

Three AC buses launched between Kurnool and Visakhapatnam



District administration organises cyclothon

Khattar plans cities sans waste dumpsites



SC ensured no interference in economic policy matters: CJI

Centre invested ₹21,000 crore in Northeast education: Sitharaman



PIONEER IN SHORT

MINISTER DIRECTS ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS OF DELHI AIRPORT'S ATC GLITCH

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu has directed officials to carry out a detailed root-cause analysis of the technical glitch at the Delhi airport's air traffic control system and to put in place backup servers to boost operations. The technical problem with the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports the air traffic control's flight planning process...

FULL REPORT ON P2

THREE KILLED, SIX INJURED AS SPEEDING CAR RAMS INTO CROWD

Three people were killed and six others injured when a speeding car lost control and ploughed into a crowd near Somavaram village on the national highway under Kirampudi police limits on Saturday morning, police said. The car, which was travelling from Visakhapatnam to Jaggaipeta, first hit a pushcart loaded with papaya fruits, killing the cart owner and his assistant on the spot. It then rammed into people standing by the roadside, injuring...

FULL REPORT ON P3

ED BUSTS IMMORAL TRAFFICKING RACKET IN BENGAL

The Enforcement Directorate carried out raids and dismantled an organised immoral trafficking racket operating primarily through bar-cum-restaurants and dance bars in the state of West Bengal. During the probe, ED had found the accused were involved in the exploitation of vulnerable women through false promises of employment and coercion into prostitution...

FULL REPORT ON P6

QUOTE OF THE DAY



THE CONGRESS PARTY'S RULE FROM 2004 TO 2014 WAS MARKED BY CORRUPTION AND INEFFICIENCY. RAVANTH REDDY'S STATEMENTS ARE BASELESS AND LACK SUBSTANCE

— THANNERU HARISH RAO, MLA, BHARAT RASTRA SAMITHI



OBTUSE ANGLE



CM: Kuppam to receive Rs 6,339 cr investments

Eight companies will establish units

PNS ■ Amaravati

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said Kuppam, which he represents, will soon receive investments worth Rs 6,339 crore from eight companies.

He said these investments are expected to generate 43,000 jobs. "Soon, Kuppam constituency will receive another Rs 6,339 crore worth of investments from eight companies," Naidu said in a press release.

The Chief Minister's announcement comes after he virtually laid the foundation stone for seven projects involving investments of Rs 2,203 crore at Kuppam earlier in the day.

He laid the foundation from his camp office at Undavalli village in Guntur district. "CM Chandrababu virtually laid the foundation for seven industries in Kuppam, which



will invest Rs 2,203 crore," the press release said. The projects are being set up by companies including Hindalco, Srija Dairy, AS International, SVF Soya, Mother Dairy, E-Royce EV, and ALEAP Women's Park.

The state government has allotted 241 acres of land for

these projects, which cover sectors such as dairy, laptops, mobile accessories, cooking oil, food processing, and electric vehicles.

According to the TDP supremo, a space city, drone city, and aerospace city will also be established in the

Royalaseema region.

He noted that overall state development is the goal of the NDA alliance government and added that the Kuppam district in Royalaseema "will be transformed into a model for development."

Ease of justice must to ensure ease of living, language of law should be simple: PM

PNS ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that ease of justice is a must to ensure ease of living and ease of doing business, and called for simplification of legal language so that it is understood by those seeking justice. "Social justice can be ensured only when justice reaches everyone irrespective of their social or financial background," the prime minister said at an inaugural session of the National Conference on Strengthening



Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms. Justice must be available to everyone, and ease of justice is a must to ensure ease of living and ease of doing business, he said.

Prime Minister Modi noted

that the government has taken several steps to improve the "ease of justice" in recent years and will further accelerate this process. "The language of law should be understood by those seeking justice. When people understand law in their own language, it leads to better compliance and fewer lawsuits," he said.

Judgements and legal documents should be provided in local languages, Modi said, noting the Supreme Court is taking significant steps in this regard.

Official suspended as VVPAT slips found on roadside in Bihar

PNS ■ Samastipur

An assistant returning officer was suspended on Saturday and a case registered against him after a large number of VVPAT slips were found on the roadside in Bihar's Samastipur district, said a statement.

The VVPAT slips were found scattered on the roadside near a college in the Sarairanjan assembly segment of the district.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

'Barcode red sander logs, track them in real-time'

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan warned that the smuggling will be curbed with an iron fist

PNS ■ Tirupati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has warned that red sanders smuggling will be curbed with an iron fist. He inspected the Mamandur forest area and the red sanders warehouse in Mangalam in Tirupati district. Later, he reviewed the situation with forest officials at the Tirupati District Collectorate.

Pawan Kalyan directed officials to barcode every red sander log with the government and track them in real time. "Set up unique bar coding and live tracking for every red sanders log. Not even a single log should be missing from the time of its seizure to sale," Kalyan told the officials.

The Deputy Chief Minister checked the precious wood



Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan inspecting red sander logs at a warehouse in Tirupati district on Saturday

stored in eight warehouses, categorised into a, b, c and non-grade categories.

Speaking to the media, Pawan Kalyan said, "The red sanders tree has a spir-

itual history behind it. We have reviewed the illegal transport of red sanders with the SPs of the concerned districts.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

Amendment to Endowments Act soon: Minister

PNS ■ Amaravati

Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy has stated that amendments will soon be made to the Endowments Act. He laid the foundation stone for development works worth Rs 5.38 crore at Kondabitrugunta village under Bogolu mandal in Nellore district. Along with MLA Kavaya Krishna Reddy, he inaugurated several developmental projects at Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple. The Minister and the MLA offered special prayers to the deity before speaking to the media.

Minister Ramanarayana Reddy announced that Kondabitrugunta Temple in Andhra Pradesh would be developed as the



"second Tirumala." He said that development works worth Rs 20 crore are already underway with the support of donors. He said efforts would continue for the development of temples in the Kavali constituency and mentioned that under MLA Kavaya Krishna Reddy's leadership, the development works are progressing rapidly.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

Lokesh to campaign for NDA in Bihar

PNS ■ Amaravati

TDP general secretary and Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh will campaign for NDA candidates in Bihar on November 9.

The 243-seat Bihar Assembly completed



the first phase of its election on November 6, while the second phase is scheduled on November 11. According to a schedule shared by the TDP, Lokesh will canvas for the NDA coalition in Patna.

"Lokesh will proceed to Patna. He will take part in election campaigning in Patna on behalf of the NDA," said a release from the TDP on Saturday.

The TDP general secretary will tour Bihar and hold two meetings on Saturday.

On November 9, at 10 am, Lokesh will address a press conference in Patna in support of NDA, the release said.

TDP attacks will not deter us: Ambati

PNS ■ Tirupati

Former minister and YSRCP Ambati Rambabu criticised Minister N Lokesh for his lack of awareness regarding the state's development.

He stated, "Power is fleeting, and decisions should be made for the benefit of the people." Addressing the media in Tirupati, Rambabu remarked, "No one in the YSR Congress Party is intimidated by Lokesh's threats or his red book. The filing of false cases and the unjust imprisonment of our party leaders is both misguided and



unlawful. If you think you can wield your power to fabricate charges, expect repercussions. Lokesh is spreading false claims that I have insulted his mother. That's utterly shameful—I've

never insulted her. How many people do you plan to arrest? Will you keep them locked up forever?"

He continued, "In just a year and a half, widespread dissatisfaction with the coalition government is becoming apparent. The public is observant and aware. Just think about how formidable we'll grow in the next three years. Many are already regretting their decision to support the coalition, frustrated by the absence of any implemented welfare schemes. The red book is bound to disappear.

Environmental clearance deferred for ArcelorMittal Steel's plant in AP

PNS ■ Hyderabad

An Expert Appraisal Committee under the MoEFCC has deferred its decision on granting environmental clearance to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited's proposed 8.2 million tons per annum steel plant at Anakapalli District of Andhra Pradesh, seeking some clarifications.

AMNSIL has approached the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) seeking environmental clearance for its Rs

1.50 lakh crore steel plant. The EAC deliberated on the proposal in its meeting held on October 30.

"In view of the foregoing and after detailed deliberations, the committee deferred the instant proposal, and asked Ind-I sector to obtain a clarification from CP Division (Controller of Pollution) on applicability of GSR 85E to the instant proposal, in view of the fact that the site possessed an EC earlier," the EAC said in the Minutes of Meeting.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

TUSSLE BETWEEN MLA KOLIKAPUDI AND MP KESINENI

TDP disciplinary committee submits report to Naidu

PNS ■ Amaravati

The disciplinary committee has submitted its report on the issue involving Tiruvuru TDP MLA Kolikapudi Srinivas Rao and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni to the party chief N Chandrababu Naidu. The committee met with Chief Minister Naidu on Saturday at the party's central office. Committee

members Konakalla Narayana, Varla Ramaiah, Panchumarthi Anuradha, and others attended the meeting.

The committee held separate discussions with both leaders regarding the Tiruvuru controversy and collected their explanations. Along with the leaders' statements, the committee also prepared a report on the local circumstances and sub-



mitted it to Naidu. The growing discord between Vijayawada MP Kesineni

Sivanath (Chinni) and Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivas caught the attention of Naidu. It may be recalled that Srinivas Rao stirred up a hornet's nest by posting on his WhatsApp status that MP Kesineni Chinni had allegedly taken Rs 5 crore from him in the last elections to secure him the party ticket, even sharing supposed bank statements. He also made several

controversial posts saying, "Tiruvuru public park isn't open for everyone to come and go. I entered politics after fighting against former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, not with the money of Raj Kesareddy or Chevireddy."

Responding sharply, the said he had no ties with YSRCP leaders and that he would treat anyone who crit-

icised Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Lokesh, or Pawan Kalyan as his opponents. MP Chinni gave his explanation before the TDP disciplinary committee. The committee also heard Chinni's side of the story. He presented his arguments and was instructed by the committee to take any future grievances directly to the party high command.

Minister directs root cause analysis of Delhi airport’s ATC glitch



PNS ■ New Delhi

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu has directed officials to carry out a detailed root-cause analysis of the technical glitch at the Delhi airport’s air traffic control system and to put in place backup servers to boost operations.

The technical problem with the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports the air traffic control’s flight planning process, resulted in delays of more than 800 flights and cancellation of 46 flights on Friday at the Delhi airport, which is the country’s busiest airport.

“Owing to the coordinated efforts of ECIL engineers, ATC (Air Traffic Control) personnel,

and the ministry’s proactive monitoring, the system was fully restored to automatic mode by the afternoon of November 8.

There were no flight cancellations today owing to the issue,” the civil aviation ministry said in a statement on Saturday evening.

The systems are from Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL).

Naidu visited the ATC tower at the Delhi airport on Friday and Saturday.

According to the statement, the minister has directed that a detailed root-cause analysis be undertaken to prevent recurrence of such glitches in the future.

Naidu has also instructed officials to plan for more system advancements,

including additional or fall-back servers to strengthen ATC operations.

The ministry said the technical issue with the AMSS occurred on the afternoon of November 6 and continued into the morning of November 7.

On Friday, teams from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Air Navigation Services (ANS), and ECIL worked round the clock to identify and rectify the issue. ECIL promptly deputed additional manpower to assist in the restoration process, the release said.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, which has four runways, handles more than 1,500 flight movements daily.

PROMOTION OF TOURISM Three AC buses launched between Kurnool and Visakhapatnam

PNS ■ Kurnool

Good news for the people of Kurnool district. New air-conditioned bus services have been launched between Kurnool and Visakhapatnam. Minister TG Bharat inaugurated three new AC bus services between Kurnool and Visakhapatnam. He stated that these AC buses will be very useful for tourism purposes. On the other hand, Minister T.G. Bharat also responded to the recent series of bus accidents, expressing deep sorrow over the incidents.

Visakhapatnam, located on the coast, attracts tourists throughout the year, regardless of the season. Tourists visit the city and nearby historical, cultural, spiritual, and tourist destinations to enjoy their beauty. However, for people from the Rayalaseema



region, especially from Kurnool district, Visakhapatnam is quite far away. To reach Visakhapatnam, most people from Kurnool usually prefer trains, while those who can afford it opt for flights.

Now, there is some relief for such travelers. New AC bus services have been started from Kurnool to

Visakhapatnam. Andhra Pradesh Minister TG Bharat formally launched three new AC buses connecting Kurnool and Visakhapatnam. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Bharat said that these new bus services will help promote tourism and regional development. He also expressed grief over the recent spate of tragic bus

accidents. Recently, both Telugu states have witnessed a series of bus accidents. One major incident occurred near Chinnatekur in Kurnool district, where a Vemuri Kaveri Travels bus accident led to the tragic death of 19 people who were burnt alive, causing a nationwide shock. The accident happened when a young man, reportedly driving under

the influence of alcohol, met with an accident on his bike, leaving it lying across the road. The private travels bus collided with the fallen bike, triggering a massive fire that led to the horrific tragedy. The incident sparked widespread discussions about the safety measures followed by private travel companies.

Before people could recover from that shock, another dreadful accident took place in Telangana. At Mirzaguda in Chevella mandal of Ranga Reddy district, 19 people lost their lives when an APSRTC bus collided with a tipper lorry carrying gravel on the Hyderabad-Bijapur National Highway. The gravel fell onto the bus, trapping and killing several passengers. Among the 19 deceased, 13 were from Tandur, plunging the entire town into deep sorrow.

Revanth is resorting to blame game: Harish

PNS ■ Hyderabad


Coming down heavily on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the opposition Bharat Rastra Samithi (BRS) MLA T Harish Rao said that his (Revanth) nature is to trample people and break promises. “The Chief Minister’s 1.5-hour press conference shows his mental state. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Harish said, “Revanth’s government is incompetent, and he’s shifting the blame to others. The CM’s promises are empty, and he’s only interested in power.” He said that the Congress party’s rule from 2004 to 2014 was marked by corruption and inefficiency. Ravanth Reddy’s statements are baseless and lack substance.” The BRS MLA has alleged that the BJP and Congress are colluding, and Revanth is a part of it. The people of Telangana will not forgive him.” He alleged that the Congress party is distributing sarees and money in Jubilee Hills, but the people see through their games.”

The Chief Minister does nothing but make wild statements and meaningless gestures, Harish stated, adding that Ravinth doesn’t want to

Says his promises have no substance

Alleges Cong and BJP are acting hand in glove

REVANTH’S GOVERNMENT IS INCOMPETENT, AND HE’S SHIFTING THE BLAME TO OTHERS. THE CM’S PROMISES ARE EMPTY, AND HE’S ONLY INTERESTED IN POWER



name the Secretariat after Ambedkar, despite it being built with his spirit, and avoids going to the Secretariat because it has Ambedkar’s name.

The BRS MLA has thrown a challenge to the Chief Minister for an open debate on the free reimbursement issue. Commenting that Reddy’s behavior is like a thief calling the police a thief, Harish accused him of having a strong bond with BJP leader Kishan Reddy. Harish questioned why there is.”

“Why isn’t there an ED investigation into the vote-for-note case? IT raids were conducted at Bhatti Vikramarka’s house in Delhi

for sending money to the Bihar elections. Why wasn’t the ED raid at Ponguleti’s house announced? Why didn’t the ED issue a press statement? Harish asked pointedly.

Saying that Ravanth Reddy is colluding with the BJP and he has secret agreements with them, Harish asserted that people of Jubilee Hills understand the CM’s deception. Harish also termed the investment claims of the Chief Minister as false and said that false claims of bringing 3 lakh crore investments are exposed, and the actual investments are only 13,700 crores in 2024-25 and 6,472 crores in 2025-26.

AP woman dies of illness in US

PNS ■ Ongole

The dreams of a student who went America with the hope of pursuing higher education and supporting her family have been tragically shattered. Having just completed her studies and looking forward to starting a job soon, fate cruelly snatched away the light of her family’s hopes in the form of illness.

Rajyalakshmi (23), daughter of Y Ramakrishna and Nagamani from Karanchedu in Bapatla district, completed her engineering degree at a private college in Vijayawada. In 2023, she went to the United States to pursue her Master’s degree in Computer Science at a university there. Having recently completed her studies, she was staying with friends while actively searching for a job.

Three days ago, she mentioned to her family that she had been suffering from a cold and fatigue, and that she had booked a doctor’s appointment for November 9. On Thursday night, she went to sleep along with her friends but did not wake up the next



morning. When her friends tried to wake her, there was no response. She was immediately rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

The news of her death plunged her family into deep sorrow. Her brother, Raja, said their parents were in an unconscious state after hearing the tragic news. The entire village is mourning her untimely death.

MLA Eluri Sambasiva Rao expressed deep grief over Rajyalakshmi’s death in America and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He spoke to them over the phone, assuring all possible assistance and promising to take necessary steps through government channels to bring her body back from the U.S.

AP Transco to hold photograph competition

PNS ■ Amaravati

AP Transco has given a good offer to its employees by organising photography competitions. The winners of this competition will also receive cash prizes. AP Transco decided to conduct these contests to highlight its operations.

The main objective of this competition, according to AP Transco Joint Managing Director Surya Sai Praveen Chand, is to bring out the creativity of employees, encourage their participation, and recognize the efforts of staff who work tirelessly to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the state. Along with employees, the competition is also open to the general public. AP Transco has suggested that participants capture and send photographs that reflect the dedication, innovation, and efficiency of Transco engineers, technical experts, and staff who provide services to the public. Participants are requested to send their photographs to photocontest@aptransco.gov.in. They must also attach a consent letter stating that they have no objection if AP Transco uses their photos in the future.

Trump signals no shutdown compromise



PNS ■ Washington

Senators are working through the weekend for the first time since the government shutdown began more than a month ago, hoping to find a bipartisan resolution that has eluded them as federal workers have gone unpaid, airlines have been forced to cancel flights and SNAP benefits have been delayed for millions of Americans. As the weekend session was set to begin Saturday, it was uncertain whether Republicans and Democrats could make any headway toward reopening the government and breaking a partisan impasse that has now lasted 39 days. President Donald Trump made clear Saturday that he is unlikely to compromise any time soon with Democrats who are demanding an extension of the Affordable Care

Act tax credits, posting on social media that it is “the worst Healthcare anywhere in the world.”

He suggested Congress send money directly to people to buy insurance.

Senate Republican leaders have signaled an openness to an emerging proposal from a small group of moderate Democrats to end the shutdown in exchange for a later vote on the “Obamacare” subsidies. Sen Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., who is leading the talks among moderates, said Friday evening that Democrats “need another path forward” after Republicans rejected an offer from Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York to reopen the government and extend the subsidies for a year. “We’re working on it,” she said.

‘Barcode red sander...

Officials estimate that nearly two lakh red sanders trees might have been felled by smugglers in the Seshachalam forests. To curb smuggling, we have set up a special task force. The red sandalwood trees found only in the Seshachalam hills are vital for environmental protection. Local people should not take part in tree felling. In a country that conducted operations like Operation Kargil, putting an end to red sandalwood smuggling is not a big task. If smugglers failed to voluntarily stop, strict action would be taken, he warned.

“As per the Forest Act, the government will seize the properties of those involved in red sanders smuggling. Once the operation begins, there will be no turning back. We will not stay silent if anyone destroys the environment. Awareness will also be created among Tamil Nadu labourers who participate in tree cutting. Devotees of Lord Venkateswara must also take

part in protecting red sanders,” Pawan Kalyan said.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the red sanders warehouse belonging to the Forest Department. He sought details about the red sandalwood logs stored in eight warehouses, including the classification of logs into A, B, C, and non-grade categories, and verified the records in each warehouse.

Pawan Kalyan travelled over four kilometres inside the forest, walking about two kilometres to inspect the trees. He also reviewed details about the task force operations, forest personnel combing activities, and other measures taken to curb red sandalwood smuggling.

Amendment to...

The Minister also explained that financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per month is being provided to 73 temples.

MLA Kavya Krishna Reddy stated that Minister Ramanarayana Reddy had sanctioned special funds for

the development of Kondabitrugunta, including Rs 23 lakh for the construction of a meditation hall and additional funds for the temple chariot house.

Official suspended...

The Election Commission swung into action after a purported video of it went viral on social media.

The statement issued by the Chief Electoral Officer’s office said the district magistrate has been directed to visit the spot and inquire into the matter.

“As these are VVPAT slips of a mock poll, the integrity of the polling process remains uncompromised. The contesting candidates have also been informed by the DM. However, the ARO is being suspended for negligence and an FIR is being registered against him,” it said.

An investigation has also been started, it added.

The first phase of the assembly polls in 121 seats took place on November 6.

Nobel laureate...

He was 97. Watson achieved one of the most significant breakthroughs in science by solving the structure of DNA, which laid the foundation for the biotechnology revolution of the late 20th century, Dr T R Santhosh Kumar, Director (Additional Charge), Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, said in his condolence message.

He recalled that during the tenure of late Prof M R Das, founder director of RGCBC, Dr Watson visited the institute in January 1999 and interacted with faculty and students. “He had also delivered a public lecture on ‘The implications of classic discovery of the structure of DNA and the importance of biological information transfer starting from the language of DNA,’” the RGCBC statement said. James D Watson, whose co-discovery of the twisted-ladder structure of DNA in 1953 helped spark a revolution in medicine, crime-fighting, genealogy, and ethics,

has died, according to his former research lab.

Environmental...

The total capital cost of the Environmental Management Plan which will be incurred for the proposed integrated steel plant is estimated to be about Rs 3,540 crores with an annual recurring cost of Rs 355 Crores.

The total employment generation during the construction phase would be about 23,000 considering peak requirement, of which direct manpower requirement would be about 800 while indirect requirement would be about 22,200.

During the operation phase, the direct manpower requirement is estimated to be about 3,000 and Indirect requirement would be around 4,500 for operations and maintenance. Employment to the locals will be considered based on meeting the criteria suitable for the job roles, the EAC said.

Sources close to the devel-

opment said the MoEFCC issued Notification GSR 85(E) on January 30, 2025, specifying criteria for the establishment of Industrial Plants.

Since the site allotment to AMNSIL predated this notification, the company undertook immediate and proactive measures to ensure full compliance with the new siting guidelines, sources said.

AMNSIL formally approached the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) on October 13, 2025, requesting the necessary Certificate/ Letter confirming the site’s compliance with the criteria set forth in Notification GSR 85(E).

The APPCB, after following due procedure and considering the site’s history as part of an already-cleared Industrial Park, issued its formal compliance letter on October 17, 2025.

“It’s basically a siting criterion of industry in any particular location. There was a notification issued by the

MOEFCC in January this year. That notification itself is not correct. The Ministry has admitted it, and it is under revision right now. Very soon, that will be out,” sources told PTI.

Though the APCCB gave

clarification, the legal team of the EAC was not satisfied. Once the clarification comes from the ministry, the proposal will be cleared automatically, sources added without giving a timeframe, sources added.

 Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Municipal Corporation. (Electrical) Section.	
Contact No.0240-2333590-40	Office Address- Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Municipal Corporation, (Electrical) Section, Town Hall, Aurangabad, 431001 Email: eelights@aurangabadmahapalika.org
Name of work	Bid Submission End Date
1- Supplying & Erecting External Electrification for Athletic Track and Football Ground at Divisional Sports Committee Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Tender Amount 8,99,14,219/-) by the e-tendering, detailed information / (NIT) documents are available on the website https://www.mahatenders.gov.in	Date: 15.11.2025 Time 5.00 PM
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical) Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Municipal corporation.	

Woman arrested for murder of mother-in-law

■According to police, daughter-in-law tied her mother-in-law to a chair, poured petrol and set her ablaze

PNS ■ visakhapatnam

In a shocking incident in Visakhapatnam, a daughter-in-law took her resentment to a horrifying extreme, murdering her mother-in-law in a manner reminiscent of a movie plot. The police revealed that this tragic event was disguised as an accidental fire. Jayanthi Kanaka Mahalakshmi (66) was brutally tied up under the guise of playing a 'thief-and-police' game, doused in petrol, and set ablaze. Initially, the fire was initially deemed to be accidental, but suspicion surrounding the daughter-in-law's strange behaviour prompted a deeper investigation, leading to chilling discovery. The investigation into the suspicious death of Jayanthi Kanaka Mahalakshmi in Pendurthi



turned out to be a deliberate act of murder. The daughter-in-law, feeling increasingly tormented by her mother-in-law, meticulously planned the crime. On a fateful Friday evening, she lured her mother-in-law and granddaughter into playing a

game, then secured her mother-in-law to a chair, blindfolded her, and violently poured petrol over her before lighting her on fire. As flames consumed her mother-in-law, the daughter-in-law attempted to stage a rescue, shouting that her mother-in-law needed help. Initially, the neighbours accepted this tragic incident as an accident, but the police quickly became suspicious of her actions. During questioning, the daughter-in-law confessed. She admitted her motive rooted in the ongoing irritation she felt from her mother-in-law's presence. Everyone was shocked to learn about the daughter-in-law's plan to kill her mother-in-law. The arrest of the daughter-in-law has created a sensation in the area.

Three killed, six injured as speeding car rams into crowd



What all remains after the speeding car hit pushcart and rammed into crowd near Kakinada on Saturday

PNS ■ Kakinada

Three people were killed and six others injured when a speeding car lost control and ploughed into a crowd near Somavaram village on the national highway under Kirlampudi police limits on Saturday morning, police said. The car, which was travelling from Visakhapatnam to Jagampeta, first hit a pushcart loaded with papaya fruits, killing the cart owner and his assistant on the spot. It then rammed into people standing by the roadside, injuring several, including two students seated at a nearby bus shelter, before finally coming to a halt after

crushing another pushcart. On learning about the accident, MLA Jyothula Nehru rushed to the scene and arranged an ambulance to transport the injured to the nearest community health centre. Police have identified the deceased as Mortha Anandarao (60) and Mortha Kondaiah (31), who died on the spot, and Kakada Raju (60), a pushcart vendor, who succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital. Among the six injured, two were shifted to Kakinada Government General Hospital, where their condition is reported to be critical, police added.



FIT INDIA MOVEMENT

District administration organises cyclothon

PNS ■ Bhimavaram

As part of the nationwide "Fit India movement", District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani inaugurated the "Fit India - Cyclothon" at Vishnu College here on Saturday. The event began with the Collector flagging off the rally, which proceeded for a distance of five kilometres from Vishnu College to the Alluri Sitarama Raju statue at Juvvalapalem. The rally saw active participation from District Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi, APIC Chairman Manthana Ramaraju, and several other district officials, all of whom personally took part in cycling throughout the route. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Nagarani said that physical fitness

should be made a part of everyone's daily routine. "Every individual must devote time to walking, cycling, or yoga for complete physical and mental well-being. In view of the stressful nature of official duties, we plan to organise fitness-oriented activities such as walks, 2K runs, yoga, and cycling once a month for all district officers and staff," she stated. She further appreciated the initiative taken by the Police Department to organise fitness events every month and encouraged all government employees to actively participate in them. "These activities not only relieve stress but also promote a healthy lifestyle," she added. District SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi said that under the guidance of the Collector,

one fitness activity—be it walking, cycling, or yoga—will be conducted every month. "Such initiatives improve both physical and mental health and create awareness about fitness among the public," he remarked. The programme witnessed the participation of several senior officials including DRO B Sivanarayana Reddy, RDO K Praveen Kumar Reddy, Municipal Commissioner K Ramachandra Reddy, Assistant Commissioner A Rambabu, DEO E Narayana, DPO M Ramanatha Reddy, DSPs of Bhimavaram and Narsapuram, AR DSP Satyanarayana, Tahsildar Ravi Rambabu, along with police and revenue staff, college faculty, school students, and the general public.

Naidu orders notices to 48 TDP MLAs over complacency

■ During a meeting at party central office, TDP national president expressed his anger against a section of legislator who failed to take part in pension distribution programmes

PNS ■ Amaravati

Chief Minister and TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu has made it clear that Ministers and MLAs must take part in pension distribution programmes. He held a meeting with party office staff on Saturday. He instructed the party office staff to issue notices to 48 MLAs who did not participate in the distribution of pensions and Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques. He warned that action would be taken after seeking their explanations. He also suggested that party workers who work hard for the party should be involved and taken along in these activities. Naidu has shifted his focus towards party affairs. In recent days, he had been concentrating



mainly on administrative matters and attracting investments to the state, but now he is turning his attention to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). After assuming office as Chief Minister, Naidu has been visiting the TDP central office every Saturday whenever possible. As part of this routine, he held a meeting with party office

staff on Saturday. During the meeting, it came to Naidu's notice that some MLAs were not actively participating in government programmes. The State government has been giving special importance to the NTR Bharosa pension scheme, which was one of Naidu's key promises. He increased the pension amount to Rs 4,000

immediately after coming to power and implemented the decision starting from April. Every month on the 1st, he himself visits districts to personally distribute pensions. He had also instructed other Ministers and MLAs to take part in these distribution programmes. However, information reached him that some MLAs had been negligent in this regard. Consequently, during the Saturday meeting, Naidu instructed party officials to issue notices to 48 MLAs who did not participate in the pension distribution programme. He also directed that notices be sent to MLAs who failed to attend the Chief Minister's Relief Fund cheque distribution events. He reportedly warned that action would be taken against them after receiving their explanations. He made

it clear that every MLA and Minister must compulsorily take part in the pension distribution programme. Meanwhile, several TDP MLAs and leaders have recently been caught in controversies. The dispute in Tiruvuru constituency has become a statewide talking point. Allegations and counter-allegations between Tiruvuru TDP MLA Kollikapudi Srinivas and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath have stirred political discussions. In response, the TDP high command summoned both leaders separately and sought explanations. With more MLAs becoming embroiled in controversies, Naidu is said to have taken special interest in strengthening and disciplining the party.

Nadikudi-Srikalahasti railway line expected to become operational soon

PNS ■ Vijayawada

New railway projects are progressing rapidly in Andhra Pradesh. Notably, the construction of the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti railway line has reached its final stage. This route, which will connect the western part of Prakasam district with Nellore and Palnadu districts, is expected to become operational by next year. Once completed, it will greatly improve both passenger and freight transport, while creating better employment opportunities for locals. Overall, the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti railway project is moving at a brisk pace. In Andhra Pradesh, several new railway projects have picked up momentum, and construction works are being expedited. Recently, the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti line has entered its final phase. With land acquisition completed, nearly two-thirds of the construction work in Prakasam district has been finished. This line will



connect the western Prakasam region with Palnadu and Nellore districts. Trains are likely to run on this route by next year. Once operational, people from western Prakasam will no longer have to travel to Ongole, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, or Tirupati to catch a train — they can start their journey directly from their own region. Migrant workers can also return to their native places directly. The new line will make the transportation of goods between Guntur,

Vijayawada, and Nellore much easier, which in turn will boost local employment opportunities. This crucial railway line passes through the Kurichedu, Darsi, Mundlamuru, Podili, Marripudi, Konakanamitla, Kanigiri, and Pamuru mandals of Prakasam district, and would stretch into Nellore district up to Srikalahasti. For people in these areas, where transport facilities are currently limited, this line will prove to be a real boon. It will

enable those who migrated to other parts of the country for work to reach their hometowns directly. The project is expected to significantly accelerate the development of the western Prakasam region. Once completed, the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti line will also make it easier to transport cement from the Palnadu region across the country. Agricultural produce and granite from Prakasam district can be shipped directly to Chennai and other ports, while materials like gravel and stones can be easily sent to other areas. By next year, trains are expected to run on the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti route. Track laying between Darsi and Podili up to Kanigiri is in the final stages. A trial run has already been conducted up to Darsi and Podili, and preparations are underway to extend the line to Kanigiri and Pamuru, where another trial run will be held soon.

Drunk 'thief' brags about theft, lands behind bars

PNS ■ Eluru

In a scene reminiscent of the Telugu movie Pushpa, where a character boldly declares, "If you have guts, catch me," a real thief took it upon himself to issue a similar challenge to the police. This audacious individual claimed to have stolen around 100 bikes and confidently asserted that law enforcement could do nothing to stop him. However, the Eluru police had a different response in mind. They swiftly arrested him and his gang, successfully recovering 12 stolen bikes in the process. The thief, identified as Rellipeta Naga, made his bold proclamation in a now-viral video, stating, "I've been caught several times, but I always find a way out. The police can't touch me." His bravado caught the attention of the police, prompting an immediate and determined operation to bring him to justice. Following the circula-

tion of this video, the police quickly apprehended him along with four accomplices, revealing the details of their illicit activities. As they investigated, police in Nuzvid connected the dots between a series of thefts and Naga's viral claim. The gang comprised Dulai Ganesh, the main mastermind from Rellipeta, alongside Shaik Asifulla, Chitturi Ajay Kumar, Shaik Mehaboob Baba, and Choutapalli Subhash. Their arrests led to the recovery of 12 motorcycles. It came to light that the group had been indulging in partying and other reckless behaviour, resorting to theft as a means of making a fast buck. After his capture, police officials made Ganesh recount his earlier words from the video, during which he confessed that his statements had been made while under the influence of alcohol, expressing regret for his actions.

Police issue notice to ex-min for remarks against Naidu

PNS ■ Srikakulam

Police on Saturday issued notice to YSRCP key leader and former minister Seediri Appalaraju. The notices were served to him at

his residence in Palasa. During the YSRCP government's tenure, The notice was service Appalaraju, who was a minister during the YSRCP government, allegedly made contro-

versial remarks against TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu, who was then the opposition leader at the time. Following this, TDP activist Burla Vijayakrishna Raju filed

a complaint with the police, alleging that Appalaraju made inappropriate comments against Naidu and demanded action against him. Responding to this 2024 complaint,

the police have now issued notice to Appalaraju. After receiving them, he appeared before the police for questioning at the Kasibugga Police Station.

Child prodigy gets place in India book of records



Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash complimenting child prodigy at his camp office in Katrenikona village on Saturday

PNS ■ Kakinada

A Class 3 student of Delhi public school in Amalapuram town has secured a place in the India Book of Records by telling the names of 195 countries with their capital cities with a record time of two minutes, 59 seconds and 11 milliseconds. The child is Vithanala Kusal Naga Venkat, a native of Katrenikona village of Katrenikona mandal, Dr Ambedkar

Konaseema district. The child prodigy, along with parents, called on the Minister for Labor Vasamsetti Subhash at his camp office on Saturday. The Minister overwhelmed by the child's achievement complimented him and also the parents for encouraging him. The Minister wished the child to excel in various competitions in future and bring name and fame to the district and the state

NCC to organise innovation competition in Vijayawada

PNS ■ Vijayawada

The National Cadet Corps (NCC), under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (Secunderabad) Directorate, is set to organise the Idea and Innovation Competition (IIC) - 2025 at Acharya Nagarjuna University from November 10 to 16. The national-level event will witness the participation of nearly 340 cadets representing different NCC Directorates across the country. These young cadets will showcase their creativity, technological talent, and innovative spirit in line with the national vision of "Viksit Bharat @ 2047." The week-long competition will be inaugurated in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Senior officials from the Defence, Education, and Youth Affairs departments are also expected to attend. Their participation reflects the importance accorded to youth innovation, creativity, and leadership development as key pillars of national progress. The Idea and



Innovation Competition aims to provide a powerful platform for cadets to channel their imagination and problem-solving skills toward nation-building. It is designed to encourage creative thinking and foster self-reliance among young minds, resonating with the vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event will include a series of expert workshops, innovation showcases, and presentations where cadets will propose practical solutions to real-world challenges in fields such as technology, environment, defence, logistics, and entrepreneurship. Each innovation will be evaluated on criteria like originality, technical merit, cost-effectiveness, and overall impact. Hosting IIC 2025 in Vijayawada highlights Andhra

Pradesh's growing prominence in the fields of innovation, education, and youth empowerment. The initiative stands as a testimony to the state government's commitment to nurturing talent, promoting scientific thinking, and strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit among young citizens. Through such platforms, Andhra Pradesh continues to reinforce its role in shaping the nation's innovation ecosystem and knowledge-driven development. The competition will also serve as a celebration of national integration and cultural diversity. Cadets from different regions of India will take part in cultural events and interaction sessions that embody the spirit of "Unity in Diversity." The event will conclude on November 15 with the valedictory function, award presentation, and a grand cultural evening, followed by a fellowship dinner, popularly known as the "Barakhana," symbolizing camaraderie, discipline, and the patriotic spirit of the NCC.

PROSPECT



Full flying display by Indian Air Force ahead of the main event on 9th November 2025 at Lachit Ghat, Guwahati

JSW Cement Q2 profit at ₹75.36 cr

JSW Cement Ltd has reported a profit of ₹75.36 crore for September quarter FY26, led by double-digit gain in sales volume. The company had incurred a loss of ₹75.82 crore in the July-September period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from JSW Cement, part of the \$23 billion JSW group, on Friday.

Revenue from operations was at ₹1,436.43 crore in September quarter FY26 as against ₹1,223.71 crore a year ago. Total expenses were at ₹1,348.72 crore in the quarter. Total volume sales were at 3.11 Million Tonnes (MT) in Q2/FY26 as against 2.71 MT in the corresponding second quarter of FY25. Total income, which includes other income of the company, was at ₹1,460.06 crore in the September quarter. In the first half (H1) of FY26, total consolidated income of JSW Cement was at ₹3,041.93 crore. Total net debt was at ₹3,231 crore as on September 30, 2025. This “marks a significant reduction as against ₹4,566 crore on June 30, 2025, primarily due to receipt of the IPO proceeds,” it said.

Indian Army holds medical relief, cancer awareness camps



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kohima

On the occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day, the Indian Army organised medical relief and health awareness camps at various locations in Assam and Manipur, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring healthcare access and spreading awareness amongst local communities in remote and far-flung areas.

In Manipur, at Jalenbung Village in Kangpokpi District and Primary Health Centre (PHC) Andro in Imphal East District, the medical camp provided essential consultation, cancer awareness sessions focusing on prevention and early detection and distribution of free medicines.

More than 200 people benefited. The camp included general medical check-ups, specialised consultations, maternal and child healthcare guidance, health awareness

talks and distribution of wellness kits.

On similar lines in Assam, a special awareness programme was organised at Kakopathar Senior Secondary School, Tinsukia District, Assam to educate and sensitize students about cancer, the silent killer. The programme was attended by 50 higher secondary students and ten teachers, who actively participated in the interactive session.

A highlight of the event was a live demonstration using a bottle, cotton, a cigarette and water to simulate the harmful effects of cigarette smoke on human lungs. These outreach initiatives underscore the Indian Army's continued dedication towards strengthening community welfare, enhancing public health awareness and extending humanitarian assistance to the remotest regions, thereby reinforcing the bond between the Army and the people of the NE region.

Khattar plans cities sans waste dumpsites

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday launched two flagship initiatives – the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP) and the Urban Investment Window (UiWIN) in a major step towards building sustainable and investment-ready cities across India.

The move marks a major leap in India's urban transformation, with DRAP targeting the elimination of legacy waste dumpsites by September next year and UiWIN aiming to unlock private and multilateral investments to fuel infrastructure growth in cities, in line with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat.'

The Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated DRAP, UiWIN and other key initiatives during the two-day 'National Urban Conclave 2025' in the capital.

Speaking at the event, the minister highlighted that these initiatives would be

pivotal in building cleaner, greener and more liveable cities, aligning with the broader vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047.'

He pointed out that by 2047, India's urban population will account for around 50 per cent of the total population. To cater to this growing demand, all stakeholders, including central and State Governments, private players and individuals, must collaborate and invest substantially in urban development, a critical step towards realising the dream of a 'Viksit Bharat.'

According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the two-day conclave, themed 'Sustainable Urban Development and Governance,' brought together policymakers, urban planners and experts to chart the roadmap for building future-ready, livable cities.

Under DRAP, the Centre will fast-track the remediation of remaining dumpsites across urban India in a mission-mode effort to achieve 'Lakshya Zero Dumpsites' by September



Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurating National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi PIONEER PHOTO

2026. The initiative aims to reclaim valuable land for public use and community development.

Currently, 1,428 sites are under remediation, with 80 per cent of the legacy waste concentrated in 214 sites across 202 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). DRAP will pri-

oritise these high-impact locations, which collectively hold around 8.8 crore metric tonnes of legacy waste.

The Government has allocated central financial assistance of ₹550 per tonne for waste remediation. To date, MoHUA has disbursed ₹4,181 crore for projects worth

₹10,228 crore, benefitting 2,484 ULBs across 28 States and Union Territories.

So far, 1,048 out of 2,476 dumpsites, holding about 25 crore metric tonnes of waste, have been remediated, reclaiming nearly 7,580 acres of land. The Ministry added that the Urban Investment

Window (UiWIN) would serve as a one-stop platform to attract private capital and long-term concessional funding from multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

UiWIN will also focus on promoting Public-Private Partnership (PPP)-based urban projects to accelerate sustainable infrastructure development.

MoHUA Secretary Srinivas Katikithala said the conclave reflects a “collective urban effort” to make Indian cities more affordable, secure and sustainable. He emphasised that India requires a cohesive “Team Urban” to fulfil the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, so that all initiatives and programmes can come together under one roof for timely decision-making.

The first day of the conclave also featured technical sessions on regional planning, transit-oriented development, city mobility, livelihood generation and capacity building, setting the tone for India's next phase of urban renewal.

NBCC inks pact with Pantheon Elysee Real Estate Development

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

State-owned NBCC (India) Ltd has signed an initial agreement with Pantheon Elysee Real Estate Development LLC to develop projects in the UAE. NBCC is into project management consultancy and real estate.

In a Statement on Saturday, the company announced that it has signed a broad frame work Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pantheon Elysee Real Estate Development LLC, a prominent real estate player based in Dubai, UAE. This partnership solidifies NBCC's commitment to strengthening its presence in the Middle East construction landscape. The MoU was signed by Pradeep Sharma, ED (Engg)

and Ali Abusafieh, Legal Director, Pantheon Elysee Real Estate Development LLC, in the presence of NBCC CMD K P Mahadevaswamy.

Under the terms of the MoU, NBCC and Pantheon will collaborate on the execution of high-quality residential, hospitality and mixed-use real estate projects across the United Arab Emirates.

They intend to develop the projects worth Dh 3 billion, the Statement said.

The collaboration will leverage NBCC's six decades of engineering excellence and project management expertise alongside Pantheon's robust local development portfolio.

NBCC has completed the India Pavilion in Dubai for the Dubai Expo 2020 at a cost of \$46.8 million.



CM Conrad K Sangma inspecting the ongoing works at the PA Sangma Integrated Sports Complex, Tura and also checked the progress of the indoor stadium and the indoor swimming pool PIONEER PHOTO

Gold prices drop for 3rd week as dollar gains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Gold prices extended losses for the third consecutive week as a strong US dollar and cautious remarks from Federal Reserve officials weighed on investor sentiment, analysts said.

The sustained firmness in the dollar and a wait-and-watch approach from the US Federal Reserve have dampened demand for the safe-haven asset, keeping bullion prices in a narrow trading range through the holiday-shortened week, they added.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery slipped by ₹165, or 0.14 per cent, during the past week, to settle at ₹1,21,067 per 10 grams on Friday.

The yellow metal largely hovered near ₹1.21 lakh per 10-gram level, which is still about ₹11,000 below its October 17 peak of ₹1.32 lakh

per 10 grams. In the international market, Comex gold futures for December delivery rose by \$13.3, or 0.33 per cent, in the past week. It had settled at \$4,009.8 per ounce on Friday.

Analysts said the metal started the week firm, briefly trading above the \$4,000 mark before a stronger dollar dragged prices lower. Renewed risk-aversion in the mid-week provided limited support, helping gold trim its losses.

“Gold traded in a tight consolidation range through the week. While bargain-buying emerged on mid-week dips, the strong directional momentum that was visible in October has tapered.

“The market currently appears to be in a pause-and-assess phase, with participants waiting for clearer cues from the US dollar and Treasury yields before committing to larger positions,” Chirag Doshi, CIO of Fixed



Income Assets, LGT Wealth India, said.

NS Ramaswamy, Head of Commodity and CRM, Ventura said, “Gold prices continue to remain firm, supported by a softer US dollar and expectations of another Federal Reserve rate cut.

“The dollar index has been lodged within the trading range of 98-99-100 since August,” he said, adding that

a softer dollar could provide near-term relief for bullion.

Ramaswamy pointed out that the prolonged US Government shutdown, entering the second month, has delayed the release of key economic reports of employment and inflation data, creating a 'data vacuum' and heightening uncertainty.

“Private reports indicate signs of weakness in the

labour market, leading the Federal Reserve to ease policy rates sooner than believed. Lower interest rates tend to support gold,” he said.

According to Chirag Doshi, a stronger dollar and higher yields initially weighed on precious metals. Renewed risk aversion later in the week lent some support.

“A key negative catalyst came from China, which reduced its VAT exemption on certain retail gold purchases, likely cooling physical demand sentiment in Asia,” Doshi said.

Silver underperforms as industrial sentiment softens amid global slowdown fears: Silver prices also eased during the week, reflecting a similar consolidation seen in the yellow metal.

On the MCX, the white metal futures for December delivery declined by ₹559, or 0.38 per cent, in the holiday-shortened week. It had closed at ₹1,47,728 per

kilogram on Friday.

Comex silver futures for December delivery edged lower last week. It had settled at \$48.14 an ounce on Friday. “Silver continued to exhibit high-beta behaviour, moving more sharply than gold on both upswings and pullbacks,” said Doshi, adding that “short bursts of festive and industrial demand triggered quick rallies, but these were often met with equally fast profit-taking, indicating that short-term traders are driving price action, rather than long-term investors building strategic positions”. He added that exchange-traded funds (ETF) outflows have removed a key cushion, making domestic prices more sensitive to global fluctuations. “However, because the rupee remained weak, the downside in MCX prices was limited – resulting in consolidation rather than a sharp correction,” Doshi said.

Ayurveda health camp held in Tihar Jail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Peoples' Foundation, a Delhi-NCR based social trust working in the field of Holistic Health, in collaboration with All India Institute of Ayurveda, Govt of India, New Delhi organised an Ayurved based Mega Health Camp and Medicine distribution in central jail number 3, Tihar jail.

The day-long camp was held for extensive health checkup and free medicine distribution to inmates and staff was inaugurated by SBK Singh, IPS, Director General of prisons, Delhi.

Before opening the camp, the DG also inaugurated - Ausadhi Udayan - a garden of medicinal plants - arranged by jail authorities and AIIA.

Speaking on the occasion, the DG said that Ayurveda was best suited to the overall maintenance of health



and lifestyle disorders without any side effects. He praised the joint initiative of AIIA and the Peoples' Foundation and Pramod Gupta, superintendent of jail number 3 for organising such noble initiative for the welfare of inmates. Pankaj Kumar, IAS, AIG (Prisons) and DIG Kuldeep Singh were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

VN Jha, President of the Peoples' Foundation said that their organisation was committed to spread benefits and message of science of Ayurveda to large masses of Indian society. Peoples' Foundation has been organising health camps in Tihar jail for last 4 years.

A large pharmacy was set up and managed by the staff of AIIA, volunteers and coordinators of the Peoples' Foundation. SBK Singh, DG (prisons) too presented mementos to senior doctors in his office.

Assam rifles strengthens operational readiness through drone integration training

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Guwahati

A focused training programme on drone integration and operations was recently organised to enhance the operational readiness of Assam Rifles personnel. The initiative aimed at strengthening the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for surveillance, reconnaissance and real-time situational awareness in field conditions.

The training included modules on mission planning, data interpretation and drone handling techniques, enabling participants to develop greater technical proficiency and adaptability. The course also emphasised the importance of precision, safety and coordinated teamwork during aerial operations.

The initiative reflects Assam Rifles' commitment to embracing modern technology as a force multiplier in its mission of ensuring peace, stability and security across the North



East. Through continued emphasis on skill development and innovation, the Force continues to evolve in line with emerging operational demands.

By investing in such forward-looking training programmes, Assam Rifles reaffirms its dedication to maintaining high professional standards and operational excellence, while remaining steadfast in its role as the “Sentinels of the North East.”

Meghwal hails Constitution framers for free legal aid



Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal lauded the farsightedness of the framers of the Constitution on Saturday for making a provision for free legal aid. He also said justice delivery should not be considered just as a sovereign task but also a citizen-centric service.

Minimum temperature to go down across Bengal: IMD

The IMD on Saturday forecast a fall in minimum temperature by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius across West Bengal during next four days as dry weather will prevail over all the districts. It said that shallow to moderate fog will occur in sub-Himalayan districts of West Bengal on Sunday in the morning hours.



Om Birla inaugurates Bundi Mahotsav with rituals



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurates three-day Bundi Mahotsav 2025 which began on Saturday with the worship of Lord Ganesh at the entrance of the historic Taragarh Palace, followed by a series of cultural and traditional events.

Sanitation workers' protest enters 100th day in Chennai

The protest by the Greater Chennai Corporation sanitation workers against privatisation of solid waste management and demanding job regularisation entered its hundredth day on Saturday. The workers who are against the privatisation of solid waste management in Royapuram and Thiru Vi Ka Nagar areas have also been demanding that the civic authorities reinstate the workers removed from service.



SC ensured no interference in economic policy matters: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Judiciary has been a steady guardian of the rule of law, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai said on Saturday while emphasising that the apex court has ensured it does not interfere in the policy matters of economic considerations unless there is a violation of fundamental rights or other provisions of the Constitution.

Speaking at the Sixth Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts, he said in commercial and corporate matters, the Supreme court has been vigilant in ensuring transparency and integrity, rejecting attempts to misuse legal or corporate structures for fraudulent gain.

"The Supreme Court has ensured that it does not interfere in the policy matters which have economic considerations involved unless there is a violation of fundamental rights or other provisions of the Constitution."

"Similarly, the Court has reaffirmed that any interpretation of a commercial statute must be in consonance with the legislative intent while maintaining fairness and public interest," the CJI said.

Gavai said the Supreme Court has consistently upheld the delicate balance between economic freedom, regulatory discipline, and fairness.

"It has reinforced that the power of the State, particularly in matters of taxation and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Justice of India BR Gavai during the inauguration of national conference on strengthening legal aid delivery mechanisms at the Supreme Court in New Delhi

regulation, must rest on a clear statutory foundation and operate within the limits of the Constitution.

"The Court has emphasized that while regulatory bodies must preserve financial stability and public confidence, their measures must always be proportionate and reasonable," he said.

"In commercial and corporate matters, the Court has been vigilant in ensuring transparency and integrity, rejecting attempts to misuse legal or corporate structures for fraudulent gain."

"It has underscored that the discipline of timely resolution and accountability is vital for the health of the financial system, while also recognising that commerce must ultimately serve human welfare and social justice," he said.

The CJI said across diverse areas, such as corporate governance, insolvency, arbitration, and environmental accountability, the Court's approach has been principled rather than interventionist.

Gavai said as India transitions to a digital and green

economy, commercial law must promote sustainability and ethical enterprise.

"Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) norms are not foreign imports. They resonate with Article 48A and the spirit of trusteeship in our constitutional philosophy."

"Increasingly, Indian companies are integrating ESG principles in corporate reporting. This is a welcome trend, for markets function best when anchored in responsibility. Profit must be aligned with purpose," he said.

Priyanka Gandhi criticises PM Modi's katta comments in campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Katihar/Bhagalpur

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday claimed that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not maintaining the dignity of his post by using words such as *katta* (country-made pistol) and *donali* (double-barrel gun) during the election campaign in the State. She also said that her party was now fighting the same battle against the "Modi empire" that Mahatma Gandhi once fought against the British imperialists.

"The battle that the INDIA bloc and Congress are fighting today is the same battle that Mahatma Gandhi once fought against the British imperialists. Even today, we are fighting for your rights and the truth. Even today, we are fighting against an empire, which is the Modi empire," she claimed.

"Today, PM Modi runs the government in the same way. He suppresses people and divides them. The rights for which Mahatma Gandhi fought are in danger today. The most important among those rights is the right to vote," she added.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bihar's Katihar, Bhagalpur, and Purnea districts, Vadra claimed, Vadra alleged that on the one hand, the PM was hailing 'Vande Mataram', which stood for non-violence, on the other, he was using words like *katta* and *donali*



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressing a rally for Bihar Assembly elections in Purnia district

at public rallies.

"Though they commemorated the 150th anniversary of the national song, at one point in time in history, the BJP and RSS were reluctant to sing Vande Mataram, which was a song of the Independence movement and signifies the nation's unity," she claimed.

The Wayanad MP claimed that the "BJP's nationalism is fake" as they only talk about it when elections approach.

"Their Agnipath scheme has demotivated the youth of Bihar who once prepared for being recruited in the army with a lot of rigour and nationalistic fervour," she claimed.

Vadra also criticised the NDA government, alleging that it has failed to provide employment to the youth and was handing over all public sector undertakings to Modi's "two corporate friends".

"We want to reserve

2,000 acres of land for industries and the education sector in Bihar, unlike the NDA government that has given large tracts of land to Adani at Re 1," she said. Vadra accused the NDA of keeping numerous Government posts vacant and "closing all avenues of employment". "A decade has passed since PM Modi promised 2 crore jobs to Indian youth, and recently, he said he will give 1 crore jobs to the people of Bihar. Why did he not give these jobs in the last decade," she asked.

"The NDA leaders keep talking about the seven decades of Congress rule in India. They should know that Congress governments of the past built institutes like IITs, IIMs and AIIMS," she said. Vadra alleged that, on the contrary, PM Modi has devised a new type of politics based on religion, wherein politicians don't have to work.

ED ATTACHES ₹21 CRORE ASSETS OF KARNATAKA MLA SATISH KRISHNA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has attached assets worth ₹21 crore of Karnataka Congress MLA Satish Krishna Sail as part of a money laundering investigation against him linked to a case of alleged illegal export of iron ore.

A provisional order was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on November 6 and the attached properties belong to Sail, who holds these assets through his Goa-based company named Shree Mallikarjun shipping Pvt Ltd. (SMSPL), the ED said in a statement.

The 59-year-old legislator from the Karwar assembly seat in Uttara Kannada was arrested by the federal probe agency in September.

He later obtained an interim bail on medical grounds which, the ED said, has been cancelled by a special PMLA court on Friday.

The attached properties include 12,500 square metres of open land in Chicalim Village, Mormugao in Goa, 16,850 square metres of agricultural property known as "Pedro Galle Cotta" located in Mormugao Taluk (south Goa) and multiple floors of a commercial building situated at Vasco Da Gama in Goa bearing a current market value of about ₹64 crore, it said.

The book value of these properties is ₹21 crore, according to the ED.

Bihar's mood signals NDA comeback: CM Mohan Yadav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Patna

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Saturday addressed a series of rallies across Bihar, declaring that public enthusiasm clearly reflected a returning wave for the NDA. Speaking in Belhar, Pipra and Bodh Gaya, Yadav said the "pulse of the people" suggested the alliance was on course to form the next government in the heartland state.

Yadav urged voters to stay active until polling day on November 11, saying every

vote would shape Bihar's future. "Delhi has Modi ji and Bihar has Nitish Kumar," he told cheering crowds, adding that citizens must not become complacent before the final vote is cast. Taking aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Yadav said the opposition had "accepted defeat even before the battle began". He claimed Gandhi's absence from the campaign trail showed that he had "abandoned Bihar's election for a holiday in Pachmarhi".

Highlighting development under Prime Minister Narendra



Modi, Yadav said the NDA government had worked for farmers, soldiers, women and youth, transforming India into

a "new nation where terrorists no longer find refuge".

He praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for main-

taining law and order and advancing infrastructure, describing the NDA as a "double engine government" driving rapid progress.

Calling on voters to "teach a lesson" to those who insult Bihar's culture, Yadav said Gandhi's remarks about Chhath Puja reflected disrespect. "On polling day, your finger will be the Sudarshan Chakra," he said.

Yadav concluded that only within the NDA could a tea seller rise to become Prime Minister and a common man like him serve as Chief Minister.

World recognising Jain lifestyle: VP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday said the Jain lifestyle of vegetarianism is recognised worldwide as a model of environmental responsibility and that he turned vegetarian over two decades ago.

Addressing an event to mark the 8th 180 'Upvas Parna' ceremony of Jain Acharya Hansratna Surishwar here, the vice president said ahimsa, as

propagated by Jain spiritual leaders, is the way to bring world peace.

"The Jain lifestyle of vegetarianism, compassion towards animals and sustainable living is recognised worldwide as a model of environmental responsibility," Radhakrishnan said.

He said he was fond of non-vegetarian food, but quit it in 2000 after a visit to Kashi.

Following the practice of foregoing something one likes the most before taking a holy dip in the Ganga, he

gave up non-vegetarian food, he said. "When you are taking non-vegetarian food, it is different. When you are taking vegetarian (food), your mindset is entirely different. That is. My experience," the VP said.

"The aggression has gone, patience has come in and arrogance is gone...," he said.

Talking about the inner strength required for fasting, Radhakrishnan said he was astonished to know that Prime Minister Narendra Modi fasts on all nine days during Navratri.

PM Modi flags off four new Vande Bharat Express trains connecting major cities

CYRIL SAM
■ Bengaluru/Ernakulam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off four new Vande Bharat Express trains connecting major commercial and religious cities while cutting travel times. The new services were inaugurated along the Banaras-Khajuraho, the Lucknow-Saharanpur, the Firozpur-Delhi and the Ernakulam-Bengaluru routes, expanding India's network of semi-high-speed trains.

The PM flagged off the Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat from Varanasi at 8.30 am, while virtually inaugurating the others. Speaking at the inauguration, the PM said, "Infrastructure has played an important role in the development of most nations. The development of a city begins on its own as soon as it gets better connectivity. Infrastructure is not limited to huge bridges and highways. These trains not only connect heritage cities but also accelerate development. Trains like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat, and Amrit Bharat are laying

the foundation for the next generation of Indian Railways"

In Kerala, the inaugural run of the Ernakulam - Bengaluru Vande Bharat was attended by Governor of Kerala Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Union Minister of State for petroleum, natural gas and tourism Suresh Gopi, Kerala's Minister for industries, law and coir P Rajeev, Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden among others.

This is the third Vande Bharat in Kerala and will connect the State to commercial centers in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Currently, Kerala has two Vande Bharat trains on the Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod route and the Thiruvananthapuram-Mangaluru routes. These are among the most profitable routes for southern railways in the State.

The newly launched train will reduce travel time between Ernakulam and Bengaluru by about two hours. It will depart Ernakulam Junction daily at 2.20 pm (except

Wednesdays) and reach Bengaluru KSR at 11 pm. It will stop at Thrissur, Palakkad, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai and Krishnarajapuram before terminating at Bengaluru KSR. By comparison, the fastest train on this route, the Bengaluru-Ernakulam Superfast Express, currently takes 11 hours.

Speaking at the inauguration, Governor Arlekar said, "Vande Bharat trains define how rail transport can be.

We have the largest rail network but we need to improve it everyday to achieve the status of a developed nation. Vande Bharat trains are another step in that direction."

The train will serve as an important link between the textile hub in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and the commercial cities of Bengaluru and Ernakulam. A train along this route has been a long-standing demand of the State. Speaking before the inauguration, all the dignitaries reiterated how the State has made various representations to the Centre



Security personnel keeping vigil as a new Vande Bharat train leaves the Ernakulam South railway station following its virtual flag-off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ernakulam, Kerala

and have even raised the issue - of connecting the State to Bengaluru - in the Parliament.

"The latest Vande Bharat train not only connects two major economic centres but will also boost tourism and

sustainability," MoS Gopi added. Vande Bharat trains are semi-highspeed, self-propelling, Electric Multiple Units (EMUs), which aim to connect cities up to 800 km away. First introduced in February 2019, currently,

there are 80 such trains. Seen as a successor to Shatabdi Express trains, these trains are expected to replace the former in the coming years.

The Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat will save

about 2 hours 40 minutes compared to the special trains currently in operation.

It will connect some of India's most revered religious and cultural destinations, including Varanasi,

THE PM FLAGGED OFF THE BANARAS-KHAJURAH VANDE BHARAT FROM VARANASI AT 8.30 AM, WHILE VIRTUALLY INAUGURATING THE OTHERS

Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and Khajuraho. While the Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat will save nearly 1 hour of travel time, The Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat Express will benefit passengers from Lucknow, Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor and Saharanpur, while also improving access to the holy city of Haridwar via Roorkee.

The Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat will be the fastest train on this route, completing the journey in just 6 hours 40 minutes. The Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat Express will strengthen connectivity between the national capital and key cities in Punjab, including Firozpur, Bathinda, and Patiala.



States Focus



CM KHANDU ENHANCES DORJEE KHANDU MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Saturday announced a major enhancement of the Dorjee Khandu merit scholarship, while inaugurating the academic and administrative blocks at a college in Tawang. The chief minister said the scholarship amount, instituted in memory of his father, has been increased from ₹35,000, ₹23,000, and ₹15,000 for the first, second, and third positions respectively, to ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh, and ₹2 lakh from the current academic year. "This is our way of encouraging academic excellence and honouring the legacy of Karamveer Dorjee Khandu," he said.



MAN KILLED IN ELEPHANT ATTACK IN CHHATTISGARH

A 36-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, a forest official said on Saturday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday at Botli village under Kartala forest range, Korba Divisional Forest Officer Premalata Yadav said. A tusker attacked Shivnarayan Rathia and crushed him, killing him on the spot, she said.

Centre invested ₹21,000 crore in Northeast education: Sitharaman

TONY DAS
■ Guwahati

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday claimed that the Central Government has invested ₹21,000 crore in the education sector in the Northeast in the last 11 years. Connectivity has also received a boost in the region during the period, with new states put on the railway map and several greenfield airports constructed, she added.

Sitharaman, who was on a two-day visit to Assam since Friday, was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the State's first university focussed on technical and vocational education and training at Bholaguri in Gohpur in Biswanath district. The 'Swahid Kanaklata Barua State University' will be built at a cost of ₹415 crore on a total area of 241 acres, with a built-up area of 7 lakh sq ft.

"Since 2014, the Centre has invested ₹21,000 crore in the education sector in the Northeast. Over 850 new schools have been opened. The first AIIMS in the region has become operational, and over 200 new skill development institutes have been operationalised. The country's first sports university is also coming up in the region," Sitharaman said. In Assam alone, 15 new medical colleges have been built, while South Asia's largest cancer care centre is coming up in the state and the state will also soon have the region's second IIM, she added. "To boost the education sector, the Centre is working in coordination with the state Governments of the region," the Union



Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman along with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is performing Bhumi Puja to mark the auspicious beginning of Kanaklata Barua State University at Bholaguri in Gohpur on Saturday

PIONEER PHOTO

minister said. Besides developing roads, bridges and tunnels, the Centre is also working on the aviation and railway sectors in the region, Sitharaman said. She said that in the last 11 years, 10 new greenfield airports have been built in the region. Manipur and Meghalaya have been added to the country's railway map for the first time during this period, she added.

Paying tributes to freedom fighter Kanaklata Barua, Sitharaman said, "At the age of 17 years, when she should have been entering a university to study, she sacrificed her life for the nation to keep our national flag high. A university in her name

should have come up a long time ago." Barua was a member of the *Mrityu Bahini* during the freedom struggle and was killed in police firing while leading a procession to hoist the national flag at Gohpur police station on September 20, 1942, during the Quit India Movement.

Union Finance Minister said that while conserving the Gohpur police station or building a memorial there will attract people, the university in her name will inspire generations of youth, and lauded the initiative as a step in the right direction.

She maintained that it was a privilege for her to lay the foundation stone of a varsity dedicated to the

memory of Barua and exhorted the youth who will enroll to carry in them the essence of deep patriotism that Barua and other freedom fighters of the area embodied.

The University will offer courses in various technology domains, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity, blockchain, drone and navigation technology, quantum computing, brain computer interface, internet of things, and smart cities and smart environments.

It will feature academic blocks for 2,000 students, hostels for 1,620 students, residential quarters, a guest house and a student facility centre.

ED attaches ₹67.03 crore properties of banned PFI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached eight immovable properties — some used as terror camps — worth ₹67.03 crore of banned Popular Front of India (PFI). The properties were held in the name of various trusts and that of its political front — Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI).

The properties include places where multiple physical education training programmes were being imparted to carry out violent and terrorist activities in India to achieve the goal of forming an Islamic Nation of India.

Earlier, ED had attached the movable and immovable properties valued at ₹61.98 crore. The total attachments in this case, including the present attachment of ₹67.03 crore, amounts to ₹129 crore.

The agency started probe against PFI and others under

PMIA, 2002 on the basis of FIR registered by NIA, along with various FIRs registered by other law enforcement agencies against PFI and others.

"Investigation revealed that the office bearers, members and cadres of PFI, were conspiring and raising/collecting funds from within India and abroad through banking channels, Hawala, donations etc. for committing and financing terrorist acts across India," the agency said in a statement.

Further, investigation has revealed that SDPI is a political front of PFI and PFI used to control, fund and supervise the activities of SDPI.

SDPI was majorly dependent on PFI for its day-to-day functions, policy making, selecting candidates for election, public programs, cadre mobilization and other related activities.

Additionally, investigation has also revealed that the expenses made by PFI for and on behalf of SDPI, were maintained in the

dairies secretly and not reflected in the bank accounts of PFI.

Funds have been collected extensively by PFI and SDPI from foreign countries mainly gulf countries and also locally in the garb of relief and social activities.

"The proceeds were used for furtherance of criminal conspiracy to carry out violent and terrorist activities in India to achieve the goal of forming an Islamic Nation of India, jeopardising our secular fabric and disrupting the Unity and Integrity of the nation," the agency said.

Investigation by ED has led to the quantification of Proceeds of Crime (POC) to the tune of ₹131 Crore, so far.

So far 28 leaders, members and cadres of PFI have been arrested by ED and multiple Prosecution Complaints in this regard have been filed before Hon'ble Courts.

The arrestees include National President of SDPI MK. Faizy, the Chairman,

Land deal cancellation signals Govt's guilt: Sapkal

TN RAGHUNATHA
■ Mumbai

Upping the ante over the alleged Pune land scam involving deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar, Maharashtra Congress president Harshavardhan Sapkal alleged on Saturday that Parth purchased ₹300 crore worth land by paying a mere ₹500 as stamp duty, after a proposal to build an IT park on this land was "hastily approved".

Talking to media persons at Tilak Bhavan, Sapkal demanded to know as to why the name of Parth Pawar was "missing" from the FIR registered by the police in connection with the land scam and why no action was being taken against the deputy chief minister's son.

"Parth Pawar purchased 40 acres of Mahar Watan land in Pune for ₹300 crore but paid only ₹500 as stamp duty. The proposal to build an IT Park on that land was hastily approved, and large-scale alterations were made to the documents," Sapkal said.

"Now, after the scam has been exposed, they are claiming that the land deal has been cancelled — which is an open admission of guilt. So why is no action being taken? Why is Parth Pawar's name missing from the FIR?," Sapkal asked. Charging that chief minister Devendra Fadnis' decision to order an inquiry into the alleged land scam involving Parth Pawar was nothing but a tactic to waste time, Sapkal said: "The money for these transactions came from a sugar factory. Who gave the money? How was it routed? People need to get answers. Forming an inquiry committee is nothing but a tactic to waste time"

The State Congress chief also alleged that Parth Pawar's company, Amedea, had earlier grabbed Government land

THE STATE CONGRESS CHIEF ALLEGED THAT PARTH PAWAR'S COMPANY, AMEDEA, EARLIER GRABBED GOVERNMENT LAND BELONGING TO THE AGRICULTURE DAIRY AT BOPODI IN PUNE

belonging to the Agriculture Dairy at Bopodi in Pune, using forged documents".

In another serious allegation, Sapkal said that Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol of the BJP had grabbed the Jain Boarding land in Pune. "Once the matter came to light, the transaction was cancelled, but the issue is far from over. The Charity Commissioner involved in the case is a relative of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis — what action was taken against him?," Sapkal asked.

Demanding a white paper on the questionable land deals in Mumbai and Pune where plots worth crores were allegedly "being grabbed at throwaway prices", Sapkal said: "In Mumbai, hundreds of acres of land was given away free to Adani. Government land was also allotted for the BJP's Mumbai office. Fadnis' protégé Mohit Kamboj has been granted SRA land.

"A massive scam has taken place in Pune's ring road land acquisition, and people deserve to know who really prospered from the Samruddhi Mahamarg project. Hence, a white paper on all land transactions must be published," Sapkal said.

Charging that the BJP-led Mahayuti Government was "thick-skinned and shameless" to the core, the State Congress chief said: "Every day a new scam surfaces, yet no action is taken. People in power and their relatives have set out to loot the state".

ED BUSTS IMMORAL TRAFFICKING RACKET IN BENGAL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate carried out raids and dismantled an organised immoral trafficking racket operating primarily through bar-restaurants and dance bars in the state of West Bengal.

During the probe, ED had found the accused were involved in the exploitation of vulnerable women through false promises of employment and coercion into prostitution and thereby generating substantial illicit Proceeds of Crime. The accused persons identified as part of this racket include Jagjit Singh, Ajmal Siddiqui, Bishnu Mundra and their associates.

The agency initiated probe based upon multiple FIRs registered under various sections of the IPC, 1860, Arms Act, 1959 and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986 which constitute scheduled offences under PMIA, 2002 and charge sheets filed by the West Bengal Police, against various accused persons including Singh, Siddiqui, Mundra and others. During probe, the agency sleuths found that an organised trafficking and prostitution racket is being operated by the above-named persons primarily through bar-cum-restaurants owned or controlled by them.

The accused persons exploit vulnerable women under false employment promises and coerce them into prostitution for generating substantial proceed of crime. These illicit funds, acquired in cash, amounting to several crores, are being laundered through multiple companies under their control. "During the searches, cash worth over ₹1.01 crore and digital devices have been seized along with various property documents. A number of bank account details under use and operation of the accused/suspect persons have been identified," the ED said in a statement.

Rahul should have appointed SC, ST or minority leader as LoP: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Sasaram/Bhaua

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should have made someone from the SC, ST or minority communities the leader of opposition of Lok Sabha if he is really concerned about them.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Rohtas and Kaimur districts, Singh dismissed Gandhi's allegation of 'vote chori' as "baseless", and said he should approach the Election Commission if he has a complaint with evidence.

"If Rahul Gandhi is really concerned about Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or minority communities, he should have given the post of leader of opposition in Lok Sabha to someone from these communities," Singh said.

Gandhi became the leader



of opposition in Lok Sabha after the 2024 polls.

"If Rahul Gandhi thinks that votes are being stolen in Bihar, he should file a complaint with the EC. He is not doing that; he is simply levelling baseless allegations against a constitutional body. He is simply lying," he alleged.

Singh alleged that Congress creates rift among the people over caste, creed and religion, as it believes in "divisive politics".

"Rahul Gandhi is raising the issue of reservation in the defence forces. Our defence forces are above all these. He should not drag them into politics," he said.

Chandrayaan-2 data helps ISRO study moon's poles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Bengaluru

ISRO on Saturday said it has collected advanced data from the Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter to gain a deeper understanding of the Moon's polar regions, including parameters describing the physical and dielectric properties of its surface. This is India's major value addition towards future global exploration of the Moon, it said.

According to an ISRO statement, the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter has been in orbit around the Moon since 2019 and has been providing high-quality data.

One of the payloads, the Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR), is the first instrument that has mapped the Moon using the L-band in full-polarimetric mode and in the highest resolution (25m/pixel).

This advanced radar mode sends and receives signals in

both vertical and horizontal directions, making it ideal for studying surface properties, it said.

The space agency said that since its launch, about 1,400 radar datasets have been collected and processed to create polarimetric mosaics of the north and south polar regions (80 to 90 degrees latitude) of the Moon.

"Using the datasets, scientists from the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, have developed advanced data products on the potential presence of water-ice, surface roughness, as well as an important electrical property, namely the dielectric constant, which describes features like density and porosity of the Moon's surface," it said.

The algorithm for analysing the full-polarimetric data has been developed, and the data products have been generated indigenously by ISRO, the space agency said.

PM, CM should be ashamed: Rahul on MP midday meal video

GIRISH SHARMA
■ Bhopal

A video showing school-children eating mid-day meals served on newspapers in Madhya Pradesh's Sheepur district has triggered a political storm after Rahul Gandhi's tweet condemning the incident, even as the State Government claimed it had already acted before his remarks.

The clip, reportedly filmed in Hullapur village, showed primary school students eating rice and lentils laid out on sheets of newspaper instead of clean utensils. The footage went viral on November 4, prompting criticism from parents, locals, and social media users. On Saturday morning, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi shared the video on X (formerly Twitter), tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, and writing that both

"should be ashamed." His post quickly gained traction, turning the issue into a national talking point.

However, the Madhya Pradesh Government maintained that prompt action had already been taken well before Rahul Gandhi's tweet. Officials said the Sheepur district administration and the Women and Child Development Department had conducted an inquiry and cancelled the registration of the Self-Help Group (SHG) responsible for preparing and distributing the meals on November 6, two days after the video surfaced online.

According to official records, a detailed inspection by the Block Education Officer confirmed that hygiene standards had been violated.

The SHG's contract under the mid-day meal programme was terminated immediately, and the group was barred from future Government food distribution work. The order also



directed departmental proceedings against local supervisors who failed to monitor food safety.

District Collector Arpit Verma ordered inspections across all schools in the region to ensure meals are served in proper utensils and under sanitary conditions. Officials were instructed to provide fresh replacement meals the same day to

all affected children.

Defending the state administration, Madhya Pradesh BJP media in-charge Ashish Agrawal said, "The video went viral on November 4, and by November 6, the Government had already taken action.

Rahul Gandhi's tweet came later. It's unfortunate that political reactions are

being made on an issue that was already addressed promptly."

Officials described the incident as a case of negligence rather than deliberate misconduct but stressed that accountability would be fixed at every level. The Education Department has sought a comprehensive report from all districts within 48 hours to verify the implementation of mid-day meal hygiene norms statewide.

The episode has reignited debate over the management of welfare schemes in rural areas. While the opposition has accused the state of administrative indifference, Government officials insist their response was swift and corrective measures were taken before the controversy escalated.

The Sheepur administration said the situation has since normalised and that meals are now being served in proper utensils under close supervision.

Israeli Army returns bodies of 15 Palestinians

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Khan Younis

Israel on Saturday returned the bodies of 15 Palestinians to Gaza, hospital officials in the strip said, a day after militants returned the remains of a hostage to Israel under the terms of the tenuous ceasefire agreement in the two-year war.

The exchange marked another step forward for the tenuous, US-brokered truce. As part of the deal, Israel has returned the remains of 15 Palestinians for each Israeli hostage. The Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis said the 15 bodies were brought there.

The return came shortly after Israel confirmed the remains given back Friday night were of an Israeli man who died while fighting Hamas in the militants' October 7, 2023, attack that started the war. The hostage's body was identified as that of Lior Rudaeff, according to a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian farmers and journalists in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, the latest violence to mar the territory. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum said Rudaeff was born in Argentina and moved to Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak, a farming community in south-



ern Israel, as a child. He volunteered for more than 40 years as an ambulance driver and was a member of the community's emergency response team.

The forum said he was killed in the Hamas-led attack and that his body was taken to Gaza. Since the ceasefire took effect on October 10, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 23 hostages, including Rudaeff's body,

with five still remaining in Gaza. Including the remains returned on Saturday, Israel has handed over the bodies of 300 Palestinians. Health officials in Gaza have struggled to identify the bodies without access to DNA kits, and have so far identified 89 of the bodies, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Under the terms of the US-brokered ceasefire, Israel is supposed to allow substantially more aid into Gaza.

However, relief efforts under the pact still fall well short of what is needed in Gaza, according to Farhan Haqq, deputy spokesperson for the United Nations. More than 200,000 metric tons of aid is positioned to move into Gaza, but only 37,000 tons, mostly food, have been admitted, he said. The 2023 Hamas-led attack on southern Israel killed about 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage. Israel's sweeping

military offensive has killed more than 68,800 Palestinians in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run Government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts. Palestinian health officials said 11 people were injured in an attack by Israeli settlers in the West

Bank, the latest as settler violence reaches new highs during this year's olive harvest.

The UN humanitarian office has said that in October, it documented the highest monthly number of Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property in the West Bank since the office began keeping track in 2006.

There were over 260 attacks, or an average of eight incidents per day, the office said. Palestinian paramedics said that journalists, volunteers and farmers were among those injured in the attack on the central town of Beita. A Palestinian photographer for Reuters was among the injured.

The circumstances of the attack were not immediately clear, and Israel's military did not respond to a request for comment. A video of the aftermath circulating in Palestinian media shows a man holding a camera, blood trickling down his face and chest. It then showed the inside of a hospital, where a man in a journalist's vest marked "press" and others with bandages on their heads were lying on the beds. With settler violence surging in the territory, volunteers, activists, and journalists have joined this year's olive harvest in an attempt to help Palestinian farmers safely reach and return from their fields.

US President endorses Vivek for Ohio Governor race



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New York

US President Donald Trump threw his weight behind Indian-origin Republican leader Vivek Ramaswamy, saying he will be a "great" governor of Ohio.

Ramaswamy, an entrepreneur-turned-politician, had an unsuccessful run during the Republican presidential primary last year. Later, he endorsed Trump and quickly emerged as his close confidant. In a post on Truth Social on Friday, Trump said, "Vivek Ramaswamy will be a GREAT Governor of Ohio, and has my Complete and Total Endorsement - HE WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!" "I know Vivek well, competed

against him, and he is something SPECIAL. He is Young, Strong, and Smart!" Trump said. Calling him a "very good person", the US President said Ramaswamy "truly loves" the US. "As your next Governor, Vivek will fight tirelessly to grow the economy, cut taxes and regulations, promote MADE IN THE USA, champion American energy DOMINANCE, keep our now very secure border, SECURE, stop migrant crime, strengthen our military/veterans, ensure LAW AND ORDER, advance election integrity, and protect our always under siege Second Amendment." Ramaswamy, 40, thanked Trump for his support and endorsement.

Arrests of Afghan nationals in Pak jumps 146% in one week



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Peshawar

Arrests and detentions of Afghan nationals in Pakistan surged by 146 per cent in the week ending November 1, driven largely by the reopening of border crossings, according to a UN report.

A total of 7,764 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained during the week, a sharp rise from the previous seven-day period, said the joint report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) released recently. The crackdown was

concentrated in Balochistan, which accounted for 86 per cent of the arrests.

The arrests and detentions surged by 146 per cent in the week ending November 1, the report noted.

Between October 26 and November 1, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders and undocumented Afghans made up 77 per cent of those arrested, while Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders comprised the remaining 23 per cent, it said.

Across Pakistan, the districts of Chagi, Attock and Quetta recorded the highest number of arrests and detentions between January 1 and November 1 this year.

Indian Missions worldwide mark 150 years of Vande Mataram



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Washington/Ottawa

Indian diplomatic missions across the globe commemorated 150 years of the country's national song 'Vande Mataram' with mass renditions, cultural performances and community gatherings, reaffirming the spirit of unity and national pride among the diaspora.

Written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, Vande Mataram was first included in his novel Anandamath and later became a rallying cry during India's freedom movement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated year-long commemorations to mark its 150th anniversary.

The Embassy of India in Washington marked the milestone on November 7 with a group rendition by students from the Indian diaspora, it said in a social media post on Saturday. In Ottawa, High Commissioner Dinesh K Patnaik led members of the Indian diaspora and officials of the High Commission in singing 'Vande Mataram'. The event also featured an Odissi dance performance.

"As we honour this immortal ode, we reaffirm our resolve towards a confident, self-reliant and resurgent Viksit Bharat 2047," the mission said in a social media post. In Doha, Ambassador Vipul led a mass singing of the national song at an event the embassy described as a "time-

less tribute to the spirit of patriotism and unity that binds our nation".

In Riyadh, Ambassador Suhel Ajaz Khan joined the Indian community in singing 'Vande Mataram', saying he felt "proud" to pay tribute to the spirit of the motherland.

The High Commission of India in Canberra organised a community gathering in Perth where High Commissioner D P Singh led the recitation. "The collective recitation was joined by the all-women crew of the Tri-service expedition 'Samudra Pradakshina' on board IASV Triveni — a stirring tribute to India's spirit, unity and Nari Shakti across the seas," the mission said in a social media post. In London, officials of the High Commission joined in singing the national song, calling it a tribute to a "timeless ode to our motherland that continues to inspire unity, pride, and love for India".

Several other Indian missions, including those in Nepal, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Dubai, Singapore, and South Africa, also organised recitations and community events to mark the 150th anniversary of the national song. On 24 January 1950, the Constituent Assembly of India officially adopted 'Vande Mataram' as the national song, giving it enduring significance. Prime Minister Modi, in his speech on Friday, said Vande Mataram "connects us to our history and gives our future new courage".

Pakistan brings in amendment to create new post of Chief of Defence Forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Islamabad

Pakistan on Saturday brought in a Constitutional amendment to create a new post of chief of defence forces to ensure greater coordination and unified command among the three services. The 27th Constitutional Amendment bill presented in parliament proposes changes to Article 243 of the Constitution, which deals with the armed forces among other issues. Under the amendment bill, the President will appoint the Army Chief and the Chief of Defence Force on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Chief of Army Staff, who will also be the Chief of Defence Forces, will appoint the head of the National Strategic Command in consultation with the Prime Minister. The head of the National Strategic Command will be from the Pakistan Army, it adds.

The Government will be able to promote individuals from the armed

forces to the ranks of Field Marshal, Marshal of the Air Force and Admiral of the Fleet. The rank and privileges of Field Marshal will be for life, meaning that Field Marshals will remain Field Marshals for life.

The bill says that the post of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee will expire on November 27, 2025. According to a local media report on Friday, the move is said to have been inspired by lessons drawn from the four-day conflict between Pakistan and India in May and the evolving nature of modern warfare that demands integrated operational response.

In response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10. Air Chief Marshal A P Singh last month said at

least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft, including US-origin F-16 jets, were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes.

India has been maintaining that Pakistan pleaded for ending the hostilities in May after the Indian military pounded various Pakistani military infrastructure.

Soon after the conflict, the Pakistan Government promoted Army Chief General Asim Munir to the rank of Field Marshal, making him the second top military officer in the country's history to be elevated to the position. The 27th Constitutional Amendment bill also proposes to set up a Federal Constitutional Court, change the process for appointing high court judges, and change the threshold for provincial cabinets. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the bill in the Senate, the upper house, hours after it was approved by the cabinet.

Tarar said that the bill had 49 clauses. "Let me clarify that there are three main areas and two ancillary," he said.

UK spies shared Nijjar intel with Canada: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ London

It was with the help of British spy call intercepts that the Canadian authorities drew alleged links between India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, a new documentary released this week has claimed.

'Inside the Deaths that Rocked India's Relations with the West' by 'Bloomberg Originals' reports that a British intelligence agency — believed to be the UK's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), often referred to as the country's listening post — intercepted calls that appeared to be discussing three targets.

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names on the

intelligence passed on to the Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing agreement between the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In late July 2023, there was a "breakthrough" in the Nijjar murder investigation case when the UK obtained "relevant information", the video documentary claims.

The British intelligence would only be shared under strict conditions: hand-delivered to Ottawa and kept off electronic systems and only a handful of Canadian officials, pre-approved by London, could see it, it is claimed. "The file was a summary of conversations intercepted by a British intelligence agency between individuals who analysts believe were working on behalf of the Indian government," the documentary claims.



Founder of Educate Girls Safeena Husain with others posing for pictures after the Indian non-profit organisation received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in Manila, Philippines

PTI



Bulgaria prevents oil refinery shutdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Sofia

Bulgaria is racing to prevent the shutdown of its only oil refinery before US sanctions on the Russian owner take effect later this month. Parliament in Sofia approved legal changes that grant additional state authority to a government-appointed manager of the Lukoil-owned Burgas refinery on the Black Sea coast. The move came after a top international commodities trader dropped plans to purchase Lukoil's international assets, as the company rejected US Government allegations of being "the Kremlin's puppet." Lukoil said it was selling its international assets in response to US sanctions aimed at pushing Russia to agree to a ceasefire in its war against Ukraine. The company has stakes in oil and gas projects in 11 countries, including the Burgas refinery, as well as gas stations in many countries.



ICE opens call centre to track migrant children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to open a national call centre to help local and state law enforcement agencies find unaccompanied migrant children who entered the country illegally, according to a federal contracting document released this week. ICE said it has an "immediate need" to establish an around-the-clock call centre in Nashville, Tennessee, capable of handling 6,000 to 7,000 daily calls to help law enforcement with "locating unaccompanied alien children." ICE seeks to open the call centre by the end of March and be fully operational by June. ICE also issued another notice seeking information on vendors able to transport thousands of detainees daily from across Texas, where a new state law taking effect next year mandates all counties with a jail enter into ICE partnerships.

FROM THE

WORLD

BRAZIL

Bolsonaro's appeal rejected

The majority of justices on Brazil's Supreme Court panel reviewing former President Jair Bolsonaro's appeal rejected his request on Friday. Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the case's rapporteur, rejected all defense arguments, calling them "unfeasible," and said there were no omissions in the sentencing. Justices Flávio Dino and Cristiano Zanin concurred with De Moraes. The vote of Justice Cármen Lúcia is still pending, but she is expected to align with the other panel members. The panel has until November 14 to submit their votes, and the decision won't be finalized until then. Although unlikely, justices could change their votes before then. Bolsonaro was convicted in September of attempting a coup following his 2022 electoral defeat and was sentenced to 27 years and three months in prison.

TAIWAN

Hsiao calls for closer EU ties

Taiwan's deputy leader urged the European Union to boost security and trade ties with the self-governing island and support its democracy in the face of growing threats by China. "Peace in the Taiwan Strait is essential to global stability and economic continuity," Vice President Bi-Khim Hsiao told lawmakers assembled for a China-focused conference in the European Parliament building. While Hsiao did not formally address the whole EU Parliament – the European trade bloc does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan – her visit drew ire from China. "In an era marked by increasing fragmentation and rising authoritarianism, this gathering affirms something vital – that democracies, even when far apart, are not alone," she added to a standing ovation in Parliament.

Russian drone strike in Ukraine kills 4

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

A Russian drone slammed into a tower block in eastern Ukraine early on Saturday while many were sleeping, killing four and injuring 12 people, Ukrainian authorities reported. The attack in Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, was part of a large Russian missile and drone barrage across the country that targeted energy infrastructure.

In eastern Ukraine, fighting for the strategic city of Pokrovsk has reached a key stage, with both Kyiv and Moscow vying to persuade US President Donald Trump that they can win on the battlefield. Russia fired a total of 458 drones and 45 missiles, including 32 ballistic missiles. Ukrainian forces shot down and neutralised 406 drones and nine missiles, the air force said, adding that 25 locations were struck.

Authorities switched off power in several regions due to the attacks, Ukrainian Energy Minister Svitlana Grynchuk said in a post on Facebook. A fire broke out and several apartments were destroyed in the nine-story building in Dnipro, the emergency services said. Rescuers recovered the bodies of three people, and two children were among the injured. Almost four years after its all-out invasion, Russia has been pummeling Ukraine with near-daily drone and missile strikes, with many civilians killed and injured.

The Kremlin claims its only targets are linked to Kyiv's war effort. Russia's Defence



Ukrainian Emergency Service firefighters evacuating a resident following a Russian rocket attack that hit a multi-storey apartment building in Dnipro AP

Ministry asserted Saturday that the nighttime strikes hit military and energy sites supplying Ukrainian forces.

Moscow and Kyiv have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy targets as US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war had no impact on the battlefield. Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue the war.

Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is an attempt to "weaponise winter." Russian forces,

meanwhile, repelled a "massive" nighttime strike on energy facilities in the southern Volgograd region, its Gov. Andrei Bocharov said Saturday, two days after Ukraine claimed to have hit a key oil refinery there with long-range drones. Bocharov added that the strike knocked out power in parts of the region's northwest but caused no casualties. There was no immediate comment from Kyiv.

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Saturday that its forces shot down 82 Ukrainian drones during the night, including eight over the Volgograd region. Two people were injured in the neighbouring Saratov region

after a Ukrainian drone strike blew out windows in an apartment block, according to regional Governor Roman Busarin.

Pokrovsk sits along the eastern front line, part of what has been dubbed the "fortress belt" of Donetsk, a line of heavily fortified cities crucial to Ukraine's defence of the region. It could also be a key point in influencing Washington's stance and swaying the course of peace negotiations, analysts say.

Russian President Vladimir Putin claims his forces are on the cusp of winning. As a prerequisite for peace, he demands that Ukraine cede the Donbas, made up of Donetsk and neighbouring

Luhansk, one of his key war aims. Russia troops advanced near Pokrovsk and the nearby town of Myrnohrad, the Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday, claiming both were encircled. It also said Russian forces surrounded Ukrainian defenders in Kupiansk, a key railway hub in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

Kyiv did not immediately respond to Moscow's claims, which could not be independently verified. Ukrainian officials have previously acknowledged that the situation in Pokrovsk is dire. But they said there was no blockade either there or in Kupiansk, and that fighting continued.

Tanzania Govt charges hundreds with treason



Mourners gathering for the funeral of someone who died during post-electoral violence in Arusha, Tanzania FILE PHOTO

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Nairobi (Kenya)

Tanzanian authorities charged hundreds of people with treason over demonstrations around disputed polls last month, in a major escalation of political tension as the country reels from violence in which an unknown number of people were killed.

In addition to dozens criminally charged a day earlier in Dar es Salaam, dozens more face similar treason charges elsewhere in the East African country, according to numerous charge sheets that became publicly available Saturday.

Police also issued arrest warrants for some of the top opposition officials who had not yet been jailed. They include Brenda Rupia, communications director for the Chadema opposition group, as well as John Mnyika, its secretary-general.

Chadema is Tanzania's leading opposition party. Its leader, Tundu Lissu, has been jailed for several months and also faces treason charges after he urged electoral reforms ahead of voting on Oct. 29.

Authorities face questions over the death toll after security forces tried to quell riots and opposition protests before and after the vote. Chadema has claimed that more than 1,000 people were killed and that security forces were trying to hide the scale of the deaths by secretly disposing of the bodies. The Catholic Church in Tanzania has said that hundreds were likely killed.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who automatically took office as vice president in 2021 after the death of her predecessor, took more than

97 per cent of the vote, according to an official tally.

She faced 16 candidates from smaller parties after Lissu and Luhaga Mpina, of the ACT-Wazalendo party, were barred from running.

Rights groups described a climate of repression ahead of voting. There were enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings, according to Amnesty International and others.

Tanzania's Government denies the allegations. The African Union said this week that its observers had concluded the election "did not comply with AU principles, normative frameworks, and other international obligations and standards for democratic elections."

AU observers reported ballot stuffing at several polling stations and cases where voters were issued multiple ballots. The environment surrounding the election was "not conducive to peaceful conduct and acceptance of electoral outcomes," the statement said.

Single-party rule has been the norm in Tanzania since the advent of multi-party politics in 1992. But Government critics point out that previous leaders tolerated opposition while maintaining a firm grip on power, whereas Hassan is accused of leading with an authoritarian style that defies youth-led democracy movements elsewhere in the region.

A version of the governing Chama cha Mapinduzi party, which maintains ties with the Communist Party of China, has ruled Tanzania since its independence from Britain in 1961, a streak that Hassan extended with her victory.

Trump administration launches 175 probes into H-1B visa abuse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

The Trump administration has launched about 175 investigations into H-1B visa abuse, including lapses such as low wages, non-existent work sites and the practice of "benching" employees.

According to the US Department of Labour, the probes were part of a broader effort for the protection of American jobs.

"As part of our mission to protect American Jobs, we've launched 175 investigations into H-1B abuse," the Labour Department said in a post on X Friday. It added that under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Labour Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, the agency will

continue taking action to put American workers first. Chavez-DeRemer said in a post on X that the Labour Department "is using every resource at our disposal to put a stop to H-1B abuse and protect American Jobs. Under the leadership of @POTUS, we'll continue to invest in our workforce and ensure high-skilled job opportunities go to American Workers FIRST!"

The Trump administration has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse in the H-1B visa programme, which is used by companies, particularly technology firms, to employ foreign workers in the US.

Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, are among the largest cohort of H1B visa holders. A report in

Fox News said that the Department of Labour could not provide details on the specifics of the 175 current investigations, "which account for over USD 15 million in calculated back wages to workers."

The federal department however said that it has "uncovered a bounty of concerns", with investigations finding that some foreign workers with advanced degrees are paid far less than what is promoted in a job description.

The Labour Department said this practice drives down wages for visa-holders as well as American workers, while also forcing American employees with the same qualification to accept lower wages to stay competitive, the Fox News report said.

No US officials to attend G-20 summit: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York/Washington

US President Donald Trump said it is a "total disgrace" that the G20 will be held in South Africa later this month, announcing that no American official will attend the Summit as long as "human rights abuses" against the ethnic minority group of Afrikaners continue in the country.

Earlier this week, Trump had announced that he would not be attending the G20 Summit in South Africa, as he questioned the country's membership in the grouping of major economies. "It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa. Afrikaners (People who are descended from Dutch settlers, and also French and German immigrants) are being killed and slaughtered, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated,"



Trump said in a post on Truth Social on Friday.

"No US Government Official will attend as long as these Human Rights abuses continue. I look forward to hosting the 2026 G20 in Miami, Florida!" he added.

In February this year, just weeks after being sworn in as US President for a second term, Trump issued an order condemning South Africa's

"shocking disregard" of its citizens' rights by enacting legislation that enabled the South African Government to seize ethnic minority Afrikaners' agricultural property without compensation.

In the wake of this, Trump had said that the US shall not provide aid or assistance to South Africa and shall promote the resettlement of Afrikaner refugees escap-

ing Government-sponsored race-based discrimination, including racially discriminatory property confiscation.

In his remarks at a business forum in Miami, Florida, on Wednesday, Trump said, "I am not going. We have a G20 meeting in South Africa."

South Africa shouldn't even be in the Gs anymore because what's happened there is bad. I am not going. I told them I am not going. I'm not going to represent our country there. It should not be there." South Africa assumed the year-long G20 Presidency on December 1, 2024, and will host the grouping's leaders for a Summit meeting in Johannesburg from November 22 to 23, the first time that the G20 Summit will be held on African soil.

The US will take over the Presidency of the G20 from South Africa and head the grouping from December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026.

Fire at perfume depot in Turkiye kills six people

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Istanbul

A fire at a perfume depot in northwestern Turkiye on Saturday morning killed six people and left one person injured, officials said.

The cause of the blaze in Kocaeli province was not immediately known. The fire broke out around 9 am local time, with local media reporting it was preceded by several explosions0.

Emergency teams and firefighters were immediately dispatched to the site, and the fire was brought under control within an hour.

The province's governor, İlhami Aktaş, said that six had died and one was injured and was receiving treatment. He added that the cause of the fire was yet unknown and was under investigation.



James D Watson, DNA structure hero, dies at 97

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

James D Watson, whose co-discovery of the twisted-ladder structure of DNA in 1953 helped light the long fuse on a revolution in medicine, crime-fighting, genealogy and ethics, has died, according to his former research lab. He was 97. The breakthrough – made when the brash, Chicago-born Watson was just 24 – turned him into a hallowed figure in the world of science for decades. But near the end of his life, he faced condemnation and professional censure for offensive remarks, including saying Black people are less intelligent than white people. Watson shared a 1962 Nobel Prize with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins for discovering that deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is a double helix, consisting of two strands that coil around each other to create what resembles a long, gently twisting ladder.



Nigeria's promises to step up anti-terror operations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kathmandu

Nigeria's new Army Chief promised to increase operations against "terrorists" in the country's north on Friday, less than a week after US President Donald Trump threatened US military involvement if Nigeria did not stop attacks on Christians in the country. Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt Gen Waidi Shaibu, speaking to troops in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, northeast Nigeria, emphasised that the new push must succeed. Failure was "not an option" as the military enters a critical phase of the decade-long conflict, he said. "You have been training to defeat the terrorists. This time, you are going to do it differently," Shaibu told the assembled troops. "All combat enablers have been provided. New platforms have been introduced, all to ensure that you succeed."

The Pioneer AGENDA

Politics is the art of
looking for trouble,
finding it whether it exists
or not, and applying the
wrong remedy
- Ernest Benn



The States of Aspirations

In 2025, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh mark 25 years since their formation-states born of aspirations for self-determination, better governance, and inclusive growth. Over the past quarter-century, each has charted a unique path, balancing economic development with cultural preservation and environmental challenges. As they celebrate this milestone, it is a moment to reflect on their journey of transformation, shaped by resilience, reforms, and the relentless spirit of their people

Jharkhand: A story of resilience & renewal

Jharkhand, one of India's youngest states, completes 25 years of its formation in 2025, a journey marked by courage, hard work, and transformation. From its birth to today, the state's progress reflects the determination of its people to build a distinct identity and a better future, despite many challenges.



RAJEEV KUMAR
Former DGP, Jharkhand

Historical Background and Formation

The dream of a separate Jharkhand existed long before the state was officially created on November 15, 2000. With its rich tribal culture, abundant minerals, and unique traditions, the region always had a strong sense of identity. The demand for a separate state grew stronger in the 1970s under the leadership of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which voiced the aspirations of tribal and local communities for political rights and fair economic development. This dream finally came true with the Bihar Reorganisation Bill, 2000, which separated 18 southern districts of Bihar to form Jharkhand - India's 28th state. It was both the fulfilment of a long struggle and the beginning of a new chapter in self-governance and planned development.

The Naxal Challenge: Courage, Sacrifice, and Determination

From its inception, Jharkhand faced one of India's toughest internal security challenges — Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), or Naxalism. Extremist groups tried to exploit the region's difficult terrain and social inequalities, leading to years of violence and loss.

Official records show that since 2000, 551 police personnel have lost their lives in anti-Naxal operations, and around 823 civilians have been killed in extremist attacks. Landmines, ambushes, and assaults on police camps created fear, while schools, health centres, and local governance suffered in affected areas.

Yet, in the face of this adversity, the Jharkhand Police and local people demonstrated extraordinary courage and commitment. Security forces worked in dangerous conditions with limited resources but stood firm to uphold law and order. As former Chief of State Police, I had the privilege of witnessing this journey closely. I saw police vehicles being blown apart and senior officers, including District SPs, targeted in ambushes. But I also witnessed the unmatched bravery of officers and jawans who continued to serve with dedication, often at great personal risk.

The police understood that the fight against Naxalism could not be won by force alone. Alongside strong security measures, they focused on communication and trust-building. Cultural campaigns like the street play "Phir Ek Nayee

Subah Hogee" and the film "Pratyavartan" highlighted the futility of violence and motivated misguided youth to return to normal life. These creative efforts were widely appreciated for their positive impact on society.

Through intelligence-based operations, cooperation with central agencies, and effective rehabilitation programmes, extremist networks were gradually weakened. Once-dangerous areas such as Jhumra Pahar, Prasanth Hills, Saranda, and Burha Pahar were freed and brought back into the fold of governance and development.

Today, Naxal influence has shrunk to only a few isolated pockets, thanks to years of coordinated security efforts and growing public confidence in democratic and developmental processes. The story of Jharkhand's fight against extremism is not just about law and order — it is a story of human courage, sacrifice, and the

strength of democratic resolve.

Political Evolution and Governance

Jharkhand's political journey has seen frequent changes in leadership and coalition governments, reflecting its social diversity and evolving democracy. While this sometimes caused policy disruptions and administrative instability, it also allowed representation for different regions and communities.

In recent years, greater political stability has led to more consistent governance, better financial management, and improved coordination among government departments. These changes have strengthened institutions and helped the state focus more effectively on development.

Economic and Infrastructure Growth

Jharkhand holds over 37 per cent of India's mineral wealth, making it a key contributor to the country's industrial economy. Turning this mineral strength into broad-based prosperity has been challenging due to environmental and regulatory hurdles.

CONTINUED ON >> PII

Chhattisgarh: At a turning point of growth

Chhattisgarh recently celebrated its 25th foundation day. Like a 25-year-old youth, the state too is advancing toward a strong identity and economic self-reliance. Born out of Madhya Pradesh, it is striving to embrace modernisation while preserving its rich cultural heritage — a journey filled with both opportunities and challenges.



GANESH SHANKAR MISHRA
Retd. IAS Officer; served as Principal Secretary, Chhattisgarh

Economic Progress, Opportunities, and Challenges

The economic growth of Chhattisgarh has been remarkable. In the fiscal year 2022-23, the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew by 8 per cent, higher than the national average. The government allocated 39 per cent of its total budget toward social welfare. The unemployment rate places Chhattisgarh fifth in the country, yet behind this positive statistic lies the issue of underemployment and skill mismatch. The imbalance between youth potential and industrial demand remains a concern.

To bridge this gap, the state launched robotics and artificial-intelligence courses from 2024-25, preparing its youth for global competitiveness.

However, in rural and tribal regions, the weak infrastructure of primary and secondary education continues to be a major challenge.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the state's economy, providing employment to 77 per cent of the population. Fertile soil, diverse climate, and abundant water resources make it suitable for high-income crops. For increasing agricultural income, the development of micro-irrigation, organic farming, warehousing, and agro-processing industries is essential.

Chhattisgarh's mineral wealth is both a boon and a challenge. While mining and industry fuel the economy, they often lead to environmental degradation, displacement, and the resurgence of Naxalism.

The Fight Against Naxalism

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has set a target to make Chhattisgarh Naxal-free by March 2026, sym-

bolising the government's unwavering commitment. The end of Naxalism will open new doors for industry, services, and investment.

Operations such as Octopus, Double Bull, and Chakrabandha have achieved remarkable success. Security forces have established permanent camps in remote forest regions.

In 2025 alone, 270 Naxals were neutralized, 680 arrested, and 1,225 surrendered. Major missions like Operation Black Forest and mass surrenders in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra reflect the growing confidence among insurgents to return to the mainstream.

Security agencies now employ cutting-edge technologies for precise monitoring and analysis of Naxal activities — including location tracking, mobile data analysis, call-log examination, social-media analytics, and AI-based data systems.

Collaboration with forensic and technical institutions has strengthened the intelligence framework.

Drone surveillance and satellite imaging have brought unprecedented improvements in operational accuracy.

With the continued cooperation between the Centre and the State, India is steadily moving toward becoming completely Naxal-free by March 2026 - a testament to decisive governance and unwavering resolve.

Now, Bastar needs a strong alternative development model so that it never regresses to its earlier conditions.

Gone are the days when exchanging salt for chironji and tendu leaves was a matter of pride. The people of Bastar deserve dignified livelihoods and better living conditions. Industrialisation of Bastar must go hand in hand with the preservation of its natural and cultural identity. The government is now taking decisive steps to free Bastar from the grip of Naxalism.

A Morning from 2006 - An Administrative Memory

In 2006, discussions were held with Tata Steel to set up a 5.5-million-ton steel plant. The then Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh had a clear vision — to free Bastar from Naxalism through development and industrialisation. I recall that in June 2006, when I was the Collector of Rajnandgaon, Dr Raman Singh told me over the phone:

"I am sending you there with a big responsibility." After becoming District Magistrate of Bastar, I worked with the district administration and police to translate his vision into reality. Since the region falls under Schedule V (tribal area), land acquisition required approval from Gram Sabhas under the PESA Act. Within a week of assuming charge, 6 out of 10 Gram Sabhas granted consent, and within the next week, the remaining 4 followed.

CONTINUED ON >> PII

Uttarakhand: Development and challenges redefined

As Uttarakhand marks its 25th year of statehood, it is apt to reflect on its journey; the achievements, the evolving landscape, and the work still ahead. From infrastructure to tourism, from power to industrialisation, the hills have witnessed lot of transformation. Yet the fragile Himalayan ecology and the aspirations of its people demand that this progress be both sustainable and inclusive.



ASHOK KUMAR
Former DGP, Uttarakhand

Infrastructure & Connectivity

When Uttarakhand was created in 2000, its infrastructure base in many remote and mountainous areas was modest. Over the past quarter-century the state has made very tangible strides.

The road network has expanded significantly. According to recent data, the total road length in the state has increased from under 20,000 km to over 45,000 km. Similarly, the rail network is coming up to Karnprayag. Aerial connectivity has also improved. Now, we can't call Uttarakhand a remotely connected state.

These improvements have unlocked many opportunities; for access to markets, for tourism, for medical and educational reach. Yet challenges like landslides, terrain constraints and remote hamlets still remain.

Road Network in the Hills

Beyond the aggregate numbers, what stands out is how connectivity has improved:

Villages that were isolated for much of the year are now linked via motorable roads, enabling access to education, health and livelihoods. The focus on all-weather roads in areas like the Char Dham circuit and border zones like Lipilekh road means the state is better prepared for both development and security.

Roads, bridges, tunnels, and four-lane highways speak of the fast-growing infrastructure of Uttarakhand. This would not have been possible in a large state like Uttar Pradesh.

Still, given the mountainous terrain, maintenance costs and environmental risks (like landslides and weather damage) persist. The state has to continuously invest in resilient infrastructure.

Heli-Services & Air Connectivity

One significant leap has been the expansion of heli-services, which are crucial in the hills.

The state government has started heli-services from many of its planned heliports, 12 out of 18 already operational.

These services not only aid pilgrimage tourism and adventure travel, but also act as lifelines during

natural calamities and emergencies.

However, the expansion also carries safety and environmental implications: high altitude operations, weather vulnerability, and the risk of overuse in environmentally sensitive zones. This calls for strict standards, rigorous monitoring and sustainable planning.

Power Generation & Energy Access

Access to reliable power is a foundation of modern development, and Uttarakhand has advanced considerably in this domain.

The distribution utility figures show strong growth: number of consumers, contracted load and lines all increasing substantially. For example, the state distribution company's input energy rose from 3,038 MU to 17,200 MU.

In the generation sphere, the state is pushing both hydro and solar. Under its Solar Energy Policy 2023 it has targeted 2,500 MW of solar capacity.

Meanwhile, hydropower projects aim to increase capacity significantly by 2031.

But the challenge remains: ensuring that remote villages, especially in the high hills, have reliable access, and that power infrastructure growth doesn't come at the cost of ecosystems or local livelihoods.

Industrialisation & Economy

From a largely under-industrialised region, Uttarakhand has evolved markedly in its economic base.

CONTINUED ON >> PII

WHEN ASPIRATIONS ARE CARVED ON A MAP

A quarter of a century ago, India's map was redrawn to realise long-cherished dreams, giving birth to Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh. Each arose from a deep desire for self-governance, recognition, and development rooted in local identity. Twenty-five years on, these "states of aspirations" stand as living testaments to the struggles and hopes of their people-charting distinct journeys, facing unique challenges, and redefining what it means for aspirations to take the shape of a state.



People participated Cake mix organised by Novotel Vijayawada Varun in Vijayawada on Saturday.



Artists performed Dharma Vijayam Kuchipudi dance ballet organised by Jayasri Kuchipudi Kala Nrutya Nilayam in Vijayawada on Saturday.

PARTY

Photos by- Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar



Members of Andhra Hospitals and Little Healing Little Hearts UK jointly organised a press conference with patients' families addressing a press conference about Free childrensurgical camps in Vijayawada on Saturday.



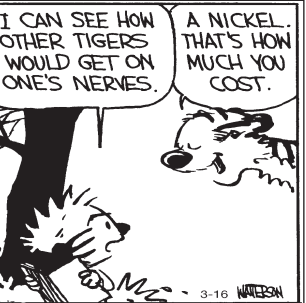
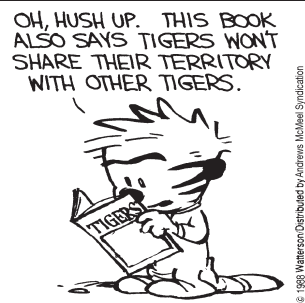
ArchBishop from Visakhapatnam Udomula Bala lighting the lamp to mark the inauguration of Jesus Christ Jubilee celebrations at Andhra Loyola college Fr. Devaiah Auditorium in Vijayawada on Saturday. Bishop T J Rajarao and others were also seen.

FUN

ARCHIE



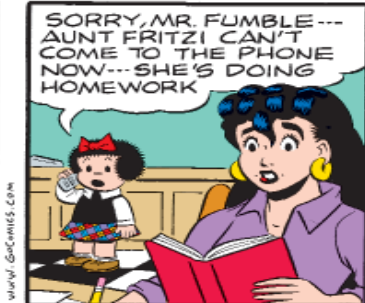
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



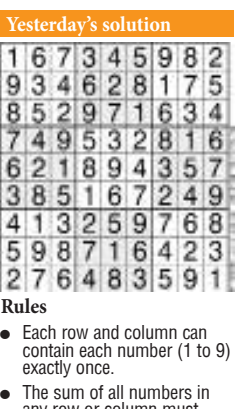
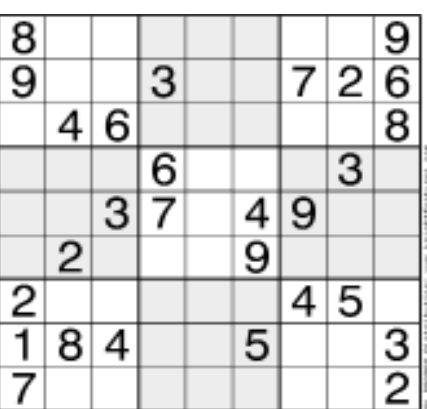
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



ACROSS

- 1 These cover birds
- 2 Small animals that followed the Pied Piper
- 3 Ride on these animals
- 4 Opposite of best
- 5 Not as many
- 6 Circular in shape
- 7 Below
- 8 A story in episodes
- 9 A planet
- 10 Gave jobs to
- 11 A person who does operations in hospital
- 12 Stuff for colouring cloth
- 13 Started
- 14 A day's beginning
- 15 A book written in daily
- 16 Strike with an open hand
- 17 A long type of fish

DOWN

- 1 Entertaining explosives watched at night
- 2 Change
- 3 Sound coming back again



Flavours of Jharkhand: Where forest, faith and food converge



ANIL
RAJPUT

In the eastern reaches of India lies Jharkhand, a land shaped by the vast contours of the Chota Nagpur Plateau and the rolling Santhal Pargana, where granite ridges, forested hills and meandering rivers create a fascinating landscape. The arrival of the monsoon season governs the rhythm of this land, from sowing to harvest, from festivals to celebration. Known as the “land of treasures”, Jharkhand is a tapestry of sal and teak groves, iron-rich valleys, and rivers like the Subarnarekha and Koel that nourish both people and plains. Although the state was formally created on November 15, 2000, its soul is ancient, embellished with rich traditions of tribal communities whose music, artistry, and food reflect a harmony between human life and nature. The people, grounded yet resilient, have built a legacy that is recognised for its culture and cuisine, which is earthy, honest, and deeply tied to the land.

The earliest stories of Jharkhand trace back to the Mesolithic and Chalcolithic periods when early inhabitants are known to have shaped microliths and copper tools to tame forests, clear land and till the soil. In the Vedic age, the region lay on the eastern periphery of Magadha where the use of iron tools transformed the landscape into fertile farmlands. As centuries unfolded, the Nagvanshi dynasty, claiming descent from the Nagas, the semi divine serpent beings of Indian mythology, consolidated rule over the Chota Nagpur plateau, building temples, tanks and forts amidst dense forests. These forests supplied elephants, timber, and lac to neighbouring kingdoms, forming a vital trade network. Later, the Mughal Empire extended loose control over the area, but the rugged terrain ensured local autonomy. When the British arrived, they mined the land and taxed the forests, provoking waves of tribal resistance. The uprisings led by Tilka Manjhi, Birsa Munda, and Sidho-Kanho became legends of defiance, asserting both identity and dignity. The movement for a separate state grew from these roots of self-determination, culminating in the creation of Jharkhand, a recognition of a civilisation whose culture, ruggedness, and food long predated its borders.

The spiritual fabric of Jharkhand reflects this continuity between land and life. Hinduism, Jainism, and tribal faiths coexist in peaceful equilibrium and harmony. The Parasnath Hill, or Shikharji, stands among India's most sacred Jain pilgrimages, while rivers like the Swarnarekha, meaning “streak of gold”, hold divine status and host festivals like Chhath Puja and Makar Sankranti. While temples dedicated to Surya, Shiva, and Durga dot the hills, faith in Jharkhand is not confined to these divine sanctuaries. Among the Oraon, Munda, and Santhal tribes, nature itself stands as a temple. Every sal tree, stream, and grain of soil holds spiritual meaning and is revered as such. The festivals of Sarhul, Sohrai and Karma are living expressions of gratitude, celebrating the flowering of trees, the fertility of fields, and the harmony of community. The blending of animism, Hindu devotion, and folk spirituality has created a culture of coexistence where reverence to nature and humanity is the accepted way of life.



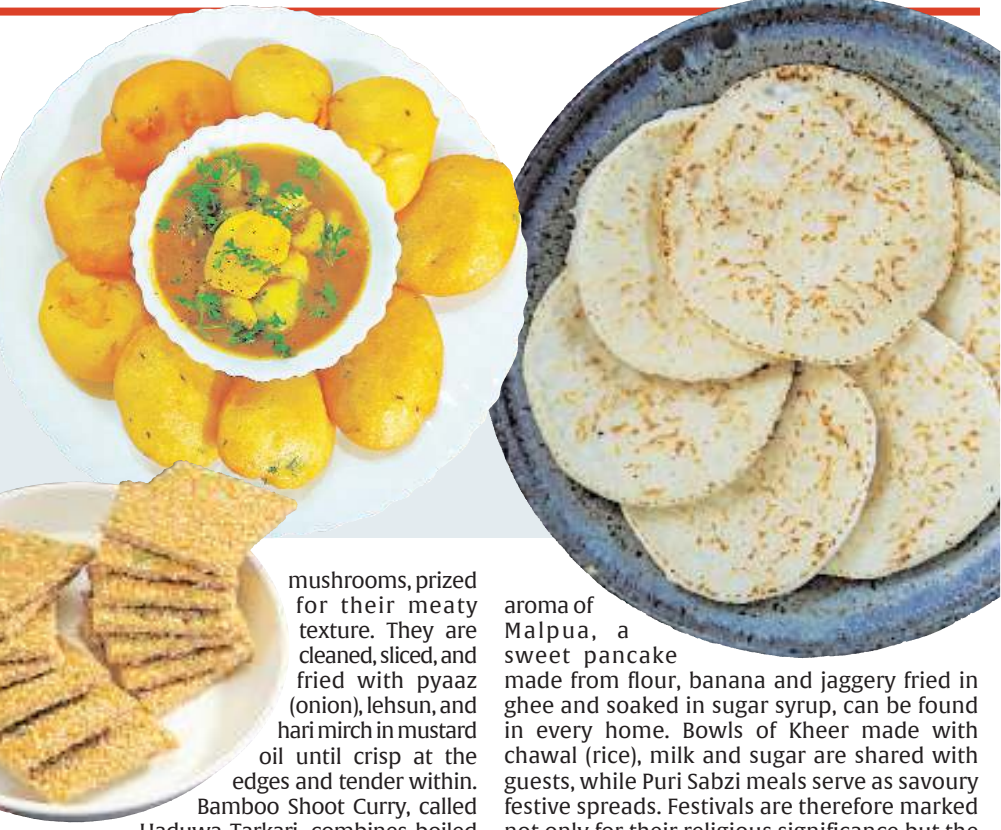
The cuisine of Jharkhand is a mirror of its land, modest in appearance but rich in depth, drawing inspiration and resource from the soil, forest and seasons. Meals typically begin with rice or millet, followed by dal (lentils), sabzi (vegetables), and chutney, often ending with curd or a sweet. The aroma of sarson ka tel (mustard oil), used widely as a medium of cooking, defines the kitchen, while wild greens, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and forest tubers provide nutrition and character. Jharkhand's food can be understood through three intertwined culinary trends: agrarian, forest tribal, and urban festive, each influenced by its surroundings and environment.

The agrarian heart of Jharkhand lies in the smoke of village hearths where rotis and rice form the traditional foundation of the meal. One of its most iconic dishes, Litti Chokha, begins with balls of gehu (wheat) dough stuffed with sattu (roasted gram flour), flavoured with jeera (cumin), hing (asafoetida), adrak (ginger), and lal mirch (red chilli). These dough balls are baked slowly over coal or open fire until golden and slightly charred, then brushed with ghee and served with Chokha, a smoky mash of baigan (eggplant), aloo (potato) and tamatar (tomato) seasoned with chopped lehsun (garlic), hari mirch (green chilli), dhaniya (coriander) and a dash of mustard oil. This pairing defines the very soul of Jharkhand, rustic, balanced, and nourishing. Another staple is Dhuska, a crispy deep fried bread made by fermenting a batter of chawal (rice) and chana dal (split chickpeas). It is ladled into hot mustard oil and fried until the edges turn crisp while the center remains soft, and is served with spicy aloo bharta (mashed potato) or ghugni (yellow pea curry). The aroma of Dhuska, frying in the morning air in markets and homes, itself defines the very spirit of the land.

Equally beloved is Chilka Roti, a thin savoury pancake made of rice flour and besan (gram flour) mixed with water, salt and chopped onions.

It is cooked on a tawa until golden on both sides and eaten with Chana Dal Chutney or fresh curd. Dal Pitha, meanwhile, showcases the region's fondness for steamed foods and is one of Jharkhand's most celebrated traditional dishes especially prepared during festivals and community celebrations. Made from rice flour dough and stuffed with a spiced paste of moong dal (split green gram) or chana dal, the Pithas are shaped by hand, steamed, and served with tangy imli (tamarind) chutney. For many households, these soft dumplings are the essence of comfort food, eaten during monsoon evenings or festivals. Another dish that represents simplicity and seasonality is Bansh Kanda, or bamboo shoot stir fry, where tender shoots are boiled to remove bitterness, then sautéed with onions, garlic, and red chilli in mustard oil, their mild sourness complementing plain rice. Safed Bara, small fried lentil rings, widely sold at tea stalls across cities and villages alike, are crisp on the outside, airy within, eaten hot with green coriander mint chutney. Chura Dahi, a simple yet cooling combination of flattened rice soaked in curd and topped with sugar or jaggery, is another rural staple, especially during the summer months when light and refreshing meals are preferred. To close a meal, sweets such as Til Barfi and Tilkut hold special significance in winter. Both are made with roasted til (sesame seeds) and molten gur (jaggery), shaped into discs or slabs that provide warmth, energy, and festive delight in the cold season.

Jharkhand's forest and tribal cuisine, on the other hand, is where ancient techniques meet timeless flavour. Ingredients that are not cultivated but gathered from the wild include mushrooms after the first rain, bamboo shoots from shaded groves, and leaves or tubers from the forest soil. Rugra Fry is one such delicacy made from seasonal rugra



mushrooms, prized for their meaty texture. They are cleaned, sliced, and fried with pyaaz (onion), lehsun, and hari mirch in mustard oil until crisp at the edges and tender within.

Bamboo Shoot Curry, called Haduwa Tarkari, combines boiled shoots with onions, garlic, turmeric and a dash of tamarind to produce a tangy, smoky curry served with rice. To wash down these hearty meals is a traditional rice based beverage called Handia, that is made by mixing boiled rice with a ranu culture, a blend of ground forest herbs, and left to ferment in earthen pots for two to three days. The resulting drink is mildly alcoholic, sweet sour in taste, and integral to tribal gatherings and harvest festivals. Equally cherished is Mahua Liqueur, distilled from the flowers of the mahua tree, a sacred and versatile plant in Jharkhand's forests. Its distinct floral sweetness and earthy aroma mark festive occasions, while Mahua Ladoo, made from dried mahua flowers, wheat flour and jaggery, represents the same heritage in a sweet, non-alcoholic form, uniting ritual and flavour.

Non vegetarian fare in Jharkhand's tribal kitchens is equally distinctive. Bonga Chicken, or bamboo smoked chicken, is made by marinating pieces of desi murga (country chicken) in salt, garlic paste, haldi (turmeric) and lal mirch, then stuffed inside hollow bamboo stalks sealed with sal leaves. The bamboo tubes are placed beside an open wood fire until the meat cooks in its own juices, absorbing the scent of smoke and leaf. This dish beautifully captures the spirit of tribal ingenuity, simplicity, and harmony with nature. Dehati Mutton (local mutton), another rural classic, begins by marinating mutton in mustard oil, garlic, ginger, dhaniya (coriander powder), and red chilli paste. It is then slow cooked over firewood with chopped onions and tomatoes until the oil separates and the meat turns tender, producing a deep, spicy gravy served with rice or rotis. Fish lovers along the Koel and Subarnarekha rivers have a favourite in Machhli Bhaja that is prepared by coating river fish such as rohu, katla, tengra, magur and singi with rice flour, salt and chilli before frying them crisp in mustard oil. In forest communities, Venison Curry or wild fowl curry may be cooked with minimal spice, only garlic, onion and tamarind, allowing the natural flavour of the meat to come through. These dishes are prepared in earthen pots or banana leaf wraps, representing a culinary practice older than modern civilization, cooking that respects the ingredient and the environment equally.

Festivals and urban gatherings add another vibrant layer to Jharkhand's culinary identity. During Chhath Puja, Thekua, an essential offering, are small round sweets made by kneading atta (wheat flour) with jaggery syrup and frying in ghee until golden and crisp. They symbolise purity and gratitude and carry both cultural and religious significance. Rice Laddoos made with rice flour, jaggery and ghee are another favourite. During Durga Puja and Diwali, the

aroma of Malpua, a sweet pancake made from flour, banana and jaggery fried in ghee and soaked in sugar syrup, can be found in every home. Bowls of Kheer made with chawal (rice), milk and sugar are shared with guests, while Puri Sabzi meals serve as savoury festive spreads. Festivals are therefore marked not only for their religious significance but the delicious meals that accompany them. Urban streets bustle with vendors selling Litti Chokha, Dhuska and Bara, their stalls surrounded by chatter, the sharp scent of mustard oil and the sound of frying that defines the region's food-scape. During Sohrai, when cattle are decorated and fields are blessed, families cook both vegetarian and meat dishes, including Dehati Chicken and bamboo shoot pickles, eaten with steaming rice and handia.

Thus, every meal in Jharkhand reflects the land it springs from, the grain of the soil, the greens of the forest, and the serenity of its people. While rice or roti form the foundation, dal and vegetables add balance, wild ingredients lend surprise, and sweets or fermented drinks bring closure. Mustard oil, garlic, green chilli and coriander tie every element together in a harmony of heat, tang and aroma. There is no excess, only equilibrium. The cuisine, though simple, follows an ancient science of nourishment and sustainability, where food is cooked slowly, fermented naturally, and served fresh. Today, Jharkhand's kitchens are expanding beyond village courtyards. In Ranchi and Jamshedpur, cafés serve millet rotis with chutney dips, handia mocktails and bamboo shoot tacos. Tribal dishes once confined to forest homes now appear on culinary festival menus. Young chefs are rediscovering recipes like Rugra Fry and Dal Pitha, modernising them while preserving their authenticity. Yet the essence remains unchanged; food here is both memory and identity, a dialogue between the old and the new.

Preserving Jharkhand's culinary heritage means safeguarding not only recipes but a philosophy of life shaped by balance, respect, and resilience. The slow roasting of sattu-stuffed Litti, the fermenting of Handia in earthen pots, and the distilling of Mahua Liqueur in tribal villages embody a wisdom where nourishment and nature coexist in perfect harmony. These are not just dishes; they are stories of survival, science, and spirituality written in flavour. The turmeric that heals, the mustard oil that warms, and the garlic that strengthens have long sustained bodies and communities with quiet grace. For the traveller, the cook, or the dreamer in search of authenticity, Jharkhand's cuisine stands as both humble and profound, a living reflection of the land itself. Yet its true power lies in continuity, in ensuring that future generations inherit not only the taste but the truth behind these meals. Passing down these traditions means passing down identity, sustainability, and belonging. If we protect these culinary legacies today, we safeguard a heritage of nourishment and meaning for the generations yet to come.

(The writer is Secretary, Cuisine India Society)

Ek dum raseelo Rajasthan: Flavours fiesta!

TEAM AGENDA

From the golden sands of Jaisalmer to the tranquil lakes of Udaipur, with a whiff of the Pink City's spice and sparkle, Rajasthan's kitchens have always known how to tell a story. *Rangeelo Rajasthan: Thaot, Maat aur Rasoi*, hosted at Infinity, Crowne Plaza New Delhi Mayur Vihar Noida in collaboration with Holiday Inn Jaipur City Centre, brought that story straight to Delhi's plate. After all, Delhi may pride itself on its *butter chicken* and *chaat*, but when chefs travel from Jaipur to cook, even the capital's food lovers know it's time to sit up and take notes.

Over ten days, diners explored a cyclic menu of more than fifty dishes, ensuring fresh experiences every evening. Mewar's offerings included *Mewari Safed Maas*, *Dal Bafra*, *Gatte ki Sabji*, and *Badam Halwa* - rich in ghee, milk, and dry fruits, reflecting the opulence of palace kitchens. Marwar's desert cuisine was represented through *Dal Baati Choorma*, *Ker Sangri*, *Jungli Maas*, and *Lehsun Tikka* - earthy, robust, and intensely spiced, shaped by resourcefulness and tradition. Regional specialties such as *Bajra Raab*, *Mawa Kachori*, *Ghevar*, and *Moong Dal Halwa* high-



PHOTOS: PANAKJ KUMAR

lighted the enduring flavours of Rajasthan's varied culinary landscape.

One of the festival's most captivating highlights was the live making of traditional *lac* bangles, a Rajasthan craft where artisans heat natural resin, mould it deftly, and decorate it with mirrors and beads in vivid colours. The rhythmic clinking of bangles paired beautifully

with the soulful notes of Rajasthan Sufi music, filling the space with warmth and nostalgia. Visitors, including several from abroad, eagerly tasted the dishes and chatted with the chefs, many exclaiming with delight, “Maza aa gayal”

Chefs Roushan Sharma and Hem Singh Gurjar curated the menu, ensuring each dish captured the authenticity and artistry of Rajasthan's royal and rustic kitchens. From the perfectly textured *Dal Baati Choorma* to

the delicately spiced *Mewari Safed Maas* and indulgent *Badam Halwa* and *Ghevar*, every bite showcased the region's essence while remaining approachable to modern palates.

Rangeelo Rajasthan, ran until 16th November 2025 and succeeded in translating these regal and rustic kitchens into an urban, immersive experience celebrating heritage, taste, and culture. As the evening drew to a close with folk melodies and satisfied smiles, one couldn't help but wonder — does food from the desert truly taste better when it carries the soul of its land?

Where stories boldly take flight

TEAM AGENDA

Every once in a while, something arrives with impact. That's precisely what *Barbet & Pals* feels like: a place that serves drinks and tells stories in liquid form. It is the brainchild of two of India's most well-known bartenders — Jeet Rana and Chirag Pal — who, after years of crafting cocktails behind the country's best bars, created a setting that's equal parts passion project, nostalgia, and rebellion.

Step inside, and you're greeted by warm wood, glimmers of gold, and a bar that hums with a low, infectious energy. The walls seem to breathe — alive with laughter, clinking glasses, and that particular kind of magic that happens when people come together to celebrate something real. The inspiration comes from the Barbet bird-colourful, loud, always surrounded by its friends and that's exactly the mood here: no one drinks alone; everyone belongs to the flock.

The cocktail menu, aptly called “The Nest,” is intriguing. Jeet's creations are bold and playful — “Tickle My Pickle,” briny and cheeky, instantly became my favourite; “OTP” delivers a sweet-spicy punch, while “Bodo Saviour” surprises with a fresh, herbaceous

lift. Chirag's cocktails are soulful and layered — “Panache,” infused with saffron, is elegant and aromatic, while “Mind the Gap” pays homage to London's underground bars: dark, moody, and perfectly balanced. And “Root Cause” — a witty nod to Jeet-is earthy, smooth, and delightfully unexpected. Then there's the “Bird's Eye View: Kumaon Edition,” a rotating micro-menu exploring wild berries, pine, and foraged roots from the hills. Each drink here is a postcard from the mountains — a tribute to forgotten Indian flavours. The food, curated by Chef Amninder Sandhu, matches the cocktails in imagination. Barbet Nibbles - crisp Khichia with raw mango and mulberry chutneys - set the tone, while Gol-Gol Bread with Nolen Gur butter offers comfort. The Bar-Brät, a Naga pork sausage with fermented bamboo shoot ice cream, is sweet, smoky, and original, and Flock Fried Chicken - crisp with truffle garlic emulsion and a poached egg — is pure indulgence.

Dessert arrives with flair — Warm Rum Bal Mithai Sundae evokes nostalgia, Limoncello Peaches & Vanilla Ice Cream tastes like summer. By the end, golden-hour chats turn to chaos and laughter; the magic is in the glass and company.



Mind wavers: Five things that influence your mind

GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

There was a beautiful garden with lots of fruits and flowers on top of a mount. The chief garden-er would stand on top of this mount and look at the people in the garden and would call out to everybody, saying that there were lots of fruits in the garden like mangoes, bananas, and papayas. He would invite them to come and have those fruits. But when they went there, he would come down the hill, and he would change his mind. He would ask them to go away.

Then, he would go up the hill. Sitting there, he would again call out to others to come savour the fruits from the garden, adding what he would do with all the fruit alone, and that he was there to offer them to everybody. And, if they were happy, he would be happy too. He would talk philosophically, but the moment he came down, he'd be back to square one. The people started thinking he was a little crazy. He lost all his credibility. He himself was surprised and didn't understand what was happening to him.

A wise man in the town suggested people should dig below the hill and see what was there. They dug the place up and found the throne of a very well-known king who was known for his generosity, righteousness, and highly spiritual life. When he died, they could not find anybody else fit enough to sit on his throne because it was such a powerful seat. So, people finally buried it under that mount, and it is said that the throne had the vibration of positivity and generosity, which had an impact on the gardener when he went up the hill.

So, even the place you are in has an impact on the mind. Even in your house, you can see that you feel different in different rooms. A place where there has been singing, chanting, and meditation has a different influence on the mind.

The nature of the mind is to waver, just like the nature of water is to flow. There are five factors that influence the mind the most: Food, place, time, past impressions, and associations or actions.

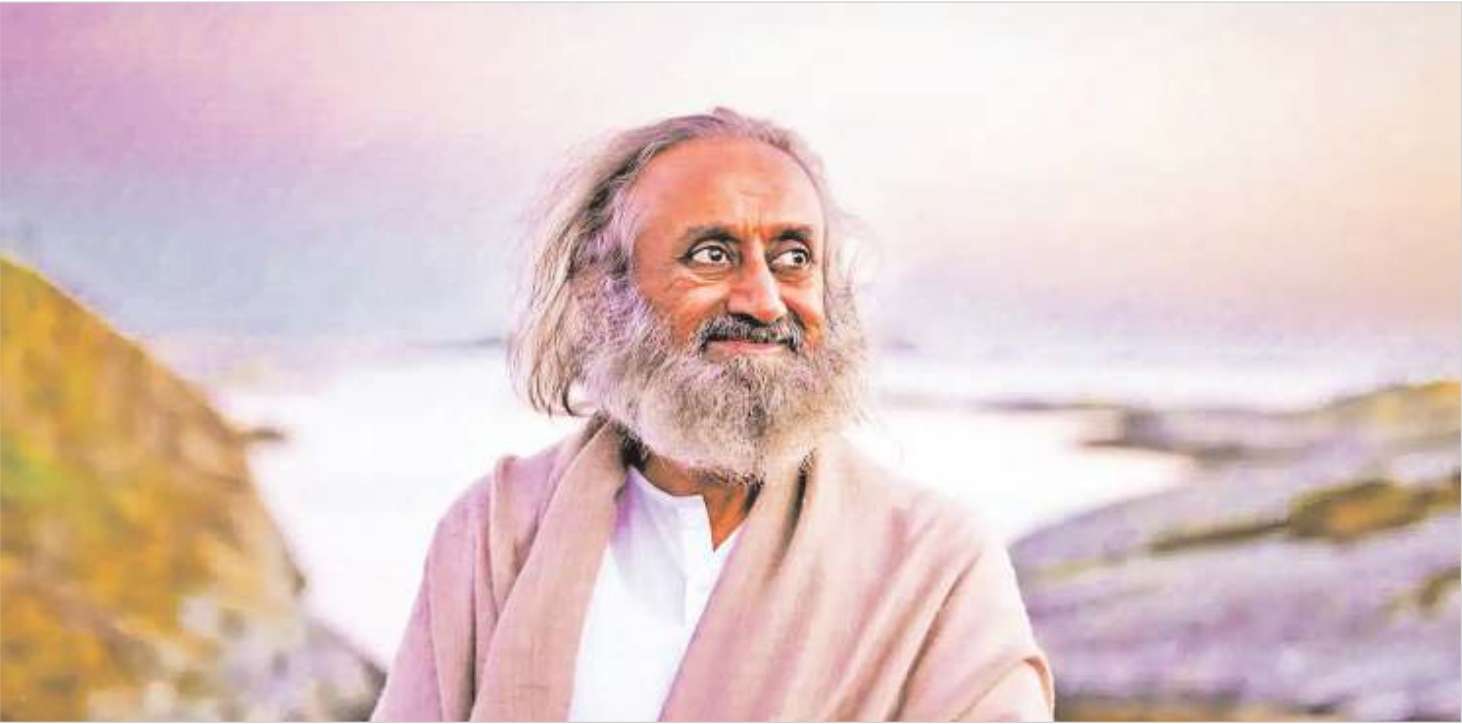
The food we eat sustains our annamaya kosha. Let me explain this to you: we all have five bodies — *Annamaya kosha*, the physical body; *Pranamaya kosha*, the energy body; *Manomaya kosha*, the mind; *Vijnanamaya kosha*, the wisdom, and *Anandamaya kosha*, the bliss. [1]

Food greatly influences the mind. There is a Hindi proverb, 'jaia ann waisa mann'. If you eat at the wrong time, or the food is not well digested, or it is the wrong food, or it is stale food, it has a certain impact on your body and mind. Even the way you have earned the food also impacts your mind and behaviour. There's a story about this.

The king of Narendra Nagar used to host saints and seers for lunch in his palace every day. Once, a saint stole a silver vessel from the palace. The king was surprised to find a saint stealing a utensil. After four days, the saint brought back the vessel. This surprised the king became even more! The king convened a meeting of learned people in his court and asked them to explain this occurrence.

The group of learned people met and debated

A wise man in the town suggested people should dig below the hill and see what was there. They dug the place up and found the throne of a very well-known king who was known for his generosity, righteousness, and highly spiritual life



“FOOD IS NOT ONLY WHAT YOU EAT. THE ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO FOOD. AIR IS FOOD FOR OUR LUNGS. HEAT OR WARMTH IS ALSO A KIND OF FOOD. PEACE AND JOY ARE FOOD FOR THE SOUL”
— GURUDEV

on the matter, and finally asked the king to find out what food was served to the saints on that day. When the king enquired, it was revealed that some thieves had stolen some rice and daal from a village. The stolen grains were confiscated by the state and brought to the palace, and the same grains were cooked for the saints on that day. The effect of the food stayed for three days. Once the effect of the food faded, the saint wondered why he had stolen the vessel! He came back and returned it.

Food is not only what you eat. The environment is also food. Air is food for our lungs. Water is also food. Heat or warmth is also a kind of food. Peace and joy are food for the soul. The aim of all of these food sources is to increase your 'prana', or the life force level.[2] Fresh food has more prana, while frozen food has very little of it. Similarly, you find a difference in the prana level when you eat fresh vegetables and eat thoroughly baked and deeply fried food. Everybody should have a little bit of knowledge of the right nutrition. If you look at the food habits of two or three generations before, Indians had a very good sense of what to eat and when! My grandmother wouldn't have a meal without some form of spinach in it. And, she would have different types of leafy vegetables on different days of the week. It was almost like a ritual. She would fast on Ekadashi. Occasionally, she would gently fry

or bake one edible variety of white coloured flower and eat it with grated coconut!

The quantity of food also impacts the mind. You may have noticed, when you eat food in moderation, you feel energetic, and when you eat too much, you feel dull and lethargic. This is why our scriptures advocate the practice of Mitahara — which means to exercise balance and restraint in eating food. From time to time, fasting on fruits or juices is also good. Gives your organs a much-needed holiday. Otherwise, we use and overuse them so much, they would have gone to labour court if they could.

The next thing is the influence of a place on the mind. Every place you are in has a different impact on the mind. Even in your house, you find that you feel different in different rooms. A place where people sing devotional songs, chant, and meditate has a different influence on the mind.

Time also impacts the mind. Time effects both the matter and the mind. You keep an apple for too long, and it starts to rot. When you look at any object, you can know how old it is. Our body changes with time. Similarly, time also has an impact on the mind. People seldom notice this! How you feel in the morning is different from how you feel in the afternoon, or how you feel in the evening is different from that at night, isn't it? The state of mind and the feeling also change with time.



THE PAST IMPRESSIONS, OR THE SANSKARAS, AGAIN HAVE A DIFFERENT IMPACT ON THE MIND. AWARENESS, ALERTNESS, KNOWLEDGE, AND MEDITATION ALL HELP ERASE THE PAST IMPRESSIONS

problem with them and you walk away feeling there is no problem at all, or it can be easily solved. You feel lighter. And when you go talk to someone and you feel the problem is heavier than you thought, and you walk away from them with a heavy heart, more depressed and more anxious—that is bad company. Such company cannot let the love blossom in your heart.

Next is, how your actions or inaction influence your mind. You have no control over the involuntary actions. But the voluntary actions that you perform, if you put your awareness and total attention on them, it makes a whole lot of difference in life. This is the power that we all have. If you master the control over your voluntary actions, you will find that your involuntary actions also come under your control. This has happened with many yogis and Siddhas. And meditation is the way to do it. It creates alertness and awareness with which you have the power to act or not act.

This brings the question, “Are we slaves of our mind?” I say no, because there is something beyond the mind, and that is the intellect. When the intellect is strong, it overcomes the impact of all these 5 factors on the mind. When the intellect is weak, the emotions take over the mind.

Now, what if the intellect also gets influenced? Then there is something beyond the intellect, and that is the Self, or the Consciousness. This is where meditation makes a big difference. When you go deep in meditation, your consciousness becomes very subtle, and your mind becomes fresh like a flower. In such a delicate state of consciousness, all thoughts move away, emotions get settled, and you experience the most tranquil, most benevolent, and most beautiful inner space.

Inside India’s political gender shift

TEAM AGENDA

Do women vote as women, or do caste, religion, and class continue to determine their political choices? This question forms the spine of Ruhi Tewari's *What Women Want: Understanding the Female Voter in Modern India*, an intelligent and engaging examination of how the Indian woman voter has evolved from the shadows of obedience into the light of agency. Drawing on nearly two decades of political reportage, Tewari weaves fieldwork, data, and conversation into a compelling study of the changing nature of India's democracy through its most transformative electorate — women.

The book opens with a vignette that feels both distant and familiar. Amsa Amma, a 21-year-old from Hyderabad, cast her first vote during the 1977 general elections, a period clouded by the aftershocks of the Emergency. She was told by her father-in-law and husband whom to vote for.

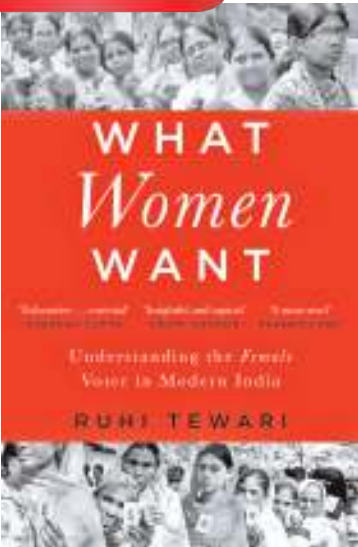
At the polling station, she followed instructions, unaware of the significance of her action. That quiet compliance reflects the condition of the Indian woman voter in the early decades of democracy — invisible, unconsulted, and politically inconsequential. She existed, but only as an extension of the men in her household. That quiet compliance reflects the condition of the Indian woman voter in the early decades of democracy — invisible, unconsulted, and politically inconsequential. She existed, but only as an extension of the men in her household.

From that scene in 1977, Tewari builds a narrative that travels through villages, cities, and political landscapes, tracing how women have redefined participation. Through layered accounts of women who now stand in polling queues of their own accord, the book portrays how political awareness among women has grown, sometimes out of necessity, often out of choice. The author observes that this rising participation has made women central to electoral arithmetic, forcing every political party to rethink its strategy and messaging.

Through her travels, she listens to voices that rarely make it into mainstream political discourse — women who discuss ration cards and gas cylin-



NEW LAUNCH



Title: What Women Want
Author: Ruhi Tewari
MRP: ₹599
Publisher: Juggernaut

ders alongside aspirations for education, safety, and dignity. These are not abstract ideals; they are lived realities shaping political behaviour.

Her examination of welfare politics is particularly incisive. The author questions whether the surge in women-centric schemes - from cash transfers to subsidised cooking gas, has truly empowered women or merely repositioned them as strategic voters in a competitive political market. Author points out that political attention towards women, though often tactical,

has nonetheless created tangible shifts in perception. Women have begun to see themselves as stakeholders in governance rather than passive recipients of policy. In this paradox of opportunism and empowerment lies the core of her argument — even when motivated by political self-interest, the system has inadvertently expanded women's political agency.

The strength of *What Women Want* lies in its layered understanding of women's political choices. The author recognises that women voters are not a homogenous group. Their decisions are influenced by caste, religion, and class, yet connected by a shared history of marginalisation. She shows how women continue to vote within identity boundaries while gradually moving beyond them through awareness and participation.

Tewari's background as a journalist is evident in her sharp observations and grounded storytelling. Her analysis of how the “Naari voter” has emerged as a distinct political entity is especially engaging. She situates this rise within broader democratic shifts, where social mobility, education, and digital access have changed how women perceive their role as citizens.

Political parties, she notes, have adapted swiftly, recognising women not as a supporting vote bank but as a decisive one.

And as India's democracy evolves, one can't help but ask — do women vote as women, or do caste, religion, and identity still shape their choices at the ballot box?

Being on the shores of the future

The revolution sees technology as a resourceful comrade, while the algorithm acts as the subconscious, informing and driving action

FOLDED
Corner

TEAM AGENDA

The novel, *The Great Reset: Alt+Ctrl+Human* by Juan Antonio March Pujol, is a fictionalisation of social idealist possibilities, much like Philip Allott's *Invisible Power* duology. Social idealism is not an alternative to existing reality, as it might sound; rather, it is the way of making utopian moments in a dystopian world.

It is a way of discovering and sustaining the hope for a better tomorrow. And for the author of *The Great Reset*, technology, which he envisions as a soul force, will emerge as the architect of that utopia. And mind you, there is no metaphysical utopia in this book-utopia is in real time and space. It is that immediate future which humanity ought to make.

What is this tale about? It is a story that tells, with an Aristotelian subtext, how humanity can maximise its happiness by forging optimal outcomes. In the plot, we see Nour, a young Syrian-born woman, purposely moving across spaces and times. But occasionally she resembles the author, a career diplomat (leaving the reader to wonder whether this is a case of author surrogate), walking back into the Platonic cave, having seen light, with a mind full of stories to tell the victims of shadows fated to remain chained in the cave — they are stories about their potential liberation. Her (or his?) countenance reflects hope. Her forehead bears the etched lines of quiet determination-her steps confident.

All voices we hear — what Nour speaks and hears-in the novel are spatialised, not even missing the characteristics of the topography that gives the voices their character. As we hear the voices, we also hear in the background the sounds of deserts — the wind blowing across the sand dunes-and the rhythmic beats of the waves on the shores; smell the aroma of gardens and the petrichor of mountains; feel the pell-mell of a city, the depth of the seas, and the silence of the caves. Time and space merge into a compelling narrative.

Nour's journeys also tell us that the



Title: The Great Reset: Alt+Ctrl+Human
Author: Juan Antonio March Pujol (Ambassador of Spain to India)
MRP: ₹495
Publisher: Vitasta Publishing, 2025

social world is a network of human relations-a mind work-superimposed on the natural habitat, the biological world. It reminds us of the findings of Edmund Jennings, the protagonist in *Invisible Power*, that the social habitat can be altered, modified, and improved through ideas. Nour — and through her the author — offers us a cornucopia of ideas.

The chapters are arranged in an alternating order-spaces and the experiences they offer, the feel of being in real places.

Therein, Nour meets many revolutionaries of mind who educate her. Then she slips into a dream of a redemptive deliberation in the United Nations.

These worlds are far apart-the world of reality and dream — yet for the reader they are so near, just a page apart. For Nour too, perhaps, they are not distant worlds-there is

just a dimensional divide between them, and, pretty much like Murakami's “narrator” who moves into the invisible city in *The City and Its Uncertain Walls* with ease, Nour also moves across these worlds with ease. Whatsoever, for the reader, the alternating builds a rhythm that gets the reading going faster-the faster it gets, the deeper the reading becomes. Then, at some point, the rhythm takes over the reader; pages turn involuntarily, and the reader surfs through emotional and powerful waves produced by the ideas.

The novel is a blue book for a top-down revolution — a revolution in minds-that Allott envisioned in *Invisible Power*. The *Great Reset* is an action plan for a revolution in minds. In that revolution, technology will be the resourceful comrade, algorithm will be the subconscious to inform and drive action.

All it takes is a will. The novel infuses hope, the master who tries to enslave our inhibitions. The novel has no moments of nihilism or ambivalence. It has sheer sangunity and determination, coupled with ingenious and imaginative thinking. There is a strong disapproval of violence, killing, and bigotry, and an occasional lament for making histories awful that they cannot be recalled without regret.

The author is not a hopeful watcher-as the maker — of the story and the transformative schemes unfolding in the novel, but he is a functionary in it. We feel that he walks somewhere in the novel alongside Nour, or perhaps by being Nour himself.

Throughout the novel, there is a profound sense of ownership and accountability — the writer (in the protagonist's voice) has taken the responsibility to be the harbinger of change. By the end of the novel, the reader feels the author asking, in the words of Khalil Gibran, “Was it I who spoke? Was I not also a listener?” Indeed, dear author, you were with Nour who spoke, and you were also with us — your readers-who listened. We heard you — thanks for speaking!