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HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

ON THIS OCCASION

PEOPLE'S GOVERNANCE TOOK ANOTHER STEP FORWARD BY

LAUNCHING 4 WELFARE SCHEMES

RYTHU BHAROSA

INDIRAMMA ATMIYA BHAROSA

INDIRAMMA INDLU

NEW RATION CARDS

People's Government: Path to Progress and Welfare for All

Revanth's Davos Stint Leaves TDP Lobby in a Tizzy

Andhra Pradesh's TDP lobby held the upper hand in securing lucrative deals. With Rs 1.7 lakh crore worth of MoUs bagged for Telangana, whispers are rife about how Revanth managed to pull off what many thought impossible. While Telangana's spending on the Davos trip was reportedly modest, the contrast with Andhra Pradesh's efforts couldn't be more glaring. Andhra seemingly spent three times more than Telangana. Despite setting up a pavilion, Andhra reserved a hotel to conduct the meetings. The Pavilion was just a namesake. The lacklustre performance has left many scratching their heads. Chandrababu's recent remark that the Davos summit is more about "marketing than signing MoUs" has raised eyebrows, particularly among those who remember his criticism of Former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for skipping the event altogether. As the Kamma lobby, known for leveraging high-profile networks, grapples with this unexpected turn, murmurs suggest that Revanth's achievement has thrown a spanner in their carefully curated narrative of influence. The sheer scale of Telangana's success under Revanth has left many wondering -

Revanth Reddy is simply following his guru's footsteps," he remarked, dragging in a laundry list of past scandals - phone tapping, Kaleshwaram, drugs, and farmhouses- that he says have conveniently disappeared from the spotlight. While the Formula E case fizzles out, Sanjay seems to think the Congress and its media frenzy have found a new formula: hype without action. The question now is, who's running the real race - KTR, Congress, or the breaking news channels?

BRS forgets its glory while taking potshots

In a classic case of shooting itself in the foot, the BRS seems to be so busy undermining the Rs 1.7 lakh crore investments secured at Davos that it has forgotten to celebrate its role in making them possible. Whispers in political circles suggest that of these deals, at least Rs1 lakh crore worth of investments in data centres can directly be credited to KCR's vision for a power-surplus Telangana. Remember those days before 2014? Industries protesting at Indira Park over power cuts - Telangana was stuck with the dubious tag of being power-defi-

intimidating the press, journalists have taken this approach in stride, with some even anticipating the "name and channel" drill during his interactions. Media professionals, known for their resilience, continue to ask hard-hitting questions, unfazed by Bhatti's attempt to shift the focus momentarily. Interestingly, Bhatti's responses appear to vary depending on the perceived leanings of the journalist's channel. For opposition-friendly outlets, his replies often take a sharper tone, leading to lively exchanges that have become a hallmark of his press meets. Rather than deterring the media, Bhatti's tactic has added an element of theatre to his interactions. The press, meanwhile, remains as determined as ever to seek answers, ensuring that their role in holding power to account remains undiminished.

Jagga Reddy's no-filter chitchat sets political circles abuzz

TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy has once again proved that he's the king of candid comments, sparking a buzz with his latest unfiltered remarks. Known for speaking his mind without worrying about the aftermath, Jagga Reddy's recent chitchat with journalists has become the talk of the town—and not just within Congress circles. Dropping a

bombshell, Jagga Reddy admitted, "No politician, including me, irrespective of political affiliation, does politics without taking money from others." This bold confession has left political circles abuzz, with many questioning the intent behind such an open statement. Taking a swipe at the current trend of revenge politics, Jagga didn't hold back on criticizing leaders who indulge in it. He pointed out that KCR is "confined to a farmhouse" while engaging in revenge politics and warned that this practice brings nothing but regret in the long run. "Power is not permanent for any party," he declared, emphasizing that leaders who focus on political fights rather than governance will eventually feel the sting of history's judgment. Jagga Reddy also praised past leaders like YSR, Chandrababu Naidu, Kiran Kumar Reddy, and Rosaiah for steering clear of revenge politics, claiming that revenge isn't in the blood of Telangana's people. "I've always been against revenge politics," he added, leaving plenty of room for speculation about who he was really targeting with his remarks. As always, Jagga Reddy's unfiltered words have sparked conversations across party lines, with many wondering if there's more to his comments than meets the eye. One thing's for sure - when Jagga Reddy speaks, everyone listens, even if it leaves them scratching their heads.

(With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, K Venkateshwarlu)

REPORTERS' DIARY

was this a masterstroke of strategy or a dose of beginner's luck? Either way, it seems Davos has become a stage for shifting dynamics in the Telugu states.

Bandi Sanjay's formula for breaking news drama

Bandi Sanjay, not one to mince words, has once again stirred up a storm, and this time, it's all about the Formula E-Car Racing case. On Saturday, the fiery Union Minister accused the Congress government of playing to the galleries, teasing KT Ramarao's arrest for over a month and leaving media channels breathless with endless breaking news updates. "The channels almost died of giving breaking news!" Sanjay quipped, mocking the frenzy. While everyone waited for KTR to be hauled up, the government suddenly shifted gears, launching an investigation into Greenko and other firms. The media, predictably, pivoted to fresh breaking news, but Sanjay wasn't buying it. "What happened after all the noise? No arrests, no developments. Just another show," he scoffed, claiming the Congress thrives on one drama after another, with Davos now taking centre stage. Sanjay didn't stop there. He alleged that Congress received hefty donations from Greenko while simultaneously intimidating the company. "Is it right to take money as party donations and then trouble the same company? This is KCR-style politics, and

cient. Fast forward to KCR's tenure, and the state transformed into a power-surplus hub, a fact he proudly flaunted for a decade. And now, these data centres, which demand enormous amounts of electricity, are not just coming in but are set to contribute heavily to the state's coffers through power sales. But here's where the irony gets thick: in its eagerness to discredit the Davos investments as "fake," the BRS is missing the golden opportunity to take credit for its efforts. Meanwhile, Chandrababu Naidu, true to form, continues to live off his "Cyberabad success" stories. Political insiders are smirking at how the BRS's attempt to downplay Revanth Reddy's big Davos moment has turned into a case of throwing out the baby with the bathwater. With the Congress government setting the stage for the next drama, one thing's clear - while the BRS bickers and forgets its legacy, Telangana's power sector quietly stands tall as the unsung hero of this saga.

Bhatti's 'name and channel' routine raises eyebrows

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka's habit of asking journalists for their names and channels whenever posed with tough questions has become the buzz in media circles. This repeated line of questioning, often delivered with a pointed tone, has turned into a routine that many reporters now see as his shield to avoid difficult questions. Far from

2 TG cops

Continued from page 3 Intelligence, Hyderabad. These officers were recognised for their exemplary contributions to the state's law enforcement and public safety. Many officers were also honoured with the Medal for Meritorious Service. Kartikeya, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, Hyderabad, is among the notable winners.

The others are K. Ram Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Shamshabad Zone, Cyberabad and Mohd. Fazlur Rahman, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Branch Zone, Cyberabad. Their consistent

efforts to maintain law and order were highly appreciated. The list of meritorious medal awardees are A. Muthayya Reddy, Additional Superintendent of Police, H/R, Intelligence, Hyderabad; K.V. Ramana, Deputy Superintendent of Police, ISW, Intelligence, Hyderabad; and A. Venugopal, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Office of the DGP, Telangana.

Anumala Niranjan Reddy, Circle Inspector, Metpally Circle, Jagtial and Ranveer Singh Thakur, ASI-1236, 1st Battalion, Telangana State Police, Yousufguda, were also honoured for their diligence and service.

Other notable medal winners are Peter Joseph Bahadur, ARSI-824, 8th Battalion, Telangana State

Police, Kondapur; Mohd. Moinullah Khan, ARSI-534, CI Cell, Intelligence, Hyderabad; V. Pathya Naik, Head Constable-14, ISW, Intelligence, Hyderabad; and Md. Ayoob Khan, SC-7494/HC-636, Greyhounds. Their contributions have been instrumental in strengthening the state's policing framework.

The DGP also congratulated Home Guards who were honoured with the Medal for Meritorious Service. They are Manthri Eshwaraiiah, Home Guard-29, Maheshwaram Police Station, Rachakonda; Medipalli Yadagiri, Home Guard-13, Greyhounds; Komati Laxman, Home Guard-23, Greyhounds and Kallemla Ayilaiah, Home Guard-63, Greyhounds.

TG to start ...

Continued from page 3

They are Rythu Bharosa (financial assistance for farmers), Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa (support for landless agricultural workers), Indiramma Indlu (housing for the needy), and the issuing of new ration cards.

The launch is scheduled for Sunday, with events in one select village in each mandal between 1 pm and 2:30 pm, after Republic Day celebrations which will conclude by 11:30 am. Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa, Indiramma Indlu and the issue of ration cards will be implemented to saturation point in all the selected villages.

"For the first time in independent India, a state is implementing such a comprehensive food security initiative. This reflects our commitment to the public," Uttam said.

The schemes will initially be implemented in select villages and a full rollout is planned in February. Beneficiary identification will continue until March so that no eligible person is left out.

How can ...

Continued from page 3

The Afcons representatives explained that the project faced delays due to changes in the proposed location of the barrage and delays in land acquisition. They revealed that private lands were leased temporarily due to lack of access roads.

The commission raised concerns about the government's role in overseeing crucial aspects of the project. "How can the government focus only on contracts and revenue without ensuring quality and deadlines?" the commission asked, highlighting issues that emerged after a year of completion of a barrage designed to last a century.

Afcons also said that if the project had been carried out under an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) agreement, they would have independently handled surveys and related responsibilities.

CM to lay ...

Continued from page 3

followed in the construction of the Osmania Hospital building and hostel buildings should be built separately for teaching staff and male and female students.

The CM emphasised that care should be taken in the construction of the hospital, parking and in landscaping. Roads should be developed on all four sides to facilitate hassle-free vehicle movement to the hospital. Underpasses should also be built to connect other roads where it is required, the Chief Minister said and asked officials to develop two floors of underground parking to park the vehicles of patients, helpers and those coming for medical treatment.

The CM also asked officials to construct dormitories, fire stations, canteens, toilets and STPs on the hospital's premises. As many children are settling abroad and as it takes two to three days to come to the city, the CM called for the establishment of mortuary and body freezing boxes with modern facilities to preserve bodies for a long time.

Officials were also asked to construct a helipad as heli-ambulances are being used to bring patients and for organ transportation in emergencies.

The CM suggested the creation of a pleasant atmosphere so that visiting patients and people should not feel they are coming to a hospital. The CM also recommended some changes in the design of the new hospital building.

No PMAY houses for TG if Cong Govt includes 'Indiramma' in its name: Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

No houses would be sanctioned by the Centre if the Congress Government of Telangana names the housing scheme meant for the poor after 'Indiramma,' Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar said on Saturday.

He said that if the photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not included on PDS ration cards and housing scheme documents, the Centre would draft a plan to directly provide housing and ration cards to the poor.

Speaking at an event in Karimnagar at which Corporation Mayor Sunil Rao and others joined the BJP, the Union MoS (Home) said the Modi Government is ready to sanction houses to Telangana under the PM Awas Yojana during the next allotment.

However, if the Congress Government tries to 'gamble' using the name



Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar addressing the meeting at Karimnagar on Saturday

'Indiramma' (named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi), the Centre will not sanction even a single house, said Sanjay.

He said that photos of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Indira Gandhi are displayed on ration cards even though the PDS rice and other items are supplied by the Centre.

"If the photo of Narendra Modi ji is not on the ration cards, we will not supply

ration items to the TG government. We (the Centre) will see how to directly supply rations to the poor. We will not do injustice to the poor when it comes to housing," he said.

The Centre will not remain silent if the TG government attempts to give the impression that welfare schemes are its own (by naming them after its leaders and displaying photos of Congress leaders)," Sanjay said. The BRS Government took massive loans amounting to Rs 6 lakh crore and the Congress Government is following the same policy, he said.

The BRS Government did not give funds to address the 'dump yard' issue in the town, a problem now being handled by the Centre, he added.

Appealing to the public to elect the BJP in corporation elections, he said that the party would ensure 24/7 water supply to all households by using Central funds.

Mahesh lashes out at Sanjay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reacting angrily to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's statement that the Centre will not give even a single house if the TG government names its housing scheme as Indiramma Indlu, TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Sanjay is speaking in a below-the-belt manner regarding former Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi, considered the Iron Lady of India. Sanjay should apologise to Telangana, he added.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Mahesh said the investments bagged at Davos prove that the Congress

Government is a functioning one. He said that this is the first time that Telangana bagged investment valued at Rs 1.78 lakh crore creating a record.

He said the Congress Government is implementing Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Indlu, issuing new ration cards and Indiramma Athmeeya Bharosa from Republic Day.

He said the Congress rule will be an eye-opener for BRS leaders and that the criticism of BRS leaders about development is like the devil quoting scriptures.

He said the BRS will become four pieces by the time of the next Assembly elections. No one will remain in the BRS except KCR and KTR, he said.

Cong Govt killing farmers' confidence: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao reacted with shock and sadness to the tragic suicide of farmer Mamilla Narasayya of Vartmannur village in the Bazaar Hathnur mandal of Adilabad district due to debts. In a strong statement, Harish expressed concern over the alarming situation, pointing out that four farmers have already taken their lives in the erstwhile Adilabad district last week.

"This wave of suicides by farmers is extremely distressing. While farmers are succumbing to despair what is the government and the district administration doing?" he asked.

He accused the Congress government of failing to provide the support that farmers desperately need. "The Congress admin is killing the confidence of farmers. Those who feed the nation are now being betrayed," he said.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Harish criticised the Congress Government's failure to deliver on its promises. "The Chief Minister, who claims to have completed loan waivers, must explain to the families of these farmers why they are forced to end their lives due to huge debts," he said. Holding the Congress Government accountable for the suicides,

Cong leaders will need Zandu Balm & Zinda Tilismath after Gram Sabha meets: Shambhipur Raju

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MLC Shambhipur Raju took a sharp jab at Congress leaders, stating that they might soon require Zandu Balm and Zinda Tilismath to soothe the pain caused by public anger during gram sabhas. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan, along with former corporation chairman Gadari Balamallu, Bommera Ramamurthy and Gudala Bhaskar, Raju lambasted the government for its failure to fulfil its promises even after a year in office.

"Gram sabhas, which should have been a platform for resolving grievances, have turned into arenas of public outrage. Congress leaders are now facing the music for their inefficiency and the people have made their displeasure known loud and clear," Raju said. He criticised the government for its mismanagement, accusing it of collecting applications under the pretence of governance but later discarding them on roads. "Congress ministers relax in the Secretariat constructed during KCR's tenure and mockingly question his achievements," he said.

Raju said the Congress came to power by making "420 promises" and called the current initiatives a mere eyewash. He questioned why gram sabhas are held if the schemes were primarily meant for Congress workers. "If the beneficiaries are pre-decided, why are people being forced to stand in queues at Xerox shops to apply? This is nothing but insulting the people of Telangana," he stated.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state.

In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, she emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws.

"We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said. Highlighting the significance of the proposed bill

aimed at synchronising election schedules across the country, Murmu noted, "The 'One Nation One Election' plan can offer numerous benefits, including enhanced governance and reduced financial strain."

In discussing legal reforms, she pointed out the need to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act with new laws reflective of Indian traditions.

She mentioned the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which prioritise the delivery of justice over mere punishment and place a strong emphasis on addressing crimes against women and children.

Reflecting on the significance of the Constitution, the President highlighted the progress achieved over the past 75 years.

"At the time of Independence, many parts of the country faced extreme poverty and hunger. However, we maintained a belief in ourselves and created conditions for growth," she said.

Noting the contributions of farmers and labourers, she said India's economy now plays a pivotal role in global economic trends, asserting that this transformation is rooted in the framework established by the Constitution.

The President also pointed to the persistently high economic growth rate in recent years, which has generated job opportunities, increased income for farmers and labourers, and lifted many out of poverty.

She underscored the importance of inclusive growth and the government's commitment to welfare, making basic necessities such as housing and access to clean drinking water entitlements for citizens.

7 Telugu personalities ...

Continued from page 3 invaluable contributions to literature and education. adugula Nagaphani Sharma received the honour for his exceptional work in the field of arts, while Manda Krishna Madiga was acknowledged for his relentless efforts in public affairs and social justice.



Miriyala Apparao

Miriyala Apparao was posthumously awarded for his impact on art, and Vadiraj Raghawendracharya Pancharukhi was honoured for his achievements in literature and education.

Expressing gratitude, Dr Nageswara Reddy said, "I am deeply humbled and honoured to receive the Padma Vibhushan, a recognition that truly belongs to all my patients, my entire team at AIG Hospitals, and the countless healthcare workers who inspire me every day. This is not just a personal milestone, but a celebration of the spirit of Indian medicine and the immense potential our nation holds in healthcare innovation."

Dr Reddy emphasised the importance of compassionate patient care, stating, "Healthcare is not just about curing illness but about serving humanity with dignity and empathy. I dedicate this honour to all

those who place their trust in us during their most vulnerable moments."

As a proud Indian and a Telugu, Dr Reddy reaffirmed his commitment to advancing healthcare. "This award strengthens my resolve to contribute even more to the health of our people and ensure that India continues to shine as a global leader in medical excellence. Together, we can create a healthier and stronger India," he added.

Other Padma Awardees are Padma Bhushan-winning actors Ajith Kumar and Shobana Chandrakumar and singer Pankaj Udhas (posthumous) Padma Shri was given to singer Arjit Singh and cricketer R. Ashwin too. In total seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards were announced.

"Congratulations to all Padma awardees! India is proud to honour their extraordinary achievements. Their dedication and perseverance are truly motivating. Each awardee is synonymous with hard work, passion and innovation, which has positively impacted countless lives. They teach us the value of striving for excellence and serving society selflessly," Prime Minister Modi said.

US Supreme ...

Continued from page 3

Earlier, he lost a legal battle in several federal courts, including the US Court of Appeals for the North Circuit in San Francisco.

Rana on November 13 filed a "petition for a writ of certiorari" before the US Supreme Court. This was denied by the apex court on January 21, a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the American President. "Petition DENIED," the Supreme Court said.

Rana, 64, is currently detained at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles.

Earlier the US government had argued in the court that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied. US Solicitor General Elizabeth B Prelogar said this in its filing before the Supreme Court on December 16.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Dvadashi: Jan 25 08:32 PM to Jan 26 08:55 PM

Trayodashi: Jan 26 08:55 PM to Jan 27 08:35 PM

Nakshatram: Jyeshtha: Jan 25 07:07 AM to Jan 26 08:26 AM

Moola: Jan 26 08:26 AM to Jan 27 09:02 AM

Rahukalam: 4:40 PM to 6:04 PM

Yamagandam: 12:28 PM to 1:52 PM

Varjyam: 07:23 AM to 09:02 AM

Gulika: 3:16 PM to 4:40 PM

Amritakalam: 02:33 AM to 04:11 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:06 PM to 12:50 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny

Temp: 32°

Humidity: 43%

Sunrise: 6:49 AM

Sunset: 6:08 PM

Updated: January 25, 2025 5:00 PM

sunday pioneer

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Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

US-India relations to grow STRONGER
under Trump: USISPF chief

Weight LOSS
made simple

Dr Vineeth Ganganna's **JOURNEY**
from Orthopedics to IPS

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer
No PMAY houses for Telangana if the Congress Government names the housing scheme after 'Indiramma'. If the photo of Prime Minister Modi is not included on PDS ration cards and housing scheme documents a plan would be drafted to enable the Centre to directly provide housing and ration cards to the poor
- Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union MoS

DON'T MISS...

President bats for ONOE

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state. In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, she emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to 'eliminate ...

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Kidney transplant racket: 9 arrested

A major kidney transplantation racket operating illegally from Alakananda Hospital in Saroor Nagar has been busted by the Rachakonda Police. Investigations revealed that over 20 illegal kidney transplantation-cu surgeries were conducted since 2023 across three hospitals in Hyderabad, amassing crores of rupees. In all, nine persons were arrested in connection with the case. The operation was uncovered during a joint inspection by Saroor Nagar Police, the Special ...

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Maoists secretary Damodar alive

Communist Party of India-Maoist Telangana State committee secretary and action team leader Bade Chokka Rao alias Damodar is still alive. He was believed to have been killed in encounter with the police in Chhattisgarh state. It is now confirmed that the Telangana police intelligence inputs proved right. Maoist party spokesperson Samatha released a statement, saying that there was no truth in the announcement that Damodar was among those killed ...

-PAGE: 4

India puts up a big show at Davos

As the five-day World Economic Forum Annual Meeting ended on Friday, Indian leaders said they could see trust for India in eyes of all global leaders and that was reflected in investment commitments totalling over Rs 20 lakh crore with Maharashtra grabbing the biggest pie of almost 80 per cent. Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who led the largest ever Indian delegation of five Union ministers and several leaders from states including three chief ministers, said trust and talent are the biggest factors attracting the world to India. All states and central government departments shared space for the first time at two India Pavilions and a joint press conference was held for the first time by state and Union ministers, coming from half ...

-MONEY

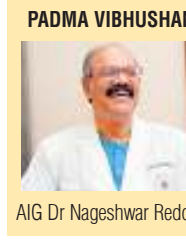
7 Telugu personalities get Padma honours

TG gets 2 awards AP honoured with 5

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Padma Awards 2025 have brought immense cheer to the Telugu community, with seven individuals from the region being recognised for their exceptional contributions in diverse fields. While two from Telangana got awards, five from Andhra Pradesh were also conferred the awards.

Dr Duvvur Nageswara Reddy, a medical professional from Telangana, was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan for his ground-breaking contributions in medicine.



Known for his pioneering work in healthcare, Dr Reddy has elevated India's standing in global medical innovation and patient care.

Actor-cum-TDP MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his contributions in the field of art and cinema. A household name in Telugu cinema, Balakrishna has been a cultural icon, leaving a lasting legacy through his acting and philanthropy.

The Padma Shri was conferred on five remarkable individuals. KL Krishna was recognized for his



PADMA SHRI AWARDEES



Flow of welfare in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government will launch four major social welfare schemes - the Rythu Bharosa, the Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa, the Indiramma Illu and ration cards - on January 26. It will be implemented in one village in one mandal on saturation basis and will continue until March. Accompanied by Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tummala Nageshwar Rao and Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Deputy CM emphasised the government's commitment to fulfilling its promises and ensuring that all benefits reached eligible citizens.

Bhatti Vikramarka said that schemes will be implemented across the state, with one village in each

Govt to launch 4 welfare schemes today



mandal selected for 100% rollout of these welfare initiatives.

He explained that the application process for these schemes had already begun, and the government had received applications in large numbers. Starting January 26, the beneficiary identification process

will continue uninterrupted until March, ensuring that all eligible individuals are included.

"Rythu Bharosa will provide support for every acre of cultivable land, while Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa will extend benefits to landless poor who have worked for 20 days under the Employment Guarantee Scheme," he explained. Bhatti Vikramarka described these schemes as a step toward IN strengthening welfare governance, emphasizing that Indiramma Rajyam is synonymous with a welfare state.

Bhatti also highlighted the significance of launching these welfare

schemes on Republic Day, a date marking the implementation of the Indian Constitution.

He reiterated the government's resolve to conduct gram sabhas, process applications meticulously, and ensure benefits are delivered to all eligible applicants without fail.

TG to start biggest food security scheme: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress Government in Telangana is all set to launch the biggest-ever food security programme in independent India, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

He was addressing a press conference at the Secretariat here on Saturday along with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Tummala Nageshwar Rao after a review chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Uttam said the scheme aims to ensure food security for around 70-73% of the state's population.

The TG government will roll out four social welfare schemes on Sunday. **Continued on Page 2**

CM to lay foundation stone of new Osmania Hospital on Jan 31

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The new Osmania Hospital with state-of-the-art facilities should meet public needs for the next 100 years, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said.

Announcing that the foundation stone of the new hospital building would be laid on January 31, the Chief Minister ordered officials to construct the hospital building without compromising on anything.

Addressing a high-level review



meeting on the construction of the hospital at his residence on Saturday, the CM said that all rules should be **Continued on Page 2**

How can a barrage built to last 100 years fail in just one: Ghose

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Kaleshwaram Inquiry Commission headed by Justice PC Ghose has raised several critical concerns about the responsibilities of construction companies and the government regarding incomplete tender procedures and project oversight. Justice Ghose asked whether construction companies adequately verify all aspects before starting work on projects like the Annaram Barrage.

During a hearing on Saturday, two representatives of Afcons, Naga Mallikarjuna Rao and Shekhar Das, appeared before the commission. They were questioned on various issues, including contract details, delays, challenges faced during construction, and actions taken.

Afcons clarified that there were no cracks in the Annaram Dam and that seepage was solved through grouting.

Continued on Page 2

'Insult to TG self-respect'

CM laments discrimination in Padma Awards

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has strongly criticised the perceived bias against Telangana in the announcement of this year's Padma Awards. Expressing deep dissatisfaction, the CM said that the denial of recognition to eminent personalities from Telangana is an insult to the state's four crore people.

During a meeting with ministers and officials, Revanth discussed the exclusion of notable figures such as Gaddar (Padma Vibhushan), Chukka Ramaiah (Padma Bhushan), Andesri (Padma Bhushan), Goreti Venkanna (Padma Shri), and Jayadhir Tirumala Rao (Padma Shri).

He lamented that despite

the state government recommending these individuals for their significant contributions to various fields, the Central Government failed to consider them.

Revanth pointed out that the omission of these prominent figures undermines the self-respect of Telangana's people, who have witnessed their exceptional service to society. Highlighting the central government's announcement of awards to 139 individuals across the country, the CM expressed his disappointment that Telangana did not even receive five awards. The CM is reportedly considering writing a letter to PM Modi to address the perceived injustice and demand a more inclusive approach to recognizing contributions from Telangana.

FEO requests 4 weeks to appear in Formula E Case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After getting the ACB notice, Formula E Operations Limited (FEO) sought four weeks to appear in the Formula E case.

In response to a notice issued by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on January 16, the FEO involved in the Formula E case requested four weeks' time to appear or provide information to the ACB.

Notices have been issued to KTR, the Working President of the BR, GreenKo MD and FEO apart from officials. The Formula E case continues to draw attention as various individuals have been summoned for their involvement about the matter.

US Supreme Court clears Mumbai attack convict's extradition to India

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The US Supreme Court has cleared Mumbai attack convict Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India, dismissing his review petition against the move.

India is seeking the extradition of Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, as he is wanted in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks case.

This was Rana's last legal chance not to be extradited to India. **Continued on Page 2**

2 TG cops get President's Medal, 12 get Meritorious Medal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Director General of Police, Dr Jitender, IPS, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the police officers and personnel who have been honoured with the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) and the Meritorious Service

(MSM) on the occasion of Republic Day.

The winners of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service are Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, serving as Additional Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Hyderabad City, and M. Manik Raj, Superintendent of Police, ISW, **Continued on Page 2**



OBTUSE ANGLE



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HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | JANUARY 26, 2025

04

CITY EVENTS

Sid Sriram live concert

Venue
Boulder Hills,
Hyderabad
February 15, 5 pm
onwards

Two arrested for matrimonial fraud in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have arrested two individuals in connection with a matrimonial fraud case. The accused, identified as Tamma Hema Mani alias Preeti Reddy (37) and Konda Reddy (42), were apprehended in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The case involved the duo duping a male victim through a divorce matrimony app.

The 45-year-old victim from Hyderabad reported that he had started communicating with an unknown woman in May 2024 through a divorce matrimony app. Introducing herself as Dr Prithi Reddy, a cardiologist with MBBS and MD qualifications, the woman claimed to be divorced. Over time, the duo developed a close bond on social media platforms, leading to a marriage proposal.

The fraud began when the woman sought money from the victim, initially citing an urgent need to treat a patient. Trusting her, the victim transferred the amount but did not receive any repayment. Later, she claimed her mother had passed away and needed additional financial support. Over multiple transactions, the victim ended up transferring Rs. 4,97,200 before realising he had been deceived.

The fraudsters employed the following methods: Establishing contact through social media platforms and matrimony apps, Gaining the victim's trust via WhatsApp calls and messages and Using emotional stories and fake marriage proposals to extract money.

The case was cracked by a team led by Inspector of Police Madhulatha, comprising Sub-Inspector Praneetha, PC Sagar, PC Bhaskar, and WPC Praneetha. The team successfully traced and apprehended the accused in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.



1 killed, 2 injured in hit-and-run accident

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A person sleeping on the footpath was killed, while two others sustained injuries when a speeding car hit them at Banjara Hills in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

The person died instantly after being struck by the speeding car at 1:15 am. The two injured men were reported to be out of danger, they added.

The three persons, all daily wage workers, were sleeping on the footpath.

According to the investigation as of Saturday evening, two individuals were believed to have been travelling in the car. The duo, who work in the film industry, were on their way to Jubilee Hills to pick up a friend from a pub.

They fled the scene after the incident but were apprehended, along with the car owner, who was not present in the car at the time of the accident.

Police said the process to determine whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol was underway.

UBS to expand Global Capability Centre in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Swiss banking giant UBS has announced the expansion of its Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad, creating 1,800 additional jobs over the next two years.

The announcement was made by Harald Egger, Head of Group Real Estate and Supply Chain and Chairman of UBS India, during a meeting with IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu at the TEPA Investment Event in Zurich on Friday.

The expansion will strengthen UBS's finance and operations functions, leveraging Hyderabad's high-quality talent pool.

This move aligns with Telangana's vision of driving economic growth and positioning Hyderabad as a global hub for IT and business services. Hyderabad is home to 11% of GCCs in India, showcasing its leadership in the sector.

Meanwhile, Minister D Sridhar Babu highlighted Telangana's \$30 billion in IT exports and the state's focus on creating employment and driving the digital economy. Egger emphasized that Hyderabad's talent, infrastructure, and innovation ecosystem, supported by proactive government policies, were key factors in UBS's decision to expand.

HYDRAA bulldozes KGF-style mafia rule at Pocharam

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority Commissioner AV Ranganath said detailed inquiry into NMR's land grabbing and irregularities is underway

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a dramatic operation reminiscent of the movie KGF, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA) demolished a 4-km-long compound wall in Pocharam Municipality on January 25, breaking the stranglehold of developer-turned-realtor mafia Nalla Malla Reddy (NMR) over thousands of residents. He is related to BJP MP Eatala Rajender. The wall, constructed in the name of security, had become a symbol of NMR's fiefdom, restricting public movement and turning the area into a hub of illegal activities.

Spread across 200 acres, the layouts developed by NMR in Deepthi Sri Nagar and five surrounding colonies have been plagued by allegations of corruption and authoritarian control for over two decades. More than a thousand Singareni employees, who purchased plots in the late 1990s, found themselves trapped in a system where NMR dictated every transaction.

NMR had collected Rs 10.5 crore from plot owners, supposedly for roads and drainage development, but instead constructed the massive compound wall. Acting as



Bulldozer razing a 4-km compound wall in Pocharam municipality on Saturday

the developer, welfare association president, and contractor, NMR awarded the construction contract to his own company. Despite promises, essential infrastructure like roads and drainage remain absent.

Residents complained of restricted access, with only two entry/exit points for six colonies. No one could sell or buy plots without NMR's permission, and he charged Rs. 50,000 for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) per transaction. Market rates were undercut, with NMR offering lower prices

and amassing 25% of the plots through coercion and proxy ownership.

Hundreds of affected residents, including retired Singareni employees, shared their plight during a personal hearing conducted by HYDRAA on January 23. Several individuals expressed deep anguish, with some stating they had contemplated suicide due to decades of exploitation. NMR's use of open spaces for personal farming and illegal occupation of government land further added to public fury.

HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, addressing the media, stated, "The compound wall was constructed without legal permission, violating municipal laws and Supreme Court judgments. This obstruction of public roads and illegal encroachment of government land left thousands unable to move freely."

On January 25, HYDRAA deployed 12 heavy bulldozers to demolish the 4-km-long wall, ensuring free movement for thousands of residents and neighboring villagers. The authority emphasized that the demolition adhered to all legal norms and was necessary to restore public access and dismantle NMR's illegal operations.

The Commissioner confirmed that a detailed inquiry into NMR's land grabbing and irregularities is underway. "Stringent legal and criminal action will be taken against all those involved after the completion of the investigation. HYDRAA stands with the public and will not allow such mafia-like behavior to persist," he added.

The demolition marks a turning point for residents, who are now free from decades of exploitation, as HYDRAA vows to continue its efforts against illegal encroachments and real estate mafias.

Governor lays stress on use of technology for voter registration

SAMUEL JOSHUA
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■ HYDERABAD

Urging the youth to use technological tools for voter enrolment, Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma attended the 15th National Voters Day at Ravindra Bharati on Saturday. On this occasion, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma urged citizens to actively participate in the electoral process to strengthen democracy.

He appreciated Telangana's peaceful elections and called for continued efforts to maintain this high standard.

The Governor stressed that voting is a key way for citizens to influence government decisions. He encouraged the use of technological tools from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to make voter enrolment and voting easier. He also noted the issuance of 5,45,026 new electors photo identity (EPIC) cards to first-time voters and commended the Chief Electoral Officer and his team for successfully



Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma lighting the lamp at the 15th National Voters Day at Ravindra Bharati on Saturday

updating the Photo Electoral Rolls on January 6, 2025.

The Governor highlighted the ECI's initiatives to improve accessibility, such as online voter registration, ramps at polling stations, Braille-enabled EVMs, and out-of-turn voting for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). He urged all eligible

voters to participate fully in elections.

Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer C Sudharshan Reddy reported that 5,45,026 voters aged 18-19 were enrolled. The event was celebrated at 35,907 polling stations across Telangana with senior officials in attendance.

Project Champion School Games held for govt school students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Runners Society organised a new initiative called 'Project Champion' to provide physical activity to students in government schools without physical education teachers. The goal was to offer 30-40 minutes of exercise and games to promote active lifestyles.

The Project Champion Annual Sports Meet brought together 1,600 students from nine government schools and was concluded at Gachibowli Stadium on Saturday evening.

According to Vijay Yaragal, Outreach Lead at Hyderabad Runners Society, the event was a huge

success. The participating schools included NBT Nagar, Shaikpet, MGN, MRC Colony, NATCO Borabanda, KPHB, and Chowraha Zinsi. The event saw 538 winners in various events, including running, long jump, tug of war, volleyball, handball, and Kho Kho. These winners received medals, certificates, and refreshments.

Physical education teachers appointed by Hyderabad Runners trained the students for over 100 days leading up to the event. The sports meet was inaugurated by members of the Hyderabad Runners Society and awards were presented by society members and school headmasters.



Government School students playing games under 'Project Champion' at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday

Sports competitions to mark Republic Day celebrations at GSWREIS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS) organised vibrant sports competitions to celebrate Republic Day at Shaikpet Gurukula School. The events saw active involvement from zonal officers

and staff members from the TGSWREIS headquarters. Competitions were held across various sports disciplines, including volleyball, shuttle badminton, throwball, handball, chess, and carrom. VS Alagu Varshini, the Secretary of TGSWREIS, graced the occasion with her presence, inspiring students and staff alike.

Addressing the gathering, Varshini highlighted the significance of sports in fostering self-confidence and maintaining both physical and mental well-being. She highlighted that sports play a vital role in instilling discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities. She further added,

"Participation in sports enhances life skills and allows students to develop creativity and problem-solving abilities through experiences of success and failure. It is through these experiences that individuals learn to recognize and rectify mistakes, fostering both personal growth and resilience."

It is through these experiences that individuals learn to recognize and rectify mistakes, fostering both personal growth and resilience.

Swiggy workers demand fair pay

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' Union (TGPWU) stands in support of Swiggy delivery workers who went on strike on Saturday, demanding solution to their concerns.

The workers' demands included restoration of the old MG (minimum guarantee) payment. Removal or reduction of MG payment has hurt the earnings of delivery workers, leaving them financially struggling. The workers want a transparent and fair base pay



Swiggy delivery workers protesting in Hyderabad on Saturday.

system that ensures fair compensation for their hard work and long hours. Management's Lack of Response: Despite trying to raise these issues, Swiggy's management has ignored workers' concerns,

forcing them to go on strike. The union urged the Swiggy to engage in talks with workers and address their demands. Without fair wages and a stable payment system, workers' livelihoods are at risk

and trust in the platform is lost. TGPWU stresses the need to prioritize the well-being of gig workers, who are essential to the on-demand economy. These workers deserve respect, fair pay, and secure conditions.

Founder President of TGPWU, Shaik Salauddin calls for policy reforms that ensure fair wages and social security for all platform-based workers. He noted that the union remains committed to supporting the striking workers and fighting for their rights until their demands are met.

Hyd win 47th All India under-19 Twenty-20 cricket tournament

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's cricket team won the 47th All India Rajiv Gandhi U-19 Twenty-20 Cricket Tournament by defeating Tamil Nadu by 35 runs. The final was held at LB Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by V Hanumantha Rao, Shiva Sena Reddy, Chairman of the Sports Authority of Telangana, MSK Prasad, former Indian cricketer and BCCI Chief Selector, and other notable guests.

Chairman of the Cricket Federation of India V Hanumantha Rao stated that the tournament's goal is to develop young cricketers, particularly from rural areas, and to provide them a platform to display their skills while promoting a drug-free lifestyle. He noted that the Cricket Federation of India has worked for 18 years to nurture



Chairman of the Cricket Federation of India V Hanumantha Rao, along with Hyderabad's cricket team, at a tournament in city on Saturday

cricket from the grassroots level, especially in rural India.

The tournament featured 12 teams, including those from Sri Lanka, Dubai, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

Best Players Include: Best Bowler: Ashwad Rajiv (Hyderabad) – 11 wickets in 5 matches. Best Fielder: Sanjay R (Chennai).

Best Wicket Keeper: Varun Vinod (Hyderabad). Best

Batsman: GM Gokul (Chennai) – 201 runs in 6 matches. Best All-Rounder & Player of the Tournament: M. Sai Karthikeya (Hyderabad) – 126 runs & 9 wickets Final Match Man of the Match: Yashveer (Hyderabad) – 4 wickets

Hyderabad scored 192/9 in 20 overs. In reply, Tamil Nadu managed 157/9 in 20 overs. Hyderabad won by 35 runs.



Rachakonda Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu explaining the arrest of nine persons in connection with the kidney transplant racket in Hyderabad on Saturday

Kidney transplant racket busted, nine arrested

DEEPIKA PASHAM
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■ HYDERABAD

A major kidney transplantation racket operating illegally from Alakananda Hospital in Saroor Nagar has been busted by the Rachakonda Police. Investigations revealed that over 20 illegal kidney transplantation-cu surgeries were conducted since 2023 across three hospitals in Hyderabad, amassing crores of rupees. In all, nine persons were arrested in connection with the case.

The operation was uncovered during a joint inspection by Saroor Nagar Police, the Special Operations Team (SOT) of LB Nagar Zone, and the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) of Ranga Reddy district. At Alakananda Hospital, police found four individuals undergoing treatment after kidney transplant.

They include two donors from Tamil Nadu and two recipients—one of them from Karnataka. The hospital did not have the required authorisation to perform such surgeries, raising further suspicions.

Following an investigation, it was revealed, the police said, that Dr Siddamshetty Avinash and his team had been conducting the surgeries with the help of mediators and organisers.

The operation extended across hospitals like Janani Hospital in Saidabad, Alakananda Hospital in Saroor Nagar, and others in Hyderabad, said G Sudheer Babu, Rachakonda Police Commissioner. A case was registered for violations of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act-1994. The sections include 61(2), 110, 143(1), 318(4) R/W 111, 3(5) BNS, 18(1), 19, and 19A.

Sudheer Babu explaining the modus operandi said that Dr Siddamshetty Avinash, who spearheaded the racket, was arrested on Saturday. Guntupally Sumanth, Managing Director of Alakananda Hospital, was arrested earlier on January 23, 2025.

However, two other key surgeons—Dr Raj Shekhar from Tamil Nadu and Dr Sohib from Jammu and Kashmir—remain absconding.

The organizers include Pavan alias Leon, Purna alias Abhishek, and Laxman, all of whom are from Vizag and currently absconding.

Two mediators, Ponnuwamy Pradeep and Suraj Mishra, were arrested, while Shankar, another key mediator, is still on the run.

The police also arrested Narasani Gopi, a receptionist at Alakananda Hospital, along with Ramavath Ravi, Sapavath Ravinder, Sapavath Harish, and Podila Sai, all residents of Nalgonda district.

Dr Avinash began his illegal operations in April 2023 at Janani Hospital in Saidabad after being approached by Laxman, who proposed the idea of conducting kidney transplants for hefty profits. Laxman managed donors, recipients, and other arrangements, offering Dr Avinash Rs 2.5 lakh per surgery. Recipients were charged Rs 55–60 lakh, with Rs 5 lakh given to donors and the remaining profits split among organizers, surgeons, and assistants.

By July 2024, Dr Avinash collaborated with Dr Sumanth of Alakananda Hospital. They conducted over 20 surgeries there by December 2024, with Dr Sumanth receiving Rs 1.5 lakh per surgery.

The racket operated across multiple hospitals, including Aruna Hospital in Hyderabad and others in different parts of India.

The hospital has been sealed by the health department, and seven accused were produced before the court on January 25, 2025. Police are intensifying their search for the absconding suspects, including the key surgeons and organizers.



Govt plans to boost public healthcare

The upgraded hospitals are lying in a state of neglect with the previous government fails to recruit sufficient staff for PHCs and CHCs

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

The previous Bharat Rashtira Samithi regime upgraded 76 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs), transferring them to the Telangana State Vaidya Vidhana Parishad. However, despite spending huge sums of money, there has been no significant improvement in the condition of government hospitals. Additionally, the government has failed to approve the necessary staff cadre, causing further difficulties for patients. The government increased the bed strength of several PHCs to 30 and some CHCs to 50 beds, with a few CHCs upgraded to 100 beds. Along with this, new buildings have been constructed in some areas. Many people hoped these developments would improve health services in government hospitals, but the conditions have not changed significantly, with hospitals continuing to function in a poor state. One major issue is that government officials have been unable to determine the



required number of doctors, medical staff, and sanitation workers for each upgraded facility. For instance, a 30-bed hospital needs at least 10 medical officers and 15 support staff, while a 50-bed facility requires at least 15 medical officers and 20 other personnel. A 100-bed facility should have 20 medical officers and 40 support staff. However, the authorities have only appointed a temporary, skeletal staff, often relying on medical college staff and specialists from district headquarters. In Bellampalli, Mancheril, for example, the CHC was upgraded from 30 to 100 beds and re-designated as an Area Hospital. A new building was constructed, and 62 staff members were appointed, including 11 civil assistant surgeons, five deputy civil surgeons, and 19 doctors. However, eight medical officers and 19 other staff

members were appointed on a temporary basis, and an additional seven posts were filled through contract and outsourcing. Despite the 100-bed upgrade, the hospital is still functioning at the capacity of a 30-bed facility, with emergency cases being referred to the government hospital in Mancheril due to staff shortages. At the Chennur hospital, construction is almost complete, and 35 staff members, including eight medical officers, were appointed. However, only 29 staff members have reported for duty. Similarly, at Luxettipeta, 18 staff positions were sanctioned, but only nine have been filled, leaving nine positions vacant. In response, the Congress government has decided to appoint 1,600 new medical officers. The Vaidya Vidhana Parishad will be renamed the Directorate of Secondary Health Services, and recruitment will begin once the necessary file is approved by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO). Once this process is finalized, the upgraded hospitals are expected to see improvements.

MLA vows to develop Shadnagar constituency

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA and Chairman of the Public Sector Enterprises Committee Veerlapalli Shankar participated in multiple foundation stone laying ceremonies across several village panchayats in Keshampet mandal on Thursday. He vowed to ensure development of the constituency. These projects, which are set to enhance local infrastructure and community facilities, have been funded through various government schemes. In Bhairkhanpally village, Shankar laid the foundation for the construction of an Anganwadi building and a Mahila Sangam building, both of which will be developed with MGN-REGS funds amounting to Rs 12 lakh. In Kothapeta village, the MLA inaugurated the Bhoomi Pujya ceremony for additional classrooms to be built with SSA funds totaling Rs 39 lakh. Additionally, the renovation of the Ambedkar Yuvajana and Adarsh Yuvajana buildings was commenced. The newly installed IMAX lights in the village panchayat were also unveiled during the program, and study materials were distributed to students. Shankar also attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the construc-

tion of BR Ambedkar Yuvajana Bhavan in Nirdhavelli village, which will be built with SDF funds of Rs 10 lakh. The construction of the Mudiraj Sangha Bhavan, also to be funded by SDF at Rs 10 lakh, was inaugurated alongside the ground-breaking of the BT road from Nirdhavelli to Kakunur. In Sundarapur village, the MLA laid the foundation stone for a new Gram



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar laying the foundation stone for developmental works in Keshampet mandal in Rangareddy district on Saturday

Panchayat building, which will be constructed with MGNREGS funds of Rs 20 lakh. The programmes were attended by several prominent leaders, including Mandal Congress Party President Guda Veeresham, Block Congress President Jagadishwar, Market Committee Director Bhaskar Goud, and various activists and community leaders from different villages in the region.



'CPI Maoists' TG secretary Bade Damodar not killed in Bijapur'

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Communist Party of India-Maoist Telangana State committee secretary and action team leader Bade Chokka Rao alias Damodar is still alive. He was believed to have been killed in encounter with the police in Chhattisgarh state. It is now confirmed that the Telangana police intelligence inputs proved right. Maoist party spokesperson Samatha released a statement, saying that there was no truth in the announcement that Damodar was among those killed in the encounter with the police. The statement alleged that the police had killed even the persons who went to the encounter site to extend medical services to the injured villagers. The police

encounter took place on January 16 and 17. The statement claimed that 8,000 police personnel laid siege to Singavaram, Tuddepalli, Mallampenta, Pujari Kanker and Temabatti villages in the Bijapur district. The Maoists alleged that eight Maoists and four villagers were killed in a supposed gunfight. Subsequently, the forces took the bodies of the deceased, and some common people were also taken away, and they were dead and labelled them as Maoists, Samata said. Samata called for a fight against the "Brahminical fascist government." After the Pujari Kanker incident, police released letters in the name of the Maoists, which were attempts to create confusion among the public, said Samata.



Additional Collector P Srija and officials participating in the National Voters' Day celebration at the Collectorate Conference Hall in Khamma on Saturday

Importance of right to vote in democracy stressed

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Additional Collector P Sreeja has urged everyone to exercise their right to vote in every election without fail. She was participating in the National Voters' Day celebration held on Saturday at the Collectorate Conference Hall. On the occasion of National Voters' Day, the message from the Chief Election Commissioner of India was displayed through a projector. During the event, participants took a pledge to exercise their voting rights.

Speaking at the event, the Additional Collector mentioned that the right to vote was granted to all citizens equally, without any distinction based on caste, religion, region, class, language, poverty, or wealth. She emphasised that the celebration of National Voters' Day is being held to stress the importance of voting among the people, urging everyone to vote in every election without falling prey to any temptations. The event was attended by District Revenue Officer M Rajeshwari, district officials, staff, and others.

'Power feeders will be set up to meet increasing power demand'

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Komatireddy Venkata Reddy has announced plans to establish an alternative power feeder to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Nalgonda town during the upcoming summer. Multiple substations are being set up across the town to meet the increasing power demand. On Saturday, the Minister inaugurated a 33/11 kV substation at the Beat Market, built at a cost of Rs 3 crores. He emphasised that electricity demand would significantly rise in summer due to widespread use of air conditioners and fans, and more substations are being created to meet this demand. Additionally, with the completion of the Beat Market substation, along with those planned for Munugode Road, Devarakonda Road, and Panagal Savarkar Shivaji Nagar, the town will receive 24-hour electricity supply without interruptions. The Minister also highlighted the increased electricity demand due to the filling of the Brahman Vellemla Reservoir and urged the electricity department to ensure



Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy inaugurating developmental projects in Nalgonda on Saturday

uninterrupted service. He recalled that it was during the tenure of the late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy's government that farmers were provided free electricity. Further developments in Nalgonda include the allocation of Rs 500 crore for drinking water, underground drainage, and road improvements. 11 large water tanks are being

built, and by April, Krishna drinking water would be supplied to every household. Additionally, works for underground drainage and cement concrete roads will commence soon with 109 crores allocated. As the Municipal Council's term ends on Sunday, the District Collector and officials have been urged to continue ensuring public services without disruption.



Woman's murder mystery cracked, one arrested

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar Police have successfully solved a chilling murder case that occurred on January 20 at the Sri Sangameshwara Lodge. The victim, a 35-year-old woman named Pittala Shivaneela, was murdered by Andhi Devdas, in a gruesome act of violence, the police said. The police said that Devada had called the woman to a lodging house, promising to marry her. When Shivaneela started exerting pressure on Devada that he should marry her, an argument ensued between them. Devdas took Shivaneela to Room 202 in the lodge and strangled her to death with her dupatta. Devdas, after committing the murder, stole her belongings, including gold earrings, silver anklets, a two-wheeler, and her mobile phone, before

fleeing the scene. The police later recovered these stolen items from him during his arrest. The investigation led to the swift arrest of the accused, Andhi Devdas, a 35-year-old private warden from Nandigama Mandal in Ranga Reddy district. Devdas has a criminal record. In 2021, he was involved in the murder of another woman, Lakshmi, in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. He had been arrested and later sent to jail. After being released, he was involved in another violent incident in 2024, which further cemented his criminal profile. The case was supervised by senior officers, including Avinash Mahanti, Commissioner of Police for Cyberabad, B Rajesh, DCP Shamshabad, and K Ram Kumar, ADCP Shamshabad.

Collector calls on people to participate in electoral process

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

District Collector C Narayana Reddy called upon all registered voters to actively participate in every election and exercise their fundamental right to vote responsibly. He was speaking at the celebrations marking the 15th National Voters' Day. The event, held at the Integrated District Office Complex Conference Hall on Saturday, was attended by government officials, students, and community leaders. In his address, the District Collector emphasised India's standing as the world's largest democracy, highlighting the nation's role as a beacon of democratic values for other countries. He stressed the importance of voting as a valuable right, urging citizens to not only recognise its significance but also to share this awareness with their families, friends, and colleagues. "Every eligible voter should register and vote, especially the youth who has just turned eighteen. By using our vote wisely, we can elect capable leaders and improve our society. Let us not fall for temporary temptations and make informed choices at the ballot box," said Narayana Reddy.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR,
LA, HAML, HYDERABAD

FORM-F
Notification by the Collector (LA), HAML
(See rule 7 (c))

File No.: C6/03/2025 RHS Dated: 25-01-2025.

Where as the following notifications were issued and Gazettes were Published for the Public purpose for Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from NHSS to Chandrayanpeta, Corridor-VI, situated at Share-E, Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District.

In response to the said Notifications the following affected person (Property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiations. The details of the willing affected persons are as follows.

S.NO	NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE	GAZETTE NO. & DATE
1.	No. C6/106/2024 - RHS (176 to 200)	No. 44, Date 07.12.2024

Name and address	Sketch No.	Premises No.	Extent in Sq.Yds
Sri. Syed Hussain Askari, S/o. Syed Hasan Askari Represented by r/RPA. Sri.Ashf Ali Khan, S/o. Akbar Ali Khan R/o. 6-3-459/1/16, Kapadia Lane, Somajiguda, Hyderabad.500082.	RHS 67	22-7-557	47.00
3.Sri. Mohammed Moizuddin, S/o. Late Mohammed Ali, 2. Sri. Mohammed Ahmed Altamash, S/o. Mohammed Ali R/o. 8-1-398/PM/417, Ground Floor, Paramount Colony, Tolcherki, Golkonda, Hyderabad.500008.	RHS 70	22-6-605	35.39

S.NO	NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE	GAZETTE NO. & DATE
1.	C6/106/2024 - RHS (176 to 200)	No. 44, Date 07.12.2024

Name and address	Sketch No.	Premises No.	Extent in Sq.Yds
Smt. Salma Tabassum, W/o. Md.Sultan Sheroof, R/o. 22-2-439, Moghalpura, Charminar, Hyderabad.500002.	RHS 179	23-2-439	37.76

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the Seven days of publication of this Notification.

Date: 25-01-2025

Sd/-
Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

DIPR No. 625/LA-PP/Adv/Agency/2024-25

Revise Regional Ring Road alignment: BJP leaders tell State government

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rajya Sabha member and National President of OBC Morcha K Laxman on Saturday demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy change the alignment of northern part of Regional Ring Road (RRR) to protect the interests of the farmers. Addressing the media at the Maha Dharna being organised by BJP state senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy in front of Bhuvanagiri Collector Office, he stated that the farmers would lose their valuable lands due to the present alignment. He stated that he would raise the issue in the Parliament if the State Government failed to give in to the BJP's demand. He strongly objected to the attitude of the State government for coming down heavily on the aggrieved farmers who have been raising objections to the misgivings of the powers that be. "At Lagachara the police have clamped down on the agitating farmers. They have lathi charged the innocent farmers and sent some to the prison. Similar sit-

uation has taken place at Bhuvanagiri," the BJP MP pointed out. He said that Centre has come forward for the construction of the Regional Ring Road in the state to develop the rural areas. The onus of acquiring the lands for the road was on the State Government. "However, the State Government has not treated all the regions which fall under RRR alike. It has adopted one approach on the Southern Part and the other in the Northern Part. In the Southern Part the alignment was fixed 40 km away from Outer Ring Road of Hyderabad. Whereas the same was fixed within 30 KMs of ORR," he said. He alleged that presumably the Chief Minister was interested in protecting the interests of farmers on southern part and ignored the concerns of the cultivators on the northern part. He said that the Congress has made a promise through its leader Priyanka Gandhi during campaign of the State Assembly elections that it would change the alignment and forget it as



BJP leaders K Laxman, Gudur Narayana Reddy and others meeting district Collector in Bhongir on Saturday

soon as it came to power. "The Congress leaders were elected MLAs, MLCs, and MPs. But the promise was not kept," he added. Coming down heavily on the Congress he wanted to know whether Revanth Constitution or Rahul Constitution was in effect in the state. Rahul Gandhi tours with a copy of the Constitution in his hand. But the Congress did not bother to protect the fundamental rights of the farmers, he criticised.

Laxman has pointed out that due to the proactive measures being taken up by Prime Minister Narendra Mod like construction of Warangal National Highway, establishment of All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Bhuvanagiri, extension of MMTS up to Yadadri, establishment of Railway Wagon Factory at Kazipet, development of tourist spots like Ramappa Temple and others the areas around

Bhuvanagiri has seen tremendous development in the past 10 years. Earlier scores of farmers have gathered at the District Collector Office of Bhuvanagiri district in the morning under the leadership of Gudur Narayana Reddy. However, the police tried to drive them out from there. District SP Rajesh Chandra insisted that since there was no permission to the Dharna, the farmers should go away. But the farmers stood firm and did not budge to the dictates of the police. Later Laxman joined them and insisted to meet the Collector. When the police refused to this demand, he and Narayana Reddy made a sit in. With this the police tried to push them back and stampede like situation has taken place. As agitators jostled with one another unknown person stamped on the foot of Guduru Narayana Reddy causing severe pain. Later the police allowed Laxman, Narayana Reddy and some others to meet the Collector to submit a memorandum.



MISSION BAY HAS SOME AMAZING DISHES:

KIMCHI BRUSSELS SPROUTS: *Kimchi Brussels Sprouts* is a fusion dish that combines the earthy flavour of Brussels sprouts with the bold, spicy, and tangy notes of traditional Korean kimchi. The Brussels sprouts are usually roasted or sautéed, then tossed with kimchi, adding a satisfying crunch and depth to the dish.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH: *Butternut Squash* is a rich and creamy dish that highlights the natural sweetness and smooth texture of roasted butternut squash. It is served as a soup, puree, or roasted, offering a comforting and nutritious side or main.

THAI STYLE CORN SOUP: *Thai Style Corn Soup* is a vibrant, flavourful dish that blends sweet corn with the fragrant spices of Thai cuisine. It typically includes ingredients like coconut milk, lemongrass, ginger, and chili, creating a savoury-sweet soup with a perfect balance of heat and creaminess.

SHIMEJI MUSHROOMS FLATBREAD: *Shimeji Mushrooms Flatbread* is a savoury appetizer or main dish that features the delicate, nutty flavour of shimeji mushrooms. The mushrooms are sautéed and served on a crisp flatbread base, often garnished with herbs, cheese, and a drizzle of sauce for added flavour.

RICOTTA RAVIOLI: *Ricotta Ravioli* is a classic Italian dish featuring soft, pillowy pasta filled with creamy ricotta cheese. The ravioli can be served with a variety of sauces, from simple butter and sage to rich tomato-based sauces, highlighting the delicate filling.

APPLE BERRY CRUMBLE: *Apple Berry Crumble* is a comforting dessert that combines the sweetness of apples with the tartness of berries, all topped with a buttery, crumbly topping. Baked until golden and bubbling, it's often served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

TOFFEE DATE CAKE: Yet another sinful delight, *Toffee Date Cake* is a rich, moist dessert made with dates and a toffee-flavored sauce, creating a dense, caramel-like sweetness. Often served warm with a drizzle of toffee sauce and a side of cream, it offers a decadent treat perfect for dessert lovers.

A TASTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

The *Mission Bay* Restaurant recently opened in Malviya Nagar Delhi. It has some great cuisine and authentic American wining and dining experience for the connoisseurs, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

Ever imagined to have American experience in Delhi, authentic and cosy ambiance with a service with smile. A tall order really but that is exactly what *Mission Bay* is offering in South Delhi. *Mission Bay* Restaurant stands as a delightful oasis of flavour, design, and American hospitality. Inspired by the vibrant and eclectic spirit of San Francisco, this restaurant offers an immersive experience that takes you straight to the Bay Area, all while keeping you grounded in the comfort of cozy, inviting interiors. As you step into *Mission Bay*, you are immediately greeted by the distinctive atmosphere reminiscent of the Californian city. The restaurant's interior is thoughtfully designed to capture the essence of San Francisco, featuring chic industrial elements, vibrant murals, and elegant wooden accents. The open, airy spaces and warm lighting evoke the feeling of walking through a trendy Bay Area neighbourhood. With high ceilings, large windows, and a touch of vintage charm, *Mission Bay* provides an inviting environment that feels both contemporary and comfortable. The

design masterfully blends rustic and modern elements, allowing guests to feel like they are dining in the heart of San Francisco. *Mission Bay* is not just about the ambiance, it's about bringing a slice of American dining to the capital. The restaurant offers a curated menu inspired by the best of American cuisine, with everything from hearty burgers and fried chicken to succulent steaks and fresh seafood. Each dish is crafted with care, using the finest ingredients to bring out authentic American flavors. The American-inspired cuisine is rich in diversity, just like San Francisco itself, with touches of California's innovative food scene and classic diner favorites. What stands out at *Mission Bay* is its commitment to quality and innovation. From comfort food to indulgent desserts, the menu offers a variety of options that cater to every palate. Whether you're craving the comfort of a juicy burger or the richness of a gourmet salad, *Mission Bay* delivers with an authenticity that transports you straight to the West Coast. One of the restaurant's most commendable aspects is its exceptional



service. The staff at *Mission Bay* are attentive, friendly and dedicated to creating a welcoming atmosphere. Their knowledge of the menu is impeccable, and they take the time to ensure that every guest feels special. Whether it's a

casual lunch, an intimate dinner, or a celebratory meal, the team at *Mission Bay* ensures a personalised dining experience. Their commitment to excellence in service sets *Mission Bay* apart from other restaurants in the area.

Despite the bustling energy of Delhi, *Mission Bay* manages to create a cosy environment that feels intimate and relaxed. The restaurant is the perfect spot for a romantic date, a family gathering, or a meal with friends. The ambiance is

unpretentious yet sophisticated, making it a great place for both casual dining and special occasions. *Mission Bay* has rapidly become a sought-after destination for food lovers in Delhi, offering not just a meal but an experience. With its innovative concept, stylish design, and impeccable service, it offers a little taste of San Francisco without leaving the city. For anyone seeking a unique dining experience in Malviya Nagar, *Mission Bay* is a must-visit. Whether you're a local or just passing through, *Mission Bay* Restaurant is a gem that promises a truly memorable American dining experience with a touch of West Coast flair, all while providing the warmth and comfort that makes you feel right at home.



A CULINARY REVIVAL

By **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere Opens its Doors: In the vibrant heart of Delhi, *Le Meridien New Delhi* recently opened legendary *Le Belvedere* as *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere*. This exciting culinary destination blends the iconic restaurant's storied past with an innovative, modern twist, promising to captivate diners with a unique fusion of tradition and creativity. For decades, *Le Belvedere* has been a symbol of sophistication and elegance, a cherished venue for diplomats and dignitaries who delighted in its signature *Szechuan Chinese cuisine* and refined ambiance. With the unveiling of *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere*, the space embarks on a new chapter, fusing cherished memories with a fresh, dynamic vision for the future.



Tradition Meets Innovation: At *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere*, the restaurant elevates Asia's rich street food culture, combining traditional flavours with contemporary flair. Far more than just a dining experience, it celebrates the artistry of cuisine, blending innovation with timeless tradition. With inspiration drawn from the bustling street markets of Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Singapore and China, the menu offers a harmonious balance of authenticity and modern creativity that will delight discerning food lovers. The culinary philosophy at *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* is rooted in honoring the bold flavours and techniques of Southeast Asia, while also adapting to the evolving tastes of today's global palate. Each dish tells its own story, inviting guests to explore the vibrant world of Asian cuisine through a lens of imaginative reinterpretation and impeccable craftsmanship.



A Journey Through Flavour: The menu at *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* is a sensory journey that promises to captivate from the first bite. Guests can indulge in an array of dishes, from playful twists on classic favorites to bold new creations, each thoughtfully crafted to engage the senses and spark curiosity.

With a focus on diverse textures and punchy flavours, the restaurant invites diners to savor the spirit of discovery with every course. Whether you're enjoying an intimate dinner or hosting a celebratory gathering, *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* offers a culinary adventure that is both exciting and accessible. The restaurant's ambiance, where tradition and modernity intertwine, enhances the experience, making each meal a memorable occasion.

An Invitation to Explore: *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* is now open, ready to welcome guests to explore a world where history, culture and gastronomy come together. From its reimaged take on Southeast Asian street food to its dynamic blend of traditional flavors and contemporary techniques, this new dining destination at *Le Meridien New Delhi* promises to be a must-visit spot for food enthusiasts in the city.

To take you to the mouth watering taste of Kashmir, *Shangri-la Eros New Delhi* hosted a culinary journey with the *Chef pin pop-up* at Tamra. The pop up showcased the spicy flavours of Kashmir, expertly handpicked by *Chef Archana Dhawan*. Apart from the Kashmiri flavours, desserts took the show with the pastry *Chef Dakshata Agarwal*. Guests were treated to a symphony of Kashmiri delicacies, beginning with a selection of signature appetisers. *Chef Dhawan's* creations included the crispy *Nadur Monji*, a delightful fried snack made from lotus stems and gram flour. The delicate *Chaman Kanti* and aromatic *Nadur Aloo Adrek Mond* further tantalised the palate. For non-vegetarians, succulent *Chicken and Mutton Kanti* alongside the traditional *Talite Gaad* offered a taste of local specialties. The live theatrical kitchens added a touch of drama, where skilled chefs artfully prepared *Kabar Gah* and the classic *Kaladi Kulcha*, each dish carrying a unique story of Kashmir's rich culinary heritage.

The main course was a grand celebration of flavours, where traditional Kashmiri recipes were brought to life with timeless cooking techniques. Vegetarian delights included the famed *Dum Aloo*, aromatic *Chaman Tamatar*, and the distinctive *Chaman Rogan Josh*, all complemented by the hearty *Haak* and *Kashmiri Bhadrehwah Rajma*. Non-vegetarians were equally indulged with the legendary *Mutton Rogan Josh*.



FROM ROGAN JOSH TO KASHMIRI KAHWA

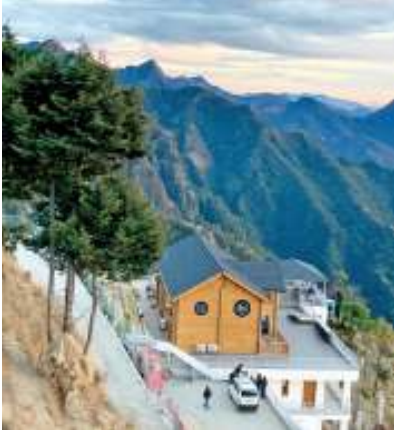
Tamra was brought alive with the aroma of Kashmir and the soul satisfying taste of the desserts, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



delicate *Yakhni*, and unique *Masch Aloo Bukhara*. Fish enthusiasts savored both *Tamatar* and *Nadur* preparations. Each dish was served with a selection of breads, including *Kashmiri Phulka*, accompanied by authentic *chutneys* – from the nutty Walnut to the tangy *Muli* and *Anardana Pudina* variations. To complete the dining experience, guests were invited to savour the royal *Saffron Kheer* and enjoy a warming cup of *Kahwa*, Kashmir's beloved spiced tea. While *Chef Dhawan* delighted palates with her authentic Kashmiri creations, Pastry *Chef Dakshata Agarwal* added a touch of sweetness with her signature dessert collection. The sweet finale featured delicate *Chiffon Cakes* in two variations - a fresh Strawberry Kiss topped with Chocolate Strawberry Panna Cotta and the rich Chocolate Kiss adorned with Dark Chocolate Cookie Soil. The indulgence continued with a velvety *Chocolate Mousse Caramel* embellished with dark chocolate elements, and the standout *Bailey's Chocolate Egg*, which guests could enjoy at their table or take home as a memorable treat. Each dessert showcased a perfect blend of classic techniques and contemporary presentation, offering a delightful conclusion to the culinary journey. The *Chef Pin pop-up* at *Shangri-la Eros New Delhi* provided a unique opportunity for guests to experience the essence of Kashmir through its flavourful cuisine and taste.



FINDING SOUL CONNECTIONS AT SOUL STORIES



Whether you're an avid bird watcher or someone looking to escape the chaos of urban life, Soul Stories promises an unparalleled blend of adventure and soulful experience, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**



Soul Stories - Luxury Villas and Resort, Mussoorie, the bird-watching resort and retreat offers a haven for nature lovers and peace seekers alike. Surrounded by dense oak, deodar and rhododendron forests, this retreat is not just a destination but an experience that reconnects you with nature, tranquility, and yourself. Whether you're an avid bird watcher or someone looking to escape the chaos of urban life, Soul Stories promises an unparalleled blend of adventure and solace. Located near Dhanaulti, in Tehri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand, India. Dhanaulti is located on the popular tourist circuit of Landour, Mussoorie, Kanatal, Chamba and New Tehri. Soul Stories is easily accessible from Delhi and other parts of the country via *Dehradun*, followed by a scenic two-hour drive.

THE ALLURE OF SOUL STORIES' BIRD-WATCHING RETREAT

One of the retreat's standout features is its rich biodiversity. Dhanaulti, perched at an altitude of around 2,250 meters in the vicinity of Mussoorie, is home to an astonishing variety of avian species. From the vibrant Himalayan monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand, to colourful flycatchers, woodpeckers and thrushes, the retreat is a paradise for ornithologists and casual bird watchers alike. Guided bird-watching trails led by local experts ensure you don't miss out on spotting rare and exquisite birds. The retreat is carefully designed to



for personal rejuvenation. Unlike traditional retreats, it combines the joy of bird watching with holistic wellness practices such as yoga, meditation and mindfulness walking on the pathways around. For those seeking deeper connections, there are bonfire evenings where guests can share their experiences and bond with like-minded individuals. The idea is to create a community where stories and nature blend to form lasting memories.

ESCAPE FROM THE MADDENING CROWD

In an increasingly chaotic world, finding peace can feel like an elusive goal. Dhanaulti's remoteness makes it an ideal destination for those looking to unplug. With limited connectivity and a deliberate emphasis on slow living, Soul Stories encourages guests to step away from their screens and immerse themselves in the present moment. The serene environment fosters introspection, creativity and a sense of calm that lingers long after you leave.

SUSTAINABILITY AT ITS CORE

Soul Stories is committed to sustainable tourism. The retreat employs eco-friendly practices such as rainwater harvesting, solar energy, and organic farming to minimise its ecological footprint. Additionally, they actively engage with the local community by employing local guides and sourcing ingredients for their delicious, wholesome meals from nearby farms.

WHY SOUL STORIES SHOULD BE YOUR NEXT GETAWAY

Whether you're a seasoned birder, a wellness enthusiast or simply someone yearning for a break from the daily grind, Soul Stories offers something for everyone. Its combination of natural beauty, thoughtful amenities, and enriching experiences makes it a sanctuary where you can find peace, inspiration, and joy.

In the words of a recent visitor, "Soul Stories is not just about luxury and finding solace amidst nature; it is about discovering your own self. A place where you can hear silence and listen to your inner voices." So pack your bags, leave your worries behind, and let the hills of Dhanaulti and the birds of Soul Stories guide you to a state of blissful serenity.



harmonise with its natural surroundings. Rustic cottages with large windows offer panoramic views of the forested hills, creating the perfect backdrop for morning coffee or an evening of stargazing. The soft chirping of birds replaces the noise of traffic, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the calming sounds of nature. Madhavi Madan, the visionary behind this resort, is a dynamic individual who has personally curated every detail visitors experience here. From the paintings and artifacts to the designer furniture, each element reflects her passion and impeccable taste, seamlessly harmonising with the natural surroundings.

A PLACE TO RECONNECT AND RECHARGE

Soul Stories stands out for more than its natural beauty; it offers an opportunity



ROVING THROUGH DUBAI'S ARTFUL HEART
As I arrived at *Rove City Walk Dubai*, anticipation coursed through me. Touted as a modern gem in this cultural capital, I was eager to see if it would live up to the remarkable reviews, says **AKANKSHA DEAN**



As I stepped into the vibrant realm of *Rove City Walk*, the first thing that struck me was the energy of the lobby. It wasn't just a reception area; it was a hub of creativity and warmth. I was immediately enveloped by a design philosophy that blended harmoniously with its lush surroundings. Channelling the spirit of the local environment, the hotel intertwines the tales of Dubai's rich culture with modern touches, creating captivating backdrops that demand to be photographed. This isn't just a hotel; it's a canvas where every corner tells a story waiting to be shared on Instagram. This artistic flair was a delightful prelude to the stylish experience awaiting me. **STYLISH COMFORT IN DOWNTOWN DUBAI:** The check-in was seamless, thanks to the friendly and engaging staff who made me feel at home from the moment I arrived. Located in the heart of the city, I felt the pulse of Dubai within my reach. Just a 15-minute journey from Dubai International Airport, the hotel's strategic location makes it ideal for both business travellers and holidaymakers alike. My home for the stay was one of the 560 spacious rooms, each designed with the modern traveller in mind. My room, with its innovative décor and local

artworks, was a cosy retreat. Looking out the window, the view of the majestic Burj Khalifa was awe-inspiring, creating a perfect backdrop for my stay. I loved that 30 percent of these rooms are interconnected, a thoughtful feature for families or groups. With complimentary Wi-Fi, plush designer mattresses, and sofa beds perfect for unwinding after a day of exploration, it felt like the ideal sanctuary. The modern bathrooms, complete with power rain showers, were the cherry on top, offering a refreshing escape. The sense of ease continued beyond the room. The 24-hour gym kept me motivated, while the inviting pool and sun deck offered a tranquil refuge for relaxation. A self-service laundromat and a boutique convenience store added to the sense of independent living, making it feel like I could call this place my own. The hotel also features co-working spaces that are both functional and inspiring for creativity, making it an excellent choice for business gatherings and social celebrations. The Daily, an all-day neighbourhood hangout, was the perfect spot to unwind. Whether dining in or grabbing something for later, I was never disappointed. Quality coffee paired with globally-



inspired, nutritious dishes kept me fuelled for my adventures, and the vibe was just right for casual conversations with fellow travellers. **DOWNTOWN'S VIBRANT CHARM:** One of the best aspects of staying at *Rove City Walk* is its prime location, coupled with the convenience of a complimentary shuttle service to various attractions. A leisurely stroll led me to the iconic Coca-Cola Arena at City Walk, and it was just as easy to dip my toes in the sparkling waters of Jumeirah Beach. I hopped on the hotel bus, which whisked me away to the sprawling Dubai Mall. As I arrived at one of the world's largest shopping destinations, the sheer

scale and opulence of the mall took my breath away. I strolled past luxury boutiques, indulged in some retail therapy, and marvelled at the massive aquarium teeming with vibrant marine life. While at the Dubai Mall, I also experienced the mesmerising Dubai Fountain show. The synchrony of water, light and music created an unforgettable spectacle, an enchanting performance that lingered in my mind long after the final splash. Another day, I visited City Walk, brimming with chic boutiques and eye-catching street art. I lost myself in the colours of the art installations and enjoyed a leisurely meal at one of the trendy cafés. Nearby, the Green Planet, an extraordinary indoor rainforest, invited exploration among its lush greenery and exotic wildlife. It was a refreshing change of pace, showcasing the diversity of ecosystems right in the heart of the city. When evening approached, I made my way to the Dubai Opera House for an enriching cultural experience. The performances held there were world-class, each one a captivating expression of artistry and creativity. **LAST MOMENTS OF BLISS:** After several exhilarating days of exploration, it was time to wrap up my Dubai adventure. Late check-out at 2 PM

was a blessing, allowing me to linger longer in this oasis before heading out. However, I extended my experience with a last-minute visit to the Plaza Premium Lounge at the airport, a tranquil haven before my departure. As I settled into the lounge's plush seating, the welcoming ambience provided the perfect setting to reflect on my unforgettable trip. I treated myself to gourmet snacks and beverages, relishing the peaceful environment. The lounge's modern décor and views of the airport buzz were a gentle reminder of the journeys that lay ahead. As I bid farewell to Dubai, I took one last glance at the cityscape. In my time at *Rove City Walk*, I discovered more than just a temporary home; I found a vibrant community hub that embodies the essence of Dubai while delivering comfort and convenience. Every moment spent here was a reminder of why I love exploring the world, one hotel at a time. — Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category

IN BRIEF



NDTV loss widens in Q3 at Rs 55.48 cr

Media network NDTV Ltd on Saturday reported a widening of consolidated loss to Rs 55.48 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2024, impacted by higher expenses. The company had posted a consolidated loss of Rs 10.16 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. NDTV said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 132.74 crore compared to Rs 97.95 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. Total expenses in the third quarter were higher at Rs 187.72 crore as compared to Rs 110.23 crore in the same period a year ago, it added. During the quarter, production expenses and cost of services were higher at Rs 54.87 crore as compared to Rs 36.78 crore in the year-ago period and employee benefits expense was also higher at Rs 42.87 crore as compared to Rs 33.88 crore in the same period a year ago.



SpiceJet to expand flight connectivity

Domestic air carrier SpiceJet on Saturday said it would launch direct flight connectivity between Prayagraj and Chennai, Hyderabad aimed at serving passengers keen to take part in the ongoing Maha Kumbh festival. The special flights from Chennai and Hyderabad to Prayagraj would be operated from February 1 to 27 while services from Guwahati would be run from February 11 to 28. The airline would also enhance its daily services to Prayagraj from Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Bengaluru by adding more flights from these cities, a company statement said here. "SpiceJet is committed to providing seamless connectivity to passengers travelling to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh. With direct flights from Guwahati, Chennai and Hyderabad and enhanced frequencies from Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Bengaluru, we aim to make travel convenient and accessible for devotees across the country," SpiceJet Chief Business Officer Deboj Maharshi said.



DLF sells 173 ultra luxury homes for Rs 11,816 cr

Real estate major DLF has sold 173 apartments for Rs 11,816 crore in its ultra luxury residential project 'The Dahlias' in Gurugram, on strong demand from the super-rich. In October last year, DLF launched a 17-acre housing project 'The Dahlias' at DLF Phase 5 in Gurugram, Haryana comprising 420 apartments and penthouses. This project is the second ultra luxury offering from DLF after the successful delivery of 'The Camellias' at same location. The minimum size of an apartment is 10,300 square feet. According to an investors' presentation, DLF has sold 173 units having 18.5 lakh square feet area, for Rs 11,816 crore. Average realization was around Rs 70 crore per residence. The average per square feet rate is around Rs 64,000 on saleable area and Rs 1,05,000 on carpet area. On bumper sales in this project, DLF Group MD Ashok Tyagi said there has been a "very strong underlying demand" for this exclusive offering.

India puts up a big show at Davos

Returns with Rs 20 lakh cr investment commitments

PNS ■ DAVOS

As the five-day World Economic Forum Annual Meeting ended on Friday, Indian leaders said they could see trust for India in eyes of all global leaders and that was reflected in investment commitments totalling over Rs 20 lakh crore with Maharashtra grabbing the biggest pie of almost 80 per cent.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who led the largest ever Indian delegation of five Union ministers and several leaders from states including three chief ministers, said trust and talent are the biggest factors attracting the world to India.

All states and central government departments shared space for the first time at two India Pavilions and a joint press conference was held for the first time by state and Union ministers, coming from half a dozen different parties to put up a unified 'Team India' face. "We are in Davos at a very important juncture in our glob-



al geopolitical and geo economic scenario. Despite all the disruption and all the issues the world is facing, India has emerged as a very trusted country which respects IP rights, a country where democracy is vibrant," Vaishnaw said. "We have clearly demonstrated to the world that under all circumstances, this is the country which believes in peace, growth for everybody and inclusive development," he added.

Maharashtra delegation, led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, signed 61 MoUs worth Rs 15.70 lakh crore, with the potential to generate 16 lakh jobs.

Telangana delegation, led by CM Revanth Reddy, secured 20 MoUs worth Rs 1.79 lakh crore, focusing on data centres, green energy, and cutting-edge technologies, which they said are expected to generate nearly 50,000 jobs.

'Amitabh brand ambassador for 'India Gate' basmati rice'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

KRBL Ltd has roped in Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan as the brand ambassador for its 'India Gate' brand of basmati rice.

Bachchan's association with 'India Gate' marks a significant milestone in the brand's journey to strengthen its connection with consumers and reaffirm its position as the global leader in the basmati rice category, the company said in a statement.

Ayush Gupta, India Business Head, KRBL said, "We are honoured to welcome Amitabh Bachchan to the KRBL family. His legendary stature, unwavering integrity and timeless appeal perfectly resonate with our core values and rich heritage."

With his iconic presence, the company aims to deepen its consumer engagement and plans to take the brand's story to every corner of the country and the world, he added.

US-India relations to grow stronger under Trump: USISPF chief

PNS ■ DAVOS

Confident of US-India relations getting much stronger going ahead, industry body USISPF chief Mukesh Aghi has said the two sides are mature enough to deal with the bumps that may come ahead during US President Donald Trump's second presidency.

Speaking to PTI here during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting that ended on Friday, Aghi said geopolitical alignment between India and the US has become more closer and strategic and the camaraderie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump is very strong. "So, from that perspective, we believe the relationship between the two companies will keep moving forward in the right direction," said the President and CEO of US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

USISPF describes itself as a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-partisan organisation and it has offices in Washington and New Delhi. USISPF's members represent over USD 10 trillion in annual revenue with over 6 million employees.

"The trade between the two countries is around 200 billion dollars and that is going up. The students number in the US is closer to 350,000 and that's also going up. We have around 5.5 million Indian Americans who are very very supportive of this relationship. So in every aspect, from technology perspective, from geopolitical perspective, the relationship will go in upward trajectory," he said.



Lanka appoints panel to review Adani wind power projects

PNS ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government on Saturday said it has appointed a committee to review the Adani Green Energy wind power projects in Mannar and Pooneryn districts.

At the same time, it said there was no decision to cancel the projects.

Speaking to reporters here, government spokesperson Nalinda Jayathissa clarified that the government decided against signing an agreement based on the power purchase prices negotiated by the previous administration in 2023.

"There was no decision to cancel the Mannar and Pooneryn projects, but rather to appoint a committee to review them. The committee has started its work, and once

the review is complete, we will determine what changes need to be made," he said.

The previous government of Ranil Wickremesinghe in May last year signed a 20-year power purchase agreement for the 484 MW Adani wind plants at a rate of USD 0.826 per unit. This decision drew criticism as local bidders reportedly offered lower unit prices.

"We are not agreeable to the prices proposed. As a result, the previous pricing agreement was revoked, and the committee was tasked with revising the project, including its pricing structure," Jayathissa said.

He also said that five court cases, mostly filed by environmental organisations, are pending against the Adani agreement.

NTPC net profit dips marginally to Rs 5,169 cr in Q3

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC on Saturday reported a marginal dip in its consolidated net profit to Rs 5,169.69 crore for the October-December quarter compared to the year-ago period due to higher tax expenses and adjustments.

The company had a consolidated net profit of Rs 5,208.87 crore in the quarter ended on December 31, 2023, a BSE filing showed.

Total income rose to Rs 45,597.95 crore in the third quarter from Rs 43,574.65 crore in the same period a year ago.

Total tax expenses in the quarter increased to Rs 2,075.12 crore from Rs 1,361.75 crore a year ago. Similarly, net movement in regulatory deferral account balances (net of tax) was (minus) Rs 343.09 crore in the quarter against Rs 1436.24 crore (plus) in the same period a year ago.

Net movement in regulatory



deferral account balances (net of tax) consists of exchange differences arising from settlement/translation of monetary item denominated in foreign currency to the extent recoverable from or payable to the beneficiaries in subsequent periods, deferred tax liability reversible in future periods when they become current tax and similar items which will be materialised in future considering the CERC Tariff

Regulations and the requirements of Ind AS 114- 'Regulatory deferral accounts'.

Board of Directors in its meeting on Saturday decided, inter alia, to pay second interim dividend at the rate of 25 per cent (Rs. 2.5 per share) on the face value of paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each for the financial year 2024-25.

The average tariff increased to Rs 4.68 per unit in the nine month period from April to

December 2024 from Rs 4.57 per unit in the same period a year ago.

The gross generation of the firm increased to 91.25 billion units (BU) from 89.46 BU a year ago. The coal output also increased to 10.98 MMT in the quarter from 8.09 MMT.

Plant load factor or capacity utilisation of coal-based plants also increased slightly to 75.98 per cent from 75.95 per cent.

TiE marks 25 year of service in building entrepreneurship

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) Chennai, a not-for-profit organisation marked the successful completion of 25 years of building an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the state, a top official said on Saturday.

TiE Chennai has been a driving force behind innovation, mentorship and collaboration, shaping the success stories of startups and various business leaders.

The silver jubilee celebration under the theme 'The Legacy of TiE Chennai: Transform, Thrive, Triumph' consisted of past presidents and industry leaders taking part in the inaugural session, a release said.

Founder and Chancellor of Sai University KV Ramani,



former CEO and Vice Chairman of Cognizant and Krea University Chancellor Lakshmi Narayanan, Serial Entrepreneur Naru Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director of FMCG major CavinKare CK Ranganathan among others participated.

"As we celebrate 25 years of

empower entrepreneurs, drive innovation, and propel Tamil Nadu to global leadership in entrepreneurship," Subramanya, the Founder and Managing Director and CEO, Integra Software Services Pvt Ltd said.

The panellists on the occasion highlighted the enduring commitment of TiE Chennai towards fostering entrepreneurship. They emphasised the pivotal role played by TiE Chennai in enabling businesses from the city to thrive and triumph.

TiE was founded in 1992 in Silicon Valley by a group of successful entrepreneurs, corporate executives and senior professionals. The mission of TiE is to foster entrepreneurship through mentoring, networking, education, funding and incubation.

empower entrepreneurs, drive innovation, and propel Tamil Nadu to global leadership in entrepreneurship," Subramanya, the Founder and Managing Director and CEO, Integra Software Services Pvt Ltd said.

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Over 7,500 delegates to attend Odisha business conclave: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

More than 7,500 delegates, including many from 20 foreign countries, will attend a business conclave in Odisha's Bhubaneswar scheduled to be held from January 28-29, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the event on January 28 at Janata Maidan, the conclave venue, he said.

The state is in all readiness to host the "biggest" business sum-

mit 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make In Odisha Conclave 2025', Majhi said on Friday after taking stock of the preparations at the venue.

"The conclave would prove to be a historic one and it will not only lay a foundation for a strong and vibrant economy but also create vast opportunities for farmers and labourers," the CM said. Majhi said more than 100 MoUs would be signed during the two-day conclave, which has the potential to create employment for 3.5 lakh people.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
SHORT TENDER PAPER NOTIFICATION NO: 15/24-25
E-procurement Short tender is invited from the experienced and GST Registered Vendors for "T.S.No.s: 37.38 for Bifurcation of 33KV Feeders in Medchal and Sangareddy Circles Under T&D Improvement works". Bid down load starts date & time: 27.01.2025 from 14:00 Hrs. Bid Submission closing date & time: 03.02.2025, till 14:00 Hrs. Technical bid opening date & time: 04.02.2025, at 14:30 Hrs. & Price bid opening date & time: 05.02.2025, at 15:00 Hrs. For further details please visit: www.tender.telangana.gov.in / www.ap.southpower.org Sd/-Chief Engineer, Operation/Medchal Zone, R.O.No: 9632-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt: 25-01-2025 TGSPDCL, Nint compound.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA IRRIGATION & CAD (P.W) DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE
No. 8/2024-2025
A) Name of the work: Execution of balance work on the restoration of Dharmadipali Canal in Bhongir and Nalgonda districts. Estimated cost of the work is Rs. 81.89 crore.
B) Name of the work: Execution of the balance work on Pillalaji canal in Bhongir and Nalgonda districts of an estimated cost of Rs 56.23 crore. Availability of documents for the above two works is from 2.00 pm on 27-01-2025 to 3.00 pm on 19-02-2025. Name of the official inviting the tenders is: K Venkateswara Rao, B.E. For details, contact e-procurement platform www.telanganatenders.gov.in Sd/-Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, R.O.No: 9632-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt: 25-01-2025 Mail Chitrapalli (M), Nalgonda Dist.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
(1) NIT No. 1020/UB/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 25.01.2025
No. of Works: 03 Works, Estimated amount: Rs. 7.35 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 26.01.2025 @ 11:30 AM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 31.01.2025 @ 11:30 AM.
(2) NIT No. 480, 889, 962/UB/GHMC/2024-25 Dated: 25.01.2025
No. of Works: 03 Work, Estimated amount: Rs. 15.91 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: Dt: 26.01.2025 @ 11:30 AM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: Dt: 01.02.2025 @ 11:30 AM.
Name & Address Officer Cell No: Dy. Director, UBD, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC, Cell No. 9398036791. Further details can be seen at: https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Dy. Director, UBD, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC, R.O.No: 9662-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-25, Dt: 25-01-2025

AMFI-AMII sign MoU to strengthen economic cooperation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and the Asosiasi Manajer Investasi Indonesia (AMII), the Indonesian Investment Managers Association, on Saturday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral financial and economic best practices.

This partnership is set to strengthen the mutual fund sectors in both countries, and promote investor education and financial literacy, paving the way for a more dynamic, transparent, and globally inte-

grated mutual fund ecosystem. The MoU will create a platform for India and Indonesia to exchange best practices, insights, and strategies aimed at boosting the mutual fund industries.

The partnership will cover understanding and need of broad spectrum of areas, including requirement for regulatory reforms, governance standards, essential investor protection steps, data analytics, research, product innovation, and risk management ensuring that both countries benefit from each other's expertise and experiences.

The MoU was signed here where a delegation of 12 top



The partnership will cover understanding and need of broad spectrum of areas, including requirement for regulatory reforms, governance standards, essential investor protection steps, data analytics, research, product innovation, and risk management ensuring that both countries benefit from each other's expertise and experiences

CEOs from Indonesia's mutual fund industry accompanied the Indonesian President on his state visit to India. "This partnership resonates with India's commitment to

the leadership of the Global South, fostering economic collaboration and mutual growth. A strong capital market and a thriving asset management industry, as exemplified by

the success of India's mutual fund sector, will play a crucial role in achieving these milestones. This collaboration will lay the foundation for a sustainable and globally compet-

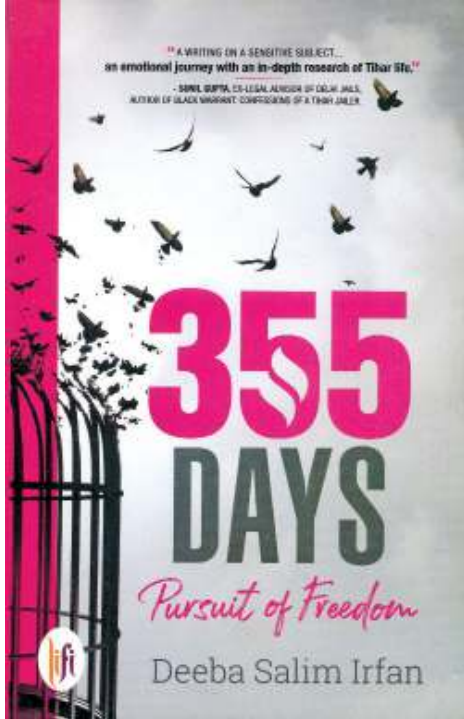
itive mutual fund industry in both countries," Navneet Munot, Chairman, AMFI, said.

The AMII delegation, which includes senior officials such as the Commissioner of the Indonesian Stock Exchange, the Chairman of AMII, and top leaders from Indonesia's asset management sector, engaged in discussions that promise to be instrumental in shaping the future of mutual funds in both countries.

Hanif Mantiq, Chairman of AMII, emphasized, "By learning from each other's regulatory frameworks and governance structures, we will be able to offer our investors greater security and innovation

"Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear"

— GEORGE ADDAIR



Tihar is more than just a correctional facility, it is a microcosm of society, brimming with stories of resilience, redemption and raw humanity. Following the excerpt from the book *355 Days: Pursuit of Freedom*.

With *Black Warrant* topping Netflix charts as the No. 1 show, the enigmatic world of Tihar Jail has captured the public's attention once again.

As one of Asia's largest and most complex prison systems, Tihar holds within its walls stories of resilience, despair, redemption and raw humanity. This newfound interest highlights society's fascination with the lives hidden behind prison walls, narratives that often remain untold but carry immense significance.

Tihar Jail is more than just a prison – it is a world within a world, housing individuals from all walks of life. From petty criminals to high-profile offenders, from activists to political prisoners, it is a microcosm of society where identities collide and stories unfold. Beneath the label of "convict" or "undertrial" lies a human being, grappling with remorse, survival, and perhaps even hope. Both *Black Warrant* and *355 Days* aim to shed light on this humanity, challenging the stereotypes often associated with prison life.

While *Black Warrant* provides chilling insights into executions and the inner workings of the prison system as a first-hand account by the former *Tihar Superintendent* and *ex-Legal*



The Changing Perception of Prison Life

Advisor of Delhi Jails, Sunil Gupta, the novel *355 Days*, inspired by true events, delves into the emotional and psychological journeys of inmates. Together, these narratives as well as other stories inspired by true events compel us to confront questions about justice, survival, and the power of redemption.

355 Days, an Amazon bestseller, delves into the complexities of life within *Tihar Jail*. The novel, which features a quote from Sunil Gupta on the cover stating it offers "A writing about a sensitive subject. An emotional journey with in-depth research of Tihar life," reinforces its commitment to authenticity. The endorsement highlights the novel's connection to the realities of life within *Tihar Jail*, appealing to readers interested in stories inspired by true events. *355 Days* transcends the typical crime story, weaving together legal drama with profound exploration of the protagonist's inner journey. This unique blend positions the novel within the sphere of philosophical prison drama. *Tihar Jail*, in many ways, serves as a mirror to

larger socio-economic and judicial systems. It reveals the inequities that plague our society, the struggles and resilience of the marginalised. While the prison itself is often viewed as a place of punishment, it also serves as a crucible of transformation. Sunil Gupta's tenure as Superintendent of *Tihar Jail* was instrumental in bringing significant reforms, including the establishment of legal aid cells, the streamlining of jail procedures with the *Delhi Jail Manual*, and the introduction of yoga and meditation programs for inmates. The rehabilitation initiatives and the skill-building workshops offer inmates a chance to rediscover themselves and have been instrumental in improving the lives of those incarcerated. When asked about the recent success of *Black Warrant* on Netflix, he said, "I believe in the power of selfless acts! I firmly hold that when you work towards the betterment of others, the universe rewards you in abundance. God's blessings and gratitude from those you've helped are the greatest rewards. Keep spreading



I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF SELFLESS ACTS! I FIRMLY HOLD THAT WHEN YOU WORK TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF OTHERS, THE UNIVERSE REWARDS YOU IN ABUNDANCE. GOD'S BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDE FROM THOSE YOU'VE HELPED ARE THE GREATEST REWARDS. KEEP SPREADING KINDNESS, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



kindness, and making a difference!" Literature and media have the unique ability to humanise even the most vilified. By presenting detailed, empathetic narratives, they remind us that every prisoner has a story, a past and, perhaps, a chance at a better future. Stories like *Black Warrant* and *355 Days* do not shy away from the darkness but instead bring to light the glimmers of hope and humanity that exist even in the bleakest environments.

Recent years have seen several films inspired by real-life incidents. Notably, *Shahid* (2012), a critically acclaimed biographical drama based on the life of human rights lawyer Shahid Azmi, garnered numerous awards for its portrayal of his fight for justice for the wrongfully accused. *Lucknow Central* (2017), exploring the realities of life within Indian prisons, received positive reviews and praise for Farhan Akhtar's performance. However, it was the 2018 biopic *Sanju* – depicting the life of Sanjay Dutt, that achieved blockbuster status, breaking several box office records. Through literature and media, we can begin to bridge the gap between perception and reality, inching closer to a more nuanced understanding of the world behind bars.

Title: 355 Days: Pursuit of Freedom
Author: Deeba Salim Irfan
Publisher: LiFi Publications Pvt. Ltd.
Language: English
Paperback: 239 pages





Culinary heritage meets innovation

Foodstories, a fresh new gourmet food experience launched in March 2024 has launched its second store at Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, after launching its first store in New Delhi. This experiential food destination caters to a well-travelled consumer who is passionate about food, is continuously on the lookout for standout ingredients and experiences, and appreciates the value of eating good food with a hope for a better and longer life.

The Foodstories multi-channel experience has been designed by Malherbe, a Paris-based architectural agency that's built experience centres for some of the most luxurious brands in the world like Dior, Moët-Hennessy, Paris Aeroport, and Givenchy. Foodstories also offers same-day home delivery through their own website and a quick-response WhatsApp channel to bring over 8000 of the finest ingredients from around the world to your door in under 4 hours.

"At Foodstories, we believe our mission is to improve the quality of life of our consumers by sourcing and creating the finest products where our consumers can taste quality, and celebrate the diversity of the world's food landscape by working with the finest growers and makers across provenance to bring exceptional ingredients and produce to the Foodstories shelves," says Ashni Biyani, co-founder at Foodstories.

"Foodstories was born out of Ashni's and my passion for food, as well as our obsession with delivering high-quality experiences and products to India's most discerning food connoisseurs. After launching our first store in Delhi in March 2024, we're excited to bring Foodstories to Hyderabad; a city that's stepped in culture and an appreciation for everything fine.", says Anvi Biyani.

The Foodstories Cafe celebrates unique makers and growers from across the country by working with them to curate dishes that don't just satiate your hunger, but take you on a journey to the farms where our ingredients are grown and where the dishes draw inspiration from. The Foodstories Cafe also showcases 3 unique beverage offerings to cater to a consumer's every mood, desire and palate. The coffee program is helmed by Nandan Coffee, a generational estate to cup coffee brand crafted by the Marwala family and built out of their certified organic Coffee estate in Kodakal, Tamil Nadu. Their signature blend, the Nandan Royale is an award winning blend that can be savoured in any form at the Coffee bar or taken home to enjoy by yourself. Customers can also enjoy a custom dark-roast blend curated especially for Foodstories while sipping on their next brew or to buy and take home.

At the Foodstories Juicery, customers can sip on a vast menu of juices, smoothies and bowls, matcha based beverages and freshly pressed sugarcane juice at the Foodstories Juicery. All the juices are freshly pressed and made using 100% fruit for maximum nutritional benefits and flavour. The rapidly growing Bubble Tea brand Boba Bhai also makes its way to Hyderabad's first Foodstories with a live station dishing out their signature drinks.

ROYCE CHOCOLATE

Luxury Japanese chocolate brand Royce is soon entering Hyderabad for the first time with Foodstories. From their bestseller Nama to their specialty snacking range, consumers can now add the elegance of this Japanese chocolaterie to their celebrations.

THE FOODSTORIES FARM

Foodstories' Fruits and Vegetables experience provides a wide assortment of farm fresh produce fairly sourced from local growers and global suppliers and carefully picked by their Farmer in Residence - a first of its kind for a food retail store - bringing with him a high focus on transparency and traceability. The team has stitched direct partnerships with farms and growers to bring only the freshest produce to its shelves right from an unparalleled selection of mushrooms from Uttarakhand to a wide range of pesticide-free hydroponically grown leaves and vegetables and a section filled to the brim with certifiably Organic produce.

BAKERY

The Foodstories Bakery houses a vast selection of freshly baked artisanal breads, crackers and entertaining essentials made by hand each morning by their Chefs with a spotlight on the quality of ingredients they use. Customers can savour a wide range of sourdoughs, sliced loaves, artisanal breads like Bagels, Focaccia and Baguettes as well as signature creations like the Croissant Loaf and Tissue Bread that have taken the internet by storm since its launch.

THE CHEESE CELLAR

Customers can savour and take home over 104 varieties of cheese sourced from growers all across India and the world. The Foodstories Cheese experience offers over a vast selection of homegrown and globally sourced cheese spanning DOP certifications, milk types, textures, and regions that can also be skilfully curated into bespoke Cheese Platters available in-store as well as for Home Delivery.

MEAT MARKET

The Meat Market houses a range of carefully sourced seafood, poultry, meat and ready-to-cook options that are held to the highest standards of hygiene and ethical sourcing courtesy their resident Chief Tastemaker. Consumers can also discover a luxurious caviar bar, ready-to-cook and eat meats and marinades; and a curated selection of seafood including stellar 10-count Tiger Prawns and smoked Norwegian Salmon.

SPICES

Foodstories firmly believes in the power of aroma to guide them to the cream of the crop. Noses have led them on an exploration of regional nuance to estates and spice plantations in the farthest corners of the earth. And everywhere, the most constant question is — is this the most fragrant variant the world has to offer? And only those variants make it to the shelves at Foodstories. All the ground spices and masalas are freshly milled and blended in micro batches to ensure what the customer gets is maximum potency. Customers can also customise their spice blends and have their favourite spices ground fresh for them for complete transparency and trust.

GLOBAL PANTRY

The Pantry includes over 2000 handpicked ingredients from around the world to help consumers cook, eat, and entertain the way they want. Customers can also discover an unparalleled selection of beverages and cuisine-specific sauces directly imported from native regions, as well as a wide range of truffle-flavoured products available in limited quantities.

A KITCHEN STUDIO AT THE HEART OF FOODSTORIES

The Foodstories Kitchen Studio is a multidisciplinary space designed for the modern day content creator. Equipped with state of the art kitchen equipment, the space allows content creators to bring their food stories to life with the finest ingredients from around the world. The Kitchen Studio is also a destination for food enthusiasts to deepen their relationship with food via guided tastings and engaging cooking demos led by Foodstories' chefs.

Top picks for tranquil long weekend with touch of culture

A long weekend is the perfect opportunity to connect with nature and align yourself before diving back into the everyday hustle. Whether you prefer the serene beaches or the wildness of the jungle, here are a few properties to consider for your getaway. Each of them celebrates the diversity, the cultural offerings and the richness of India.



WOODS AT SASAN

Woods at Sasan is an ideal getaway for families looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and immerse themselves in nature. Located on the edge of the Sasan Gir forest in Gujarat, this modern retreat offers a serene environment with luxurious, independent living spaces, each with its own private garden. Guided wildlife safaris offer thrilling experiences to spot Asiatic lions and local flora and fauna, connecting both adults and children with nature. Family-friendly activities include temple visits, traditional jungle meals, cultural dances and pottery making and interactive sessions with local artisans, promoting mindfulness, creativity and healthy living.

Culinary delights: The retreat offers nutritious, sattvic meals made with fresh, local ingredients, and includes cooking sessions for learning healthy meal preparation.

Personalised wellness journeys: Guests can enjoy Ayurvedic treatments, yoga sessions, and nature-based activities for a holistic experience.



RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX MALABAR HOUSE

The Malabar House: A Heritage Haven and Art Hotel. It is more than just a beautifully designed heritage hotel; it's an art hotel, showcasing a meticulously curated collection that celebrates Kerala's unique blend of Eastern and Western cultures. The rooms offer comfort, and the service is impeccable.

Malabar Junction, the hotel's acclaimed restaurant, and Divine, its wine lounge, meld South Indian traditions with exciting culinary innovations. Guests can enjoy classical music or dance performances on the patio stage, rejuvenate their body and soul at the ayurvedic center, delve into the history and culture of Fort Cochin, or explore Kerala's backwaters on the hotel's eco-friendly houseboat.

Purespa introduces a revolutionary concept that combines invigorating traditional Ayurveda therapies with specialized Kalarippayat, or Kalari Ayurvedic oil massages. As one of Asia's oldest martial art forms, Kalarippayat has developed its own Ayurvedic oil massage system over centuries. Purespa offers a wellness journey of distinct treatments aimed at relaxation, detoxification, and enhancing beauty.

HERITAGE VILLAGE RESORTS AND SPA, MANESAR

Located amidst verdant surroundings and exuding an old-world charm, Heritage Village Resorts and Spa, Manesar, provides an ideal retreat for those seeking a long weekend getaway. Situated a short drive from the bustling urban centers of Delhi and Gurgaon, the resort offers a harmonious blend of luxury, relaxation, and cultural heritage, designed to rejuvenate the senses. It serves as a sanctuary of tranquility, seamlessly integrating traditional elements with contemporary comforts.

The resort's architecture is inspired by the Rajasthani haveli style design, with beautifully landscaped gardens, courtyards, and stunning interiors that transport you to a bygone era. Each room and suite is meticulously designed, offering a blend of luxury and traditional aesthetics.

SANGAM FARMS

Sangam Farms is born from a passion for agriculture, is dedicated to locally grown produce, reducing carbon footprints, and delivering fresh, nutritious products. With hydroponic gardens and dairy farms, it ensures quality from healthy environments. They offer a slice of paradise with swanky tent stays nestled in nature's embrace, offering an authentic taste of rural life in Rajasthan. It offers a variety of activities and experiences that allow visitors to immerse themselves in the world of agriculture and nature.

Farm-to-table dining: Guests can enjoy delicious meals made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. It offers personalised tours of hydroponic gardens and dairy farms, ensuring nutritious and flavorful dishes. Enjoy a Rajputana dining experience with a royal feast. Kids can have fun with the mini tractor & barn camping experience, picking strawberries, riding tractors, pitching tents, and roasting snacks over a bonfire.

Ideal for experiencing the countryside's simplicity and beauty, perfect for those who enjoy hands-on farm activities.



HOUSE OF ROHET

The House of Rohet is a family-run hospitality group based in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. They offer a range of luxury boutique hotels and camps, including Rohet Garh, a heritage hotel; Mihir Garh, a desert boutique hotel; The Rohet House, a luxury residence and Rohet Wilderness Camp. Each property is known for its exceptional service, rich cultural heritage, and unique experiences. It offers unique experiences like village safaris, equestrian programs, bird watching, royal picnics, culinary workshops, and stays at their Wilderness Camp. These activities provide guests with immersive cultural and natural experiences in the beautiful surroundings of Rajasthan.

These experiences are designed to provide guests with a deeper connection to the local culture and environment, creating unforgettable memories.

WHAT'S NEW

INDULGE YOUR LIPS IN THE LUXURIOUS, NOURISHING CARE THEY DESERVE

Infused with a blend of hydrating ingredients, this lightweight, non-sticky formula provides long-lasting moisture while delivering a glossy, irresistible shine. Whether you're looking to enhance your natural lip color or simply add a touch of hydration, this lip oil is your go-to for a soft, smooth, and supple pout, giving honey like hydration.



SHAVE, TRIM, SPRAY

The season of celebrations is upon us, bringing with it a host of important moments. Bomb Shaving Company is offering innovative grooming solutions to keep things effortless. With their shave, trim, spray mantra, they simplify your routine, ensuring you're always ready for any occasion. Whether it's achieving a smooth shave, a precise trim, or quick hair removal, their range of products ensure you look sharp, confident, and ready to embrace every celebration.

2025 WINTER SKIN WARRIOR

Winter can be tough on your skin, stripping your skin's natural moisture, causing your skin feeling dry, dull and irritated. That's why it becomes so important to have a moisturizer that truly cares for your skin, providing a consistent protective barrier against the cold. This season, pamper your skin with Innisfree's deeply hydrating moisturizers, designed to combat winter dryness with ease. Formulated with natural ingredients and sourced from the pristine Jeju Island, Innisfree's moisturizers are the ultimate winter heroes to upgrade your skincare routine and keep your skin feeling healthy and moisturised all season long.



LIP LUSTRES GET REVAMPED!

Type Beauty has relaunched their lip lustres with improved formulation and extra hydration. These Lip Lustres made their debut last year, but have been revamped with enhanced features for a stunning comeback.

ELEVATE YOUR LOOK WITH LATEST MUST-HAVES!

Embrace the Mocha Mousse trend with Mila Beauté's latest must-haves! From velvety, soft matte lipsticks to radiant blushes and high-shine glosses, these new launches are perfectly curated to complement the earthy elegance of this chic, universally flattering trend. Don't miss out—elevate your makeup game today!



HOROSCOPE



ARIES

There will be career opportunities and successful ventures. Stay patient, communicate openly, and learn to forgive. Family challenges will ease with support. Business trips will be fruitful.



TAURUS

Your charm and humour attract others. Avoid criticism and self-pity; focus on family and career. Socialize to refresh life. New guidance and contracts promise stability and success.



GEMINI

Rely on trusted support as nervousness arises. Focus on self-improvement, confidence, and facing challenges. Handle family conflicts calmly. Embrace new opportunities with vigour.



CANCER

Find a stimulating partner and rise above frustrations. Success comes from tenacity, creativity, and cooperation. Avoid overreaction and ego clashes. Business trips bring success.



LEO

Embrace beauty, family support, and socializing to overcome insecurity and negativity. Avoid indecisiveness and seek guidance for new ventures. A stable career opportunity awaits.



VRIGO

Stay composed and focused this week. Embrace shared interests, silence, and flexibility for success. Avoid emotional stress, assess relationships wisely, and trust guidance.



LIBRA

Stay gentle under pressure and persist with your goals. Loyalty earns acceptance, while guidance and reasoning inspire others. Students will be rewarded for creativity and effort.



SCORPIO

Support your loved ones with patience and commitment. Overcome workplace stress by staying calm. Embrace innovation and trust family advice before making decisions.



SAGITTARIUS

Stay patient through setbacks; your hard work will pay off. Seek guidance for insecurities and avoid depression. Trust your ethics. Embrace new contacts and opportunities for success.



CAPRICORN

Be open in relationships, seek siblings' support, and practice humility. Forgiveness increases respect, while confusion limits progress. Offer guidance to others and fulfil their expectations.



AQUARIUS

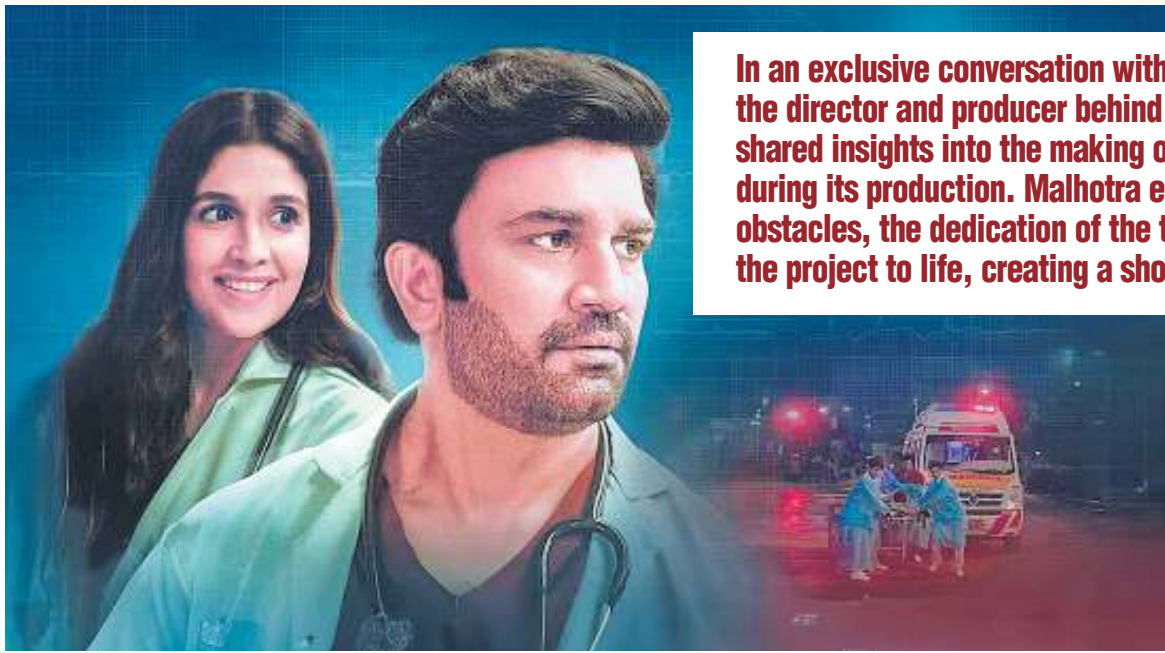
Remain calm and patient through challenges. Seek support from trusted people. Spend time with family, avoid depression over setbacks, and stay cautious with commitments.



PISCES

Be cautious about changes. Offer support to others, be steady in harsh situations, and innovate when necessary. Embrace new challenges and stay strong through unexpected changes.

'IT'S THE FLAWS AND EMOTIONS OF THE CHARACTERS THAT RESONATE WITH THE AUDIENCE'



In an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer, Siddharth P. Malhotra, the director and producer behind the acclaimed medical drama Doctors, shared insights into the making of the series and the challenges faced during its production. Malhotra emphasized that, despite numerous obstacles, the dedication of the team and their shared vision brought the project to life, creating a show that resonates deeply with audiences

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

Siddharth P. Malhotra, the director and producer behind acclaimed films like *Hichki* (2018), *We Are Family* (2010), *Tribhanga* (2021), and *Dial 100* (2021), has once again struck a chord with audiences through his latest project, the medical drama *Doctors*. Streaming on JioCinema, the series has been met with widespread acclaim, thanks to its authenticity, emotional depth, and compelling storytelling. Known for his keen sense of storytelling, Malhotra has once again captured the audience's attention, but this time through a raw, authentic look at the world of healthcare. *Doctors* isn't just another medical drama—it's a deep dive into the emotional challenges and moral dilemmas faced by medical professionals, with a touch of reality that resonates far beyond the usual tropes. In this conversation, Malhotra opens up about the inspiration behind the show, the challenges faced during its production, and the unique approach that has made *Doctors* a standout success. The series has taken the Indian OTT space by storm, currently ranked number 1 on the Indian viewership charts, as reported by Ormax Media.

According to Malhotra, the success of *Doctors* lies in the power of good content and the organic growth it experienced. "It's the good content that has eventually led to the love that *Doctors* has received," he said. "I believe it's through word of mouth that people have watched it and spread the word to others. Doing a 7-episode series is challenging, but making a 10-episode series is even bigger. It had to be pure content, away from the usual glamour. The acting and the emotions resonated deeply with the audience." He added that the buzz around the show was purely organic, emphasizing the importance of authenticity in its success. "As I scroll through Instagram, I see people posting so many reels, and it's all organic. Otherwise, it wouldn't have reached where it has. The intentions of the entire unit have worked well."

For Malhotra, *Doctors* is a personal passion project rooted in his love for medical dramas. "If you look at my career graph, I feel like medical dramas are something I really gravitate toward as a creator and producer, but it's something I could never do on TV," he explained. Malhotra's family background also played a significant role in his affinity for the genre. "My Nana was a doctor, and my mother is half a doctor. Imagine doing a thousand episodes of medical dramas where nobody dies!" he said. In traditional TV, the focus is often on love stories, with very little room to show the harsh realities of medicine. "In TV, you can majorly show love stories. You can't show an operation. But here, we got to show a side of the reality that was often missing."

Siddharth pointed out that Indian medical dramas often fail to portray the true essence of a doctor's life, remaining stuck in the formulaic love stories. "For a long time, we haven't had Indian medical dramas that show doctors' real lives, their struggles, their flaws, death, and the harsh realities of medicine," he said. "We've always been stuck in the 'Hero, Heroine, aur unki kahani' format. But *Doctors* offers a different perspective. Of course, there is a hero, but there are also other characters with their own stories." He emphasized that OTT platforms have allowed creators more freedom to tell stories that are grounded in reality. "There have been medical dramas, but they often show things that are just impossible. Thanks to OTT, we can explore a more realistic and grounded perspective."

Creating *Doctors* was a meticulous process, and Malhotra emphasized that it took nearly a year to develop all the characters and plotlines. "It almost took an entire year for us to develop all the characters and plots. The entire process was extensive," he shared. He continued, "With *Doctors*, we wanted to show flaws. As we delved into the emotions and the execution of the show, we realized it was a process of constant writing and rewriting before we even started shooting." The show's success is also attributed to the cohesiveness within the team, with Malhotra praising the actors and director for aligning on the vision. "The beauty of it is that the actors were all on the same page, and the director did such a great job that the characters he created are exactly the ones that people have been asking about."

One of the major challenges while shooting *Doctors* was filming in a real hospital environment. Malhotra explained that each day brought new obstacles. "There were many scenes that were challenging for us because we were shooting in a real hospital. Every day was a challenge. There wasn't a day that went by without facing some challenges, but we had to

power through," he said. The production team also faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We were shooting during COVID, so we had to adhere to all the safety protocols, like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. Making prosthetics was another struggle, but we managed it."

The level of authenticity in the show extended beyond just the setting—it also involved real-life medical professionals. "This was a show where we brought in real doctors to train our actors on how to perform medical procedures," Malhotra shared.

"When we were doing operations, we wanted the real doctors to perform them. We wanted everything to be as realistic as possible." However, ensuring that the entire production remained within budget was a constant challenge. "On top of that, making sure all of this fit within our budget was another huge task. But we managed to get it done."

When it came to casting, Malhotra and his team had a clear vision from the start. "We already had Harleen Sethi, Sharad Kelkar, and Aamir Ali in mind. The characters were clear in our heads, and the casting process was smooth. Within a month, we had our cast in place," he said.

For Malhotra, *Doctors* represents a turning point in Indian television, where storytelling can transcend traditional tropes to explore more meaningful and authentic narratives. "At the end of the day, *Doctors* is about showcasing a different side of the medical world, one that includes not just the medical procedures but also the emotional and personal lives of the doctors, their struggles, and the difficult decisions they have to make," he concluded. "It was a huge challenge to bring this vision to life, but I truly believe we've created something that resonates with viewers on a deep level."



Weight loss made simple

A novel diet that mimics traditional eating habits created by using non-industrialised style food can be key to reducing the risk of several chronic diseases, while also helping lose weight. Industrialised diets -- high in processed foods and low in fibre -- have contributed to a substantial rise in chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

The new diet titled "NiMe" (Non-industrialised Microbiome Restore) diet is inspired by the eating habits of non-industrialised societies. It consists of a plant-based focus but is not vegetarian. It is primarily made up of vegetables, legumes, and other whole-plant foods. It also includes one small serving of animal protein per day (salmon, chicken, or pork) with no dairy, beef, or wheat. The international study led by Irish researchers showed that the NiMe diet enhanced short-term persistence of *L. reuteri* -- a beneficial bacterium prevalent in the gut of people with traditional eating habits.

"Industrialisation has drastically impacted our gut microbiome, likely increasing the risk of chronic diseases," said Professor Jens Walter, scientist at the University College Cork in Ireland.

The NiMe diet is also very low in processed foods that are high in sugar and saturated fat, and is fibre-rich. The fibre content was 22 grams per 1,000 calories -- exceeding current dietary recommendations.

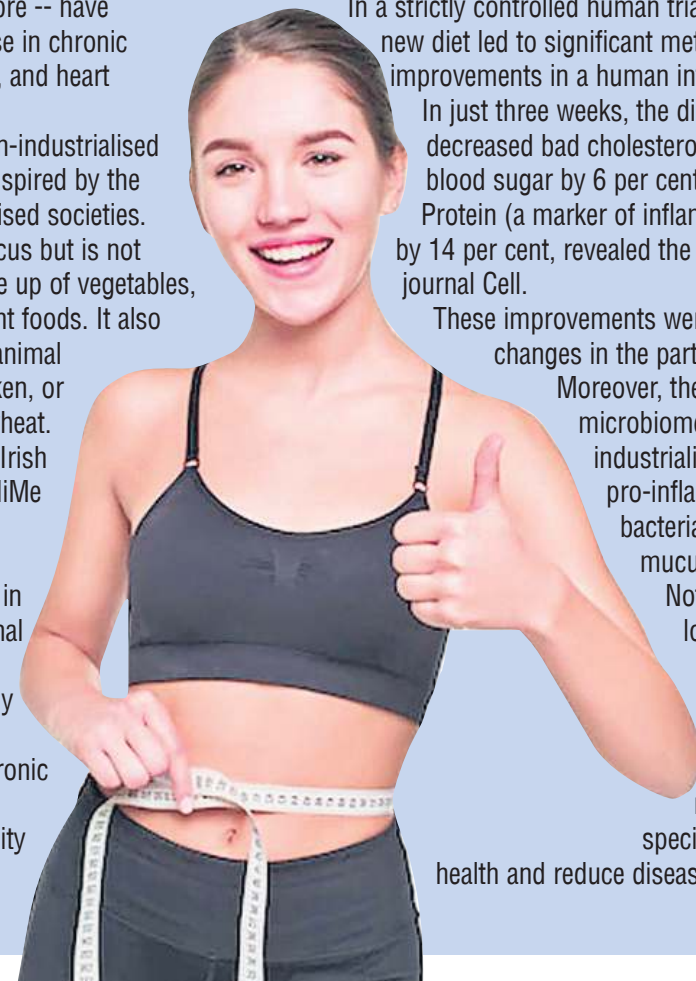
In a strictly controlled human trial, the team found that the new diet led to significant metabolic and immunological improvements in a human intervention study.

In just three weeks, the diet promoted weight loss; decreased bad cholesterol by 17 per cent; reduced blood sugar by 6 per cent; and reduced C-reactive Protein (a marker of inflammation and heart disease) by 14 per cent, revealed the results published in the journal *Cell*.

These improvements were linked to beneficial changes in the participants' gut microbiome. Moreover, the NiMe diet also improved microbiome features damaged by industrialisation, such as reducing pro-inflammatory bacteria and bacterial genes that degrade the mucus layer in the gut.

Notably, the participants also lost weight, although they did not consume fewer calories.

The study shows that targeting the gut microbiome through specific diets can help improve health and reduce disease risk.



TRENDING

PERSON

RAM GOPAL VARMA



A court in Mumbai on Tuesday convicted filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma and sentenced him to three months of simple imprisonment in a cheque bounce case.

PARAGLIDING TURNS LIFE-TAKING



VIDEO

A Nagpur girl was killed after she fell into a ditch while paragliding in Goa. She had travelled to Goa with friends to celebrate the New Year when the accident occurred. While enjoying paragliding, the rope snapped which caused Shivani to fall from a height of about 100 feet into a ditch.

MOVIE

HISAAB BARABAR



The R. Madhavan, Kirti Kulhari and Neil Nitin Mukesh starrer *Hisaab Barabar* was released to mixed responses. The film revolves around Madhavan's character, who is an honest and determined ticket checker (TC) who sets out to expose a massive financial scam.

TU HAIN TOH MAIN HOON



SONG

Tu Hai Toh Main Hoon from *Sky Force* in Arijit Singh's soulful voice and featuring Veer and Sara's magical chemistry has been unveiled. The music video showcases the 'eternal love' between Veer Pahariya and Sara Ali Khatri's characters.

SDFSDFSDF

PICTURE



AP CM Chandrababu Naidu met Microsoft founder and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Wednesday, January 22, to discuss groundbreaking initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a global hub for innovation and social development.

FROM SCALPEL TO STARS DR VINEETH GANGANNA'S JOURNEY FROM ORTHOPEDICS TO IPS



WHO DREAMS TO BE AN IPS FROM CHILDHOOD?

I have not believed in this concept of a dream since childhood. I have not had a dream of becoming an IPS officer. To have a simple question on little things in life, for instance hundreds of things go on in our head, it could be looking at a bus and thinking of becoming a driver, then to drive an auto, later a cinema actor and we grow up to become human accepting whatever comes our way.

BEING AN ASTRONAUT WAS MY DESIRE

As I said, childhood dreams are meaningless. I always liked stars and wished that if I became an astronaut I could go around driving and come back. Then I felt I would not be able to drive that far, so let me study to become a pilot and drive among clouds. Later, we understand with the family background we have, like middle class, we may not achieve certain dreams.

BEING A TELANGANITE

Dr Vineeth will also let you not know that he does not belong to Telangana. His Telugu is as fluent as one born in Hyderabad but still learning Hyderabad Hindi and manages during Press meets. Do you feel that you are talking to a Telangana person? Nothing much. I keep talking to everybody that's how I learnt. I also won the Union Home Ministry's Trophy for proficiency in Telugu language. In terms of food, non-veg is my favourite. I like to hang out or recommend the newcomers for Bawarchi biryani.

MISCHIEVOUS CHILD

I was born in Hassan, Karnataka. My father is a government employee and mother a homemaker. The mischievousness of my childhood is not to be recalled. Those days we did not know the limit. I was a backbencher who was always pulled to be seated in the first bench. One day my teachers, upset with me, invited my parents to school to complain and I think that was the last incident my parents would recollect of my schooling.



BOND WITH PONDICHERY

It was never any individual that I take for my support system. Parents' sacrifice and blessings of course, rest is all self-made. I took a year's break. Nobody, not even my parents, insisted that I become something. It was to my satisfaction. Anyday, I prefer Pondicherry for beaches and it was the break that shaped my thinking because it was all hard work of 10 years for medicine as I was serving people as an Orthopedic, but wanted to do something more for society and hence choose the UPSC. So began my preparation for the UPSC.

AWAY FROM FAMILY

Stayed away from family from childhood until now. As I said, due to my mischievousness from Standard I, my parents were called every month. So, I was admitted to a Gurukul from grade Seven and it automatically taught me a disciplined life. Later, I moved to Mangalore for Intermediate and then MBBS, PG in Medical and PG College, Bangalore. Today, I am working as an IPS officer in Telangana. So it was and is away from my family, but I live with my wife and daughter currently in Hyderabad.

ORTHOPAEDIC JOURNEY, WISH TO CONTINUE

In 700 days of my Orthopedic journey, I was performing at least one surgery a day and I have completed nearly 1,000 surgeries, including minor and major. I would love to do it even now as a cop for the needy because Orthopedics is expensive.

MY LIKE FOR PHYSICS

If you look into my journey, I actually like Physics, which made me look at options of an engineer, aeronautics and a pilot. Karnataka had a common entrance exam for Engineering and Medical as one. I passed both and but missed Engineering counselling as I was a day late. So, I thought of studying medicine as I had my two sisters studying MBBS.



Generally, individuals have a dream they focus on alongside a few bucket-list goals in life. However, some go beyond pursuing a single profession, choosing instead to serve society and connect with people at a deeper level. One such individual is IPS officer but a doctor first - **Dr Vineeth Ganganna, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madhapur.** Reflecting on his journey in an interview with **The Pioneer's Deepika Pasham**, he shared: **"It was always my priority to dedicate myself fully to my career, accepting whatever came my way. If not the UPSC, I would have been researching procedures in my specialty, Orthopedics, with AO."** His life journey until 2024 stands as a testament to his commitment, adaptability and passion for making a difference, whether in public service or specialized medical research.



RAPID FIRE

Favourite movies: Nothing favourite, it is the script that I am interested
Favourite food: Non-veg **Favourite colour:** Blue
Favourite destination: New Zealand **Favourite author:** Khalil Gibran



SIBLINGS AND FAMILY

My father was in government service and mother was a homemaker. I had two siblings, both are doctors. One is Paediatrician and another Obstetrician. They are settled in Karnataka. I am married to an engineer and have a four-year-old daughter.

PREFERRED TO GIVE ONLY ONE ATTEMPT

I was an Orthopedic and was appointed as Assistant Professor at Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics. So, the time I had before starting work and after work was my preparation for the UPSC. I had no ideas of giving another attempt. I wanted to write once and get over it, but we never know. My first attempt had hit me with luck.

IF NOT UPSC, WOULD DO MY FELLOWSHIP

After my masters, if we opt to do research, we will be offered a fellowship. So I had one from Germany. Once we step in, we will know the University we will be attached to. Through this I wished to go to AO in Switzerland, known as Mecca of Orthopedics, where most of the procedures are researched on and I wanted to research, write and have a surgery procedure in my name.



APART FROM WORK

We don't find time. The constant complaints in families are asking to give them some time. I do play with my daughter and I join my friends who are mostly from medical field and have settled in Telangana.



MEMORABLE CASE IN DISTRICTS

In regard to investigation of cases, while working in Bhadrachal Kothagudem district, I was an Investigation Officer of one case in Chintavarre village in Laxmidevipalli mandal where a teacher molests students from five years to twelve years. We arrested and investigated within a month and he got life imprisonment within four to five months.

TELANGANA SECOND OPTION

Karnataka was my first option as it is my home State and Telangana was second due to its policing. Institution-wise also it had the best training centre.

ADMIRATION

It is unfair to say one name. One could be good at law and order, other at investigation skills, other interacting with petitioners, some other will make good decisions for the public. I believe a village raises a kid, not parents. So a kid learns from everybody. It could be good or bad. Personality wise, it could be Ratan Tata. Basavanna who had teachings about casteless society. Looking at them, I think what are we (these generations) doing enough?



ATTACKS ON DOCTORS

Many things were there and I feel if one has to change the system, be one with it. There should be a different role I see this way when doctors become politicians, Doctors pursue civil servants, doctors must be in management and also in policy-making so that a change is made in the system. There are women-related issues in the field of medicine and women do achieve with a fighting spirit.

SADDEST MOMENTS

The limitations we have as IPS officers. I was in the districts of Khammam, Kothagudem, Nizamabad, but genuinely when you wish to help somebody but cannot do it. I am more like a societal person. That's where I understood that I belong to a service which can bring a change. Professionally for me, it is more philosophical- people losing originality is saddest. I work with detachment and only efforts are mine and results are not.