ensuring that the legacy of these "old ladies" continues to thrive. Their dedication highlights that these cars are symbols of history, art and engineering excellence.

FROM THRONES TO TRIALS

Post-independence in 1947, the princely states were integrated into the Republic of India, and the economic realities shifted drastically. The newly independent nation imposed high taxes on princely wealth and the Privy Purse-financial allowances given to the former royals-was abolished in 1971 by the Indian government. Stripped of their vast fortunes, many Maharajas had no choice but to sell off their prized possessions, including their magnificent Rolls-Royce collections, to collectors and museums worldwide. Today, these cars remain a testament to a bygone era of regal extravagance.



Combining tradition, nutrition & fun

Holi, the festival of colours, is a time of joy, laughter and indulgence. It's that time of the year when we forget our diets, dive into plates of gujiyas, and sip on thandai without a second thought. But what if we told you that you can enjoy the festive flavours of Holi without compromising your health? Yes, you read that right! This year, let's give a healthy twist to traditional Holi foods, making them not just delicious but also nourishing. And while we're at it, let's reveal some fascinating facts about Holi delicacies that you probably didn't know!



undeniably tasty, they're often deep-fried and high in sodium. This year, try making baked versions of these snacks at home. Use whole wheat flour, add a mix of seeds like flax and sesame for crunch, and season them with herbs like rosemary or thyme for a unique flavour.

Another great option is roasted chana or spiced chickpeas. They're high in protein, low in calories, and perfect for munching on while playing with colors. You can also make a colorful trail mix with dried fruits, nuts, and a sprinkle of chaat masala for that festive touch.

THE POWER OF NATURAL COLOURS

While this blog is about food, we can't ignore the role of colors in Holi. Did you know that the colors used during Holi were originally made from natural ingredients like turmeric, beetroot, and flowers? These not only added vibrancy to the festival but also had skincare benefits.

This Holi, why not extend the concept of "healthy" to the colours you use? Opt for organic, herbal colours that are safe for your skin and the environment. And while you're at it, pair them with a plate of healthy snacks for a truly wholesome celebration.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Holi is a time to celebrate, connect, and indulge. But that doesn't mean you have to abandon your health goals. With a few simple swaps and creative tweaks, you can enjoy all your favorite festive foods without the guilt. Plus, knowing the fascinating history and benefits of these dishes adds an extra layer of appreciation for the festival.

So, this Holi, let's paint the town red (and green, and yellow) with vibrant colours and nourishing foods. After all, a healthy celebration is a happy celebration!

(The author, Dr Ridhima Khamsera, is a clinical dietician.)

THE SECRET HISTORY OF GUJIYA

Let's start with the star of Holi—gujiya. This crescent-shaped sweet is a staple in every household during the festival. But did you know that gujiya has its roots in the royal kitchens of medieval India? It was originally created as a luxurious dessert for kings and queens, filled with dry fruits, khoya and aromatic spices. Over time, it became a festive favourite for everyone.

While the traditional gujiya is undeniably delicious, it's also loaded with sugar and ghee. This year, let's give it a healthy makeover. Swap refined flour with whole wheat or almond flour, and replace sugar with

jaggery or dates. For the filling, use roasted nuts, seeds, and a hint of cardamom for that authentic flavor. You can even bake them instead of deep-frying to cut down on excess oil. Trust us, your taste buds won't miss a thing!

THANDAI: MORE THAN JUST A FESTIVE DRINK

Thandai is synonymous with Holi, and for good reason. This cooling drink, made with milk, nuts and spices, is the perfect antidote to the playful chaos of the festival. But here's something you might not know: thandai was originally concocted as an Ayurvedic tonic to beat the heat and boost energy during summers.

The blend of almonds, fennel, rose petals, and saffron is not just delicious but also packed with nutrients.

To make your thandai even healthier, use plant-based milk like almond or oat milk instead of regular dairy. You can also skip the sugar and sweeten it naturally with honey or stevia. Add a pinch of black pepper or ginger for an extra kick of flavour and digestion-boosting properties. Serve it chilled, and you've got yourself a drink that's both refreshing and guilt-free.

THE MAGIC OF PURAN POLI

Puran poli, a sweet flatbread stuffed with lentil and jaggery filling, is a Holi favorite in many Indian households.

But did you know that this dish has a cultural significance beyond its taste? In Maharashtra, it's often prepared during festivals as a symbol of prosperity and abundance.

To give this traditional dish a healthy twist, use whole wheat or multigrain flour for the dough. For the filling, replace jaggery with mashed bananas or date paste for natural sweetness. You can also add a dash of cinnamon or nutmeg to enhance the flavor without adding extra calories. Cook it on a non-stick pan with minimal ghee, and you've got a lighter version of this festive treat.

BHANG: THE ANCIENT ELIXIR

No Holi celebration is complete

without a mention of bhang, a traditional drink made from cannabis leaves. While it's known for its intoxicating effects, bhang has a rich history in Ayurveda as a medicinal herb. It was used to treat ailments like anxiety, pain, and even digestive issues. If you're planning to include bhang in your festivities, moderation is key. Pair it with healthy snacks like roasted makhana or baked namak pare to balance out the experience. And remember, always consume it responsibly!

HEALTHY SNACKS FOR HOLI

Holi is also about munching on savory snacks like papdi, mathri, and namak pare. While these are

WHAT'S NEW

INDULGEO ESSENTIALS - ROSE GOLD OIL

Enhance your skincare routine with the luxurious Rose Gold Oil by Indulgeo Essentials. This indulgent facial oil is infused with 24K gold flakes and a blend of premium essential oils to hydrate, prep, and illuminate your skin for a radiant, glowing finish.

Price: Rs 2,700

AQUALOGICA REFRESH+ ON THE GO - SET OF 3 PERFUME BODY MISTS

The Aqualogica Refresh+ On The Go set features three delightful perfume body mists - Sun-Kissed Vanilla, Dewy Floral Kiss, and Sweet Summer Kiss. From the warm sweetness of vanilla and caramel to a refreshing floral bouquet and a playful strawberry-musk blend, this set is perfect for those who love to switch up their scent. Infused with Hyaluronic Acid & Zemea, these mists not only smell divine but also keep the skin hydrated and fresh.



SUN-KISSED, NOT SUN-DAMAGED!

Summer brings longer days, warmer temperatures and plenty of sunshine, but it also demands extra care for your skin. The combination of heat, humidity and increased sun exposure can lead to dehydration, sunburn, and premature aging if not properly managed. Staying hydrated, cleansing regularly to remove sweat and excess oil, and incorporating soothing ingredients like aloe vera and vitamin C can help maintain a healthy glow. Whether you're battling sun damage or just trying to keep your skin fresh, adjusting your skincare to the season's needs is key to looking and feeling your best all summer long.

SKINDELI - A YOUTH SCULPTOR THAT BUDDY WHO MAKES YOU FEEL YOUNGER

Get ready for skin that feels as tight as those hugs from your best friends. A Youth Sculptor is an anti-ageing face serum that works to help improve cell turnover & communication, boost collagen & elastin production and target premature ageing whilst combatting damage due to internal & external stressors. Powered by Copper Peptides and Brahmi a.k.a. Gotu kola, A Youth Sculptor serum helps achieve visibly sculpted, tighter and toned skin.

Price: Rs 798



KUMKUMADI OIL SERUM

Kumkumadi Oil by A' Dash Of Me is an elixir crafted from saffron and 20+ rare Ayurvedic herbs. This miracle oil is enriched with pure goat milk and red sandalwood and works like magic overnight to reveal your skin's natural radiance. Experience the transformative power of this ancient natural formula as it gently fades pigmentation, softens fine lines, and infuses your skin with deep nourishment.

Rs 1,299.00



SKINVEST - FACE HUG BARRIER REPAIR MOISTURIZER

Pamper your skin with the ultimate care and hydration with Face Hug from Skinvest. This luxurious Barrier Repair Moisturizer is infused with 70% Rice Water, known for its soothing and restorative properties. Designed to deeply nourish and strengthen your skin's barrier, this moisturizer provides long-lasting hydration while addressing dryness, irritation, and sensitivity.

Price: Rs 1,400



HOROSCOPE



ARIES

An exciting encounter awaits. Stay persistent but manage expectations. Use your strengths wisely, handle stress effectively and communicate clearly-success will follow.



TAURUS

New connections will intrigue you. Stay patient through career delays and trust your instincts. Avoid impulsive choices and channel energy into meaningful pursuits.



GEMINI

Your appreciation for beauty leads to opportunities. Stay resilient despite obstacles, focus on goals, and trust colleagues. A positive outlook ensures success.



CANCER

Be kind to yourself and others. Resolve misunderstandings, balance principles, and embrace support. Stay loyal and focused-your efforts will pay off.



LEO

Someone special will open your heart. Stay composed amid family pressures. Offer support, focus on meaningful work, and success will follow.



VIRGO

Your guidance benefits loved ones. Balance personal growth with duties. Stay calm, avoid emotional outbursts, and manage stress while focusing on projects.



LIBRA

Resilience helps you overcome setbacks. Strengthen relationships and address doubts with your spouse. Obstacles may slow progress, but positivity keeps you on track.



SCORPIO

Financial pressures arise, but staying calm helps. Friends will support your success. Embrace new ideas, stay determined, and enjoy a rewarding trip.



SAGITTARIUS

A stimulating connection awaits-express your feelings before it's too late. Stay confident despite setbacks, focus on the future, and good health will follow.



CAPRICORN

Attraction and harmony define your week. Strengthen relationships, care for your health, and communicate openly. Students should prioritise studies.



AQUARIUS

You'll feel drawn to someone-persist despite initial setbacks. Address emotional concerns, communicate with your spouse, and don't let work disrupt plans. Recognition is near.



PISCES

Unexpected attractions could change your life. Seek beauty and harmony but avoid excess. Prioritise quality time with loved ones to strengthen relationships.

'Every project motivates me to push the boundaries of what's possible'

TEJAL SINHA
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In the ever-evolving world of interior design, few names command as much recognition as Susanne Khan. With an eye for detail and an instinct for innovation, she has redefined the way spaces are envisioned and experienced. Since founding The Charcoal Project in 2011, her journey has been one of continuous exploration—blending timeless elegance with cutting-edge technology to create interiors that are both striking and deeply functional. Now, with the unveiling of her latest flagship store in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills, she embarks on a new chapter, bringing her signature aesthetic to a city known for its rich heritage and modern aspirations. More than just a design destination, this six-floor space redefines interiors by seamlessly integrating advanced home automation, intelligent lighting and high-end aesthetics. With a focus on "quiet luxury" and a deep appreciation for personal storytelling through design, Susanne aims to offer Hyderabad a new era of immersive, functional, and bespoke interiors. With the launch of the flagship store in the vibrant and historic city of Hyderabad, *The Pioneer* had an opportunity to delve into her journey, her design philosophy and what this new chapter in her creative evolution means. The Charcoal Project's new home in Hyderabad's iconic Jubilee Hills isn't just a store; it's a carefully crafted space designed to push the boundaries of interior design. The decision to choose Hyderabad for this flagship location stems from a confluence of factors. "Hyderabad is a revelation—it's a city that is both progressive and dynamic. While I hadn't spent much time here before, my visit was eye-opening. The warmth of the people, the authenticity and their appreciation for refined living made it the perfect location to bring our vision to life."



depending on the client and the context." This mindset was influenced by her time studying design at Brooks College in Palm Springs, where she learned the importance of continuous growth and the exploration of new materials and forms. Every year, she revisits the latest design trends, drawing inspiration from her travels and experiences, keeping her work fresh and attuned to the pulse of the design community. The design philosophy at The Charcoal Project is best understood through Susanne's signature style—what she refers to as "quiet luxe." This concept blends industrial masculinity with a feminine, edgy sensibility, creating a balance that allows the space to feel both bold and understated. "I have two distinct sides to my personality," she explains. "One is bold, edgy, and industrial. While I may appear feminine, my true aesthetic leans toward designs that are structured, functional, and often more masculine in nature." At the same time, she embraces a deep appreciation for luxury that isn't ostentatious but speaks softly. When asked to define "quiet luxury," Susanne elaborates: "It's about creating spaces that focus on the

senses. It's not just what you see but how a space makes you feel. It's about the scent, the texture, the tactile experience. Luxury isn't always about opulence. Sometimes, it's about the contrast—glossy, exuberant elements paired with matte, understated details. That's when the magic happens." The new Hyderabad store is set to showcase this philosophy, spanning six floors filled with an eclectic mix of collections from both renowned local and global designers. Susanne's approach to curating such a diverse range was guided by a singular vision: to offer something for everyone. "We want to welcome anyone who wants to add a little 'Charcoal' quotient to their space," she says. "Our mission has always been to refresh and excite. With this new store, we present a range of possibilities, ensuring there's something here for every taste." One of the standout features of this new space is the dedicated floor for Gauri Khan Designs, a

collaboration that reflects Susanne's long-standing friendship and mutual respect with Gauri Khan. "Gauri is an incredibly dear friend," Susanne shares. "I've always



Gauri is an incredibly dear friend. I've always admired her unique sensibility and distinctive style. We complement each other beautifully, and having her as part of the Hyderabad store brings a new layer of diversity to the customer experience

always been client-centric. "The space belongs to the client, and their happiness is my top priority," she explains. "My role is to elevate their ideas, ensuring

that their vision is realized while also adding my own expertise and creativity. It's about striking the right balance between personal vision and professional insight."

While creating these unique spaces is rewarding, it's also challenging. Susanne prefers to view these challenges as opportunities for growth rather than obstacles. "Every project motivates me to push the boundaries of what's possible. I've learned that when you reach a point where you're comfortable, it's time to shake things up and explore new possibilities," she says. These experiences have significantly expanded her understanding of design, helping her refine her skills and sharpen her approach.

As a woman leading a brand in a traditionally male-dominated industry, Susanne has some empowering advice for aspiring female designers: "Trust your instincts, embrace your individuality, and challenge the status quo. Design is about storytelling, and your unique perspective is your strength. Innovation comes from fearlessly reimagining materials, forms, and functions. Surround yourself with inspiring people, keep learning, and never let the industry define you—redefine it with your vision."

Looking ahead, Susanne's ultimate vision is one that redefines the landscape of interior design in India. "I want to create soulful, functional spaces where innovation, craftsmanship, and technology merge seamlessly," she shares. "I see The Charcoal Project as more than just a destination; it's a movement. A movement that challenges conventions and inspires people to embrace bold, personal interiors. Through collaborations with artisans and designers, I want to help shape a future where every space tells a unique story of individuality and quiet luxury."

As Susanne continues to push the boundaries of design, The Charcoal Project in Hyderabad represents not just the next chapter of her brand, but a fresh wave in the evolution of interior design in India—one that blends innovation, art, and functionality to create spaces that are truly unique.

Susanne Khan, the visionary behind The Charcoal Project, brings her signature blend of innovation, craftsmanship and understated luxury to Hyderabad with the launch of her flagship store in Jubilee Hills. *The Pioneer* caught up with Susanne over an exclusive chat as she discusses her journey, Hyderabad being the latest chapter and more

With a remarkable portfolio spanning advanced home automation systems, premium kitchen brands like Häcker and Easy Kitchen and top-of-the-line audio-visual merchandise, Susanne and her partners—Karan Bajaj, Nafees Ahmed and Rishabh Jain—are introducing a new era of immersive spaces. "The Charcoal Project Hyderabad is not just about interior products," Khan explains. "It's about innovation. It's about advanced automation systems, intelligent lighting and state-of-the-art audio-visual solutions. These elements seamlessly fuse with furniture and living spaces, creating an experience that is both functional and aesthetically exceptional." Over the years, her creative journey has evolved, constantly embracing new trends while retaining a commitment to timeless design. "My personal style is incredibly versatile," she reflects. "I believe that one should not adhere to a singular style throughout life. It's about constant evolution, adapting and growing



Hyderabad is a revelation—it's a city that is both progressive and dynamic. While I hadn't spent much time here before, my visit was eye-opening. The warmth of the people, the authenticity, and their appreciation for refined living made it the perfect location to bring our vision to life.

TRENDING

PERSON

NILAM SHINDE

Neelam Shinde, a resident of Maharashtra, has been in a coma following a reported accident in California on February 14. Her family had been urgently seeking a visa to be by her side during this critical time. After their appeal, they have now been granted the necessary permission to travel.



WOMAN MAULED BY SIX STRAY DOGS

VIDEO



A disturbing CCTV video from a basement parking area in Greater Noida West has gone viral, showing a woman being attacked by six stray dogs. The alarming footage has sparked widespread outrage on social media, with many users calling for stricter measures to address the growing stray dog population and ensure public safety.

MOVIE

MAHASANGHAM

Acclaimed filmmaker Bharat Bala is set to bring an evocative new cinematic experience to the big screen with *Mahasangam*, an intense exploration of family, legacy and music, all unfolding within the mystical and chaotic grandeur of the Mahakumbh.



SONG

BAITHI HO KYUN GUMSUM



On the first death anniversary of legendary ghazal maestro Pankaj Udhas, his final posthumous track, *Baithi Ho Kyun Gumsum*, has been released by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series. The soulful melody serves as a poignant tribute to the late singer, ensuring that his legacy continues to resonate with fans worldwide.

15,000 WORKERS CLEAN MAHA KUMBH

PICTURE



During the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, over 15,000 sanitation workers participated in a large-scale cleanliness drive across four designated zones. The synchronised effort, conducted on Monday, aimed to set a Guinness World Record for maintaining cleanliness at the grand religious gathering.

GREEN BOOM: GOVERNMENT PUSH AND MARKET DEMAND PROPEL GREEN BUILDINGS

The adoption of green-certified buildings in India is accelerating, driven by regulatory incentives, policy mandates and increasing consumer awareness. According to the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), India is the third-largest market for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified buildings, with more than 8.5 million square feet of green-certified space. Industry experts expect this growth will continue, citing government regulations, climate action commitments and the financial benefits of sustainable construction as key drivers. The shift is supported by both public sector policies and private sector investments, as developers align their projects with India's sustainability goals for the years ahead.

Government push for sustainable construction

The government has launched several initiatives to promote eco-friendly real estate development, including the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), which sets minimum energy efficiency standards for new buildings. Municipalities in cities like Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai offer property tax rebates of up to 10% for projects that meet sustainability benchmarks.

These measures are in line with India's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has emphasised the importance of integrating energy-efficient construction practices into urban planning, especially in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, where informed customers are increasingly demanding sustainable solutions.

Financial and economic benefits drive market adoption

Data from real estate industry bodies suggest that while green-certified buildings require an initial investment which is 3-5% higher than conventional structures, long-term cost savings on electricity, water and maintenance outweigh the upfront costs and eventually help in mapping a more robust green and sustainable ecosystem.

Industry estimates indicate that energy-efficient homes can reduce electricity consumption by 30-50% through features like advanced insulation, smart lighting systems and solar power integration. Water conservation technolo-

gies, including rainwater harvesting and high-efficiency plumbing fixtures, can lower water usage by up to 40%. Analysts tracking real estate investment trends report that homebuyers and institutional investors are increasingly considering sustainability as a key determinant of property value.

Rising demand for green homes in Indian cities

Consumer demand for green housing has risen sharply, particularly in metros and Tier-1 cities, where energy costs and water shortages are driving homebuyers to seek resource-

efficient properties. According to a recent survey conducted by a real estate research firm, over 60% of prospective homebuyers in urban areas expressed a preference for properties with green certifications. They cite lower utility costs, enhanced indoor air quality and long-term financial benefits as the primary motivators.

From a latest trend, the developers are increasingly incorporating sustainability elements into new projects as demand for eco-conscious housing continues to grow in prime cities like Gurgaon, Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad. Some of the recent survey findings also suggest that green-certified properties command a resale premium in the market, with energy-effi-

cient homes attracting more buyers due to their lower long-term costs.

Health benefits and improved quality of living

Beyond financial savings, green buildings significantly contribute to public health by improving indoor air quality and reducing pollutants. Certified projects prioritise low-VOC (volatile organic compound) materials, enhanced ventilation systems and natural lighting, all of which help minimise exposure to allergens and airborne toxins. With air pollution being a major concern in India's urban areas, green buildings are designed to tackle this issue by incorporating advanced filtration systems and energy-efficient designs, offering occupants a healthier and more comfortable indoor environment.

Types of green certifications in India

India has developed several esteemed green building certification systems to promote sustainability in the real estate sector. Among the most prominent are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) and GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment).

LEED, established by the U.S. Green Building Council, evaluates buildings based on key sustainability metrics such as energy efficiency, water conservation, and carbon footprint reduction. IGBC, managed by the Confederation of Indian Industry, offers a rating system that is specifically designed to address India's unique climate and environmental challenges. GRIHA, endorsed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, assesses buildings on parameters such as sustainable site planning, resource-efficient mate-

rials, and waste management strategies.

Each certification system categorises buildings into various levels—Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum—depending on their performance in meeting environmental and sustainability standards. These certifications not only support eco-friendly practices but also play a crucial role in driving the growth of green buildings across India.

Few challenges in large-scale adoption

Despite growing awareness, several challenges hinder the widespread adoption of green-certified buildings in India. High upfront costs for energy-efficient materials and advanced construction techniques remain a key barrier for developers. Additionally, limited awareness among homebuyers and developers about the financial and environmental benefits of green projects further slows progress. A shortage of skilled labor in green construction also hampers the supply chain.

Government incentives and educational initiatives could help overcome these obstacles, supporting the transition to sustainable building practices. With growing government support and a focus on energy efficiency, green-certified buildings are gaining traction, especially in cities prioritising sustainability. Although challenges like higher initial costs remain, the demand for certified properties continues to rise. As urbanisation increases, green construction will be crucial to India's long-term infrastructure development, benefiting both the real estate sector and housing finance companies.

(The author, Madhvi Gupta, is the Head - Marketing and Communications, at IIFL Home Finance.)



RAO RAMESH — THE MASTER OF VERSATILITY

QUIET SCHOLAR

I was born in Srikakulam and brought up in Chennai, where I started my schooling from the first standard. During my school years, I was a bright student, consistently securing the 5th or 6th rank in my class. I have always been a calm person, and my focus was on my studies. There were no mischievous incidents during my school days, as I never paid attention to such distractions. From my childhood until now, I have always remained honest, sincere, and focused on my work. I studied at Velankanni School and later at Ramakrishna School, where I built the foundation of my education and values.



Rao Ramesh is a celebrated actor in Telugu cinema, known for his ability to bring depth and authenticity to every role. Son of legendary actor Rao Gopal Rao, his career spans over two decades, with standout performances in *Gamyam*, *Magadheera*, *Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu*, *Duvvada Jagannadham*, *Katamarayudu*, *Kotha Bangaru Lokam*, *Khaleja* and *A.. Aa...* His impeccable voice modulation, natural dialogue delivery and ability to seamlessly switch between roles—be it a villain, comic character, or father—set him apart. Following the legacy of icons like SV Ranga Rao, Kaikala Satyanarayana and many more, Rao Ramesh has become a defining character actor of his generation. In an industry where non-Telugu actors are often cast, he proves that true impact comes from understanding the language and culture. Writers frequently craft roles specifically for him, a testament to his profound influence and unique presence in Telugu cinema. He takes *The Pioneer's* Suresh Kavirayani through his early days, the legacy of his father and more



LEGACY OF INTEGRITY & DISCIPLINE

You all know my father, Rao Gopal Rao, a great actor who made his own unique mark in Telugu cinema. He passed away in 1994. My mother, Kamala Kumari, was a Harikatha exponent before she got married. My father hailed from the Rajas dynasty, and my parents had a love marriage—my father was captivated by my mother's Harikatha performances. On my mother's side, the family has a rich legacy of Carnatic musicians. She passed away in 2018. My father always told us to never lie. He was a great admirer of socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia, and he despised dishonesty. He made it a point to instill in us the importance of truthfulness, and would get extremely angry if anyone lied. This value of honesty has been deeply ingrained in me and it's why I always strive to work honestly, sincerely and remain focused on my work. Another crucial lesson I learned from him was the importance of discipline. My father had a deep love for the Telugu language and was an avid reader of Telugu literature. We had an extensive library filled with Telugu literary works, and I, too, grew up reading and learning the language. From him, I learned how to read, write, and speak Telugu properly, which remains an important part of my identity.

FATHER'S DEMISE; END OF AN ERA

My father passed away in 1994, which was a huge shock for us. He was a great actor, having worked in nearly 280 films, and had made his mark with his exceptional dialogue delivery and acting performance. We were at a loss about what to do, whom to approach, and how to lead the family forward. While we may not have had many interactions with him, we always knew he deeply loved us. My brother was supposed to leave for the USA, but due to our father's sudden demise, he decided not to go.

FRIENDSHIP THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

When I was in school, my best friends were Balaji, Babu, and Murali. Nearly 40 years later, we continue to be great friends, staying in touch every alternate day. Despite living in different cities, our bond remains as strong as ever, as we make it a point to meet whenever possible. What keeps our friendship intact is our mutual understanding—money is never a topic of conversation. We made a pact not to borrow from each other, which has helped us maintain our friendship over the years. We talk about various things, have fun, and cherish our time together, but money is something we never discuss.



REBUILDING LIFE POST FATHER'S DEATH

After my father's passing, life felt empty, and I found myself in a state of confusion. I had applied for a course in live action and animation at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in California. I was accepted into the program for Hollywood photography, but I chose not to go. Suddenly, life seemed void, and I distanced myself from photography. I spent my time aimlessly, hanging out with friends and wandering around the streets of Chennai. I didn't know what direction to take after my father's death, and for two years, I remained idle.

THE SPARK OF PHOTOGRAPHY PASSION

After my tenth grade, I developed a strong interest in photography, possibly due to my friend Balaji. He needed a cameraman, and it was through him that I became deeply attracted to photography. I decided to pursue this passion, even though it led me to discontinue my B.Com degree midway. I found myself constantly thinking about lighting and experimenting with various photography techniques. My parents encouraged me to complete my degree, but I couldn't focus on anything other than photography. I carried a camera with me everywhere and immersed myself in the world of photography.

FACING CAMERA FIRST TIME

Ghantasala Ratna Kumar, along with Nimbus Company, started a serial and offered me a role. Though I'm not sure of the exact year, it was around 1999. I began acting in that serial, but it was discontinued midway, so it never came to fruition. Once again, I found myself without work, but I decided to try my luck in films. I came to Hyderabad and met Paruchuri Gopalakrishna, who offered me a small role in *Seema Simham* in 2002, where I played Simran's brother. However, after that, I realised that I wasn't getting much work in films, so I decided to shift back to Chennai.



SENIOR ACTOR NAGESH'S WISE WORDS

At that time senior actor Nagesh came to my house. "The history of Rao Gopal Rao ends today and the phone in your house rings from tomorrow onwards, I will change my name. You have to learn practicality from now on, and you concentrate on your study and work," said Nagesh to my brother Kranthi. Actually, it was a great saying from him. My mother took over the responsibility of the house.

LEARNING THROUGH PRACTICE AND EXPERIMENTATION

I worked as a camera assistant for director KS Prakash's film and also assisted in K. Raghavendra Rao's films, such as *Janaki Ramudu* and *Akhari Poratam*. My goal was to learn about photography, not to earn money as an assistant cameraman. Some people looked at me strangely because I was the son of the legendary Rao Gopal Rao, wondering why I needed to work as a cameraman. Even director YVS Chowdhary asked me, "Why do you want to work like this, Ramesh?" But my thoughts were different—I wanted to expand my knowledge and learn new things in photography. During my time in college, I spent countless hours at the British Library, reading books on photography. I took photographs in nature and also conducted many experiments to refine my skills.



MOTHER'S WISDOM: GUIDING ME TOWARD ACTING

After my marriage, I wanted to do something, but I didn't know how to approach it. My comfort zone was my friends, so I spent time with them. I aspired to become a director and even wrote a couple of stories. However, my mother persuaded me to act in films instead of directing. She said, "You want to direct, but who will give you a chance? What do you think, being a director is easy? It's like a tunnel, and you don't know what's on the other side. Directors learn many things from life, and that's how they write stories. Direction is not just about photography, lenses, and films; direction is life. You don't know anything about life yet, so first, learn about life. Focus on acting because it's in your blood and DNA. You have talent in you, but it hasn't come out yet, so start acting. Only then will you understand life."

MOTHER'S INFLUENCE LED TO A NEW CHAPTER

Eventually, my mother encouraged me to get married, although I had hoped to first settle down in my career. However, she insisted, and on February 21, 1996, I got married to Gayatri. Together, we have two children—a son and a daughter.



BREAKTHROUGH ROLE IN GAMYAM, NO LOOKING BACK LATER

I received many offers for serials, but my ultimate wish was to act in films. I got an offer from Chandrasekhar Yeleti's film *Okkadunnadu*, in which I appeared in just one scene. I was tense because my dates clashed with both my serial commitments and the film shoot. At that time, Chandrasekhar Yeleti told me, "Ramesh garu, don't get tense, the industry will adjust your dates in the future," and this was 18 years ago. Unfortunately, I didn't get any other film offers, so I returned to serials and acted in a serial called *Sireesha* for ETV. Later, Bibo Srinivas, a friend of mine and one of the producers of *Gamyam*, recommended director Krish my name and offered me a role in his film. I played a Naxalite in the film, and that became the turning point of my career. After the film was released, I received immense appreciation for my role, and I never looked back. February 29, 2008, is a memorable day for me. I watched the film at the RTC Cross Roads theatre and felt immense happiness about the positive response. Since the release of *Gamyam*, my career has never been the same.

REFUSING THE TAMIL REMAKE LED TO BIGGER HITS

The same *Kalavari Kodalu* was planned for a Tamil remake to air on Sun TV. Balaji Telefilms offered me double the remuneration and wanted me to play the same role in Tamil. However, I refused to take up the offer. Omkar was angry with me for not accepting, but I remained firm in my decision. I declined because I wanted to explore something new, not repeat the same role. Money was never my priority; the quality of work was always more important. I didn't want to stay stuck in the same serial, shooting at the same location, with the same people. I wanted to challenge myself by working with different production houses and in new environments. This led to my role in the serial *Jayam* on ETV, where I played Singapore Bangaru Babu, and it became a big hit. I also worked in two Tamil serials, where I delivered live-synced dialogues in Tamil. Initially, I struggled a bit, but eventually, I got the hang of it and delivered dialogues that were appreciated.

THE ADVERTISING AGENCY I NEVER STARTED

I learned a lot about photography by always carrying my camera and walking around on the roads or in different places. I was particularly interested in advertising photography, so I went to Bengaluru to pursue it. My younger brother was studying there and I shared a room with one of his friends while attending classes. I also worked as a photography assistant at an ad agency and did industrial photography for several major industries. Although I had aspirations of starting my own advertising agency, it never materialised. While working at the ad agency and in the film industry, I was offered money for my work, but I never accepted it. My focus was not on the commercial side of things, and I always declined the payment, explaining that I wanted to learn as a student. I watched movies primarily to study photography, observing how color patterns, lighting and other elements were used. I was a great admirer of cinematographer Ashok Mehta and his films like *Utsav*, *Trikaal* and *Mandi*. I also admired Radhu Karmakar, who worked on many films for Raj Kumar, as well as Marcus Bartley and Ravikanth Nagayach. My life has been smooth, as I continue with my photography, enjoy watching movies and cherish my friendships.



STORY OF MY ROLE IN KALAVARI KODALU

Writer and actor Omkar had great admiration for my father. He had seen me act in my first serial and offered me a role in *Pavitra Bandham*. One day, I received a call from Balaji Telefilms, asking me to come to their office. Since my car was in for servicing, I rushed to their office in an auto. After the meeting, they asked about my salary, but I wasn't sure what to ask for. They set it at Rs 1,500. At the time, I didn't want money to become a barrier, as I was eager to work. I feared I might lose the opportunity, so I immediately accepted the amount. That's how I started my life again with another serial. My first paycheck was Rs 15,000 for 10 days of work, which I offered at the Tirupati temple. My next project was *Kalavari Kodalu*, where I played the character of Hari. Omkar wrote some great punch dialogues for me, and my character became an instant hit.

